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NEW SOUTH WALES.

VOTES

AND

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DURING THE SESSION

OF

1897,

WITH THE VARIOUS DOCUMENTS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

IN SEVEN VOLUMES.

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1897.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

R E P O R T

OF THE

MINISTER OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

FOR THE YEAR

1896.

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 43 Vic. No. 23, sec. 36.

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1897.

1896.

REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

To His Excellency The Right Honorable HENRY ROBERT, VISCOUNT HAMPTDEN, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies.

May it please your Excellency,—

I have the honor to submit to your Excellency the Report of the Department of Public Instruction for the year 1896.

SCHOOLS.

In 1896 there were 2,574 schools, containing 2,785 departments, as compared with 2,563 schools and 2,776 departments open in 1895. During the year, 85 schools were established, comprising 8 Public, 40 Provisional, 26 Half-time, 3 House-to-house Schools, and 8 Evening Schools. In addition to these, 17 schools were reopened, 41 Provisional, 9 Half-time Schools, and 1 House-to-house School were raised to the rank of Public Schools, and 23 Half-time Schools and 1 House-to-house School to the Provisional rank; while 26 Public and 20 Provisional Schools were reduced to Half-time or House-to-house Schools. Ninety-one of the schools in operation during the whole or some portion of 1895 do not appear on the list of schools open in 1896, and of those actually in operation in that year 67 were closed before the last quarter. The number of schools open at the close of 1896 was 2,502, containing 2,713 departments.

The following table shows the classification of the schools open in 1896 :—

1. <i>High Schools</i> :—						Schools.	Departments.
Unclassed	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
2. <i>Public Schools and Half-time Schools</i> :—							
In Class	I	...	...	...	...	40	120
"	II	...	...	...	...	36	106
"	III	...	...	...	...	26	59
"	IV	...	...	...	...	62	88
"	V	...	...	...	...	127	129
"	VI	...	...	...	...	198	198
"	VII	...	...	...	...	185	185
"	VIII	...	...	...	...	335	335
"	IX	...	...	...	...	860	860
"	X	...	...	...	...	193	193
Unclassed	...	...	...	...	...	133	133
3. <i>Provisional Schools</i> :—							
Class	I	}	...	...	...	310	310
"	II						
"	III						
4. <i>House-to-house Schools</i> :—							
Unclassed	...	...	...	...	...	44	44
5. <i>Evening Public Schools</i> :—							
Unclassed	...	...	...	...	...	20	20
Total	...	...	...	...	...	2,574	2,785

Of the 16 applications for the establishment of new schools which remained under consideration at the close of 1895, 9 were granted and 7 were declined. In addition to these, 192 applications were received during 1896, namely, 27 for Public Schools, 106 for Provisional Schools, 41 for Half-time Schools, 8 for House-to-house Schools, and 10 for Evening Schools. Of these, 97 were granted, 75 were declined, and 20 were under consideration at the end of the year. The total number of children to be accommodated in the new schools when established is 2,030.

The number of applications dealt with, and the action taken with regard to them, is shown in the following table:—

Applications for the establishment of Schools.

Schools.	Number received.	Number granted.	Number declined.	Number still under consideration.
Public Schools	28	11	10	7
Provisional Schools	116	53	54	9
Half-time Schools	46	30	13	3
House-to-house Schools... ..	8	4	4	...
Evening Public Schools... ..	10	8	1	1
Total... ..	208	106	82	20

Full details respecting these applications will be found in Appendices I, II, III, IV, V.

The number of schools in operation in 1881, the first full year during which the Department was under Ministerial control, as compared with the number open in 1896, is given in the following table:—

Schools.	Number of Schools or Departments in operation.		Increase. 1881-1896.
	1881.	1896.	
High Schools ... ..	.....	5	5
Superior Schools	58	249	191
Primary Public Schools	1,042	1,660	618
Provisional Schools	246	310	64
Half-time Schools	93	497	404
House-to-house Schools ... ..	.....	44	44
Evening Schools	57	20	37*
Total	1,496	2,785	1,289
Seats provided	98,721	239,354	140,633

* Decrease.

In addition to the schools established and maintained under the Public Instruction Act, the following State supported or aided schools are still in operation, namely, the Sydney Grammar School, the two Industrial Schools, and the School for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind.

School

School Premises and Sites.—The number of school sites acquired during the year was 87. Of these, 63 were Government grants, 20 were resumed under the Public Works Act, 51 Vic. No. 37, and 4 were purchased. The cost of the purchased sites amounted to £1,910 12s., and the sum of £234 13s. 3d. was paid on account of those resumed. In the case of 7 of the latter no claim was made by the original holders for compensation. The balance to be paid on the others, when all claims have been settled, is £360 8s. 9d. Full particulars as to the sites will be found in Appendix XX.

Buildings.—At the close of 1896, existing school premises afforded room for 239,354 pupils. Of the school-places counted in 1895, 3,453 were lost in 1896 by the closing of schools and by the giving up of old buildings. The net increase was 1,421. Taking the building-work done in the last two years, it may be observed that, in 1896, 22 new schools and residences were erected under the supervision of the Department's professional officers, as compared with 47 built in 1895; while the additions numbered 16, as compared with 21; the premises repaired, 261, as compared with 408; and the places provided, 2,383, as compared with 4,244 for the same period. The number of small school-buildings and residences erected under the Inspectors' supervision was 78, as compared with 110 put up in 1895; 19 school-buildings were enlarged, as against 32 in 1895; the number of places provided was 2,771, as compared with 4,268; and the buildings repaired numbered 855 in 1896, as against 1,253 in the previous year.

At the close of 1896 the following additional works were in progress:—36 new buildings and 20 additions, the whole to provide for about 2,913 children. Three new weather-sheds were in course of construction, as well as 14 teachers' residences. Repairs and improvements were being carried out in 208 existing buildings.

Full particulars respecting the building-work completed in the year, and that in progress at its close, are given in the following tables:—

Works completed.

	Number.	Places provided.	Total cost, not including cost of sites.			Average cost per building.			Cost per seat.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Works under Professional Officers:—</i>											
School-buildings.....	10	1,062	4,519	0	0	451	18	0	4	5	1
Additions.....	16	1,321	4,659	5	11	291	4	1	3	10	6
Residences.....	12	.....	4,410	10	0	367	10	10	.....	.....	.....
Weather-sheds.....	2	.....	57	0	0	28	10	0	.....	.....	.....
Repairs, &c.....	261	.....	9,729	17	11	37	5	7	.....	.....	.....
<i>Works under Inspectors' supervision:—</i>											
School-buildings.....	77	2,343	3,040	12	7	39	9	9	1	5	11
Additions.....	19	428	973	18	1	51	5	2	2	5	6
Residences.....	1	.....	224	0	0	224	0	0	.....	.....	.....
Weather-sheds.....	3	.....	27	0	0	9	0	0	.....	.....	.....
Repairs, &c.....	855	.....	6,346	17	10	7	8	5	.....	.....	.....

Works in progress.

	Number.	Places provided.	Estimated cost, not including cost of sites.	Average cost per building.	Cost per place
<i>Works under Professional Officers :—</i>					
School-buildings	12	1,190	£ 3,529 13 11	£ 294 2 9	£ 2 19 3
Additions	8	580	3,227 19 11	403 9 11	5 11 3
Residences	11	.....	4,247 11 4	386 2 10	.....
Weather-sheds	1	.....	59 11 0	59 11 0	.....
Repairs, &c.	89	.....	9,433 2 3	105 19 9	.....
<i>Works under Inspectors' supervision :—</i>					
School-buildings	24	885	2,347 6 1	97 16 1	2 13 0
Additions	12	258	528 3 6	44 0 3	2 0 11
Residences	3	.....	866 0 0	288 13 4	.....
Weather-sheds	2	.....	98 10 0	49 5 0	.....
Repairs, &c.	119	.....	2,129 9 7	17 17 10	.....

The amount expended on Public School sites, buildings, furniture, repairs, rents, and rates during the last five years is shown below. The total expenditure on these items since 1880 is £2,624,800.

1892	...	...	...	...	£157,679
1893	...	...	...	...	112,856
1894	...	...	...	...	73,791
1895	...	...	...	...	104,397
1896	...	...	...	...	56,752

School Attendance.—The returns for the year show a considerable improvement in school attendance, the gross enrolment at Primary schools being 251,821 pupils, as compared with 245,904 in 1895, an increase of 5,917. Deducting 12 per cent. on account of multiple enrolments, the number of individual pupils under instruction was 221,603, an increase over the preceding year of 5,207. A corresponding increase is shown in the average daily attendance, which exceeds that of 1895 by 2,213.

The gross aggregate enrolment and the aggregate enrolment of distinct pupils for the last five years appear below :—

Years.	Gross Aggregate Enrolment.	Corrected Aggregate Enrolment of Distinct Pupils.	Increase.	
			Gross Enrolment.	Corrected Enrolment.
1891	233,719	205,673	11,855	10,432
1892	239,864	210,641	5,645	4,968
1893	238,951	210,277	413*	364*
1894	234,392	206,265	4,559*	4,012*
1895	245,904	216,396	11,512	10,131
1896	251,821	221,603	5,917	5,207

* Decrease.

In addition to the 221,603 pupils enrolled in schools under the Public Instruction Act, there were 1,296 in attendance at other State-aided Schools, namely :—

The Sydney Grammar School	...	458
The Industrial Schools	...	729
The School for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind	...	109

Total 1,296

Estimating

Estimating the mean population of the Colony for 1896 at 1,287,755, the population between 6 and 14 years of age was 242,391. Of this number, 191,860, or 79·1 per cent., attended State Schools, and 50,531, or 20·9 per cent., received instruction in Private Schools or at home, or else remained altogether untaught. From the latest returns of Private Schools' attendance it is estimated that the total enrolment was 52,000. As of this enrolment 39,200 pupils were between the ages of 6 and 14, it will be seen that of the total statutory school population of 242,391, 231,060, or 95·3 per cent., were enrolled at State and Private Schools, while 11,331, or 4·7 per cent., were taught at home, had left school after satisfying the standards of the Act, or remained untaught. In addition to pupils of the statutory school age, 19,752 under 6 years of age, and 24,087 over 14 years, were also enrolled for school attendance—31,039 at State Schools, and 12,800 at Private Schools. Thus, of 341,009 children in the Colony between the ages of 4 and 15 years, 222,899 attended State Schools, and 52,000 attended Private Schools; while the remainder, 66,110, received instruction at home, had completed their education, or were untaught.

The average quarterly enrolment was 197,025, and the average attendance 142,192. In the first half of the year 148,862 pupils, and in the second half 160,444 pupils, attended the ordinary day-schools 70 days or more. The percentage of the quarterly enrolment attending the compulsory number of days was, in the first half-year, 75·8 per cent., and in the second, 81·2 per cent.

The percentages of the net yearly enrolment attending 70 days or more in each half-year, since 1891, are as follow :—

Year.	70 days or more in first half-year.	70 days or more in second half-year.
1892	67·7	71·5
1893	66·2	66·1
1894	69·1	75·8
1895	67·1	72·0
1896	67·1	72·4

The enrolment and average attendance are shown in the following tables :—

(a) *Quarterly Enrolment and Average Attendance for 1895 and 1896.*

Quarters.	Number enrolled.		Average Attendance.			
			Number.		Percentages.	
	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.
March quarter ..	191,778	195,982	136,526·8	137,619·3	71·1	70·2
June quarter ...	191,780	196,948	141,229·5	141,080·3	73·6	71·6
September quarter ..	194,118	198,621	140,227·5	145,763·8	72·2	73·3
December quarter ...	190,630	196,550	141,930·8	144,306·9	74·4	73·4
Year's average...	192,075	197,025	139,978·6	142,192·5	72·8	72·1

(b) *Enrolment and Average Attendance for the last five years.*

Years.	Year's Enrolment.	Quarterly Enrolment.	Average Attendance.		
			Number.	Percentage of Year's Enrolment.	Percentage of Quarterly Enrolment.
1892	210,641	186,207	132,580	62.94	71.20
1893	210,277	186,327	128,322	61.02	68.86
1894	206,265	181,678	130,089	63.06	71.60
1895	216,396	192,075	139,978	64.68	72.87
1896	221,603	197,025	142,192	64.16	72.17

The main facts relative to school attendance may be summed up thus:—231,060, or 95.3 per cent. of the statutory population, were enrolled for school attendance; 191,860, or 79.1 per cent., at State Schools; and 39,200, or 16.9 per cent., at Private Schools. Of the school population between 4 and 15 years—274,899, or 80.6 per cent., were at school; 222,899, or 65.4 per cent., at State Schools; and 52,000, or 15.2 per cent., at Private Schools. 221,603 children attended schools under the Public Instruction Act; 191,256 being of the statutory school age, and 30,347 either above or below it. The mean quarterly enrolment was 197,025, or 88.9 per cent. of the year's enrolment; and the average attendance was 142,192, or 72.1 of the quarterly enrolment. Of the average enrolment, 75.8 per cent. attended school 70 days or more in the first half-year, and 81.2 per cent. in the second half-year. The percentage of the population enrolled quarterly and the corresponding percentage in average attendance in 1896 were respectively 15.3 and 11, as compared with 15.1 and 11 in 1895.

Compulsory clauses of the Act.—55,603 children between the ages of 6 and 14 years were reported as failing to complete the minimum attendance of 70 days during the first half of the year; but in 768 cases only was the law set in motion. The parents of 3,811 were cautioned, while in the remaining cases satisfactory explanations were furnished, or the circumstances were not such as to render any action necessary.

For the second half-year, the number between the compulsory ages who did not attend 70 days was 44,962. In 523 cases legal action was taken, and cautions were sent to parents in 2,369 cases.

The Inspector-General of Police continues to afford every assistance in connection with the working of the compulsory clauses; but until the vital defects in the provisions of the Act, which have been brought under notice from year to year, are remedied, the full benefits which may be reasonably looked for from compulsory education will not be attained.

SCHOOL FEES.

It was found necessary to authorise legal action for the recovery of arrears of school fees in 484 cases, but debts to the amount of £2,489 were cancelled. Free education was granted in the case of 28,420 pupils. The amount of fees collected and paid into the Consolidated Revenue was—for Primary Schools, £72,289 8s. 11d.; and for High Schools, £2,576 3s. 6d.; making a total of £74,865 12s. 5d. These figures show an increase of £2,176 10s. 10d. upon the amount paid in Primary Schools in 1895, but a falling off as regards High Schools of £630 10s. 6d.

INSPECTION.

Some changes were made during the year in the *personnel* of the staff of Inspectors. After a long and honourable career of forty-two years, during thirty of which he held office as Inspector, Mr. J. W. Allpass retired from the Public Service on 30th June last. His position in the Metropolitan District was filled by the appointment of Mr. H. Skillman, who had previously been attached to the Sub-metropolitan District. By the distribution amongst other Inspectors of the schools formerly under Mr. Skillman's supervision, it was found possible to defer for the present the question of the appointment of a successor to that officer.

Later in the year Mr. J. Waterhouse, M.A., relinquished charge of the Lithgow section in order to take up the position of Head Master of the Sydney High School for Boys, his place at Lithgow being filled by the appointment of Mr. G. H. Hunt, principal teacher of Ryde Superior School, to act as Inspector temporarily. Subsequently Mr. John Dettmann was appointed as an Inspector of Schools, and relieved Mr. Hunt.

The staff now comprises a Chief Inspector, a Deputy Chief Inspector, 9 District Inspectors, and 24 Inspectors. Out of a total of 2,780 schools, exclusive of High Schools, 2,763 were examined. Of the 17 schools not inspected, 15 were closed before the Inspectors' visits to their neighbourhood, and the remaining 2 were opened too late in the year to afford an opportunity for their inspection.

The subjoined table will show how the schools were apportioned, and the amount of inspection done in each district:—

District.	No. of Inspectors.	No. of Schools.	No. of Schools inspected.	No. of Schools not inspected.	No. of Pupils examined.
Armidale	4	356	356	...	12,513
Bathurst	3	260	259	1	10,389
Bowral	3	253	257	1	11,019
Goulburn	4	390	391	8	11,362
Grafton	3	326	326	...	11,725
Maitland	3	245	244	1	16,739
Metropolitan	4	208	206	2	48,408
Sub-metropolitan	2	153	153	...	11,867
Wagga Wagga	4	331	329	2	12,739
Wellington	3	244	242	2	8,107
Totals	33	2,780	2,763	17	154,868

The inspected and the uninspected schools stand thus :—

	Public.	Provisional.	Half-time.	House-to-house.	Evening.	Total.
Inspected	1,907	301	493	44	15	2,763
Uninspected	1	6	5	.....	5	17
Totals	1,908	310	498	44	20	2,780

Course of Secular Instruction.—The table given below shows the results obtained by examination :—

Subject.	Estimated Proficiency.		
	Total number Examined.	Number Passed.	Percentage up to or above Standard.
Reading—			
Alphabet	10,807	8,132	75
Monosyllables	35,522	29,330	82
•Easy Narrative	48,633	41,803	85
Ordinary Prose	59,906	52,963	88
Totals	154,868	132,228	85
Writing—			
On Slates... ..	60,939	51,348	84
In Copy-books and on Paper	93,439	81,218	86
Totals	154,378	132,566	85
Dictation	122,291	96,943	79
Arithmetic—			
Simple Rules	91,452	70,321	76
Compound Rules... ..	38,323	27,399	71
Higher Rules	23,456	16,662	71
Totals	153,231	114,382	74
Grammar—			
Elementary	31,833	23,738	74
Advanced	31,450	23,338	74
Totals	63,283	47,076	74
Geography—			
Elementary	29,523	22,756	77
Advanced	33,769	26,177	77
Totals	63,292	48,933	77
History—			
English	62,424	45,096	72
Australian	12,981	9,443	72
Scripture and Moral Lessons... ..	149,306	115,558	77
Object Lessons	147,788	115,803	78
Drawing	148,896	119,114	79
Music	141,593	112,772	79
French	2,549	1,920	75
Euclid	8,609	6,466	75
Algebra	3,183	2,505	78
Mensuration	6,546	4,427	67
Latin	2,902	2,095	72
Trigonometry	88	67	76
Needlework	55,475	49,287	88
Drill	146,738	120,642	82
Natural Science	7,059	5,608	79

These results show that the proportion of passes, as compared with the work of 1895, is 1 per cent. higher in reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, drawing, and drill; 2 per cent. in mensuration; 3 per cent. in dictation, music, and trigonometry; 4 per cent. in French; 5 per cent. in algebra; and 7 per cent. in Scripture. In English history, object lessons, and natural science the percentage is the same for both years, while in geography, Euclid, Australian history, Latin, and needlework there is a slight falling off.

The following table summarises the progress in efficiency made in the different classes of schools during the past five years:—

Class of Schools.	Percentage up to or above the Standard.				
	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Public	95	95	96	97	97
Provisional... ..	77	84	88	82	86
Half-time	81	84	87	89	89
House-to-house	76	78	80	91	95
Evening Schools	92	100	100	93	93
All Schools... ..	90	92	93	94	95

It will be noted that Provisional and House-to-house Schools have improved 4 per cent. as compared with 1895, the percentages in the case of Public, Half-time, and Evening Schools showing no alteration.

HIGH SCHOOLS.

The total enrolment at these schools was 577, and the average daily attendance 431, as against 603 and 468 respectively for 1895. The attendance at each school is shown below:—

School.	Total enrolment.	Average quarterly enrolment.	Average daily attendance.
Sydney (Boys)	169	119	109.8
" (Girls)	212	165	152.1
Maitland (Boys)	91	69	62.8
" (Girls)	72	54	48.4
Bathurst (Girls)	33	24	18.9
Totals	577	431	392.0
Totals for 1895	603	468	430.1

395 pupils, or 91 per cent. of the average quarterly enrolment, were present at the annual examination, the percentage of results averaging over 70 per cent. At the University Examinations these schools took a good position, as will be seen from the table following:—

School.	No. of Passes Junior Examination.	No. of Passes Senior Examination.	No. of Passes Matriculation Examination.
Sydney (Boys)	26	2	18
" (Girls)	29	6	14
Maitland (Boys)	15	3	15
" (Girls)	11	2	6
Bathurst (Girls)	3	...	...
Totals	84	13	53

Of those who qualified for matriculation, 24 did so at the junior and 6 at the senior examinations. Medals were awarded High School pupils at the junior examination in English, physics, arithmetic, and geometry, while Miss Jessie Bowmaker and Miss Grace Mitchell, pupils of Sydney High School for Girls, distinguished themselves by coming out equal for the Fairfax prize for general proficiency.

In June last Mr. Joseph Coates, who had been Head Master of the Sydney High School for boys since its establishment in 1884, was compelled, in consequence of ill-health, to retire under the provisions of the Public Service Act, and was succeeded by Mr. John Waterhouse, M.A. I regret to state that, shortly after his retirement, Mr. Coates's illness had a fatal termination.

The total expenditure on High Schools was £6,579 3s. 3d., a slight decrease on that of the previous year, and the amount received from fees £2,576 3s. 6d. The actual cost to the State was, therefore, £4,002 19s. 9d., or at the rate of £6 18s. 9d. per head of the total enrolment, as against £5 14s. 2d. in 1895.

State Scholarships and Bursaries.—At the examinations held under the Scholarship and Bursary scheme, 110 candidates were successful. Of these, 25 males and 32 females obtained scholarships for High Schools and Superior Schools; 23 males and 18 females, bursaries for High and Superior Schools; 2 males, bursaries for the Sydney Grammar School; and 6 males and 4 females, University Bursaries.

Of the 57 successful competitors for Scholarships, 16 boys and 16 girls have since attended the Sydney High Schools, 8 boys and 10 girls the Maitland High Schools, 5 girls the Bathurst High School, and 1 boy and 1 girl attend Superior Schools. Of the 43 who succeeded in gaining State School Bursaries, 13 boys and 11 girls attend the Sydney High Schools, 10 boys and 5 girls the Maitland Schools, 2 girls Bathurst High School, and 2 boys the Sydney Grammar School.

This year the whole of the University Bursaries available were awarded. Nine were obtained by High School pupils, 5 boys and 4 girls; and one by a pupil of Fort-street Model School.

The total number of candidates examined for admission to the High Schools was 774; of these 753, or 97·2 per cent., were successful.

SUPERIOR SCHOOLS.

Two schools—Cootamundra and Hay—were added to the list of Superior Schools, thus making the total 100, comprising 249 departments. The number of pupils enrolled for the December quarter of the year was 70,144, the average attendance being 51,974.

Superior Schools were very successful at the University Examinations, having passed 302 candidates, viz., 4 seniors and 298 juniors. Other Public Schools not classed as superior obtained 57 junior passes.

These

These give a total of 355, 36·1 per cent. of the aggregate number. If the High Schools be added, the passes from schools under the Department represent 44·7 per cent. of the whole. Superior School pupils obtained medals in English history, geography, algebra, and physiology.

EVENING PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Ten applications for the establishment of Evening Schools were received; 8 were granted, 1 was refused, and 1 had not been finally dealt with at the close of the year. The total number of schools in operation was 20, but 5 collapsed before the end of the year. On 31st December there were only 15 schools in existence, having an enrolment of 482, with an average attendance of 263.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Drawing.—148,896 pupils were examined in this subject, of whom 119,114, or 79 per cent., satisfied the standard. In 203 departments in the Metropolitan and Sub-metropolitan districts visited by the Superintendent of Drawing, 42,548 pupils were present at examination. 76·6 per cent. of these were found to reach the standard, being 4 per cent. better results than in 1895. The Superintendent remarks that “as the standard of work has been raised, this improvement is even more satisfactory than appears on the surface.” Detailed information upon this subject will be found in Appendix XIII.

Manual Training.—Eight workshops were in existence in 1896, which afforded instruction to the pupils of 23 schools. The total enrolment of these classes, including students in training, was 622. Of these 466 presented themselves for examination and 391 passed. When the new Technical College buildings at Bathurst have been completed, instruction in manual training will be available for the schools in that important centre.

Cookery.—The number of schools in operation in 1895 was increased by one in 1896, making a total of 15, with an enrolment of 1,302 pupils. Of this number 1,166 presented themselves for examination, of whom 1,143, or 98 per cent., were successful.

Needlework.—55,475 female pupils were examined in needlework, of whom 49,287, or 88 per cent., passed the standard. In the Metropolitan district 84 schools, representing 14,000 children, were examined by the Directress, who reports that “in the upper classes especially the results have been most satisfactory—the marks gained after close and searching tests ranging from very fair to excellent.” [See Appendix XV.]

PUBLIC SCHOOL SAVINGS BANKS.

Nine new Banks were opened during 1896, and two were closed. The total number in operation at the end of the year was 639. The amount deposited was £11,467 10s. 5d., and the sum withdrawn £11,106 9s. 3d., showing, as compared with 1895, an increase of £313 10s. 5d. in deposits, and in withdrawals of £213 9s. 10d.

The

The total amount to the credit of the School Banks on 31st December was £6,671 2s. 8d., an increase on the previous year in the amount to the credit of children of £361 1s. 2d.

The amount withdrawn for deposit to the credit of pupils in the Government Savings Bank was £2,303 16s. 3d.

Since the establishment of these Banks in 1887 the deposits have totalled £111,542 2s. 7d., and the withdrawals £104,877 19s. 11d. Of this latter sum, £30,298 12s. 6d. was withdrawn for the purpose of being placed to the credit of children's own accounts in the Government Savings Bank.

TEACHERS.

Four thousand four hundred and forty-two teachers of all classes were actually employed at the end of the year, being 35 fewer than for the corresponding quarter of 1895. While there was an actual increase of 17 in the number of principal teachers and assistants, there was a large falling off in the number of pupil-teachers and students in training. Two thousand seven hundred and ninety-four were classified teachers, 546 unclassified but certificated for small schools, 51 were training-school students, 959 pupil-teachers, 67 work-mistresses, and 25 High School teachers. Of the whole number 52·5 are males and 47·5 females; and of the teachers in charge of schools or departments, 70·2 per cent. are males and 29·8 females. As regards assistants, the percentages are 30·6 males and 69·4 females.

The following table gives full information respecting the several classes into which teachers are divided:—

	I A.		I B.		II A.		II B.		III A.		III B.		III C.		Unclassified.		Totals.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Principal Teachers	41	1	81	1	296	4	144	7	630	123	194	81	74	65	265	234	1,725	521	2,246
Mistresses of Departments .....	...	31	...	40	...	134	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	210	210
Assistants	1	2	15	2	131	130	67	99	42	265	7	56	1	20	7	39	271	613	884
Students in Training Schools .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	26	51
Totals	42	34	96	43	427	268	211	103	672	395	201	137	75	85	272	274	2,021	1,370	3,391
	Class I.		Class II.		Class III.		Class IV.		Probationers.										
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.									
Pupil-teachers	51	354	30	73	53	33	136	147	24	48							299	630	959
Work-mistresses .....	.....																...	67	67
High School Teachers...	.....																12	13	25
Total Teachers of all ranks																	2,332	2,110	4,442

Of the total number of classified teachers 7·7 per cent. are in Class I, 36·3 per cent. in Class II, and 56 per cent. in Class III. Only 16 per cent. of our teachers are unclassified, and the majority of these had, before appointment, served four years at least as pupil-teachers.

The teachers whose connection with the Department ceased during the year numbered 216. Of these 157 resigned, 28 retired under the Public Service Act, 13 were transferred to other Departments of the Service, 5 were dismissed, and 13 died.

During 1896, 446 applicants for appointment to the office of pupil-teacher were examined, of whom 127 were accepted. Of those awaiting employment, 221 were appointed to schools.

Fort-street Training School.—The number of students in training was 26. Sixteen held full scholarships, 9 half-scholarships, and 1 attended at his own expense.

Instruction was given during the year in professional subjects, in the principles and practice of teaching and class management and in manual training. The examination with a view to the classification of the students was held in December and resulted as follows:—

II A. with Honors.	II A.	II B.	III A.	Total.
1	4	12	5	22*

* Two students failed to complete examination through illness, 1 was dismissed from training for misconduct, and 1 (non-scholar) did not compete.

The results of the examination in manual training were:—

Honors.	First Grade.	Second Grade	Total.
4	10	11	25

At the beginning of the year, Reuter E. Roth, Esq., M.R.C.S., Eng., was appointed Lecturer in Elementary Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene. The students have shown a deep interest in the lectures given, and at an examination held in November under the auspices of the St. John's Ambulance Association, 24 of their number were successful in qualifying for the "first aid" certificate.

Hurlstone Training School for Female Students.—Twenty-nine students were in residence, of whom 15 held full scholarships, 10 half scholarships, and 4 attended at their own charge.

In addition to the usual professional subjects instruction was given in needlework, cookery, drill, calisthenics, and physiology (including "first aid" to the wounded). Twenty-seven students attended a special examination, held in connection with the St. John's Ambulance Association, and all obtained certificates.

The

The results of the examination for classification, held at the end of the year, are given below :—

II A, with Honors.	II A.	II B.	III A.	Total.
2	3	19	1	25*

* Four non scholars did not compete.

Teachers' Examinations.—The total number of examinees of all classes during 1896 was 2,444. The percentage of passes of teachers was 60·3, and of pupil-teachers 85·8. The total number of pupil-teachers reported on was 566, as against 624 in 1895. The male and female examinees who obtained the highest number of marks at the first class pupil-teachers' examination for admission to training were Mr. William Colin McLintock, of Balmain Superior School, and Miss Elizabeth Harriet Pender, of the Public School, Bolwarra. Each of them will be presented with the Jones Memorial Medal.

In the following table the results of the several examinations are given in detail :—

Persons examined.	Results.		
	Passed.	Failed.	Total.
Teachers and Assistant Teachers	243	175	418
For Class I 6 passed			
" II A 9 "			
" II B 29 "			
" III A 132 "			
" III B 47 "			
" III C 20 "			
Examined in Drawing only, in Music only, or in both ...	93	47	140
Retired from examination ... ..	.....	.....	5
Examination cancelled ... ..	.....	.....	2
Examined in Physiology only	1	.....	1
Examinations of Students in Training Schools	84	.....	84
(a) Males—Recommended for II A 5			
" II B 12			
" III A 5			
Retired ill 2			
(b) Females—Recommended for II A 5			
" II B 19			
" III A 1			
Examined in Drawing only 31			
Cancelled 4			
Pupil-teachers	472	78	550
For Class III 214 passed			
" II 77 "			
" I 77 "			
For Training Schools 104 "			
Examinations in Drawing only 9		.....	9
Results of examinations in abeyance not yet completed ..	.....	.....	7
Applicants for office of Pupil-teacher	127	319	446
Examined in Drawing or in Music only	31	.....	31
Retired from examination	2	.....	2
High School Candidates	728	21	749

Teachers' Mutual Assurance Association.—During 1896, 2 teachers joined the Association, and 6 died. For the last 10 years the average death-rate has remained at 1·2 per cent.; and the average amount paid annually by each member has been £1 1s. 9d., or at the rate of £1 10s. 6d. per cent. on the sum payable at death.

An

An alteration in the rules has been made by which candidates under 40 years of age may join the Association on more favourable terms than formerly; while the premiums for candidates above 40 years of age have been reduced by one-half. There is no legacy duty payable, nor have nominees of deceased members to wait for proof of will, payment being made on proof of death.

LOCAL SUPERVISION.

Three sub-districts were formed during the year, and a Public School Board appointed in the case of each. The number of persons so appointed was 14. In addition, 43 members were added to Boards already in existence. The total number of Boards in operation was 288. On 53 of these, ladies to the number of 115 held seats. The resignations of 31 members were accepted, and 15 were reported as deceased, or having left the locality.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

The Superintendent reports (see Appendix XIX) that "there have been in the aggregate more enrolments, a substantial increase in the average attendance, and a marked improvement in the quality of the passes at the December examination." A comparison of the enrolments is given in the following table:—

	1895.	1896.
Sydney Technical College	3,458	3,302
Suburban classes	550	578
Country classes	2,252	2,285
Classes connected with Public Schools	811	954
	7,071	7,119

Deducting from the total enrolment all cases where students joined more than one class, the number of individual students was 5,396, a decrease of 62 as compared with 1895. The average weekly attendance was 3,718, an increase over the previous year of 226.

The total number of classes in operation was distributed as shown below:—

	Under salaried Teachers.	Teachers paid fees only.	Total.
Sydney Technical College	56	3	59
Suburban classes	14	10	24
Classes in country towns	88	9	97
Classes from Public Schools	20	.....	20
	178	22	200

The students examined at the close of the year numbered 2,576, of whom 1,822, or 70·7 per cent., were successful; in 1895 there were 2,651 examined, of whom 1,788, or 67·4 per cent., passed. At the technological

technological examinations of "The City and Guild of London Institute," held in this Colony in April last, 30 students of the Technical Colleges were examined, of whom 23 passed. Two candidates in plumbing and one in iron and steel manufacture obtained second-class honours.

The teaching staff comprises 84 persons, viz., 13 lecturers in charge of departments, 5 resident masters in charge of branch schools, 36 teachers, 17 assistant teachers, and 13 teachers in charge of classes remunerated by pupils' fees only. As in former years, lectures upon technical subjects have been delivered by the officers of the Department in the various centres of population.

The new Technical College buildings at Newcastle were officially opened in February, 1896, and in November last the foundation-stone was laid of a Technical College for Bathurst. It is expected that the latter building will be ready for the reception of students before the end of 1897.

In June last Mr. J. H. Maiden, F.L.S., who had held the dual office of Superintendent of Technical Education and Curator of the Technological Museum, was, on the recommendation of the Public Service Board, transferred to the Directorship of the Botanic Gardens, and Dr. R. N. Morris, Examiner under this Department, was appointed Superintendent of Technical Education, still, however, retaining his position as Examiner.

The Technological Museum was visited by 226,010 persons—23,640 fewer than in the previous year. The appended table gives the attendance in detail.

	1895.	1896.
Technological Museum, Sydney	118,967	99,952
Branch Museum, Newcastle	56,174	58,443
" Goulburn	28,031	24,211
" Bathurst	27,338	19,840
" West Maitland	19,140	23,564
	249,650	226,010

The total expenditure on technical education during 1896, including £3,838 16s. 6d. spent on the Technological Museums, amounted to £24,814 16s. Of this sum £21,203 15s. 11d. was a Parliamentary grant, and £3,611 0s. 1d. represents the fees paid by students.

PUBLIC SCHOOL CADET FORCE.

For the last quarter of 1896 the total enrolment of the Cadet Force was 3,164. The amount expended for cadet purposes was £3,139 7s. 5d., as against £3,864 11s. 3d. in 1895.

Details of the year's work appear in Appendix XVIII.

The

FINANCE.

The sum available for expenditure under the Public Instruction Act was £661,585 14s. 5d., made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Balance from 1895	735	13	7
Amount received from Treasury on account of Vote for 1895-6	332,823	0	0
Amount received from Treasury on account of Vote for 1896-7	320,000	0	0
Amount received from Loan Vote—(Land)	1,657	0	10
Amount received from Loan Vote—(new buildings)	5,000	0	0
Amount of Minister's salary	1,370	0	0
	<u>£661,585</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u>

The total outlay was £651,307 0s. 4d., namely, £56,752 7s. 6d. on school premises, £549,312 4s. 4d. on maintenance of schools, and £45,242 8s. 6d. on administration, &c. £526 16s. 8d., the unexpended balance of 1894 account, was refunded to the Treasury, leaving a balance at the end of the year of £9,751 17s. 5d.

General Statement of Expenditure for 1895.

I. On School Premises:—

	£	s.	d.
For sites, new buildings, additions, repairs, &c., including High Schools £518 10s. 6d.	56,752	7	6

II. On Maintenance of Schools, &c.:—

	£	s.	d.
1. Teachers' salaries and allowances in Primary Schools	514,857	5	10
Other maintenance expenses in such schools	25,144	7	9
2. High School salaries and maintenance expenses	6,060	12	9
State Scholarships and Bursaries	3,249	18	0
3. Administration, including Training Schools and enforcement of school attendance	45,242	8	6
	<u>594,554</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>
	<u>£651,307</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>

The amount of school fees collected and paid into the Consolidated Revenue was £74,865 12s. 5d., namely, £72,289 8s. 11d. from Primary Schools, and £2,576 3s. 6d. from High Schools. Deducting this sum from the total expenditure, there will remain £576,441 7s. 11d. as the net school expenditure derived from State funds.

The total expenditure during the last five years is shown in the following table:—

	1892 Expenditure.	Per- centage of total expen- diture.	1893. Expenditure.	Per- centage of total expen- diture.	1894. Expenditure.	Per- centage of total expen- diture.	1895. Expenditure.	Per- centage of total expen- diture.	1896. Expenditure.	Per- centage of total expen- diture.
I. SCHOOL PREMISES AND ARCHITECT'S EXPENSES:—										
For sites, buildings, additions, &c.	£ s. d. 157,070 6 9	20.52	£ s. d. 112,855 12 5	15.78	£ s. d. 73,791 13 1	11.16	£ s. d. 104,397 5 1	14.88	£ s. d. 56,752 7 6	8.71
II. MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOLS, not including administration:—										
1. Primary Schools—Salaries and allowances	516,861 9 10	67.07	515,344 0 4	72.05	505,794 4 10	76.51	516,309 2 4	73.53	514,857 5 10	79.05
2. Primary Schools—Other maintenance expenses	28,777 10 7	3.75	21,951 12 10	3.49	23,862 10 8	3.61	25,366 5 1	3.62	25,144 7 9	3.86
3. High Schools—Salaries and allowances	6,972 11 0	.91	6,945 13 11	.97	6,378 11 8	.96	6,097 2 10	.87	5,833 0 0	.90
4. " " Other maintenance expenses, including Scholarships	2,473 13 10	.32	2,608 7 6	.37	2,419 0 2	.37	3,479 6 3	.49	3,477 10 9	.63
III. ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES:—										
1. General management	13,137 16 1	1.71	13,937 4 5	1.95	17,036 4 11*	2.53	16,204 7 1*	2.32	17,279 2 5*	2.65
2. Chief Inspector's Branch, including Training Schools	42,678 17 5	5.54	37,159 7 6	5.20	30,066 6 7	4.63	28,354 12 3	4.04	27,377 19 3	4.23
3. Examiner's Branch	1,415 16 9	.18	1,366 10 8	.19	1,175 14 6	.18	1,408 12 7	.20	685 0 10	.10
Totals	763,395 2 3	100.00	715,219 9 7	100.00	661,054 15 5	100.00	701,826 13 6	100.00	651,807 0 4	100.00

* Including Minister's salary.

Owing to changes effected by the Public Service Board, the item "general management" was charged from 1st July last with the salaries of officers in the building and Examiner's branches which previously had been included under other headings. It will be seen from the detailed statement appearing hereafter that there is a corresponding decrease in the items "Architect's expenses" and "Examiner's Branch."

The subjoined table exhibits the number of schools, the number of pupils, and the State expenditure for each of the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Pupils.	The State Expenditure.					
			On School Premises.	On Maintenance of Schools, including Administration, &c.	Total.	Less School Fees.	Net State Expenditure.	
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1892.....	2,502	210,041	157,670 6 0	610,715 15 6	768,385 2 3	77,524 9 10	690,870 12 5	
1893.....	2,520	210,277	112,855 12 5	602,363 17	715,219 9 7	73,267 11 3	641,951 18 4	
1894.....	2,508	206,265	73,791 13 1	587,263 2 4	661,054 15 5	70,693 8 7	590,361 6 10	
1895.....	2,503	216,396	104,397 5 1	607,420 8 5	701,828 13 6	73,319 12 1	628,507 1 5	
1896.....	2,574	221,603	56,752 7 6	594,554 12 10	651,307 0 4	74,865 12 5	576,441 7 11	

Hereunder the expenditure is shown more in detail:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
I. SCHOOL PREMISES :					
1. Sites	27,383 10 9	12,518 4 0	8,584 5 7	3,105 6 0	2,256 18 8
2. Buildings, &c.	56,532 16 0	47,915 12 11	19,431 19 2	27,586 10 4	15,583 9 1
3. Additions, repairs, &c.	54,913 8 2	33,622 3 11	20,430 10 9	56,073 14 4	28,516 18 11
4. Weather-sheds	2,374 7 10	702 4 6	514 16 0	631 8 0	44 11 2
5. Architect's expenses	7,107 18 2	6,194 3 11	5,550 4 2	5,933 19 5	3,336 12 9
6. Rent	9,367 5 10	9,166 17 7	8,757 12 8	8,583 11 5	6,255 19 5
7. Water and Sewerage rates		2,736 5 7	1,462 4 9	1,402 15 7	1,757 17 6
	157,679 6 9	112,855 12 5	73,791 13 1	104,397 5 1	56,752 7 6
II. MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOLS :					
1. Teachers' salaries and allowances	522,334 0 10	522,289 14 3	512,172 16 6	522,496 5 2	520,690 5 10
2. Teachers' travelling expenses.....	2,906 14 4	1,613 0 2	2,217 15 8	2,761 17 3	2,457 19 6
3. Teachers' forage allowances	2,197 2 3	2,344 2 11	2,382 3 7	2,633 15 2	2,666 3 10
4. School fuel allowances	1,009 8 0	928 6 5	977 0 10	1,025 13 0	1,074 10 10
5. School cleaning allowances	9,667 15 5	9,159 13 11	9,260 16 7	9,576 16 2	9,688 10 2
6. School materials	10,614 18 9	8,790 7 6	7,370 0 7	8,220 19 2	8,120 8 4
7. Miscellaneous expenses, including advertising, bur- saries, cookery, &c.	4,855 5 8	4,784 9 5	4,064 2 7	4,626 10 7	4,614 5 10
	553,585 5 3	540,909 14 7	538,444 16 4	551,341 16 6	549,312 4 4
III. ADMINISTRATION AND TRAINING SCHOOLS :					
1. General management	13,137 16 1	13,937 4 5	17,036 4 11	16,291 7 1	17,270 2 5
2. Chief-Inspector's Branch :					
(a) Inspection	34,099 16 3	29,590 16 9	24,009 1 5	23,954 16 2	23,202 13 10
(b) Fort-street Training School.....	5,006 0 10	4,727 3 3	3,529 13 2	2,145 1 5	2,015 3 9
(c) Hurlstone Training School	3,473 0 4	2,832 7 6	2,767 12 0	2,254 14 8	2,160 1 8
3. Examiner's Branch.....	1,413 16 9	1,366 10 8	1,175 14 6	1,408 12 7	585 6 10
	57,130 10 3	52,454 2 7	48,818 6 0	46,067 11 11	45,242 8 6
Total expenditure	£ 768,395 2 3	715,219 9 7	661,054 15 5	701,826 13 6	651,307 0 4

The average cost to the State of a child's education, calculated (a) upon the net school expenditure, and (b) upon the expenditure exclusive of the cost of school premises, is shown in the succeeding tables:—

(a) *Net School Expenditure.*

	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Cost per child upon the—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross enrolment of pupils	2 17 10	2 13 10½	2 10 5	2 11 1½	2 5 9½
Year's enrolment of distinct pupils	3 5 7	3 1 0½	2 17 2½	2 18 1	2 12 0½
Mean quarterly enrolment	3 14 2½	3 8 10½	3 4 11½	3 5 5½	2 18 6
Average attendance.....	5 4 2½	5 0 0½	4 10 9	4 9 9½	4 1 0½

(b) *Expenditure, exclusive of cost of school premises.*

	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Cost per child, calculated upon the—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross enrolment of pupils	2 4 6½	2 4 3½	2 4 0½	2 2 7½	2 1 3½
Year's enrolment of distinct children	2 10 7½	2 10 3½	2 10 1	2 8 5½	2 6 10½
Mean quarterly enrolment	2 17 3	2 16 9½	2 16 10½	2 14 6½	2 12 9
Average attendance	4 0 5	4 2 5½	3 19 5	3 14 10½	3 13 1

Information is furnished in the following summaries respecting educational establishments connected with this Department, but not carried on under the provisions of the Public Instruction Act:—

THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY.

Four hundred and fifty-four students, including 75 women, attended lectures during 1896. The total number qualified for Matriculation was 295, of whom 96 passed the ordinary Matriculation Examination, 135 the Junior Public Examination, 21 the Law Matriculation Examination, 33 the Senior Public Examination, and 10 the Entrance Examination for Medicine and Science. The number actually admitted to Matriculation was 82.

At the Senior Public Examinations, 143 candidates presented themselves, and 109 passed. At the Junior Examination, 965 were successful out of 1,481.

The degrees conferred during the year were 108, viz.:—M.A., 6; B.A., 58; LL.B., 7; M.D., 2; M.B., 17; Ch.M., 11; B.Sc., 1; M.E., 1; and B.E., 5.

The University Staff consisted of 14 Professors and 33 Lecturers, of whom 7 Professors and 5 Lecturers are paid out of the Challis Fund; and 4 Teachers from the P. N. Russell Fund.

The year's expenditure was £31,559 15s., of which sum £11,400 was granted by the Government. £3,665 7s. was derived from private foundations for the payment of scholarships, bursaries, prizes, &c., and for books for the Fisher Library. The total income for the year was £31,345 19s. 7d.

THE SYDNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The total enrolment of pupils for 1896 was 458, of whom 165 were under and 293 over the statutory age of 14 years. One hundred and fifty-one new pupils were admitted, 85 being under and 66 above 14 years of age. The mean quarterly enrolment was 378, and the average attendance 363·5. The

The income and expenditure for the year were as follows :—

<i>Income.</i>			
From State grants	...	...	£1,500 0 0
„ School fees	...	...	6,550 0 0
„ Special prizes, &c....	...	...	113 3 2
Balance due to Commercial Bank			182 15 5
			<hr/>
			£8,345 18 7
<i>Expenditure.</i>			
By balance due to Bank	...	...	£480 5 4
„ expenditure	...	...	7,865 13 3
			<hr/>
			£8,345 18 7

The cost per pupil in average attendance was £22 19s. 2¼d., being £1 2s. 0½d. less than in 1895. The expense to the State was £4 2s. 6½d. per head, as against £4 4s. 6d. in the previous year.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The total number of volumes in the Library at the end of 1896 was 115,908. During the year new books to the number of 5,525 were added, and 14,208 books sent out on loan to country libraries. 174,130 persons visited the reading rooms as against 156,388 in the previous year; 161,124 the newspaper room as compared with 171,894 in 1895; and 80,928 visits were paid to the Lending Branch, an increase of 146 over the number in 1895. The total number of visits, therefore, paid to the institution during the year was 416,182, being 7,118 more than were paid in 1895.

Thirty-one persons were employed on the staff of the institution. The expenditure for the year was :—

On buildings, repairs, &c. (under Government Architect)	...	...	£198 0 0
On books, periodicals, newspapers, binding	...	...	1,904 0 0
On salaries	...	...	4,294 0 0
On maintenance	...	...	772 0 0
			<hr/>
			£7,168 0 0

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

The number of visitors to the Museum was—On week-days, 83,351; on Sundays, 34,494; total, 117,845. Twenty-seven persons were employed in the institution. The Trustees report that the year's expenditure was as given below :—

On salaries and allowances...	...	...	£4,311 0 6
On specimens (purchase, collection, and carriage)	...	...	232 15 7
On books and binding	...	...	199 17 11
On catalogues	...	...	411 18 10
On cases and bottles	...	...	461 14 5
Expedition to coral reef	...	...	44 6 0
Miscellaneous	...	...	233 0 7
			<hr/>
			£5,894 13 10

NATIONAL

NATIONAL ART GALLERY.

During the year 215,602 visits to the Gallery were registered, being a daily average of upwards of 592. The attendance on Sundays averaged 1,581, on week-days, 427. Thirty-six additional students were admitted, making the total number 248. Five persons were permanently employed, with three extra assistants on Sundays and holidays.

The following is a statement of the year's expenditure :—

For works of art purchased	...	£963	14	9
For maintenance (frames, freight, repairs, insurances, &c.)	...	1,061	11	7
For salaries	... ..	1,112	3	0
		<hr/>		
		£3,137	9	4

NEW SOUTH WALES INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB
AND THE BLIND.

The number of inmates during the year was 109 as compared with 94 for 1895. Of these 82 were under and 27 were over 14 years of age. The new admissions were 27, 25 of whom were under and 2 over 14 years. Three inmates were discharged—2 under 14 years, and 1 over that age. The income was :—

From State grants	... ..	£675	0	0
From other sources	... ..	3,776	7	6
		<hr/>		
		£4,451	7	6

The expenditure for the year was as follows :—

For maintenance	... ..	£1,820	11	9
For salaries and wages	... ..	2,091	4	10
		<hr/>		
		£3,911	16	7

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, PARRAMATTA.

The enrolment for the year was 175, of whom 41 were under and 134 above the age of 14 years. There were 55 new admissions—26 under and 29 over 14 years old. Fifty-six inmates were discharged during the year, as follows :—

To Boarding-out officer	... ..	13
As apprentices	... ..	19
On attaining age of 18 years	... ..	19
By order of Governor-in-Council	... ..	3
To Benevolent Society	... ..	2
		<hr/>
		56

The number remaining in the institution on 31st December was 124. Compared with 1895, there were an increase of 4 in the enrolment and an increase of 4 and 9, respectively, in the new admissions and the discharges.

The

The expenditure for the year was :—

	£	s.	d.
For maintenance	1,654	9	7
For salaries	930	12	1
	<hr/>		
	£2,585	1	8

Calculated on the enrolment, the cost per inmate was £14 15s. 5d. A comparison with the figures of 1895 shows that a saving has been effected in the cost per head of 2s. 8d.

I regret to have to record the death, in June last, of Mr. C. H. Spier, who had successfully managed the institution as superintendent for over seven years. The vacancy thus caused was filled by the appointment of Mr. Thomas Edwards Dryhurst.

The health of the inmates during the year, as well as their general conduct, has been very satisfactory. The Superintendent reports :—“ There was an increase in the number of girls apprenticed, and I find, upon careful inquiry, that in nearly every case the apprentices are giving satisfaction to their mistresses. The industrial work undertaken was of a comprehensive and useful character. The laundry work included 169,791 pieces or articles of clothing, which were washed and ironed or mangled; of these, 63,339 consisted of articles for the officers and students of Hurlstone College, of an estimated value of £361 12s. 2d. The articles dealt with for the officers and inmates of the institution numbered 136,432, and the estimated value of the work done was £1,033 6s. 8d.

The work of the sewing classes included plain sewing, cutting-out, dressmaking, darning, and patching for the inmates. The estimated value of the work was £119 17s. 2d.”

NAUTICAL SCHOOL-SHIP “SOBRAON.”

In this institution, 554 boys were enrolled, 316 of these being under and 238 over 14 years of age; the new admissions numbered 174, 96 of whom were below and 78 above the age stated. The number discharged was 223, made up as follows :—

For apprenticeship	171
On attaining 18 years of age	9
Transferred to Boarding-out Officer	17
Transferred to ship “Neotsfield”	2
Transferred to Industrial School	1
By order of the Governor-in-Council	23
	<hr/>
	223

Three hundred and thirty-one boys remained on the “Sobraon” at the end of the year. As compared with 1895, an increase of 20 is shown in the enrolment, of 69 in the discharges, and a decrease of 11 in the number of new admissions.

The

The total expenditure was £8,967 17s. 5d., viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
For maintenance	6,087	17	1
For salaries	2,880	0	4
	<hr/>		
	£8,967	17	5
Deducting parents' contributions to the Treasury	385	5	0
	<hr/>		
Net cost to the State ...	£8,582	12	5

Calculated on the net expenditure, the cost to the State per head of the enrolment was £15 9s. 10d., which is £2 10s. 5d. less than the cost per inmate in 1895.

The most noteworthy event of the year was the loss to the ship of Captain Neitenstein's services as Commander and Superintendent, owing to his promotion to the Comptrollership of Prisons. That gentleman's connection with the N.S.S. "Vernon," and subsequently the N.S.S. "Sobraon," had extended over twenty-three years, for nearly eighteen of which he had filled the position of Commander with signal ability and success. Mr. W. H. Mason, who for very many years had been associated with Captain Neitenstein as Lieutenant, was promoted to the Commandership, Mr. F. A. Stayner, the chief schoolmaster, being appointed to succeed Mr. Mason as Lieutenant.

The boys are reported to have behaved well during the year, and none have absconded. Their health has been excellent, and there have been no deaths. The enrolment for 1896 was larger than that for any previous year.

J. GARRARD,

Minister of Public Instruction.

Department of Public Instruction,

Sydney, 10th April, 1897.

APPENDIX I.

APPLICATIONS for the establishment of Public Schools received during the year 1896.

Name of Place.	Post Town.	Distance of nearest School. miles.	Number of Children residing in the locality.						Number of Children promised to attend.						Number of Parents or Guardians undertaking to send Children.						Minister's Decision.					
			Boys.	Girls.	Total.	C.E.	R.C.	Pres.	Wes.	Ors.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	C.E.	R.C.	Pres.	Wes.	Ors.	C.E.	R.C.		Pres.	Wes.	Ors.	Total.	
Borambil	Quirindi	4	19	13	32	19	5	...	8	...	19	13	32	19	5	...	8	...	8	2	...	4	...	14	Declined, 27th November.	
Brownsville (Lakeland's Estate)	Brownsville	1½	24	32	56	30	20	...	...	6	24	32	56	30	20	...	...	6	13	9	...	...	9	25	Declined, 10th August.
Buccaroo	Mudgoon	3½	26	26	52	38	9	...	1	4	26	26	52	38	9	...	1	4	12	4	...	1	1	18	Under consideration.	
Buttai Creek	Buchanan	3	14	11	25	14	...	2	3	6	14	11	25	14	...	2	3	8	6	4	...	1	1	7	Declined, 12th October.	
Cabramatta	Cabramatta	...	26	25	51	43	4	...	1	3	26	25	51	43	4	...	1	3	15	2	...	1	1	19	Granted, 11th August.	
Collengullie	Wagga Wagga	7	8	14	22	10	7	5	...	...	8	14	22	10	7	5	...	...	5	3	1	...	...	9	Declined, 31st July.
Cowra West	Cowra	...	12	20	32	12	6	5	...	9	12	20	32	12	6	5	...	9	4	2	1	...	3	10	Declined, 25th August.	
Currency Creek	Wilberforce	2½	27	18	45	27	2	8	3	5	27	18	45	27	2	8	3	5	9	1	3	1	2	16	Under consideration.	
Dalwood	Dalwood	...	20	21	41	23	8	6	4	...	20	21	41	23	8	6	4	...	7	4	2	2	...	15	Granted, 23rd October.	
Deniliquin North	Deniliquin	5	15	20	35	13	...	5	17	...	15	20	35	13	...	5	17	...	5	...	2	5	...	12	Declined. Aid offered to Provisional School, 21st July.	
Far Meadow	Berry	5	20	20	40	17	10	4	9	...	20	20	40	17	10	4	9	...	6	5	1	3	...	15	Granted, 31st August.	
Five-mile Peg (Rockvale Road)	Armidale	...	11	12	23	13	10	...	...	...	11	12	23	13	10	...	...	...	4	3	...	...	...	7	Under consideration.
Gilmandyke	Rockley	7½	20	14	34	8	16	...	10	...	20	14	34	8	16	...	10	...	6	6	...	3	...	15	Under consideration.	
Hyde Park	Rookwood	1½	85	72	157	106	32	4	13	2	85	72	157	106	32	4	13	2	42	11	3	4	1	61	Under consideration.	
Minto East	Minto	3½	21	27	48	19	8	2	6	13	21	27	48	19	8	2	6	13	7	2	1	2	5	17	Under consideration.	
Mullenderre	Mullenderre	...	19	17	36	7	24	2	3	...	19	17	36	7	24	2	3	...	2	8	2	1	...	13	Declined, 19th November.	
Myalls	Tomingley	2½	15	13	28	13	7	3	5	...	15	13	28	13	7	3	5	...	7	4	1	2	...	14	Declined, 10th August.	
Parkestown	Canterbury	1	29	23	57	29	23	57	Declined, 4th November.
Peak, The	Cobar	6	80	80	10	Granted, 23rd October.
Pennant Hills	Pennant Hills	2m. 4c.	35	27	62	16	3	...	43	...	35	27	62	16	3	...	43	...	6	1	...	12	...	19	Under consideration.	
Ramperdell	Binnaway	6	13	10	23	23	13	10	23	7	7	Under consideration.
Tamworth East	Tamworth	...	49	33	82	63	12	7	...	...	49	33	82	63	12	7	...	...	22	5	3	...	...	30	Declined, 7th October.
Wandella	Cobargo	7	23	16	39	11	8	12	3	5	23	16	39	11	8	12	3	5	2	2	2	1	1	8	Granted, 27th February.	
Warrumbungal	Tooraweenah	18	9	10	19	11	...	8	9	10	19	11	...	8	3	...	2	5	Declined, 1st April.
Wetherill Park	Smithfield	...	38	48	86	71	7	...	8	...	38	48	86	71	7	...	8	37	Granted, 30th March.
Whipstick	Whipstick	...	15	17	32	13	10	9	15	17	32	13	10	9	6	3	2	11	Granted, 10th August.
Wrightville	Cobar	3½	29	30	59	32	6	...	0	12	29	30	59	32	6	...	0	12	19	1	...	7	2	29	Granted, 16th June.	

APPENDIX II.

APPLICATIONS for the establishment of Provisional Schools, received during the year 1896.

Name of Place.	Post Town	Distance of nearest School. miles.	Number of Children residing in the locality.							Number of Children promised to attend.							Number of Parents or Guardians undertaking to send Children.						Minister's Decision.		
			Boys.	Girls.	Total.	C.E.	R.C.	Pres.	Wes.	Ors.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	C.E.	R.C.	Pres.	Wes.	Ors.	C.E.	R.C.	Pres.	Wes.		Ors.	Total.
			Acacia Creek Bridge.....	Acacia Creek	6½	7	8	15	4	11	7	8	15	4	11	1	4
Apple-tree Gully	Inverell	5	11	10	21	9	5	7	11	10	21	9	5	7	...	2	2	3	7	Declined, 10th June.	
Armidale Creek.....	Armidale	13	7	20	9	5	6	...	...	13	7	20	9	5	6	...	3	1	2	...	...	6	Declined, 1st October.
Balin Barra	Ballarrah	50	8	10	18	13	1	4	8	10	18	13	1	4	...	4	1	1	6	Declined, 27th October.	
Ballygrogan	Thyra	10	9	15	24	20	4	...	...	9	15	24	20	4	...	...	8	2	...	...	...	10	Declined, 31st October.
Bando	Gunnedah	12	8	20	7	9	4	...	...	12	8	20	7	9	4	...	4	4	1	...	...	9	Granted, 14th April.
Barellan North	Narrandera	45	6	10	16	...	12	4	...	...	6	10	16	...	12	4	...	...	2	1	...	3	Declined, 9th September.
Barham	Barham	¼	10	6	16	10	6	...	...	10	6	16	10	6	...	...	5	3	...	...	...	8	Declined, 16th October.
Barragon	Wollar	6	7	10	17	...	17	7	10	17	...	17	4	4	4	Granted, 7th September.	
Barrieton	Ferunmount .....	.	9	8	17	7	...	10	...	9	8	17	7	...	10	...	4	...	3	...	...	7	Granted, 22nd April.
Beetrie	Trickett .....	...	7	9	16	15	1	...	...	7	9	16	15	1	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	6	Declined, 19th February.
Beetrie (renewal)	Temora	7	9	12	21	16	5	...	...	9	12	21	16	5	...	...	5	2	...	...	...	7	Declined. Aid offered to Half-time School, 8th September.
Bingara, Upper	Bingara, Upper	7	9	10	19	19	...	...	...	9	10	19	19	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	7	Granted, in lieu of existing Half-time School, 12th May.
Bodalla Saw Mills.....	Bodalla	4	11	7	18	10	8	...	...	11	7	18	10	8	...	...	4	4	...	...	...	8	Declined, 23rd June.
Boggabri North	Boggabri	3½	8	8	16	...	...	...	...	8	8	16	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	5	Half-time School granted, to be worked with Willala, 21st May.
Bolairo	Rose Dale, near Adaminaby .....	...	13	12	25	23	3	...	...	13	12	25	22	3	...	...	6	1	...	...	...	7	Under consideration.
Bourimbla	Bowan Park	5	15	15	30	1	21	2	...	6	15	15	30	1	21	2	6	1	5	1	...	2	9	Granted, 30th July.	
Brandon Hill	Kiama	6	9	7	16	9	...	3	4	...	9	7	16	9	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	5	Declined, 30th March.
Bredbo North	Bredbo	8	9	8	17	13	2	2	9	8	17	13	2	2	...	3	1	1	5	Under consideration.	
Big Leather	Bullarah	32	11	8	19	18	...	1	...	11	8	19	18	...	1	...	5	...	1	...	...	6	Granted, 27th October.
Brungle	Brungle	4½	8	7	15	3	3	9	8	7	15	3	3	9	...	2	1	2	5	Declined, 27th February.	
Buckajo	Bega	4	11	8	19	4	15	...	...	11	8	19	4	15	...	...	2	4	...	...	...	6	Declined, 19th February.
Bundawarruh	Temora	5	11	7	18	...	...	...	...	11	7	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	Declined, 18th June.
Bunganbill	Narrandera	5	16	20	36	16	1	10	9	...	16	20	36	16	1	10	9	...	4	1	2	3	10	Granted, 31st October.	
Burrill Lake	Ulladulla	3	7	10	17	1	...	16	...	...	7	10	17	1	...	16	...	1	...	8	...	9	Declined, 22nd December.
Burrumbuttock North	Burrumbuttock	4	12	13	25	7	12	...	6	12	13	25	7	12	...	6	...	2	4	2	8	Granted, 12th October.	
Cameron's Creek	Armidale	19	3	14	17	14	3	...	...	3	14	17	14	3	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	6	Declined; Half-time School offered, 14th October.
Campbell's Creek	Georangoon	¾	8	5	13	2	11	...	...	8	5	13	2	11	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	4	Declined, 26th September.
Caoura	Barber's Creek	8	10	10	20	19	...	...	...	10	10	20	18	...	...	2	5	...	...	...	1	6	Declined, 22nd August.
Cell's Creek	Yarr's	22	6	9	15	10	...	5	...	6	9	15	10	...	5	...	3	...	1	...	...	4	Declined, 4th November.
Chanticleer	Norundah	15	10	8	18	3	4	...	7	4	10	8	18	3	4	...	7	4	...	2	1	2	1	6	Granted, 26th May.
Coorangoora	Bingara	14	8	8	16	16	8	8	16	16	7	7	Declined, 24th August.		
Crowdy Head	Harrington	4½	8	13	21	18	8	13	21	18	8	8	Declined, 31st July.		

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APPENDIX II—continued.

Name of Place.	Post Town.	Distance of nearest School. miles.	Number of Children residing in the locality.						Number of Children promised to attend.						Number of Parents or Guardian undertaking to send Children.						Minister's Decision.					
			Boys.	Girls.	Total.	C.E.	R.C.	Pres.	Wes.	Ors.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	C.E.	R.C.	Pres.	Wes.	Ors.	C.E.	R.C.		Pres.	Wes.	Ors.	Total.	
Dargan's Creek	Clarence Tunnel	...	24	21	45	17	27	...	...	1	24	21	45	17	27	...	...	1	7	11	...	...	1	19	Public School granted, 17th Sept.
Delmaine	Essington	3½	7	15	22	...	22	...	...	...	7	15	22	...	22	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	7	Declined, 8th April.
Derrain	Ganmain	5	11	20	31	25	6	...	...	3	14	20	34	25	6	...	...	3	7	2	...	...	1	10	Public School granted, 4th August.
Diamond Fields	Bingara	...	5	15	20	14	6	...	...	...	5	15	20	14	6	...	...	...	6	2	...	...	...	8	Declined, 27th October.
Dulla Dulla	Belarbigill	3½	15	7	22	22	...	...	...	...	15	7	22	22	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	5	Granted, 29th December.
Edcuderry	Ganmain	8	9	8	17	2	6	...	9	...	9	8	17	2	6	...	9	...	1	1	...	3	...	5	Declined, 31st October.	
Eldorado Gully	Ophir	5	7	10	17	15	2	...	...	...	7	10	17	15	2	...	...	...	5	2	...	...	...	7	Declined, 3rd February.
Eldorado Gully	Ophir	6	7	13	20	18	2	...	...	...	7	13	20	18	2	...	...	2	2	6	...	...	...	8	Granted, 17th September.
Elimdale	Deniliquin	23	9	15	24	4	4	13	3	...	9	15	24	4	4	13	3	...	1	1	5	1	...	8	Granted, 30th March.	
Elliott	Devlin's Siding	...	16	9	25	...	15	4	4	2	16	9	25	...	15	4	4	2	...	7	1	1	1	10	Granted, 4th November.	
Emu Creek	Walcha	4½	7	12	19	19	...	...	...	...	7	12	19	19	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	6	Half-time School granted, to be worked with a similar School at Moona, 20th March.
Ennis	Ennis	5	5	10	15	3	4	4	4	...	5	10	15	3	4	4	4	...	1	1	2	2	...	6	Declined, 30th May.	
Esk	Esk	12	13	11	24	15	3	3	1	2	13	11	24	15	3	3	1	2	7	2	1	1	1	12	Granted, 17th February.	
Foxground	Lismore	8	18	18	36	27	5	4	18	18	36	27	5	4	9	2	1	Granted, 19th August.
Genowlan	Capertee	8	8	9	17	10	...	5	...	2	8	9	17	10	...	5	...	2	3	...	3	...	2	8	Granted, 28th April.	
Gundaroo Road	Murrumbateman	5	9	15	24	23	1	...	...	...	9	15	24	23	1	...	...	...	6	1	...	...	...	7	Declined, 7th February.
Hadsonville	Neville	...	11	13	24	...	...	...	...	...	11	13	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	Granted, 13th April.
Half-moon Reach	Lower Portland	4½	10	10	20	8	...	12	...	...	8	7	15	7	...	...	8	...	2	...	...	2	...	4	Under consideration.
Hernani	Fitzroy	7½	18	13	31	20	2	9	...	...	18	13	31	20	2	9	...	...	7	1	4	...	...	12	Granted, 29th October.
Illaroo	Cambewarra	4	13	10	23	18	...	...	5	13	10	23	18	...	...	5	...	5	5	...	...	...	1	6	Granted, 13th July.
Kangara Creek	Tangmangaroo	4½	11	7	18	10	8	...	...	...	11	7	18	10	8	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	5	Declined, 6th May.
Kockibitoo	Gunmain	10	9	8	17	17	...	...	...	...	9	8	17	17	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	6	Declined, 18th May.
Kooroongal	Bringagee	18	10	6	16	3	9	2	2	...	10	6	16	3	9	2	2	...	1	3	1	1	...	6	Under consideration.	
Lintondale	Temora	5	8	6	14	5	3	6	...	...	8	6	14	5	3	6	...	...	2	1	2	...	...	5	Under consideration.
Macleay Entrance	Jerseyville	3½	10	12	22	9	9	...	4	...	10	12	22	9	9	...	4	...	4	3	...	1	...	8	Granted, 14th October.	
Mandalong	Mandalong	...	10	6	16	4	12	...	...	...	10	6	16	4	12	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	4	Granted, 11th December.
Manilla, Central	Upper Manilla	10	11	6	17	3	13	...	1	...	11	6	17	3	13	...	1	...	1	4	...	1	...	6	Granted, 30th July.	
Meglo	Tuena	5	10	7	17	9	8	...	...	...	10	7	17	9	8	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	5	Half-time School granted, to be worked with Junction Point, 16th March.
Merriganowery	Cowra	12	12	7	19	6	3	...	...	...	12	7	19	6	13	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	5	Declined, 24th August.
Merton	Corowa	6	8	9	17	9	5	3	...	...	8	9	17	9	5	3	...	...	3	2	1	...	...	6	Declined, 13th January.
Merryvale	Morongla Creek, via Cowra	6	12	8	20	7	13	...	...	...	12	8	20	7	13	...	...	...	3	5	...	...	...	8	Declined, 26th September.
Moore Creek	Bendemeer	5	6	8	14	13	1	...	...	...	6	8	14	13	1	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	6	Under consideration.
Mosquito Creek	Warialda	5	7	11	18	18	...	...	...	...	7	11	18	18	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	6	Granted, 21st May.
Mulla Creek	Moonbi	...	9	10	19	15	4	...	...	...	9	10	19	15	4	...	...	...	4	2	...	...	...	6	Declined. Half time School offered, to be worked with Limbri, 9th July.
Mungay Creek	Hickey's Creek	5	11	12	23	4	9	5	...	5	11	12	23	4	9	5	...	5	1	2	1	...	2	6	Aid granted, 14th October.	
Noraville	Wyee	10	6	7	13	13	...	...	...	...	6	7	13	13	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	8	Granted, 18th August.

APPENDIX II—continued.

Name of Place.	Post Town.	Distance of nearest School. miles.	Number of Children residing in the locality.							Number of Children promised to attend.							Number of Parents or Guardians undertaking to send Children.					Minister's Decision.			
			Boys.	Girls.	Total.	C.E.	R.C.	Pres.	Wes.	Ors.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	C.E.	R.C.	Pres.	Wes.	Ors.	C.E.	R.C.	Pres.		Wes.	Ors.	Total
Norton's Gap	Casino	4½	9	16	25	6	17	...	...	2	9	16	25	6	17	...	...	2	2	7	...	...	1	10	Granted, 27th February.
Numbugga	Numbugga	...	13	14	27	15	9	3	...	...	13	14	27	15	9	3	...	...	4	2	1	...	...	7	Declined, 30th March.
Perico	Perico	6	17	3	20	7	6	3	4	...	17	3	20	7	6	3	4	...	2	2	1	1	...	6	Granted, 9th March.
Pipeclay Creek	Cowra	14	14	9	23	6	12	5	...	...	14	9	23	6	12	5	...	...	2	4	3	...	...	9	Declined, 27th October.
Pretty Pine	Pretty Pine	10	8	7	15	4	...	5	...	6	8	7	15	4	...	5	...	6	1	...	2	...	1	4	Declined, 10th August.
Quambone	Quambone	40	9	6	15	14	1	...	...	...	9	6	15	14	1	...	...	...	6	1	...	...	...	7	Declined, 26th September.
Ranger's Valley	Dundee Railway Station	5	4	16	20	11	9	...	...	...	4	16	20	11	9	...	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	6	Declined, 27th October.
Rhyanna	Goulburn	5	9	10	19	7	4	4	4	...	9	10	19	7	4	4	4	...	1	3	2	1	...	7	Granted, 18th January.
Riley	South Woodburn	5½	14	9	23	4	...	10	...	9	14	9	23	4	...	10	...	9	1	...	2	...	2	5	Granted, 6th May.
Scabbing Flat	Teralga	2	8	16	24	16	2	6	...	...	8	16	24	16	2	6	...	...	3	2	3	...	...	8	Declined, but Wovagin School to be removed to a new site, 16th March.
Six-mile Creek	Pambula	7	6	10	16	6	10	...	...	...	6	10	16	6	10	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	5	Declined, 23rd April.
Skillion Flat	Skillion Flat	2½	17	15	32	20	8	2	...	2	17	15	32	20	8	2	...	2	7	4	1	...	1	13	Public School granted, 26th June.
Spring Creek	Bingara	...	8	13	21	18	3	...	...	...	8	13	21	18	3	...	...	...	8	1	...	...	...	9	Declined, 30th May.
Springwood North	Springwood	4	12	9	21	11	4	...	2	5	12	9	21	11	4	...	2	5	5	2	...	1	2	10	Declined, 6th October.
Stanum	The Gulf, via Emmaville	...	8	6	14	...	...	...	...	...	8	6	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	Granted, 20th April.
Stockinbingal West	Stockinbingal	5	16	11	27	13	14	...	...	16	11	27	13	14	...	...	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	7	Declined, 24th March.
Swan Bay	Karnah	...	9	8	17	17	...	...	...	9	8	17	17	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	6	Declined, 21st March.
Sylvania	Sylvania	2½	9	16	25	12	...	7	6	9	14	23	12	...	7	4	5	...	...	...	...	2	1	8	Declined, 21st July.
Taylor's Arm	Macksville	7½	6	13	19	5	9	...	5	6	13	19	5	9	...	5	...	2	3	...	3	...	...	8	Under consideration.
Tolarno	Menindie	30	8	11	19	8	8	...	3	8	11	19	8	8	...	3	...	4	2	...	1	...	...	7	Declined, 27th November.
Tomboy	Braidwood	5	5	8	13	10	3	...	...	5	8	13	10	3	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	5	Declined, 17th April.
Tootal	The Rock	8	18	10	28	19	7	...	...	2	18	10	28	19	7	...	...	2	6	3	...	1	...	10	Granted, 29th July.
Tucklan Valley	Tallewang	5	9	10	19	9	7	3	...	9	10	19	9	7	3	...	...	4	3	1	...	...	...	8	Declined, 19th February.
Wakefield	Fassifern	3	7	12	19	9	4	...	4	7	12	19	9	4	...	4	...	4	3	2	...	...	2	7	Under consideration.
Warregal	Forbes	5	10	9	19	5	9	...	5	10	9	19	5	9	...	5	...	2	3	...	1	...	...	6	Declined, 13th February.
Wattlevale	Bookham	5	5	9	14	4	...	10	...	5	9	14	4	...	10	...	...	1	...	5	...	...	...	6	Declined. Aid offered to half-time School, 15th September.
Wedderburn	Campbelltown	6	13	9	22	11	8	1	...	2	13	9	22	11	8	1	...	2	4	2	1	...	1	8	Granted, 17th April.
Wirrabelah	Gunnedah	3	12	12	24	9	...	4	11	...	12	12	24	9	...	4	11	...	3	...	1	3	...	7	Declined. Half-time School granted, to be worked with Meermaul, 11th April.
Wollumbin	Murwillumbah	6	17	13	30	10	2	14	4	...	17	13	30	10	2	14	4	...	2	1	4	1	...	8	Granted, 18th June.
Wolumba North	Bega	...	14	9	23	3	17	3	...	...	14	9	23	3	17	3	...	...	1	5	1	...	...	7	Declined, 24th March.
Woy Woy	Woy Woy	...	17	14	31	22	...	6	3	17	14	31	22	...	6	3	...	...	7	...	1	1	...	9	Declined, 20th October.
Yarangobilly	Tumut	20	5	12	17	6	...	11	...	5	12	17	6	...	11	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	4	Declined, 9th March.
Yanco Creek	Narrandera	12	12	12	24	5	19	...	...	12	12	24	5	19	...	...	...	2	5	...	...	...	...	7	Granted conditionally, 13th April.
Yarrow	Red Range	6	12	10	22	19	...	3	...	12	10	22	19	...	3	...	...	6	...	2	...	...	...	8	Granted, 21st October.
Yurrari	Gunnedah	...	16	16	...	...	...	...	...	16	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	Declined, 27th October.

APPENDIX III.

APPLICATIONS for the establishment of Half-time Schools, received during the year 1896.

Name of Place.	Post Town.	Distance of nearest School. miles.	Number of Children residing in the locality.							Number of Children promised to attend.							Number of Parents or Guardians undertaking to send Children.							Minister's Decision.
			Boys.	Girls.	Total.	C.E.	R.C.	Pres.	Wes.	Ors.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	C.E.	R.C.	Pres.	Wes.	Ors.	C.E.	R.C.	Pres.	Wes.	Ors.		Total.
Belowra	Marengo	8	7	15	8	7	8	7	15	8	7	4	3	7	Declined, 20th May.
Blackbird Flat and Brock's Flat	Coomara	{ 15	12	7	19	8	4	7	12	7	19	8	4	7	3	1	3	...	7	} Granted, 18th August.
Burragine	Burragine	22	7	4	11	...	5	...	6	...	7	4	11	...	5	...	6	...	1	...	2	...	3	
Burgoon	Cumnock	7	5	12	5	3	4	7	5	12	5	3	4	2	1	1	...	4	Under consideration.
Burragine	Burragine	9	1	10	5	...	5	9	1	10	5	...	5	...	1	...	2	...	3	Declined, 4th November.	
Canangles and Edinboro	Cargo	4	5	5	10	10	5	5	10	10	2	2	} Granted, 28th February.	
Canimbla Creek and Mervignowery.	Na Cowra .....	...	6	8	14	5	9	...	...	...	6	8	14	5	9	...	...	1	3	...	...	4
Cardington	Cundumbul	6	9	6	15	13	2	9	6	15	13	2	5	1	6	} Granted, 10th December.	
			13	8	21	8	13	...	...	...	13	8	21	8	13	...	...	3	3	...	...	6
Cox's River and Binlow	Cox's River	{ 3	6	9	15	2	13	6	9	15	2	13	1	4	6	} Declined, 16th June.	
		9	4	6	10	7	3	...	...	...	4	6	10	7	3	...	...	2	2	...	...	4
Digby and Goran Lake	Gunnedah	7	5	4	9	5	...	4	5	4	9	5	...	4	...	1	1	...	2	} Granted, 11th April.
			8	7	15	...	...	...	...	...	8	7	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Elindale and Morago	Deniliquin	25	3	12	15	4	4	7	3	12	15	4	4	7	1	1	3	...	5	} Provisional School at Elindale granted, 30th March.
			4	2	6	...	...	3	3	...	4	2	6	...	3	3	...	...	2	1	...	3
Ellerston	Ellerston, Moonan Brook	10	7	10	17	17	7	10	17	17	4	4	} Declined, 28th July.	
			12	6	18	...	17	1	...	...	12	6	18	...	17	1	...	...	7	...	...	7
Felled Timber and Paling Yard.	Jerrong	10	4	14	11	...	3	10	4	14	11	...	3	...	2	...	2	...	4	} Granted, 21st September.	
			8	5	13	...	3	10	...	...	8	5	13	...	3	10	...	...	1	3	...	4
Five Day Creek and Lagoon Creek	Camara	16	7	3	10	2	4	4	7	3	10	2	4	4	1	1	1	...	3	} Declined, 12th March.
			9	5	14	14	...	...	...	...	9	5	14	14	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Googongs	Queanbeyan	7	9	5	14	14	9	5	14	14	4	4	} Granted, 16th October.	
Handley	Bulgandra	7½	7	6	13	...	...	...	...	...	7	6	13	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	5	
Hamula South and Mount Airy	Humula	6	6	13	19	13	...	6	6	13	19	13	...	6	...	3	...	2	...	5	} Granted, 1st April.	
			10	1	11	3	8	...	...	...	10	1	11	3	8	...	...	1	2	...	...	3
Kingstown and Teryburn	King-town	12	5	4	9	7	2	...	5	4	9	7	2	3	1	4	} Granted, 19th February.	
			8	9	17	13	4	...	...	...	8	9	17	13	4	...	2	5	2	...	...	7
Legerton and Ur'arra	Post Towns	{ 15	10	6	16	16	10	6	16	16	4	4	} Granted, 7th July.	
		15	7	9	16	5	11	...	...	...	7	9	16	5	11	...	...	3	3	...	...	6
May fields and Royals	Oboron	4½	10	9	19	17	...	2	10	9	19	17	...	2	...	4	...	1	...	5	} Granted, 23th September.	
Merryvale	Morongla Creek	4	14	6	20	6	11	...	...	...	14	6	20	6	14	...	...	2	6	...	...	8
Moolarbar	Liuburn	5½	8	7	15	4	7	...	4	...	8	7	15	4	7	...	4	1	2	...	1	4	} Granted, to be worked with Dexter Springs, 21st October.	
			6	8	14	14	...	...	...	...	6	8	14	14	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Moona	Walcha	12	12	5	17	...	17	12	5	17	...	17	5	5	} Granted, to be worked with a similar School at Emu Creek, 20th March.	
			6	7	13	13	...	...	...	...	6	7	13	13	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	4
Mount Palmer, Cooringoora ..	Bingara	6	8	14	14	6	8	14	14	4	4	} Under consideration.	
			6	7	13	13	...	...	...	...	6	7	13	13	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	6
Nowley and Yarranbar	Narrabri	12	8	12	20	9	5	...	6	...	8	12	20	9	5	...	6	...	2	1	1	1	4	} Declined, 31st October.
			7	3	10	4	1	4	...	1	7	3	10	4	1	4	...	1	1	1	1	4		
Sandy Creek	Spring Creek	6	7	3	10	4	1	4	...	1	7	3	10	4	1	4	...	1	1	1	1	4	} Declined, 28th October.	
			6	4	10	6	...	4	...	...	6	4	10	6	...	4	...	3	...	3	...	6
Lower Taylor's Arm	Lower Taylor's Arm	6	4	10	6	...	4	6	4	10	6	...	4	...	1	...	3	...	6	} Declined, 4th November.	
			6	5	11	8	3	...	...	...	6	5	11	8	3	...	...	3	1	...	...	4
Wilga Grove	Dandaloo	30	6	5	11	8	3	6	5	11	8	3	3	1	4	} Declined, 17th November.	
			6	5	11	8	3	6	5	11	8	3	3	1	4		

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APPENDIX IV.

APPLICATIONS for the appointment of House-to-house Teachers, received during the year 1896.

Teaching Stations.	Post Town	Numbers promised to attend.			Minister's Decision.
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Barry	Nundle	11	4	15	Declined, 18th February.
Box Valley and Wyeot	Tartna Point	8	8	16	Declined, 19th August.
Brown's Camp, Millpoint, and Snodgrass.	Corrowong	12	18	30	Granted, 16th January.
Calamia, Bundo, and Halfway Creek	South Grafton	13	10	23	Granted, 16th January.
Dungowan (Top).....	Dungowan	7	6	13	Declined, 30th December.
Ellenborough, Kindee, and Lonely Point.	Ellenborough	15	24	39	Granted, 30th March.
Gumble.....	Gumble Flat	4	7	11	Declined, 26th May.
Merrimee (Myall Park)	Whitton	5	5	10	Granted, 8th January.

APPENDIX V.

APPLICATIONS for the establishment of Evening Public Schools, received during the year 1896.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Period for which attendance is guaranteed.	Number of persons who will attend.			Minister's Decision.
			Males.	Females	Total.	
Bombala	Bombala	6 months...	19	.....	19	Granted, 29th October.
Esk	Chatsworth	6 ,, ..	11	.....	11	Under consideration.
Erskineville	Erskineville	6 ,, ..	15	.....	15	Granted, 1st September.
Grafton	Grafton	6 ,, ..	23	.....	23	Granted, 30th March.
Hamilton	Hamilton	6 ,, ..	21	.....	21	Granted, 17th September.
Jerrawa	Jerrawa.....	6 ,, ..	11	...	11	Declined, 23rd June.
Mumbulla	Brogo	4 ,, ..	14	...	14	Granted, 20th May.
Petersham	Petersham	6 ,, ..	19	.....	19	Granted, 12th October.
Pymont.....	Pymont	6 ,, ..	17	.....	17	Granted, 4th June.
Warangesda	Darlington Point.....	12 ,, ..	23	.....	23	Granted, 16th January.

APPENDIX VI.

GENERAL ABSTRACT of School Attendance for each Quarter of the year 1896.

	Number of Children on the Rolls.									Average Daily Attendance.			Amount of School Fees paid.	Amount of School Fees in arrear.	Free Pupils.			Number of State Children.
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	C.E.	R.C.	Pres.	Wes.	Others.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.			Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
MARCH QUARTER.																		
High Schools	183	240	438	205	20	79	45	80	431	174 3	226 0	400 9	£ 636 14 0	£	1	8	9	.....
Public Schools	94,068	85,878	180,545	93,110	24,516	19,332	23,567	20,021	180,546	66,888 2	59,334 0	126,222 2	15,961 3 3	2,191 1 3	11,856	11,224	23,080	1,717
Provisional Schools	3,293	3,131	6,424	3,188	1,866	666	505	199	6,421	2,414 3	2,305 1	4,719 4	519 1 11	44 0 1½	477	412	889	113
Half-time Schools	3,736	3,292	7,078	3,795	2,242	536	370	135	7,078	2,763 7	2,431 5	5,195 2	330 13 2½	45 1 3	281	231	518	119
House-to-house Schools	579	503	1,052	560	300	146	50	26	1,082	458 4	399 8	858 2	46 4 9½	3 12 7½	37	58	95	62
Evening Schools	401	13	414	245	84	16	27	42	414	214 2	9 2	223 4	77 14 3	12 19 0	58	13	66	.....
Total	102,916	93,066	195,982	101,103	29,937	20,775	24,564	20,503	195,932	72,913 1	61,706 2	137,519 3	17,551 11 5	2,296 14 3	12,708	11,940	24,657	2,011
JUNE QUARTER.																		
High Schools	178	243	421	203	27	76	43	72	421	168 4	216 0	385 0	£ 612 12 0	£	2	.....	2	.....
Public Schools	94,737	86,572	181,409	93,902	24,614	19,400	23,482	19,981	181,409	68,314 8	61,048 4	129,362 2	17,555 15 1	2,159 4 1	12,609	11,980	24,589	1,756
Provisional Schools	3,302	3,179	6,481	3,271	1,883	649	496	182	6,481	2,507 8	2,390 5	4,898 3	618 18 2½	41 6 7	483	441	929	107
Half-time Schools	3,762	3,297	7,059	3,713	2,245	554	393	151	7,059	2,914 8	2,494 0	5,308 8	377 19 3½	40 8 8½	303	283	591	126
House-to-house Schools	575	603	1,078	564	303	139	41	29	1,078	471 9	393 0	869 9	53 11 9½	3 3 1½	44	57	101	53
Evening Schools	433	17	500	281	94	28	54	43	500	246 4	10 7	257 1	94 19 3	17 3 6	50	17	76	.....
Total	103,037	93,911	196,948	101,934	29,196	20,846	24,512	20,460	196,948	74,521 1	66,556 2	141,080 3	19,343 15 7½	2,271 6 0	13,510	12,778	26,238	2,042
SEPTEMBER QUARTER.																		
High Schools	198	246	444	212	23	74	53	77	444	179 4	222 9	402 3	£ 612 1 6	£ 6 6 0	.....	8	8	.....
Public Schools	95,712	87,139	182,851	94,380	25,053	19,809	23,651	20,155	182,851	70,503 6	63,143 5	133,647 1	16,599 4 9	2,351 4 10	12,668	11,919	24,587	1,818
Provisional Schools	3,412	3,256	6,698	3,436	1,895	633	483	216	6,698	2,605 1	2,486 1	5,091 2	576 14 10½	39 1 8½	477	435	912	104
Half-time Schools	3,764	3,300	7,064	3,737	2,232	549	408	138	7,064	2,498 3	2,572 0	5,470 3	347 19 10½	41 19 6½	308	272	580	98
House-to-house Schools	596	522	1,118	591	318	128	52	29	1,118	482 3	418 0	900 3	48 7 5	1 18 4½	60	70	130	70
Evening Schools	431	15	446	243	79	41	46	34	446	241 3	11 3	252 6	65 10 9	8 8 0	48	15	63	43
Total	104,143	94,478	198,621	102,620	29,605	21,037	24,701	20,619	198,621	76,910 0	68,853 8	145,763 8	18,279 19 2	2,448 18 5½	13,561	12,719	26,280	2,133
DECEMBER QUARTER.																		
High Schools	187	234	421	196	22	78	48	77	421	168 3	211 8	380 1	£ 604 16 0	£ 3 3 0	1	8	9	.....
Public Schools	94,950	86,379	181,329	93,933	24,770	19,509	23,231	19,836	181,329	70,785 5	62,285 1	133,020 6	18,564 13 11	2,007 14 9½	13,035	12,230	25,265	1,819
Provisional Schools	3,296	3,177	6,473	3,331	1,804	641	490	207	6,473	2,444 8	2,395 5	4,810 3	623 0 4	31 2 4½	495	479	964	109
Half-time Schools	3,652	3,255	6,907	3,701	2,137	561	389	119	6,907	2,611 9	2,406 4	5,048 3	370 2 7½	29 5 1	301	265	566	99
House-to-house Schools	592	436	938	508	259	103	44	24	938	410 5	343 5	754 0	43 18 0½	1 6 3	57	59	116	53
Evening Schools	469	13	482	263	85	49	41	44	482	254 6	9 0	263 6	108 6 6	10 2 0	41	13	54	.....
Total	103,056	93,494	196,550	101,932	29,077	20,941	24,293	20,307	196,550	76,705 6	67,601 3	144,306 9	20,314 17 5	2,082 13 6	13,920	13,054	26,974	2,080

APPENDIX VII.

ATTENDANCE of Children at Public Schools for the Quarter ending 31st December, 1896, or for the last Quarter of that year during which the Schools were in operation.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.						
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.		
												£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Aberdeen	Aberdeen	61	51	112	47.8	39.0	87.7	352 10 0	2 11 4	1 18 0	18 17 10	375 17 2		
Aberglasslyn	West Matland	29	14	43	13.2	9.5	22.7	120 13 4	.....	.....	11 17 9	132 11 1
Acacia Creek	Acacia Creek	22	20	42	14.8	16.0	30.8	163 0 0	2 3 11	1 10 0	17 9 3	184 3 2		
Acacia Dam	Silverton	16	15	31	8.6	8.3	16.9	140 19 0	1 18 0	14 7 1	20 19 3	186 14 4		
Adamina	Adamina	42	40	82	32.6	29.0	61.6	285 0 0	4 4 9	.....	11 16 10	301 1 7	
Adamstown	Adamstown	296	323	619	215.8	241.9	457.7	1,390 1 5	13 3 2	3 3 5	90 6 11	1,496 14 11		
Adelong	Adelong	113	124	237	84.7	82.5	167.2	393 5 0	3 2 5	.....	36 8 0	422 15 5	
Adelong Crossing	Adelong Crossing	13	22	35	8.0	15.5	23.5	155 13 4	1 7 0	.....	3 17 3	160 17 7	
Albion Park	Albion Park	53	42	95	40.4	27.8	68.2	242 15 0	5 0 6	1 11 6	8 8 10	257 15 10		
Albion-street	Sydney	313	310	623	235.1	219.1	454.2	1,625 8 11	33 9 4	1 16 4	80 2 0	1,740 16 7		
Albury	Albury	298	247	545	241.0	196.0	437.0	1,390 15 3	20 19 8	.....	132 17 11	1,544 12 10	
Aldavilla	Warneton	8	11	19	6.1	7.8	13.9	131 19 5	.....	.....	15 2 0	147 1 5
Alectown	Alectown	30	28	58	19.8	20.9	40.7	188 10 0	1 6 0	.....	1 4 0	204 0 0	
Alexandria	Alexandria (Botany Road.)	176	181	357	137.9	134.3	272.2	516 10 0	7 0 11	.....	123 12 2	647 3 1	
Alfredtown	Wagga Wagga	19	9	28	14.4	6.8	21.2	125 0 0	2 3 1	1 10 0	2 17 3	131 10 4		
Aliceton	Karuah	10	10	20	7.5	5.5	13.0	88 11 8	1 5 3	3 13 10	1 17 1	95 7 10		
Allandale	Allandale	18	16	34	13.5	11.2	24.7	113 0 0	1 8 9	.....	4 12 3	119 1 0	
Alma	South Broken Hill	274	246	520	200.6	164.6	365.2	1,025 19 6	13 8 5	13 18 2	46 17 3	1,100 3 4		
Alstonville	Alstonville	49	51	100	35.0	33.5	73.5	246 0 0	6 7 4	.....	293 4 7	551 11 11	
Alumny Creek	Grafton	25	19	44	17.1	13.2	30.3	148 0 0	3 5 9	.....	6 12 3	167 18 0	
Amaroo	Amaroo	21	19	40	13.0	11.3	24.3	136 10 0	0 19 6	.....	3 2 3	140 11 9	
Amosfield	Wilson's Downfall	20	14	34	14.7	12.6	27.3	125 0 0	1 17 0	.....	57 8 3	184 5 3	
Angledale	Bega	21	8	29	15.6	4.8	20.4	132 13 4	2 0 6	.....	3 7 0	138 0 10	
Angledool	Angledool	20	22	42	13.8	13.7	27.5	141 0 0	3 7 11	.....	89 6 1	233 14 0	
Angourrie	Yamba	12	10	22	9.0	7.1	16.1	109 6 8	0 16 8	.....	2 12 3	112 15 7	
Anna Bay	Anna Bay	14	15	29	10.3	12.1	22.4	137 10 0	2 18 11	.....	12 7 3	152 16 2	
Annan Grove	Rouse Hill	14	5	19	11.0	3.9	14.9	113 0 0	2 10 11	.....	2 9 10	118 0 9	
Anundale	Amundale	521	456	977	404.0	328.7	732.7	2,173 13 4	24 14 4	.....	1 045 4 6	3,248 12 2	
Anson	Lucknow	4	14	18	3.7	11.5	15.2	80 9 8	.....	.....	0 10 0	80 19 8
Antonio Creek	Rydal	6	15	21	3.9	9.3	13.2	84 8 4	.....	.....	2 11 8	86 0 0
Appin	Appin	24	32	56	13.9	20.4	34.3	161 8 4	1 18 6	.....	18 7 3	181 14 1	
Apsley	Wellington	18	15	33	10.8	10.3	21.1	89 10 0	1 1 2	.....	5 2 0	95 13 2	
Arakoon	Arakoon	22	20	42	15.3	14.7	30.0	157 0 0	1 12 9	.....	16 13 3	175 6 0	
Araruen	Araruen	33	23	56	27.1	18.0	45.1	171 0 0	1 5 11	.....	3 7 3	175 13 2	
Araruen West	Araruen	18	22	40	14.5	16.9	31.4	148 0 0	2 1 2	.....	5 12 3	155 13 5	
Aramagong	Weddin	17	9	26	12.4	6.7	19.1	103 16 8	2 1 6	.....	6 7 3	112 5 5	
Aradia	Aradia	23	15	38	17.0	12.1	29.1	113 0 0	2 0 1	.....	161 10 6	276 10 7	
Ardglon	Ardglon	25	16	41	18.5	11.7	30.2	155 13 4	1 11 0	.....	3 12 3	160 16 7	
Argent's Hill	Bowraville	22	19	41	17.7	15.4	33.1	142 5 0	3 0 0	3 0 0	37 15 3	186 0 3		
Armatree	Gulgandra	21	10	31	16.1	8.9	25.0	113 0 0	1 18 2	.....	11 5 3	126 3 5	
Armidale	Armidale	325	264	589	223.6	169.4	393.0	1,407 13 4	24 12 5	25 0 0	119 9 1	1,576 14 10		
Armidale West	Armidale	65	45	110	43.3	32.6	75.9	214 0 0	2 3 11	2 13 6	26 8 8	245 6 1		
Arncliffe	Arncliffe	183	206	389	145.1	150.2	295.3	624 12 4	9 1 0	0 9 9	222 11 8	856 14 9		
Ashfield	Ashfield	530	409	939	384.2	291.9	676.1	2,078 15 5	24 7 8	.....	94 7 10	2,197 10 11	
Ashford	Ashford	17	15	32	13.3	11.5	24.8	137 10 0	1 15 11	2 0 0	11 16 0	153 1 11		
Ash Island	Hexham	39	37	76	26.8	27.0	53.8	277 10 0	4 3 11 9	.....	14 8 8	295 10 9	
Ashlea	Wingham	11	14	25	8.6	8.0	16.6	110 6 8	0 17 5	.....	2 12 3	113 16 4	
Attunga	Attunga	17	23	40	10.5	15.3	25.8	138 8 4	1 15 3	5 19 0	16 15 3	162 17 10		
Attunga Springs	Attunga Springs	27	11	38	20.3	8.7	29.0	125 0 0	1 17 11	.....	16 16 3	143 14 2	
Auburn	Auburn	211	196	407	152.0	145.3	297.3	794 12 7	6 12 4	.....	42 4 2	843 9 1	
Auburn North	Auburn	167	148	315	125.8	112.6	238.4	561 8 3	7 7 4	.....	26 18 6	595 14 1	
Austimmer	Austimmer	14	16	30	11.6	12.5	24.1	155 13 4	0 11 5	.....	2 12 3	158 17 0	
Austral	Liverpool	24	21	45	16.1	12.3	28.4	136 0 0	1 15 6	.....	1 6 0	139 1 6	
Australian Farm	Wiseman's Ferry	21	6	27	17.5	4.9	22.4	98 0 0	.....	1 5 0	11 10 4	110 15 4	
Australia-street	Newtown	120	141	261	88.4	104.5	192.9	401 1 0	4 6 1	.....	32 10 7	437 17 8	
Avenel	Cargo	19	24	43	15.0	18.4	33.4	138 8 4	1 16 3	.....	5 7 3	145 11 10	
Avisford	Avisford	8	11	19	5.2	7.9	13.1	98 6 8	1 5 8	.....	3 12 0	103 4 4	
Avoca*	Lyttleton	6	4	10	5.0	2.7	7.7	15 3 4	.....	.....	.....	15 3 4
Avoca Vale	Campbelltown	9	15	24	6.5	11.1	17.6	131 16 8	1 7 2	.....	2 12 3	135 16 1	
Avondale	Dapto	18	19	37	12.5	14.9	27.4	120 13 4	1 6 9	.....	2 12 3	124 12 4	
Awaba	Awaba	12	14	26	8.4	11.1	19.5	113 0 0	0 13 3	.....	2 12 1	116 5 4	
Baan Baan	Baan Baan	16	14	30	12.2	8.2	20.4	113 0 0	2 6 1	.....	5 10 3	120 16 4	
Buck Creek	Marlow	14	12	26	11.8	9.0	20.8	113 0 0	1 17 2	.....	6 14 3	121 11 5	
Badgery's Creek	St. Mary's	22	17	39	17.5	13.5	31.0	124 10 0	2 1 8	.....	2 12 3	129 3 11	
Bagdad	Temora	20	9	29	14.8	5.8	20.6	130 12 11	1 14 7	.....	16 18 0	149 5 6	
Baker's Swamp	Dripstone	12	3	15	6.0	1.3	7.3	132 13 4	1 10 7	.....	2 12 3	136 16 2	
Bago, Upper	Botlow	12	14	26	11.0	12.4	23.4	89 10 0	1 12 9	.....	.....	91 2 9
Bald Nob	Glen Innes	8	10	18	4.7	12.7	17.4	88 3 4	1 18 5	.....	1 7 3	91 9 0	
Balgowlah	Via Manly	24	18	42	17.3	13.3	30.6	136 0 0	1 9 10	.....	11 7 0	148 16 10	
Balgownie	Balgownie	97	87	184	72.0	63.4	135.4	333 11 1	7 5 5	.....	21 3 9	412 0 3	
Ballarrah	Cobbora	13	16	29	9.0	11.2	20.2	125 10 0	1 8 2	.....	3 2 0	130 0 2	
Ballina	Ballina	144	114	258	113.3	85.9	199.2	571 4 10	12 7 3	2 5 0	39 12 10	625 9 11		
Balmain	Balmain	503	442	945	371.1	322.9	694.0	2,101 13 4	29 2 5	.....	125 16 11	2,256 12 8	
Balmoral	Balmoral	18	15	33	13.4	12.2	25.6	113 0 0	1 7 4	.....	3 12 3	117 19 7	
Balranald	Balranald	53	55	108	42.6	41.6	84.2	270 0 0	5 2 0	.....	66 10 4	341 12 4	
Bandon Grove	Bandon Grove	29	17	46	20.2	12.0	32.2	143 0 0	.....	.....	7 2 3	155 2 3
Bangalore	Goulburn	14	11	25	10.5	10.1	20.6	113 0 0	.....	.....	14 7 10	127 7 10

* Closed 29 February.

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.														
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.		Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.									
								£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Bango	Yass	14	11	25	9.7	7.0	16.7	86	6	8	1	8	4				0	15	0	88	10	0
Bank's Meadow	Botany	114	97	211	76.1	63.7	139.8	553	11	0	7	11	4	1	17	0	32	0	3	594	19	7
Bankstown	Bankstown	44	32	76	34.2	24.3	58.5	256	3	4	3	5	6				7	16	10	267	5	8
Bankstown, South.	East Hills, via Bankstown.	43	37	80	30.2	29.4	59.6	134	13	4	12	14	10	0	10	1	334	10	8	482	8	11
Baradine	Baradine	11	20	31	7.5	13.2	20.7	148	0	0	2	13	9				5	1	6	155	15	3
Barber's Creek	Barber's Creek	11	12	23	7.7	10.9	18.1	89	10	0	0	17	4				1	0	0	91	7	4
Bargo, West	Picton	20	14	34	13.8	8.6	22.4	113	0	0	1	8	7	1	10	0	112	1	0	227	19	7
Barmedman	Barmedman	44	51	95	27.9	35.2	63.1	246	0	0	2	7	4				9	14	10	258	2	2
Barnsley	WallSEND	35	25	60	24.8	17.3	42.2	171	0	0	1	14	7				19	13	8	192	7	10
Barraba	Barraba	41	58	99	30.9	43.6	74.5	259	15	0	2	19	9	16	4	1	37	0	10	315	19	8
Barrengarry	Barrengarry	22	30	52	13.7	19.8	33.5	148	0	0	1	19	7				8	6	3	158	5	10
Barrington	Barrington	19	22	41	11.1	14.9	26.0	144	3	4	2	13	7				6	1	9	152	18	8
Barrington	Barrington	31	27	58	18.1	15.2	33.3	179	13	4	2	10	8	36	6	6	3	12	3	222	2	9
Barry	Via Blayney	17	17	34	10.1	10.1	20.2	120	13	4	2	14	9				3	2	3	126	10	4
Bateman's Bay	Bateman's Bay	27	38	65	18.4	26.3	44.7	171	0	0	2	7	8				12	11	9	185	19	5
Bathurst	Bathurst	557	479	1,036	417.8	352.8	770.1	1,969	15	0	27	18	0	4	18	11	198	14	2	2,201	6	1
Batlow	Batlow	24	21	45	17.1	14.2	31.3	132	13	4	2	4	7				4	14	8	139	12	2
Baulkham Hills	Baulkham Hills	22	26	48	15.0	18.3	33.3	168	0	0	0	12	2				2	12	3	171	4	5
Baw Baw	Goulburn	15	12	27	10.8	9.2	20.0	119	10	0	1	1	1				6	19	9	127	10	10
Bawley Point	Termeil	7	11	18	5.8	8.9	14.7	89	10	0	1	6	2	4	3	3	1	19	1	96	18	6
Bayly	Mudgee	18	18	36	11.5	11.2	22.7	118	0	0	1	6	0				3	12	3	117	18	3
Beardy	Glen Innes	16	15	31	10.1	10.0	20.1	113	0	0	1	2	7				10	19	9	125	2	4
Beaufort	Glen Innes	19	21	40	15.3	16.3	31.6	163	0	0	1	14	6				13	16	9	178	11	3
Beaumont	Camden	9	13	22	6.9	9.2	16.1	91	0	0	0	17	10				2	12	3	94	10	1
Bective	Winton, Tamworth	12	18	30	6.7	12.2	18.9	113	0	0	0	18	2				3	2	3	117	0	5
Bedellick	Hill	9	8	17	6.9	5.7	12.6	70	0	0	0	15	8				0	15	0	71	10	8
Beechwood	Beechwood	41	41	82	28.4	27.7	56.1	218	12	4	2	1	4				7	10	4	228	13	0
Bega	Bega	210	170	380	162.8	127.6	290.4	758	1	3	12	10	10	1	19	6	171	11	0	944	2	7
Beggan Beggan	Murrumburrah	18	11	29	14.0	7.6	21.6	122	1	8	0	18	11				3	11	0	126	11	7
Belanglo	Berrima	13	15	28	12.4	10.4	22.8	107	1	8	0	19	5				4	2	8	112	3	9
Belarbigill	Belarbigill	18	28	46	12.7	18.0	30.7	118	15	0	2	6	10				3	12	0	124	13	10
Belar Creek	Warkton	20	22	42	10.3	12.6	22.9	93	5	0	5	2	9	1	13	9				160	1	6
Belford	Belford	28	16	44	19.5	11.5	31.0	126	8	4	1	8	11				2	12	3	120	9	6
Belgravia	Belgravia	13	14	27	9.4	11.3	20.7	102	0	0	1	3	11				1	6	3	104	10	11
Bellawongarah	Berry	14	18	32	10.4	12.5	22.9	123	0	0	0	16	8	2	17	0	4	0	3	182	13	11
Bellingen	Bellingen	40	52	92	28.2	34.2	62.4	232	0	0	2	11	5	3	5	0	9	16	10	267	13	3
Bellingen Heads	Bellingen Heads	36	25	61	28.5	18.1	46.6	171	0	0	1	14	11				2	12	3	175	7	2
Bell's Creek	Bell's Creek	13	14	27	9.6	11.4	21.0	125	0	0	1	1	2				57	15	9	183	16	11
Bell's Lagoons	Gerrinton	11	7	18	6.6	4.8	11.4	73	15	8	1	4	8				0	7	6	75	7	10
Belltrees	Scone	18	17	35	9.5	12.3	21.8	132	13	4	1	19	9				3	12	8	138	5	4
Belmont	Belmont	21	17	38	15.8	10.5	26.3	155	13	4	2	4	10				3	15	9	161	13	11
Belmore	Canterbury	33	23	56	24.7	15.5	40.2	171	0	0	2	18	3				2	12	3	176	10	6
Belmore River	Gladstone	12	8	20	7.6	5.5	13.1	155	13	4	1	9	3	20	10	0	2	12	3	180	4	10
Bemboka	Bemboka	44	46	90	31.2	35.8	70.0	219	12	1	7	4	7	3	2	0	12	13	10	242	12	6
Benanderah	Bateman's Bay	20	19	39	16.5	15.3	31.8	136	0	0	2	18	1				1	6	0	140	4	1
Bendeela	Kangaroo Valley	15	7	22	10.7	5.2	15.9	88	11	8	1	2	7	1	4	3				90	18	6
Bendemeer	Bendemeer	32	26	58	19.7	17.7	37.4	171	0	0	2	12	9	2	2	6	41	10	3	217	5	6
Bendenine	Young	20	38	58	15.2	25.2	40.4	171	0	0	2	11	11				13	12	4	187	4	3
Bendick Murrell	Bowing	19	13	32	10.7	8.6	19.3	163	0	0	1	4	7	26	2	0	10	0	10	230	7	5
Bendolba	Bendolba	23	20	43	17.2	13.7	30.9	148	0	0	0	12	1				8	18	3	157	10	4
Bendora	Braidwood	17	11	28	13.5	6.5	20.0	120	11	8	1	10	10				8	6	8	130	9	2
Benerea	Forest Reefs	20	15	35	14.4	12.0	26.4	155	13	4	1	7	7				3	7	3	160	8	2
Benri	Dubbo	25	18	43	16.9	10.8	27.7	126	8	4	2	6	10				4	18	3	133	13	5
Benmore	Murrumburrah	18	20	38	12.5	13.1	25.6	113	0	0	1	13	8				3	2	0	117	15	8
Beresford	Cathcart	17	12	29	12.5	8.3	20.8	120	6	8	1	11	10				16	12	3	138	10	9
Bergalia	Bergalia	14	12	26	9.3	9.8	19.1	155	13	4	1	15	1				4	0	3	161	8	8
Berangui	Berangui	23	37	60	17.5	26.3	43.8	188	10	0	1	9	7				19	11	3	209	10	10
Berridale	Berridale	22	25	47	16.4	15.8	32.2	163	0	0	2	1	10				16	12	0	181	13	10
Berrigan	Berrigan	45	45	90	24.0	22.8	46.8	123	8	8	5	6	0				38	9	10	167	4	6
Berrima	Berrima	53	44	97	42.1	36.3	78.4	297	0	0	4	10	8	0	8	0	28	6	10	338	18	2
Berrima Colliery	Berrima	13	10	23	9.0	8.1	17.1	103	0	0	0	14	8				3	12	3	107	6	11
Berry	Berry	79	72	151	58.4	47.2	105.6	370	0	4	3	7	5				21	14	0	395	1	9
Beryl	Gulgong	19	19	38	12.9	11.9	24.8	121	0	0	2	1	4				3	12	3	130	13	7
Bethungra	Bethungra	32	21	53	25.2	15.2	40.4	165	5	0	2	14	9				19	5	9	187	5	6
Bex Hill	Bex Hill	30	35	65	21.0	24.3																

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rols.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.
								£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Blackgolar	Cox's River	7	15	22	5.8	12.9	18.7	89 10 0	1 9 9		0 17 3	91 17 0
Blackheath	Blackheath	48	42	90	31.6	29.6	61.2	286 3 4	4 1 10	0 13 1	684 15 8	975 13 11
Black Hill	Minmi	15	10	25	12.8	7.9	20.7	137 10 0	2 15 5		13 14 3	153 19 8
Blackman's Point	Port Macquarie	6	16	22	4.9	10.9	15.8	86 16 8	0 4 10		10 17 11	97 19 5
Black Mountain	Black Mountain	30	33	63	22.5	25.1	47.6	257 0 0	2 6 2		69 17 5	329 3 7
Black Range	Albury	39	27	66	26.9	18.3	45.2	148 0 0	1 18 6		3 7 0	153 5 6
Black Springs	Mudgee	15	12	27	11.0	8.4	19.4	137 10 0	1 5 5		10 19 3	149 14 8
Black Swamp	Tenterfield	15	13	28	11.0	9.9	20.9	73 0 0	7 16 0	1 16 3	55 7 0	137 19 3
Blacktown	Blacktown	37	40	77	26.3	28.5	54.8	246 0 0	3 9 1		14 18 10	264 6 11
Blackwall	Blackwall	26	15	41	13.9	6.8	20.7	113 0 0	3 0 8		55 4 3	171 4 11
Blakehurst	Blakehurst	27	33	60	17.4	22.1	39.5	171 0 0	0 16 2		32 8 11	204 5 1
Blandford	Blandford	21	8	29	15.6	6.9	22.5	145 3 4	1 7 7		16 2 3	162 13 2
Blayney	Blayney	145	123	268	105.7	98.4	204.1	542 15 0	4 19 3	2 15 0	37 3 4	687 12 7
Bloom Hill	O'Connell	22	16	38	14.2	9.8	24.0	138 8 4	1 3 0		3 7 1	142 18 5
Blowering	Tumut	14	15	29	10.7	11.3	22.5	120 13 4	1 13 5		3 7 3	125 14 0
Bluff River	Sandy Flat	23	22	45	16.2	12.9	29.1	138 10 0	2 3 8	3 14 0	20 13 3	165 0 11
Bo Bo Creek	Tinonoo	15	14	29	10.0	10.1	20.1	137 10 0	1 7 0		14 11 3	163 8 3
Bodalla	Bodalla	19	30	49	16.9	23.6	40.5	171 0 0	2 3 3		3 12 3	176 15 6
Boggabilla	Boggabilla	22	26	48	13.9	19.5	33.4	194 13 4	1 8 6		24 11 5	220 13 3
Boggabri	Boggabri	87	98	185	58.3	65.1	123.4	346 1 8	6 4 6	2 15 9	13 12 0	368 13 11
Boggumbil	Lismore	27	17	44	16.0	11.3	28.2	136 0 0	2 3 11		6 3 3	143 7 2
Bogolong	Grenfell	13	15	28	8.8	12.2	21.0	120 13 4	1 1 6		4 2 0	125 16 10
Bolwarra	West Maitland	52	48	100	39.9	37.2	77.1	281 6 8	1 19 3		20 5 0	303 10 11
Bomulery	Nowra	47	40	87	32.9	25.9	58.8	225 3 4	3 4 7		20 10 11	248 18 10
Bombala	Bombala	89	68	157	77.2	57.0	134.2	352 7 5	4 18 4	32 19 0	18 6 7	438 11 4
Bomballaway	Wingello	10	9	19	5.9	5.9	11.8	71 18 4	1 2 10		18 16 0	91 17 2
Bombo	Bombo	36	39	74	30.5	38.1	68.6	197 18 4	1 17 6	0 16 2	19 4 10	219 16 10
Bombowlee	Tumut	21	16	37	17.5	13.6	31.1	130 5 0	3 2 8		3 16 7	137 4 3
Bondi	Bondi	138	119	257	97.3	82.9	180.2	479 1 2	4 9 9		61 13 6	545 4 5
Bonville	Coff's Harbour	15	15	30	12.1	10.5	22.6	113 0 0	1 14 7	1 6 0	30 9 9	146 10 4
Boolric	Lismore	12	20	32	9.5	12.3	21.8	113 0 0	1 17 3		2 12 0	117 9 3
Boolric Lower	Lismore	29	4	33	19.6	3.5	23.1	113 0 0	1 7 3		5 12 3	119 19 6
Boogaldie	Coonabarabran	14	16	30	11.8	15.0	26.8	89 10 0	2 1 8	4 13 6	4 3 1	100 8 3
Booligal	Booligal	29	30	59	20.2	22.6	42.8	165 0 0	3 10 8	22 14 6	302 3 9	493 8 11
Boolong	Boolong	14	12	26	11.5	9.5	21.0	113 0 0	1 6 0		2 12 3	116 18 3
Boonoo Boonoo	Boonoo Boonoo	14	10	24	11.5	9.1	20.6	89 10 0	1 11 6		4 7 3	95 8 9
Booral	Booral	23	21	44	15.2	15.3	30.5	148 0 0	1 4 8		3 4 0	152 8 8
Boorolong	Armidale	14	10	24	9.0	7.1	16.1	127 1 8	0 7 8		12 13 2	140 2 6
Borambii	Cassilis	23	21	44	17.2	13.8	31.0	113 0 0	1 2 3		27 14 9	141 17 0
Borce	Junce Junction	10	11	21	7.3	8.4	15.7	82 6 8	0 7 0		0 5 0	82 18 8
Borenore	Borenore	13	11	24	8.0	6.6	14.6	132 13 4	0 18 11		3 7 3	136 19 6
Boro, Lower	Mayfield	8	12	20	6.0	10.2	16.2	91 0 0	0 19 3		3 12 3	95 11 6
Botany	Botany	140	161	301	97.6	121.3	218.9	492 13 0	8 13 5		219 4 2	720 10 7
Botobolar	Lower Botobolar	24	22	46	15.3	15.2	30.5	155 13 4	1 14 3		8 6 3	165 13 10
Bourke	Bourke	176	175	351	127.1	116.6	243.7	709 5 0	15 11 9		59 9 10	784 6 7
Bourke Meat Works	Bourke	15	10	25	10.0	6.0	16.0	79 5 0	2 2 6		1 17 6	83 5 0
Bourke North	North Bourke	29	34	63	22.3	26.3	48.6	216 0 0	7 7 7	3 6 9	111 6 10	338 1 2
Bowan	Bowan Park	21	28	49	13.3	20.0	33.3	161 8 4			13 10 8	174 19 0
Bowenfels	South Bowenfels	23	17	40	16.7	9.4	26.1	144 3 4	0 16 0		9 6 5	154 5 9
Bowling Alley Point	Bowling Alley Point	38	49	87	30.8	41.2	72.0	246 9 9	2 12 6	34 3 9	8 11 9	291 17 9
Bowna	Bowna	26	27	53	19.0	21.0	40.0	171 0 0	2 11 4		9 7 3	182 18 7
Bowning	Bowning	27	17	44	18.3	11.3	29.6	148 0 0	2 16 3		17 8 9	168 5 0
Bowral	Bowral	253	232	485	191.9	179.3	371.2	983 5 6	15 8 2	0 9 10	185 10 4	1,164 13 10
Bowraville	Bowraville	32	32	64	22.2	22.8	45.0	250 10 0	3 7 10		8 8 10	162 6 8
Braidwood	Braidwood	108	109	217	85.8	83.0	168.8	463 0 0	6 2 4	1 16 3	13 12 2	484 10 9
Branca	Waleha	12	12	24	7.7	9.0	16.7	120 13 4	1 3 6		3 2 2	124 19 0
Branxton	Branxton	41	29	70	27.3	17.8	45.1	228 0 0	2 3 6		14 16 0	244 19 6
Breadalbane	Breadalbane	10	12	22	6.9	6.9	13.8	129 13 4	2 1 6	3 17 3	3 7 1	138 19 2
Breakfast Creek	Rylstone	13	14	27	10.6	11.1	21.7	113 0 0	1 11 3		3 12 3	118 3 6
Bredbo	Bredbo	12	16	28	7.6	11.9	19.5	137 10 0	0 15 11		31 14 3	170 0 2
Breeza	Breeza	29	16	45	18.0	8.8	26.8	155 13 4	0 12 11		8 12 0	164 18 3
Brewarrina	Brewarrina	37	26	63	27.0	20.6	47.6	267 0 0	3 3 10		26 14 4	286 18 2
Brewongle	Brewongle	10	12	22	7.6	8.2	15.8	132 13 4	0 16 2		3 7 3	136 15 9
Bringelly	Bringelly	35	29	64	22.3	21.0	43.3	171 0 0	1 3 1		2 13 11	174 17 0
Broadwater	Broadwater	73	76	149	55.5	56.4	111.9	353 0 0	2 12 3		10 9 0	366 1 3
Brobenbah	Narandera	26	10	36	16.8	6.2	23.0	113 0 0	2 3 9		48 12 0	163 15 9
Brocklehurst	Brocklehurst	28	31	59	18.3	23.9	42.2	171 9 0	3 10 10		24 1 3	198 12 1
Brodie's Plains	Inverell	24	31	55	18.2	21.9	40.1	135 13 4	1 9 7		39 2 9	196 5 8
Broke	Broke	16	13	29	10.6	10.6	21.2	141 0 0	1 19 3	1 5 0	18 10 0	162 14 3
Broken Hill	Broken Hill	465	472	937	321.9	329.1	651.0	1,739 0 6	30 9 10	12 12 6	62 18 8	1,845 1 6
Broken Hill North	Broken Hill	366	340	706	260.8	221.3	482.1	1,652 9 9	30 5 0	13 15 0	118 18 6	1,815 8 3
Brolgan	Tichborne	31	42	73	20.6	24.6	45.2	171 0 0	1 12 10		5 18 9	178 11 7
Bronte	Tarago	12	16	28	9.2	10.4	19.6	132 13 4	0 19 11	1 5 0	3 12 3	138 10 6
Brookfield	Brookfield	16	16	32	11.0	11.6	22.6	113 0 0	1 16 8		3 16 7	118 13 3
Brooklet	Newrybar	35	23	58	25.9	16.4	42.3	171 0 0	1 6 0		2 18 7	175 4 7
Brooklyn	Brooklyn	37	20	57	31.0	15.2	46.2	148 0 0	1 9 2	9 10 0	3 15 3	162 14 5
Brook's Creek	Bungendore	8	4	12	6.1	2.8	8.9	79 13 4	1 1 3		0 10 0	81 4 7
Brookstead	Armidale	14	8	22	8.9	5.6	14.5	98 6 8	1 9 0		3 12 3	103 7 11
Brook Vale	Brook Vale	16	12	28	11.0	9.1	20.1	89 10 0	1 8 0		24 15 1	116 13 1
Broughtonsworth	Burrowa	6	5	11	3.3	3.6	6.9	108 6 8		2 10 0	3 7 3	114 3 11
Broughton Vale	Broughton Vale	30	15	45	21.9	10.9	32.8	171 0 0	0 18 8		16 1 0	187 19 8
Broughton Village	Broughton Village	13	11	24	10.2	8.3	18.5	91 0 0	2 3 6		15 17 2	109 0 8

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.
Brouls	Cowra	10	10	20	7.9	7.1	15.0	£ 74 5 0	£ 1 6 11	£ 1 18 9	£ 4 10 0	£ 82 0 8
Brownlea	Rockley	16	5	21	12.6	8.6	16.2	82 13 4	1 3 2	.....	0 10 0	84 6 6
Brownmuir	Ellalong	7	6	13	5.5	4.6	10.1	70 0 0	1 5 6	.....	12 0 0	23 5 6
Brown's Creek	Brown's Creek	47	41	88	25.2	25.7	50.9	264 0 0	4 5 1	11 7 0	9 16 4	289 8 5
Brucevale	Wagga Wagga	23	20	43	17.0	14.4	31.4	130 15 0	1 7 11	2 0 0	7 17 3	142 0 2
Brunge (Aboriginal)	Brunge	16	14	30	12.4	11.9	24.3	64 0 0	1 17 9	.....	2 12 0	68 9 9
Brunkerville	Mount Vincent	30	32	62	22.9	22.0	44.9	171 0 0	1 16 7	.....	2 12 3	175 8 10
Brunswick River*	Brunswick	13	7	20	5.6	5.7	11.3	38 0 0	.....	.....	.....	38 0 0
Brushy Hill	Aberdeen	10	12	22	6.8	8.8	15.6	75 6 8	1 7 8	.....	.....	76 14 4
Bryan's Gap	Bryan's Gap	25	25	50	16.8	16.8	33.6	148 0 0	2 18 2	.....	3 15 9	154 13 11
Bucca Creek	Woolgoolga	18	14	32	11.1	9.5	20.6	74 9 2	2 1 11	4 10 0	1 0 0	82 1 1
Buchanan	Buchanan	16	19	35	13.0	13.8	26.8	126 3 4	.....	0 6 4	7 6 3	133 14 11
Buckendon	Buckendoon	18	19	37	14.1	16.7	30.8	148 0 0	1 6 4	.....	2 12 3	161 18 7
Buckhobble	Molong	11	19	30	7.9	10.6	18.5	109 6 8	1 15 10	.....	2 12 3	113 14 9
Budjong Vale	West Camhewarra	13	10	23	9.9	7.7	17.6	111 15 8	1 7 3	.....	2 15 1	115 18 0
Bulbudgerie	Wuuluman	13	16	29	8.1	7.6	15.7	96 10 0	1 9 9	.....	12 11 3	110 11 0
Bulga	Bulga	24	15	39	17.5	10.1	27.6	155 13 4	2 14 9	.....	2 12 3	161 0 4
Bulgandra	Bulgandra	14	13	27	10.4	9.6	20.0	109 8 4	3 10 2	.....	37 10 0	150 8 6
Bulladelah	Bulladelah	50	51	101	37.8	34.9	72.7	240 0 0	5 5 3	.....	8 0 4	253 5 7
Bulli	Bulli	79	74	153	53.2	51.6	104.8	371 10 0	5 11 1	.....	11 4 0	388 5 1
Bullockreef	Young	18	16	34	12.5	9.7	22.2	127 16 8	3 2 11	.....	2 12 3	133 11 19
Bumbury	Bumbury	18	21	39	12.3	14.8	27.1	125 0 0	1 11 4	.....	3 16 2	130 7 6
Bundanoon	Bundanoon	42	44	86	34.0	35.5	69.5	310 10 0	2 1 5	.....	27 12 10	340 4 3
Bundarigo	South Grafton	21	10	31	8.3	6.8	15.1	95 15 0	0 18 2	0 15 0	.....	97 8 2
Bundarra	Bundarra	38	42	80	28.1	29.3	67.4	236 10 0	2 6 11	.....	20 2 4	258 19 3
Bungawallbyn	Bungawallbyn	32	17	49	25.2	12.6	37.8	182 6 8	1 1 1	.....	4 6 9	187 14 6
Bungay	Wingham	6	18	24	5.0	10.5	15.5	113 0 0	1 5 0	.....	2 12 3	116 17 3
Bungendore	Bungendore	47	30	77	32.0	21.2	53.2	309 13 4	3 16 3	.....	17 11 6	331 1 1
Bunglegumbye	Dubbo	17	16	33	11.2	8.9	20.1	120 13 4	2 9 9	.....	2 6 0	125 9 1
Bungonia	Bungonia	11	18	29	7.4	14.1	21.5	85 15 0	1 0 8	3 15 0	0 18 2	92 8 10
Bungowanah	Bungowanah	13	15	28	10.2	10.5	20.7	125 0 0	1 15 11	.....	37 19 3	164 15 2
Bungulla	Tenterfield	15	16	31	10.9	12.2	23.1	113 0 0	1 9 1	.....	2 17 0	117 6 1
Bungwahl	Bungwahl	19	30	49	14.2	21.5	35.7	216 13 10	.....	13 9 9	32 16 9	263 0 4
Buninyong	Dubbo	13	17	30	9.1	10.1	19.2	115 16 8	1 0 10	.....	12 15 3	129 12 9
Bunnabunoo	Vacy	19	16	35	15.0	18.6	28.6	125 0 0	4 1 6	.....	26 17 3	155 18 9
Burkeville	Garland	20	19	39	15.5	11.0	26.5	144 3 4	1 8 0	.....	2 6 3	147 17 7
Burke Ward, Broken Hill.	Broken Hill	155	122	277	110.2	83.2	193.4	655 6 8	11 7 6	.....	105 15 0	772 9 2
Burrage	Burrage	52	52	104	35.5	36.2	71.7	277 11 6	6 15 5	.....	13 5 4	297 12 3
Burragan	South Grafton	14	14	28	10.4	11.0	21.4	155 13 4	1 16 9	.....	3 14 9	161 4 10
Burragate	Burragate	13	14	27	10.7	11.2	21.9	89 10 0	1 11 7	2 10 0	3 2 3	96 13 10
Burrarorang	Burrarorang	17	17	34	11.3	11.4	22.7	89 8 0	1 19 8	.....	9 3 0	100 10 8
Burra Lake	Taralga	9	8	17	6.1	5.7	11.8	91 0 0	2 0 10	.....	3 2 3	96 3 1
Burrangong	Young	32	17	49	21.4	10.7	32.1	172 6 8	0 5 5	.....	22 8 2	195 0 3
Burrangong Heights	Young	35	19	54	21.0	11.3	32.3	163 6 8	1 17 3	.....	3 14 9	168 13 8
Burrawang	Burrawang	34	42	76	24.4	27.6	52.0	233 12 6	3 7 3	.....	14 15 7	251 15 4
Burrier	Nowra	15	13	28	12.3	11.1	23.4	125 0 0	1 5 4	.....	2 12 3	128 17 7
Burwill	Milton	19	18	37	13.1	11.3	24.4	125 0 0	2 3 4	.....	161 19 0	289 2 4
Burringbar	Burringbar	16	15	31	9.8	10.0	19.8	89 10 0	1 4 9	.....	1 6 0	92 0 9
Burrowa	Burrowa	44	32	76	31.7	23.6	55.3	257 17 9	2 10 8	2 8 3	11 2 1	273 18 9
Burrumbutlock	Jindera	16	11	27	11.9	9.0	20.9	102 5 0	1 5 2	2 18 0	1 18 8	108 6 10
Burrundulla	Mudgee	25	22	47	19.6	18.6	38.1	163 0 0	2 9 11	.....	18 12 2	184 2 1
Burwood	Burwood	629	548	1,177	466.9	402.5	869.4	2,287 5 8	27 11 8	1 3 6	147 11 0	2,463 11 10
Byrock	Byrock	31	40	71	25.1	25.9	51.0	185 16 8	1 14 1	.....	10 2 1	197 12 10
Byng	Byng	23	16	39	15.4	12.7	27.8	159 3 4	2 3 11	1 17 6	25 18 4	189 3 1
Byron Bay	Byron Bay	28	31	59	17.7	19.3	37.0	159 0 0	.....	.....	2 12 3	161 12 3
Byron Creek	Bangalow	33	38	66	24.6	21.8	46.4	171 0 0	5 5 9	.....	147 19 7	324 5 4
Bywong	Bywong	16	12	28	11.1	9.6	20.7	113 0 0	3 7 6	.....	7 13 3	124 0 9
Caddigat	Adaminaby	6	12	18	5.1	10.4	15.5	78 17 7	0 18 9	.....	0 10 0	80 6 4
Cadia	Cadia	11	20	31	6.5	11.4	18.0	125 0 0	1 5 3	.....	3 12 3	129 17 6
Caergurle	Allynbrook	37	29	66	24.3	19.9	44.2	171 0 0	2 19 4	.....	3 18 7	177 17 11
Calare	Cowra	16	13	29	11.0	10.3	21.3	125 0 0	1 16 11	5 10 0	4 19 0	187 5 11
Calliope	Umarra	21	22	43	10.8	17.0	33.8	113 0 0	1 15 5	.....	2 11 3	117 6 8
Cambewarra	Cambewarra	58	36	94	41.5	28.3	69.8	216 1 8	2 13 4	0 11 9	10 0 4	259 7 1
Cambewarra West	West Cambewarra	20	12	32	13.0	7.6	20.6	123 5 0	1 1 10	.....	11 1 2	140 8 0
Camberwell	Camberwell	24	23	47	18.5	19.1	37.6	171 0 0	3 7 7	.....	25 10 6	199 18 1
Camboon	Rylstone	11	13	24	8.5	10.7	19.2	111 6 8	.....	0 18 9	3 18 4	116 3 9
Camden	Camden	114	96	210	83.6	69.8	153.4	418 10 0	5 7 1	.....	21 14 3	445 11 4
Camdenville	Newtown	429	404	833	319.5	290.8	610.3	1,881 13 4	25 4 0	.....	132 10 10	2,039 8 2
Campbelltown	Campbelltown	69	100	169	51.0	61.6	112.6	380 13 4	6 14 4	.....	27 12 2	414 19 10
Camperdown	Camperdown	412	358	770	291.0	255.0	546.0	1,643 9 11	24 7 0	9 16 3	377 4 1	2,054 17 3
Canadian Lead	Canadian Lead	31	25	56	22.6	18.1	40.7	159 10 0	1 17 0	.....	38 14 3	200 1 3
Camberra	Queenbeyan	12	19	31	8.4	13.5	21.9	113 0 0	.....	.....	6 1 7	119 1 7
Candelo	Candelo	50	68	118	38.9	52.9	91.8	263 1 9	4 16 4	.....	17 19 3	285 17 4
Canley Vale	Canley Vale	44	31	75	34.4	21.9	56.3	148 0 0	2 7 2	0 15 9	20 4 2	171 7 1
Canoblas	Canoblas	17	14	31	13.6	9.9	23.5	132 13 4	1 9 2	.....	5 17 3	139 19 9
Canowindra	Canowindra	64	70	134	45.1	48.8	93.9	326 12 2	3 7 1	6 9 6	14 19 2	351 7 11
Canterbury	Canterbury	201	160	361	142.8	118.7	261.5	747 12 0	15 9 2	3 11 0	38 8 6	805 0 8
Canyon Leigh	Canyon Leigh	14	10	24	9.0	8.5	17.5	107 10 0	1 1 3	.....	19 13 4	128 4 7
Capertee	Capertee	24	11	35	18.2	8.3	26.5	122 5 0	1 16 4	.....	18 12 3	142 13 7
Captain's Flat	Captain's Flat	91	83	174	63.4	54.8	118.2	856 14 1	6 2 9	4 10 3	43 9 4	410 16 5
Carcoar	Carcoar	39	48	87	30.4	35.4	65.8	276 0 0	3 15 9	.....	23 16 10	303 12 7

* Closed 30th June.

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.											
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Cloths, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.							
							£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Cardiff	Cardiff	29	30	59	23.4	22.7	46.1	196	6	8				49	14	9	246	1	2
Cargo	Cargo	27	32	59	17.4	25.2	42.6	171	0	0	2	6	11	10	12	3	183	19	8
Carlingford	Carlingford	84	87	171	58.5	64.1	122.6	373	9	4	3	4	5	1	9	10	447	2	2
Carrathool	Carrathool	32	31	63	20.4	20.2	40.6	153	15	0	2	12	4				166	1	9
Carrington	Carrington	177	179	356	131.9	129.0	260.9	689	4	6	7	15	11				108	6	4
Carroll	Carroll	23	29	52	21.8	22.7	44.5	167	3	4	2	1	9				3	18	3
Carroll Gap	Carroll	12	10	22	7.9	8.2	16.1	85	18	4	1	9	1				0	10	0
Carr's Creek	Grafton	44	43	87	30.7	35.1	65.8	224	3	4	4	17	7				17	6	10
Casino	Casino	70	65	135	64.4	45.2	99.6	350	0	0	5	14	9				33	15	8
Casino South	Casino	26	23	49	21.7	18.6	40.3	171	0	0	1	0	3				4	11	0
Cassilis	Cassilis	28	23	51	23.2	18.1	41.3	171	0	0	1	19	0				3	12	3
Castle Doyle	Armidale	8	6	14	5.3	3.4	8.7	78	13	4	0	15	1				1	0	0
Castle Hill	Castle Hill	59	47	106	49.9	39.9	89.8	258	10	0	3	14	7				20	11	9
Castle Mountain	Castle Mountain	9	8	17	7.0	6.1	13.1	133	2	11	1	2	9				44	13	8
Castlereagh	Castlereagh	16	23	39	10.9	16.4	27.3	132	13	4	1	9	4				2	12	3
Castlereagh-street	Sydney	175	125	300	119.7	91.4	211.1	710	13	4	7	4	1				60	6	0
Castlereagh, Upper	Penrith	23	26	49	17.4	18.2	35.6	148	0	0	1	8	0				138	6	9
Cathcart	Cathcart	31	29	60	20.9	20.5	41.4	171	0	0	2	7	1				4	7	3
Catherine Hill Bay	Catherine Hill Bay	74	75	149	56.5	50.9	107.4	356	10	0	4	8	3	1	2	6	16	10	9
Cattai Creek	Cooperbrook	14	16	30	9.9	11.3	21.2	103	16	8	2	0	8				10	12	0
Cawdor	Camden	21	14	35	15.3	8.1	23.4	132	13	4	0	17	6				6	19	9
Cecil Park	Liverpool	31	19	50	20.9	11.2	32.1	163	0	0	3	18	2				18	4	3
Cedar Party Creek	Cedar Party Creek	31	21	52	24.3	16.0	40.3	171	0	0	3	17	5				4	12	3
Cessnock	Cessnock	17	25	42	13.4	19.5	32.9	144	3	4	1	10	2				3	5	3
Chain of Ponds	Gunning	13	7	20	11.0	5.2	16.2	88	13	4	1	10	5				1	16	0
Chambigne	South Grafton	14	14	28	9.1	9.7	18.8	102	16	0	2	11	1				18	4	3
Charlestown	Charlestown	106	92	198	85.7	68.2	153.9	458	2	0	5	0	0				49	9	0
Charleville	Charleville	10	14	24	6.9	8.9	15.8	87	5	0	1	3	8				0	10	0
Chatsbury	Chatsbury	18	16	34	11.3	9.4	20.7	125	0	0	1	8	9				3	2	3
Chatswood	Chatswood	180	129	309	132.7	86.5	219.2	418	11	8	13	0	9	7	10	3	60	10	11
Chatsworth Island	Chatsworth Island	54	72	126	41.4	58.7	100.1	283	16	2	5	15	5	1	6	0	15	15	6
Oberiot	Lawrence	12	16	28	9.7	10.5	20.2	113	0	0	2	5	5				29	17	5
Chichester	Underbank	12	18	30	7.2	13.0	20.2	125	0	0	0	17	11				2	12	3
Chirville	Glen Innes	18	10	28	12.9	6.0	19.8	104	12	7	4	7	7	3	12	6	3	8	9
Clairwood	Bridgeman	14	12	26	6.4	8.0	14.4	113	0	0	1	11	10				2	12	3
Clarence Town	Clarence Town	76	54	130	57.1	39.2	96.3	302	13	10	4	1	10				173	2	0
Clarendon	Enrongilly	9	8	17	7.1	5.2	12.3	76	6	8							0	15	0
Clareval	Stroud	15	8	23	13.2	6.1	19.3	84	18	4	1	3	3				8	18	4
Clarkson's Crossing	Nabiac	19	26	45	13.4	21.1	34.5	144	3	4	2	3	11	3	10	0	2	12	3
Clear Hills	Daysdale	12	14	26	8.5	11.5	20.0	89	10	0	1	6	10				2	19	6
Cleveland-street	Sydney	832	812	1,644	641.4	603.3	1,244.7	3,416	7	11	61	13	7	2	10	6	531	18	1
Clifton	Clifton	47	58	105	36.9	42.5	79.4	291	4	10	3	3	7	7	18	0	25	15	10
Clunes	Clunes	22	32	54	15.7	23.9	39.6	145	18	9	1	9	10				6	18	3
Clybucca	Clybucca	24	14	38	15.7	7.0	22.7	124	4	0	1	8	8				2	12	3
Cobar	Cobar	218	213	431	135.7	129.4	265.1	513	19	6	10	11	4	3	0	0	40	14	3
Cobargo	Cobargo	74	67	141	55.4	46.3	101.7	320	15	2	5	0	7	2	0	0	17	14	6
Cobbitty	Cobbitty	23	20	43	15.1	11.8	26.9	148	0	0	1	3	3				47	12	3
Cobbarah	Cobbarah	19	14	33	15.0	9.1	24.1	87	13	4	1	4	0				4	14	6
Cockburn River	Moonbi Railway Stat'n	19	29	48	14.3	23.3	37.6	171	0	0	2	14	8				3	2	3
Cockle Creek	Davis Town	13	14	27	9.8	9.6	19.4	89	10	0	1	0	11				2	12	3
Codrington	Codrington	13	12	25	10.7	7.8	18.5	113	0	0	1	4	4				4	12	0
Codrington North	Wyrallah	18	7	25	14.9	6.0	20.9	113	0	0	2	6	3				2	12	3
Coffey Hill	Orange	20	16	36	17.2	12.9	30.1	136	0	0	1	10	6				7	12	3
Coff's Harbour	Coff's Harbour	19	9	28	15.3	5.8	21.1	88	10	0	0	11	3						
Cogo	Rolland's Plains	15	18	33	10.7	14.4	25.1	113	0	0	2	3	10				2	17	0
Coldstream, Lower	Brushgrove	17	13	30	12.8	10.1	22.9	131	10	0	1	1	2				1	19	1
Coldstream, Upper	Upper Coldstream	2	1	3	1.3	0.9	2.2	127	10	0							1	19	1
Colinton	Colinton	18	16	34	11.7	10.6	22.3	89	10	0	1	3	4				15	12	3
Coliaroobie	Narrandera	18	16	34	13.1	11.4	24.5	99	10	0	2	15	1				3	12	0
Collarendabri	Collarendabri	25	25	50	15.0	16.6	31.6	170	13	4	2	11	7				0	15	0
Collector	Collector	22	32	54	17.9	26.3	44.2	148	0	0	1	17	4				593	17	7
Collie	Collie	15	19	34	12.6	15.3	27.9	63	5	0	2	10	3	3	17	5	8	17	11
Colonna	Barraba	10	16	26	6.8	10.2	17.0	113	0	0	2	18	7				3	2	3
Colo Vale	Colo Vale	11	13	24	6.2	7.3	13.5	126	10	0	1	6	0	3	0	0	6	16	7
Colstown	Gresford	14	12	26	9.5	7.7	17.2	92	9	0	1	0	8				7	14	8
Colyton	Colyton	45	47	92	33.9	31.5	65.4	246	0	0	2	6	2				29	18	3
Come-by-Chance	Come-by-Chance	19	13	32	10.5	6.9	17.4	113	0	0	1	9	7				3	12	3
Comleroy Road	Kurrajong	29	24	53	20.4	16.6	37.0	199	18	0	2	7	6				14	13	10
Conargo	Conargo	15	5	20	10.1	3.9	14.0	103	16	8	1	5	4				5	9	6
Concord	Concord	68	64	132	48.2	44.5	92.7	326	10	0	4	12	6				35	14	2
Condobolin	Condobolin	83	63	146	56.7	44.8	101.5	251	7	6	6	17	3				46	12	7
Condong	Murwillumbah	17	17	34	11.9	10.6	22.4	102	0	0	2	3	1	1	12	3	1	6	3
Connorton	Wagga Wagga	19	15	34	13.6	10.3	23.9	89	10	0	1	14	5				6	17	11
Coopersville	Bowenfels	32	35	67	25.8	25.2	51.0	273	10	0	1	13	10						

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.
								£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coolangatta	Coolangatta	13	21	34	8.4	9.8	18.2	155 13 4	0 10 4	.....	2 12 3	158 15 11
Coolonglook	Coolonglook	36	21	57	24.9	15.4	40.3	135 13 4	2 17 4	.....	2 12 3	141 2 11
Cooma	Cooma	147	131	278	110.8	88.3	199.1	435 18 8	7 13 7	2 14 3	40 0 4	486 6 10
Coonabarabran	Coonabarabran	56	42	98	41.5	29.9	71.4	299 0 0	4 17 4	.....	9 16 0	313 13 4
Coonamble	Coonamble	114	100	214	75.9	67.4	143.3	458 17 4	6 10 9	.....	141 12 0	607 0 1
Cooperbrook	Cooperbrook	31	29	60	21.5	20.9	42.4	182 6 8	1 5 10	.....	10 5 9	193 18 3
Cooper's Creek	Corndale	25	22	47	13.6	11.9	25.5	113 0 0	2 9 11	.....	2 17 2	118 7 1
Cootanong	Cootanong	21	17	38	16.8	12.5	29.3	130 5 0	2 9 5	.....	3 7 3	136 1 8
Cootamundra	Cootamundra	185	194	379	135.8	131.9	267.7	771 6 10	30 16 5	11 8 3	794 6 8	1,607 18 2
Cooyal	Stony Creek	20	25	45	10.9	14.5	25.4	139 13 1	1 4 3	23 0 3	23 7 4	187 5 1
Copeland North	Copeland North	28	20	48	23.8	15.4	39.2	171 0 0	2 5 10	.....	10 2 3	183 8 1
Copmanhurst	Copmanhurst	18	20	38	14.9	15.9	30.8	148 0 0	1 15 0	.....	2 12 3	152 7 8
Coraki	Coraki	20	32	52	13.5	21.3	34.8	207 5 7	0 15 11	.....	16 6 2	224 7 8
Coramba	Coramba	17	18	35	11.1	11.8	22.9	102 0 0	1 9 10	0 17 6	.....	104 7 4
Cordeaux River	Mount Kembla	6	11	17	4.3	7.7	12.0	78 15 0	0 14 7	1 12 6	1 18 0	83 0 1
Coreen	Daysdale	12	15	27	8.2	8.0	16.2	89 10 0	1 9 10	3 12 6	0 15 0	95 7 4
Corindi	Corindi, Clarence	5	15	20	4.2	12.5	16.7	72 13 4	0 16 7	1 13 0	.....	75 2 11
Corrick's Creek	Maclean	12	11	23	9.9	8.5	18.4	88 11 8	1 6 4	.....	1 10 0	91 8 0
Cornwallis*	Richmond	5	3	8	3.5	2.0	5.5	11 6 8	.....	.....	0 10 0	11 16 8
Corowa	Corowa	114	94	208	74.4	57.6	132.0	362 10 0	4 7 9	.....	16 13 7	383 11 4
Corrimal	Corrimal	71	44	115	53.6	31.5	85.1	290 5 2	1 11 11	.....	7 16 10	239 13 11
Corunna	Corunna	11	17	28	9.0	12.6	21.6	103 16 8	1 17 8	.....	3 2 0	108 16 4
Cottawalla	Crookwell	21	18	39	10.6	14.2	24.8	132 13 4	3 3 3	.....	13 7 3	149 3 10
Courabyra	Courabyra	22	17	39	13.6	10.7	24.3	125 0 0	1 14 6	.....	15 7 3	142 1 9
Cow Flat	Cow Flat	15	14	29	10.1	10.2	20.3	115 16 8	1 0 1	.....	3 7 3	120 4 0
Cowlong	Lismore	18	24	42	13.6	18.6	32.2	163 0 0	1 7 11	.....	24 18 9	406 6 8
Cowper	Cowper	27	28	55	19.5	19.8	39.3	171 0 0	1 4 4	.....	2 12 0	174 16 4
Cowra	Cowra	122	142	264	94.3	105.9	201.2	609 10 5	4 14 3	3 19 3	68 0 10	686 4 9
Cox's Gap	Wyong	23	12	35	16.9	9.6	26.5	106 1 8	0 7 6	4 15 9	7 10 0	118 14 11
Craigie	Craigie	12	16	28	9.4	10.9	20.3	130 15 0	1 16 3	.....	5 4 1	137 15 4
Cranebrook	Penrith	35	31	66	26.2	24.9	51.1	171 0 0	2 11 6	.....	4 18 3	178 9 9
Croki	Croki	34	30	64	24.6	21.7	46.3	193 6 8	0 13 3	.....	58 11 9	241 11 8
Croobyar	Milton	35	20	55	26.2	16.2	42.4	161 8 4	1 15 8	.....	12 19 9	176 3 9
Crookwell	Crookwell	112	119	231	69.9	77.9	147.8	489 10 0	6 14 2	12 13 0	18 9 0	527 6 2
Crookwell River	Binda	13	9	22	8.3	5.8	14.1	86 16 8	1 3 3	.....	0 10 0	88 9 11
Croome	Via Albion Park	14	24	38	10.1	17.8	27.9	148 0 0	1 5 9	.....	2 12 3	151 18 0
Crow Mountain	Upper Manilla	21	16	37	14.0	10.9	24.9	89 10 0	2 11 8	.....	5 11 0	97 12 8
Crown-street	Sydney	807	824	1,631	610.5	608.2	1,218.7	3,617 8 2	40 4 9	0 10 0	829 3 10	4,487 6 9
Croydon	Croydon	307	262	569	226.6	185.9	412.5	1,404 3 8	15 9 11	.....	69 16 6	1,489 10 1
Croydon Park	Croydon	260	205	465	192.8	150.5	343.3	900 18 4	11 17 5	.....	45 8 9	958 4 6
Crudine	Crudine	10	15	25	6.8	11.2	18.0	113 0 0	1 6 10	.....	3 12 3	117 19 1
Cucumbark	Cucumbark, late Kyle	20	15	35	13.6	9.0	22.6	117 0 0	1 7 0	.....	12 12 3	130 19 3
Cudal	Cudal	37	54	91	27.8	38.4	66.2	268 13 4	2 0 0	.....	9 16 4	280 9 8
Cuddell Siding	Cuddell Siding	6	17	23	4.3	12.1	16.4	121 5 0	1 5 8	.....	15 12 3	138 2 11
Cudgebong	Cudgebong Creek	16	15	31	9.2	11.1	20.3	120 11 8	1 3 9	1 14 8	3 12 3	127 2 4
Cudgegong	Cudgegong	24	17	41	15.9	13.9	29.8	155 11 4	1 6 5	.....	8 12 3	160 10 0
Cudgen	Cudgen	28	25	53	22.4	17.7	40.1	171 0 0	2 14 4	.....	7 17 0	181 11 4
Culcairn	Culcairn	32	27	59	24.0	20.6	44.6	182 15 0	2 5 5	.....	111 3 9	296 4 2
Cullarin	Breadalbane	8	18	26	4.1	11.3	15.4	113 0 0	1 19 8	.....	3 7 3	118 6 11
Cullen	Piper's Flat	40	31	71	20.4	19.4	48.8	243 10 0	4 8 5	.....	38 16 10	281 15 3
Cullen Bullen	Cullen Bullen	20	15	35	17.5	12.9	30.4	148 0 0	2 2 9	2 7 6	3 12 3	156 2 6
Cullnabone	Cullnabone	18	26	44	13.4	19.9	33.3	148 0 0	1 15 7	.....	3 12 0	153 7 7
Cullinga	Cullinga	10	15	25	7.0	10.1	17.1	87 0 0	0 19 5	.....	1 19 0	89 18 5
Cumbalum	Ballina	12	16	28	9.5	12.4	21.9	125 10 0	1 7 11	.....	8 15 1	136 13 0
Cummeragunja	Moama	41	44	85	33.9	37.8	71.7	244 5 0	5 11 0	.....	9 6 10	259 2 10
Cummoek	Cummoek	34	34	68	21.9	24.4	46.3	203 11 6	3 9 5	.....	8 19 1	215 0 0
Cundletown	Cundletown	38	41	79	27.6	30.6	58.2	231 10 0	4 14 8	1 0 0	8 1 3	265 5 11
Cunningar	Cunningham	10	16	26	7.5	9.5	17.0	110 6 8	1 4 2	.....	23 16 11	135 7 9
Cunningham Creek	Murrumburrah	23	24	47	14.7	13.5	28.2	132 3 4	2 12 8	.....	3 7 3	138 3 3
Curban	Gilgandra	9	11	20	8.3	8.3	16.6	88 11 8	1 6 9	1 7 6	1 4 5	92 10 4
Curia Creek	Tilba Tilba	12	8	20	8.3	7.3	15.6	95 18 4	1 13 3	2 12 6	14 0 10	104 4 11
Curlewis	Curlewis	21	22	43	14.3	16.5	30.8	121 16 8	1 16 9	22 11 3	2 12 3	148 16 11
Currabubula	Currabubula	38	41	79	28.3	27.6	55.9	235 17 9	3 5 4	.....	11 18 4	251 1 5
Curra Creek	Wellington	21	13	34	10.7	6.0	16.7	113 0 0	2 1 6	1 9 0	12 12 3	129 2 9
Curran's Creek	Crookwell	12	14	26	5.7	5.8	11.5	78 13 4	1 8 3	.....	2 4 10	82 6 5
Currawang	Currawang	22	13	35	17.9	11.0	28.9	148 0 0	.....	.....	4 2 0	152 2 0
Currawarna	Coolamon	16	21	37	10.1	14.5	24.6	113 0 0	2 7 6	.....	2 12 3	117 19 9
Cuthero	Wentworth	14	12	26	9.7	10.3	20.0	120 13 4	1 15 2	.....	2 12 3	125 0 9
Dalgetty	Buckley's Crossing	14	15	29	9.8	10.7	20.5	137 10 0	1 18 2	.....	16 16 3	156 4 5
Dalmorton	Dalmorton	14	20	34	11.7	13.5	25.2	170 13 4	2 5 7	.....	18 4 3	191 3 2
Dalton	Dalton	43	33	76	34.3	26.3	60.6	290 10 0	4 4 5	.....	9 14 9	304 9 2
Dalwood	Rouse Mill	13	16	29	9.7	10.8	20.5	89 10 0	1 11 6	.....	2 12 0	93 13 6
Dangar's Lagoon	Uralla	16	10	26	10.7	7.8	18.3	70 13 4	1 11 2	.....	1 10 6	73 15 0
Dapper	Gulgong	10	8	18	8.9	6.9	15.8	81 15 0	1 8 7	.....	21 10 9	104 14 4
Dapto	Dapto	92	88	180	62.5	63.0	125.5	317 6 8	14 10 5	7 0 0	215 0 7	553 17 8
Dapto West	Brownsville	23	16	39	10.8	12.6	23.4	155 13 4	0 15 2	.....	2 12 3	159 0 9
Darawauk	Failford	11	16	27	8.7	11.0	19.7	124 16 8	1 9 9	5 11 0	2 12 1	134 9 6
Darby's Branch	Tungbla	17	10	27	14.8	9.1	23.9	95 15 0	2 2 4	1 17 6	1 3 0	100 17 10
Darby's Falls	Mount McDonald	14	4	18	9.9	2.7	12.6	78 13 4	0 19 6	.....	2 9 6	82 2 4
Dargan's Creek	Dargan's Creek	29	24	53	18.0	15.2	33.2	22 19 6	8 17 10	0 18 6	21 9 7	54 5 5
Dark Corner	Sunny Corner	9	15	24	7.4	9.7	17.1	87 5 0	.....	2 5 6	15 4 6	104 15 0
Darlinghurst	Sydney	382	345	727	277.9	240.4	518.3	1,779 5 6	21 7 3	0 8 0	276 3 4	2,077 4 1

* Closed 29th February.

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.											
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.							
								£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.							
Darling Road	Balmain	704	684	1,388	545.8	488.9	1,034.7	2,856	11	9	47	17	6	616	2	0	3,520	11	3
Darlington	Darlington	436	482	918	326.1	355.7	681.8	1,909	3	7	27	15	5	21	15	0	2,382	8	6
Darlington Point	Darlington Point	16	14	30	7.5	7.8	15.3	89	10	0	1	2	4				94	7	4
Darvoalgie	Darvoalgie	14	19	33	9.1	13.6	22.7	109	6	8	1	3	0				113	11	11
Darviesville	Darviesville	60	45	105	47.5	35.4	82.9	270	10	0	7	1	7				477	19	11
Davis Creek	Davis Creek	11	11	22	7.3	9.2	16.5	81	6	8	1	16	8				89	13	4
Deep Lead	Parke	21	21	42	14.6	16.1	30.7	144	10	0	2	10	1				150	7	4
Deepwater	Deepwater	67	57	124	60.7	51.4	112.1	365	10	0	5	15	5	0	16	3	423	8	2
Delegate	Delegate	33	27	60	23.4	19.5	42.9	182	15	0	2	17	10	26	3	8	218	2	1
Demondrille	Demondrille	20	17	37	15.8	11.0	26.8	132	13	4	1	2	8				138	10	0
Demondrille Junction	Murrumburrah	27	23	50	21.2	15.1	36.3	161	8	4	3	5	8				179	18	9
Denitiquin	Denitiquin	171	158	329	125.1	123.1	248.2	677	7	0	11	9	11	2	4	6	781	6	3
Denman	Denman	42	37	79	29.2	23.1	52.3	237	2	3	4	13	9				250	2	10
Derrigullen	Yass	12	16	28	7.5	9.3	16.8	96	15	0	0	11	9				100	14	0
Dingo Creek	Wherrol Flat	17	14	31	10.7	10.6	21.3	125	0	0	1	10	8				259	10	10
Doctor's Creek	Bingara	16	12	28	11.4	8.7	20.1	105	13	4	2	15	3	0	19	0	140	8	7
Donald	Armidale	16	13	29	11.6	10.3	21.9	125	0	0	1	9	4				130	1	7
Dondingalong	Dondingalong	12	12	24	6.9	7.9	14.7	73	13	4	0	16	9				74	10	1
Dondymun	South Grafton	23	21	44	14.6	13.1	27.7	118	15	0				2	12	0	121	7	0
Double Bay	Edgecliff	163	141	304	115.2	96.9	212.1	507	2	3	11	13	7				546	1	3
Double Peak	Mount Hope	13	11	24	9.1	8.8	17.9	101	8	0	1	19	11				122	1	7
Downside	Wagga Wagga	21	15	36	12.5	11.8	24.3	125	0	0	2	1	3				133	3	6
Drake	Drake	80	69	149	57.5	44.8	102.3	424	13	4	4	9	8	2	10	0	480	14	0
Dropval	Coolah	17	12	29	11.5	8.9	20.4	135	8	4	1	14	3				157	19	5
Drummoyne	Drummoyne	163	155	318	120.1	108.7	228.8	417	0	0	14	14	4	6	11	0	484	8	3
Druwalla	Jamberoo	14	9	23	10.8	7.7	18.5	89	10	0	1	13	2				91	10	0
Dubbo	Dubbo	368	333	701	255.6	225.1	480.7	1,554	10	6	24	12	9	10	0	0	1,672	18	2
Dudley	Dudley	56	59	115	42.4	48.1	90.5	341	8	1	3	11	1	0	15	0	360	8	0
Dulwich Hill	Dulwich Hill	320	198	518	235.4	138.2	373.6	749	11	0	7	4	6	1	1	6	912	13	4
Dumaresq	Dumaresq	30	23	53	22.9	17.9	40.8	156	15	0	1	0	1				160	18	7
Dumaresq Island	Nirrim	20	29	49	16.8	24.7	40.5	153	15	0	2	7	10				162	2	1
Duncan's Creek	Woolomin	19	8	27	16.7	6.5	23.2	113	0	0	2	16	10				118	19	1
Dundas	Dundas	40	45	85	30.7	34.2	64.9	273	10	0	4	6	0				338	2	10
Dundee	Dundee	18	6	24	14.4	5.0	19.4	110	6	8	1	3	2	5	14	0	120	6	1
Dungaree	Lue	19	23	42	15.0	17.4	32.4	148	0	0	1	19	9				159	12	0
Dungay Creek	Murwillumbah	14	15	29	9.6	10.7	20.3	94	3	4				2	5	0	98	11	10
Dungog	Dungog	115	90	205	81.3	64.2	145.5	400	10	0	4	10	6	0	10	6	446	12	8
Dungowan, Lower	Dungowan	24	21	45	17.2	13.7	30.9	155	13	4	2	0	5				161	1	0
Dunkeld	Dunkeld	24	23	47	17.6	13.6	31.2	148	0	0	1	1	4				152	8	7
Dunolly	Singleton	25	30	55	20.9	22.6	43.5	171	0	0	1	9	5				177	10	2
Dunoon	Lismore	22	22	44	14.1	16.2	30.6	132	3	4	1	15	6				136	11	1
Dunvegan	Coff's Harbour	18	11	29	15.3	8.7	24.0	113	0	0	2	10	6				119	11	6
Dural	Dural	31	40	72	24.5	28.8	53.3	205	18	4	4	11	11				234	9	1
Duranbah	Cudgen	12	15	27	9.4	11.5	20.9	107	10	0	1	17	4	3	4	0	128	0	7
Duri	Currahubula	34	17	51	22.8	10.9	33.7	136	0	0	1	4	2				139	16	5
Dural View	Armidale	10	10	20	5.7	7.9	13.6	91	0	0	1	0	7				94	16	1
Engleton	Eskdale	23	15	38	13.9	9.1	23.0	148	0	0	1	7	10	6	0	0	290	1	3
Eastgrove	Goulburn	84	75	159	63.1	55.2	118.3	381	15	0	5	18	10				403	0	4
Eastwood	Eastwood	55	62	117	36.0	38.5	74.5	285	0	0	3	10	6				300	15	4
Estonsville	Estonsville	15	26	41	12.2	16.8	29.0	148	0	0	2	0	8				152	12	1
Ebenezer	Ebenezer	23	24	47	18.3	17.9	36.2	188	10	0	2	9	3				203	11	5
Eceleston	Eceleston	8	18	26	5.7	13.6	19.3	113	0	0	1	8	0				117	0	3
Eden	Eden	21	24	45	18.3	17.6	35.9	171	0	0	0	19	5				175	11	8
Eden Valley	Goomoorah	14	12	26	10.0	9.5	19.5	98	6	8	1	1	3	1	6	0	103	16	2
Edge Hill	Henty	7	24	31	4.6	17.5	22.1	109	6	8	1	1	6				113	0	5
Edith	Via Oberon	14	16	30	9.6	10.0	19.6	112	15	1	1	14	1				117	16	5
Edwardstown	Gundagai	33	33	66	24.5	21.1	45.6	171	0	0	2	10	7				171	12	10
Egliford	Ellalong	18	16	34	11.1	10.4	21.5	113	0	0	1	19	7				135	18	4
Eglinton	Bathurst	28	30	58	22.0	21.4	43.4	155	13	4	2	10	5				163	4	2
Elderslie	Elderslie	28	13	41	19.9	9.7	29.6	155	13	4	2	10	8				166	19	3
Ellalong	Ellalong	21	25	46	13.5	15.5	29.0	155	13	4	1	12	2				207	14	9
Elmwood	Moss Vale	17	12	29	11.3	9.1	20.4	113	0	0	1	16	9				118	1	3
Elsmore	Inverell	28	40	68	19.3	29.4	48.7	171	0	0	3	7	1				189	18	7
Emmaville	Emmaville	94	106	200	69.5	78.5	148.0	402	10	0	8	19	6				517	1	8
Emu	Emu	55	51	106	34.4	35.0	69.4	257	10	0	3	15	2				269	2	0
Emore	Newtown	362	364	726	271.5	279.0	550.5	1,625	7	0	14	3	8				1,867	12	5
Erina	Via Gosford	18	10	28	13.6	6.7	20.3	120	13	4	1	15	7				125	1	2
Eringonia	Eringonia	8	12	20	6.2	8.4	14.6	113	0	0	1	15	7	6	1	6	127	12	1
Ernington	Ernington	33	39	72	24.5	28.0	52.5	261	10	0	1	19	4				296	19	4
Erskine Park	St. Mary's	16	21	37	11.2	13.9	25.1	132	13	4	1	9	10				136	15	5
Erskineville	Erskineville	758	706	1,464	579.0	520.1	1,099.1	2,649	11	3	23	11	8				2,933	15	2
Eschol	Dubbo	22	8	30	15.4	6.8	22.2	120	13	4	1	3	3				125	8	10
Eusabalong	Eusabalong	14	15	29	10.2	10.5	20.7	89	10	0	2	0	8	3	10	0	116	4	5
Eugowra	Eugowra	20	29	48	14.1	20.1	34.2	155	13	4	1	7	3				160	16	2
Eulah Creek	Nurrabri	21	17	38	15.3	10.8	26.1	132	13	4	1	7	3				136	12	10
Eulomogo	Dubbo	11	13	24	6.4	9.5	15.9	89	10	0							93	2	3
Eurobodalla	Eurobodalla	14	15	29	11.8	24.4	24.2	113	0	0	2	10	4				118	12	7
Euroka	West Kempsey	33	27	60	23.8	20.5	44.3	244	10	0	1	9	5				259	1	8
Eurunderee	Eurunderee	14	18	32	9.5	13.3	22.8	148	0	0	1	10	7				153	2	9
Euston	Euston	35	16	51	27.8	12.0	39.8	165	15	0	3	2	5				175	10	5
Euwylong	Raymond Terrace	30	27	57	19.2	15.0	34.2	136	0	0	3	11	8				154	9	9
Evans' Plains	Evans' Plains	10	13	23	6.0	9.4	15.4	121	6	8	0	17	4				132	15	11

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance			Expenditure from Public Funds												
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.								
								£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.								
Everett*	Guyra	4	10	14	3.1	8.0	11.1	26	13	4	0	5	3	0	10	0	27	8	7	
Everton Vale	Rocky River	15	13	28	10.2	9.2	19.4	113	0	0	1	9	11	3	12	3	118	2	2	
Exeter	Exeter	46	19	65	32.9	12.3	45.2	184	13	4	4	5	5	1	1	1	199	10	10	
Fairford	Fairford	23	22	45	19.0	17.4	36.4	163	0	0	2	13	0	32	17	0	198	10	0	
Fairfield	Fairfield	70	60	130	49.1	40.0	89.1	316	10	0	2	6	6	83	19	0	402	15	6	
Fairview	Wallabadah	8	9	17	7.5	8.5	16.0	78	0	0	0	16	9	78	16	0	78	16	0	
Fairy Meadow	Fairy Meadow	83	66	149	63.3	44.5	107.8	317	10	0	6	14	5	10	9	0	335	3	8	
Falconer	Guyra	18	16	34	13.3	12.9	26.2	113	0	0	2	5	11	3	12	0	118	17	11	
Falla Creek	Nowra	24	23	47	16.9	16.8	33.7	176	16	8	0	18	11	4	10	3	182	5	10	
Farnham	Stuart Town	5	8	13	3.2	4.7	7.9	120	6	8	.....	.....	.....	3	2	3	123	8	11
Felled Timber Creek	Dalton	9	15	24	6.3	10.6	16.9	125	0	0	.....	.....	.....	6	14	3	131	14	3
Ferndale	Gilmore	6	10	16	4.7	8.3	13.0	108	16	8	1	16	10	8	15	6	119	9	0
Fernhill	Inverell	23	17	40	17.4	12.7	30.1	148	0	0	0	6	0	45	9	3	193	15	3	
Fernleigh	Tintenbar	22	9	31	16.3	5.2	21.5	107	10	0	1	16	4	3	9	6	112	15	10	
Fernmount	Fernmount	28	26	54	21.2	15.8	37.0	171	0	0	1	13	4	2	12	3	175	5	7	
Fifield	Fifield	22	19	41	16.9	10.8	27.7	123	2	6	3	17	6	11	1	3	144	10	5	
Finley	Via Jerilderie	23	19	42	13.1	12.4	25.5	98	0	0	3	15	1	64	9	5	166	4	6	
Fish River Creek	Fish River Creek	14	12	26	6.2	6.7	12.9	125	0	0	1	3	10	4	7	3	130	11	1	
Five Dock	Five Dock	81	71	152	60.0	52.0	112.0	437	11	8	6	14	5	79	9	10	523	15	11	
Fladbury	Dundee Railway Station	21	13	34	12.8	8.6	21.4	89	10	0	1	13	5	0	10	0	91	13	5	
Forbes	Forbes	215	204	419	153.6	134.1	287.7	868	9	3	18	13	6	359	12	2	1,250	6	11	
Forest Hill	Wagga Wagga	26	15	41	18.3	12.0	30.3	125	0	0	1	2	6	95	7	1	223	15	1	
Forest Lodge	Glebe	524	507	1,031	389.3	355.9	745.2	2,322	9	9	24	15	10	149	10	9	2,500	16	4	
Forest, Lower	Millthorpe	15	25	40	12.5	19.0	31.5	148	0	0	1	5	10	58	6	3	202	12	1	
Forrester	Forrester	12	15	27	9.9	11.6	21.5	102	0	0	1	9	5	2	12	3	106	1	8	
Forster	Forster	34	24	58	26.9	17.0	43.9	171	0	0	5	5	10	413	12	1	589	17	11	
Fort-street	Sydney	1,125	765	1,890	988.9	611.1	1,600.0	5,147	17	2	116	6	10	612	1	8	5,881	12	11	
Fort-street, Lower	Sydney	160	122	282	119.7	85.7	205.4	651	14	9	9	1	10	129	9	10	790	6	5	
Fosterton	Dungog	13	14	27	9.7	11.3	21.0	113	0	0	1	7	8	10	19	3	125	6	11	
Four-mile Creek	East Maitland	9	12	21	6.0	8.7	14.7	120	6	8	0	8	1	15	12	1	136	6	10	
Foxground	Gerrington	11	13	24	6.9	8.9	15.8	143	1	8	0	19	4	17	15	7	161	16	7	
Fox Hill	Cobargo	20	21	41	12.0	14.6	26.6	93	6	8	0	17	1	98	7	1	98	7	1	
Frampton	Montefield	36	19	55	26.7	12.2	38.9	165	5	0	1	14	7	14	5	2	181	4	9	
Frederickton	Frederickton	73	71	144	52.4	48.6	101.0	383	10	0	5	17	11	38	9	0	427	16	11	
Freeman's Reach	Freeman's Reach	34	45	79	23.7	30.7	54.4	270	15	0	3	18	10	7	16	10	282	10	8	
Frogmoor	Frogmoor	25	24	49	17.5	17.6	35.1	171	0	0	1	3	10	7	15	9	179	19	7	
Fronce's Creek	Mudgee	10	14	24	6.4	11.4	17.8	103	0	0	1	6	4	3	12	3	107	18	7	
Fullerton	Fullerton	21	18	39	10.4	10.4	20.8	103	16	8	1	2	3	3	2	3	108	1	2	
Furraabad	Glen Innes	9	14	23	6.7	10.8	17.5	113	0	0	1	5	1	3	2	0	117	7	1	
Galathara Road	Narrabri	14	14	28	8.9	10.6	19.5	137	10	0	1	15	10	16	12	3	155	18	1	
Galley Swamp	Galley Swamp	34	44	78	20.5	27.6	48.1	183	2	9	2	4	3	182	10	6	372	17	6	
Galong	Galong	19	17	36	13.4	10.9	24.3	106	4	2	1	12	11	25	12	4	133	9	5	
Galston	Galston	40	48	88	29.9	35.0	64.9	246	0	0	3	14	4	10	17	10	200	12	2	
Galwadgerie	Dripstone	10	13	23	9.5	8.1	17.6	89	10	0	2	4	9	5	3	2	96	17	11	
Gannain	Gannain	28	19	47	18.5	11.9	30.4	148	0	0	2	4	0	6	17	3	157	1	3	
Gannon's Creek	Gannon's Creek	19	8	27	13.7	6.1	19.8	102	0	0	0	7	6	36	11	0	140	12	5	
Garangula	Garangula	15	18	33	8.4	7.3	15.7	136	0	0	.....	.....	.....	4	0	5	140	0	5
Gardener's Road	Waterloo	253	215	468	181.8	155.3	337.1	804	7	4	17	19	9	205	15	3	1,041	3	7	
Garra	Via Molong	21	11	32	14.7	6.8	21.5	132	13	4	0	6	2	3	7	3	136	6	9	
Gaspard	Wallabadah	16	13	29	10.3	7.4	18.2	80	0	0	1	16	9	8	2	7	81	16	9	
Gentleman's Halt	Gentleman's Halt	22	7	29	17.7	4.6	22.3	132	13	4	1	0	5	58	5	3	101	19	0	
George's Creek	Bundarra	12	4	16	8.3	2.4	10.7	76	0	0	1	12	1	0	10	0	78	2	1	
German Creek	Ballina	41	29	70	31.6	21.4	53.0	238	3	11	3	1	8	8	2	10	249	8	5	
Germanton	Germanton	53	41	94	38.4	30.3	68.7	229	10	0	3	5	4	10	1	10	242	17	2	
Gerogery	Gerogery	17	12	29	10.1	6.9	17.0	132	13	4	0	14	11	3	7	3	136	15	6	
Gerogery Railway Stn	Gerogery	15	9	24	12.1	6.6	18.7	80	1	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	80	1	8
Gerrington	Gerrington	60	64	124	44.0	43.5	87.5	318	0	0	4	8	9	77	12	10	400	1	7	
Gerryberryn	South Grafton	17	20	37	9.2	14.5	23.7	132	13	4	1	17	8	2	12	3	137	3	3	
Geurie	Geurie	37	35	72	25.7	26.4	52.1	205	10	1	4	11	4	370	4	0	580	5	5	
Ghinni Ghinni	Ghinni Ghinni	28	6	34	21.7	4.6	26.3	132	13	4	2	2	8	112	7	1	247	3	1	
Giant's Creek	Denman	17	19	36	14.1	14.7	28.8	148	0	0	1	11	1	85	12	3	235	3	4	
Gilgai	Inverell	28	18	46	23.6	11.8	35.4	171	0	0	3	17	9	4	8	9	179	1	6	
Gilgandra	Gilgandra	39	23	62	27.3	14.6	41.9	165	5	0	2	5	6	67	14	9	235	5	3	
Gilgunnia	Gilgunnia	26	25	51	12.5	13.4	25.9	163	0	0	8	6	1	36	6	9	216	17	7	
Gilliceston	West Maitland	54	31	85	36.7	19.4	56.1	236	6	10	2	8	11	28	5	0	267	0	9	
Girilambone	Girilambone	29	39	68	16.6	19.6	36.2	252	10	0	.....	.....	.....	27	3	4	279	13	4
Gladesville	Gladesville	96	83	179	72.8	63.6	136.4	269	6	9	6	11	8	30	11	8	313	1	7	
Gladstone	Gladstone	48	40	88	31.8	23.1	54.9	273	10	0	0	12	9	7	16	10	283	19	7	
Glebe	Glebe	710	622	1,332	539.0	448.5	987.5	2,705	16	8	23	12	8	259	9	0	2,988	18	4	
Glen	Tent Hill	51	56	107	43.3	48.4	91.7	243	0	0	1	16	11	8	19	7	275	2	8	
Glenbrook	Glenbrook	14	13	27	10.4	10.2	20.6	89	10	0	0	19	7	6	18	0	97	7	7	
Glenburn	Wiseman's Creek	14	14	28	9.7	8.0	17.7	107	16	8	1	10	9	2	6	0	111	13	5	
Glencoe	Glencoe	23	21	44	16.3	12.7	29.0	136	0	0	1	17	6	3	14	3	141	11	9	
Glendon Brook	Glendon Brook	23	25	48	14.3	18.3	32.6	148	0	0	1	12	9	2	12	3	152	5	0	
Glenfield	Liverpool	23	23	46	13.7	17.6	31.3	152	0	0	2	6	6	23	7	3	177	13	9	
Glenhaven	Glenhaven	18	13	31	13.2	10.2	23.4	116	0	0	2	4	7	12	0	9	131	14	3	
Glen Innes	Glen Innes	194	172	366	164.2	139.4	303.6	853	2	9	16	7	9	96	8	4	965	18	10	
Glenmore	Oaks	14	9	23	12.3	6.5	18.8	132	13	4	.....	.....	.....	2	12	3	135	5	7
Glenmore Road	Paddington	202	177	379	157.3	132.0	289.3	837	19	8	5	2	5	66	17	0	909	19	1	
Glen Morrison	Glen Morrison	6	13	19	5.2	10.3	15.5	88	3	4	1	5	3	0	10	0	89	18	7	
Glenorie	Glenorie	22	21	43	16.1	16.2	32.3	137	10	0	1	14	10	23	2	3	162	7	1	
Glenreagh																				

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.															
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.		Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.										
								£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.				
Glenroy	Rosewood	14	14	28	10.2	11.0	21.2	113	0	0	1	17	4				3	16	6	118	13	10	
Glenthorne	Glenthorne	21	8	29	12.6	4.4	17.0	139	10	1	1	0	8				14	16	3	155	7	0	
Glen William	Glen William	16	16	32	11.8	11.9	23.7	125	0	0	0	19	0				2	12	3	128	11	3	
Glenwood	Hall	9	6	15	7.4	5.0	12.4	71	0	0	1	1	0				0	15	0	72	16	0	
Gobarralong	Coalac	11	13	24	6.3	4.7	11.0	87	16	8	1	12	8				2	16	0	92	5	4	
Gocup	Gocup	13	9	22	8.3	6.4	14.7	129	0	0	1	7	2				6	17	3	137	4	5	
Gollan	Gollan	12	10	22	9.3	7.1	16.4	102	0	0	1	1	10	5	10	0		2	12	3	111	4	1
Golspie	Golspie	22	18	40	14.0	13.4	27.4	121	6	8	2	9	4				4	7	9	128	3	9	
Gondarin Creek	Mount Keira	14	16	30	8.6	11.8	20.4	125	0	0	0	18	11				1	6	0	127	4	11	
Goobang	Parkes	16	13	29	7.6	6.9	14.5	135	1	11	0	19	11				2	0	10	138	2	8	
Good Hope	Good Hope	7	14	21	4.4	10.9	15.3	91	0	0	1	4	5				3	7	3	95	11	8	
Googooga	Googooga	24	27	51	17.3	21.3	38.6	171	0	0	5	5	3				16	12	3	192	17	6	
Googong*	Queanbeyan	8	4	12	4.8	3.0	7.8	40	0	0							1	0	0	41	0	0	
Googong	Googong	29	26	55	18.0	20.7	38.7	153	15	0	1	4	0				16	6	7	171	5	7	
Goolma	Goolma	18	15	33	12.3	7.9	20.2	113	0	0	2	2	5				18	8	9	133	11	2	
Goonollebah	Lismore	33	24	57	23.1	17.4	40.5	171	0	0	2	7	11				2	12	3	176	0	2	
Goonoo Goonoo	Goonoo Goonoo	11	6	17	5.7	4.8	10.5	77	18	4	0	16	1							78	9	5	
Goonowigall	Inverell	28	22	50	19.7	14.7	34.4	143	18	4	2	7	3				4	2	3	150	2	10	
Goorangoola	Goorangoola	12	11	23	8.4	8.3	16.7	83	0	0	1	9	7							84	9	7	
Goorihurst	Currabubula	11	11	22	8.6	9.5	18.1	89	10	0	1	1	2				0	4	0	90	15	2	
Gordon	Gordon	103	90	193	76.6	71.8	148.4	347	0	0	9	7	4				106	12	2	462	19	6	
Gordonville	Bellingen	21	18	39	16.1	14.4	30.5	148	0	0	1	1	11				1	6	0	150	7	11	
Gorham	Burrowa	15	10	25	12.2	8.2	20.4	127	1	8	1	12	4				16	7	3	145	1	3	
Gosford	Gosford	89	73	162	59.6	45.9	105.5	302	10	0	5	8	4				86	4	0	394	2	4	
Gosforth	Gosforth	15	15	30	8.5	8.8	17.3	132	18	4	2	8	9				7	15	0	142	17	1	
Gosling Creek	Guyong	10	8	18	4.9	4.5	9.4	91	0	0	1	2	5				3	7	0	95	9	5	
Gough Town	Merrylands	98	72	170	65.9	49.5	115.4	356	17	6	2	16	9				18	3	1	377	17	4	
Goulburn	Goulburn	273	306	579	197.2	219.0	416.2	1,455	2	6	23	17	0	1	6	6		75	12	9	1,555	18	9
Goulburn North	Goulburn	243	192	435	169.6	133.6	303.2	953	9	9	14	18	0				59	7	3	1,027	15	0	
Goulburn South	Goulburn	226	191	417	168.9	138.8	307.7	957	15	0	15	1	2	0	17	9		77	8	11	1,051	2	10
Gouldsville	Singletou	24	24	48	18.2	17.7	35.9	148	0	0	2	6	11				3	7	3	153	14	2	
Gourlay	Cundelo	12	14	26	9.4	12.5	21.9	120	11	8	2	0	5				2	13	3	125	5	4	
Gowrie	Goonoo Goonoo	11	12	23	10.2	10.6	20.8	87	13	4	1	12	3	6	16	2		2	8	0	98	9	9
Grafton	Grafton	403	380	783	303.9	296.0	599.9	1,893	2	1	17	1	8	2	10	0		420	17	6	2,333	11	3
Grafton South	South Grafton	97	76	173	73.7	59.1	132.8	403	10	0							20	9	0	423	19	0	
Graham's Valley	Glenroc	18	19	37	14.9	14.5	29.4	136	0	0	2	9	0				3	2	3	141	11	3	
Graman	Graman	18	11	29	12.7	6.8	19.5	137	10	0	2	10	7				18	15	8	153	16	3	
Grantliam	George's Plains	12	14	26	6.8	6.4	13.2	132	13	4	0	17	11				9	7	3	142	18	6	
Granville	Granville	360	347	707	279.8	260.5	540.3	1,604	8	4	22	17	10				93	8	2	1,720	14	4	
Granville North	Granville	197	156	353	153.4	113.5	266.9	751	16	8	10	7	4	2	16	3		246	7	6	1,011	7	9
Granville South	Granville	78	65	143	56.8	44.8	101.6	332	0	0	4	17	5				37	1	4	373	18	9	
Graftal	Mudgee	13	8	21	8.7	5.8	14.5	91	0	0	1	7	11				3	12	3	96	0	2	
Great Central	Mount Hope	21	9	30	15.1	5.4	20.5	140	13	4	0	17	3	4	4	6		46	7	2	192	2	3
Greendale	Greendale	9	5	14	6.6	3.8	10.9	78	13	4	0	18	10				0	17	3	80	9	5	
Green Grove	Cudal	9	12	21	5.7	9.3	15.0	86	6	8	1	19	3				0	15	0	89	0	11	
Green Hill	Green Hill	15	20	35	12.3	15.7	28.0	169	9	9	0	14	3				2	12	3	172	16	3	
Green's Ganyah	The Rock	23	18	46	21.0	11.0	32.0	136	0	0	1	15	2				13	8	8	151	3	10	
Green Valley	Liverpool	21	23	44	15.4	15.3	30.7	118	15	0	2	2	2				2	12	0	123	9	2	
Greenwell Point	Greenwell Point	25	29	54	18.8	22.6	41.4	148	0	0	0	14	4				2	12	3	151	6	7	
Greenwich	Greenwich	69	40	99	46.3	30.3	76.6	223	10	0	7	14	11				13	10	10	244	15	9	
Greenwood	Tumbar	16	11	27	13.9	9.2	23.1	95	15	0	1	2	2	3	0	6		1	12	6	101	10	2
Gregadoo	Wagga Wagga	12	14	26	9.0	10.8	19.8	113	0	0	0	15	3				2	17	3	116	12	6	
Greghumstown	Blayney	30	19	49	20.6	12.8	33.4	148	0	0	0	5	0				3	7	3	151	12	3	
Gregru	Cudal	17	14	31	9.8	10.7	20.5	113	0	0	0	13	11				4	19	9	118	13	8	
Greig's Flat	Greig's Flat	23	21	44	15.1	16.8	31.9	136	10	0	2	2	3				25	3	9	163	16	0	
Grenfell	Grenfell	117	113	230	81.0	74.0	155.0	383	16	8	8	12	1	2	2	6		14	8	0	408	19	3
Gresford	Gresford	40	37	77	22.9	23.5	46.4	171	0	0	3	4	6				2	12	3	176	16	9	
Groswick	Seaham	13	11	24	11.0	9.3	20.3	114	16	8	2	18	10				2	12	2	120	7	8	
Greta	Greta	164	146	310	122.4	105.8	228.2	689	15	3	7	18	5	62	3	9		41	13	2	801	16	7
Grong Grong	Grong Grong	52	39	91	31.4	23.5	57.9	240	0	0	1	13	0				255	14	10	497	7	10	
Guildford	Guildford	23	32	60	20.1	22.8	42.9	159	0	0	1	15	10				5	8	3	166	4	1	
Gulgambone	Gulgambone	41	42	83	28.8	30.0	58.8	188	10	0	4	3	2				56	8	0	249	1	2	
Gulgarruc	Gulgarruc	17	23	40	8.3	12.1	20.4	160	16	8	1	3	5	1	12	6		3	12	0	167	4	7
Gulgong	Gulgong	61	91	152	46.2	73.3	119.5	362	10	0	2	12	10				14	14	0	379	16	10	
Gullen	Gullen	24	25	49	17.0	21.4	38.4	171	0	0	2	10	5				8	19	2	132	9	7	
Gullen Flat	Gullen Flat	12	12	24	7.1	5.9	13.0	77	13	4	1	5	5				0	10	0	79	8	9	
Gum Flat	Gum Flat	34	28	62	23.3	18.7	42.0	210	0	0	1	15	11	25	0	0		9	4	4	246	0	3
Gunbar	Gunbar	14	17	31	9.2	13.8	23.0	132	3	4	1	17	2				11	2	3	145	2	9	
Gundagai	Gundagai	89	60	149	63.8	42.0	105.8	341	0	0	9	6	2				95	15	6	446	1	8	
Gundagai South	Gundagai	43	37	80	31.0	28.0	59.0	223	10	0	2	4	2				15	16	10	241	11	0	
Gundaroo	Gundaroo	26	28	54	18.8	19.9	38.7	171	0	0	4	9	9				8	12	3	184	2	0	
Gundurimba	Gundurimba	24	23	47	17.4	16.5	33.9	171	0	0	1	7	8				35	9	3	207	16	11	
Gundy	Gundy	23	27	50	17.2	18.8	36.0	163	15	0	2	5	1				99	4	3	255	4	4	
Gunnedah	Gunnedah	152	127	279	113.1	92.7	205.8	524	18	11	7	11	0	1	12	3		19	13	10	553	16	0
Gunnenbone	Carroll	12	15	27	8.7	11.5	20.2	113	0														

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.
								£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Hamilton	Hamilton	472	423	895	345.1	314.3	680.4	1,850 0 11	22 7 1	2 4 3	78 12 9	1,953 5 0
Hanbury	Waratah	174	151	325	129.6	112.9	242.5	472 10 0	6 11 4	6 16 3	50 12 0	536 9 7
Hanging Rock	Nundle	22	14	36	16.7	10.8	27.5	125 0 0	1 7 9	.....	9 0 6	135 8 3
Harben Vale	Blandford	5	12	17	4.2	10.6	14.8	83 13 4	0 19 0	.....	.....	84 12 4
Harefield	Harefield	13	12	25	10.5	9.6	20.1	113 0 0	0 17 11	.....	2 17 3	116 15 2
Hargraves	Hargraves	24	31	55	19.8	23.1	42.9	171 0 0	0 11 8	.....	5 12 8	177 4 4
Harley Hill	Berry	15	15	30	7.6	9.1	16.7	115 13 4	1 10 2	0 11 8	31 2 10	143 18 0
Harrington	Harrington	34	26	60	24.4	16.9	41.3	123 16 8	3 7 11	4 5 0	2 1 3	133 10 10
Hartford	Walcha	15	11	26	10.7	5.5	16.2	98 6 8	0 18 5	.....	3 2 3	102 7 4
Hartley	Hartley	13	29	42	8.0	17.1	25.1	148 0 0	0 18 1	.....	3 9 6	152 7 7
Hartley Vale	Hartley Vale	60	59	119	48.3	43.7	92.0	346 13 4	5 11 2	.....	50 9 2	402 13 8
Harwood Island	Harwood Island	75	70	145	54.6	48.3	102.9	356 10 0	2 19 11	10 0 0	15 17 6	385 7 5
Hawkesbury, Lower	Wiseman's Ferry	21	11	32	18.0	8.2	26.2	113 0 0	0 14 5	1 15 6	2 12 3	118 2 2
Hawkins' Creek	Barraba	28	15	43	16.7	10.6	27.3	136 8 4	2 6 5	.....	3 8 0	132 2 9
Hay	Hay	218	219	437	159.7	159.2	318.9	757 17 5	8 12 8	.....	73 0 10	839 10 11
Heathcote	Heathcote	8	21	29	5.8	14.7	20.5	137 10 0	0 14 9	.....	12 18 8	151 3 5
Helensburgh	Helensburgh	177	192	369	129.2	138.8	268.0	612 12 2	8 2 3	0 19 6	43 17 3	565 11 2
Henty	Henty	29	25	54	21.7	16.2	37.9	161 8 4	1 4 11	.....	12 19 5	175 12 8
Heron's Creek	Kendall	21	13	34	15.6	8.1	23.7	114 10 0	1 2 2	4 11 0	45 13 9	165 16 11
Hexham	Hexham	40	37	77	30.4	29.2	59.6	241 11 1	2 19 2	.....	8 11 10	293 2 1
Hibbard	Port Macquarie	28	26	54	20.3	19.6	39.9	171 0 0	1 5 3	.....	26 12 3	198 17 6
Hickey's Creek	Toorooka	15	8	23	11.2	6.3	17.5	91 0 0	1 15 11	.....	2 12 3	95 8 2
Hill Crest	Kangaroo Valley	11	17	28	6.1	11.1	17.2	113 0 0	1 4 9	.....	2 12 3	116 17 0
Hill End	Hill End	99	78	177	72.6	56.2	128.8	359 0 6	6 13 5	.....	28 6 8	394 0 7
Hillgrove	Hillgrove	184	219	403	137.4	133.8	271.2	518 10 0	22 9 4	.....	107 3 2	648 2 6
Hillmont	Marengo	15	19	34	9.0	14.2	23.2	97 6 8	1 12 0	0 15 0	7 6 3	106 19 11
Hillston	Hillston	73	75	148	53.3	47.2	100.5	274 8 6	6 8 9	4 19 6	132 18 4	418 15 1
Hill View	Uralla	13	7	20	11.4	4.4	15.8	79 5 0	0 3 9	.....	1 0 0	80 8 9
Hinton	Hinton	55	59	114	46.0	49.5	95.5	297 10 0	3 2 5	.....	47 2 5	347 14 0
Hobby's Yards	Hobby's Yards	23	21	44	17.2	13.9	31.1	148 9 0	2 8 2	.....	3 7 3	153 15 5
Holdsworth	Liverpool	17	12	29	14.3	9.8	24.1	132 13 4	1 6 3	.....	7 6 8	141 6 3
Holmwood	Cowra	24	23	47	13.3	15.4	28.7	136 0 0	1 3 11	.....	4 10 3	141 14 2
Holy Camp	Grenfell	4	13	17	2.5	9.0	11.5	77 13 4	1 0 11	.....	0 17 3	79 11 6
Homebush	Homebush	122	81	203	86.6	58.5	145.1	449 3 4	7 9 1	.....	29 14 0	486 6 5
Homeville	West Maitland	105	80	185	74.7	50.6	125.3	352 16 8	5 7 0	.....	44 5 2	402 8 10
Hopfield	Cowra	8	14	22	6.1	12.1	18.2	103 0 0	.....	.....	3 2 0	116 2 0
Hornsby	Hornsby	27	38	65	21.9	28.4	50.3	159 0 0	2 1 9	.....	3 9 3	164 11 0
Hornsby Junction	Hornsby Junction	119	112	231	86.3	81.3	170.6	408 10 0	6 15 7	.....	19 19 0	435 4 7
Horseshoe Bend	West Maitland	35	47	82	27.6	35.6	63.2	211 10 0	.....	.....	12 1 4	223 11 4
Hovell	Moorwatha	12	19	31	8.1	12.9	21.0	125 0 0	0 10 4	.....	3 2 3	128 12 7
Howlong	Howlong	37	22	59	29.4	18.2	47.6	197 16 8	2 14 11	5 0 0	8 16 9	214 8 4
Hoxton Park	Hoxton Park	43	36	79	30.6	26.0	56.6	223 0 0	3 16 2	.....	10 11 10	242 8 0
Hue Hue	Wyce	11	9	20	9.2	8.2	17.4	89 10 0	0 19 7	.....	2 12 3	93 1 10
Humula	Humula	26	21	47	16.3	15.2	31.5	148 0 0	2 11 8	5 10 3	62 10 9	218 12 8
Hunter's Hill	Hunter's Hill	47	52	99	36.5	36.6	73.1	268 0 0	2 12 8	.....	223 14 5	494 7 1
Huntingdon	Huntingdon	14	10	24	11.4	8.7	20.1	100 10 0	1 6 7	.....	1 6 0	103 2 7
Huon	Jindera	9	11	20	6.0	7.9	13.9	114 10 0	1 0 10	1 8 3	15 19 0	132 18 1
Hurlstone	Ashfield	.....	164	164	.....	110.3	110.3	446 10 0	4 12 10	.....	10 8 0	461 10 10
Hurstville	Hurstville	311	280	591	242.8	207.8	450.6	1,184 13 2	18 0 3	.....	167 6 5	1,369 19 10
Hurstville West	Hurstville	96	75	171	69.6	63.5	133.1	340 16 8	3 13 1	.....	48 17 5	333 7 2
Huskisson North	Tomerong	16	14	30	13.0	10.2	23.2	125 0 0	1 14 7	.....	3 2 3	129 16 10
Hxford	Hxford	26	18	44	10.1	12.1	22.2	148 0 0	1 6 4	.....	4 2 0	153 8 4
Ilabo	Ilabo	29	30	59	20.2	16.5	36.7	152 10 0	3 7 7	.....	10 14 2	166 11 9
Iuka	Iuka	23	19	42	19.2	16.0	35.2	136 0 0	1 3 8	.....	9 2 3	146 5 11
Ingleburn	Ingleburn	52	52	104	40.8	37.6	78.3	292 10 0	2 19 5	1 13 8	15 12 4	312 15 5
Ingliswood	Milthorpe	9	8	17	7.8	5.6	13.4	73 18 4	1 7 4	.....	0 10 0	75 15 8
Inverell	Inverell	207	157	364	143.5	115.7	259.2	779 1 0	17 11 4	8 8 9	27 8 7	832 9 8
Iona	Woodville	42	29	71	29.3	21.7	51.0	246 0 0	1 15 6	.....	32 4 10	280 0 4
Irene	Rockley	17	8	25	12.1	6.2	18.3	96 10 0	1 10 10	.....	5 13 4	103 14 2
Ironbong	Bethungra	12	9	21	8.9	6.1	15.0	82 13 4	0 18 4	.....	0 5 0	83 16 8
Irrington	Casino	36	21	57	25.1	15.3	40.4	144 3 4	1 14 11	.....	2 12 3	148 10 6
Islington	Wickham	226	236	462	169.3	177.7	347.0	856 3 4	10 2 9	.....	74 3 9	1,040 9 10
Ivanhoe	Ivanhoe	12	14	26	8.8	8.8	17.6	115 0 0	1 3 1	.....	7 0 9	123 3 10
Jacob and Joseph Creek	Quirindi	9	17	26	7.6	15.3	22.9	128 8 4	2 2 3	2 12 9	2 15 10	135 19 2
Jacua	Bungonia	14	12	26	9.1	7.4	16.5	113 0 0	6 4 3	0 17 6	3 2 3	123 4 0
Jamberoo	Jamberoo	51	44	95	34.1	26.2	60.3	246 0 0	3 7 6	.....	9 13 4	259 0 10
Jasper's Brush	Jasper's Brush	40	32	72	30.0	24.3	54.2	242 10 0	3 7 10	.....	14 6 1	260 3 11
Jellat Jellat	Bega	20	18	38	13.5	14.5	28.0	163 0 0	1 2 11	.....	21 7 5	185 10 4
Jembaicumbene	Jembaicumbene	21	28	49	11.4	18.6	30.0	148 0 0	2 3 7	.....	3 12 3	153 15 10
Jennings	Wallangarra (Q.)	26	19	45	20.8	17.2	38.0	146 13 4	2 2 2	.....	48 10 9	197 6 3
Jerilderie	Jerilderie	76	56	132	52.0	35.1	87.1	285 0 0	3 3 8	.....	12 10 10	300 14 6
Jerrara	Jerrara	22	11	33	15.9	7.8	23.7	113 0 0	.....	.....	121 6 8	234 6 8
Jerrawa	Jerrawa	21	27	48	17.4	16.4	33.8	130 15 0	2 3 1	.....	3 10 9	136 8 10
Jerrunga	Kangaroo Valley	15	12	27	10.7	9.1	19.8	96 10 0	1 15 7	.....	2 12 0	100 17 7
Jerry's Plains	Jerry's Plains	26	30	56	20.9	22.1	43.0	171 0 0	2 11 5	.....	3 18 3	177 9 8
Jesmond	Lambton	103	92	195	73.5	70.4	143.9	486 19 0	4 1 8	.....	90 3 6	581 4 2
Jilliby Jilliby	Jilliby Jilliby	18	26	44	12.3	18.5	30.8	136 0 0	1 10 7	.....	2 17 0	140 8 4
Jindabyne	Jindabyne	19	15	34	8.6	7.0	15.6	109 6 8	1 5 9	.....	3 12 0	114 4 5
Jindalee	Jindalee	17	11	28	11.6	8.9	20.5	125 0 0	0 12 3	.....	3 5 9	128 18 0
Jindalee, West	Cootamundra	18	11	29	12.1	8.7	20.8	109 16 8	1 3 5	.....	17 2 3	128 2 4
Jindera	Jindera	20	21	41	14.3	15.4	29.7	148 0 0	.....	.....	20 13 9	168 13 9

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.								
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.				
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Jingellie	Jingellie	16	12	28	9.3	8.6	17.9	113	0	0	1	19	10	6	3	6
Joadja	Joadja	24	38	62	17.3	20.4	46.7	273	3	4	2	2	0	12	9	0
Johnson's Creek	Weismantel's	12	12	24	9.3	8.9	18.2	113	0	0	2	1	11	5	2	0
John's River	Moorland	8	11	19	5.1	8.1	13.2	89	10	0	1	1	11	3	4	3
Jugiong	Jugiong	29	19	48	20.7	15.4	36.1	165	5	0	2	6	8	9	17	3
Junee	Junee	151	123	274	111.5	84.3	195.8	594	18	7	8	8	5	97	12	7
Junee, Old	Old Junee	18	26	44	11.0	17.4	28.4									
Junee Reefs	Junee	20	10	30	13.8	7.0	20.8	131	10	0	1	10	2	15	3	6
Kameruka	Candelo	17	14	31	14.0	8.1	22.1	113	0	0	0	19	7	1	15	10
Kangaloon	Kangaloon	26	27	53	16.9	17.0	33.9	149	0	0	1	14	4	5	14	3
Kangaloon, East	East Kangaloon	22	22	44	13.4	13.7	27.1	148	0	0	1	9	1	8	2	3
Kangaroo River	Kangaroo River	12	16	28	7.5	10.2	17.7	102	0	0	1	1	1	7	16	9
Kangaroo Valley	Kangaroo Valley	55	43	98	36.5	26.9	63.4	295	12	3	4	4	2	50	18	4
Karang	Coff's Harbour	17	20	37	12.2	15.7	27.9	118	15	0	2	5	10	2	12	3
Katoomba	Katoomba	144	121	265	89.9	72.1	162.0	507	5	0	5	8	7	23	1	10
Kayuga	Kayuga	11	21	32	7.0	15.1	22.1	125	0	0	1	12	8	6	11	9
Kegworth	Marrickville	322	305	627	257.0	241.4	498.4	1,543	13	0	22	13	5	343	19	10
Keirville	Keirville	78	58	136	61.3	46.1	107.4	291	16	5	4	7	9	20	8	4
Keirson	Tarana	15	14	29	10.9	9.6	20.5	89	10	0	2	7	8	1	0	6
Kelly's Plains	Kelly's Plains	27	22	49	19.6	13.7	33.3	119	10	0	2	9	9	21	16	7
Kellyville	Parramatta	30	35	65	19.1	23.2	42.3	171	0	0	2	10	10	8	3	5
Kelso	Kelso	58	65	123	42.4	49.3	91.7	316	0	0	3	14	5	15	7	9
Kempsey, East	East Kempsey	70	73	143	50.2	51.3	101.5	346	7	7	7	5	5	10	9	2
Kempsey, West	West Kempsey	115	149	264	86.2	110.7	196.9	451	15	4	9	3	3	36	3	10
Kendall	Kendall	32	25	57	21.5	15.4	36.9	190	0	0	0	15	0	68	3	1
Kenthurst	Kenthurst	23	33	56	18.1	22.3	40.4	171	0	0	2	11	4	10	4	9
Kentucky	Kentucky	9	18	27	6.9	10.1	17.0	110	6	8	2	11	2	16	4	9
Kerr's Creek	Kerr's Creek	17	11	28	11.3	8.2	19.5	109	6	8	1	14	3	3	15	3
Kew	Cauden Haven	27	36	63	18.9	26.4	45.3	176	13	4	6	10	2	15	7	5
Kialla	Kialla	28	18	46	18.6	11.5	30.1	155	13	4	1	6	8	3	12	3
Kiama	Kiama	152	162	314	114.7	119.1	233.8	713	0	0	5	4	7	387	14	10
Kiandra	Kiandra	19	22	41	14.4	17.7	32.1	136	0	0	1	0	9	9	0	9
Kilgin	Woodburn	25	11	36	18.5	8.3	26.8	132	13	4	0	19	3	2	18	3
Killabakh Creek	Wingham	18	15	33	13.2	11.8	25.0	113	0	0	2	2	11	2	12	3
Killarney Swamp	Bombala	22	10	32	15.1	7.6	22.7	93	10	0	2	9	2	0	13	0
Killarney	Via Wingham	16	20	36	12.8	12.9	25.7	155	13	4	0	18	5	2	12	3
Killawarra	Finconce	15	18	33	9.2	13.0	22.2	125	0	0	0	18	11	4	12	3
Kimbriki	Finconce	13	14	27	10.5	10.2	20.7	182	13	4	0	15	4	2	12	3
Kincumber	Kincumber	6	10	16	4.8	8.5	13.3	94	15	2	1	11	1	1	7	9
Kindra	Coolamon	12	17	29	9.7	12.1	21.8	118	0	0	0	17	10	3	12	3
Kingsdale	Goulburn	26	19	45	18.0	14.3	32.3	148	0	0	3	2	11	55	7	3
King's Plains	Blayney	37	26	63	21.1	18.8	42.9	188	10	0	2	13	2	39	11	6
Kingswood	Kingswood	10	13	23	8.1	10.0	18.1	125	0	0	2	2	6	12	11	7
Kiora	Kiora	37	22	59	28.2	18.6	46.8	171	0	0	3	11	8	13	0	6
Kirkton	Belford	401	365	766	315.1	280.2	595.3	1,551	6	1	19	12	1	327	7	0
Kookabookra	Kookabookra	18	15	33	12.4	10.5	22.9	144	10	0	2	5	9	36	13	11
Koorawatha	Koorawatha	32	36	68	24.7	27.2	51.9	229	4	5	1	19	0	50	6	5
Koppin Yarratt	Lansdowne	20	17	37	16.3	13.7	30.0	144	3	4	0	5	2	2	12	3
Korabakh	Nabiac	28	20	48	18.2	11.4	29.6	157	5	0	1	15	3	25	3	8
Kowen	Queenbeyan	12	11	23	6.8	8.3	15.1	74	13	4	1	4	10	1	4	6
Krambach	Krambach	20	16	36	17.0	13.4	30.4	148	0	0	1	7	2	7	2	3
Kurrajong, North	Kurrajong, North	38	35	73	26.9	23.5	50.4	171	0	0	2	1	1	4	16	9
Kurrajong, South	Grose Vale	23	17	40	16.9	11.7	28.6	125	0	0	1	3	8	2	12	3
Kurrara	Chinderah	14	12	26	10.0	8.4	18.4	120	13	4	2	19	3	8	2	3
Laemalac	Tumut	11	9	20	7.2	6.5	13.7	74	0	0	1	8	11			
Laggan	Laggan	17	19	36	10.6	11.7	22.3	125	0	0	2	16	10	11	10	3
Lagoon	The Lagoon	25	23	48	19.6	20.4	40.0	215	3	4	3	5	8	88	18	7
Laguna	Laguna	12	15	27	7.2	7.7	14.9	143	1	8	0	3	6	193	3	1
Lake Albert	Lake Albert	34	36	70	23.1	25.2	48.3	195	0	0	3	1	11	110	15	3
Lake Bathurst	Lake Bathurst	18	15	33	14.2	10.8	25.0	163	0	0				3	12	3
Lake Cudgellico	Lake Cudgellico	54	35	89	37.9	24.4	62.3	268	15	1	5	0	3	9	12	8
Lakelands	The Oaks	20	10	30	17.1	5.9	23.0	84	15	0				3	10	0
Lambing Hill	Goolma	13	14	27	8.7	8.4	17.1	125	0	0	1	1	8	3	2	1
Lambton	Lambton	297	295	592	234.6	220.3	454.9	1,631	5	6	15	1	1	73	8	0
Lamorna	Hay	18	10	28	13.2	7.0	20.2	120	13	4	2	0	4	17	1	9
La Perouse	La Perouse	18	10	28	11.8	3.5	15.3	77	6	8	1	6	11	10	4	3
Largs	Largs	49	37	86	36.2	26.5	62.7	222	12	3	4	7	6	38	19	7
Laughtondale	Wiscman's Ferry	21	7	28	16.8	5.4	22.2	137	10	0	1	5	1	15	9	9
Lauretou	Lauretou	34	34	68	24.5	21.3	45.8	171	0	0	2	3	5	2	2	3
Lavadia	Ulmara	16	10	26	11.3	6.9	18.2	113	0	0	1	12	0	3	12	3
Lawrence	Lawrence	74	56	130	49.2	39.5	87.7	346	10	3	5	15	10	34	14	11
Lawrence, Lower	Lawrence	26	19	45	18.0	13.2	31.2	144	0	0	1	11	2	7	2	9
Lawson	Lawson	40	43	83	26.3	26.9	53.2	255	3	7	4	0	8	250	17	3
Lawson's Creek	Mudgee	12	26	38	10.5	19.8	30.3	148	0	0	3	15	4	13	5	0
Leadville	Leadville	29	48	77	20.5	33.4	53.9	249	10	0	2	6	5	7	16	10
Leech's Gully	Tenterfield	15	26	41	11.2	17.4	28.6	126	8	4	1	17	4	1	18	6
Leichhardt	Leichhardt	737	655	1,392	573.1	507.5	1,080.6	2,856	6	10	38	17	11	145	19	11
Leichhardt, West	Leichhardt	450	342	792	352.1	257.0	609.1	1,604	9	2	17	10	4	156	6	8
Lerda	Collector	19	12	31	14.7	9.7	24.4	107	10	0	1	19	11	90	5	5
Lewis Ponds	Lewis Ponds	38	38	76	31.1	31.0	62.1	245	0	0	3	5	11	8	16	10
Linburn	Linburn	29	25	54	21.0	19.1	40.1	171	0	0	2	2	4	5	15	3
Lindendale	Wollongbar	17	21	38	13.5	16.3	29.8	136	0	0	2	2	1	2	12	1

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.					
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.		Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Postage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.
								£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Lismore	Lismore	249	234	483	171.3	153.6	324.9	877	5 8	9 2 4	2 10 0	35 7 0	924 5 0
Lithgow	Lithgow	387	334	721	299.4	243.8	543.2	1,667	0 10	36 14 9	1 6 9	59 1 8	1,764 4 0
Little Plain	Inverell	24	18	42	18.7	11.7	30.4	138	8 4	1 19 6	.....	8 2 3	148 10 1
Liverpool	Liverpool	218	193	411	158.9	132.8	291.7	396	19 6	15 19 1	.....	49 17 10	1,062 16 5
Llandilo	Llandilo	22	19	41	16.3	14.7	31.0	158	0 0	2 1 7	.....	2 12 3	162 13 10
Lochiel	Pumbula	26	20	46	20.1	15.3	35.4	118	15 0	5 6 9	2 6 0	3 2 3	129 10 0
Lochinvar	Lochinvar	33	21	54	24.9	15.9	40.2	221	16 6	2 18 1	.....	71 6 10	296 1 5
Lockwood	Canowindra	11	16	27	6.8	11.2	18.0	89	10 0	2 9 11	.....	6 17 11	98 17 10
Long Reach	Marulan	15	16	31	10.9	9.8	20.7	113	0 0	0 19 9	.....	5 2 3	119 2 0
Longueville	Longueville	36	29	65	21.4	16.6	38.0	186	3 4	1 15 7	.....	9 13 10	197 12 9
Lostock	Lostock	16	16	32	10.3	9.6	19.9	125	0 0	1 11 0	.....	2 12 3	129 3 3
Lost River	Wheeo	18	8	26	14.5	6.5	21.0	113	0 0	1 3 11	.....	3 2 3	117 6 2
Louth	Louth	14	10	24	13.1	7.1	20.2	142	4 2	.....	8 12 0	3 2 3	158 18 5
Lowcsdale	Lowcsdale	11	9	20	7.6	7.2	14.8	110	6 8	1 5 5	11 9 3	3 2 3	126 8 7
Lucknow	Lucknow	188	147	335	133.0	109.5	242.5	478	11 2	20 17 8	.....	34 14 9	529 3 7
Luddenham	Luddenham	30	27	57	24.1	19.8	43.9	171	0 0	1 18 11	.....	2 12 3	175 11 2
Luskintyre	Lochinvar	20	9	29	13.7	6.3	20.0	50	5 0	4 14 1	.....	56 3 1	111 2 2
Lyndhurst	Lyndhurst	18	24	42	12.5	17.8	30.3	163	0 0	1 4 3	.....	153 7 3	317 11 6
McDonald, Central	Central McDonald	15	13	28	11.0	11.5	22.5	120	13 4	0 11 7	.....	2 12 3	124 0 2
McDonald, Upper	Upper McDonald	11	20	31	8.6	15.7	24.3	119	0 0	1 5 1	20 3 9	1 6 3	141 15 1
McHenry's Creek	Young	23	28	51	15.2	16.6	31.8	126	8 4	2 16 5	.....	3 11 6	132 16 3
McLean's Ridges	Wollongbar	17	15	32	12.9	9.5	22.4	132	13 4	1 6 11	.....	6 2 3	140 2 6
Macksville	Macksville	33	39	72	24.8	29.7	54.5	264	10 0	2 10 8	.....	319 16 10	586 17 6
Macleod	Macleod	123	133	256	96.0	97.5	193.5	468	16 0	13 10 10	2 6 0	84 19 7	569 12 5
Macquarie-st., South	Sydney	275	249	524	177.0	157.2	334.2	872	3 10	14 3 4	2 7 0	100 2 3	988 16 5
Maitland, East	East Maitland	265	216	481	193.8	154.1	347.9	1,235	10 0	15 10 8	9 18 9	76 11 5	1,337 10 10
Maitland, West	West Maitland	377	393	760	290.9	290.2	581.1	2,062	1 8	30 11 7	.....	410 1 6	2,502 14 9
Major's Creek	Major's Creek	81	76	157	61.3	57.3	118.6	340	0 0	5 3 3	.....	113 10 6	458 13 9
Major's Plains	Moorwatha	20	8	28	14.1	5.7	19.8	132	13 4	0 16 3	.....	3 2 3	136 11 0
Malebo	Malebo	7	10	17	5.3	9.3	14.6	93	6 8	1 14 6	.....	3 2 3	103 3 5
Maluerindi	Woolbrook	15	18	33	11.7	12.6	24.3	113	0 0	1 6 11	.....	4 1 3	118 8 2
Malvern	Weismantel's	6	11	17	4.7	8.6	13.3	70	0 0	1 3 11	3 4 0	.....	74 7 11
Manchester Square	Moss Vale	7	11	18	3.4	5.5	8.9	98	6 8	2 2 10	.....	3 12 3	104 1 9
Mandemar	Berrima	13	13	26	9.4	9.5	18.9	97	7 0	1 14 2	8 1 7	0 10 0	107 12 9
Mandurama	Mandurama	41	42	83	23.8	29.0	52.8	236	14 2	5 3 0	.....	9 13 1	251 10 3
Mangamora	Goulburn	12	9	21	4.7	5.0	9.7	113	0 0	0 17 6	1 0 0	2 6 0	117 3 6
Mangrove Creek	Mangrove Creek	18	10	28	12.9	7.4	20.3	125	0 0	1 8 11	.....	2 12 3	129 1 2
Mannie's Creek	Walcha	12	8	20	10.2	6.8	17.0	91	0 0	0 18 9	.....	3 2 3	95 1 0
Manildra	Manildra	22	33	55	15.7	25.8	41.5	171	0 0	3 8 7	1 0 0	3 7 2	178 15 9
Manilla	Manilla	62	48	110	46.3	33.8	80.1	309	3 4	2 2 2	.....	9 9 10	320 15 4
Manilla, Upper	Upper Manilla	20	10	30	8.7	6.0	14.7	83	11 8	1 2 5	.....	0 10 0	90 4 1
Manly	Manly	254	216	470	185.5	162.4	347.9	854	15 7	12 0 10	.....	57 3 0	923 19 5
Manton	Yass	14	19	33	9.3	12.8	22.1	117	15 9	0 10 0	.....	4 19 11	123 5 8
Marangulla	Lyndhurst	16	13	29	12.2	6.7	18.9	132	13 4	1 15 2	.....	3 7 3	137 15 9
March	March	30	21	51	25.1	17.1	42.2	171	0 0	1 4 4	.....	11 9 9	183 14 1
Marengo	Marengo	29	35	64	19.3	19.6	38.9	188	6 8	2 1 6	.....	7 2 1	197 10 3
Marina	Young	10	7	17	6.9	4.2	11.1	77	13 4	0 13 0	7 0 0	0 19 9	86 6 1
Markwell	Bulahdelah	15	15	30	10.6	9.1	19.7	89	10 0	1 17 4	.....	5 16 9	97 4 1
Marlee	Wingham	11	11	22	8.0	8.9	16.4	86	16 8	.....	9 12 0	5 0 0	101 8 8
Maroota	Pitt Town	22	15	37	16.7	10.8	27.5	145	3 4	1 19 0	.....	13 0 3	160 2 7
Marrangaroo	Marrangaroo	20	23	43	14.4	16.4	30.8	138	8 4	1 17 6	.....	3 9 9	143 15 7
Marrar	Old Jumea	11	19	30	7.5	14.4	21.9	46	4 1	4 11 9	.....	60 17 2	111 13 0
Marrickville	Marrickville	572	487	1,059	436.7	354.2	790.9	2,221	12 11	25 1 4	.....	149 5 9	2,396 0 0
Marrickville, West	Marrickville	325	283	608	244.5	206.8	451.3	1,551	0 9	16 2 4	.....	234 0 8	1,801 3 9
Marsden	Marsden's	18	16	34	13.9	12.3	26.2	146	0 0	0 19 7	.....	3 17 3	150 16 10
Marsden Park	Marsden Park	48	30	78	35.4	19.3	54.7	266	0 0	4 6 8	.....	47 1 10	317 8 6
Marshall Mount	Marshall Mount	19	26	45	14.1	20.3	34.4	161	8 4	3 15 4	3 10 4	129 5 10	297 19 10
Martindale	Corowa	12	14	26	6.7	8.0	14.7	98	6 8	1 2 2	.....	3 2 3	102 11 1
Martin's Creek	Paterson	8	14	22	5.9	10.6	16.5	91	0 0	1 1 3	.....	3 1 11	95 3 2
Martinsville	Corranbong	27	33	60	19.8	23.3	43.1	168	0 0	3 4 9	.....	15 17 3	187 2 0
Marulan	Marulan	40	39	79	28.2	25.1	53.3	240	10 9	2 2 11	.....	11 16 0	254 9 8
Maryland	Maryland	9	14	23	7.1	10.0	17.1	88	11 8	2 10 3	.....	1 7 3	92 9 2
Maryvale	Maryvale	41	22	63	30.6	15.9	46.5	229	6 8	1 11 5	.....	69 19 0	300 17 1
Mathoura	Mathoura	52	43	95	35.5	30.6	66.1	266	0 0	1 16 8	.....	452 16 2	720 12 10
Maude	Maude	15	10	25	12.1	5.9	18.0	89	10 0	0 5 4	.....	5 12 0	95 7 4
May Villa	Carlingford	30	32	62	22.1	24.5	46.6	171	0 0	2 15 10	.....	3 9 2	177 5 0
Meadow Flat	Meadow Flat	12	14	26	8.2	10.8	19.0	125	0 0	1 9 11	.....	3 11 3	130 1 2
Meadows, The	Seven Hills	21	31	52	16.9	27.6	44.5	148	0 0	1 13 1	.....	8 5 3	157 18 4
Medowie	Raymond Terrace	15	15	30	11.4	10.5	21.9	113	0 0	2 10 2	.....	9 2 3	124 12 5
Meerschaum Vale	Wardell	29	28	57	21.9	22.2	44.1	152	15 0	2 1 5	.....	3 0 3	157 16 8
Megalong	Megalong	19	11	30	12.6	7.9	20.5	143	12 8	1 18 3	.....	20 5 7	165 16 6
Menab	Mudgee	18	10	28	12.0	5.7	17.7	89	10 0	1 19 8	.....	107 1 6	198 11 2
Menangle	Menangle	20	18	38	16.0	14.1	30.1	148	0 0	1 6 10	.....	2 12 3	151 19 1
Menindie	Menindie	43	39	82	32.5	28.7	61.2	271	10 0	5 16 11	.....	51 4 10	328 11 9
Meranburn	Meranburn	24	11	35	16.6	7.9	24.5	132	13 4	1 6 9	.....	3 12 3	137 12 4
Merannie	Singleton	8	13	21	6.7	9.7	16.4	109	6 8	0 15 5	.....	17 12 3	127 14 4
Merewether	Merewether	165	135	300	129.7	100.0	229.7	520	0 0	6 9 0	.....	135 15 4	642 4 4
Merilla	Broadalbane	17	16	33	11.9	10.8	22.7	125	0 0	2 15 5	.....	15 2 3	142 17 8
Merimbula	Merimbula	25	18	43	20.3	13.7	34.0	161	8 4	2 0 2	.....	5 12 6	169 1 0
Meringlo	Via Bemboka	28	14	42	19.1	8.9	28.0	148	0 0	.....	.....	3 2 0	151 2 0
Mcroo	Nowra	24	31	55	18.8	22.0	40.8	170	15 0	2 12 9	.....	2 12 2	175 19 11
Merrindie	Merrindie	23	9	32	16.9	5.2	22.1	125	0 0	1 7 0	.....	10 2 3	136 9 3

APPENDIX VII--continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Cloths, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.
								£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Merriwa	Merriwa	24	26	50	16.0	20.2	36.2	171 0 0	2 10 0	.....	4 0 3	177 10 3
Metz	Metz	69	72	141	55.4	55.0	110.4	318 14 2	16 0 0	.....	65 15 6	400 9 8
Michelago	Michelago	27	17	44	20.6	10.1	30.7	130 15 0	2 0 5	.....	3 12 3	136 7 8
Middle Dural	Dural	16	17	33	10.7	10.9	21.6	136 0 0	2 0 2	.....	2 18 0	140 18 2
Middle Falbrook	Glenie's Creek	10	17	27	7.0	14.4	21.4	125 0 0	1 1 10	.....	8 12 3	134 14 1
Middlingbank*	Cooma	11	5	16	6.8	3.1	9.9	26 13 4	.....	.....	8 6 8	35 0 0
Mila	Bombala	14	18	32	9.0	14.6	23.6	133 16 8	1 19 8	.....	6 13 6	142 9 10
Milbrulong	The Rock	18	17	35	14.4	11.9	26.3	89 10 0	2 5 9	.....	2 12 3	94 8 0
Milburn Creek	Woodstock	6	13	18	4.1	9.4	13.5	110 6 8	0 19 11	15 0 0	5 6 3	131 12 10
Miller's Forest	Miller's Forest	39	25	64	32.0	18.7	50.7	171 0 0	1 19 8	.....	30 19 4	203 19 0
Millfield	Millfield	15	17	32	11.4	13.0	24.4	125 0 0	1 18 4	.....	2 12 3	129 10 7
Millingandi	Pambula	11	12	23	9.7	10.6	20.3	89 10 0	2 13 8	.....	3 2 3	95 5 11
Millsville	Mudges	8	15	23	6.1	10.6	16.7	98 6 8	1 13 7	.....	3 12 3	103 12 6
Millthorpe	Millthorpe	83	64	147	58.9	46.2	105.1	414 0 0	8 17 2	.....	20 13 6	438 10 8
Miltown	Bathurst	149	127	276	104.7	90.3	195.0	626 3 10	6 11 3	1 0 0	85 16 4	669 17 5
Milong	Young	14	17	31	10.8	11.4	22.2	113 0 0	.....	.....	2 12 0	115 12 0
Milton	Milton	107	66	173	76.1	48.5	124.6	325 6 8	5 4 7	.....	63 17 11	394 9 2
Minosa Park	Milton	10	13	23	7.5	10.0	17.5	85 16 8	0 16 4	.....	.....	86 13 0
Minmi	Minmi	309	290	599	246.3	225.9	472.2	1,282 5 5	5 11 3	5 19 0	65 5 7	1,359 1 3
Minnamurra	Dunmore	23	16	39	15.8	11.6	27.3	155 13 4	1 13 8	.....	51 12 3	208 19 3
Minore	Minore	5	9	14	3.4	6.6	10.0	65 0 0	.....	.....	1 0 0	66 0 0
Minto	Minto	33	27	60	22.7	15.8	38.5	171 0 0	2 16 7	.....	9 13 11	183 10 6
Mirunda	Sutherland	24	15	39	16.4	8.7	25.1	149 8 4	2 4 6	.....	160 7 3	312 0 1
Missnotti	Bowraville	13	17	30	8.8	11.2	19.2	113 0 0	0 13 11	.....	2 12 3	116 6 2
Mitchell	Sunny Corner	141	141	282	107.3	102.3	209.6	556 13 0	8 3 1	.....	74 6 10	639 2 11
Mitchell's Flat	Mitchell's Flat	27	32	59	20.7	23.4	44.1	188 0 0	2 2 2	.....	2 12 3	192 14 5
Mitchell's Island	Croki	38	35	73	25.2	24.1	49.3	223 16 8	1 13 1	.....	157 10 2	382 19 11
Mittagong	Mittagong	156	162	318	112.1	122.2	234.3	660 6 8	8 14 4	1 4 1	34 18 4	705 3 5
Mittagong, Lower	Mittagong	20	13	33	14.9	8.4	23.3	132 13 4	1 11 2	.....	3 12 3	137 16 9
Mitta Mitta	Bethungra	16	18	34	8.7	10.2	18.9	113 0 0	1 11 8	.....	3 15 11	118 7 7
Mitten's Creek	Grenfell	15	11	26	10.3	4.5	14.8	132 13 4	1 8 9	.....	25 2 3	159 4 4
Moama	Moama	68	78	146	47.4	68.8	111.2	359 15 6	5 19 6	.....	108 19 6	474 14 6
Mobellah	Home Rule	28	25	53	22.6	19.5	42.1	268 0 0	2 3 10	.....	9 6 10	279 10 8
Mogilla	Mogilla	14	15	29	10.7	10.3	21.0	132 13 4	1 7 5	.....	3 2 3	137 3 0
Mogo	Mogo	26	16	42	20.3	12.0	32.3	148 0 0	2 18 7	.....	2 12 3	153 10 10
Molong	Molong	102	92	194	72.7	71.0	143.7	388 14 8	2 15 8	6 3 9	25 17 6	423 11 7
Mondrook	Tinonee	14	11	25	11.6	10.3	21.9	89 10 0	1 2 8	3 0 0	2 12 3	96 4 11
Mongarlowe	Mongarlowe	23	24	47	17.5	17.1	34.6	138 8 4	1 9 0	.....	3 12 3	143 9 7
Monkerai	Monkerai	16	7	23	12.2	5.3	17.5	125 0 0	2 6 3	.....	2 12 3	129 18 6
Monteagle	Monteagle	27	28	55	15.6	21.0	36.6	167 3 4	1 14 9	.....	10 0 3	178 18 4
Moonan Brook	Moonan Brook	20	21	41	14.5	16.2	30.7	148 0 0	2 4 2	.....	3 18 3	154 2 5
Moonan Flat	Gundy	13	10	23	8.4	9.0	17.4	85 6 8	0 18 2	.....	6 10 9	92 15 7
Moonbah	Findabyne	14	17	31	9.5	13.4	22.9	113 0 0	1 15 9	.....	3 12 3	118 8 0
Moonbi	Moonbi	9	14	23	7.6	11.1	18.7	103 16 8	1 7 10	.....	2 8 0	107 12 6
Moor Creek	Tamworth	28	14	42	18.8	7.7	26.5	130 15 0	1 18 4	.....	9 16 9	142 10 1
Moorfields	Canterbury	23	20	43	18.1	12.7	30.8	171 0 0	3 5 9	.....	2 12 3	176 18 0
Moorilda	Moorilda	24	18	42	16.8	14.4	31.2	155 13 4	1 14 10	.....	3 12 3	161 0 5
Moorland	Moorland	21	20	41	15.4	14.9	30.3	144 10 0	1 12 4	.....	21 2 3	167 4 7
Moorvatha	Howlong	13	12	25	9.8	9.1	18.9	87 11 8	2 6 10	4 12 0	36 7 6	130 18 0
Moree	Moree	156	196	352	104.9	117.8	222.7	563 0 0	11 2 4	.....	52 10 5	626 12 9
Morissett	Morissett	31	15	46	23.5	11.7	35.2	148 0 0	2 6 6	.....	2 12 1	152 18 7
Morongla Creek	Morongla Creek	12	14	26	6.0	9.7	15.7	132 13 4	3 5 10	.....	8 11 3	144 10 5
Mororo	Mororo	18	14	32	15.2	9.6	24.8	138 8 4	0 13 6	1 10 0	2 0 11	142 12 9
Morpeth	Morpeth	105	44	149	78.9	32.2	111.1	331 6 8	4 19 9	12 18 0	37 12 3	386 16 8
Mortdale	Mortdale	87	81	168	62.5	63.1	125.6	496 11 8	2 17 3	1 11 6	15 18 3	506 18 8
Mortlake	Mortlake	81	58	139	65.0	43.5	108.5	345 17 0	6 17 7	.....	25 14 0	378 8 7
Morungulan	Dripstone	17	18	35	11.5	14.8	26.3	130 15 0	1 1 3	.....	52 2 3	183 18 6
Moruya	Moruya	87	80	167	53.7	52.9	106.6	346 10 0	3 13 6	.....	16 5 4	366 8 10
Mosquito Island	Newcastle	29	22	51	22.9	17.2	40.1	171 0 0	1 18 9	.....	15 10 9	188 9 6
Mosman	Mosman	124	94	218	92.8	70.7	163.5	386 10 0	7 1 7	.....	39 1 2	432 12 9
Mossiel	Mossiel	20	20	40	12.8	13.2	26.0	187 0 0	2 7 11	.....	297 3 0	486 10 11
Moss Vale	Moss Vale	85	63	148	61.1	43.3	104.4	338 16 6	5 2 1	.....	207 8 1	551 6 8
Moulamein	Moulamein	16	18	30	11.7	13.3	25.0	149 10 0	2 10 2	.....	16 12 3	168 12 6
Mountain Home	Tarana	16	19	35	11.6	12.3	23.9	113 0 0	1 10 10	.....	2 12 3	117 3 1
Mount Butter	Armidale	13	9	22	9.5	6.4	15.9	83 0 0	1 6 1	.....	1 0 0	85 6 1
Mount Costigan	Mount Costigan	22	26	48	16.6	17.1	33.7	170 0 0	1 18 9	.....	3 12 3	175 11 0
Mount Drysdale	Mount Drysdale	42	35	77	29.2	24.1	53.3	267 10 0	8 1 10	4 8 3	8 11 10	288 11 11
Mount George	Woodside	16	11	27	9.1	8.2	17.3	89 10 0	1 11 5	.....	.....	91 1 5
Mount Gipps	Round Hill	7	12	19	4.1	6.0	10.1	133 6 8	.....	.....	31 19 0	165 5 8
Mount Hope	Mount Hope	15	26	41	11.8	20.8	32.6	179 18 4	1 11 4	.....	57 12 7	239 2 3
Mount Hunter	Mount Hunter	29	22	51	21.5	14.9	36.4	155 13 4	2 10 0	.....	2 12 0	160 15 4
Mount Keira	Wollongong	67	72	139	62.9	50.3	113.2	359 2 2	3 4 7	.....	16 4 0	378 10 9
Mount Kambia	Mount Kambia	85	63	148	67.8	44.2	112.0	352 11 6	5 18 1	2 4 6	987 16 2	1,348 10 3
Mount Lawson	Judd's Creek	8	13	21	4.0	5.8	9.8	68 0 0	2 2 8	.....	0 15 0	70 17 8
Mount McDonald	Mount McDonald	34	39	73	27.6	27.9	55.5	290 10 0	1 5 6	.....	18 11 10	310 7 4
Mount Mitchell	Mount Mitchell	13	11	24	12.0	8.9	20.9	87 13 4	1 11 9	1 7 6	0 10 0	91 2 7
Mount Mooby	Scone	20	24	44	10.5	14.9	25.4	132 3 4	2 7 1	.....	2 6 0	136 16 5
Mount Murray	Robertson	15	12	27	9.4	6.2	15.6	125 0 0	1 9 1	.....	4 12 3	131 1 4
Mount Pleasant	Bridgeman	20	21	41	11.3	15.4	26.7	120 13 4	2 7 3	.....	6 9 3	129 9 10
Mount Rivers	Lostock	14	8	22	10.6	6.3	16.9	87 13 4	0 18 9	.....	22 15 0	111 7 1
Mount Russell	Inverell	10	8	18	5.9	5.6	11.5	86 16 8	3 15 2	1 13 3	2 11 9	94 16 10
Mount Tamar	Bathurst	9	23	32	6.0	16.6	22.6	109 6 8	1 6 0	.....	3 0 0	113 12 8

* Closed 30th April.

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.
							£ s d.	£ s d.	£ s d.	£ s d.	£ s d.	£ s d.
Mount Thorley	Singleton	11	11	22	8.7	8.9	17.6	91 0 0	0 19 9		12 12 3	104 12 0
Mount Victoria	Mount Victoria	40	45	85	29.2	32.8	62.0	223 10 0	1 16 11	3 14 0	27 4 2	256 5 1
Mount View	Mount View	33	21	54	23.9	16.9	40.8	171 0 0	1 7 9		3 6 3	175 14 0
Mudgee	Mudgee	312	270	582	236.7	198.5	435.2	1,407 8 4	16 16 11	0 5 3	56 0 4	1,480 10 10
Mudgee, South	Mudgee	27	27	54	19.2	18.7	37.9	136 0 0	1 19 11		8 9 3	146 9 2
Mulbring	Mulbring	41	31	72	30.7	23.2	53.9	240 2 1	3 6 6		86 16 10	330 5 5
Mulgoa	Mulgoa	39	22	61	25.1	14.6	39.7	171 0 0	2 5 8	6 4 10	2 4 3	181 14 9
Mulgoa Forest	The Oaks	15	17	32	11.3	12.5	23.8	125 0 0	1 1 9		2 12 3	128 14 0
Mullamuddy	Mudgee	21	19	40	14.0	12.1	26.1	126 8 4	1 4 6		3 12 3	131 5 1
Mullengandra	Mullengandra	20	14	34	14.2	11.2	25.4	132 13 4	2 12 3		3 2 3	138 7 10
Mullengrove	Whero	11	13	24	8.9	8.8	17.7	89 10 0	1 4 5		3 2 3	93 16 8
Mullion Creek	Mullion Creek	17	16	33	12.9	13.1	26.0	136 0 0	1 14 1		3 2 3	140 16 4
Mullumbimby	Mullumbimby	30	25	55	24.0	18.1	42.1	159 0 0	2 5 10		4 7 0	165 12 10
Mulwala	Mulwala	46	52	98	33.3	36.7	70.0	194 3 2	8 10 6	6 9 0	10 2 4	219 14 0
Mulyan	Mullion Creek	17	18	35	12.1	13.3	25.4	113 0 0	1 15 3		2 12 3	117 7 6
Mumbil	Mumbil	16	28	44	11.5	21.3	32.8	155 13 4	1 4 5		3 2 3	160 0 0
Mumbulla	Brogo	10	11	21	7.5	8.3	15.8	102 0 0	1 4 11		2 19 1	106 4 0
Mummel	Mummel	21	13	34	14.7	9.2	23.9	121 10 0	1 14 3		3 1 10	126 6 1
Mundava	Singleton	11	14	25	9.0	9.9	18.9	113 0 0	1 4 10		2 12 3	116 17 1
Mundonga	Tumut	29	19	48	18.2	13.5	31.7	155 13 4	2 8 2		39 15 3	197 16 9
Mundooran	Mundooran	14	20	34	10.3	13.5	23.8	138 17 11	1 10 8		11 13 7	152 2 2
Munghorn	Cooyal	12	17	29	9.6	10.6	20.2	132 13 4	0 17 10		53 4 3	186 15 5
Mungindi	Mungindi	24	19	43	16.8	13.8	30.6	160 0 0	1 19 6	20 15 9	304 5 3	487 0 6
Munni	Bendolba	16	12	28	11.4	10.5	21.9	107 10 0	1 18 10		17 9 0	126 17 10
Munyaba	Henty	12	14	26	8.9	10.0	18.9	83 18 3	3 10 8			87 8 11
Murray's Flats	Goulburn	12	9	21	7.0	6.2	13.2	91 0 0	0 16 3		2 16 0	94 12 3
Murrayville	Chatsworth Island	13	10	23	10.7	7.4	18.1	113 0 0	1 6 2		2 12 3	116 18 5
Murrumbolla	Murrumburrah	16	16	32	11.9	9.7	21.6	113 0 0	1 2 9		3 2 3	117 6 0
Murroo	Dry Plain	16	15	31	11.1	10.1	21.2	113 0 0	1 11 5		3 12 3	118 3 8
Murrelebah	Old Junee	10	13	23	7.8	10.7	18.5	91 0 0	1 4 2		1 6 0	93 10 2
Murrumbateman	Yass	21	17	38	11.0	12.5	23.5	155 13 4	2 5 3		4 2 3	162 0 10
Murrumbidgee	Murrumbidgee	30	35	65	22.5	25.1	47.6	171 0 0	1 15 0		9 12 8	182 7 8
Murrumburrah	Murrumburrah	128	120	248	82.8	80.1	162.9	489 7 9	12 8 8	4 12 0	22 2 6	528 10 11
Murrurundi	Murrurundi	98	98	196	72.2	70.9	143.1	393 12 9	8 17 2	2 0 3	13 10 0	418 0 2
Murwillumbah	Murwillumbah	96	90	186	62.3	58.3	120.6	343 15 0	7 18 11	2 11 2	11 1 2	365 6 3
Muswellbrook	Muswellbrook	155	124	279	120.6	88.2	208.8	540 13 4	7 15 0	0 15 0	302 11 1	857 14 5
Muttama		17	24	41	10.9	17.8	28.7	130 15 0	1 4 7		4 2 3	136 1 10
Myalla	Cooma	10	16	26	6.9	11.8	18.7	133 16 8	1 10 4		28 7 3	163 14 3
Myrango	Camnock	17	9	26	11.4	5.4	16.8	113 0 0	2 14 3	4 12 9	2 12 3	122 19 3
Myra Vale	Myra Vale	23	25	48	19.8	21.4	41.2	171 0 0	2 5 2		12 4 8	155 9 10
Myrtle Creek	Picton	7	6	13	5.9	4.8	10.7	88 7 8	1 4 4		3 6 0	92 18 0
Myrtleville	Myrtleville	17	16	33	12.1	10.5	22.6	120 11 8	1 6 8	1 10 0	3 2 3	126 10 7
Nambucca Heads	Nambucca Heads	34	42	76	26.2	23.0	54.2	223 10 0	3 7 7		5 17 5	232 15 0
Nambucca, Lower	Macksville	6	17	23	4.5	10.8	15.3	82 0 7	1 17 6	2 13 0	17 0 0	108 11 1
Nangunia	Berrigan	12	13	25	9.9	11.3	21.2	88 3 4	2 10 7		1 6 0	86 19 11
Narara	Narara	17	13	30	14.0	11.0	25.0	145 3 4	0 16 4		17 19 3	163 18 11
Narellan	Narellan	49	49	98	38.0	35.9	73.9	249 16 8	3 10 9		8 2 10	261 10 3
Naremburn	North Sydney	201	163	364	152.0	113.8	265.8	569 5 6		14 1 9	322 6 9	905 14 0
Narraboon	Via Manly	18	13	31	13.9	9.9	23.8	126 17 0	1 12 8	26 0 0	3 0 9	157 10 5
Narrabri	Narrabri	283	198	481	217.4	155.3	372.7	834 14 8	16 3 1		123 9 10	974 7 7
Narrabri, West	West Narrabri	124	127	251	83.3	87.9	171.2	387 18 0	7 5 6		29 7 10	424 11 4
Narrandera	Narrandera	196	172	368	132.7	120.9	253.6	502 13 4	11 5 1		81 1 4	594 19 9
Narrango	Rylstone	14	21	35	9.8	12.8	22.6	113 0 0	1 4 3		3 12 3	117 16 6
Narrawa	Narrawa	12	7	19	6.0	4.9	10.9	76 0 0	1 1 8		0 10 0	77 11 8
Narromine	Narromine	75	73	148	52.6	45.1	97.7	280 10 0	6 3 8		14 14 1	301 7 9
Ncala Creek	Cowra	10	12	22	8.5	8.5	17.0	83 16 3	1 14 8	1 2 9	9 0 0	95 14 1
Nelango	Gundaroo	16	16	32	11.3	10.4	21.7	125 0 0	1 2 7		3 2 3	129 4 10
Nelligen	Nelligen	30	36	66	21.7	26.1	47.8	171 0 0	2 4 8		3 12 3	176 16 11
Nelson	Riverstone	7	9	16	5.0	4.8	9.8	96 1 8	0 17 11		2 7 10	99 7 5
Nelson's Bay	Nelson's Bay	12	10	22	10.0	9.3	19.3	113 0 0	1 6 7		2 12 3	116 18 10
Nelson's Plains	Nelson's Plains	38	27	65	25.8	18.6	44.4	171 0 0	2 18 5		4 15 3	178 13 8
Nemingha	Tamworth	33	25	58	24.5	17.3	41.8	171 0 0	2 18 5		3 2 3	177 0 8
Nerriga	Nerriga	19	14	33	16.1	9.3	25.4	113 0 0	0 6 1		132 2 3	245 8 4
Nerrigundah	Nerrigundah	17	12	29	14.3	10.0	24.3	132 0 5	2 13 7		6 12 3	141 6 3
Nethercote	Pambula	17	12	29	13.0	9.1	22.1	137 10 0	1 6 10		12 4 3	151 1 1
Neutral Bay	Neutral Bay	266	242	508	198.0	183.4	381.4	824 18 4	18 4 9		993 7 0	1,836 10 1
Nevertire	Nevertire	37	23	60	22.2	14.1	36.3	163 0 0	1 19 5		21 14 5	186 13 10
Neville	Neville	38	34	72	30.5	22.0	52.5	171 0 0	3 2 7	13 13 6	9 13 11	197 10 0
Newbridge	Newbridge	54	56	110	37.8	40.2	78.0	257 0 0	3 15 2	0 7 2	9 16 10	270 19 2
Newcastle	Newcastle	411	358	769	309.7	277.5	587.2	1,918 5 9	20 2 0	4 16 0	231 4 6	2,174 8 3
Newcastle, East	Newcastle	135	126	261	95.9	92.4	188.3	501 10 0	5 18 10		82 9 11	689 18 9
Newcastle, South	Marewether	429	443	872	326.3	344.5	670.8	1,913 3 2	24 8 7	5 1 0	74 3 7	2,016 16 4
New Italy	New Italy	33	34	67	23.5	26.8	50.3	191 10 0	1 18 10		48 12 4	242 1 2
New Lambton	New Lambton	209	209	418	166.7	159.6	326.3	914 10 0	9 15 6		275 14 6	1,200 0 0
Newport	Dora Creek	23	19	42	17.6	12.1	29.7	137 10 0	1 14 0		34 9 4	173 13 4
Newree	Newree	13	13	26	9.0	8.9	17.9	89 10 0			4 0 9	93 10 9
Newrybar	Tintenbar	22	9	31	14.5	6.4	20.9	138 8 4	1 14 8		2 12 3	142 15 3
Newstead	Moruya	6	9	15	5.1	7.6	12.7	77 16 8	1 12 11		3 10 0	82 19 7
Newtown	Newtown	877	782	1,659	661.5	567.7	1,229.2	2,864 3 9	39 4 11	1 13 6	787 15 7	3,692 17 9
Newtown, North	Newtown	288	280	568	220.8	203.2	424.0	1,337 3 4	16 10 9	1 12 3	249 14 6	1,605 0 10
New Vale	Lithgow	20	15	35	13.8	9.4	23.2	145 3 4	2 1 2		39 2 3	186 6 9
Niangala	Walcha Road	12	6	18	8.8	6.2	14.0	78 13 4	1 1 11	1 18 6	2 0 0	83 13 9

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.													
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries			Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.			Travelling Expenses and Forage.			Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.			Total.	
								£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
Nicholson-street	Balmain	155	143	298	118.2	104.6	228.8	736	16	8	7	9	2	.....	.....	72	1	1	816	6	11
Nimitybelle	Nimitybelle	35	41	76	23.2	26.9	50.1	171	0	0	1	11	4	.....	.....	33	19	0	206	11	1
Nine-mile	Nine-mile	30	33	63	22.6	25.1	47.7	171	0	0	2	10	11	.....	.....	3	14	9	177	5	8
Nooroona	Nooroona	22	14	36	14.6	9.6	24.2	148	0	0	1	12	1	.....	.....	3	2	3	152	14	4
Norah Creek	Molong	10	16	26	7.8	12.3	20.1	103	16	8	1	13	7	.....	.....	2	12	3	108	2	6
North Creek	Ballina	11	16	26	5.8	10.5	16.3	115	16	8	1	2	9	.....	.....	2	12	0	119	11	5
Norwood	Goulburn	9	12	21	6.5	9.9	16.4	86	6	8	1	0	8	.....	.....	0	10	0	87	17	4
Notherwono*	Wagga Wagga	6	6	12	4.9	4.6	9.5	39	3	9	2	0	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	41	4	3	
Nowra	Nowra	179	189	368	127.2	132.9	260.1	658	10	9	6	8	9	10 9 9	.....	24	6	2	699	15	5
Nowra Hill	Nowra	22	29	51	12.8	20.3	33.1	136	0	0	1	13	10	.....	.....	2	12	3	140	6	1
Oxley	Oxley	22	25	47	16.7	17.5	34.2	142	8	4	1	9	2	.....	.....	3	12	3	147	4	9
Oxley Island	Oxley Island	29	30	59	17.4	20.8	38.2	171	0	0	1	18	4	.....	.....	25	12	3	198	10	7
Paddington	Paddington	782	742	1,524	579.4	521.4	1,100.8	2,998	6	3	30	15	8	.....	229	4	4	3,258	6	3	
Page's River	Gundy	8	15	23	6.4	11.6	18.0	91	0	0	1	5	2	.....	.....	2	12	3	94	17	5
Pallamallawa	Pallamallawa	23	28	51	15.2	20.0	35.2	135	12	5	3	19	4	.....	.....	4	13	1	144	4	10
Palmer's Island	Palmer's Island	44	36	80	32.9	22.8	55.7	233	1	8	1	19	10	1 6 0	.....	72	6	10	308	14	4
Pambula	Pambula	49	54	103	37.2	39.2	76.4	223	10	0	3	13	1	.....	.....	9	6	5	236	9	6
Pampoolah	Pampoolah	28	33	61	21.0	23.3	44.3	167	3	4	2	4	11	.....	.....	51	15	3	221	3	6
Parkes	Parkes	174	154	328	118.0	103.1	221.1	551	1	4	10	5	1	2 1 1	.....	128	14	10	687	2	4
Parkesborough	Parkes	25	19	44	18.7	12.1	30.8	163	0	0	1	10	11	.....	.....	13	15	3	178	6	2
Parkesbourne	Breadalbane	23	19	42	15.2	11.2	26.4	118	15	0	1	9	10	.....	.....	9	0	9	129	5	7
Parkville	Parkville	15	17	32	12.0	12.2	24.2	125	0	0	1	11	2	.....	.....	9	2	3	135	13	5
Parramatta, North.	Parramatta	268	266	534	211.1	203.2	414.3	1,517	3	1	28	14	9	.....	.....	78	6	10	1,624	4	8
Parramatta, South.	Parramatta	563	450	1,013	413.6	313.8	727.4	1,997	8	0	12	5	8	.....	.....	120	18	6	2,070	12	2
Paterson	Paterson	46	36	82	30.9	25.4	56.3	229	10	0	3	13	3	.....	.....	8	9	10	241	13	1
Paupong	Boloko, via Cooma.	11	4	15	9.6	3.2	12.8	46	0	0	1	0	5	.....	.....	12	5	0	59	5	5
Payne's Crossing	Wollumbi	26	17	43	16.6	12.5	29.1	171	0	0	0	19	2	.....	.....	3	17	9	175	16	11
Peak Hill	Peak Hill	93	70	163	60.9	43.5	104.4	447	10	0	3	6	10	1 11 0	.....	27	15	2	480	2	0
Peakhurst	Peakhurst	61	44	105	38.7	28.9	67.6	233	13	4	2	0	6	1 8 0	.....	22	5	1	259	6	11
Pec Dee	Bellbrook	22	9	31	14.0	4.7	18.7	67	1	10	0	14	9	.....	.....	4	12	0	72	8	7
Peel	Peel	21	22	43	14.4	16.3	30.7	138	8	4	2	6	2	.....	.....	6	9	6	147	4	0
Peelwood	Peelwood	16	13	29	12.4	10.4	22.8	132	13	4	2	12	11	.....	.....	11	6	6	146	12	9
Pejar	Pejar	6	9	15	5.1	7.8	12.9	22	13	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	13	4	
Pelican Creek	South Gundurimba	11	17	28	7.1	10.2	17.3	113	0	0	1	19	11	.....	.....	3	7	3	118	7	2
Pelican Island	Kempsey	25	20	45	18.9	15.9	34.8	171	0	0	0	19	6	.....	.....	91	12	3	263	11	9
Pennant Hills	Pennant Hills	48	48	96	33.5	31.9	65.4	317	12	8	6	4	8	.....	.....	18	18	2	342	15	6
Penrith	Penrith	318	268	586	236.3	197.2	433.5	1,323	19	10	19	10	10	1 5 0	.....	337	10	10	1,682	6	6
Perth	Perth	40	22	62	27.1	13.4	40.5	185	5	0	2	7	11	.....	.....	4	2	9	191	15	8
Petersham	Petersham	501	459	955	378.2	342.6	720.8	2,259	0	8	28	10	11	15 0 0	.....	236	4	10	2,598	16	5
Pieton	Pieton	117	49	166	82.6	35.9	118.5	413	17	11	7	8	3	1 14 4	.....	294	19	8	718	0	2
Pilliga	Pilliga	31	32	63	23.8	20.6	44.4	160	8	4	2	1	7	.....	.....	5	2	0	167	11	11
Pimlico, North	Wardell	16	13	29	11.9	11.0	22.9	125	0	0	1	17	0	.....	.....	2	12	2	129	9	2
Pine Rocks	Cadia	14	6	20	10.7	5.5	16.2	78	13	4	.....	.....	2 11 3	.....	1	12	3	82	16	10	
Pinnacles	Broken Hill	8	9	17	7.6	7.6	15.2	125	13	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	6	0	127	19	4	
Pipeclay Creek	Mudgee	30	21	51	20.3	14.7	35.0	142	5	0	1	4	7	.....	.....	3	12	1	147	1	8
Pipeclay Spring	Bombala	24	28	52	13.4	21.4	40.8	157	0	0	1	9	8	7 14 6	.....	3	7	0	169	11	2
Pitt Row	Granville	118	63	181	81.3	41.5	122.8	428	8	4	7	7	0	1 0 0	.....	25	13	0	462	8	4
Pitt Town	Pitt Town	71	59	130	56.2	45.4	101.6	307	16	4	5	5	10	.....	.....	7	16	6	320	18	8
Pitt Town Co-operative Settlement, †	Pitt Town	24	26	50	16.5	19.6	36.1	111	13	4	0	18	7	1 11 0	.....	12	14	10	126	17	9
Pittwater	Bayview	27	25	52	22.4	19.3	41.7	161	8	4	2	5	4	.....	.....	4	15	9	168	9	5
Platina	Platina	20	13	33	13.3	9.3	22.6	90	12	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	26	13	8	117	6	2	
Plattsburg	Wallsend-Plattsburg	334	353	687	266.2	273.8	540.0	1,555	5	11	17	15	0	0 15 2	.....	167	2	5	1,740	18	6
Pleasant Hills	Pleasant Hills	20	22	42	13.0	14.1	27.1	136	0	0	2	16	2	.....	.....	2	12	0	141	8	2
Plunkett-street	Plunkett-street	231	209	460	180.2	139.1	319.3	1,186	0	0	8	9	8	.....	.....	53	0	10	1,247	10	6
Point Danger	Twiced Heads	28	21	49	20.6	13.6	34.2	188	10	0	2	19	0	.....	.....	23	1	9	214	10	9
Pokolbin	Branxton	25	20	45	14.6	13.2	27.8	171	0	0	1	19	0	.....	.....	19	17	3	192	16	3
Pond's Creek	Ringha	10	15	25	7.2	10.4	17.6	96	16	8	1	5	5	.....	.....	12	12	7	110	14	8
Pooncarie	Pooncarie	13	15	28	8.9	8.3	17.2	120	10	0	2	7	2	3 10 0	.....	14	4	0	140	11	2
Porter's Mount	Cowra	14	11	25	12.1	7.6	19.7	113	0	0	1	13	3	.....	.....	3	2	3	117	15	6
Portland, Lower	Lower Portland	28	17	45	19.6	12.1	31.7	148	0	0	1	18	8	.....	.....	2	12	3	152	5	11
Port Macquarie	Port Macquarie	90	57	147	68.2	40.5	108.7	365	11	9	5	12	9	.....	.....	31	19	6	403	4	0
Prospect	Prospect	38	46	84	29.2	33.6	62.8	251	10	0	1	13	8	0 16 6	.....	12	11	10	266	12	0
Prospect Reservoir	Prospect Reservoir	39	50	89	28.5	35.3	63.8	290	0	0	2	0	4	10 13 9	.....	20	8	5	323	2	6
Rudman Creek	Rye Park	25	29	54	19.1	23.0	42.1	148	0	0	3	19	8	.....	.....	3	8	3	155	7	11
Pyangle	Luo	10	15	25	6.8	13.3	2														

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.								
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and CARRIAGE.	Travelling Expenses and Forage	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c	Total.				
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Ravensdale	Yarramalong	16	15	31	11.4	9.9	21.3	91	17	2	1	15	9	7	1	0
Ravensworth	Ravensworth	20	18	38	15.4	14.6	30.0	98	15	0	2	1	5	8	4	2
Rawdon Island	Rawdon Island	23	24	47	16.2	17.2	33.4	154	13	4	1	5	9	2	12	4
Raymond Terrace	Raymond Terrace	100	115	215	72.4	86.2	158.6	397	15	0	8	2	1	10	9	0
Reddestone	Reddestone	13	12	25	10.2	10.3	20.5	118	0	0	1	13	8	3	2	3
Redfern	Redfern	921	886	1,757	695.4	602.4	1,297.8	3,065	18	2	37	7	7	658	9	4
Redfern, West	Redfern	281	217	498	208.6	152.9	361.5	1,107	6	8	10	4	8	203	15	9
Red Range	Red Range	22	29	51	16.3	23.8	40.1	167	3	4	2	4	0	3	4	9
Reefton	Reefton	25	27	52	19.0	23.2	42.2	252	4	10	3	1	10	52	12	2
Regentville	Ponrith	32	29	61	22.9	21.2	44.1	159	10	0	1	1	6	1	6	0
Reidsdale	Braidwood	19	8	27	15.7	5.7	21.4	109	19	3	2	12	3	20	12	3
Rhine Falls	Cooma	12	17	29	9.5	13.7	23.2	76	13	7	1	3	5	1	0	0
Richmond	Richmond	150	114	264	112.8	84.4	197.2	573	9	11	8	17	7	39	16	4
Richmond, North	Richmond	34	34	68	26.8	27.5	54.3	246	0	0	1	19	4	149	11	10
Richmond Vale	Buchanan	12	9	21	10.4	8.1	18.5	125	0	0	2	1	5	2	12	0
Riley's Hill	Riley's Hill	46	49	95	36.1	36.1	72.2	228	0	0	3	16	4	52	5	10
Riley-street	Sydney	179	112	291	130.6	86.5	209.1	457	10	0	5	5	8	31	17	2
Riverstone	Riverstone	77	80	157	56.5	54.5	111.0	362	10	0	5	3	2	192	6	8
Rix Creek	Singleton	32	33	65	25.5	25.0	50.5	246	0	0	2	18	5	48	8	4
Robertson Park	Glen Quarry	28	28	56	19.4	23.1	42.5	171	0	0	1	7	10	3	12	3
Robertson	Robertson	48	43	91	32.9	29.7	62.6	255	0	0	4	2	4	10	4	10
Rob Roy	Inverell	17	8	25	11.6	5.4	17.0	110	6	8	1	3	9	5	2	3
Rockdale	Rockdale	336	298	634	248.3	211.7	460.0	1,468	19	3	14	6	6	296	14	6
Rockley	Rockley	39	32	71	30.1	21.5	51.6	248	0	0	2	5	3	19	1	10
Rock, The	The Rock	17	16	33	11.8	14.6	26.4	125	0	0	0	17	1	65	17	3
Rock Vale	Via Armidale	24	31	55	19.0	23.1	42.1	186	15	8	1	6	11	16	12	3
Rocky Hall	Rocky Hall	19	15	34	13.7	11.1	24.8	182	13	4	1	7	7	13	12	0
Rocky Ponds	Mount Aubrey	31	27	58	21.8	18.4	40.2	153	15	0	3	8	2	2	15	9
Rocky River	Rocky River	47	38	85	30.2	26.3	56.5	234	0	0	3	14	11	10	6	4
Rolland's Plains	Rolland's Plains	15	17	32	9.1	11.4	20.5	125	0	0	1	11	6	41	10	9
Rookwood	Rookwood	139	121	260	110.1	90.9	201.0	514	3	4	5	6	2	29	19	10
Rose Bay	Watson's Bay	18	18	36	14.8	13.4	28.2	136	0	0	1	8	9	42	1	7
Rose Hill	Uralla	21	20	41	16.1	15.6	31.7	125	0	0	2	9	0	8	11	9
Rosenthal	Bulahdelah	23	22	45	18.2	13.9	32.1	108	15	0	2	6	4	2	12	3
Rose Valley	Gerrington	7	11	18	5.4	8.1	13.5	80	0	0	0	17	1			
Rosewood	Tumbarumba	12	10	22	6.5	7.5	14.0	75	0	0				1	7	6
Ross Hill	Inverell	18	14	32	13.9	9.9	23.8	146	6	8	1	12	6	1	18	2
Rothbury	Rothbury	27	19	46	21.2	15.2	36.4	171	0	0				27	9	3
Rotherfield	Quirindi	10	14	24	6.8	10.8	17.6	103	16	8	1	14	3	2	7	10
Rouchel	Rouchell Brook	13	16	29	11.0	11.9	22.9	156	6	8	0	9	1	47	17	3
Roughit	Singleton	55	46	101	43.5	37.6	81.1	283	0	0	4	16	0	27	16	10
Round Hill	Round Hill	19	24	43	10.5	15.2	25.7	204	6	8	2	16	10	14	9	3
Round Mount	Bundarra	14	12	26	11.7	9.3	21.0	113	0	0	1	15	10	26	2	3
Round Swamp	Capertee	15	9	24	10.1	6.4	16.5	90	1	8				2	19	6
Rous	Rous	34	18	52	22.3	12.0	34.3	148	0	0	3	10	2	28	11	5
Rouse Hill	Rouse Hill	14	24	38	10.7	17.5	28.2	167	3	4	1	1	11	2	12	3
Rous Mill	Rous Mill	44	51	95	29.5	34.7	64.2	241	4	10	2	14	8	7	16	10
Runnymede	Casino	10	11	21	6.9	8.9	15.8	84	0	0	1	6	8			
Run of Water	Yarra	24	14	38	19.0	10.5	29.5	126	8	4	3	2	3	1	16	0
Ryanda	Llangothlin	9	23	32	5.2	16.4	21.6	121	1	0	1	1	9	3	19	0
Rydal	Rydal	25	21	46	19.1	16.0	35.1	136	10	4	1	17	6	4	19	2
Rydalmere	Rydalmere	27	22	49	21.1	19.2	40.3	153	15	0	2	14	11	18	2	10
Ryde	Ryde	154	141	295	114.9	102.1	217.0	705	5	4	10	1	11	35	9	3
Ryde, North	Ryde	31	43	74	21.6	31.3	52.9	246	0	0	1	13	1	17	10	4
Rye Park	Rye Park	34	19	53	20.7	11.8	32.5	161	8	4	2	2	4	35	19	9
Rylstone	Rylstone	83	67	150	61.2	50.1	111.3	373	3	8	4	3	6	16	19	0
Rywang	Swamp Oak	24	9	33	15.7	6.9	22.6	120	13	4	0	13	1	4	5	3
Sackville Reach	Sackville Reach	18	17	35	11.4	11.7	23.1	132	13	4	1	0	1	3	12	3
Salisbury	Underbank	20	19	39	10.9	11.1	22.0	103	16	8	1	3	9	2	12	3
Salisbury Plains	Uralla	10	14	24	5.7	9.7	15.4	110	6	8	2	8	2	4	7	3
Salt Ash	William Town	19	16	35	14.3	11.8	26.1	137	10	0	1	11	8	8	12	3
Sandigo	Narrandera	13	9	22	7.2	8.4	15.6	89	10	0	1	6	5	1	5	10
Sundringham	Sundringham	59	56	95	41.6	25.9	67.5	290	10	0	3	11	5	15	2	8
Sapphire	Inverell	11	13	24	8.6	7.9	16.5	131	10	0	3	10	6	3	2	3
Sassafras	Nowra	12	5	17	10.4	4.4	14.8	75	6	8	0	8	5			
Saucy Creek	Bombala	20	10	30	12.4	7.1	19.5	103	16	8	0	19	9	3	7	3
Saumarez	Dumaresq	32	35	67	25.4	29.1	54.5	207	13	4	1	15	4	9	6	4
Sawpit Gully	Young	18	13	31	12.1	8.2	20.3	98	6	8	3	1	6	1	13	6
Scone	Scone	76	64	140	51.6	42.4	94.0	352	4	9	3	6	8	12	4	1
Scrub	Tenterfield	19	10	29	14.7	8.5	23.2	120	13	4	1	13	2	3	2	3
Seaham	Seaham	31	26	57	22.3	20.2	42.5	171	0	0	2	11	11	3	4	10
Sebastopol	Sebastopol	17	8	25	11.0	6.2	17.2	109	6	8	1	4	3	11	16	9
Sedgefield	Sedgefield	10	17	27	6.1	10.1	16.2	88	8	4				1	6	0
Seelands	Grafton	13	14	27	8.7	8.8	17.5	120	13	4				2	12	0
Seven Hills	Seven Hills	33	34	67	20.0	20.3	40.3	222	8	11	1	5	11	14	11	10
Seven Oaks	Smithtown	26	22	48	18.7	16.8	35.5	161	8	4	4	1	6	2	12	3
Shadforth	Guyong	28	20	48	17.5	13.1	30.6	136	0	0	2	2	5	3	7	3
Shannon Vale	Glen Innes	36	22	58	25.4	16.3	41.7	167	3	4	1	12	8	3	4	9
Shark Creek	Maclean	6	9	15	4.7	7.9	12.6	63	0	0	1	1	4	0	10	0
Sharp's Creek	Adelong	19	11	30	12.6	8.5	21.1	113	0	0				2	18	1
Shaw	Shaw	15	16	31	9.9	10.6	20.5	110	6	8	0	15	5	5	19	6
Shaw's Creek	Goulburn	20	20	40	12.1	14.0	26.1	118	15	0	1	7	0	4	10	9

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.											
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.							
							£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Shellharbour	Shellharbour.....	48	48	96	34.6	32.4	67.0	223	17	0	2	18	0			6	1	5	
Shephardstown ..	Shephardstown ..	53	50	103	32.7	32.3	65.0	247	0	0	2	19	7	1	16	3	9	6	10
Sherbrooke	Sherbrooke	11	10	21	7.5	6.9	14.4	110	6	8	0	16	0			2	12	3	
Sherwood	Sherwood (Macleay River).	29	23	52	18.1	13.4	31.5	148	0	0	1	1	5			30	2	3	
Sidebottom	Taree	11	13	24	8.1	10.8	18.9	113	0	0	1	17	0	3	0	0	2	12	3
Sidebrook	Ben Lomond	18	12	30	13.5	7.0	20.5	113	0	0	2	8	6			3	12	3	
Silverdale	Camden	7	10	17	4.3	5.8	10.1	78	13	4	1	7	11						
Silverhill	Captain's Flat ..	18	21	39	10.8	10.6	21.4	113	0	0	2	2	5			3	12	3	
Silverton	Silverton	48	43	91	34.3	33.0	67.3	345	0	0	2	8	7			20	19	0	
Simpson's Ridge...	Rowraville	26	13	39	20.4	10.0	30.4	148	0	0	4	4	3			54	12	3	
Singleton	Singleton	204	235	439	154.9	170.9	325.8	1,403	0	0	16	17	11	3	4	8	58	4	6
Small's Forest...	Ulmarru	10	12	22	6.9	7.0	13.9	83	13	4									
Smithfield	Smithfield	85	57	142	60.0	58.5	118.5	390	0	0	5	5	5			22	2	10	
Smith-street	Balmain	465	498	963	360.8	347.9	708.7	1,965	16	6	18	0	0			386	18	3	
Smithtown	Smithtown	43	42	85	29.6	28.1	57.7	240	0	0	1	9	10			42	8	10	
Sofala	Sofala	29	50	79	20.1	36.2	56.3	278	4	7	2	14	1			19	2	4	
Solferino	Young	26	11	37	18.5	7.6	26.1	113	0	0	1	9	8			2	12	3	
Somerton	Somerton	20	15	35	17.4	12.8	30.2	142	5	0	2	9	2			9	8	3	
South Arm	Brushgrove	37	28	65	27.4	18.6	46.0	247	10	0	2	14	11			8	9	4	
Southgate	Southgate	29	42	71	21.8	30.3	52.1	222	13	6	3	2	0			8	19	10	
Southgate, Lower.	Lawrence	10	16	26	7.4	12.7	20.1	125	0	0	0	16	4			19	9	9	
South Lead	Forbes	32	30	62	23.1	21.1	44.2	136	0	0	3	7	9			3	7	3	
Spaniard's Hill ..	Douglas	30	23	53	22.8	17.3	40.1	167	3	4	4	13	3			18	5	8	
Sparks's Creek ..	Scone	7	9	16	4.9	7.6	12.5	107	0	0	2	0	8			1	0	0	
Sparling Swamp ..	Parkes	16	14	30	12.7	9.6	22.3	105	6	2	1	9	6			2	9	6	
Spicer's Creek	Spicer's Creek	22	15	37	13.8	10.0	23.8	132	13	4	1	8	4			3	4	3	
Springdale	Springdale	29	21	50	18.4	13.9	32.3	113	0	0	1	2	11	1	2	8	4	12	3
Spring Hill	Spring Hill	55	45	100	37.2	28.8	66.0	220	9	2	1	5	6			9	0	4	
Springmount	Blayney	34	28	62	22.2	15.5	37.7	148	0	0	2	11	1			3	10	9	
Spring Ridge	Quirindi	13	13	26	9.4	8.6	18.0	85	16	8	1	9	4						
Springside	Springside	20	24	44	16.7	16.0	32.7	155	13	4	1	7	7			3	13	3	
Spring Vale	Bega	28	23	51	21.9	19.9	41.8	165	5	0	1	17	1			106	2	3	
Spring Valley	Currawang	18	14	32	11.9	9.4	21.3	113	0	0	1	4	7			3	2	0	
Springwood	Springwood	44	36	80	29.0	23.3	52.3	246	0	0	3	14	5			9	6	10	
Square Range	Nimmitzville	13	16	29	10.7	12.0	22.7	137	10	0	1	1	6			9	17	3	
St. Albans	St. Albans	32	35	67	25.6	27.6	53.2	233	16	9	3	15	4			147	18	1	
St. Ethels	West Maitland ..	129	109	238	93.1	75.4	168.5	392	0	0	5	9	10			57	16	2	
St. Ives	St. Ives	44	51	95	35.3	42.5	77.8	260	5	0	3	9	3			13	7	4	
St. John's Park ..	St. John's Park ..	32	22	54	25.1	15.6	40.7	171	0	0	3	0	3			19	19	3	
St. Leonards	North Sydney	608	507	1,115	464.0	381.0	845.0	2,347	14	8	32	18	6	1	13	9	122	4	7
St. Leonards, East.	North Sydney	190	167	357	129.7	111.8	241.5	809	1	9	9	13	6			73	15	2	
St. Leonards, North.	North Sydney	134	161	295	99.0	123.6	222.6	534	4	2	5	14	1			333	0	8	
St. Mary's	St. Mary's	147	112	259	117.4	83.3	200.7	457	5	0	7	11	3			33	12	9	
St. Peter's	St. Peter's	376	365	741	289.0	270.8	559.8	1,652	16	1	18	13	8			131	11	8	
Staggy Creek	Inverell	15	15	30	10.3	10.9	21.2	113	0	0	3	5	6	3	0	0	3	2	0
Stanhope	Brunxton	23	15	38	17.5	11.5	29.0	143	0	0	3	4	4			2	12	3	
Stammore	Petersham	731	604	1,335	573.7	455.8	1,029.5	2,412	15	2	25	15	3			63	14	2	
Stannifer	Stannifer	25	27	52	17.3	22.7	40.0	148	0	0	1	4	4			10	9	10	
Station Point	Stuart Town	16	13	29	10.9	7.8	18.7	89	10	0	1	2	4			2	6	3	
Stewart's Brook ..	Stewart's Brook ..	30	37	67	23.3	27.7	51.0	161	5	0	2	9	9			55	14	3	
Stockinbungal	Stockinbungal	34	32	66	23.1	21.9	45.0	161	8	4	0	16	3			3	2	3	
Stockton	Stockton	245	210	455	177.9	147.5	325.4	1,226	19	3	15	11	6	1	0	0	38	5	0
Stockyard Mountain.	Albion Park	12	14	26	7.9	9.1	17.0	98	6	8	1	6	10			33	17	9	
Stonefield	Warialda	11	13	24	6.4	10.6	17.0	109	6	8	1	8	3			3	2	0	
Stonehenge	Stonehenge	16	32	48	13.8	25.4	39.2	155	13	4	1	11	2			19	1	9	
Stony Creek, Lower.	Young	19	13	32	14.5	9.4	23.9	113	0	0	1	17	8			3	7	0	
Strathfield, South.	Enfield	137	129	266	91.7	92.8	184.5	449	3	4	6	15	10	0	10	0	30	0	2
Strontian Park ..	Grafton	13	8	21	9.6	6.9	16.5	125	0	0	0	18	0			5	12	3	
Stroud	Stroud	35	45	80	25.4	33.0	58.4	232	10	0	2	16	8	1	13	2	7	16	10
Stuart Town	Stuart Town	39	51	90	25.4	29.4	54.8	276	0	0	2	7	10			10	6	10	
Stubbo	Gulgong	11	14	25	7.7	14.2	21.9	113	0	0	0	19	11			3	12	3	
Summer Hill	Summer Hill	383	278	661	293.5	204.3	497.8	1,515	4	0	19	5	7			163	9	0	
Summer Island	Kinchela Creek ..	57	38	95	27.7	19.3	47.0	257	0	0	2	17	8			7	16	10	
Summer Vale	Walcha	9	17	26	6.5	14.0	20.5	113	0	0	1	7	5			3	8	9	
Sunnyside	Tenterfield	27	19	46	17.7	14.4	32.1	155	13	4	2	11	6			4	4	8	
Suntop	Wellington	10	11	21	7.0	7.6	14.6	91	0	0	0	5	9			2	12	0	
Surry Hills, South.	Sydney	705	553	1,258	499.9	397.5	897.4	2,581	12	10	23	9	1			298	17	7	
Sussex-street	Sydney	201	138	339	140.1	97.3	237.4	812	5	6	5	18	2	0	7	8	89	19	11
Sutherland	Sutherland	71	77	148	52.4	56.9	109.3	352	1	8	7	0	2	1	17	3	34	8	11
Sutton	Sutton	8	10	18	5.9	7.5	13.4	103	0	0	1	3	7			3	2	3	
Sutton Forest	Sutton Forest	36	35	71	26.0	26.1	52.1	290	10	0	2	2	10			38	6	4	
Swamp Oak	Moonbi Railway Station	14	9	23	8.2	7.4	15.6	93	13	6	1	9	5						
Swan Bay	Swan Bay	20	24	44	15.3	17.7	33.0	148	0	0	1	5	0			2	12	3	
Swan Creek	Ulmarru	35	39	74	27.3	28.1	55.4	246	0	0	3	4	3	1	0	0	8	12	10
Swan Ponds	Wangoolu	19	10	29	11.2	6.3	17.5	87											

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Talmalno	Wagra	8	8	16	6.0	3.4	9.4	133 0 0			17 12 0	150 12 0
Taloumbi	Palmer's Island	28	32	60	17.8	23.7	41.3	182 6 8	2 13 4		4 6 6	189 6 6
Tambaroora	Tambaroora	27	30	57	18.2	19.6	37.8	182 6 8	2 2 11		6 8 9	190 18 4
Tambar Springs	Tambar Springs	16	8	24	12.7	6.2	18.9	89 10 0	2 3 6		14 9 9	106 3 3
Tamworth	Tamworth	325	300	625	238.1	219.8	457.9	1,442 17 2	21 1 5		114 12 7	1,578 11 2
Tamworth, West.	Tamworth	157	148	305	112.5	106.1	218.6	531 0 0	7 15 10		41 14 8	580 10 6
Tangmangaroo	Tangmangaroo	8	15	23	4.9	11.2	16.1	110 6 8			3 7 3	113 13 11
Tanja	Bega	19	22	41	13.7	15.4	29.1	131 10 4	1 9 11		3 11 9	136 12 0
Tantawanglo	Tantawanglo	22	12	34	17.0	8.8	25.8	138 8 4		2 5 0	3 1 10	143 15 2
Taradale	Collector	12	4	16	10.1	3.2	13.3	60 0 0	1 9 1		1 2 6	62 11 7
Tarago	Tarago	16	29	45	12.8	23.1	35.9	167 3 4	1 13 6		18 16 3	187 13 1
Taralga	Taralga	29	31	60	19.1	19.0	38.1	171 0 0	1 1 0		3 12 1	175 13 1
Tarana	Tarana	31	30	61	25.4	22.8	48.2	171 0 0	1 14 0		20 18 3	193 12 3
Tarcutta	Tarcutta	17	16	33	10.3	10.7	21.0	148 0 0	0 10 7		3 9 9	152 0 4
Taree	Taree	108	95	203	82.8	65.5	148.3	384 11 4	5 8 10	1 10 0	10 9 0	401 19 2
Tarlo Gap	Goulburn	14	14	28	10.7	9.7	20.4	95 15 0	1 7 4	0 10 0	0 13 2	98 5 6
Tarrabandra	Gundagai	12	13	25	9.8	10.2	20.0	103 15 8	1 13 0	3 7 3		108 16 11
Tarragandah	Bega	19	23	42	11.6	17.7	29.3	136 0 0	2 8 7		6 14 8	145 3 3
Tarrawingie	Tarrawingie	34	38	72	23.4	24.5	47.9	195 0 0	2 9 5		3 12 3	201 1 8
Tarro	Tarro	24	34	58	18.0	23.3	41.3	153 15 0	2 3 2		2 12 3	158 10 5
Tatham	Tatham	27	20	47	18.9	13.3	32.2	155 13 4	0 14 8		3 2 3	159 10 3
Tattaila	Moama	15	13	28	12.2	10.8	23.0	132 13 4	2 9 8		26 10 9	161 13 4
Tea Gardens	Tea Gardens	26	26	52	18.0	18.8	36.8	136 0 0	2 17 1		29 12 1	168 9 2
Telegerry	Stroud	10	21	31	5.7	14.0	19.7	135 8 4	1 13 9		20 5 9	157 7 10
Telegraph Point	Telegraph Point	16	14	30	10.8	11.4	22.2	95 15 0	1 5 10	1 4 0	2 2 0	100 6 10
Temora	Temora	119	121	240	82.6	83.9	166.5	478 18 11	6 3 6	0 13 9	103 5 11	589 2 1
Tempe	Tempe	206	199	405	166.2	136.5	292.7	844 9 5	6 16 3		223 1 0	1,074 6 8
Tenterfield	Tenterfield	182	134	316	73.8	97.4	232.2	814 14 8	13 14 11	4 5 9	21 12 4	854 7 8
Teralba	Teralba	109	87	196	74.4	57.5	131.9	381 10 0	3 9 11		127 14 5	512 14 4
Termeil	Termeil	26	16	42	19.7	11.5	31.2	118 15 0	2 7 7		186 5 3	307 7 10
Terra Bella	Terra Bella	12	12	24	8.1	10.3	18.4	173 0 0	1 13 11		23 19 3	198 13 2
Terrara	Terrara	15	16	31	9.3	10.1	19.4	113 0 0	0 11 8		8 11 9	122 3 5
Thackaringa	Thackaringa	18	16	34	14.0	9.8	23.8	113 10 0	0 8 7		3 19 3	117 17 10
Thalaba	Alison	31	33	64	19.7	20.9	40.6	234 0 0	1 13 3	1 0 8	7 16 10	244 10 9
Theresa Park	Camden	23	21	44	15.2	15.7	30.9	148 0 0	2 6 3		3 2 3	153 8 6
Third Creek	Crookwell	15	15	30	10.4	9.9	20.3	113 0 0	1 14 2		3 8 6	118 2 8
Thirlmere	Thirlmere	39	45	84	24.7	29.7	54.4	276 7 8	1 8 8		13 14 10	291 11 2
Thirroul	Thirroul	71	52	123	59.2	39.6	98.8	344 0 0	3 5 11		15 1 2	362 7 1
Thornford	Thornford	16	17	33	11.5	13.5	25.0	113 0 0	1 19 5		3 5 3	117 5 8
Thornleigh	Thornleigh	59	53	112	41.7	37.0	78.7	298 3 4	4 16 0		7 16 10	310 16 2
Thorp's Pinch	Rydal	19	15	34	13.5	10.4	23.9	132 13 4	1 5 9		4 12 0	138 11 1
Three-mile Waterhole	Wolumba	27	27	54	18.6	21.2	39.8	171 0 0	3 10 8		8 17 9	183 8 5
Thuddungra	Thuddungra	12	15	27	9.7	11.8	21.5	89 10 0	1 12 9		2 12 3	93 15 0
Thurgoona	Thurgoona	30	26	56	22.2	20.6	42.8	171 0 0	2 19 10		3 12 3	177 12 1
Tia	Walcha	25	19	44	17.9	13.9	31.8	159 3 4	2 8 3		3 2 3	164 13 10
Tibooburra	Tibooburra	30	22	52	19.5	15.4	34.9	187 0 0	3 15 11		22 10 0	213 5 11
Tighe's Hill	Tighe's Hill	154	154	308	119.1	112.8	231.9	710 16 3	13 5 4		47 14 6	771 16 1
Tilba Tilba	Tilba Tilba	29	25	54	22.4	18.2	40.6	171 0 0	2 2 4		58 12 9	231 15 1
Tilbuster	Armidale	31	23	54	21.9	15.3	37.2	171 0 0	3 15 6	1 11 3	3 12 3	179 19 0
Tingha	Tingha	79	53	132	62.5	42.4	104.9	351 4 7	7 12 6	1 13 6	17 14 3	378 4 10
Tinonee	Tinonee	51	29	80	39.3	20.3	59.6	237 15 0	3 5 0		7 16 10	248 16 10
Tintenbar	Tintenbar	40	22	62	24.8	15.1	39.9	171 0 0	3 15 5		2 12 2	177 7 7
Tintinhull	Tintinhull	13	12	25	10.0	9.1	19.1	125 0 0	1 3 2		3 8 11	129 12 1
Tipperary Gully	Young	14	20	34	10.6	12.4	23.0	132 13 4	1 4 10		3 17 3	137 15 5
Tirrana	Goulburn	14	15	29	8.9	10.4	19.3	113 0 0	1 4 4		3 16 6	118 0 10
Tirranna Creek	Lismore	22	35	57	15.9	24.3	40.2	171 0 0	2 5 4		2 12 3	175 17 7
Tiverton	Murrumburrah	22	14	36	12.0	8.1	20.1	125 0 0	1 5 3	1 7 0	3 6 8	130 18 11
Tocumwall	Tocumwall	53	33	86	34.5	22.3	56.8	223 10 0	3 6 5		1,319 0 2	1,545 16 7
Tomago	Tomago	17	8	25	12.3	5.4	17.7	92 15 4	1 19 8	2 8 3	3 14 3	100 17 6
Tomerong	Tomerong	23	27	50	15.0	18.2	33.2	155 13 4	1 5 0		2 12 0	159 10 4
Tomingley	Tomingley	41	36	77	18.1	15.7	33.8	159 0 0	2 11 8		3 12 0	165 3 8
Tomki	Tatham	27	14	41	17.7	9.0	26.7	148 0 0	2 0 0		6 12 0	156 12 0
Tom's Lagoon	Forbes	20	16	36	12.2	8.8	21.0	113 0 0	3 17 8		3 7 3	120 4 11
Toogong	Toogong	18	18	36	9.7	10.8	20.5	121 6 8	1 2 4	29 2 6	45 3 0	196 14 6
Toolejova	Gerrington	20	24	44	15.8	17.3	33.1	142 0 0	1 13 7		26 2 6	169 16 1
Toongabbie	Toongabbie	41	27	68	32.0	18.3	50.3	171 0 0	1 16 11		10 4 1	183 1 0
Tooraweenah	Tooraweenah	24	11	35	18.7	8.5	27.2	113 0 0	2 9 6		3 12 0	119 1 6
Toorooka	Hickey's Creek	14	9	23	8.6	6.5	15.1	76 6 8	0 15 6	10 9 6	4 0 0	91 11 8
Toothdale	Candelo	19	7	26	14.0	6.4	20.4	132 13 4	1 14 2		3 2 3	137 9 9
Topi Topi	Bungwahl	19	19	38	15.9	14.7	30.6	157 5 0	2 1 8		22 10 7	181 17 3
Toronto	Toronto	39	29	68	25.4	18.9	44.3	171 0 0	2 7 5		2 12 0	175 19 5
Towamba	Towamba	23	25	48	15.4	20.1	35.5	118 0 0	2 10 10		3 2 0	153 12 10
Townsend	Berridale	10	10	20	8.3	8.3	16.6	113 0 0	2 1 6		3 12 3	118 13 9
Towrang	Towrang	20	16	36	11.5	11.4	22.9	137 10 0	1 16 5		19 19 4	159 5 9
Trajerc	Eugowra	9	8	17	7.5	7.2	14.7	68 17 9	0 18 6		0 10 0	70 6 3
Trangie	Trangie	66	82	148	48.9	56.7	105.6	308 0 0	5 16 11		22 9 0	336 5 11
Tregeagle	Lismore	22	20	42	18.4	15.5	33.9	134 6 8	1 6 8		3 5 11	137 19 3
Trelowarren	Parkes	36	47	83	26.6	37.2	63.8	233 0 0	4 7 6		18 19 10	256 7 4
Tremarton	Stockton	19	23	42	15.9	18.6	34.5	224 0 10	1 8 1	3 10 6	4 7 3	233 6 2
Trevaylor	Ennerville	17	18	35	10.7	11.3	22.0	89 10 0	1 0 8		25 1 0	115 11 8
Triangle Flat	Rockley	13	7	20	7.5	4.0	11.5	110 6 8	0 19 9		3 7 0	114 13 5
Trickett	Coolamon	10	6	16	8.0	4.2	12.2	82 13 4				82 13 4

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.														
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.		Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.									
								£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Trunkey	Trunkey	34	34	68	24.5	26.6	51.1	171	0	0	2	1	6				3	17	3	176	18	9
Tubbul	Young	14	15	29	8.4	9.7	18.1	133	3	4	1	13	10				6	12	3	141	9	5
Tucabia	Ulmarra	19	15	34	12.6	11.2	23.8	113	0	0	1	10	2				3	12	3	118	2	5
Tuccaburra	Via Lismore	16	14	30	12.8	11.2	24.0	113	0	0							2	12	3	115	12	3
Tuckombil	Alstonville	19	10	29	14.8	7.7	22.5	124	10	0	1	7	4				2	12	3	128	9	7
Tuckurimba	Coraki	14	16	30	10.0	12.2	22.2	101	10	0	1	10	3				2	7	3	105	7	6
Tuena	Tuena	24	26	50	17.4	18.6	36.0	171	0	0	1	8	3				3	12	0	176	0	3
Tuggerah	Tuggerah Lakes	27	20	47	21.3	15.3	36.6	148	0	0	1	19	0				13	15	5	163	14	5
Tuggranong	Queanbeyan	19	11	30	14.0	7.6	21.6	132	13	4	1	12	4				3	12	3	137	17	11
Tullimbar	Albion Park	15	10	25	11.3	6.5	17.8	110	6	8	0	18	11				2	12	3	113	17	10
Tumberumba	Tumberumba	60	55	115	48.6	39.1	82.7	266	10	0	2	17	9				19	7	4	288	15	1
Tumbleton	Wombat	12	11	23	8.0	9.3	17.3	91	0	0	1	8	11				1	6	0	95	2	5
Tumbulgum	Tumbulgum	39	50	89	27.8	35.5	63.3	222	17	9	2	13	3				13	14	3	239	5	8
Tumut	Tumut	146	118	269	106.4	76.6	183.0	541	17	7	5	16	3				39	5	9	592	17	10
Tumut Plains	Tumut	25	28	53	17.1	19.1	36.2	190	19	9	2	1	10				5	6	3	198	7	10
Tuncurry	Tuncurry	23	22	45	16.2	17.1	33.3	157	5	0	1	15	9				32	7	3	191	8	0
Tunnabutta	Mudgee	16	11	27	11.5	8.4	19.9	102	0	0							3	12	3	105	12	3
Turlinjah	Turlinjah	22	17	39	14.5	11.7	26.2	125	0	0	1	12	1				3	2	3	129	14	4
Turner's Flat	Skillion Flat	18	17	35	12.7	11.9	24.6	142	5	0	0	17	6				2	12	3	145	14	9
Tyagong	Young	15	9	24	10.3	7.4	17.7	89	10	0	1	10	9				3	2	3	95	10	6
Tyndale	Maclenn	26	32	58	18.4	23.3	41.7	171	0	0	3	0	2				16	12	3	190	12	5
Ulladulla	Ulladulla	32	26	58	23.7	18.4	42.1	171	0	0	1	12	11				2	12	3	175	5	2
Ulmarra	Ulmarra	74	72	146	63.3	48.6	101.9	356	16	5	5	2	7				50	7	1	413	8	1
Ulmara, East	Ulmarra	17	20	37	13.1	15.9	29.0	155	13	4	0	15	8				4	19	0	161	8	9
Ultimo	Ultimo	358	337	695	263.8	243.2	507.0	1,541	6	5	15	13	8				89	10	8	1,646	10	9
Umaralla Siding	Cooma	17	10	27	12.8	7.3	20.1	132	13	4	1	4	0				4	2	3	137	19	7
Unanderra	Unanderra	69	54	123	55.0	41.1	96.1	316	10	0	3	5	6				39	2	4	358	17	10
Unkya Creek	Unkya Creek	23	24	47	16.4	16.3	32.7	137	10	0	4	13	5				11	9	0	158	7	5
Uralla	Uralla	97	88	180	62.5	54.9	117.4	405	6	0	11	12	9				45	13	8	471	4	11
Urana	Urana	39	35	74	31.0	24.6	55.6	290	10	0	3	19	10				10	16	0	305	5	10
Urangbell	UpperCopmanhurst	26	20	46	17.1	14.4	31.5	149	8	4	2	4	10				2	12	3	154	5	5
Uranquinty	Uranquinty	22	23	45	17.4	16.4	33.8	136	10	0	1	4	5				3	6	2	141	0	7
Utungan	Macksville	13	12	25	8.5	7.4	15.9	102	0	0	2	0	5				0	5	0	104	5	5
Vacy	Vacy	26	28	54	19.5	22.4	41.9	171	0	0	1	15	5				26	15	3	199	10	8
Vere	Vere	17	13	30	11.0	10.3	21.3	125	0	0	2	6	10				6	2	11	133	9	9
Verona	Cobargo	7	20	27	6.3	16.3	22.6	91	11	8	1	4	2				8	0	0	102	17	6
Vineyard	Riverstone	23	21	44	15.8	15.6	31.3	136	0	0	2	19	6				3	10	9	142	10	3
Wagga Wagga	Wagga Wagga	164	168	332	123.9	119.9	243.8	719	1	5	8	13	1				110	18	7	844	11	4
Wagga Wagga, North	Wagga Wagga	51	38	89	31.2	23.8	55.0	257	0	0	4	0	3				25	13	4	286	13	7
Wagga Wagga, South	Wagga Wagga	182	192	374	129.8	144.9	274.7	820	15	0	14	7	11				87	11	4	922	14	3
Wagga	Wagga	22	21	43	19.1	18.8	37.9	165	5	0	0	17	10				3	2	0	169	4	10
Wagragobilly	Gundagai	4	15	19	3.4	13.1	16.5	88	11	8	2	11	11				1	15	0	93	18	0
Walung	Glanmire	19	11	30	14.9	8.8	23.7	95	10	0	1	1	7				3	2	0	99	13	7
Walcha	Walcha	80	110	190	56.6	76.5	133.1	340	0	0	6	12	8				31	9	0	378	1	8
Walcha Road	Walcha Road	14	17	31	10.1	11.1	21.2	125	0	0	1	6	4				15	5	9	141	12	1
Waldegrave	Forest Reefs	17	14	31	10.5	9.3	19.8	113	0	0	1	5	10				14	14	9	129	0	7
Walgett	Walgett	60	37	97	42.3	29.3	71.6	397	3	6	4	8	4				13	13	7	415	5	5
Walhallow	Quirindi	13	21	34	9.1	15.1	24.2	108	8	10	1	3	11				1	4	6	113	4	3
Wallabadah	Wallabadah	31	40	71	19.3	27.9	47.2	171	0	0	2	14	7				6	19	7	180	14	2
Wallaby Hill	Jamberoo	19	9	28	14.2	7.3	21.5	127	3	2	1	11	5				6	12	3	135	6	10
Wallagoot	Tathra	29	14	43	20.4	11.2	31.6	118	13	0							3	2	3	121	17	3
Wallalong	Hinton	39	29	68	23.9	21.9	50.8	254	10	11	2	2	2				47	10	10	304	3	11
Wallamba, Lower	Faillford	13	11	24	9.6	8.3	17.9	89	10	0							2	12	3	92	2	3
Wallambine	St. Albans	19	7	26	15.4	5.6	21.0	102	0	0	1	0	2				1	6	3	104	6	5
Wallangra	Wallangra	11	20	31	9.1	14.6	23.7	113	0	0	2	7	2				4	10	0	197	4	5
Wallaroo	Cowra	18	11	29	12.0	7.4	19.4	95	9	2	1	2	6				3	12	3	100	3	11
Walla Walla	Walla Walla	23	23	46	14.2	14.3	29.0	163	8	4	1	19	3				53	2	0	218	9	7
Wallaya	Robertson	9	12	21	7.4	9.5	16.9	81	9	2	0	18	10				4	17	0	88	9	0
Wallendbeen	Wallendbeen	41	32	73	23.7	20.8	49.5	171	0	0	1	11	2				3	2	0	175	13	2
Wallerawang	Wallerawang	87	76	163	64.8	51.0	115.8	399	6	8	3	11	3				18	17	2	421	15	1
Wallgrove	Eastern Creek	43	33	76	30.4	23.3	53.7	261	10	0	2	11	1				7	16	10	271	17	11
Walli	Walli	18	19	37	11.4	13.1	24.5	132	13	4	0	13	11				13	7	3	146	14	6
Wallsend	Wallsend, Plattsburg	433	403	836	339.4	303.0	642.4	1,940	8	4	19	6	1				105	8	10	2,068	3	3
Wallsend, West	West Wallsend	161	132	293	126.8	96.9	223.7	478	14	4	8	1	0				32	12	4	519	7	8
Wambanumba	Young	20	21	41	17.2	14.5	31.7	132	13	4	1	11	11				1	15	0	136	0	3
Wamboota	Wamboota	11	23	34	5.0	15.0	20.0	133	16	8	0	5	10				33	5	11	167	8	5
Wanaaring	Wanaaring	18	25	43	14.8	18.2	33.0	135	15	4	3	15	11				3	12	3	143	3	6
Wanatta	Wolumla	13	8	21	10.5	5.8	16.3	113	0	0	1	15	3				2	19	3	117	14	6
Wandella	Cobargo	23	16	39	16.5	14.5	31.0	94	8	4	0	19	3				4	3	4	79	14	11
Wandsworth	Wandsworth	16	21	37	12.3	18.1	30.4	160	0	0	1	7	3				28	2	3	189	9	6
Wantool	Junee	14	15	29	9.6	10.5	20.1	94	3	5	1	9	8				18	2	3	113	15	4
Wapengo	Wapengo	14	16	30	9.3	8.9	18.2	102	0	0	1	17	9				2	10	3	106	8	0
Warangesda	Darlington Point	38	34	72	23.0	25.5	53.5	173	10	0	9	7	0				6	5	6	189	2	6
Waratah	Waratah	82	66	148	61.3	52.9	117.2	345	15	0	4	2	10				119	14	2	469	12	0
Warho	Hickey's Creek	14	17	31	8.1	9.2	17.3	113	0	0	2	16	3				41	12				

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.													
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.		Books, Apparatus, Printing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.								
							£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Warraderry	Grenfell	12	7	19	8.3	3.9	12.2	86	6	8	1	8	7					87	15	3	
Warrnah	Willow Tree	7	8	15	4.4	7.0	11.4	91	0	0	0	16	2	1	8	2			95	16	7
Warrangunyah	Iford	14	17	31	10.9	14.1	25.0	113	0	0	1	13	11						118	15	11
Warren	Warren	106	130	236	76.1	89.3	165.4	511	10	0	8	6	2	2	6	6			639	0	2
Warroo	Canowindra	7	6	13	6.0	4.4	10.4	84	13	4	1	3	9	5	16	9			93	14	10
Watergumben	Waterloo	25	15	40	14.0	8.3	22.3	132	13	4	1	17	4						137	17	11
Waterloo	Waterloo	380	323	703	276.8	231.1	507.9	1,674	9	10	18	7	9						1,742	14	10
Watson's Bay	Watson's Bay	70	73	143	53.0	49.4	101.4	379	3	4	3	2	10						41	4	0
Watson's Reef	Cunningham	32	33	65	22.3	17.9	40.2	136	0	0	3	16	8						81	6	5
Wattamadara	Cowra	15	16	31	12.3	9.0	21.3	95	15	0	0	19	0	1	15	0			2	12	0
Wattamolla	Wattamolla	9	10	19	7.2	7.4	14.6	91	0	0	1	2	1						2	12	2
Wattle Flat	Wattle Flat	40	52	92	25.9	34.7	60.6	246	0	0	2	1	11						14	11	10
Wattleville	Neville	10	18	28	5.5	10.6	16.1	91	0	0	1	16	10						3	12	3
Wauchope	Wauchope	39	57	96	27.1	42.0	69.1	246	0	0	2	19	11						7	16	10
Waverley	Waverley	474	517	991	347.0	363.1	710.1	2,175	9	5	24	3	7						217	4	7
Weddin	Grenfell	21	20	41	15.5	15.7	31.2	125	0	0	1	8	6	1	2	0			8	18	6
Weetlaba	Wee Wee	10	9	19	6.7	6.9	13.6	76	6	8	1	11	2	9	18	0			15	4	0
Wee Wee	Tambar Springs	68	65	133	49.9	44.3	94.2	274	0	0	4	18	5						155	12	9
Wellisle	Delego	17	10	27	10.7	6.5	17.2	113	0	0	2	8	6						3	12	3
Wellingrove	Wellingrove	19	13	32	15.3	10.2	25.5	102	0	0	0	18	7						81	7	3
Wellington	Wellington	191	176	367	136.7	127.0	263.7	516	0	0	12	0	0	1	17	6			36	12	11
Welshman's Creek	Wallarobba	18	19	37	13.0	15.1	28.1	124	10	0	1	3	3						3	12	3
Wentworth	Wentworth	68	53	121	54.7	38.7	93.4	365	13	4	7	1	8						205	0	6
Wentworth Falls	Wentworth Falls	25	13	38	19.8	8.8	28.6	137	10	0	0	18	0	1	14	1			16	5	11
Wentworthville	Wentworthville	39	19	58	35.4	15.7	51.1	213	15	0	2	11	3						4	7	9
Werombi	Camden	12	10	22	10.0	8.3	18.3	115	16	8	1	0	10						8	2	3
Werriberri	Picton	18	16	34	12.0	10.3	22.3	115	16	8	0	19	2						3	2	3
Werris Creek	Werris Creek	48	43	91	37.1	32.8	69.9	247	1	2	2	13	3	3	15	4			30	8	8
Whian Whian	Eureka	19	27	46	11.6	19.6	31.2	120	15	0	2	0	0						3	18	11
White Cliffs	White Cliffs	22	19	41	15.1	11.6	26.7	113	10	0	2	4	2						106	2	0
Whiteman Creek	Whiteman Creek	17	14	31	11.5	9.1	20.6	113	0	0	0	18	1						2	12	3
White Rock	White Rock	23	16	39	17.3	12.4	29.7	132	13	4	0	16	1						8	7	3
Whittingham	Whittingham	24	13	37	19.9	7.1	27.0	125	0	0	1	6	9						5	17	3
Whitton	Whitton	49	38	87	31.6	25.0	56.6	290	10	0	2	16	5						9	6	10
Wickham	Wickham	558	537	1,095	432.5	392.2	824.7	2,272	9	7	22	17	6	5	11	3			104	16	6
Wilberforce	Wilberforce	73	57	130	59.7	44.7	104.4	355	8	4	20	17	8						16	1	10
Wilbertree	Canadian Lead	14	17	31	9.4	11.3	20.7	126	0	0	1	1	2						34	16	9
Wilcannia	Wilcannia	66	62	128	48.9	45.6	94.5	459	16	8	6	2	6	21	11	9			29	1	2
Willandra	Dubbo	18	20	38	9.9	14.9	24.8	102	0	0	1	0	11	1	0	0			4	12	3
William-street	Sydney	453	391	844	323.7	254.6	608.3	1,956	5	1	18	14	3						225	3	9
William Town	William Town	31	25	56	21.5	19.7	41.2	171	0	0	2	3	6						18	13	6
Willoughby	Willoughby	68	64	132	61.2	52.7	113.9	410	17	4	2	19	8						21	11	2
Willow Tree	Willow Tree	29	21	50	19.9	15.0	34.9	148	0	0	1	9	8						3	2	0
Wilson's Downfall	Wilson's Downfall	10	11	21	7.0	8.3	15.3	86	6	8	1	9	1						0	10	0
Wilton	Wilton	19	23	42	13.3	16.8	30.1	143	0	0	1	11	11						2	12	3
Winchendon Vale	Old Junee	19	20	39	12.6	17.8	30.4	136	0	0	1	13	4						3	12	3
Windoyer	Windoyer	33	36	69	24.5	27.1	51.6	200	19	2	2	10	10						6	16	3
Windowie	Gilmore	16	14	30	11.2	7.3	18.5	100	3	4	1	2	6						2	17	1
Windsor	Windsor	217	173	390	159.2	126.2	285.4	1,035	15	0	12	12	8	0	9	2			43	14	0
Wingello	Wingello	24	16	40	13.4	9.9	23.3	113	0	0	0	13	6						3	12	3
Wingen*	Wingen	9	1	10	6.0	0.8	6.8	76	11	2	0	6	11	3	0	0			8	6	4
Wingham	Wingham	77	94	171	54.5	69.5	124.0	349	10	0	5	7	9						35	0	9
Winton	Tamworth	22	28	50	17.1	21.7	38.8	188	10	0	3	5	7						16	10	2
Wiseman's Ferry	Wiseman's Ferry	32	17	49	27.2	12.8	40.0	213	4	8	1	18	10	2	1	3			8	19	4
Woerden	Clarencetown	15	17	32	11.2	13.2	24.4	120	13	4	1	15	6						3	1	7
Wollar	Wollar	15	13	28	9.9	8.9	18.8	113	0	0									10	2	0
Wollombi	Wollombi	33	40	73	20.8	25.4	46.2	270	15	0	2	12	1						22	5	4
Wollongong	Wollongong	300	246	546	229.3	191.7	421.0	1,310	18	11	12	8	2	0	9	0			40	11	6
Wollun	Walcha Road	14	17	31	12.1	11.9	24.0	137	10	0	1	11	1	1	19	6			14	0	3
Wolumba, South	Wolumba	24	17	41	19.2	13.3	32.5	148	0	0	2	14	7						5	7	3
Wombah	Chatsworth Island	9	12	21	5.1	9.5	14.6	84	11	8	0	3	11						2	2	0
Wombat	Wombat	47	35	82	30.7	21.6	52.3	230	16	8	3	1	1	3	14	6			15	0	0
Wombramurra	Nundle	7	9	16	5.0	5.1	10.1	74	0	0	1	5	8						0	10	0
Wongajong	Forbes	23	16	39	16.9	10.6	27.5	102	15	7	2	6	9	2	19	6			3	7	3
Woodburn	South Woodburn	75	74	149	51.2	55.2	106.4	346	13	4	4	18	5						12	19	0
Woodford Dale	Brushgrove	20	28	48	14.1	22.3	36.4	171	0	0	1	19	5						3	11	2
Woodford Leigh	Woodford Leigh	16	11	27	12.6	9.2	21.8	155	13	4	2	13	4						3	5	3
Woodhill	Berry	14	8	22	8.9	4.6	13.5	72	7	8	0	12	9	3	1	6					
Woodhouselee	Woodhouselee	15	18	33	8.6	13.1	21.7	132	13	4	1	9	11								

APPENDIX VII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.
Wyagdon	Via Bathurst	15	14	29	10.1	8.9	19.0	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wyaldra	Gulgong	15	17	32	8.5	11.5	20.0	105 18 8	2 4 8	4 6 2	3 1 9	115 11 3
Wyalong	Wyalong	118	88	206	82.3	60.2	142.5	89 10 0	1 3 2	.....	3 12 3	94 5 5
Wyalong, West	West Wyalong	136	103	239	93.1	75.0	168.1	426 2 0	7 8 1	37 0 6	269 1 4	739 11 11
Wyce	Wyce	11	9	20	7.2	8.0	15.2	535 13 4	5 16 1	3 10 0	141 2 7	686 2 0
Wyndella	Armidale	12	17	29	10.1	11.7	21.8	107 10 0	0 17 2	.....	3 4 3	111 11 5
Wyndham	Wyndham	29	28	57	18.7	20.5	39.2	132 13 4	1 11 4	.....	4 2 10	138 7 6
Wyong	Wyong	45	37	82	28.7	23.8	52.5	171 0 0	1 13 0	.....	4 5 9	176 18 9
Wyong Creek	Wyong Creek	24	18	42	18.0	13.8	31.8	269 0 0	4 17 1	.....	7 16 10	281 13 11
Wyrallah	Wyrallah	38	45	83	28.1	33.5	61.6	136 0 0	1 9 10	.....	2 12 3	140 2 1
Yalgogrin	Yalgogrin, North	16	20	36	10.0	11.1	21.1	249 0 0	2 5 11	.....	11 4 10	262 10 9
Yallaroi	Warialda	12	8	20	10.4	7.3	17.7	80 11 8	2 6 3	.....	2 13 0	85 11 4
Yalwal	Yalwal	38	34	72	28.9	23.4	52.3	85 16 8	0 17 11	4 9 0	0 10 0	91 13 7
Yamba	Yamba	26	28	54	18.4	18.5	36.9	188 10 0	5 10 8	.....	14 6 6	208 7 2
Yambla	Table Top	12	16	28	5.6	11.7	17.3	171 0 0	1 15 1	.....	2 12 3	175 7 4
Yarra	Cowra	25	23	48	17.9	14.1	32.0	119 18 8	2 2 4	.....	2 19 8	125 0 8
Yarraford	Glen Innes	20	12	32	12.8	9.3	22.1	138 8 4	1 16 0	.....	2 12 3	142 16 7
Yarragundry	Wagga Wagga	19	9	28	15.7	7.5	23.2	113 0 0	2 5 6	.....	3 2 0	118 7 6
Yarruhappini	Stuart's Point	22	31	53	18.5	23.7	42.2	113 0 0	1 3 7	.....	33 8 3	147 11 10
Yarralumla	Queanbeyan	12	10	22	8.5	7.6	16.1	157 0 0	2 8 7	9 0 0	2 12 3	171 0 10
Yarramalong	Yarramalong	31	15	46	20.5	10.7	31.2	137 10 0	1 8 1	.....	13 7 0	152 5 1
Yarramundi	Richmond	24	32	56	19.1	24.3	43.4	148 0 0	2 6 5	.....	2 14 0	153 0 5
Yarrawah	Robertson	25	24	49	17.0	14.7	31.7	171 0 0	3 2 10	.....	9 12 3	183 15 1
Yarrowitch	Walcha	11	15	26	9.6	11.6	21.2	163 6 8	2 18 1	.....	27 10 9	193 15 6
Yarrowyck	Armidale	19	9	28	13.2	8.6	16.8	83 3 4	1 3 5	.....	2 13 6	87 0 3
Yarrunga	Avoca	20	19	39	16.9	14.0	30.9	113 0 0	1 4 10	.....	3 12 3	117 17 1
Yass	Yass	137	118	255	101.7	83.5	185.2	148 0 0	2 13 2	.....	8 1 0	158 14 2
Yattcyattah	Yattcyattah	22	12	34	15.7	7.4	23.1	380 18 0	10 0 8	0 12 1	14 16 9	406 7 6
Yeoval	Yeoval	16	13	29	9.0	9.4	18.4	144 3 4	1 9 4	.....	2 12 3	148 4 11
Yeo Yeo*	Cootamundra	7	6	13	4.9	5.5	10.4	113 0 0	1 0 0	2 16 0	3 2 3	119 18 3
Yerong Creek	Yerong Creek	24	33	57	17.2	23.8	41.0	52 16 8	0 18 4	.....	1 10 5	55 5 5
Yetholme	Yetholme	13	21	34	11.1	13.0	24.1	161 8 4	2 15 10	.....	16 17 4	181 1 6
Yetman	Yetman	11	12	23	8.1	9.9	18.0	126 8 4	2 11 10	.....	8 13 0	137 13 2
Young	Young	261	250	511	194.8	188.0	382.8	75 17 0	.....	5 1 0	12 1 6	92 19 6
Young Wallsend	Young Wallsend	26	22	48	16.3	14.3	30.6	1,310 12 6	22 5 9	.....	63 11 8	1,396 9 11
Yowaka	Pambula	18	25	43	13.7	18.2	31.9	125 0 0	3 4 2	.....	3 2 3	131 6 5
Yurramie	Candelo	22	18	40	15.1	14.4	29.5	151 10 0	3 1 0	.....	34 7 5	188 18 5
								136 0 0	3 10 6	1 15 0	4 12 0	145 17 6

* Closed, 31st July.

APPENDIX VIII.

ATTENDANCE of Children at Provisional Schools for the Quarter ending 31st December, 1896, or for the last Quarter of that year during which the Schools were in operation.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.
Arina	Bargo	12	10	22	10.5	6.4	16.9	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Arthurville	Arthurville	11	11	22	8.0	7.6	15.6	87 13 4	1 4 1	.....	6 17 6	95 14 11
Ashby	Maclean	11	12	23	8.2	9.2	17.4	87 5 0	1 1 5	.....	.....	88 6 5
Baerami	Denman	15	4	19	12.4	3.6	16.0	85 8 4	1 17 5	.....	.....	87 5 9
Bagawah	South Grafton	13	10	23	9.8	8.5	18.3	79 18 4	2 7 5	.....	.....	82 5 9
Bago, Lower	Batlow	7	10	17	6.7	8.7	15.4	71 17 6	1 1 4	2 11 8	0 4 0	75 14 6
Bamarang	Nowra	6	16	22	4.9	11.6	16.5	85 18 4	1 2 5	.....	.....	87 0 9
Bando	Gunnedah	12	7	19	10.3	5.5	6.3	77 6 2	0 18 6	1 11 7	.....	79 16 3
Barnett	Moonanbrook	12	6	18	11.5	5.0	16.5	46 6 11	.....	3 10 7	.....	49 17 6
Barooga	Cobram (Vict.)	11	9	20	8.6	5.7	14.3	84 0 0	4 6 9	.....	0 11 0	88 17 9
Barragon	Wollar	10	12	22	7.1	7.7	14.8	71 0 0	4 15 9	.....	.....	75 15 9
Barricton	Fernmount	9	9	18	7.7	7.0	14.7	13 6 8	.....	3 3 0	.....	16 9 8
Beaconsfield	Temora	8	11	19	6.0	10.2	16.2	41 6 8	3 7 1	2 2 6	.....	46 16 3
Bear Hill	Bear Hill	6	12	18	4.5	10.6	15.1	89 10 0	.....	.....	1 0 0	90 10 0
Beilsdown	Bellingen	12	5	17	10.5	4.1	14.6	73 0 0	.....	4 6 9	0 10 0	77 16 9
Belmore River, Upper	Gladstone	7	10	17	6.3	7.9	14.2	82 15 0	0 18 3	.....	3 0 0	86 13 3
Ben Bullen	Wallerawang	12	9	21	9.5	7.4	16.9	50 8 5	.....	2 12 11	.....	53 1 4
Beri	Warne	7	12	19	5.1	7.2	12.3	80 6 8	1 0 6	.....	.....	81 7 2
Billy's Lookout*	Marsden's	6	7	13	5.0	6.7	11.7	76 0 0	0 10 8	.....	.....	76 10 8
Bingara, Upper	Bingara	12	10	22	9.7	6.6	16.3	46 15 1	.....	4 18 1	25 15 0	77 8 2
Binglebrah	Gresford	8	7	15	5.5	5.8	11.3	61 15 0	0 4 5	9 7 7	34 17 11	106 4 11
Blackman's Flat	Wallerawang	14	7	21	12.3	6.0	18.3	30 0 0	4 17 5	0 14 5	.....	35 11 10
Blackville	Blackville	9	12	21	6.8	10.1	16.9	81 1 6	.....	1 1 0	.....	82 2 6
Blair Hill	Glencoe	9	12	21	7.0	9.3	16.3	82 13 4	1 10 4	2 7 9	.....	86 11 5
Blakney Creek	Dalton	10	12	22	6.4	8.2	14.6	89 10 0	1 13 5	.....	0 10 0	91 13 5
Blackland's Ridge	Comleroy Road	15	13	28	10.5	8.0	18.5	79 0 0	0 17 1	1 17 2	0 15 0	82 9 3
								89 10 0	.....	.....	.....	89 10 0

* Closed 31st July.

APPENDIX VIII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Boambolo	Murrumbateman ..	11	17	28	7.0	10.7	17.7	84 0 0	1 2 6	.....	0 19 0	86 1 6
Bobin Flat	Wingham	7	11	18	6.6	10.1	16.7	88 3 4	1 6 8	.....	.....	89 10 0
Bocoble	Gulgannree	12	8	20	9.6	6.4	16.0	82 13 4	0 18 10	1 15 0	1 0 0	86 7 2
Bohnock	Painpoolah	7	12	19	6.3	9.3	15.6	81 15 0	1 2 1	.....	.....	82 17 1
Bolivia	Bolivia	10	8	18	8.1	7.3	15.4	69 4 2	0 6 2	3 13 4	9 12 11	82 16 7
Bombay	Braidwood	8	10	18	5.6	6.9	12.5	74 0 0	1 9 2	.....	0 10 0	75 19 2
Boogleguble	Dubbo	10	7	17	7.1	6.2	13.3	72 0 0	0 15 7	.....	.....	72 15 7
Boomey	Molong	10	8	18	7.9	7.0	14.9	72 0 0	0 4 7	.....	.....	72 4 7
Boonjaub	South Grafton	13	13	26	9.6	11.1	20.7	76 13 4	1 12 11	.....	.....	78 6 3
Bournda, North	Bega	13	12	25	10.8	10.2	21.0	61 13 4	0 16 8	3 15 0	.....	66 5 0
Bradshaw's Flat	Sotola	16	14	30	10.0	9.0	19.0	87 5 0	0 14 2	.....	.....	87 19 2
Brewarrina Mission	Brewarrina	8	12	20	7.8	12.0	19.8	89 10 0	.....	.....	.....	89 10 0
Briery	Wandsworth	11	8	19	7.0	3.8	10.8	74 0 0	1 14 9	.....	0 12 6	76 7 3
Brisbane Valley	Norway	8	19	27	3.9	10.2	14.1	75 0 0	0 16 8	3 15 0	5 10 0	85 1 8
Brooklands	Hall	12	13	25	9.5	11.1	20.6	88 0 8	1 0 6	.....	0 15 0	89 16 2
Brooman	Via Milton	11	9	20	8.5	6.3	14.8	76 13 4	1 2 9	.....	0 5 0	78 1 1
Brungle	Brungle	10	15	25	8.9	12.8	21.7	88 11 8	0 12 9	.....	0 15 0	89 19 5
Brushy Creek	Guyra	6	12	18	2.5	9.4	11.9	79 13 4	0 19 8	.....	0 12 6	81 5 6
Buckenbour	Nelligen	9	9	18	8.3	7.6	15.9	78 13 4	1 8 6	.....	0 10 0	80 11 10
Budden	Rylstone	8	7	15	6.4	6.1	12.5	66 17 4	1 6 6	3 18 3	1 0 0	73 2 1
Budgerabong	Via Forbes	12	9	21	7.7	5.8	13.5	74 0 0	0 18 10	7 17 6	0 15 0	83 11 4
Bulbodney	Lansdale	10	5	15	7.3	4.6	11.9	77 13 4	1 6 3	3 8 9	.....	82 8 4
Bullenbolong	Berridale	12	9	21	7.8	7.5	15.3	66 3 3	0 19 9	1 15 0	4 11 11	73 9 11
Bull Ridge	Freeman's Reach	11	11	22	9.4	7.0	16.4	89 10 0	0 5 7	.....	.....	89 15 7
Bundemar	Dubbo	16	5	21	10.7	4.3	15.0	83 13 4	1 5 2	.....	.....	84 18 6
Bunyan	Cooma	12	5	17	7.6	3.3	10.9	80 0 0	2 7 3	.....	1 0 0	83 7 3
Burraneer Bay	Sutherland	14	16	30	9.3	11.1	20.4	89 10 0	1 9 3	.....	31 6 6	122 5 9
Burrumbuttock, East	Burrumbuttock	3	11	14	1.8	7.2	9.0	80 10 0	1 15 2	.....	0 15 0	83 0 2
Butherwah	Urana	13	7	20	10.7	5.1	15.8	86 15 0	2 0 2	.....	0 7 6	89 2 8
Buxton	Buxton	10	9	19	8.9	7.5	16.4	81 11 8	1 15 11	.....	46 19 6	130 7 1
Bynya	Narrandera	11	8	19	5.9	5.4	11.3	77 13 4	1 4 7	.....	2 18 0	81 15 11
Cainbill Creek	Uarby	13	11	24	9.4	7.7	17.1	74 13 4	1 12 2	.....	.....	76 5 6
Camden Haven, Uppr.	Kendall	12	11	23	7.8	9.4	17.2	78 10 7	1 10 7	2 10 0	.....	82 11 2
Cameron's Creek*	Armidale	4	11	15	2.6	9.4	12.0	28 6 8	1 7 5	.....	0 12 6	30 6 7
Camira	Lawrence	8	11	19	4.4	6.3	10.7	70 0 0	0 17 9	.....	5 0 0	75 17 9
Cangai	Upper Copmanhurst	16	10	26	13.2	7.6	20.8	57 5 0	4 17 10	3 5 0	61 13 0	127 0 10
Canimbla Creek†	Cowra	1	1	2	1.0	1.0	2.0	30 6 8	.....	.....	.....	30 6 8
Carinda	Carinda	12	6	18	10.6	4.9	15.5	57 4 0	1 11 1	1 10 0	4 4 0	64 9 1
Carrabolla	Lostock	9	10	19	7.2	7.9	15.1	86 13 4	1 6 6	.....	22 15 6	110 15 4
Caulderwood	Jugiong	9	10	19	7.4	8.0	15.4	53 17 3	2 7 1	2 0 0	1 10 6	59 14 10
Cave Point	Tweed Heads	18	11	29	13.7	7.6	21.3	89 10 0	2 2 2	.....	1 13 10	93 6 0
Chanticleer	Morundah	9	6	15	7.2	5.2	12.4	14 10 4	3 19 9	.....	58 2 6	76 12 7
Clearbank	Matheson	7	10	17	5.1	6.5	11.6	73 0 0	1 3 9	.....	0 10 0	74 13 9
Cluri	Manilla	15	12	27	8.1	7.3	15.4	78 0 0	1 19 11	1 0 0	2 10 0	83 9 11
Coalbaggie	Belarbigill	11	12	23	8.4	8.6	17.0	82 5 0	2 17 3	.....	.....	85 2 3
Coffin Rock	Wagga Wagga	6	12	18	5.4	10.1	15.5	87 5 0	0 19 6	.....	0 12 0	88 16 6
Collingwood	Mudgee	11	12	23	7.5	7.6	15.1	77 5 0	2 2 4	.....	1 0 0	80 7 4
Collombatti	Green Hill	9	7	16	7.5	5.6	13.1	73 0 0	.....	.....	10 16 0	83 16 0
Comarong	Comarong	8	8	16	6.7	6.2	12.9	70 0 0	0 10 0	.....	.....	70 10 0
Cooper's Glen	Bega	17	10	27	10.2	8.9	19.1	74 15 2	4 0 4	2 5 6	6 10 0	87 11 0
Cooradigbee‡	Yass	7	4	11	4.7	3.7	8.4	5 13 4	.....	.....	2 0 0	7 13 4
Coradgerie	Merigal	4	16	20	3.1	13.5	16.6	55 13 4	0 19 11	3 17 5	.....	60 10 8
Corang River	Nerriga	10	17	27	8.4	11.3	19.7	86 6 8	1 11 3	.....	0 10 0	88 7 11
Cowra Creek	Bredbo	9	16	25	6.3	9.7	16.0	77 13 4	1 1 2	.....	0 10 0	79 4 6
Cross Roads	Cross Roads	13	6	19	11.0	4.3	15.3	88 3 4	1 0 7	.....	0 10 0	89 13 11
Crystal Creek	Murwillumbah	7	13	20	6.1	10.2	16.3	89 10 0	1 15 6	.....	.....	91 5 6
Cugong	Condobolin	14	11	25	10.8	7.3	18.1	89 10 0	1 13 8	3 8 3	9 0 0	103 11 11
Cullendulla	Bateman's Bay	10	6	16	7.1	4.5	11.6	77 14 11	3 0 5	.....	.....	80 15 4
Dairyman's Plains	Cooma	16	8	24	11.4	5.2	16.6	85 15 0	.....	.....	0 10 0	86 5 0
Darke's Forest	Helensburgh	12	7	19	9.0	6.7	15.7	74 13 4	0 12 11	.....	.....	75 6 3
Darralumi	Dubbo	9	16	25	6.7	12.3	19.0	41 16 0	5 0 0	.....	59 12 9	106 8 9
Deniliquin, North	Deniliquin	19	15	34	14.7	12.0	26.7	14 13 4	6 8 8	7 13 9	60 0 0	88 15 9
Derra Derra	Bingara	11	11	22	10.3	9.8	20.1	89 10 0	6 2 2	.....	4 14 2	100 6 4
Dexter's Springs	Lanburn	9	6	15	6.3	3.8	10.1	24 0 0	3 11 9	4 17 6	.....	32 9 3
Dignam's Creek	Cobargo	12	12	24	9.5	9.5	19.0	73 6 8	2 5 6	8 4 8	0 10 0	84 6 10
Dorrigo	Via Bellingen	9	14	23	6.8	9.7	16.5	77 6 8	1 7 5	2 14 0	.....	81 8 1
Doroughby Grass	Lismore	8	9	17	6.1	7.5	13.6	65 8 0	1 2 7	.....	.....	66 10 7
Duck Creek	Alstonville	11	9	20	8.6	6.6	15.2	75 11 8	1 3 1	.....	0 18 0	77 12 9
Dunbible	Dunbible Creek	18	13	31	13.1	10.6	23.7	89 10 0	1 8 2	.....	6 7 6	97 5 8
Dundee Raily. Stn.	Dundee Raily. Stn.	6	11	17	4.9	8.0	12.9	78 13 4	1 3 10	.....	0 10 0	80 7 2
Dunedoo	Cobborah	8	12	20	4.9	10.8	15.7	80 5 7	1 11 8	.....	.....	81 17 3
Dungarubba Creek	Riley's Hill	8	12	20	7.3	10.1	17.4	88 11 8	1 13 8	.....	0 15 0	91 0 4
Dusodie	Bandon Grove	8	14	22	5.5	10.3	15.8	85 5 10	1 14 5	.....	.....	87 0 3
Eilginbah	Nevertire	13	9	22	10.2	6.3	16.5	84 16 8	1 18 11	0 13 6	1 13 0	89 2 1
Elimdale	Deniliquin	4	17	21	3.8	15.6	19.4	29 6 8	5 15 5	5 15 0	30 0 0	70 17 1
Emerald Hill	Gunnedah	7	9	16	4.4	7.7	12.1	59 11 11	2 17 2	.....	.....	62 9 1
Esks	Chatsworth	10	6	16	6.2	3.2	9.4	29 6 8	3 6 8	3 17 3	1 16 6	38 7 1
Evansdale	Cooma	10	8	18	7.7	4.1	11.8	75 0 0	.....	.....	0 10 0	75 10 0
Eversleigh	Dumaresq	12	13	25	8.7	9.8	18.5	85 16 8	1 2 2	2 1 0	1 9 2	90 9 0
Fairy Hill	Casino	10	11	21	7.2	8.1	15.3	86 16 8	1 16 8	.....	2 0 0	90 13 4
Fashion's Mount	Burrendong	8	12	20	6.4	9.4	15.8	79 0 0	1 7 10	2 7 9	.....	82 15 7
Flyer's Creek	Forest Reefs	8	10	18	6.1	7.1	13.2	81 12 11	4 2 6	.....	2 4 6	87 19 11
Ford's Bridge	Ford's Bridge	10	9	19	8.5	8.6	17.1	66 15 0	0 15 0	2 10 0	.....	70 0 0
Forest Creek	Frogmoor	9	19	28	8.2	15.5	23.7	62 13 4	5 0 0	.....	35 0 6	102 13 10

* Closed, 31st May.

† Closed, 30th April.

‡ Closed, 31st January.

§ Closed, 30th September.

APPENDIX VIII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Cloths, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.
Forster (Abor.)	Forster	9	11	20	6.0	6.4	12.4	£ 81 6 8	£ 2 10 6		£ 11 19 3	£ 95 16 5
Garland*	Garland	10	3	13	7.7	1.5	9.2	13 6 8				13 6 8
Gay's Hill	Clunes	15	8	23	9.5	5.4	14.9	82 7 8	1 16 6			84 4 2
Gledswood	Narellan	12	12	24	8.7	9.4	18.1	88 11 8	1 15 11		11 2 0	101 9 7
Glenellen	Jindera	11	9	20	6.1	5.4	11.5	74 6 8	3 4 1		10 5 0	87 15 9
Glen Lee	Rylstone	9	7	16	7.1	6.3	13.4	59 0 0	0 18 3	1 12 9	1 0 0	82 11 0
Glen Martin	Clarencetown	2	12	14	1.4	10.9	12.3	78 0 0	3 6 1		5 0 0	86 6 1
Glenview	Bombala	8	9	17	5.8	6.0	11.8	82 15 0	1 13 0		1 10 0	85 18 0
Godfrey's Creek	Burrowa	8	14	22	6.1	11.5	17.6	83 11 8	7 12 10		3 3 0	99 7 6
Gooda Creek	Jeir	17	11	28	9.2	6.3	15.5	88 3 4	1 9 7	1 0 0	0 15 0	91 7 11
Gordon's Point	Hay	17	15	32	9.0	9.5	18.5	89 10 0	2 6 0	2 15 0	17 12 0	112 3 0
Gosper's Downs	Meranburn	15	10	25	10.5	7.1	17.6	81 0 0	1 3 0		8 13 5	90 16 5
Grafton Common (Abor.)	Grafton	17	21	38	12.1	16.9	29.0	89 0 3	0 13 2			89 13 5
Griffiths' Flat	Murrumbateman	9	15	24	6.9	11.9	18.8	89 10 0	1 10 5		40 13 10	131 14 3
Gulf Creek	Gulf Creek	18	18	36	12.6	12.1	24.7	49 11 2	7 15 10	3 8 9	58 0 0	118 15 9
Gulgullendah	Obley	11	6	17	10.5	5.8	16.3	36 13 4				36 13 4
Gulnarrad	Nucleon	6	9	15	4.6	8.3	12.8	72 0 0	1 3 1		3 16 0	76 19 1
Gunnary	Burrowa	17	14	31	12.4	10.9	23.3	89 10 0	1 5 4		0 15 0	91 10 4
Gurrudah	Breadalbane	17	10	27	9.0	6.5	15.5	71 13 4	1 11 4		5 10 10	78 15 6
Hadsonville	Hobby's Yards	13	14	27	9.6	9.2	18.8	28 0 0	3 10 3	5 16 9	35 13 4	73 0 4
Haning	Bendemeer	17	10	27	13.3	8.0	21.3	86 11 4	1 6 10		0 10 0	88 8 2
Hatch, The	Telegraph Point	9	10	19	6.9	7.7	14.6	78 15 7	1 7 8			80 3 3
Hill Plain	Demliquin	17	11	28	12.1	9.8	21.9	38 11 2	4 9 3	4 4 0	19 7 6	66 11 11
Hill Top	Hill Top	7	14	21	6.3	11.0	17.3	84 16 8	0 16 3			85 12 11
Hoskisson's Creek	Karraba	9	6	15	7.5	4.4	11.9	77 13 4	0 7 7		0 10 0	78 10 11
Illaroo	Cambewarra	15	9	24	12.2	7.1	19.3	58 1 0	0 14 4	2 15 6	0 7 0	61 17 10
Inglewood	Bungendore	14	5	19	10.3	3.6	13.9	80 0 0	0 8 9		0 10 0	80 18 9
Ironbarks	Gulgambone	11	7	18	9.0	5.9	14.9	58 1 4	1 3 1	5 3 9		64 8 2
Jasper	Federal	9	12	21	7.6	9.7	17.3	84 16 8	4 19 7			89 16 3
Jeir	Jeir	14	7	21	9.4	6.1	15.5	88 11 8	1 3 9	1 1 1	0 19 0	91 15 6
Jenkins	Nangus	16	12	28	10.4	8.4	18.8	89 10 0	1 18 1		0 15 0	92 3 1
Jeogla	Wollonombi	6	9	15	5.3	6.6	11.9	74 0 0	1 7 0	2 0 0	0 12 6	77 19 6
Junction, The	Trunkay Creek	12	13	25	9.1	10.9	20.0	83 18 4	1 8 6	2 15 0		88 1 3
Kareela	Bundanoon	15	6	21	11.2	4.8	16.0	87 5 0	1 4 1	0 12 8	0 15 6	89 17 3
Karkatt	Krambach	14	10	24	9.5	6.9	16.4	82 5 0	1 0 4	3 0 0		86 5 4
Keewong	Michelago	9	12	21	6.8	8.1	14.9	77 5 0	0 19 3		0 10 0	78 14 3
Kemp's Creek	Bringelly	10	9	19	8.0	8.0	16.0	86 6 8	0 13 0			86 19 8
Kenny's Creek	Burrowa	7	14	21	6.1	11.8	17.9	49 17 4	3 5 3	7 4 9	0 7 6	60 14 10
Kercargo	Come-by-Chance	10	10	20	7.6	10.0	17.6	86 6 8	1 11 1	5 1 9		92 19 6
Kikiamah	Thuddungra	9	11	20	6.9	8.2	15.1	78 13 4	1 10 10			80 4 2
Kimo	Gundagai	9	7	16	6.0	4.4	10.4	81 18 4	1 4 1		1 10 0	84 12 5
Kulki	Inverell	12	13	25	8.0	9.8	17.8	83 18 4	1 17 1		3 0 0	88 15 5
Kundibahk	Via Tinonee	10	11	21	8.0	8.5	16.5	80 5 0	4 7 8	3 10 0	25 0 0	113 2 8
Kyamba	Kyamba	8	15	23	5.2	11.9	17.1	79 0 0	2 4 3	8 17 6	12 10 10	102 12 7
Kydra	Nimitybelle	11	8	19	9.2	7.0	16.2	88 3 4	1 12 6		1 0 0	90 15 10
Kyogle	New Park Casino	16	6	22	14.6	5.4	20.0	55 15 0	0 13 11	3 15 0		60 3 11
Lalla Rookh	Yerong Creek	10	9	19	8.2	7.6	15.8	19 17 10	4 13 0			24 10 10
Lamb's Valley	West Maitland	11	9	20	7.4	5.2	12.6	70 0 0	0 18 6	0 15 0		71 13 6
Lansdowne, Upper	Cundletown	12	8	20	9.5	6.7	16.2	85 0 0	1 15 6			86 15 6
Lestersfield	Coolmoon	10	12	22	6.9	6.5	13.4	74 0 0	1 15 11			75 15 11
Limeburners' Creek	Limeburners' Cr'k.	14	11	25	9.3	7.2	16.5	85 6 8	1 9 2			86 15 10
Lincoln	Wellington	14	10	24	9.6	6.4	16.0	82 5 0	1 7 2			83 12 2
Little Narrawa	Narrawa	7	13	20	3.9	10.2	14.1	83 13 4			0 5 0	83 18 4
Lorno	Kendall	11	13	24	8.1	9.8	17.9	84 16 8	2 4 4			87 1 0
Macleay Heads	Beachport	14	6	20	12.3	5.9	18.2	85 16 8	1 10 9			87 7 5
Maitland Point	Rocky River, Uralla	12	6	18	8.4	4.7	13.1	75 0 0	1 8 3	1 5 9	0 12 6	78 6 6
Maison de Dieu	Singleton	14	12	26	9.9	10.2	20.1	57 6 8	4 17 2		52 15 0	114 18 10
Manobali	Wyabong	9	13	22	6.2	10.5	16.7	37 5 9	3 16 5	1 18 3	35 0 1	78 0 6
Manoa	Narromine	11	14	25	7.5	11.0	18.5	87 13 4	1 0 2			88 13 6
Manuka	Uralla	8	12	20	5.6	9.2	14.8	74 13 4	0 3 2	1 7 3	0 12 6	76 16 3
Manus	Tumberumba	10	8	18	8.5	7.4	15.9	40 10 9		1 18 3		42 9 0
Medway†	Cobbora	10	6	16	8.5	4.7	13.2	42 0 0	0 16 10			42 16 10
Memagong‡	Young	6	7	13	5.3	5.9	11.2	35 0 0		5 0 0		40 0 0
Meroo (Upper)	Via Mudgee	11	10	21	5.3	5.1	10.4	82 1 5	1 16 4		1 0 0	84 17 9
Merrigan Creek	Tarago	13	8	21	10.1	6.2	16.3	82 15 0	1 5 3	1 7 0	0 10 0	85 17 3
Middle Arm	Middle Arm	14	5	19	11.9	4.5	16.4	89 10 0	1 8 7		7 0 0	97 18 7
Milbang	Breadalbane	8	8	16	5.5	5.9	11.4	86 1 1	1 13 4	1 2 2	0 5 0	89 1 7
Mingelo	Mingelo	16	12	28	9.4	9.7	19.1	83 11 8	2 3 0		0 15 0	86 9 8
Mobla	Warkton	16	14	30	10.3	9.1	19.4	69 10 0	2 3 6	6 10 9		78 4 3
Molley	Narrabri	15	16	31	9.3	9.6	18.9	86 15 0	1 4 4			87 19 4
Mona Vale	Manly	8	16	24	5.6	10.9	16.5	87 5 0			3 5 9	90 10 9
Mooney Mooney	Coolac	8	9	17	7.1	8.7	15.8	75 6 8	1 7 8	1 1 0		77 15 4
Moor Creek (Upper)	Moor Creek	15	12	27	8.7	8.6	17.3	83 0 0	0 17 0			83 17 0
Morundah	Morundah	10	15	25	6.6	10.2	16.8	85 16 8	1 3 6		33 8 3	120 8 5
Mosquito Creek	Warialda	13	14	27	7.7	10.6	18.3	22 0 0	3 5 4		3 0 0	28 5 4
Mount Gwynne	Mulwala	13	9	22	11.0	8.0	19.0	87 13 4			7 2 6	94 15 10
Mountjoy	Jugiong	10	9	19	6.6	7.0	13.6	71 6 8	1 10 0		0 15 0	73 11 8
Muddy Creek	Warne	9	14	23	6.2	8.8	15.0	70 8 9	0 18 2		30 0 0	101 6 11
Muginoble	Parkes	15	16	31	10.1	11.3	21.4	74 0 0	1 15 1		1 3 6	76 18 7
Mullaley	Gunnedah	10	11	21	7.3	8.0	15.3	88 3 4	1 11 11	1 6 3	10 2 6	101 4 0
Mulligan's Flat	Ginninderra	13	5	18	10.2	4.0	14.2	52 13 4	5 10 5	2 15 0	5 3 0	66 1 9
Mulyan (Abor.)	Cowra	14	8	22	11.8	6.4	18.2	89 10 0	1 0 11		0 10 0	91 0 11
Mundaroo	Tumberumba	11	11	22	9.0	10.2	19.2	88 11 8	1 3 6		0 10 0	90 5 2

* Closed, 29th February. † Closed, 31st July. ‡ Closed temporarily, 17th July.

APPENDIX VIII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Munmurra ..	Cassilis ..	11	9	20	8.8	8.0	16.8	83 11 8	1 7 2	.....	6 0 0	90 18 10
Muscle Creek ..	Muswellbrook ..	13	9	22	9.4	7.3	16.7	87 7 5	1 5 2	.....	12 10 0	101 2 7
Nanegai ..	Chatsworth Island ..	8	8	16	5.7	5.7	11.4	71 0 0	1 8 10	.....	.....	72 8 10
Narraburra ..	Temora ..	11	11	22	7.4	8.7	16.1	84 18 4	1 9 10	.....	0 11 11	87 0 1
Neilsen's Creek ..	Jerry's Plains ..	7	12	19	4.4	8.6	13.0	72 4 1	.....	.....	13 0 0	85 4 1
Never Never ..	Bellingen ..	9	13	22	6.7	7.1	13.8	84 8 4	1 5 0	2 16 0	0 18 0	89 7 4
Newton Boyd ..	Dalmorton ..	10	6	16	7.6	4.9	12.5	71 0 0	5 8 4	1 13 6	.....	78 1 10
Nicholson's Lagoons ..	Quipolly ..	12	6	18	10.0	5.1	15.1	76 11 8	0 5 3	.....	.....	76 16 11
Norton's Gap ..	Casino ..	7	16	23	6.5	14.1	20.6	36 13 4	4 3 8	5 15 0	44 15 0	91 7 0
Numbra ..	Buckley's Crossing ..	11	8	19	9.4	7.3	16.7	73 13 4	1 10 7	3 17 3	1 0 0	80 1 2
Oakborough ..	Cudgong ..	7	12	19	5.5	10.9	16.4	87 13 4	.....	.....	1 0 0	88 13 4
Oakvale ..	Berridale ..	8	15	23	4.8	9.4	14.2	76 6 8	1 1 9	.....	34 10 0	111 18 5
Oban ..	Wandsworth ..	10	11	21	8.2	8.9	17.1	73 3 5	1 18 1	3 0 0	1 4 4	79 5 10
Ooranook ..	Bombala ..	13	13	26	10.2	10.0	20.2	87 13 4	5 2 10	3 5 9	60 0 0	156 1 11
Ournie ..	Via Albury ..	21	4	25	16.7	3.6	20.3	88 11 8	0 15 4	.....	20 17 6	110 4 6
Overton ..	Overton ..	7	9	16	6.1	5.8	11.9	76 16 8	1 3 7	.....	.....	78 0 3
Peakview ..	Peakview ..	6	12	18	3.9	8.0	12.8	78 13 4	1 11 1	.....	2 10 0	82 14 5
Pearce's Creek ..	Pearce's Creek ..	12	18	30	7.6	12.1	19.7	89 10 0	1 12 2	.....	52 5 0	143 7 2
Pericoo ..	Pericoo ..	16	4	20	11.7	3.4	15.1	21 16 6	3 14 4	6 5 8	6 5 0	38 1 6
Piedmont ..	Burratorang ..	11	13	24	7.8	8.8	16.6	70 2 6	0 19 2	2 14 0	0 10 0	74 5 8
Pine Mount ..	West Woodstock ..	6	11	17	4.5	9.0	13.5	76 0 0	0 19 1	.....	0 10 0	77 9 1
Pinnacle Swamp ..	Rylstone ..	13	15	28	11.3	11.3	22.6	89 10 0	.....	.....	1 0 0	90 10 0
Pleasant View ..	Moonbah, via Cooma ..	6	10	16	4.7	6.1	10.8	57 0 0	1 2 0	.....	0 10 0	58 12 0
Pomeroy ..	Goulburn ..	10	9	19	9.9	6.8	16.7	82 5 0	1 15 6	.....	0 5 0	84 5 6
Porter's Retreat ..	Black Springs ..	6	9	15	3.8	7.2	11.0	77 13 4	1 5 5	.....	.....	78 18 9
Putty ..	Howe's Valley ..	11	8	19	10.1	6.0	16.1	86 6 8	2 1 1	.....	.....	88 7 9
Redlands ..	Corowa ..	11	9	20	6.4	5.6	12.0	80 0 0	.....	.....	5 5 0	85 5 0
Rhyanna ..	Goulburn ..	9	10	19	7.0	8.2	15.2	50 4 9	4 14 7	1 11 6	40 6 2	96 17 0
Riley ..	South Woodburn ..	18	13	31	13.8	10.4	24.2	44 0 0	3 3 3	.....	12 0 0	59 3 3
Rivertree ..	Tenterfield ..	9	10	19	6.2	6.7	12.9	79 13 4	1 4 6	.....	0 10 0	81 7 10
Rock Flat ..	Via Cooma ..	12	12	24	7.8	6.7	14.5	69 4 2	3 10 6	2 1 8	0 10 0	75 6 4
Rock View ..	Rothbury ..	11	6	17	7.9	5.6	13.5	81 0 0	1 8 0	.....	.....	82 8 0
Rosebank ..	Rosebank ..	16	10	26	11.4	7.0	18.4	81 13 4	0 18 4	.....	.....	82 11 8
Royalla ..	Williamsdale ..	8	11	19	6.6	8.4	15.0	87 5 0	1 1 8	1 14 0	0 10 0	90 10 8
Sam's Flat ..	Walcha ..	19	15	34	15.7	12.0	27.7	44 0 0	9 17 2	.....	60 10 0	114 7 2
Sandholes ..	Moree ..	13	14	27	9.5	9.4	18.9	37 12 8	.....	4 0 3	61 15 0	103 7 11
Savernake ..	Via Corowa ..	10	16	26	5.6	9.9	15.5	72 13 4	1 11 9	.....	0 12 0	74 17 1
Sawyer's Gully ..	Bishop's Bridge ..	6	12	18	5.2	7.8	13.0	64 0 0	1 3 9	.....	13 0 8	78 4 5
Sinclair ..	Inverell ..	14	5	19	11.5	4.1	15.6	88 11 8	1 8 1	.....	0 10 0	90 9 9
Snowy River ..	Buckley's Crossing ..	8	13	21	4.7	10.3	15.0	83 11 8	1 5 6	.....	0 10 0	85 7 2
Soldier's Flat ..	Canowindra ..	12	12	24	8.3	8.0	16.3	80 16 4	0 19 4	.....	0 15 0	82 10 8
Stannum ..	Emmaville ..	4	5	9	3.6	4.6	8.2	24 19 4	.....	3 0 0	.....	27 19 4
St. Helena ..	Blackville ..	11	7	18	8.7	5.7	14.4	74 0 0	0 18 7	3 2 0	.....	78 0 7
Steinbrook ..	Steinbrook ..	11	9	20	8.1	7.2	15.3	80 18 4	2 6 5	.....	0 17 6	84 2 3
Stony Batter ..	Rocky Hall ..	12	14	26	6.7	7.6	13.8	75 13 4	2 4 5	.....	1 0 3	78 18 0
Store Creek ..	Store Creek ..	7	11	18	5.8	9.3	15.1	81 0 0	0 13 3	.....	.....	81 13 3
Strathbogie ..	Emmaville ..	8	10	18	7.8	9.0	16.8	89 10 0	1 18 8	.....	0 10 0	91 18 8
Strathisla ..	Lostock ..	11	9	20	9.1	8.8	17.9	49 15 9	0 13 5	3 19 8	31 0 0	85 8 10
Strathmore ..	Wentworth ..	18	2	20	13.6	1.8	15.4	17 12 3	.....	11 4 9	4 9 0	33 6 0
Streamville ..	Mt. McDonald ..	7	14	21	5.8	10.9	16.7	89 10 0	3 2 3	.....	0 5 0	92 17 3
Sugarloaf ..	Boonoo Boonoo ..	12	12	24	9.1	7.5	16.6	85 15 0	1 19 10	.....	.....	87 14 10
Swanbrook ..	Inverell ..	8	14	22	5.3	9.8	14.1	77 13 4	0 16 5	.....	0 10 0	78 19 9
Tabulam ..	Tabulam ..	11	9	20	7.9	6.1	14.0	34 18 11	1 19 0	4 12 6	.....	41 10 5
Talawadja ..	South Grafton ..	12	4	16	10.1	3.2	13.3	65 4 2	0 18 7	2 13 8	0 4 0	69 0 5
Tara ..	Burrage ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	88 11 8	2 7 9	.....	14 1 0	105 0 5
Tara ..	Ilford ..	6	8	14	5.2	6.5	11.7	38 13 4	.....	1 10 0	.....	40 3 4
Tarban ..	Jennings ..	7	18	25	4.8	14.9	19.7	81 18 4	2 12 0	1 15 0	0 10 0	86 15 4
Tarcutta, Lower ..	Lower Tarcutta ..	9	8	17	7.0	6.7	13.7	82 13 4	1 3 7	3 0 0	0 7 6	87 4 5
Taylor's Arm, Upper ..	Macksville ..	8	8	16	6.8	6.8	13.6	70 0 5	.....	2 7 6	.....	72 7 11
Tennyson ..	North Richmond ..	16	10	26	11.5	6.1	17.6	89 10 0	1 3 1	.....	.....	90 13 1
Terrible Vale ..	Currabubula ..	8	14	22	6.5	11.5	18.0	94 15 6	1 12 4	1 3 9	.....	97 11 7
Terry-hie-hie ..	Moree ..	17	16	33	14.7	10.7	25.4	87 11 8	.....	3 15 0	.....	91 6 8
Teven Creek ..	Tintenbar ..	12	16	28	10.0	12.1	22.1	89 10 0	2 1 8	.....	7 4 0	98 15 8
Thone Creek ..	Gannon's Creek ..	8	9	17	6.9	7.1	14.0	78 18 4	1 17 4	.....	11 11 6	92 7 2
Three Brothers ..	Caloola ..	12	15	27	8.0	11.2	19.2	44 0 0	2 1 1	.....	54 17 9	100 18 10
Tiara ..	Walcha ..	13	12	25	8.9	9.4	18.3	89 10 0	1 5 6	.....	0 7 6	91 3 0
Tilpa ..	Tilpa ..	13	11	24	10.2	9.0	19.2	111 16 2	1 13 11	5 19 3	.....	119 9 4
Timor ..	Timor ..	6	12	18	3.6	9.0	12.6	73 0 0	1 6 4	.....	.....	74 6 4
Tintot ..	Graman ..	11	10	21	8.9	9.3	18.2	87 13 4	1 17 7	.....	2 10 0	92 0 11
Tongarra ..	Tongarra ..	20	12	32	12.2	6.0	18.2	89 10 0	1 7 3	.....	12 17 0	103 14 3
Toooloom ..	Via Tabulam ..	16	6	22	11.4	3.8	15.2	84 10 0	1 5 5	.....	.....	85 15 5
Tootal ..	The Rock ..	19	10	29	11.7	6.5	18.2	16 19 9	1 2 0	2 4 0	12 13 1	32 18 10
Toothill ..	South Grafton ..	12	10	22	8.6	8.4	17.0	89 10 0	1 16 0	2 10 0	18 10 0	112 6 0
Torrington ..	Torrington ..	8	13	21	6.6	8.9	15.5	87 13 4	1 10 0	.....	0 10 0	89 13 4
Toul ..	Murrumbateman ..	10	9	19	9.4	7.7	17.1	82 6 8	.....	0 6 0	0 15 0	83 7 8
Tucki Tucki ..	Wyrallah ..	9	8	17	8.3	6.9	15.2	12 0 0	.....	.....	4 5 0	86 5 0
Tumorrana ..	Tumut ..	16	11	27	9.5	6.9	16.4	78 13 4	1 3 7	.....	0 15 0	80 11 11
Tunstall ..	Lismore ..	12	15	27	8.9	10.2	19.1	84 0 0	2 0 11	.....	.....	86 0 11
Tyagarah ..	Byron Bay ..	10	10	20	5.1	6.0	11.1	81 0 0	1 3 2	2 13 2	.....	84 16 4
Ungarie ..	Ungarie ..	13	5	18	7.6	2.6	10.2	81 16 8	1 10 1	3 6 0	0 10 0	87 2 9
Vivier ..	Glen Innes ..	5	8	13	4.4	7.5	11.9	67 13 4	1 17 11	.....	0 10 0	70 1 3
Walbundrie ..	Walbundrie ..	13	10	23	10.7	8.6	19.3	70 13 4	1 7 0	2 10 0	.....	74 10 4
Wallingara ..	Wallingara ..	18	5	23	12.1	3.1	15.2	78 5 0	2 7 1	.....	6 19 0	87 11 1
Walla Walla, West ..	Walla Walla ..	12	17	29	8.3	11.8	20.1	78 5 3	.....	.....	.....	78 5 3

* Closed, 30th November.

† Closed, 31st October.

APPENDIX VIII—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.
Wallingat	Forster	12	9	21	9.4	7.3	16.7	£ 84 10 0	£ 1 9 0	£ 3 10 0	£	£ 89 9 0
Wangat	Wangat	8	12	20	5.9	9.1	15.0	£ 87 5 0	£ 0 19 2	£ 4 4 0	£	£ 92 8 2
Wantabadgery	Wagga Wagga	10	12	22	7.8	8.6	16.4	£ 81 6 8	£ 1 11 5	£	£	£ 82 18 1
Warham	Yass	6	15	21	4.5	11.1	15.6	£ 86 16 7	£ 1 17 11	£ 3 9 11	£ 20 3 6	£ 111 7 11
Warner	Cockle Creek	10	10	20	8.5	7.4	15.9	£ 80 18 4	£ 1 2 3	£	£ 15 0 0	£ 97 0 7
Warneton	Warneton	16	11	27	13.0	9.1	22.1	£ 88 11 8	£ 2 0 9	£	£	£ 90 12 5
Warrell Creek*	Macksville	7	7	14	4.6	3.5	8.1	£ 74 0 0	£ 1 19 0	£	£	£ 75 19 0
Warrumbucca	Braidwood	9	13	22	7.0	7.4	14.4	£ 80 6 8	£ 1 3 8	£	£ 0 10 0	£ 82 0 4
Wattle Vale	Burruga	12	7	19	8.3	5.5	13.8	£ 88 11 8	£ 2 7 9	£	£ 14 1 0	£ 105 0 5
Webber's Creek	Glendon Brook	14	8	22	10.7	4.3	15.0	£ 76 3 4	£ 0 17 3	£	£ 8 0 0	£ 85 0 7
Wedallion	Thuddungra	16	8	24	10.8	6.4	17.2	£ 88 3 4	£ 2 5 9	£	£	£ 90 9 1
Wedderburn	Campbelltown	12	7	19	11.0	6.4	17.4	£ 24 0 0	£ 4 7 10	£ 0 19 8	£ 60 0 0	£ 89 7 6
Weean	Nullamanna	12	10	22	10.7	9.6	20.3	£ 20 6 8	£ 4 10 7	£	£ 60 0 0	£ 93 17 3
Weetangerra	Guminderra	11	15	26	5.9	9.3	15.2	£ 85 6 8	£ 3 4 3	£	£ 2 6 3	£ 90 17 2
White Swamp	Acacia Creek	8	11	19	7.5	9.4	16.9	£ 82 3 4	£ 1 18 0	£ 11 7 0	£ 30 10 0	£ 134 18 4
Willalat	Boggabri	7	9	16	4.7	6.6	11.3	£ 38 0 0	£	£	£	£ 38 0 0
Williams' Creek	Gundaroo	10	9	19	8.9	8.4	17.3	£ 85 0 7	£ 1 9 1	£ 2 10 3	£	£ 88 19 11
Williamsdale	Williamsdale	7	8	15	5.7	6.9	12.6	£ 76 15 0	£ 1 4 3	£	£ 0 10 0	£ 78 9 3
Williamwood	Pictou	12	9	21	9.0	7.1	16.1	£ 81 13 4	£ 1 4 8	£	£ 15 0 0	£ 97 18 0
Willundry	Young	8	9	17	6.2	7.6	13.8	£ 69 8 10	£ 2 10 11	£ 1 6 7	£	£ 72 16 4
Winburndale	Duramana	15	13	28	11.8	9.3	21.1	£ 70 13 4	£ 1 9 6	£ 4 10 0	£ 0 10 0	£ 77 2 10
Wirrimbi	Macksville	13	13	26	8.5	10.2	18.7	£ 64 10 0	£ 4 2 11	£	£ 34 5 0	£ 102 17 11
Wollumbin	Murwillumbah	15	7	22	13.2	6.5	19.7	£ 21 12 10	£ 3 15 1	£ 0 11 9	£ 32 18 6	£ 58 18 2
Wombrook	Cooma	9	12	21	6.0	9.4	15.4	£ 79 0 0	£ 2 3 7	£ 1 0 0	£ 0 10 0	£ 82 13 7
Woodfield	Sutton	8	13	21	6.0	10.2	16.2	£ 82 3 4	£ 1 2 9	£ 2 0 9	£ 0 10 0	£ 85 16 10
Woolomin	Woolomin	19	10	29	13.5	6.3	19.8	£ 76 1 8	£ 0 10 4	£ 2 10 0	£ 0 14 0	£ 79 16 0
Wood's Reef	Barraba	10	24	34	7.1	16.3	23.4	£ 89 10 0	£ 2 18 5	£	£ 0 10 0	£ 92 18 5
Wyangle	Tumut	10	8	18	7.6	6.5	14.1	£ 75 0 0	£ 1 8 1	£ 5 0 3	£ 0 15 0	£ 82 3 4
Yamatree	Bongongolong	13	7	20	11.3	5.3	16.6	£ 75 7 10	£ 0 17 2	£ 3 6 1	£ 6 15 6	£ 86 6 7
Yango	Laguna	9	12	21	6.7	10.0	16.7	£ 63 11 8	£ 1 13 3	£ 7 9 8	£ 35 0 0	£ 107 14 7
Yarranoo	Binda	11	11	22	7.5	7.8	15.3	£ 86 6 8	£ 1 18 2	£	£ 11 15 0	£ 99 19 10
Yathella	Harefield	12	8	20	9.3	7.0	16.3	£ 85 0 0	£ 3 11 1	£	£ 1 0 2	£ 89 11 3
Yerriyong Vale†	Nowra	8	10	18	4.6	5.5	10.1	£ 40 0 0	£	£	£ 0 10 0	£ 40 10 0
Yorklea	Casino	13	15	28	6.0	6.9	12.9	£ 85 18 4	£ 0 17 10	£	£ 1 5 0	£ 88 1 2
Yourie	Cobargo	13	12	25	8.5	10.0	18.5	£ 89 10 0	£ 2 8 10	£ 2 5 0	£	£ 94 3 10

* Closed 31st December.

† Closed 30th June.

‡ Closed 31st July.

APPENDIX IX.

ATTENDANCE of Children at Half-time Schools for the Quarter ending 31st December, 1896, or for the last Quarter of that year during which the Schools were in operation.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.
Aberaldie	Walcha Road	5	5	10	3.7	4.7	8.4	£ 89 10 0	£	£ 10 0 0	£	£ 99 10 0
Ingalba	Walcha Road	10	5	15	7.7	3.7	11.4	£	£	£	£	£
Abington	Bundarra	8	15	23	5.9	10.6	16.5	£ 159 3 4	£ 0 18 10	£ 12 13 9	£	£ 172 15 11
Laura	Bundarra	2	7	9	1.8	5.5	7.3	£	£	£	£	£
Adelong Grove	Adelong	9	7	16	6.1	4.9	11.0	£ 139 3 4	£ 0 13 10	£ 10 0 0	£ 0 10 0	£ 150 7 2
Kalafat	Adelong	4	7	11	3.0	6.0	9.0	£	£	£	£	£
Adelong, Upper	Batlow	4	5	9	3.4	4.3	7.7	£ 125 0 0	£ 1 3 11	£ 10 0 0	£ 0 10 0	£ 136 13 11
Uplands	Batlow	5	5	10	4.4	4.7	9.1	£	£	£	£	£
Airlic Brake*	Inverell	6	6	12	4.1	4.0	8.1	£ 98 6 8	£	£ 10 0 0	£ 0 10 0	£ 108 16 8
Willowgrove*	Inverell	4	5	9	3.4	4.6	8.0	£	£	£	£	£
Aliwal	Rockley	7	7	14	3.7	3.8	7.5	£ 89 10 0	£ 2 3 11	£ 11 16 9	£	£ 103 10 8
Taylor's Pit	Rockley	7	9	16	4.5	5.0	9.5	£	£	£	£	£
Altcar	Moama	4	7	11	3.9	6.6	10.5	£ 78 0 0	£ 0 10 3	£ 2 10 0	£ 0 15 0	£ 81 15 3
Tomara	Moama	11	13	24	10.1	10.3	20.4	£	£	£	£	£
Alum Creek	Rosedale	6	7	13	4.2	4.6	8.8	£ 96 16 8	£ 1 13 4	£ 12 9 4	£ 1 0 0	£ 111 19 4
Rosedale	Rosedale	7	10	17	3.9	6.0	9.9	£	£	£	£	£
Anarel	Rydal	9	4	13	6.8	3.3	10.1	£ 89 10 0	£ 1 3 10	£ 11 2 1	£	£ 101 15 11
Cheetham's Flats	Rydal	8	5	13	4.7	2.1	6.8	£	£	£	£	£
Anembo	Ballalaba	7	4	11	4.9	3.3	8.2	£ 89 10 0	£ 1 6 6	£ 10 0 0	£ 1 0 0	£ 101 16 6
Jingera	Ballalaba	7	6	13	4.9	4.2	9.1	£	£	£	£	£
Arable	Cooma	8	8	16	6.3	4.9	11.2	£ 125 10 0	£ 1 18 4	£ 10 0 0	£ 1 0 0	£ 138 8 4
Jillimatong	Cooma	10	4	14	6.3	2.5	8.8	£	£	£	£	£
Ardell	Cummoock	5	7	12	4.5	5.9	10.4	£ 89 10 0	£ 0 18 11	£ 10 0 0	£ 0 15 0	£ 101 3 11
Dilga	Cummoock	9	6	15	7.0	4.5	11.5	£	£	£	£	£
Argyle, East	Marulan	18	5	23	13.4	3.8	17.2	£ 125 0 0	£ 2 2 3	£ 10 0 0	£ 0 10 0	£ 137 12 3
Marian Vale	Marulan	9	5	14	8.1	4.8	12.9	£	£	£	£	£
Arkstone	Burruga	4	8	12	3.6	5.8	9.4	£ 136 0 0	£ 1 0 6	£ 10 0 0	£	£ 147 0 6
Isabella	Burruga	9	15	24	7.5	12.6	20.1	£	£	£	£	£
Ballimore	Murrungundy	8	4	12	5.3	4.0	9.3	£ 89 10 0	£ 1 13 7	£	£ 10 0 0	£ 101 3 7
Elong Elong	Murrungundy	8	6	14	7.3	5.4	12.7	£	£	£	£	£

* Closed 31st December.

APPENDIX IX—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.														
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Fencing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.										
								£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.										
Barnes' Creek	Tharwa	17	6	23	9.7	3.2	12.9															
Naas	Tharwa	13	8	21	6.7	3.3	10.0	102	0	1	7	11	8	6	0	10	0	115	5	7		
Barrington (Abor.) ^a	Barrington	6	8	14	5.5	6.3	11.8	89	10	0	2	13	2	10	0	0	0	102	13	2		
Gloucester ^c	Barrington	3	6	9	3.0	5.0	8.0															
Barwang	Barwang	6	7	13	4.7	3.3	8.0	89	10	0	1	18	9	10	0	0		101	8	9		
Collingrove	Barwang	4	6	10	3.9	5.9	9.8															
Bell†	Mount Wilson	2	4	6	2.0	4.0	6.0	30	6	8	1	18	7	3	6	8	0	19	6	36	11	5
Mount Wilson†	Mount Wilson	1	2	3	1.0	2.0	3.0															
Bell Flat	Guy Fawkes	11	7	18	6.0	4.4	10.4	98	6	8	1	5	5	9	19	4	0	12	6	110	3	11
Guy Fawkes	Guy Fawkes	5	6	11	3.7	4.5	8.2															
Benbengenoc	Dalton	9	5	14	8.3	4.8	13.1	88	1	4	1	16	9	12	15	3	0	10	0	103	3	4
Byalla	Dalton	2	4	6	1.9	2.5	4.4															
Ben Buckley	Twelve-mile	13	2	15	7.5	1.4	8.9	131	10	0	1	1	9	10	0	0	3	14	2	146	5	11
Bimbijong	Twelve-mile	5	8	13	4.3	7.6	11.9															
Ben Lomond	Ben Lomond	2	4	6	2.0	3.7	5.7	122	1	8	1	6	4	10	0	0	0	12	6	134	0	6
Tubbamurra	Ben Lomond	12	6	18	10.0	4.4	14.4															
Berehangalo	Gunning	8	2	10	6.7	1.8	8.5	103	16	8	1	16	7	10	0	0	0	15	0	116	8	3
Waggallalah	Gunning	9	5	14	7.4	3.4	10.8															
Bercca	Cobbadah	10	8	18	6.8	4.6	11.4	113	0	0	3	5	9	10	0	0	0	10	0	126	15	9
Horton River, Upper	Cobbadah	12	11	23	6.9	5.5	12.4															
Berkeley	Wollongong	10	9	19	8.5	8.1	16.6	142	0	0				10	0	0				152	0	0
Port Kembla	Wollongong	8	6	14	6.9	5.3	12.2															
Berowra	Hornsby Junction	7	5	12	6.4	3.7	10.1	89	10	0				10	0	0				99	10	0
Yongala	Hornsby Junction	4	3	7	3.7	3.0	6.7															
Berrigal Creek	Narrabri	6	7	13	5.1	5.4	10.5	110	0	0	2	12	4	10	0	0				122	12	4
Courallie Park	Narrabri	6	6	12	5.5	5.6	11.1															
Berry Jerry, North	Coolaman	12	10	22	8.8	8.0	16.8	155	6	8	3	0	3	9	5	0	3	9	8	171	1	7
Pine Lee	Coolaman	6	4	10	3.6	3.5	7.1															
Beg Creek	Trevallyn	6	5	11	5.2	3.1	8.3	125	0	0				10	0	0				135	0	0
Campsie	Trevallyn	11	4	15	8.8	3.4	12.2															
Bigga	Binda	8	7	15	6.2	5.3	11.5	137	10	0	1	1	0	13	10	0				152	1	0
Memurdie	Binda	7	6	13	4.1	4.6	8.7															
Big Meadow	Laggan	8	8	16	6.2	6.7	12.9	102	0	0	1	3	1	12	2	0	0	10	0	115	15	1
Limerick	Laggan	6	6	12	4.8	5.1	9.9															
Big Ridge	Uralla	8	9	17	5.2	7.2	12.4	134	10	0	3	10	11	10	0	0	0	12	6	148	13	5
Gostwyck	Uralla	11	8	19	7.4	4.7	12.1															
Birriwa	Leadville	11	10	21	7.1	6.0	13.1	130	0	0	2	2	3				0	10	0	132	12	3
Denisontown	Leadville	4	9	13	3.5	4.7	8.2															
Black Creek	Molonglo	8	3	11	6.6	1.9	8.5	125	0	0	1	7	2	10	0	0	2	0	0	138	7	2
Carwoola	Molonglo	11	9	20	9.7	6.6	16.3															
Blaxland's Flat	South Grafton	6	12	18	4.5	8.6	13.1	89	10	0	2	3	10	10	0	0	1	0	0	102	13	10
Towallum	South Grafton	6	5	11	4.5	4.1	8.6															
Blindmouth	Mullumbimby	7	4	11	5.3	2.9	8.2	109	6	8	2	0	8	10	0	0				121	7	4
Coorabell	Mullumbimby	13	10	23	11.0	9.0	20.0															
Bobby Whitlow Creek	Bingara	11	5	16	8.1	4.4	12.5	123	11	0	0	19	10	8	6	8				132	17	6
Molroy	Bingara	4	6	10	3.1	5.4	8.5															
Boheenah Creek	Narrabri	8	1	9	7.6	1.0	8.6	113	0	0	4	5	4	10	0	0				127	5	4
Tipereenah	Narrabri	13	7	20	10.9	4.4	15.3															
Bolton Vale	O'Connell	9	3	12	7.7	1.6	9.3	89	10	0	1	18	0	10	0	0				101	8	0
Reinville	O'Connell	6	9	15	4.4	7.1	11.5															
Bona Vista	Somerton	9	8	17	6.8	4.1	10.9	113	0	0	3	5	1	10	0	0				126	5	1
Keepit	Somerton	9	6	15	6.6	5.1	11.7															
Boney's Rocks	Cranbury	16	10	26	11.3	5.0	16.3	125	0	0				10	0	0	19	15	0	154	15	0
Cranbury	Cranbury	7	2	9	4.5	1.4	5.9															
Bongongolong	Gundagai	10	9	19	7.9	7.0	14.9	108	5	10	2	13	3	9	3	4	1	10	0	121	12	5
Jones' Creek	Gundagai	13	8	21	7.6	4.4	12.0															
Emu Reefs†	Gundagai	5	3	8	4.5	2.8	7.3	9	8	4	0	16	8							10	5	0
Bookham	Bookham	4	9	13	3.2	6.5	9.7	65	3	4	5	5	1				5	19	4	76	7	9
Talmo	Bookham	3	9	12	2.1	8.9	11.0															
Boolambaytc	Bulladelah	9	5	14	6.7	3.4	10.1	125	10	0	1	0	2	10	0	0	4	10	0	141	0	2
Bungaree	Bulladelah	9	6	15	7.0	3.7	10.7															
Booroorban	Wanganella	7	7	14	4.0	4.1	8.1	113	0	0	1	18	0	10	0	0	1	15	0	126	13	0
Wanganella	Wanganella	9	12	21	7.0	9.7	16.7															
Borah	Manilla	6	4	10	4.5	3.9	8.4	96	16	8				9	16	3	0	15	0	107	7	11
Spring Creek	Manilla	6	3	9	5.3	2.8	8.1															
Boree Cabonne	Cheeseman's Creek	11	7	18	6.5	5.5	12.0	113	0	0	2	4	0	10	0	0	0	15	0	125	19	0
Fair Hill	Cheeseman's Creek	7	9	16	4.7	6.6	11.3															
Boro	Tarago	9	7	16	5.7	5.5	11.2	120	10	0	1	5	1	12	11	4	0	10	0	134	16	5
Lake Bathurst, East	Tarago	5	7	12	3.7	5.5	9.2															
Bournda, South§	Bega	3	2	5	2.3	1.7	4.0	47	0	0	0	16	8	3	15	0				51	11	8
Bournewood	Bournewood	7	7	14	4.5	5.0	9.5	89	10	0	1	2	1	0	10	0	0	15	0	101	7	1
Yullundry	Bournewood	7	5	12	6.0	3.6	9.6															
Brewer's Flat	Rye Park	9	6	15	6.6	4.9	11.5	89	17	4	4	10	7	6	18	0	0	12	6	101	18	5
Grassy Creek	Rye Park	5	9	14	4.2	6.9	11.1															
Brawlin	Brawlin	15	6	21	9.7	3.4	13.1	113	0	0	1	6	4	9	13	7	0	15	0	124	14	11
Kilrush	Brawlin	9	2	11	5.3	1.1	6.4															
Brigalow Creek¶	Cuttabri	5	5	10	2.2	3.3	5.5	45	10	0				5	0	0				50	10	0
Cuttabri¶	Cuttabri	10	6	16	6.7	4.7	11.4															
Brogo	Verona, via Bega	7	14	21	5.5	11.4	16.9	102	0	0	2	1	11	12	0	0				116	1	11
Puen Buen	Verona, via Bega	8	6	14	6.2	5.5	11.7															
Broken Bridge	Marulan	4	6	10	2.9	4.9	7.8	75	11	8	1	13	9	8	16	0	3	10	0	89	11	5
Greenwich Park	Marulan	8	3	11	6.9	2.4	9.3															
Brokenshaft Creek	Via Orange	5	5	10	2.5	3.7	6.2	110	6	8				10	0	0	1	2	6	121	9	2
Towac	Via Orange	6	5	11	4.6	2.6	7.2															

* Closed 31st December.

† Closed 30th April.

‡ Closed 29th February.

§ Closed 30th September.

APPENDIX IX—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.														
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.										
								£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.										
Brown's Camp	Delegate	4	7	11	3.6	5.7	9.3															
Woodglen	Delegate	11	5	16	6.9	3.6	10.5	68	10	8		88	8	7								
Baccarumbi	South Grafton	8	7	15	7.5	6.7	14.3															
Cowandlooy	South Grafton	4	5	9	3.8	4.9	8.7	113	0	0	4	18	0	128	4	11						
Bullawa Creek	Narrabri	6	5	11	3.6	4.2	7.8															
Ningedo	Narrabri	14	6	20	10.6	5.3	15.9	113	0	0		10	0	0	123	0	0					
Bunnan	Bunnan	9	14	23	7.5	13.1	20.6															
Cuan	Bunnan	4	4	8	3.2	2.9	6.1	113	0	0		10	0	0	123	0	0					
Burgoon	Cunneock	7	3	10	5.5	2.3	8.3															
Eurimbla	Cunneock	8	4	12	4.6	3.3	7.0	76	7	6	3	0	9	6	5	0	85	13	3			
Burnt Yards	Mandurama	12	19	31	6.4	13.8	20.2															
Hampton	Mandurama	13	9	22	7.2	5.6	12.8	136	0	0	1	0	3	12	9	9	5	11	6	155	1	6
Barra	Queanbeyan	8	8	16	6.4	4.6	11.0															
Urila	Queanbeyan	5	10	15	4.5	8.2	12.7	131	10	0	2	0	2	11	5	0	0	10	0	145	14	2
Burrombooka	Bombala	9	6	15	6.8	4.6	11.4															
Maharata	Bombala	9	4	13	6.2	2.3	8.5	126	6	8	0	11	11	8	6	2	0	8	0	135	12	9
Burrendong	Stuart Town	9	9	18	6.5	6.8	13.3															
Mookerawa	Stuart Town	7	4	11	5.8	2.9	8.7	113	0	0		10	0	0						123	0	0
Burrowa Flats	Galong	3	3	6	2.8	2.8	5.6															
Khalangan	Galong	12	2	14	8.0	2.0	10.0	82	15	4	3	12	11	10	0	0	1	0	0	97	8	3
Burry	Tomakin	7	9	16	5.4	6.0	11.4															
Mosquito Bay	Tomakin	7	1	8	6.2	0.9	7.1	110	6	8	1	5	7	10	0	0				121	12	3
Burtundy	Wentworth	12	8	20	9.6	5.2	14.8															
Connorgie	Wentworth	6	9	15	3.3	6.1	9.4	132	0	0	1	14	8	10	0	0	0	15	0	144	9	8
Bute	Cootamundra	6	8	14	5.0	7.6	12.6															
Dudauman	Cootamundra	6	1	7	4.2	0.9	5.1	89	10	0	1	17	2	10	0	0	0	7	6	101	14	8
Byangum	Murwillumbah	6	9	15	4.8	6.4	11.2															
Rowland's Creek	Murwillumbah	9	6	15	7.9	4.4	12.3	113	0	0	2	13	5	10	0	0				125	12	5
Caffrey's Flat	Koorrit Flat	9	4	13	7.7	2.5	10.2															
Callaghan's Creek	Koorrit Flat	8	11	19	5.3	7.1	12.0	113	0	0	2	3	10	9	19	8				125	3	6
Cainsborough	Manilla	8	8	16	6.5	5.4	11.9															
Cuerindi, North	Manilla	4	9	13	3.2	6.3	9.5	107	16	8	1	10	10	5	13	4	9	0	0	124	0	10
Campfield	Neville	6	10	16	3.7	7.6	11.3															
Hanover	Neville	5	8	13	3.9	5.5	9.4	82	8	4	1	13	5	5	18	10				90	0	7
Canaugles	Cargo	6	7	13	5.6	5.7	11.3															
Edinboro	Cargo	5	8	13	4.5	7.0	11.5	75	6	8	5	13	8	9	6	7	2	0	0	92	6	11
Cardington	Cundumbul	16	8	24	11.7	7.1	18.8															
Cundumbul	Cundumbul	5	3	8	3.4	1.1	4.5	104	17	6	5	11	11	8	15	0				119	4	5
Bridgewater*	Cundumbul	5	6	11	4.6	5.6	10.2															
Carrarawell†	Nowra	3	2	5	2.9	2.0	4.9	20	16	2	0	18	6	1	11	7				23	6	3
Carrick	Carrick	8	8	16	6.7	6.3	13.0															
New Country Flats	Carrick	12	8	20	9.7	6.1	15.8	113	0	0	1	11	8	10	0	0	0	10	0	125	1	8
Carrow Brook	Singleton	8	6	14	5.8	4.5	10.3															
Tea-tree	Singleton	8	4	12	7.2	3.6	10.8	89	10	0	0	17	8	10	0	0				100	7	8
Carwell	Rylstone	4	4	8	2.9	3.0	5.9															
Coomber	Rylstone	7	9	16	5.3	7.9	13.7	125	0	0	2	10	0	10	0	0	1	0	0	138	10	0
Castle Rag†	Castle Rag	3	4	7	3.0	3.2	6.2	23	10	10	0	6	2	1	13	4	9	12	11	35	3	3
Castle Rock	Wybong	5	6	11	3.6	4.6	8.2															
Wybong Creek	Wybong	9	12	21	5.8	10.2	16.0	123	18	4	3	11	8	9	2	9	7	10	0	144	2	9
Cattle Creek	Cassilis	5	10	15	3.9	7.2	11.1															
Coola Bulga	Cassilis	8	8	16	6.2	5.3	11.5	113	0	0	3	4	3	10	0	0	1	0	0	127	4	3
Cave Creek	Via Orange	7	3	10	4.2	2.7	6.9															
German's Hill	Via Orange	18	14	32	9.7	10.2	19.9	113	0	0		10	0	0	0	15	0			123	15	0
Celey's Creek	Whinstone Valley	8	8	16	4.7	6.5	11.2															
Jerangle	Whinstone Valley	18	9	27	11.4	6.2	17.6	139	10	0		10	0	0	1	11	9			151	1	9
Chandler	Wollomombi	7	9	16	5.9	7.4	12.4															
Wollomombi	Wollomombi	9	5	14	4.6	2.9	7.5	135	10	0	2	8	7				0	12	6	138	11	1
Charley's Hill	Oberon	10	9	19	6.8	6.7	13.5															
Norway	Oberon	11	13	24	8.7	8.9	17.6	148	0	0	1	19	7	9	13	7				159	13	2
Chatham Valley	Oberon	9	11	20	5.2	8.0	13.2															
Shooter's Hill	Oberon	8	4	12	6.6	3.1	9.7	89	10	0		10	0	0	2	5	9			101	15	0
Chaucer	Walli	8	4	12	4.4	3.5	7.9															
Wattle Grove	Walli	8	5	13	6.8	4.1	10.9	85	14	2	9	11	8	0	17	8	0	15	0	96	18	6
Blossom Vale‡	Walli	6	3	9	4.0	2.3	6.3	3	15	10		0	8	4						4	4	2
Clandulla	Brogan's Ck., Rylstone	17	7	24	13.2	6.1	19.3															
McDonald's Hole	Brogan's Ck., Rylstone	7	8	15	5.1	6.7	11.8	138	8	4	2	5	5	10	0	0	17	0	0	167	13	9
Clearmont	Adelong	4	6	10	3.6	5.4	9.0															
Darlow's Creek	Adelong	6	7	13	5.7	6.7	12.4	119	5	0		10	0	0						129	5	0
Clifford	Cooma	6	6	12	5.1	5.2	10.3															
Toll-bar Creek	Cooma	5	9	14	4.2	6.1	10.3	80	5	10	1	2	8	8	1	2	1	2	0	90	11	8
Clift Hills	Braidwood	6	4	20	3.2	9.7	12.9															
Monkittee	Braidwood	6	7	13	4.2	4.6	8.8	113	0	0	1	9	6	10	0	0	1	0	0	125	9	6
Clonalton§	Reid's Flat	1	6	7	0.7	4.3	5.0															
Graham	Reid's Flat	7	2	9	6.1	1.8	7.9	47	1	8		4	3	4	3	0	0			54	5	0
Cockatoo Flat	Walcha	13	5	18	10.2	3.2	13.4															
Vintner Fair	Walcha	11	5	16	8.9	3.5	12.4	129	16	8	6	14	0	1	13	4	0	12	6	138	16	6
Coomingla	Cowra	8	3	11	6.9	2.7	9.6															
Mount Collins	Cowra	9	8	17	6.2	5.4	11.6	125	0	0	2	3	10	10	0	0	6	2	0	143	5	10
Collaroy	Merriwa	7	6	13	5.4	4.9	10.3															
Minmurra, Lower	Merriwa	6	7	13	5.8	6.5	12.3	113	0	0	0	12	3	10	0	0	1	0	0	124	12	3
Colly Blue	Colly Blue	6	13	19	4.4	11.6	16.0															
Trinkey	Colly Blue	10	9	19	8.3	8.2	16.5	136	0	0	2	13	9	10	0	0	5	1	2	153	14	11
Colo, Middle	Upper Colo	7	8	15	5.9	7.0	12.9															
Colo, Upper	Upper Colo	12	11	23	8.8	8.3	17.1	145	10	0	4	8	5	10	0	0				159	18	5

* Closed, September. † Closed, 30th April. ‡ Closed, 31st January. § Closed, 16th May.

APPENDIX IX—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.									
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Fodage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.					
								£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.					
Combo.....	Wollar.....	8	1	9	6.5	0.7	7.2										
Wilpington.....	Wollar.....	9	13	22	6.6	9.0	15.6	113	0	0	0	124	19	5			
Cuningdale.....	Armidale.....	5	4	9	3.2	3.3	6.5	113	0	0	0	125	1	1			
Forest Farm.....	Armidale.....	8	14	22	5.7	7.3	13.0		1	8	7	0	12	6			
Conjola.....	Conjola.....	11	11	22	6.9	7.4	14.3	125	0	0							
Janning.....	Conjola.....	14	7	21	9.6	3.5	13.1		1	8	9						
Coolagolite.....	Cobargo.....	11	4	15	7.5	3.2	10.7	147	5	0	2	19	9	159	7	6	
Tanto.....	Cobargo.....	7	10	17	4.4	6.7	11.1			9	2	9					
Coolah Road.....	Leadville.....	8	8	16	6.7	6.2	12.9	137	10	0	3	18	10	158	8	10	
Tarrabran.....	Leadville.....	4	8	12	3.9	5.8	9.7				7	0	0				
Coolootai.....	Wallangra.....	9	7	16	7.0	4.8	11.8	74	16	8		9	0	0	83	16	8
Gullengutta.....	Wallangra.....	5	3	8	4.8	2.9	7.7										
Coolringdon.....	Cooma.....	11	3	14	7.3	1.2	8.5	94	13	4	0	8	11	106	2	3	
Lake Plain.....	Cooma.....	10	8	18	7.1	5.9	13.0				1	0	0				
Cooringoora*.....	Binjara.....	5	8	13	4.0	8.0	12.0	47	1	8	0	4	5	32	18	6	
Countegany.....	Numeralla.....	6	10	16	4.3	8.0	12.3				2	0	0				
Numeralla.....	Numeralla.....	9	10	19	5.4	6.7	12.1	137	10	0				149	10	0	
Crawford River.....	Bulladelah.....	9	13	22	1.8	6.9	8.7	134	0	0	1	12	8	159	12	7	
Girvan.....	Bulladelah.....	7	9	16	6.1	7.2	13.3				7	16	0				
Creekborough.....	Bungendore.....	4	7	11	2.5	4.8	7.3	105	15	11	3	1	4	118	17	11	
Thornhurst.....	Bungendore.....	3	10	13	1.6	6.9	8.5				0	10	0				
Crieffton.....	Comobella.....	11	6	17	9.3	3.5	12.8	131	10	0	5	9	9	146	19	9	
Windora.....	Comobella.....	9	8	17	5.3	5.7	11.0										
Cullula.....	Windellama.....	12	6	18	7.4	3.9	11.3	113	0	0	1	2	4	125	12	4	
Windellama.....	Windellama.....	9	4	13	7.0	3.6	10.6				0	10	0				
Carrockbilly.....	Mongarlowe.....	8	13	21	6.8	9.9	16.7	126	8	4	1	1	11	138	10	3	
Merco Flat.....	Mongarlowe.....	7	9	16	6.0	8.0	14.0				1	0	0				
Currowan.....	Nelligen.....	8	11	19	5.1	5.5	10.6	113	0	0	1	14	8	124	14	8	
Shallow Crossing.....	Nelligen.....	7	5	12	5.8	4.5	10.3										
Curry Flat.....	Nimitybelle.....	6	7	13	4.2	5.8	10.0	66	15	0	0	16	6	75	11	6	
Glenbog.....	Nimitybelle.....	7	4	11	5.9	3.3	9.2				2	10	0				
Dangelongt.....	Nimitybelle.....	6	3	9	3.4	1.9	5.3	22	15	0				25	15	0	
Cultagee.....	Bermagui.....	6	9	15	5.0	6.0	11.0	113	0	0				123	0	0	
Murray.....	Bermagui.....	8	5	13	7.5	3.9	11.4				10	0	0				
Dairy Arm.....	Laguna.....	7	7	14	5.6	6.0	11.6	137	10	0	0	5	5	150	10	5	
Wattagon.....	Laguna.....	6	8	14	3.8	6.3	10.1				2	15	0				
Daisy Bank.....	Rockley.....	16	9	25	13.3	6.9	20.2	118	15	0	4	4	3	135	9	3	
Swallow's Nest.....	Rockley.....	6	7	13	5.4	6.0	11.4										
Derriwang.....	Condobolin.....	8	6	14	5.4	3.7	9.1	117	3	4	2	5	10	129	19	2	
Ellacar.....	Condobolin.....	7	4	11	6.6	3.6	10.2				0	10	0				
Diamond.....	Binda.....	7	6	13	5.0	4.8	9.8	109	6	8	3	10	8	123	7	4	
Greenwattle.....	Binda.....	9	5	14	7.2	4.9	12.1				0	10	0				
Digby.....	Curlewis.....	5	5	10	3.1	2.6	5.7	75	6	8	4	12	3	86	10	8	
Goran Lake.....	Curlewis.....	8	10	18	6.0	7.7	13.7				6	11	9				
Doyle's Creek.....	Jerry's Plains.....	11	5	16	9.3	3.9	13.2	135	10	0	1	4	8	148	13	8	
Redman Vale.....	Jerry's Plains.....	10	12	22	7.2	9.3	16.5				0	5	0				
Drighlington†.....	Lismore.....	4	3	7	4.0	2.8	6.8	33	15	0	0	13	11	38	3	11	
Duckmaloi.....	Duckmaloi.....	10	5	15	6.0	3.7	9.7	89	10	0				99	10	0	
Hazelgrove.....	Duckmaloi.....	5	12	17	3.3	7.2	10.5				10	0	0				
Duddawarra.....	Lowther.....	3	8	11	2.4	6.0	8.4	89	10	0	1	6	1	100	16	1	
Lowther.....	Lowther.....	20	10	30	13.0	6.8	19.8										
Dullaberry.....	Via Wattle Flat.....	6	12	18	4.4	8.1	12.5	125	0	0	0	14	9	144	1	1	
Limekilns.....	Via Wattle Flat.....	7	6	13	3.5	3.5	7.0				1	5	0				
Dungowan, Upper.....	Dungowan.....	3	11	14	2.0	8.9	10.9	154	16	8	0	16	2	164	2	7	
Wooloban.....	Dungowan.....	5	8	13	4.1	6.8	10.9				0	19	9				
Duramana.....	Duramana.....	14	19	33	8.0	13.7	21.7	172	8	2	1	11	1	184	6	0	
Mount Ranken.....	Duramana.....	14	5	19	11.5	4.3	15.8				2	6	0				
Darren Durra.....	Marlow.....	7	7	14	5.1	5.1	10.2	153	5	0	2	3	8	166	11	4	
Marlow.....	Marlow.....	6	11	17	3.6	7.7	11.3				3	6	0				
Fastview.....	Dundee.....	5	7	12	4.7	5.9	10.6	113	0	0	2	18	9	126	8	9	
Severn.....	Dundee.....	8	5	13	6.6	4.6	11.2				0	10	0				
Edgerton.....	Yass.....	7	10	17	4.5	7.2	11.7	125	0	0	1	1	1	146	2	1	
Elizabethfield.....	Yass.....	7	7	14	6.1	5.8	11.9				10	0	0				
Emu Creek.....	Walcha.....	6	14	20	3.8	8.4	12.2	75	6	8	3	8	8	97	0	8	
Moona.....	Walcha.....	12	7	19	8.1	4.6	12.7				7	15	4				
Essington.....	Essington.....	10	9	19	6.4	6.1	12.5	113	6	8	1	17	4	125	4	0	
Hillington.....	Essington.....	5	7	12	4.2	4.4	8.6										
Encumbene.....	Adaminaby.....	10	5	15	7.6	4.2	11.8										
Hemsby.....	Adaminaby.....	7	10	17	4.8	6.3	11.1	101	10	0	1	6	11	115	18	10	
Bolairo§.....	Adaminaby.....	5	6	11	4.1	4.4	8.5				0	10	9				
Rock Villa§.....	Adaminaby.....	5	5	10	3.2	4.3	7.5										
Felton Wood.....	Corowa.....	11	12	23	7.9	9.1	17.0	89	10	0	1	17	7	101	7	7	
Jubilee Downs.....	Corowa.....	6	5	11	2.6	3.5	6.1										
Fern Glen.....	Copmanhurst.....	7	5	12	5.1	3.0	8.1	89	10	0				99	10	0	
Winegrove.....	Copmanhurst.....	7	4	11	5.6	3.2	8.8										
Ferunmount, South.....	Bellingen.....	6	8	14	4.3	6.6	10.9	92	0	0	0	8	7	104	2	7	
Spickett's Creek.....	Bellingen.....	4	1	5	2.6	1.0	3.6										
Fern Ridge.....	Lansdowne.....	10	9	19	8.7	6.3	15.0	133	0	0	1	9	5	144	9	5	
Lansdowne.....	Lansdowne.....	1	8	9	1.0	7.8	8.8										
Fieldside.....	Kangaroo Camp.....	14	4	18	7.1	1.4	8.5	113	0	0				123	10	0	
Paradise.....	Kangaroo Camp.....	4	5	9	3.5	3.9	7.4				10	10	0				
Fitzgerald's Valley.....	George's Plains.....	14	7	21	9.5	4.6	14.1	136	0	0	1	13	10	145	6	4	
George's Plains.....	George's Plains.....	22	9	31	15.5	7.2	22.7				4	10	0				

* Closed, 31st October. † Closed, 30th June. ‡ Closed, 30th September. § Closed, 31st January. ¶ Closed, 31st December.

APPENDIX IX—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.														
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.										
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.											
Forbes River	Yarras	8	9	17	5.5	7.0	12.5															
Hastings, Upper	Yarras	4	7	11	2.9	4.2	7.1	89	10	0	2	8	6	9	19	8	101	18	2			
Gadara	Adelong	9	11	20	6.6	7.4	14.0															
Wondalga	Adelong	14	10	24	11.4	9.2	20.6	161	0	0		10	0	0	2	5	0	173	5	0		
Galway Creek	Eugowra	16	7	23	10.9	5.6	16.5	143	6	8	3	0	3	7	10	0	2	3	6	156	0	3
Gum Springs	Eugowra	9	8	17	6.2	6.3	12.5															
Eulimore*	Eugowra	6	5	11	3.5	1.8	5.3	28	5	0			2	10	0	0	7	6	31	2	6	
Garfield	Bega	12	8	20	9.5	6.5	16.0															
Stony Creek	Bega	7	10	17	6.0	8.1	14.1	189	6	8	1	12	10	4	10	0	5	13	11	201	3	5
Ginninderra	Ginninderra	15	9	24	9.8	6.1	15.9															
Gungahleen	Ginninderra	3	9	12	2.4	7.5	9.9	125	0	0	1	16	1	10	0	0	1	5	0	138	1	1
Glanmire	Glanmire	7	7	14	4.7	6.2	10.9															
Hollybrook	Glanmire	9	10	19	4.9	4.9	9.8	115	6	8	1	15	3	10	0	0	1	2	6	128	4	5
Glen Allan	Nimitybelle	8	7	15	6.9	6.7	13.6															
Jetta	Nimitybelle	10	9	19	6.2	7.2	13.4	67	10	0			8	2	6	2	7	1	77	19	7	
Bocot	Nimitybelle	4		4	2.3		2.3															
Glen Arm	Bendemeer	8	3	11	5.4	2.4	7.8															
Mount Vale	Bendemeer	9	5	14	8.1	4.6	12.7	87	11	4	1	10	11	10	0	0	0	10	0	99	12	3
Glencardie	Ponto	11	2	13	7.1	1.0	8.1															
Ponto	Ponto	10	6	16	7.0	4.6	11.6	109	6	8	1	12	3	10	0	0				120	18	11
Glen Hill	Picton	15	14	29	9.9	10.4	20.3															
Oakdale	Picton	15	12	27	11.3	8.2	19.5	161	0	0	2	3	9	10	0	0				173	3	9
Glenora	Nabiac	4	8	12	3.8	7.3	11.1															
Wong Wauk	Nabiac	4	9	13	3.8	8.0	11.8	89	10	0	1	3	11	10	0	0				100	13	11
Glenugate	South Grafton	2	3	5	1.6	2.8	4.4															
Rushford	South Grafton	6	7	13	4.7	5.5	10.2	81	1	8			7	10	0					88	11	8
Gobbagumblin	Coolaman	10	9	19	6.4	6.6	13.0															
Tooyal	Coolaman	10	10	20	8.1	8.8	16.9	156	3	4	0	19	1	10	0	0				167	2	5
Goldaworth	Bendemeer	9	6	15	5.9	4.8	10.7															
Loanga	Bendemeer	5	2	7	4.7	1.2	5.9	110	6	8	0	12	10	10	0	0				120	19	6
Goolhi	Gunnedah	6	6	12	5.0	5.0	10.0															
Myall View	Gunnedah	6	2	8	3.5	2.0	5.5	89	10	0	1	17	10	10	0	0				101	7	10
Goonigal	Goolagong	9	5	14	7.3	3.7	11.0															
Kangaroo Creek	Goolagong	9	0	9	6.3		6.3	90	15	0	0	12	4	14	13	3	7	11	1	113	11	8
Green Cape	Green Cape	7	3	10	7.0	3.0	10.0															
Wombayn	Green Cape	5	1	6	3.9	0.7	4.6	46	16	9	4	13	5	10	15	4				62	5	6
Gumbalie*	Bourke	2	5	7	1.6	4.2	5.8															
Gulgowra	Havilah	10	1	11	4.9	0.6	5.5															
Havilah	Havilah	11	3	14	5.5	2.2	7.7	113	0	0	1	13	2	10	0	0	1	0	0	125	13	2
Gundaroo, Upper	Gundaroo	8	4	12	7.7	3.9	11.6															
Mugwill	Gundaroo	7	5	12	4.9	3.8	8.7	125	0	0	1	8	8	10	0	0	0	10	0	136	18	8
Gundillion	Krawarree	11	3	14	7.7	1.2	8.9															
Jerrabatgulla	Krawarree	9	2	11	7.8	0.8	8.6	76	14	6	0	18	0	11	17	0				89	9	6
Hadley	Fullerton	5	17	22	3.4	15.4	18.8															
Leighwood	Fullerton	8	7	15	6.5	6.1	12.6	158	16	8	3	3	1	10	0	0	0	10	0	172	9	9
Hammond	Sofala	6	1	7	5.6	1.0	6.6															
Sally's Flat	Sofala	3	10	13	2.6	9.6	13.2	113	0	0			10	0	0	1	0	0	124	0	0	
Handley	Bulgandra	6	4	10	5.5	3.3	8.8															
Ulandra	Bulgandra	8	5	13	7.1	4.5	11.6	56	10	0	4	11	3	11	3	8				72	4	11
Harold's Cross	Major's Creek	6	4	10	4.7	3.4	8.1															
Nithsdale	Major's Creek	9	10	19	6.5	8.1	14.6	99	18	4	0	11	10	9	13	7				110	3	9
Rock Farm§	Braidwood	5	6	11	3.6	5.6	9.2															
Harparary	Boggabri	11	8	19	8.4	6.7	15.1															
Tuerribri	Boggabri	4	2	6	3.3	1.9	5.2	102	0	0	1	7	7	10	0	0				113	7	7
Hawarden	Manilla	7	9	16	5.3	6.4	11.7															
Wongan Creek	Manilla	11	11	22	9.5	8.8	18.3	102	0	0	5	18	1	5	0	0	1	6	0	114	4	1
Hoskinstown	Hoskinstown	14	9	23	9.9	6.9	16.8															
Rossi	Hoskinstown	12	14	26	9.5	10.6	20.1	148	0	0	1	15	3	10	0	0	0	10	0	160	5	3
Howe's Valley	Howe's Valley	5	10	15	1.8	4.8	6.6															
Springfield	Howe's Valley	3	4	7	2.2	3.2	5.4	113	0	0	0	19	8	10	0	0				123	19	8
Humula South	Humula	5	9	14	3.7	7.7	11.4															
Mount Airy	Humula	10	4	14	6.1	3.4	9.5	44	0	0	4	6	7	6	14	9				55	1	4
Innescliff	Oaks	4	8	12	3.8	7.6	11.4															
Razorback	Oaks	7	6	13	4.8	5.4	10.2	87	11	8	2	6	3	8	7	1	1	0	0	99	5	0
Island Flat	Mangrove Creek	6	5	11	5.0	4.7	9.7															
Korce	Mangrove Creek	5	8	13	4.5	5.1	9.6	90	0	0	1	9	3	9	17	10	31	15	0	133	2	1
Island Holme	Yarraman	2	5	7	2.0	4.1	6.1															
Yarraman	Yarraman	5	7	12	4.2	6.8	11.0	89	10	0	1	13	4	9	13	7				100	16	11
Inverary	Bungonia	7	7	14	5.8	5.5	11.3															
Little Gundary	Bungonia	9	8	17	6.8	6.3	13.1	133	15	0	1	0	7	6	5	0	0	15	0	141	15	7
Irishtown	Golspie	11	11	22	8.0	9.4	17.4															
Marmont's Ford	Golspie	11	7	18	9.2	6.2	15.4	136	0	0	3	12	1	10	0	0	10	10	0	160	2	1
Ivor	Junee	8	9	17	4.5	4.7	9.2															
Pikedale	Junee	10	5	15	8.1	4.3	12.4	119	4	3	0	19	7	7	6	11				127	10	9
Jellingroo	Adelong Crossing	4	6	10	3.0	3.9	6.9															
Mundarlo	Adelong Crossing	8	6	14	6.9	5.0	11.9	113	0	0	0	14	1	10	0	0				123	14	1
Jellore	Mittagong	6	9	15	3.9	6.2	10.1															
Wanganderry	Mittagong	6	6	12	4.9	4.8	9.7	133	15	0			12	1	4	0	10	0	146	6	4	
Jinglemoney	Braidwood	6	5	11	5.1	4.5	9.6															
Modbury Creek	Braidwood	8	6	14	5.8	5.2	11.0	113	0	0	1	5	4	10	0	0				124	5	4
Junction Point	Binda	8	10	18	7.3	7.8	15.1															
Meglo	Binda	9	7	16	6.5	5.2	11.7	65	18	4	4	6	2	5	16	8	1	10	0	77	11	2
Kadina	Parkes	8	13	21	5.5	8.5	14.0															
Ten-mile Ridges	Parkes	3	4	7	2.6	3.6	6.2	113	0	0	1	18	10	10	0	0	0	10	0	123	8	10

* Closed, 30th June.

† Closed, 5th August.

‡ Closed, 30th September.

§ Closed, 31st July.

APPENDIX IX—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total
								£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Kalkite	Rocky Plain	6	6	12	4.7	5.0	9.7	125 10 0	1 1 0	10 0 0	1 0 0	137 11 0
Rocky Plain	Rocky Plain	9	9	18	3.8	7.5	11.3					
Kanthe	Cundle Flat	3	7	10	2.9	5.4	8.3	91 0 0	1 2 3	12 10 2		104 12 5
Tigras	Cundle Flat	3	7	10	2.7	6.5	9.2					
Kellick	Merriwa	12	6	18	11.2	4.7	15.9	163 0 0	10 0 0	1 14 0	1 0 0	175 14 0
Redwell	Merriwa	11	7	18	6.9	5.3	12.2					
Kingsmill Peak	Currabubula	7	7	14	6.3	6.7	13.0	113 0 0	1 18 0	10 0 0		124 18 0
Woodlands	Currabubula	5	2	7	3.7	1.2	4.9					
Kingstown	Uralla	5	8	13	4.0	7.0	11.0	20 6 8	10 0 5	8 15 9		49 2 10
Toryburn	Uralla	7	9	16	5.7	7.1	12.8					
Krawarree	Krawarree	11	7	18	6.1	4.6	10.7	89 10 0	0 9 3	11 17 0		101 16 3
Snowball	Krawarree	10	6	16	6.6	4.1	10.7					
Lalaly	Berrigan	5	11	16	3.7	9.3	13.0	159 3 4	4 13 8	10 0 0	9 6 0	183 3 0
Leniston	Berrigan	15	10	25	12.3	8.3	20.6					
Lang's Creek	Burrowa	3	11	14	2.9	9.7	12.6	116 1 8	1 3 9	10 0 0	0 15 0	128 0 5
Smelley's Lagoons	Burrowa	5	6	11	4.0	5.4	9.4					
Little Forest*	Yatheyattah	6	5	11	5.1	3.5	8.6	67 10 0		7 10 0		75 0 0
Nerrindillah*	Yatheyattah	6	5	11	4.4	4.2	8.6					
Lomolong	Bungendore	3	14	17	2.6	8.3	10.9	120 13 4	1 6 8	10 0 0	0 10 0	132 10 0
Neil's Creek	Bungendore	7	8	15	5.1	4.4	9.5					
Lynwood	Balranald	8	8	16	7.0	6.6	13.6	91 15 0	6 9 3	11 14 2	16 4 0	126 2 5
Paika	Balranald	4	10	14	2.0	7.2	9.2					
McDonald, Higher	Upper McDonald	8	2	10	7.7	1.9	9.6	113 0 0	1 11 5	10 0 0	1 2 6	125 13 11
Ormonde	Upper McDonald	7	7	14	6.8	6.9	13.7					
McDonald, Lower	Wiseman's Ferry	8	3	11	7.1	2.4	9.5	113 0 0	1 12 11	10 0 0		124 12 11
Webb's Creek	Wiseman's Ferry	10	5	15	8.7	4.3	13.0					
McLaughlin River	Timbery Range	8	6	14	5.6	4.6	10.2	92 15 2	2 9 0	4 18 7	1 0 0	101 2 9
Timbery Range	Timbery Range	8	9	17	4.3	6.6	10.9					
Majura	Queanbeyan	8	17	25	4.9	13.0	17.9	113 0 0	0 19 8	9 13 7	4 16 0	128 9 3
Malcolm Vale	Queanbeyan	7	3	10	5.6	2.8	8.4					
Manar	Braidwood	7	7	14	6.7	6.5	13.2	71 6 8	0 10 1	6 14 2		78 10 11
Virginia	Braidwood	5	6	11	4.0	3.2	7.2					
Manilla, Central	Barraba	10	5	15	6.1	4.4	10.5	113 0 0	2 15 11	10 0 0	1 15 8	127 11 7
Rockmore	Barraba	18	13	31	11.7	9.3	21.0					
Maybole	Ben Lomond	9	10	19	6.9	8.2	15.1	113 0 0	0 19 5	10 0 0	5 12 6	129 11 11
Moredun	Ben Lomond	8	4	12	5.7	2.6	8.3					
Mayfield	Oberon	5	7	12	2.1	4.8	6.9	82 10 0	2 11 8	3 15 0	2 8 3	91 4 11
Royals	Oberon	8	9	17	5.9	6.0	11.9					
Mayview†	Lake Cudgellico	4	6	10	3.4	4.5	7.9	28 5 0		1 17 8		30 2 8
Murrin†	Lake Cudgellico	9	7	16	6.0	6.2	12.2					
Meangora‡	Nerriga	4	4	8	3.3	3.6	6.9	60 8 4	2 7 10	5 16 8	0 10 0	69 2 10
Welcome Reefs‡	Nerriga	1	5	6	1.0	3.5	4.5					
Meermaid	Gunnedah	11	14	25	7.0	11.0	18.0	125 5 0	4 0 5	6 11 9	0 17 3	136 14 5
Wirrabelah	Gunnedah	12	13	25	10.3	11.5	21.8					
Mericumbene	Araluen	8	5	13	6.0	3.6	9.6	89 10 0	0 16 4	11 13 4	0 10 0	102 9 3
Mudmelong	Araluen	8	4	12	5.8	2.0	7.8					
Merryvale	Laggan	11	4	15	7.3	2.5	9.8	102 0 0	1 8 1	10 0 0	0 10 0	113 18 1
Myanga Creek	Laggan	6	5	11	3.3	2.9	6.2					
Meryla	Moss Vale	8	10	18	6.9	7.8	14.7	72 7 6	4 8 11	9 10 7	1 16 10	88 3 10
Meryla Vale	Moss Vale	5	7	12	4.2	6.1	10.3					
Micalo Island	Palmer's Island	6	6	12	5.2	4.9	10.1	113 0 0	1 0 2	10 0 0		124 0 2
Palmer's Island, Lower	Palmer's Island	11	7	18	7.4	5.1	12.5					
Middle Flat	Cooma	8	5	13	6.5	3.3	9.8	95 2 8	0 19 1	9 17 0	1 0 0	106 18 9
Thubergal Lake	Cooma	4	8	12	3.6	6.4	10.0					
Mill Creek	Wiseman's Ferry	12	7	19	9.9	5.0	14.9	104 10 0		8 12 6	10 2 4	123 4 10
Olive Mount	Wiseman's Ferry	7	3	10	6.3	2.8	9.1					
Milparinka§	Milparinka	7	8	15	3.2	4.1	7.3	113 10 0	1 18 9	24 11 8	21 5 0	161 5 5
Mount Browne§	Milparinka	7	2	9	3.5	0.9	4.4					
Mumosa Dell	Black Springs	8	1	9	6.5	0.7	7.2	110 6 8	1 7 7	10 0 0	10 5 6	131 19 9
Wallbrook	Black Springs	6	7	13	5.3	4.9	10.2					
Moggendoura	Moruya	2	4	6	1.9	2.9	4.8	113 0 0	0 17 6	10 0 0		123 17 6
Snaphook	Moruya	11	8	19	8.8	6.5	15.3					
Moonee Creek||	Woolgoolga	7	3	10	6.4	2.5	8.9	46 4 2		4 10 0	1 0 0	51 14 2
Moparrabah	Moparrabah	10	5	15	8.5	4.3	12.8	113 0 0	3 7 9	10 0 0		126 7 9
Panton	Moparrabah	4	3	7	2.8	1.9	4.7					
Mount Stromboli	O'Connell	5	7	12	4.3	5.3	9.6	101 0 0	1 2 3	13 15 3	0 10 0	116 7 6
Tanner's Mount	O'Connell	7	11	18	5.4	7.9	13.3					
Mount Terrell	Karr's Springs	8	9	17	4.3	5.9	10.2	113 0 0	0 19 1	10 0 0		123 19 1
Wybong, Upper	Karr's Springs	9	7	16	6.9	5.3	12.2					
Mundowey	Manilla	19	3	22	14.3	1.8	16.1	118 15 0	0 7 11	7 10 0	0 10 0	127 2 11
Ukolan	Manilla	10	11	21	6.3	9.0	15.3					
Murragamba	Ulan	7	5	12	6.1	4.3	10.4	133 8 1	2 0 2	11 2 6	1 0 0	147 10 9
Ulan	Ulan	15	10	25	11.7	7.3	19.0					
Murray's Run¶	Laguna	6	3	9	5.1	2.5	7.6	28 5 0	1 3 3	2 10 0		31 18 3
Nandabah	Casino	4	12	16	3.5	9.4	12.9	113 0 0	0 19 10	10 0 0		123 19 10
Woorooloolgan	Casino	5	6	11	4.2	3.9	8.1					
New Line, East	Bungendore	6	4	10	5.9	3.3	9.2	86 15 0	0 19 9	10 0 0	0 10 0	98 4 9
Werriwa	Bungendore	3	5	8	2.2	4.9	7.1					
Nullenullah**	Bellbrook	8	4	12	5.8	3.5	9.3	38 16 10	0 14 10	3 15 0		43 6 8
Oakey Creek	Warialda	9	9	18	6.2	7.7	13.9	150 10 0	2 14 3	10 0 0	0 10 0	163 14 3
Woodlawn	Warialda	11	8	19	6.5	5.9	12.4					
Oakleigh	Currabubula	10	6	16	8.9	5.1	14.0	113 0 0	3 1 8	10 0 0		126 1 8
Piallaway	Currabubula	7	8	15	5.7	6.4	12.1					

* Closed, 12th September.

† Closed, 31st March.

‡ Closed, 31st July.

§ Closed, 31st December.

|| Closed, 30th September.

¶ Closed, 30th June.

** Closed, 14th October.

APPENDIX IX—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.
Oberne	Tarcutta	8	12	20	3.6	5.6	9.2	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Umbango	Tarcutta	11	3	14	7.9	2.7	10.6	116 0 0	2 18 1	10 0 0	0 5 0	129 3 1
Ollera	Guyra	11	5	16	7.3	3.4	10.7	113 0 0	0 6 2	10 0 0	1 0 0	124 6 2
Tenterden	Guyra	6	8	14	3.6	3.4	7.0	131 10 0	4 6 10	10 0 0	.....	145 16 10
Onimbah Creek	Gosford	7	8	15	5.2	6.3	11.5	89 10 0	1 3 7	10 0 0	.....	100 13 7
Somerby	Gosford	3	8	11	2.9	6.7	9.6	113 0 0	0 9 7	10 0 0	.....	123 9 7
Palmer's Oakley	Upper Turon	7	10	17	3.2	7.8	11.0	113 0 0	1 5 11	10 0 0	.....	124 5 11
Turon, Upper	Upper Turon	7	8	15	4.5	5.7	10.2	124 5 0	1 12 0	10 16 8	1 0 0	137 13 8
Farrabell	Kempsey	7	3	10	6.0	2.9	8.9	91 7 0	2 13 1	12 2 5	.....	106 2 6
Temagogue	Kempsey	7	6	13	5.8	5.5	11.3	113 0 0	3 1 6	10 0 0	6 6 0	132 7 6
Peabody	Molong	6	5	11	5.5	3.2	8.7	124 10 0	2 2 8	10 0 0	.....	136 12 8
Sandy Creek	Molong	9	6	15	7.3	5.2	12.5	9 8 4	.....	.....	.....	9 8 4
Piambong, Lower	Two-mile Flat	5	8	13	4.4	7.4	11.8	102 0 0	2 15 0	10 0 0	.....	114 15 0
Yambil	Two-mile Flat	9	8	17	6.6	6.5	13.1	91 11 8	4 19 10	9 11 11	0 10 0	106 13 5
Pian Creek	Wee Waa	8	3	11	6.7	2.2	8.9	113 0 0	2 3 3	10 0 0	0 10 0	125 13 3
Weeta Waa	Wee Waa	10	7	17	6.8	5.1	11.9	82 14 10	0 18 5	10 0 0	.....	93 13 3
Pinch Flat	Armidale	7	6	13	4.6	4.0	8.6	75 6 8	3 14 5	7 2 3	1 0 0	87 3 4
Puddledock	Armidale	5	10	15	3.8	6.6	10.4	113 0 0	2 1 5	10 16 8	1 0 0	126 18 1
Piney Range	Piney Range	4	5	9	1.9	4.1	6.0	132 10 0	2 6 7	10 0 0	.....	144 16 7
Wheogo	Piney Range	10	3	13	6.1	2.5	8.6	109 6 8	0 19 8	10 0 0	0 12 6	120 18 10
Rats' Castle*	Mudgee	5	2	7	5.0	1.2	6.2	91 10 0	1 4 8	5 0 0	11 0 0	108 14 8
Ravensworth, North	Rouchel Brook	9	6	15	7.1	4.0	12.0	65 5 0	2 15 1	9 5 9	0 10 0	77 15 10
Rouchel Vale	Rouchel Brook	9	2	11	6.9	1.9	8.8	89 10 0	0 15 0	10 0 0	0 15 0	101 0 0
Red Hill	Reid's Flat	7	11	18	5.7	8.4	14.1	148 0 0	.....	10 0 0	8 7 6	166 7 6
Reid's Flat	Reid's Flat	8	4	12	6.2	2.0	8.2	99 16 8	1 12 8	8 6 8	0 10 0	110 6 0
Richlands	Taralga	7	11	18	5.1	8.9	14.0	60 3 4	1 13 4	9 3 7	1 0 0	72 0 3
Yorkborough	Taralga	8	8	16	5.8	7.2	13.0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rollands' Plains	Rollands' Plains	5	8	13	2.7	5.4	8.1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wanchope	Rollands' Plains	8	3	11	7.6	2.8	10.4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rose Vale	Windellama	10	3	13	6.9	2.5	9.4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Strawberry Creek	Windellama	7	7	14	5.0	5.3	10.3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shellgrove	Cooma	11	4	15	7.1	3.3	10.4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Woodend	Cooma	7	2	9	5.8	1.8	7.6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Stewart's River	Moorland	11	13	24	8.9	9.6	18.5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Stewart's R., Upper	Moorland	7	10	17	5.4	7.3	12.7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Surveyor's Creek	Walcha Road	3	6	9	2.5	5.3	7.8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ugly Range	Walcha Road	10	7	17	7.3	5.5	12.8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tinagoo	Scone	5	9	14	4.6	8.8	13.4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Turry	Scone	8	6	14	5.0	4.9	9.9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tindery Vale†	Michelago	1	7	8	0.9	5.5	6.4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Waterholest	Michelago	7	6	13	5.9	3.4	9.3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Trundle	Trundle	9	6	15	5.5	5.0	10.5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Woodview	Trundle	5	7	12	4.3	6.5	10.8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Turill	Cassilis	12	10	22	9.2	7.3	16.5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wagoribil	Cassilis	7	15	22	4.8	13.0	17.8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wangan Vale	Forbes	5	5	10	2.8	3.1	5.9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Yamina	Forbes	7	3	10	5.6	1.7	7.3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Widgiewat	Narandera	6	2	8	5.6	2.0	7.6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Yanko, Uppert	Narandera	5	3	8	4.7	2.8	7.5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

* Closed, 31st January. † Closed, 30th September.

APPENDIX X.

ATTENDANCE of Children at House-to-house Schools for the Quarter ending 31st December, 1896, or for the last Quarter of that year during which the Schools were in operation.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.
Apple Tree, &c.	Mundooran	12	10	22	10.9	9.0	19.9	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bannaby	Bannaby	12	15	27	9.5	11.9	21.4	88 15 5	1 18 10	10 0 0	.....	100 14 3
Baradoc	Never Never	14	8	22	9.6	5.8	15.4	92 10 0	1 12 9	10 0 0	.....	104 2 9
Barrett's Creek	Stockyard Creek	13	9	22	12.0	8.6	20.6	103 17 6	.....	12 10 0	.....	116 7 6
Basin Creek	Wallabadah	13	11	24	11.2	8.2	19.4	64 18 1	.....	12 0 11	.....	76 19 0
Benambra	Morven	14	10	24	12.1	8.8	20.9	86 15 0	3 10 10	10 0 0	.....	100 5 10
Bimlow	Burraborang	14	15	29	12.5	13.2	25.7	85 6 11	1 12 7	9 19 8	.....	96 19 2
Boilol Creek	Boggabri	8	14	22	6.8	12.1	18.9	60 16 8	.....	8 3 4	.....	69 0 0
Box Ridge	Sofala	13	13	26	8.0	9.2	17.2	80 1 2	1 19 0	10 0 0	.....	92 0 2
Branch River	Booral	13	3	16	12.6	2.6	15.1	91 3 0	1 4 11	10 0 0	.....	102 7 11
								69 3 2	1 3 5	.....	.....	70 6 7

APPENDIX X—continued.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Children on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.								
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.				
												£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Breelong, West.	Gilgandra	13	7	20	12.6	6.6	19.2	79 7 9	1 2 1	.....	.....	80 9 10		
Burwood	Binda	7	11	18	5.5	5.0	10.5	71 11 10	1 5 8	9 3 4	.....	82 0 10			
Calamia	Half-way Creek via South Grafton.	12	12	24	10.5	10.7	21.2	75 7 2	3 14 6	8 6 8	.....	86 8 4			
Cal Lal	Wentworth	9	15	24	8.6	13.6	22.2	92 10 0	2 3 0	10 0 0	0 15 0	105 8 0				
Collendina	Corowa	11	9	20	9.6	8.3	17.9	91 5 8	.....	10 0 0	.....	101 5 8		
Curraweela	Curraweela	8	13	21	5.5	11.1	16.6	73 15 5	0 19 2	10 0 0	.....	84 14 7			
Diamond Swamp	Crookwell	12	11	23	8.7	7.9	16.6	125 0 0	0 18 7	10 0 0	.....	135 18 7			
Dingle	Bellingen	13	7	20	11.7	5.0	16.7	84 19 5	2 1 10	10 0 0	.....	97 1 3			
Dunsbury	Neverfire	10	7	17	9.1	6.3	15.4	60 4 10	0 16 8	9 2 9	.....	70 4 3			
Edgeroi	Narrabri	11	9	20	10.6	9.0	19.6	87 11 9	0 4 6	9 19 3	.....	97 15 6			
Eualdrie	Gronfell	12	10	22	11.0	8.8	19.8	86 6 0	1 6 2	10 0 0	.....	97 12 2			
Ganbenang*	Lowther	15	6	21	13.2	5.5	18.7	65 2 8	1 7 1	12 10 0	.....	78 19 9			
Glen Elgin	Glen Elgin	5	6	11	3.8	3.4	7.2	35 4 2	3 8 1	0 10 0	.....	39 2 3			
Gloucester River	Barrington	17	10	27	14.1	8.5	22.6	87 5 7	0 19 5	10 0 0	.....	98 5 0			
Jerralong	Nadringomar	22	9	31	17.9	7.1	25.0	92 10 0	1 13 6	10 0 0	1 0 0	105 3 6				
Long Swamp	Trunkey Creek	11	11	22	10.4	10.7	21.1	92 10 0	1 5 1	10 0 0	.....	103 15 1			
Markdale	Binda	18	11	29	13.2	7.6	20.8	92 0 1	1 0 9	10 0 0	.....	103 0 10			
Merrimce	Whitton	15	8	23	13.2	7.5	20.7	91 0 0	1 11 4	10 0 0	0 15 0	103 6 4				
Merrygoen	Mundooran	13	15	28	10.6	10.7	21.3	92 10 0	.....	10 0 0	.....	102 10 0		
Mittagong Cottage Homes.	Mittagong	16	32	48	5.0	14.5	19.5	91 17 3	1 8 4	.....	.....	93 5 7		
Mount Parnell	Quirindi	10	9	19	8.5	7.4	15.9	73 3 4	1 0 3	13 13 5	.....	87 17 0			
Milpose	Parkes	6	11	17	6.0	9.0	15.0	70 10 11	.....	10 0 0	.....	80 10 11		
Narani	Bungwahl	15	17	32	13.1	14.0	27.1	92 10 0	1 11 7	10 0 0	.....	104 1 7			
Nile	Glen Alice	15	10	25	13.0	8.3	21.3	92 10 0	.....	10 0 0	.....	102 10 0		
Nunnagoys	Barham	7	9	16	5.4	7.2	12.6	74 8 10	1 14 0	.....	0 15 0	76 17 10			
Oak Creek	Hargraves	16	8	24	14.5	7.6	22.1	93 5 10	1 2 2	10 0 0	.....	104 8 0			
Phil's Creek	Frogmoor	19	13	32	9.1	7.3	16.4	80 0 6	.....	12 7 8	.....	92 8 2		
Purlewaught	Coonabarabran	8	12	20	5.1	11.0	16.1	21 15 5	.....	5 0 0	.....	26 15 5		
Rosemount	Denman	5	5	10	4.8	4.7	9.5	43 0 10	.....	.....	.....	43 0 10	
Sands, The	Trunkey Creek	14	11	25	12.2	9.7	21.9	92 4 0	1 0 8	10 0 0	.....	103 4 8			
Torri†	Balranald	7	8	15	6.9	6.3	13.2	45 12 6	1 6 7	5 16 8	0 15 0	53 10 9				
Warge Rock	Looby's	20	12	32	17.3	9.9	27.2	92 10 0	1 3 2	13 10 0	.....	107 3 2			
Wheeo	Wheeo	14	10	24	9.8	6.8	16.6	76 14 7	1 6 1	10 0 0	.....	88 0 8			
Wilpataria§	Wentworth	8	8	16	6.9	7.9	14.8	54 17 9	.....	7 10 0	0 15 0	63 2 9			

* Closed, 30th September. † Closed, 31st March. ‡ Closed, 31st July. § Closed, 7th October.

APPENDIX XI.

ATTENDANCE of Pupils at Evening Public Schools for the Quarter ending 31st December, 1896, or for the last Quarter of that year during which the Schools were in operation.

Name of School.	Post Town.	Number of Pupils on Rolls.			Average Weekly Attendance.			Expenditure from Public Funds.								
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Salaries.	Books, Clocks, Apparatus, Packing and Carriage.	Travelling Expenses and Forage.	Buildings, Rent, Furniture, Cleaning Allowance, Fuel, &c.	Total.				
												£ s. d.				
Blackfriars	George-street West	31	..	31	13.8	..	13.8	19 10 0	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	8 0 0	27 10 0				
Bombala	Bombala	16	..	16	12.1	..	12.1	1 1 1	.....	.....	.....	1 1 1	
Bulga*	Bulga	15	..	15	7.8	..	7.8	4 15 0	.....	.....	.....	4 15 0	
Castlereagh-street	Sydney	36	..	36	20.8	..	20.8	27 10 0	.....	.....	14 13 0	42 3 0		
Crown-street	Sydney	36	..	36	18.2	..	18.2	27 7 4	.....	.....	0 13 0	28 0 4		
Enmore	Newtown	45	..	45	27.6	..	27.6	28 18 4	.....	.....	14 0 0	42 18 4		
Erskineville	Erskineville	41	..	41	16.8	..	16.8	8 5 0	.....	.....	.....	8 5 0	
Grafton	Grafton	38	..	38	17.5	..	17.5	20 0 0	.....	.....	1 8 0	21 8 0		
Hamilton	Hamilton	32	..	32	18.0	..	18.0	5 2 2	.....	.....	.....	5 2 2	
Leichhardt	Leichhardt	39	..	39	19.7	..	19.7	27 18 4	.....	.....	.....	27 18 4	
Lithgow†	Lithgow	26	..	26	11.3	..	11.3	1 11 8	.....	.....	.....	1 11 8	
Maitland, West	Maitland, West	17	..	17	9.0	..	9.0	19 8 4	.....	.....	.....	19 8 4	
Marrickville‡	Marrickville	23	..	23	9.3	..	9.3	6 6 8	.....	.....	1 17 0	8 3 8		
Mumbulla§	Brogo	9	..	9	7.1	..	7.1	1 1 0	.....	.....	.....	1 1 0	
Paddington	Paddington	60	..	60	30.4	..	30.4	35 0 0	.....	.....	.....	35 0 0	
Petersham	Petersham	27	..	27	21.0	..	21.0	6 12 3	.....	.....	.....	6 12 3	
Pinkett-street	Sydney	14	..	14	5.5	..	5.5	0 5 0	.....	.....	.....	0 5 0	
Pymont	Pymont	28	..	28	14.7	..	14.7	13 11 8	.....	.....	1 6 0	14 17 8		
Redfern	Redfern	24	..	24	11.8	..	11.8	23 15 0	.....	.....	10 14 0	34 9 0		
Warangesda	Darlington Point	23	13	36	15.0	9.0	24.0	31 9 8	.....	.....	.....	31 9 8	

* Closed, 30th April. † Closed, March. ‡ Closed, 30th June. § Closed, 30th September. ¶ Closed, February.

APPENDIX XII.

THE CHIEF INSPECTOR'S REPORT, WITH ITS ANNEXES.

In view of the fact that during 1896 a great number of families left New South Wales for Western Australia and South Africa, it is a matter of satisfaction that an increase in the number of schools and scholars is reported. Of the 2,558 schools in operation in 1895, 91 were closed during that year or were allowed to lapse at its close, so that 2,467 were carried on to 1896. These, with the 102 new schools brought into operation, give 2,569 schools, representing 2,780 departments, as the record for 1896. The net increase for the year is 11 schools, but only 9 departments, as 2 infant departments were closed. The Armidale and Grafton districts have progressed, the South Coast district has retrograded, and the other districts have been practically stationary, as regards the number of schools.

The following is the return of schools for the last five years :—

Year.	Public.	Provisional.	Half-time.	House-to-house.	Evening.	Total.
1892	1,708	348	341	85	15	2,497
1893	1,700	347	369	90	9	2,515
1894	1,667	302	449	71	14	2,503
1895	1,685	317	483	57	16	2,558
1896	1,698	310	497	44	20	2,569

Arranged in classes according to the average attendance at the end of the year, they are :—

	Class I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.	Small Unclassified.	Total.
1892	38	34	21	54	117	195	222	315	665	283	553	2,497
1893	38	37	24	53	116	205	208	322	724	227	561	2,515
1894	38	36	23	64	116	209	206	311	762	209	520	2,503
1895	39	36	27	64	124	198	214	370	796	165	525	2,558
1896	40	36	26	62	127	198	185	335	860	193	507	2,569

At the close of 1895 there was accommodation for 237,933 pupils. During 1896, after providing for the loss caused by closing schools and abandoning old buildings, 1,421 additional places were supplied, raising the total accommodation to 239,354 places. As the highest quarterly enrolment was 198,621, it is clear that in the aggregate the accommodation is ample. In spite of all care, cases of overcrowding will occur. In country districts the fluctuations of population are so great that it is imperatively necessary that most of the school buildings are of a temporary or make-shift character. The large number of small communities of only five or six families too often places the fate of a school in the hands of one or two parents. It not unfrequently happens that the removal of only one family imperils the continuance of the school, while the removal of two compels closing. Sometimes the reverse occurs. One or two new families come into a district, and the school-room that had hitherto been large enough becomes overcrowded.

The following table shows the accommodation in each district :—

District.	Number of places at end of 1896, reckoned at 8 square feet for each child.	Number of places at end of 1896, reckoned at 100 cubic feet of air space for each child.
Armidale	19,703	17,959
Bathurst	16,803	16,704
Bowral	19,536	18,702
Goulburn	19,741	17,251
Grafton	19,111	18,923
Maitland	25,579	27,202
Metropolitan.....	56,121	67,840
Sub-metropolitan.....	17,349	16,174
Wagga Wagga	24,406	24,408
Wellington	14,473	14,591
Totals.....	232,822	239,354

The buildings generally are in good condition, and are well supplied with desks, forms, and other appliances. The Department has steadily become more liberal in its grants to small country schools, especially in the way of providing verandahs and water supply. Of course, this does not stop grumbling. The demands for expenditure are often unreasonable. It not unfrequently happens that for a school so small that the cost of its maintenance is barely warranted, applications are made for fencing, weathersheds, and other improvements that would cost a considerable sum. Many requests are made for fencing in the grounds of bush schools on the plea that children from a distance will then ride to school, and leave their horses in the play-ground. Not only is it unreasonable to ask the State to incur expenditure for such convenience, but horses should not be allowed on school play-grounds, at any rate while children are about. Where there is a real want for horse accommodation the parents interested usually have a working-bee, and put up a small stock-yard.

The water supply, especially in the Plains districts, gives a lot of trouble. Rain falls so infrequently that sufficient storage cannot be provided except at very great expense, and the smallness of the schools and the uncertainty of their duration put that out of the question. Every year water has to be purchased for many schools. It is surprising how eagerly wells or underground tanks are desired. Worse means for supplying schools could not be suggested. All underground water stores are liable to pollution, so, though the water is cool, it is a prolific source of disease. The iron tanks usually supplied are certainly objectionable, as the water they contain becomes heated, but they can be cleaned one by one, and thus the water kept comparatively pure.

The lighting and ventilation of school buildings receive very careful attention, and little fault can be found with those erected in recent years. All that can be done to make the schools and their surroundings healthy and pleasant is done.

Great expense has been incurred to secure a perfect cleaning of the urinals and water-closets. Many plans have been tried, and those patented by O'Brien have so far proved the best. It must, however, be borne in mind that the flushing apparatus is severely tried at our large schools. In many municipalities the pan system is enforced, but as usually carried out is not suitable for schools.

The difficulties arising from the fewness of teachers' residences are increasing. As pointed out in former reports, the doubt as to the permanency of many of our schools prevents the Department from erecting dwellings, and too often there is not a house of any kind that the teacher can rent. The new arrangements made by the Public Service Board in valuing the vested residences have caused much discontent. There is hardly a teacher who is satisfied that his house is worth the rental put upon it.

Teachers as a rule are good tenants, and keep the school premises in good order. Although the planting of trees and flowers is not so general, nor prosecuted with the same enthusiasm and diligence as when a bonus was given, there are still hundreds of school-grounds that are made beautiful by the labours of the teacher and his pupils. As in former years, the Inspectors have been charged with the duty of looking after the erection of small school buildings and the execution of minor repairs and improvements. This practice ensures both promptness and economy. The-

The work done under the supervision of the Inspectors consisted of :—

	£	s.	d.		
77 new schools	} total cost...	4,014	10 8		
19 additions to schools					
1 new residence.....				224	0 0
3 weathersheds				27	0 0
855 buildings repaired				6,346	17 10

Enrolment and Attendance.

The gross enrolment of pupils at all schools in 1896 was 251,821.

Deducting 12 per cent. for multiple enrolments, the number of individual pupils on the books of the schools was 221,603.

The following table gives the enrolment and average attendance for each quarter of 1896, together with the rates of increase or decrease :—

Quarter.	Enrolment in 1895.	Enrolment in 1896.	Increase for 1896.	Average daily attendance for 1895.	Average daily attendance for 1896.	Increase in average attendance for 1896.	Percentage of increase of enrolment.	Percentage of increase of average attendance.
March	191,778	195,982	4,204	136,526·8	137,619·3	1,092·5	2·1	0·8
June	191,780	196,948	5,168	141,229·5	141,080·3	*149·2	2·6	*0·1
September	194,113	198,621	4,508	140,227·5	145,763·8	5,536·3	2·3	3·9
December.....	190,630	196,550	5,920	141,930·8	144,306·9	2,376·1	3·1	1·6
Average	192,075	197,025	4,950	139,978·6	142,192·5	2,213·9	2·5	1·6

* Decrease.

The percentage for each quarter was :—

Quarter.	Enrolment.	Average Attendance.	
		Number.	Percentage.
March	195,982	137,619·3	70·2
June	196,948	141,080·3	71·6
September.....	198,621	145,763·8	73·3
December.....	196,550	144,306·9	73·4
Year's average.....	197,025	142,192·5	72·1

Compared with 1895, there is an increase in the gross enrolment of 5,917, on the average quarterly enrolment of 4,950, and on the average daily attendance of 2,213·9.

These results would have been much better but for the heat-wave that swept over the Colony in January, just as the schools were beginning the year's work.

Of the children who failed to attend school for the seventy days each half-year, as prescribed by law, it was found necessary in the first half-year to caution the parents or guardians of 3,811, and in the second half those of 2,369. Prosecutions in the case of 1,291 children were authorised. The Department has been warmly supported by the police, but in too many cases the magistrates give too much heed to such plausible but unsatisfactory pleas as "taught at home," "attend night-school," "sick," and dismiss cases where exemplary punishment should be inflicted.

The defects in the Public Instruction Act, as regards compulsion, to which attention has been so frequently invited still exist. They are :—

- (1.) To place the onus of proof of age and distance from school upon parents.
- (2.) Provision to deal with children of school age found loitering about the streets, wharfs, or parks during school hours.
- (3.) Authority to obtain the names and addresses of all children of school age.
- (4.) Power to enforce the registration of all private schools, and to compel the teachers of the same to furnish accurate returns of enrolment and attendance.
- (5.) Legal definition of what constitutes a day's attendance at school.

Complaints are sometimes made to the Department and in the newspapers as to the number of children roaming about the streets. Although there is some ground for these complaints the Department is powerless under the existing law to remedy the evil.

School Fees.

The collection of school fees is one of the most troublesome duties that devolve upon the teacher, and is the one that most frequently brings him into conflict with the parents. The fact that the Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution affirming the principle of free education has led many persons to refuse to pay until compelled by legal action. They then become incensed against the teachers, who have merely obeyed the instructions of the Department.

The total amount of fees collected and paid into the Consolidated Revenue was £74,865 12s. 5d., as compared with £73,319 12s. 1d. in 1895. Cautions to pay were issued during the year to 1,940 debtors, and it was found necessary to prosecute in 484 cases, with the result that the sum of £223 8s. 3d. was recovered.

Free education was granted to 28,420 pupils, an increase of 2,369 free scholars upon the returns of 1895. In addition to the grants for free education the sum of £2,849 6s. 4d., arrears of fees, was cancelled during the year. In all these cases full inquiry was made, and concessions were granted only in necessitous cases.

Inspection.

Several changes were made in the Inspectoral Staff during the year. Mr. Allpass retired, and his place was not filled up. This loss of an Inspector's services necessitated the abolition of an inspectorial district and a redistribution of schools. Mr. W. Dwyer was granted leave of absence for nine months, and Mr. Waterhouse was in July transferred to the Head-mastership of the Sydney High School. Mr. Dettmann, the Officer Commanding the Cadet Force, was deputed to take up Mr. Dwyer's work, and on the transfer of Mr. Waterhouse was appointed Inspector. Mr. Dettmann's long and eminently successful career as a teacher marks him as specially qualified for the important work now placed in his hands.

Mr. G. Hunt, a I A teacher, was appointed Acting Inspector for a period of four months. The retirement of so old and valued an officer as Mr. Allpass demands more than a passing notice. Mr. Allpass was brought from England by the National Board of Education in 1855, and for over eleven years rendered distinguished service in the Peel, Mudgee, and Fort-street Schools, helping materially to build up our educational system. On the introduction of the Public Schools Act in 1867, Mr. Allpass was chosen as one of the first Inspectors under the Council of Education. He discharged the important duties of Inspector of Schools for nearly thirty years with marked zeal and efficiency. His unflinching industry, his promptitude in dealing with business, his matured judgment and clear-headedness, won for Mr. Allpass the confidence of his official chief, while his unvarying kindness to teachers, and sympathy with their work, gained for him the esteem and affection of all placed under his supervision.

The

The inspections continue to be of the most thorough and searching character. In the case of every school the Inspector has to inquire into and report upon its material condition, the organisation and discipline, its moral tone, the subjects and methods of instruction, the proficiency of the pupils, and the character and competency of the teacher. It is the duty of the Inspector to see that every school is adequately provided with working appliances, and that the teacher takes proper care of the school buildings and their equipment.

While there is a steady improvement in the school furniture, and the supply of books is ample, it is a matter for regret that the need for strict economy does not admit of a liberal supply of maps, diagrams, and pictures. Pictures of trees, flowers, and animals, of natural scenery, of manufactures and industries, of magnificent buildings of historic places, tend to make a school attractive, to stimulate inquiry, and to cultivate a love for the beautiful and grand.

The teachers of some of the metropolitan schools have at their own cost, or by the aid of school concerts, done much to meet this longfelt want. In this praiseworthy object they have received substantial help from Mr. Woodhouse, the superintendent of drawing. The Model School at Fort-street sets a good example in this respect.

Its walls are decorated with splendid photographs, illustrating the natural features of the Colony. The features of organisation, for which the teacher is responsible, are in nearly every instance reported upon in terms of commendation. The school-rooms are scrupulously clean, the grounds are kept clear of rubbish and litter, and the school stock is well preserved. Of course, there are exceptions; but this is not surprising in so large a service. Notwithstanding the great importance that is attached to the accuracy, neatness, and regularity with which teachers keep their school records and furnish their returns, and the explicit directions given for their guidance, as well as the clearly-expressed penalties for errors or falsification, there are still some found who give trouble by their neglect or carelessness; and during last year three teachers, who narrowly escaped dismissal, were severely punished for falsification of records and returns.

In the classification and occupation of pupils steady improvement is manifest. Faults that have been described in former reports are gradually disappearing, and the provisions of the Standard of Proficiency are more faithfully observed. This standard has now been in force for several years, and is found to work well. It has tended to secure a very desirable uniformity as regards the subjects of instruction; it opposes an effectual barrier to errors of classification; it requires a systematic study and arrangement of lessons; and it furnishes the Inspector with a safe means of comparing different schools. The proficiency required is admittedly high, but is not unattainable; and those teachers whose pupils satisfy its conditions deservedly rank high in their profession.

It is pleasing to note that the Inspectors are unanimous in testifying to the good disciplinary condition of our schools. The importance of this cannot be overestimated, for let a school be well-ordered and well-governed, there is some guarantee that it will be well and efficiently taught. The government is usually mild, more dependence being placed on moral suasion and personal influence than on punishment. It is in this particular that the teacher may most truly be said to make the school. If the teacher is orderly in his own habits, upright, just, and firm in his dealings with his pupils, he will have little trouble in governing; but if he is lax in his habits, fitful in temper, wanting in moral fibre, or partial in his decisions, no amount of severity will secure the order and attention indispensable to success in school-work. The regulations as to corporal punishment are faithfully observed by most teachers. Well-founded complaints are rare; but when a teacher has been proved to have punished without cause, or with undue severity, he has been severely dealt with. Sometimes teachers are called upon to deal with cases of misconduct of pupils away from the school premises. Doubtless, a sound whipping administered to the offenders would in most instances have a very salutary effect; but the teacher who inflicts it runs great risk of being prosecuted at the Police Court. Teachers have no legal authority outside the school premises, though the influence of a good disciplinarian is always sufficiently far-reaching to secure orderly conduct on the part of the pupils when going to or returning home from school, a willing obedience to law, and a due consideration for the views and feelings of others.

The number of pupils examined was 154,868, an increase of 1,752 over the return for 1895. The increase would have been greater but that the Inspectors were instructed not to give notice of their visits. Of the 2,780 schools in operation during some portion of the year, 2,763 were fully inspected; the 17 not inspected were either closed early in the year or were opened after the Inspector's visit to the locality in which they are situated. The reduction in the staff, and the increase in the number of schools and pupils, render second inspections impossible, except in special cases.

The following are the details of inspection:—

Year.	No. of schools.	No. of schools inspected.	No. of schools not inspected.	No. of pupils examined.	No. of Inspectors.
1894	2,719	2,695	24	142,405	34
1895	2,771	2,757	14	153,116	34
1896	2,780	2,763	17	154,868	33

The particulars for each district stand thus:—

District.	No. of Inspectors.	No. of schools.	No. of schools inspected.	No. of schools not inspected.	No. of pupils examined.
Armidale.....	4	356	356	.....	12,513
Bathurst.....	3	260	259	1	10,389
Rowral.....	3	258	257	1	11,019
Goulburn.....	4	399	391	8	11,362
Grafton.....	3	326	326	.....	11,725
Maitland.....	3	245	244	1	16,739
Metropolitan.....	4	208	206	2	48,408
Sub-metropolitan.....	2	153	153	.....	11,867
Wagga Wagga.....	4	331	329	2	12,739
Wellington.....	3	244	242	2	8,107
Totals.....	33	2,780	2,763	17	154,868

The inspected and uninspected schools were:—

	Public.	Provisional.	Half-time.	House-to-house.	Evening.	Total.
Inspected.....	1,907	304	493	44	15	2,763
Uninspected.....	1	6	5	.....	5	17
Totals.....	1,908	310	498	44	20	2,780

Of the 2,763 schools inspected, 2,624 reached the standard or exceeded it. This is about 95 per cent. on the whole, and is an advance upon all previous results. The

The following tables show the proficiency of all schools inspected :—

	Below Standard.	Up to Standard.	Above Standard.	Total.
Public—				
1. In operation a full year at time of inspection	38	63	1,780	1,881
2. Not do do do do	4	3	19	26
Provisional—				
1. In operation a full year at time of inspection.....	15	15	206	236
2. Not do do do do	25	7	36	68
Half-time—				
1. In operation a full year at time of inspection.....	39	24	380	443
2. Not do do do do	15	5	30	50
House-to-house—				
1. In operation a full year at time of inspection.....	1	3	37	41
2. Not do do do do	1	1	1	3
Evening—				
1. In operation a full year at time of inspection.....	...	1	8	9
2. Not do do do do	1	...	5	6
Totals—				
1. In operation a full year at time of inspection.....	93	106	2,411	2,610
2. Not do do do do	46	16	91	153
Totals	139	122	2,502	2,763

Or summarised—

Class of School.	Above Standard.	Up to Standard.	Below Standard.	Total.	Percentage up to Standard in 1896.	Percentage up to Standard in 1895.
Public	1,799	66	42	1,907	97	97
Provisional	242	22	40	304	86	82
Half-time	410	29	54	493	89	89
House-to-house	38	4	2	44	95	91
Evening	13	1	1	15	93	93
Totals	2,502	122	139	2,763	95	94

Attainments of Pupils.—The following table gives the number of pupils examined in each subject, and the number and percentage of passes :—

Subjects.	Estimated Proficiency.		
	Total number examined.	Number passed.	Percentage up to or above standard.
Reading—			
Alphabet	10,807	8,132	75
Monosyllables	35,522	29,330	82
Easy Narrative	48,633	41,803	85
Ordinary Prose	59,906	52,963	88
Totals.....	154,868	132,228	85
Writing—			
On slates	60,939	51,348	84
In copy books and on paper.....	93,439	81,218	86
Totals.....	154,378	132,566	85
Dictation	122,291	96,943	79
Arithmetic—			
Simple rules	91,452	70,321	76
Compound rules	38,323	27,399	71
Higher rules.....	23,456	16,662	71
Totals	153,231	114,382	74
Grammar—			
Elementary	31,833	23,738	74
Advanced	31,450	23,358	74
Totals.....	63,283	47,076	74
Geography—			
Elementary	29,523	22,756	77
Advanced	33,769	26,177	77
Totals.....	63,292	48,933	77
History—			
English	62,424	45,096	72
Australian.....	12,981	9,443	72
Scripture and Moral Lessons	149,306	115,558	77
Object Lessons.....	147,788	115,803	78
Drawing	148,896	119,114	79
Music	141,593	112,772	79
French	2,549	1,920	75
Euclid	8,609	6,466	75
Algebra	3,183	2,505	78
Mensuration	6,546	4,427	67
Latin	2,902	2,095	72
Trigonometry	88	67	76
Needlework	55,475	49,287	88
Drill	146,738	120,642	82
Natural Science	7,059	5,608	79

In reviewing the above table it must be borne in mind that the standard provides for the ordinary Public School course and for the instruction in the Superior Public Schools. The

The ordinary course is followed in all schools, and every pupil must be examined in the prescribed subjects. The aim of the ordinary course is not to teach much, but to teach thoroughly. It is regarded as of primary importance that every child should read fluently, spell correctly, write legibly, and calculate accurately. In this light the table just given affords satisfaction; high and steadily-improving results are shown in reading, writing, dictation, and arithmetic.

A decided advance is exhibited in the results of the examination for certificates of exemption. 14,767 pupils were examined, and 8,800, or 59 per cent., passed. The best results, 72 per cent., were gained in the Maitland District; the lowest, 48 per cent., came in the Tamworth District.

Several of the Inspectors report that the issue of these certificates leads to the withdrawal of pupils from school at too early an age, but I think that the careful and thorough teaching that the examination demands more than outweighs the evil referred to. Besides, the mere possession of the certificate proves that the pupil has received a good elementary education.

In reading, the best work is done in the middle and lower classes. In the upper classes there is a tendency of some teachers to devote too much time to the derivation and meanings of words and consideration of the subject-matter. No doubt one object of the reading lesson is the communication of general knowledge, but this must not be indulged in to the neglect of such points as the cultivation of a clear ringing enunciation, proper emphasis, fluency, and expression. The fifth classes read the special book prescribed for English at the Junior Examination, but this course has its drawbacks. Sometimes the book appointed is not suitable for school use, and too often the words of Shakespeare and Milton are repeated with no more attempt at elocution than infants display in repeating tables or the alphabet. Writing, as a rule, is carefully taught. Some allowance must be made for the teachers of small country schools which contain several classes, including a large proportion of infants. There is a danger here that the pupils at writing will be left to themselves while the teacher is occupied with the other classes, but the practice of netaught, slovenly writing cannot be permitted. To show what can be accomplished by a careful teacher, it may be mentioned that in a recent competition the highest prize, a gold medal, was won by a pupil of a small country school where there is only one teacher. A good many children suffer in their handwriting from having no copy-books, sometimes for long intervals. The parents are often too poor to provide the necessary 2d., or are too indifferent to the child's welfare to do so. Teachers in the country often report that they cannot procure suitable books, and hence have been compelled to supply them themselves.

In some of the large schools it has become the practice to work sums upon paper instead of on slates. Though this is a decided improvement, especially as a matter of cleanliness, a habit of scribbling will be cultivated unless very great care is taken. Distinct improvement is noticeable in the teaching of arithmetic. The passes now reach 76 per cent. in the lower grades and 71 in the higher. Teachers now give more care to the exposition of principles and to the selection of properly graduated exercises. Mental arithmetic is more regularly taught, but too great attention is given to purely mechanical questions. In every class short practical questions calculated to make the children think before the result can be recorded should be given at every lesson. It would be well for our teachers to give more problems bearing upon square and cubic measure and measures of capacity. I have had complaints from parents that children attending good schools could not assist them in such matters as areas of land, length of fencing, contents of tanks, quantities of farm produce, &c.

There is nothing calling for special remark in any of the other subjects, except, perhaps, object lessons. Though the lessons are well given, and are made to play an important part in the intellectual training of our pupils, I should like to see more variety in the selection of subjects, and greater originality in the way in which they are presented. Even in the lower classes children may learn the explanation of the mechanical phenomena of nature, and applications of the same principles in invention, as, for example, gravitation in falling bodies, the part it plays in the pump and the pendulum; cohesion in mud, clay, glue, paste, mortar, and cement; capillary attraction in lamp-wicks, sponges, sugar, the sap in plants; the applications of lifting by the lever, pulley, inclined plane, wedge, and screw; heat in the sun, combustion, friction, steam, cooking, clothing, &c.; the phenomena of light, electricity, magnetism; the explanation of such mechanical devices as spectacles, telescopes, photographic cameras, the telegraph, the dynamo. To these should be added lessons on the laws of health, the necessity for fresh air, pure water, wholesome food, and due attention to sanitation. The time has arrived when such books as Walker Object Lessons may be relegated to the dust-heap with Mavor's Spelling Book and other school-books of a bygone age.

Infant Schools and Kindergartens.

Our Infant Schools form a prominent and highly popular and efficient branch of our educational system. The young children are not only taught the three R's well, but they are trained to observe and reflect. Those who pass through the Infant Schools usually make more rapid progress through the primary departments than those who have not been so privileged. In many Infant Schools the characteristic features of the Kindergarten have been introduced, and its leading principles pervade all of them. That this is nothing new may be seen from the following extract from the Report of the National Board of Education for the year 1856:—

"In the lowest department, called the Babies' School, children are received whose ages range from 2 to 5 years, provided they are able to talk. Here their *formal* instruction may be said to commence, and the methods adopted are those which experience has proved to be best suited to develop and strengthen the dawning intellect. An attempt has been made to introduce, with the modifications necessary to the peculiar circumstances of the school, the system of F. Froebel, the originator of the Kindergarten. It has not been deemed expedient to adopt Froebel views in their integrity, many of his notions being impracticable with Australian children. But his fundamental principle of mingling employment with instruction, and combining amusement with both, has been successfully observed. This department is very popular with the parents, because their children are therein afforded opportunities of healthful exercise and recreation. They also receive that moral training that their tender years permit."

All our Training School students receive thorough training in the theory and practice of Kindergarten work.

Superior Public Schools.

These now number 100, 2 having been added during the year. These schools, which are scattered all over the Colony, continue to do very good work. At practically no cost to the State they bring the foundation of a secondary education within reach of the intelligent children of the masses, and enable boys and girls who could not under any circumstances attend the High Schools or the Grammar Schools to qualify for such examinations as the Junior of the University of Sydney. In the fifth classes of these schools the Inspectors examined 5,451 pupils in the advanced subjects. The satisfactory results reported by the Inspectors are corroborated by the University. At the University Examinations of the year, 368 Public Schools passed the Junior and 5 the Senior, gaining 26 Matriculation passes. At the Honors Matriculation Examination, held in November, 19 passed.

The schools deserving honorable mention are:—

Fort-street	71	Bowral	8
Grafton	17	Burwood	8
Stanmore	17	Rathurst	7
Newcastle	12	Parramatta South	7
Glen Innes	9	Chatsworth Island	6
Cleveland-street	9	Crown-street	6
Newtown	9	Leichhardt	6
Paddington	9	Pallina	5

The Model School at Fort-street occupies the proud position of topping the list for the whole Colony.

High

High Schools.

The number of High Schools in operation in 1896 was the same as for the previous year. The one at Bathurst, though very efficiently conducted, is so poorly supported that its closing at an early date is inevitable. In June last, Mr. Joseph Coates, who had been Head Master of the Sydney Boys' School, retired from active work in consequence of impaired health. All connected with the Department learned with sorrow that Mr. Coates died about three months after his retirement. Mr. Coates, though a very strict disciplinarian, was always popular with boys, and, as long as his health stood, was a very efficient teacher. Mr. J. W. Waterhouse, M.A., was selected to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Coates' retirement. Mr. Waterhouse for several years conducted the East Maitland High School with great success, and more recently filled the position of Inspector of Schools.

The attendance is given below:—

School.	Total Enrolment.	Average Quarterly Enrolment.	Average Daily Attendance.	Fees received.
Sydney (Boys)	169	119	109·8	£ 785 8 0
(Girls)	212	165	152·1	1,154 9 6
Maitland (Boys)	91	69	62·8	299 5 0
(Girls)	72	54	48·4	223 13 0
Bathurst (Girls)	33	24	18·9	113 8 0
Total.....	577	431	392	2,576 3 6
The figures for 1895 were.....	603	468	430·1	3,206 14 0

Scholars and Bursars.—The number of Scholars and Bursars in attendance at each High School during December quarter is given below:—

School.	Scholars.	Bursars.
Sydney (Boys)	33	25
(Girls)	43	24
Maitland (Boys)	22	26
(Girls)	24	9
Bathurst (Girls).....	10	3
Totals	132	87

Each school was represented at the University Examinations. The following table shows the number of passes:—

School.	Junior.	Senior.	Matriculation.
Sydney (Boys)	26	2	18*
(Girls)	29	6	14†
East Maitland (Boys)	15	3	15‡
West Maitland (Girls)	11	2	6§
Bathurst (Girls)	3	.....	.....
Totals	84	13	53

* Of these 13 matriculated at the Junior, and 1 at the Senior Examination.

† Of these 6 " " " 1 " " "

‡ Of these 3 " " " 3 " " "

§ Of these 2 " " " Examination. " "

The following particulars may prove of interest:—

Number of candidates who attended Entrance Examinations in 1896...	774
Number of Scholarships awarded.....	57
Number of Bursaries awarded	43

Cookery Instruction.

The number of Cookery Schools in operation during the year was 15, an increase of 1 over the number for 1895. In the country, Orange, Bathurst, Albury, Bowral, Armidale, and Glen Innes were substituted for West Maitland, Goulburn, and Lisnore; while in the Metropolitan District, Rockdale was opened, and Redfern West, Balmain, and Blackfriars were closed. 1,302 girls attended the Cookery classes; of these 1,166 were examined at the end of a term of instruction, and 1,143 passed the applied tests. The examinations were conducted by committees of ladies, who most generously came to the aid of the Department. Day after day, in the case of Newcastle for a whole week, these ladies attended at the school and watched the work of the girls with the most scrupulous care. The various committees not only reported upon the work of the pupils, but made very valuable suggestions which have been adopted, and are embodied in the scheme now in operation.

The eight teachers of cookery were included in the grading by the Public Service Board in June last. Since then, Miss Story, the senior teacher, has been transferred to the Technical College, and her place on the Public Schools staff taken by Miss Lance, the next in rank. To fill the vacancy Miss A. B. Wright, who has graduated at the Sydney Technical College and at the Glasgow Training School of Cookery, was appointed.

The following is a list of the schools in operation during the year:—

Place.	Remarks.	Place.	Remarks.
Hurlstone Training College...	Open all the year.	Tamworth	Closed April, 1896.
Parramatta Industrial School	" "	Orange.....	Closed August, 1896.
Fort-street	" "	Albury.....	" "
Petersham	" "	Armidale.....	" "
Paddington.....	" "	Bathurst ..	Opened September, 1896.
Rockdale.....	" "	Bowral.....	" "
Newcastle ..	" "	Glen Innes ..	" "
Wagga Wagga	Closed April, 1896.		

For the future, it has been decided to have two Cookery terms in the year, to be concurrent with each school half-year, instead of three terms as hitherto. The course of lessons has also been raised to twenty-one, and several dishes not previously in the list—such as the preparation and cooking of poultry—have been included. By this means the programme has been improved and rendered more suitable to ordinary family requirements.

Manual Training.

Manual training classes have been formed in connection with the Boys' High Schools at Sydney and Maitland, and with the Public Schools, Fort-street, Cleveland-street, Crown-street, Blackfriars, Sussex-street, and the schools at Goulburn, Maitland, and Newcastle. All the male students, also, are required to pass through the course. During 1897, on the completion of the Technical College buildings at Bathurst, similar classes will be formed in that important town. Teachers agree in testifying to the good effect the manual training has upon the boys; the boys themselves like the work, and the parents are beginning to see that the knowledge and dexterity acquired by the boys can be turned to good account at home. The various Boys' classes had a total enrolment of 622; of these, 466 attended the annual examination, and 394 passed.

Drill.

Drill.

The duties of the staff of the Cadet Force have been arranged so as to bring the officers more into direct contact with the regular school-work. The officers visit schools in accordance with an approved programme, and give model lessons in military drill, physical and rifle exercises. For the benefit of teachers these lessons are supplemented by instruction classes on Friday evening. The scheme now in operation secures that every boy attending schools in the populous districts passes through a full course of military setting-up drill.

In carrying out this scheme it was decided to locate an instructor at Newcastle, to give lessons in the schools about Newcastle and Maitland. Captain Mulholland was appointed, and his work has been most favourably reported upon by the Inspectors.

Nor are the girls overlooked. Suitable drill and physical exercises have been arranged for them, and they show the benefit of such training by the decrease in the number of round and stooping shoulders, by their more erect and graceful carriage, and by a general improvement in health.

Particulars about the Cadet Corps will be found in a separate report.

School Libraries.

The movement for establishing school libraries is spreading. Mr. Inspector Kevin, who has been specially active in this work, was in January last transferred to the Dungog District, and there has prosecuted the matter with such enthusiasm that 71 libraries, with over 5,000 books, have been opened. Several other Inspectors and a number of teachers have warmly taken up the cause, with such success that hundreds of schools can now boast of a library. The Model School again sets a good example by having a well-selected library of over 2,000 volumes.

The good done by these libraries cannot be overestimated. Viewed from the school standpoint, they will give the children more practice in reading; this will lead to wider knowledge, a more extensive vocabulary, and increased power of expression.

Schools Athletic Associations.

The Public Schools Athletic Association has met with conspicuous success during the year, and vigorously-conducted branches have been formed at Glen Innes, Tamworth, Armidale, Newcastle, Maitland, and in the Hawkesbury District. These associations have done a vast amount of good in many ways, and have deservedly met with much popular support. The distinguishing feature of the year is the impetus given to swimming in nearly all the schools in the Sydney and Newcastle Districts. Swimming clubs have been formed. Girls have taken up the matter as warmly as the boys. These clubs have 10,000 members. The scholars visit the baths under the supervision of the principal teacher or an assistant, and receive instruction from an expert. The advantages to be derived from this clean, healthy, and valuable exercise are generally admitted, and nothing connected with school work has met with such universal approbation as the encouragement given by the Department to swimming. Apart from the benefits to be derived from a reasonable indulgence in athletics, these sports make a pleasing break in the monotony of many children's lives, and a judicious variation of monotony conserves energy and postpones age.

Teachers.

The number of teachers employed in the Department's service on the 31st December last was 4,442, a decrease of 35 on the record for 1895. There is an actual increase of 6 teachers, but there are fewer pupil-teachers by 41. The reduction in the number is caused chiefly by the change of small Public and Provisional Schools to Half-time, and the withdrawal of pupil-teachers from sixth-class schools that had ceased to maintain the required average of fifty. The unanimity with which the Inspectors bear testimony to the uniformly good character and conduct, loyalty, zealous and efficient discharge of duty of this large body of public servants is a matter for congratulation. I am pleased to be in a position to endorse this testimony. Every year I pay surprise visits to schools in town or country, and I very rarely find occasion to censure. During last September I visited 22 schools on the northern rivers, and in only 1 had I had occasion to find fault. The position of a teacher is a trying one—one that in a special degree causes his words and actions to be misunderstood and misrepresented. Not unfrequently a teacher makes enemies by his faithful observance of the Department's regulations. Sometimes he has to endure discomfort that only those who have lived long in the bush can understand. Still the position is honorable and important; and, though in the lower grades the pay is small and the promotion slow, it is not without its advantages. A teacher thoroughly in earnest, imbued with a love for his work, will find great encouragement and pleasure in teaching. He will be looked up to and respected, and cannot fail to reap his reward. During the year several of our young trained teachers have been tempted by the offer of higher salaries to leave for Westralia and Queensland, and others have been transferred by the Public Service Board to other branches of the Civil Service in our own Colony. This transfer, carrying with it a higher salary, has caused a spirit of unrest and dissatisfaction among those of about the same standing who remain with us.

I view with pleasure the formation of a Teachers' Institute, and the large measure of success that so far has attended its operations. The more teachers are brought into contact with each other, the higher their mental condition will be raised, and the better will be the work done in our schools.

NUMBER of Teachers of all grades employed on 31st December, 1896 :—

	I A.		I B.		II A.		II B.		III A.		III B.		III C.		Un-classified		Totals.		Grand Totals.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Principal Teachers	41	1	81	1	200	4	341	7	630	123	194	81	74	65	265	234	1,725	521	2,246
Mistresses of Departments ..	31		40		134											1		210	210
Assistants	1	2	15	2	131	130	67	99	42	265	7	56	1	20	7	39	271	613	884
Students of the Training Schools whose classifications have not yet been awarded ..																	25	26	51
High School Teachers																	12	13	25
Totals	42	34	96	43	427	268	211	109	672	395	201	137	75	85	272	274	2,033	1,863	3,896
	Class I.		Class II.		Class III.		Class IV.		Probationers.										
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.									
Pupil-teachers	51	851	30	73	58	38	136	147	24	48							299	660	959
Work-mistresses																		67	67
Total Teachers of all ranks																	2,332	2,110	4,442

Nearly all the teachers returned as unclassified have been trained as pupil-teachers; a large number sat at the examination in June last, and will be awarded classifications from the 1st January, 1897. These young people, possessing high attainments and good practical skill, have raised many of our small bush schools to a high standard.

No material alteration has been made in the curricula of the Training Schools. Fort-street was attended by 26, and Hurlstone by 29 students. The students have been attentive to instruction, diligent in study, and with two exceptions, most anxious to win an honorable record. One student, for attempted copying at the examination, was expelled and reduced to the rank of pupil-teacher. As a reward for distinguished merit those students who at their final examination gain a classification of 2A with honors, will be awarded a scholarship at the University if they pass the Matriculation Examination.

The position of Principal of Hurlstone, vacated by Miss Everitt, was conferred upon Miss J. Nicoll, who had been Assistant since the establishment of the college. Miss E. Mallarky, a former student, holding a 2A classification, as well as University degree, was appointed Assistant. Both appointments were confirmed by the Public Service Board, and the ladies have proved themselves worthy of their promotion.

Technical Education.

By the rearrangement of the various branches of the Civil Service this Department lost the services of Mr. J. H. Maiden, who was transferred to the position of Director of the Botanic Gardens. Mr. Maiden had been Superintendent for over three years, and Curator of the Technological Museum for seventeen years. The Museum is really his own creation. In Mr. Maiden I had a most loyal, conscientious, and able colleague, and much of the success that has attended the operations of the Technical Education Branch is due to his indefatigable industry and eminent qualifications. The Public Service Board placed Dr. Morris, the permanent Examiner of the Department, in charge of the Technical Education Branch, combining the two offices of Examiner and Superintendent of Technical Education. The work of the Technical College and its branches is carried on with unabated vigour and success, and the results, as disclosed by the examinations, are of a very gratifying character. Full details will be found in the Superintendent's report.

Appended are the usual yearly reports furnished to me.

F. BRIDGES,
Chief Inspector of Schools.

ANNEX A.

INSPECTOR DAWSON'S REPORT.

THE schools in my section of the Metropolitan District for the year 1896 numbered 19 Public and 6 Evening Public Schools, the former comprising 48 departments.

The quarterly enrolments and average attendances at these schools were:—March quarter, 16,761 and 12,325; June quarter, 16,757 and 12,172; September quarter, 16,901 and 12,686; December quarter, 16,471 and 12,375.

As a whole, the schools provide sufficient accommodation for the attendance, but there are several schools whose power of accommodation is fully taxed, and a few which require additional space. Extensive additions have been made to the schools at Crown-street and Neutral Bay, and a new Girls' Department is contemplated at Leichhardt.

During the year no school was permanently closed; two new Evening Public Schools were opened. All schools were fully inspected once during the year, and were visited besides for incidental inspection, and some for "ordinary" inspection.

The whole number of pupils present at examination was 13,383. The percentage of passes in the important subjects was:—Reading, 83; Writing, 83; Dictation, 86; and Arithmetic, 69.

The schools are all carefully organised and effectively disciplined. The teachers, 312 in all, have been faithful and laborious servants of the public.

J. DAWSON,
Inspector.

Sydney, 14th January, 1897.

ANNEX B.

INSPECTOR THOMPSON'S REPORT.

At the beginning of 1896 the schools at Balmain, Petersham, and St. Peter's were transferred to other inspectors, while those at Albion-street, Camperdown, Pyrmont, Paddington, and Waverley were placed under my supervision. During the year an Evening Public School was opened at Pyrmont, but that at Plunkett-street was closed in February, on account of the small attendance of pupils. I have now, therefore, under my charge 22 Public and 3 Evening Public Schools.

Accommodation, &c.

The material condition of the school buildings in this section of the Metropolitan District is satisfactory, and the accommodation provided may be regarded as generally sufficient for ordinary requirements.

Additions have been made at Gardener's Road and St. Leonard's North, and the Boys' School at Glebe is being enlarged.

Attendance.

The gross enrolment of pupils during the year was 20,601. The multiple enrolment amounted to 3,184. The actual enrolment was, therefore, 17,417. The annual average attendance was 10,930.6. The several quarterly enrolments and average attendances were as follow:—March quarter—Enrolment, 15,393; average attendance, 10,911.8. June quarter—Enrolment, 15,322; average attendance, 10,768.6. September quarter—Enrolment, 15,274; average attendance, 11,188.8. December quarter—Enrolment, 14,864; average attendance, 10,828. During the latter half of the year the average attendance reached nearly 73 per cent. of the enrolment.

Inspection.

All schools and departments (with the exception of Plunkett-street Evening, which was [suddenly] closed early in the year) received regular inspection. The total number of pupils examined was 12,409.

No department was below the required standard of 50 per cent. of maximum marks obtainable.

One department was up to that standard, and the rest were above it. Thus the proficiency of the pupils was of a decidedly satisfactory character on the average.

As a whole, the schools were well organised, the government judicious and effective, the teachers earnest in the discharge of the responsibilities and duties of their office.

W. F. THOMPSON,
Inspector.

27th January, 1897.

ANNEX C.

71.

ANNEX C.

INSPECTOR WILLIS'S REPORT.

DURING the year 1896 there were under my supervision 25 schools, viz., 22 Public Schools, 2 Evening Schools, and the school on board the Training Ship "Solraon." These schools comprise in all 55 departments.

In this section the enrolment of pupils numbered 18,336, and the annual average attendance was 11,002.

Allowing 8 square feet per child, the existing school-rooms afford, for the accommodation of the pupils, an aggregate of 15,131 places, while at the rate of 100 cubic feet of air-space per child, 17,798 places are provided.

Regarded generally, the buildings are in every way suitable for school purposes, and are in good repair.

One of the Evening Schools was closed before the examination of its pupils could be arranged for, but the other 54 departments were fully inspected. Of these, 1 just reached the minimum marks necessary to gain a pass, and the other 53 departments were marked above standard. All but 2 of these 54 departments were found to be skilfully organised, judiciously governed, and effectively taught.

The aggregate number of pupils examined was 13,606. These examinees did good work in reading, writing, dictation, music, and drawing; but in English grammar, advanced arithmetic, and mensuration less than 60 per cent. of those examined were successful. In the other 11 subjects the majority of the examinees did satisfactory work.

The Teachers of all ranks employed in this section during the year numbered 267. Of these 22 were Principal Teachers, 29 were Mistresses, 130 Assistants, 74 Pupil-teachers, and 12 Work Mistresses. These Teachers have performed their school duties successfully during the year just closed, and there is no doubt that their labours will be productive of at least as good results in the year 1897.

18 January, 1897.

M. WILLIS,
Inspector.

ANNEX D.

INSPECTOR SKILLMAN'S REPORT.

IN the beginning of 1896, 27 schools (comprising 48 departments) in the Metropolitan District were placed under my supervision.

The school buildings then provided places for 11,833 pupils. During the year, additions capable of seating 231 children have been completed at Hurstville West and Kogarah. There is now sufficient accommodation for 12,064 pupils.

The quarterly enrolments and average attendances were—March quarter, 11,010 and 7,816; June quarter, 10,973 and 7,662; September quarter, 10,882 and 7,836; December quarter, 10,907 and 7,909 respectively.

All the schools were fully inspected. Forty-four were found to be above the standard, 3 satisfied it, and 1 (La Perouse) failed to gain the minimum percentage of marks required.

The number of passes in the more important subjects were:—Reading, 83 per cent.; writing, 82 per cent.; dictation, 74 per cent.; and arithmetic, 69 per cent.

8,042 pupils were present at inspection, of these 882 underwent the special examination for certificates, but only 414 were successful.

It is to be hoped that an improvement in this respect will be shown in 1897.

In the schools under my supervision are employed 202 teachers of all ranks.

They work well and conscientiously, and I have no fear of any retrogression during the ensuing year.

28th December, 1896.

H. SKILLMAN,
Inspector.

ANNEX E.

DISTRICT INSPECTOR W. DWYER'S REPORT.

THE number of schools in operation during the past year was 121, comprising 153 departments, of which 135 are Public, 4 Provisional, and 14 Half-time.

These were all duly examined, and the results, as compared with the standard, show a state of efficiency in almost every respect, fully satisfactory, the proportion up to and above standard being about 93 per cent.

The number of places available, according to the usual standards of measurement, is—floor-space 17,422 and air-space 17,161; and the number of pupils enrolled last quarter was 14,178.

The accommodation provided is, therefore, adequate in amount, and distributed in fair accordance with present requirements.

A new school, now 7th class, was opened at South Bankstown in April last.

The total number of pupils present at examination was 11,867, and their proficiency in all the subjects of instruction is above the standard, and reaches, in most cases, a high estimate. The details are fully set forth in the tabulated statements already furnished.

The entire teaching staff of the district comprises 262 persons, of whom 128 are principal teachers, 14 mistresses of departments, 58 assistants, 57 pupil-teachers, and 5 work-mistresses. Only 19 teachers and 4 pupil-teachers are unclassified.

Having been absent on leave from February to October, I am not in a position to speak, from personal observation, of the condition of most of the schools, or of their management; but, judging from the few (11) which, on my return, reverted to me for inspection, and from the estimates of the Inspector (Major Dettman) who took my place, and of Mr. Inspector Pitt, I feel no hesitation in asserting that both the one and the other are as efficient and promising as could, under their various circumstances, be reasonably expected.

Mr. Inspector Pitt's report is forwarded herewith.

Sydney, 16th January, 1897.

WM. DWYER,
District Inspector.

ANNEX F.

INSPECTOR PITT'S REPORT.

THE schools under my supervision for the year 1896 were 72 Public Schools, 3 Provisional Schools, and 12 Half-time Schools. One school, the Cornwallis Public School, closed very early in the year, and was not inspected. With this exception, all schools under my charge were fully inspected. Two owing to inefficiency were submitted to re-inspection. The Pitt Town Co-operative Settlement Public School after regular inspection in June last was closed owing to the withdrawal of the settlers. A new school has been erected under my supervision at Kooree, lately called Blood Tree, at a cost of £30. Two schools are now being erected under the direction of the Architect at Beecroft and Arcadia, and are expected to be brought into operation at an early date.

Accommodation.

Accommodation.

The accommodation provided for the pupils in this section is ample, and suitable in character. At the close of this year the sitting-room shows material increase, and now affords adequate accommodation for upwards of 9,649 pupils. This is accounted for by the transfer of 16 schools from the Kogarah section.

Attendance.

The table hereunder sets forth the total enrolment, the average attendance, a percentage of attendance, school fees collected, and the number of free pupils for each quarter of the year.

Quarter.	Enrolment.	Average Attendance.	Percentage.	School fees collected.	Free pupils.
March	6,961	4,931.4	70	£ s. d. 618 0 7½	1,112
June	7,225	5,168.6	71	717 16 3	1,196
September	6,958	5,174.4	70	642 2 0	1,148
December	6,868	5,097.8	70	718 9 0	1,140

Inspection.

Every school in operation, with the exception of one, was fully inspected and incidentally visited when practicable. The Girls' Industrial School at Parramatta was minutely inspected, with results of a highly pleasing character.

The Teaching Staff.

The teachers, as a body, are respectable, loyal, and intelligent. The pupil-teachers are well conducted, studious, and intelligent.

Summary.

- (a) A new school was opened during the year, two Public Schools were closed.
 (b) The works carried out during the year, and in progress under Architect's supervision —

Erection of school at Beercroft.	£ s. d.
Erection of school and residence at Arcadia	429 7 11
Penrith Superior Public—Improvements, &c.	132 17 6
Penrith „ „ Drainage, &c., works.....	130 0 0
Arcadia Public—Clearing and fencing site	48 17 6
Carlingford „ Painting and repairs	39 15 0
Kingswood „ Verandah and fencing, 5s. 6d. per rod	40 0 0
Pitt Row „ Painting and repairs	69 0 0

(c) Minor improvements and repairs have been carried out under the Inspector's supervision to the extent of £70 during the year.

The schools, as a whole, are well organised, the government judicious and effective. The teachers earnest in the discharge of the responsibilities and duties of their office, and the prospects for the incoming year hopeful and encouraging.

Parramatta, 15th January, 1897.

CHAS. JNO. PITT.

ANNEX G.

DISTRICT INSPECTOR BRADLEY'S REPORT.

At the beginning of the year, consequent upon reductions and changes in the general staff of Inspectors, 16 schools were transferred from the Muswellbrook section of the Maitland District to the Quirindi Section of the Armidale District, and 5 of the outlying schools on the western limits of the Armidale District were transferred to the Wellington District. Twenty new schools, all of the smaller kind, have been established within the year; but eight similar schools that were open during 1895 were closed for 1896 through paucity of attendance. The net increase for 1896 will thus be 23, and the total number of schools in operation for the whole or some portion of the year was 356.

The work of improvement in connection with the erection of the smaller school buildings, and in additions and repairs has been carried on by the Inspectors with assiduity, no less than has been previously recorded; but, as the need for such improvements has, owing to former efforts, become less frequent, so the expenditure thereon shows proportionate decrease. Fifteen new school-houses have been erected and two have been enlarged; while repairs and improvements, more or less extensive, have been effected in connection with 67 school-buildings, and 16 teachers' residences. These works, with others arranged for, and approaching completion at the end of the year, involve a total expenditure of £1,478 13s. 8d.

The increase in the seating accommodation at the end of the year amounts to 738 at 8 square feet, and 530 at 100 cubic feet per child, and the gross accommodation stands at 19,703 and 17,959 at the same rates of allowance per pupil. The accommodation thus provided is ample in its relation to the gross enrolment, but there are some individual cases of overcrowding, the most important being that of Armidale where the provision of increased room has become a somewhat pressing necessity.

Each school in the several sections of the District has received one full inspection during the year, but owing to the increase in the work of each inspector, the extensive areas to be traversed, and the restrictions imposed as to travelling expenses, only 5 have received a second or "ordinary" inspection. The condition of the schools inspected, taking all features of their management into account, is about on a par with that of last year. During 1895, 9 per cent. of the schools failed to meet "standard" requirements, 4 per cent. just satisfied them, and 87 per cent. exceeded them. For the year just ended the corresponding percentages are 11, 3, and 86. In the matter of attainments alone, it is pleasing to note improvement in all of the more important subjects of instruction. Only in French, mensuration, Latin, and needlework are the percentages of passes lower than for the previous year, while in every other subject some measure of progress has been achieved.

Of the more advanced pupils 1,008 were examined for exemption certificates, and 608, or 60 per cent., passed. The percentage of passes in the several sections of the district is as follows:—

Armidale Section.....	60 per cent.
Glen Innes Section	67 „
Quirindi Section	58 „
Tamworth Section	48 „

I am afraid that the disparity exhibited in these results is more the outcome of a want of uniformity in the examinatory tests applied than of differences in the attainments of the pupils. With closer regard to the instructions issued relative to the conduct of these certificate examinations, I feel satisfied that more even results would have to be recorded.

In

In all, 12,513 pupils were present at the regular examinations, a number 256 in excess of the record for last year. The following table shows the estimated proficiency of the pupils in the various subjects of instruction, and also the relation of the results to those of 1895 :—

Subjects.	Estimated Proficiency.			
	Total Number Examined.	Number Passed.	Percentage up to or above Standard.	Relation to Results of 1895.
Reading—				
Alphabet	423	278	66	+ 3
Monosyllables	3,065	2,596	85	+ 2
Easy Narrative	4,931	4,520	92	+ 1
Ordinary Prose	4,094	3,927	96	+ 1
Totals	12,513	11,321	90	+ 1
Writing—				
On Slates	5,183	4,762	92	+ 3
In Copy-books and on Paper	7,330	7,082	97	+ 2
Totals	12,513	11,844	95	+ 2
Dictation	10,071	7,926	79	+ 4
Arithmetic—				
Simple Rules	8,046	6,774	84	+ 1
Compound Rules	2,727	2,169	80	+ 5
Higher Rules	1,740	1,312	75	+ 1
Totals	12,513	10,255	82	+ 2
Grammar—				
Elementary	2,015	1,585	79	=
Advanced	2,528	2,114	84	+ 4
Totals	4,543	3,699	81	+ 1
Geography—				
Elementary	1,862	1,526	82	+ 1
Advanced	2,682	2,295	86	+ 1
Totals	4,544	3,821	84	+ 1
History—				
English	4,525	3,607	80	+ 2
Australian	839	730	88	+ 3
Scripture and Moral Lessons	12,048	10,559	88	+ 3
Object Lessons	12,196	11,085	91	+ 2
Drawing	12,326	10,856	88	+ 4
Music	10,871	8,925	82	+ 1
French	93	78	84	—12
Euclid	441	392	89	+ 1
Algebra	117	102	87	+ 9
Mensuration	220	144	65	—10
Latin	102	89	87	— 2
Needlework	4,624	4,323	93	— 2
Drill	11,857	9,914	84	+ 2
Natural Science	214	207	97	+ 1

The teaching strength of the District comprises 300 principal teachers and mistresses of departments, 38 assistants, 2 work-mistresses, and 65 pupil-teachers—405 in all. Of these, 83 are unclassified, but more than half of the number have served as pupil-teachers, are well qualified in point of attainments and training, and almost without exception do satisfactory work. Few causes of complaint have arisen during the year, and, as a body, the teachers maintain the high character for worthy conduct, industry, and efficiency formerly given.

The reports of the several Inspectors are forwarded herewith.

J. D. BRADLEY,
District Inspector.

ANNEX H.

INSPECTOR BLUMER'S REPORT.

Ninety-three schools have been in operation in the Tamworth Section of the Armidale District during the whole or some portion of the year. One has been permanently closed on account of small attendance, and 8 are new schools. Three more are expected to open early next year.

Applications for establishment of schools were granted in the following 9 cases :—Big Leather, Gulf Creek, Mosquito Creek (Provisional), Emu Creek and Moona, Kingstown and Toryburn, Mulla Creek and Limbri (Half-time). Six applications were declined, viz. :—East Tamworth (Public), Bullin Burra, Diamond Mines, Moore Creek, Mt. Drummond, Spring Creek (Provisional). An application for Half-time Schools at Mt. Palmer and Cooringoora is now under consideration.

Existing schools fully meet the present educational requirements of the District. As fresh land is being selected in various localities, however, it is expected that other schools will be needed before long.

During the year new buildings were erected at Bingara Upper, Derra Derra, Gulf Creek, Mosquito Creek, Sam's Flat, Sandholes, and Rockmore, and the school-room at Doctor's Creek was enlarged. These works were carried out by the Inspector. Under the supervision of the Clerk of Works, a residence was built at Mungindi, and necessary steps were taken for the erection of a residence at Moree, and the enlargement of schoolrooms at Duri and Warialda. Repairs to premises have been executed as circumstances demanded.

The aggregate accommodation provided (5,397 places) is more than sufficient for the total number of pupils (5,405) enrolled for the year. In a few individual cases, however, the school-rooms are barely large enough, but action has been taken to remedy this defect wherever the present attendance is likely to be maintained.

Every school was fully inspected, and incidental visits were paid as opportunities offered. The great amount of time occupied in visiting remote places in connection with applications for schools rendered ordinary inspections impossible.

Of the schools in operation, 84 per cent. were up to or above standard. It must be borne in mind, however, that 13 per cent. were formally reported as below standard solely on account of the absence of any class higher than a Second—in each instance a matter quite beyond the teacher's control.

The schools most worthy of mention in regard to general efficiency are, in order of merit:—Tamworth Boys', Tamworth Girls', Manilla, Walcha, Moree, Warialda, West Tamworth. Of 238 pupils examined for exemption certificates 116 passed.

In general, the school buildings are in fair repair and suitably equipped, the records well kept, and the lesson guides carefully constructed.

Discipline continues to be one of the most satisfactory features of the schools. Although corporal punishment is seldom inflicted except in extreme cases, the pupils are, as a rule, orderly, obedient, and diligent. In many schools, however, their manners are capable of considerable polish.

The actual work of instruction is carried on with increased zeal and efficiency. More attention is paid than formerly to reading, writing, arithmetic, and dictation, the results in these most important subjects being higher than those for any previous year. This improvement has been effected without detriment to the other subjects of instruction.

A course of lessons in cookery given in Tamworth during the latter portion of the previous year met with such success that it was decided to extend the privilege to another lot of girls. This was done with results that evoked the highest encomiums from all who had an opportunity of forming an opinion of the practical value of the work.

As a body, the teachers are diligent in the discharge of duty, and are respected members of society. Neglect of duty on the part of two of the number, however, met with prompt punishment.

In conclusion, the increased educational wants of the district have been fully met by establishment of new schools; the efficiency of the schools is quite as high as in any former year; the outlook for 1897 is most encouraging.

L. BLUMER,
Inspector.

Tamworth, 29th December, 1896.

ANNEX I.

INSPECTOR BEAVIS' REPORT.

THE year 1895 closed with 89 schools in operation in the Glen Innes Section. In January, 1896, 1 school—Oban Provisional—was transferred to the Armidale Section, but was compensated for by Yallaroi Public, transferred from the Tamworth Section; at the same time Kulki Provisional School was reopened at the new site (Cherry-tree Hill). In March, the Black Swamp Public School was re-established in the new building, erected to replace that which had been destroyed by fire. Four new schools have, during the year, been brought into operation, viz., Clairville (opened as a Provisional School, but since converted to Public), Glen Elgin House-to-house, Stannum (The Gulf) Provisional, and Weean Provisional. It was found expedient to change the name of one school—Clairvaux (now Reddestone) Public. The Darby's Branch Provisional School has recently been ranked as Public; and Bolivia, which commenced the year as Half-time, with Castle Rag, is now carried on as Provisional.

The 95 schools on my list for the year, taking the latest classification, include 68 Public, 17 Provisional, 9 Half-time (one closed), and 1 House-to-house.

Three schools have been closed on account of small attendance, viz., Castle Rag Half-time, Vivier Provisional, and Stannum Provisional; the last-named had not from the first a satisfactory attendance, the population of the locality having migrated before the school came into operation. It is probable that 3 other schools will not be re-opened in January, but a new Provisional School is to be established at Yarrow Creek; and by the removal of the Willow Grove building to a new site at Bakkulla, practically another new school will be provided. Thus, 89 schools will, in all likelihood, commence work in 1897, and this number will be slightly increased during the year.

The improvement of school accommodation has been continued, though the expenditure has been less than in 1895; the bulk of it has been bestowed on the smaller school-buildings. Under my supervision 4 new buildings have been erected, and to each an enclosed verandah has been added as a substitute for a weather-shed; verandah additions have been provided in connection with other small schools, and the cases are now rare in which there is no outside shelter for the pupils; indeed where such convenience has not been supplied the prospects of the schools do not warrant the expenditure. All the schools are reasonably equipped with furniture, books, and apparatus, and some are well provided; the supply of maps, &c., is not too liberal, but this defect is gradually being overcome.

The seating accommodation shows a net gain for the year of 50 places, and is still considerably in excess of the enrolment of pupils. The average attendance is 75 per cent. of the enrolment.

Every school has been regularly inspected, and three ordinary inspections were made when wet weather rendered it undesirable to proceed with full inspections. It is to be regretted that present exigencies will not allow of ordinary inspections being systematically incorporated as formerly with each year's work. There is no question of the beneficial effect of such visits in securing efficient management, and in giving the teachers practical assistance. Notwithstanding this defect, the general efficiency of the schools is creditable. Of 95 schools fully inspected, 81 were above the standard, 7 up to, and 7 below it, thus 88 schools (93 per cent.) were in different degrees satisfactory—2 per cent. more than in 1895. The schools of highest general efficiency were Glen Innes, Inverell, and Deepwater in town centres; and among the smaller schools, Elsmore, Little Plain, and Oakwood. In several other instances the marks awarded were highly satisfactory. 3,430 pupils were examined (last year 3,362), and in most of the subjects of the school course slight improvement has been recorded. 175 pupils, out of 260 specially examined (67 per cent., or 6 per cent. more than in 1895), passed the test for exemption certificates. 148 pupils who had previously gained certificates were present at regular inspections.

In June an examination in music, under the auspices of Trinity College, London, was held in Glen Innes. The examinees (14) were, with one exception, pupils of the local Public School, and all but one passed creditably. Nine pupils of the Glen Innes Boys' School were successful at the University Junior Public Examination.

A four months' course of plain cookery has just been concluded at the Glen Innes Public School under the superintendence of Miss A. Kirby. Forty-nine girls from local schools took advantage of the instruction, and at a practical examination conducted by a committee of ladies at the close of the term only 1 pupil failed.

Children's libraries on a small scale have been instituted at 2 schools, Gunn Flat and Emma-ville. Such useful and attractive aids to school work might with advantage be established in connection with every school. In many localities, however, the means for providing and periodically supplementing the necessary stock of books are not readily available.

The favourable seasons of the past two years have had a noticeable effect on the school gardens. In several instances the school-ground is the most attractive spot in the neighbourhood. The interest in tree-planting has somewhat waned, but the work has not been neglected.

The teachers continue to hold a high reputation for zeal and integrity. During the present year no serious well-founded complaint has been preferred against any teacher in this section.

Summary

The educational requirements of the section have been satisfactorily met. The number of schools in operation remains about the same as for 1895. The efficiency of the schools has been well maintained, and slight, though tangible, progress has been recorded in every branch of school organisation and management.

W. BEAVIS,
Inspector.

Glen Innes, 30th December, 1896.

ANNEX J.

ANNEX J.

INSPECTOR PARKINSON'S REPORT.

At the close of 1895 there were 83 schools in the Quirindi Section of the Armidale District. The Half-time Schools at Milchomi and Cashel did not reopen this year; five schools situated on the Barwan and Namoi Rivers were transferred to the Wellington District; and four others in the valley of the Peel River were placed under the supervision of Mr. Blumer, of Tamworth. These changes reduced the number of my schools to 72. On the other hand, 16 schools were transferred from the Maitland District to my section; 5 new schools opened during the year; 3 House-to-house Schools became Half-time; and 3 schools, closed in 1895, reopened. The total number of schools in operation during the year has therefore been 99. The Public School at Wingen, the Provisional School at Willala, and the Half-time Schools at Brigalow Creek and Cuttabri have been closed; so that at the present time I have supervision of 95 schools. The Half-time Schools last named are to reopen in January, 1897, and a new House-to-house School is to commence work in the same month at Nowley. During the year applications for a Half-time School at Ellerston, near Moonan Brook, a House-to-house School at Barry, near Nundle, a Provisional School at Yarrari, near Gunnedah, and a Public School at Borambil Creek, near Quirindi, have been declined. Schools will in all probability be required at the two places last named, and from one or two other localities applications may be received. I shall, therefore, commence next year with 98 schools, with a likelihood of the number increasing to upwards of 100.

At the close of 1895 the buildings provided seats for 5,092 pupils, or places for 4,527. By the closing of 6 schools, the burning of 2 others, and the transfer of 9 to the Inspectors at Tamworth and Dubbo, these numbers were diminished by 903 and 729 respectively. On the other hand, the erection of one new school-room, the enlargement of another, the leasing of 8 others, and the transfer of 16 from the Maitland District, added 1,088 seats, or 823 places. So that reckoning 100 cubic feet for each pupil there is now accommodation provided for 4,621 pupils. The enrolment for the last quarter of the year has been 4,142; there is, therefore, more than sufficient room for all children in attendance. The old buildings at Gunnedah are still doing duty; but with this exception, the school-rooms and residences are fairly suitable, and in good condition. During the year repairs have been effected at 14 schools and 8 residences, at a cost of £225 7s. 9d., and the Chief Clerk of Works has carried out improvements at Narrabri. He is also supervising additions at Wee Waa, and the erection of a teacher's residence at Stewart's Brook.

Last May the school-room at Tippiereenah, near Narrabri, was burnt down; and in November that at Walhallow, near Quirindi, shared a similar fate. It seems hardly credible that these fires could have been caused wilfully, and yet in the first case the Coroner's jury returned a verdict of arson against some person unknown, and in the second case a boy has been committed for trial.

Most of the playgrounds at the larger schools have been planted with trees, and a few teachers still keep flower-gardens; but there is little progress to report in this direction for the past year.

Ninety-nine schools were in operation during the year, and each received a regular inspection. Eighty-eight schools proved to be above standard, 1 was up to standard, and 10 were below. That is, 90 per cent. of the schools either met or exceeded standard requirements—1 per cent. in advance of last year. Of the 99 schools examined, 9 gained upwards of 70 per cent. of marks, 45 schools reached between 60 and 70 per cent., 35 ranged between 50 and 60 per cent., and 10 were below 50 per cent. The most efficient schools were Gunnedah Superior, Quirindi Superior, West Narrabri, Narrabri Boys' Superior, Blandford, Quipolly, Narrabri Girls' Superior, Scone, and Boggabri.

In reading, writing, and arithmetic, 3,274 pupils were examined, and 38 in French—the numbers in other subjects ranging between these figures. From 90 to 100 per cent. of pupils were up to or above standard in reading, writing, Australian history, Scripture, object lessons, drawing, needlework, drill, and natural science. In arithmetic, geography, music, French, Euclid, Algebra, and Latin, the passes were from 80 to 90 per cent. In dictation, grammar, and English history, from 70 to 80 per cent. of pupils satisfied standard; while in mensuration, the passes were only 59 per cent. In the few schools where this subject is required, the teachers have been advised to give special lessons regularly, and not to simply take a few minutes spasmodically from an arithmetic lesson. The results for the year are fully equal to those obtained the previous year, and in two of the most important subjects, reading and arithmetic, an improvement is noticeable. For exemption certificates, 201 pupils passed out of 343 examined—that is, 58 per cent. Last year the percentage of passes was 51. Arithmetic and dictation are still responsible for the failures.

There are 109 teachers now working in this section of the District—50 principal teachers, 10 assistants, and 19 pupil-teachers. Twenty-eight teachers in charge of schools are unclassified, but 13 of these have been pupil-teachers. Complaints against teachers are at all times rare, but this year there have been fewer than ever. The teachers are throughout the District spoken of with respect, and their work appears to be highly valued.

The library movement is spreading. Last year 14 schools had libraries, and the number of volumes was about 1,600. There are now 41 schools with libraries, and they contain 3,470 volumes. The teachers furnish quarterly reports, stating the number of volumes in the library, the average number issued weekly, the condition of the books, and whether in their opinion the libraries are proving useful or not. With one exception, they are unanimous in asserting that great good is being done.

To summarise, I have had supervision of 99 schools during 1896. All were inspected, and 90 per cent. satisfied or exceeded the standard.

The buildings provide ample accommodation for the children in attendance, and are in a good state of preservation.

The teachers are respectable, industrious, and efficient, and they are doing good work.

H. PARKINSON,
Inspector.

Quirindi, 23rd December, 1896.

ANNEX K.

DISTRICT-INSPECTOR McCREDIE'S REPORT.

THE year 1895 closed with 253 schools on my general list, but one of them, Bogan Gate Half-time, did not reopen. Seven new schools, 4 in the western and 3 in the eastern section of the District, were added during the year, and another school was transferred to the former section from the Wagga Wagga District, making the total number of schools in operation 260. At the end of the year, however, this number had been reduced to 247, through the closing of 13 schools from various causes.

Early in 1896 applications for Provisional Schools at Tallwood, near Forest Reefs, and Eldorado Gully, near Ophir, were declined; but a school at the latter place was subsequently granted, and arrangements have been completed for opening it.

Another application for a Provisional School at Milker's Flat, on the Macquarie River, about 17 miles from Bathurst, has just been inquired into and reported upon.

Besides these applications, all in the central section of the District, there were a number of others in the Forbes and Lithgow Sections, information respecting which is furnished in the reports upon those divisions.

In addition to substantial improvements and repairs to school buildings effected under the supervision of the Chief Clerk of Works, 4 small buildings were erected and 75 schools and 7 residences repaired, under the direction of the Inspectors, at a total cost of about £516. Other works sanctioned and now in progress under these officers will entail an additional expenditure of £704.

There

There were only a few schools in which the accommodation proved inadequate for the attendance, and in these cases action was promptly taken either to provide a suitable class-room or to extend the school building.

The total number of places provided in all schools is 16,803, at 8 square feet of floor-space, and 16,704 at 100 cubic feet of air-space per child, the increase for the year being 151 and 182 places, respectively.

The actual enrolment for the year was 15,321 pupils, and the average attendance 9,612.5. The amount received for school fees was £5,204 18s. 6d., and the arrears owing on 31st December was £171 7s. 4½d.

All schools, with one exception, were fully inspected, and ten received a second special visit. The total number of inspections was 269. Garland Provisional, the uninspected school, was closed early in the year, before it could be visited for the purpose of inspection.

Ninety-five per cent. of the schools inspected satisfied or exceeded the standard in efficiency, the percentage being the same as for last year.

The number of pupils present at inspection was 10,339, being an increase of 136 upon the number examined in 1895. In the higher classes, 838 pupils were examined for exemption certificates, and 534, or 60 per cent., passed, the percentage again being identical with that for the previous year.

Viewed in comparison with the results for 1895, the percentages of passes indicate a slight retrogression in Australian history, Scripture, Euclid, Algebra, Latin, and mensuration, and an advance in all other subjects except music and arithmetic, in which they remain unchanged.

At the last Junior Public Examination there were 7 successful candidates from Bathurst Superior Public, 4 from Forbes Superior Public, 4 from Lithgow Superior Public, 2 from Blayney Public, 1 from Milltown Public, and 1 from Rockley Public.

During the year cookery classes were established at Orange and Bathurst, two terms of instruction being given in the former and one in the latter town. The classes were well attended, the progress of the pupils was satisfactory, and the school in both towns was deservedly popular, its success and popularity being largely due to the tact, energy, and skill of Miss Monro, the teacher in charge. At the end of each term of instruction an examination of the pupils was conducted under the supervision of a committee of ladies. The kind assistance so cheerfully and willingly rendered by the members of each committee, the keen interest evinced by them in the young folks' practical demonstration of their knowledge of the culinary art, and the satisfactory reports furnished upon each pupil's work at the close of the examination, were very gratifying and encouraging.

The number of teachers of all ranks employed in the several classes of schools in the District is 325. This number comprises 210 principal teachers, 8 mistresses of departments, 47 assistants, 58 pupil-teachers, and 2 work-mistresses.

W. McCREDIE,
District Inspector.

ANNEX L.

INSPECTOR THOMAS'S REPORT.

The year 1895 closed with 85 schools in operation in the Forbes Section of the Bathurst District, but under certain rearrangements made during the vacation, only 84 of them reopened.

New schools at Billy's Look-out and Platina opened early in January, so that I commenced the year with 86 schools on my list, viz. :—

Public	50
Provisional	10
Half-time	24
House-to-house	2

During the year new Half-time Schools were established at Canangles and Edinboro, and the Wattle Grove Half-time School was transferred from the Young Section of the Wagga Wagga District. On the other hand, the Half-time Schools at Blossom Vale, Eulimore Creek, Mayview, Murrin, Wangan Vale, and Yamma, and the Provisional School at Billy's Look-out have been closed. Thus, I conclude the work of the year with 82 schools in operation, viz. :—

Public	53
Provisional	7
Half-time	20
House-to-house	2

Applications for the establishment of new schools have been fewer than usual, and have as yet added only 2 schools to my list. This circumstance tends to show that the existing schools fairly meet the requirements of the district.

The following is a list of applications received, and dealt with during the year :—

Canangles and Edinboro.....	Half-time	Granted ; schools are now in operation.
Mumbidge.....	Provisional	Declined.
Bourimbla	Provisional	Deferred till early next year.
Bucobra and Gumble	Half-time	Deferred, at residents' request, until 1897.
Namama	Provisional	Deferred till 1897.
Pinnacle Reefs	Provisional.....	Under consideration.
Murrin	Provisional	Granted ; will open in 1897.

In several portions of my District large areas of Crown land will shortly be thrown open for selection. This will result in applications for new schools and in improved attendances at schools now struggling for existence. The scant rainfall (if not actual drought) of the last two summers has made itself felt in many of the outlying schools, and to it may be attributed the closing of so many of the small schools in my District.

Eighty-nine schools of all classes were in operation during some part of 1896, and all received a full inspection. Two of them being found considerably below the standard, received a second inspection later in the year, and showed a marked improvement.

Only one ordinary inspection was made, but incidental visits in connection with repairs, inquiries, &c., were frequent.

Of 82 schools in operation a full year at the time of inspection, 79 were up to or above standard requirements ; and of 7 new schools, 5 were in a similar state of efficiency. Thus, out of 89 schools inspected, 84 satisfied the standard, a percentage of 94. The percentage for 1895, on similar lines, was 93.

The total number of pupils examined at the 89 regular inspections, after making due allowance for schools reinspected was 2,912. This number is slightly under that of last year, when 3,006 were examined.

The numbers examined in the more important subjects were :—

Reading	2,912, of whom	2,560	passed.
Writing	2,871,	2,618	"
Arithmetic.....	2,739,	2,230	"
Dictation	2,307,	1,730	"
Grammar	935,	737	"
Geography.....	935,	737	"
History	922,	637	"

Comparing

Comparing the percentages of passes in 1896 with those of 1895, it will be noticed that the results are remarkably close, thus:—

	1895.	1896.
Reading.....	89 per cent.	88 per cent.
Writing.....	91 "	91 "
Arithmetic.....	81 "	81 "
Dictation.....	77 "	75 "
Grammar.....	78 "	78 "
Geography.....	77 "	78 "
History.....	67 "	69 "

238 pupils were examined for exemption certificates, of whom 156, or 65 per cent., were successful. In 1895, 61 per cent. were successful.

Four pupils of the Forbes Superior Public School passed the Junior University Examination, two of them acquitting themselves very creditably. In schools with 4th and 5th classes the highest results were achieved at West Wyalong, Parkes, and Forbes, in the order named. In schools with no class higher than 3rd, Cargo and Engowra stand out beyond the rest. Amongst Provisional Schools, Cagong came out best; and amongst Half-time Schools, Gum Springs, Galwary Creek, and Derriwang.

The organisation and discipline of the schools call for no special comment. Few gave cause for complaint, and where imperfections were noticed they arose more from want of experience than from carelessness and neglect. Hints and suggestions were received in excellent spirit, and will, I am sure, be carried out to the best abilities of those concerned.

Careful attention has been paid during the year to the material condition of the school premises, particularly in the matter of water supply. The scanty rainfall has necessitated the purchase of water in many instances, and the outlook for the summer is very unfavourable, as creeks, dams, and springs are giving out. In no case, however, has the Department's aid in this particular been withheld.

Under my own supervision 31 schools have in one way or another been repaired during the year at a cost of £137 8s. 4d., while improvements and repairs to residences have been effected at a cost of £50 2s. 6d. There are, in addition, several important contracts still in progress, involving an outlay of £163 16s. 6d.

Two school buildings were erected under my direction at a cost of £44 10s., and two others are in course of erection at a cost of £176 10s.; weather-sheds are also in course of erection at Wyalong and Wyalong West.

In addition to these minor contracts, more important works have been carried out at Wyalong and Wyalong West by the Chief Clerk of Works, and this officer has contracts in hand at Forbes, Parkes, and Mount Hope. When all existing contracts are completed, the material condition of the school premises in my District may be considered very satisfactory.

At the close of 1895 I estimated the number of available seats at 5,205, on the basis of 8 square feet per child, and at 4,957 on the basis of 100 cubic feet per child. After balancing losses of seats by schools closed, against gains from new schools, additions, &c., I find that the number of available seats has increased by 44 on the former and by 45 on the latter basis of calculation. The numbers now stand at 5,249 and 5,002 respectively.

Summary.

No. of schools in operation during 1896.....	89
No. of schools fully inspected.....	89
Percentage of schools satisfying standard.....	94 per cent.
No. of pupils examined.....	2,912
Enrolment, December quarter.....	3,995
Average attendance, December quarter.....	2,775.1
Accommodation provided.....	5,249
No. of teachers and pupil-teachers employed.....	97
Total fees for the year.....	£1,434 13s.
Amount of fees in arrear.....	£68 5s.
No. of free pupils, December quarter.....	361

The full statistics upon which this report is based have already been supplied.

Forbes, 30th December, 1896.

W. GEO. THOMAS,
Inspector.

ANNEX M.

INSPECTOR DETTMANN'S REPORT FOR 1896.

With the exception of High Schools every class of school recognised by the Department was represented in the District in 1896.

The only Evening Public School, that at Lithgow, was closed in June owing to the want of sufficient attendance, and for the same reason the Half-time Schools at Bell and Mount Wilson, the House School at Ganbenang, and the Provisional School at Garland ceased to exist.

The following new schools were established, namely, Dargan's Creek Public (to meet the requirements of a railway-construction camp), a Provisional School at Three Brothers and a Half-time School at Royals.

These changes left the District with 99 schools at the close of the year, although as many as 104 schools were in operation during the year.

Of these 104 schools, all but one, Garland Provisional, were fully inspected, the non-inspection of this school being accounted for by its being closed in February, before the Inspector's visit to the neighbourhood.

Most of the schools of this District appear to be permanently placed, as comparatively few changes in the location of schools have been made for several years.

From the returns furnished from time to time by the teachers, it would appear that there are not many families living out of reach of the schools, and further that those who are able to avail themselves of the means of education provided by the State make good use of the advantages thus afforded.

My limited connection with the District prevents me from writing from a personal knowledge of the facts, but, so far as I can judge, I am convinced that the people generally are well satisfied with what the State is accomplishing in its efforts to spread the benefits of primary education.

The school buildings are in a fairly good state of repair, and are kept in a clean and serviceable condition by the teachers, who in many instances take a pride in the appearance of the school premises.

Improvements and general repairs were effected where necessary, and several new school-rooms provided.

The highest enrolment of pupils in the schools was reached in the last quarter.

The figures for this quarter were 4,525 on roll, with an average attendance of 3,185.3.

The efficiency of the schools as disclosed by the inspection reports was very satisfactory, no fewer than 99 of the 103 schools inspected being above the standard, and only 3 being below it.

The

The teachers are to be congratulated on these results, which could not have been obtained without intelligence and capable teaching and continuous and painstaking efforts on their part.

There are 117 teachers of all grades employed in the District. Of these, 80 are in charge of schools, 2 are mistresses of departments, 11 assistant-teachers, 1 a work-mistress, and 23 are pupil-teachers.

I believe the district is in good working order, and should continue to produce satisfactory results.

JOHN DETTMANN,
Inspector.

ANNEX N.

DISTRICT-INSPECTOR JOHNSON'S REPORT.

At the beginning of this year, 51 schools were transferred to this from adjoining Districts, and 28 others were transferred from this District to others, so that the number of schools was thus increased by 23. There were also 3 new schools opened during the year, and 5 others closed on account of small attendance. There are now 255 schools in the District, and of these 87 are in the Wollongong Section, 78 in Crookwell Section, and 90 in Bowral Section. They are classified as follows:—192 Public, 24 Provisional, 30 Half-time, and 9 House-to-house Schools.

New school-rooms were erected at Mount Kembla, Jerrara, and Wedderburn, and others are being erected at Marshall Mount, Avondale, Miranda, Piedmont, and Wetherell Park, and a teacher's residence at Cecil Park. Additions were made to the school-rooms at Bombo, Gerringong, Yalwal, Dapto, and Buxton, and a residence was erected at Picton. Repairs and improvements, more or less extensive, were effected to 78 school-rooms and 27 residences.

The school-rooms of the District provide accommodation for 20,259 pupils, which is ample for the enrolment, and, with one or two exceptions, each school-room fully meets the requirements of the locality in which it is situated.

All the schools of the District, except Yerriyong Provisional in the Wollongong Section, were inspected once during the year. This school was unexpectedly closed in June last.

Of the 257 schools inspected, 240 were above the standard, 5 reached it, and 12 were below that mark. These last are small bush schools, in charge of the less skilful class of teachers. The necessarily small income, poor accommodation, and many discomforts attending life in those outlying districts, prevent skilled teachers from willingly accepting appointment to such localities. Yet in comparison with the ordinary bush school of twenty years ago, those of the present day are doing really good work. It is only when compared with the highly efficient city or town school that they can be regarded as in an unsatisfactory condition. Of course, through various causes, some of these small schools sometimes fall very low in efficiency, but in all such cases the Department takes the necessary action to set matters right.

There were 11,019 pupils present at the inspections of the schools of this District this year, and of this number, 926 were examined for exemption certificates, but only 493 passed. When it is considered that the teachers are fully aware of the nature and extent of these examinations, the results are rather disappointing. It is to be hoped that during the coming year much higher results will be secured. The percentages of passes in the various subjects of instruction are not so high this as last year.

Bowral Boys', Mittagong Primary, Liverpool Boys', and Kiama Infants' obtained the mark "Good," and Nowra Primary and Wollongong Boys' "Excellent," for general efficiency.

Though in most schools the discipline is highly satisfactory, yet in a few it is defective through the government not being sufficiently watchful, and in consequence inattention, carelessness, and copying prevail. In such schools satisfactory progress is impossible. A teacher may be industrious, and his methods perfect, yet without attention, care, and independent work on the part of his pupils, his labour will be in vain.

Mental arithmetic is still a weak subject in many schools. The pupils are not taught to work out the questions in an intelligent manner, but are allowed to guess at the answers. Defective mental arithmetic, neglect to teach thoroughly the various tables, and copying are the main causes of the frequent failures in slate arithmetic. Few teachers test their own work in a thorough and systematic manner, but take it for granted that their pupils understand and retain all that has been told to them, and hence they are really ignorant of the amount of knowledge possessed by them.

Cookery classes were conducted at Bowral Public School during the last term of the year. These were attended by 60 girls, 36 of whom were pupils of Bowral Girls' School, 21 came from Mittagong School, and 3 from Berrima. At the close of the term the girls were examined by a committee of ladies, who expressed themselves as being highly pleased with the results.

There are 236 teachers, 40 assistant-teachers, and 68 pupil-teachers at present employed in the schools of this district.

Good work has been done during the past year, and equally satisfactory results may be looked for during the year now entered upon.

Bowral, 8th January, 1897.

W. H. JOHNSON,
District Inspector.

ANNEX O.

INSPECTOR MCLELLAND'S REPORT.

In consequence of a rearrangement of the boundaries of this section at the beginning of the year, 16 schools were transferred to the Braidwood Section, and 9 to Bowral, while 27 schools from the Arncliffe Section of the sub-metropolitan district were added to my list. In view of those alterations it was decided in July last to change the Inspector's head-quarters from Nowra to Wollongong.

No new schools have been opened, but Yerriyong Vale Provisional and Carrarawell Half-time were closed on account of failing attendance. There are now in operation at the end of the year 87 schools, classified as follows:—Public, 79; Provisional, 6; Half-time, 2; total, 87. A new school is to be established at Far Meadow, near Berry, and the Provisional School at Yerriyong Vale will be reopened after the summer vacation. This portion of the Colony is fully supplied with the means of education.

New buildings have been erected during the year at Mount Kembla and Jerrara, and others are in progress at Marshall Mount, Avondale, and Miranda. A large class-room has been built at Dapto, and another is going up at Woonona. Additions are also being made to the existing buildings at Bombo, Gerringong, and Yalwal, and tenders have just been accepted for erecting a new school and residence at Far Meadow. The works at Miranda, Far Meadow, and Yalwal are being carried out under my own supervision, the others under the supervision of the Clerk of Works. Various improvements and repairs have been effected at 37 schools and 15 residences, at a cost of £218 10s. 9d. More elaborate works have also been completed by the Chief Clerk of Works at a considerable number of schools.

Existing schools provide sitting-room for 9,692, and air-space for 9,371 pupils. Collectively, the accommodation is ample; but in a few special cases it is insufficient, and steps have already been taken for the purpose of enlarging the buildings to the extent required.

With the exception of Yerriyong Vale Provisional, closed somewhat unexpectedly during the midwinter vacation, all the schools in operation during the year were fully inspected. Of these, 83 exceeded, 2 were up to, and 3 fell below standard requirements. It is not to be inferred, however, that only 3 schools were found in an unsatisfactory state at the regular inspection. Speaking broadly, it may be advanced that where a school fails to obtain "Fair" for general efficiency there is something wrong with the teaching; and, as a matter of fact, a good many teachers have been called upon

for

for explanation of results [that seemed to indicate careless or unskilful methods of instruction. A certain amount of mechanical teaching is unavoidable in elementary schools; but it seems to me that too many teachers bring the mechanical frame of mind to all their work. They do not seize the opportunities offered in the more favourable subjects, of stimulating the imagination of their pupils, of cultivating in them a healthy, intelligent curiosity. The absence of thoughtful and interesting treatment of such subjects as geography, history, object lessons, composition, and the subject-matter of reading lessons, is very noticeable in some schools. The force of these criticisms is strengthened by the good results obtained by cultured, well-informed teachers—men whose ideas are not bounded by the range of three or four text-books.

Of the 514 pupils examined for exemption certificates, only 254 were successful—barely 50 per cent. Surely teachers themselves cannot be satisfied with this result. In only 10 schools did the passes exceed 50 per cent., and only 4 schools obtained a proportion exceeding 60 per cent. The tests applied were not severe, and it is therefore clear that a large number of the failures must be attributed to want of thoroughness in the teaching.

In regard to organisation and discipline, there is little fault to be found. The schools as a rule are kept scrupulously clean, and the internal arrangements are usually of a kind to ensure systematic work. In some cases more care and thought are desirable in the construction of time-tables and programmes. One important reform is now pretty general. Most of the teachers have succeeded in persuading their pupils that spitting on the slates as a means of cleaning them is neither effective nor picturesque. In the Wollongong School water-bottles have been permanently fixed to the desks. The pupils supplied the bottles, and the teachers the hooks from which they are suspended. In other cases every second ink-well is filled with water—a good plan where the ink-wells can be spared. The water-bottle system is the best however. The bottles hang below the front ledge of the desk, and are in no danger of breaking or spilling. In the majority of schools the behaviour of the pupils leaves little to be desired. The order rarely falls below good, and is sometimes excellent. So long as the pupils know anything about the subject in hand, they work with spirit. When they have been badly taught, they become discouraged or disgusted at their successive failures in answering the questions put to them. Then they become bored, and their faces express very plainly that they are tired of many things, inspectors among the rest. Later on, the teacher explains matters by declaring that no sympathy existed between examiner and children.

The work of the year has been satisfactory on the whole. A fair number of schools obtained high marks for general efficiency, and of these, Wollongong Boys', Nowra Primary, Helensburgh, and Kiama Infants' deserve special mention.

The teachers as a body perform their duties faithfully, if not always with the best results, and they almost invariably command the respect of the communities in which they live. There are 39 pupil-teachers on my list, and 24 of these sat for examination at the end of the year. The teachers' reports upon them were mostly of a favourable character, but only a few received special praise for aptitude in teaching. In no instance has the slightest fault been found with their moral character.

In conclusion, I may express the hope that the coming year will prove to be one of successful effort in removing, to a large extent, the obstacles in the way of durable and effective instruction.

H. D. McLELLAND,
Inspector.

Wollongong, 26th December, 1896.

ANNEX P.

INSPECTOR SMITH'S REPORT.

At the close of 1895 there were in the Crookwell Section of the Bowral District 60 schools, comprising 26 Public, 10 Provisional, 16 Half-time, and 8 House-to-house Schools.

At the beginning of 1896 there were transferred from Goulburn District to this section 11 Public, 2 Provisional, and 2 Half-time Schools, and from the Yass District 1 Half-time School, named Grassy Creek. Two new schools were opened during the year, named Forest Creek Provisional and Junction Point Half-time. Two Half-time Schools were closed, named Clonilton and Graham.

The following changes in the classification of schools were made:—Brewer's Flat and Meglo Provisional were reduced to Half-time, and Merryvale and Myanga Creek House-to-house raised to half-time. Pejar Public was closed for the last six months, but will be reopened early in 1897. The new year will therefore commence with 78 schools—37 Public, 10 Provisional, 24 Half-time, and 7 House-to-house Schools.

The accommodation in this section is more than sufficient for all the children attending the State schools. Reckoning 8 square feet, or 100 cubic feet, per child, there are 3,803, or 3,272 seats, provided respectively, whereas the enrolment for the December quarter was only 2,199 pupils.

Repairs and improvements under my own supervision have been carried out at 11 different schools, at a cost to the Department of £55 0s. 6d. The Public School at Wowagin was removed to a more central site, and enlarged for the sum of £57 15s. Extensive improvements under the supervision of the Architect were also carried out at Laggan and Taralga Public Schools. The repairs at Fullerton Public (£20) are not yet finished.

All the schools in this section received at least one regular inspection, and Laggan Public two inspections.

The number of pupils examined in the various subjects and the percentages up to or above standard are shown hereunder:—

Subject.	No. of Pupils examined.	Percentage.
Reading	1,597	87
Writing	1,597	91
Dictation.....	1,183	72
Arithmetic.....	1,597	70
Grammar.....	514	39
Geography.....	514	78
English History.....	514	68
Scripture.....	1,387	89
Object Lesson.....	1,516	82
Drawing.....	1,516	63
Music.....	1,333	59
Euclid.....	16	100
Needlework.....	525	71
Drill.....	1,481	79

The results of the examinations are, perhaps, not quite as satisfactory as they were last year, in consequence of the addition of such a large number of small schools.

The discipline, so far as the good behaviour of the children in school is concerned, is still good. Only one charge was preferred against a teacher, and this could not be substantiated. No improper use of the cane has been reported. The organisation, especially of schools managed by trained teachers, is decidedly very fair, and of the small schools tolerable.

Gullen Flat, Pejar, and Taralga Publics were below the prescribed standard; and also the Junction, Pomeroy, Streamville, Williams' Creek Provisional and Benbengoe and Byalla Half-time Schools.

Forty-seven out of 105 candidates passed for certificates of being sufficiently educated.

The

The number and the classification of the teachers and pupil-teachers employed are stated below :—

Class II A	1
„ II B	1
„ III A	23
„ III B	14
„ III C	3
	42
Assistants „ III A	2
Pupil-teachers, 1st Class	1
	45
Unclassified	22
	67

Crookwell, 31st December, 1896.

JOHN LESLIE SMITH,
Inspector.

ANNEX Q.

DISTRICT-INSPECTOR COOPER'S REPORT.

THERE were 372 schools in this District at the end of 1895. Some of these lapsed through diminished attendance, but, by transfer of schools from other Districts and the opening of new schools, the total number on the list at the close of the year showed an increase of 10 schools. The total number is now, therefore, 382, grouped as follows :—

Section of District.	Schools or Departments.		No. of Places, allowing for each Pupil.		Highest Quarterly Enrolment.
	1895.	1896.	8 square feet.	100 cubic feet.	
Goulburn	98	98	5,375	4,919	4,221
Braidwood	94	94	4,757	3,973	3,137
Bega	99	108	5,573	4,777	4,148
Yass	81	82	4,036	3,582	3,072
Totals	372	382	19,741	17,251	14,578

During the year 16 new schools were erected under the supervision of myself and the Inspectors stationed at Braidwood, Bega, and Yass, at a cost to the Department of £740. These afford the prescribed cubic space for 407 children. The aggregate school accommodation, as shown by the foregoing table, is ample for the children enrolled, and is very fairly distributed. There are now few overcrowded schools. Eighty-eight schools and 9 residences were repaired, entailing an expenditure of £486. At present the material condition of the schools is very good. So far as the teachers' responsibility on this point is concerned, I am pleased to be able to report that those who are under my own supervision have, for the most part, evinced a commendable desire to raise their schools to a satisfactory state of efficiency. In some cases, however, there has been evidence of a want of appreciation of the benefits which children derive from familiarity with the order, neatness, and beauty of well-kept and tastefully-planted school-grounds.

Attendance of Pupils and Payment of Fees.

	Goulburn.	Braidwood.	Bega.	Yass.	Totals.
Mean quarterly enrolment	1896 4,160	3,065	4,102	3,066	14,393
	1895 4,118	2,689	3,688	2,961	13,456
Mean average attendance	1896 3,293	2,138	3,004	2,171	10,606
	1895 3,019	1,954	2,591	2,093	9,657
Mean enrolment of free pupils	1896 690	429	521	551	2,191
	1895 552	248	354	397	1,551
Fees received	1896 £1,479	£1,019	£1,469	£1,055	£5,022
	1895 £1,384	£906	£1,296	£1,061	£4,647

Comparing the mean enrolment and mean average attendance, the regularity of attendance for the past two years appears as indicated hereunder :—

	1896	1895.
Goulburn Section	79 per cent.	73 per cent.
Braidwood „	69 „	72 „
Bega „	73 „	70 „
Yass „	70 „	70 „
Whole District	73 „	71 „

While there was marked improvement in the Goulburn Section, and some improvement in the District as a whole, there was slight deterioration in respect to this point in the Braidwood and Bega Sections.

Inspection.

There were 399 schools or departments in operation during the whole of 1896, or some portion of it. Of that number, 391 schools underwent regular inspection, and 16 were subjected to ordinary inspection. Of the 8 small schools that were not regularly inspected, 3 were in the Braidwood, 4 in the Bega, and 1 in the Yass Section. These schools were not inspected, because at the time of the Inspectors' visits to the localities in which they were situated they were not open. The following table shows the number of schools inspected in each section of the District, as well as the number of pupils examined, for the past two years :—

	1896.			Pupils Examined.	1895.			Pupils Examined.
	Regular	Ordinary.	Totals.		Regular	Ordinary.	Totals.	
Goulburn Section	99	+ 12 =	111	3,333	102	+ 5 =	107	3,324
Braidwood „	100	+ 1 =	101	2,326	99	+ 11 =	110	2,211
Bega „	109	+ 0 =	109	3,287	100	+ 8 =	108	2,973
Yass „	83	+ 3 =	86	2,416	85	+ 0 =	85	2,371
Totals	391	+ 16 =	407	11,362	386	+ 24 =	410	10,879

General Efficiency of the Schools inspected.

Section of District.	Class of School.	Above Standard.	Up to Standard.	Below Standard.	Totals.	Percentage up to or above Standard.	
						1896.	1895.
Goulburn	Public	51	1	1	53	98	98
	Provisional	9	0	0	9	100	100
	Half-time	30	5	1	36	97	97
	House-to-house	1	0	0	1	100	100
	Totals	91	6	2	99	98	98
Braidwood	Public	36	0	2	38	95	93
	Provisional	11	1	2	14	85	84
	Half-time	44	0	4	48	91	92
	Totals	91	1	8	100	92	92
Bega	Public	50	16	3	69	95	94
	Provisional	10	3	0	13	100	77
	Half-time	23	3	1	27	94	95
	Totals	83	22	4	109	96	93
Yass	Public	48	0	0	48	100	96
	Provisional	20	2	0	22	100	100
	Half-time	10	1	2	13	84	83
	Totals	78	3	2	83	97	95
Grand Totals.....		343	32	16	391	95	94

In respect to satisfying the standard of 50 per cent. for organisation, discipline, and attainments, these results are high, and show a slight improvement on those of 1895.

Proficiency of Pupils examined.

In the subjoined table, the proficiency of the pupils in the several subjects of the school course is indicated :—

subjects.	Numbers Examined in—		Percentage of Passes.				Percentage of total Passes.	
	1896.	1895.	Goulburn.	Braidwood.	Bega.	Yass.	1896.	1895.
Reading.....	11,362	10,579	95	88	97	85	91	90
Writing—								
On slates	4,324	4,232	98	94	96	92	96	94
On paper	6,880	6,482	91	94	97	97	95	93
Totals.....	11,204	10,714	94	94	97	95	95	94
Dictation	9,078	8,598	80	66	84	69	75	77
Arithmetic—								
Simple Rules	6,603	6,430	94	77	84	91	86	89
Compound Rules	2,773	2,516	85	51	75	84	72	78
Higher Rules	1,790	1,657	93	56	76	70	80	79
Totals	11,166	10,603	92	67	81	86	82	85
Grammar	4,569	4,228	85	87	90	74	84	80
Geography	4,564	4,234	80	94	90	78	88	89
History—								
English	4,583	4,251	66	91	83	64	76	75
Australian	782	736	88	88	82	98	88	91
Scripture	11,098	10,610	97	97	88	67	88	86
Object Lessons	11,164	10,801	88	95	90	93	91	93
Drawing.....	11,062	10,604	91	89	91	87	90	88
Music.....	10,133	9,383	97	71	86	57	89	75
French	109	99	100	100	96	.....	99	90
Euclid	433	444	81	100	85	100	91	95
Algebra	164	163	78	100	76	100	85	94
Mensuration	437	439	87	72	73	100	81	81
Latin	162	151	78	100	93	100	88	99
Trigonometry	13	15	70	.....	.....	.....	69	100
Needlework	3,998	3,770	99	100	99	100	99	99
Drill	11,105	10,647	86	97	88	83	88	84
Science	294	282	85	100	89	.....	89	88

These results may, I think, be accepted as fairly satisfactory, although the mark for a "pass"—50 per cent. of the maximum—cannot be regarded as high.

Exemption Examination.

During the regular inspections, 998 children were examined for exemption certificates, with results as under:—

Section of District.	Examined.	Passed.	Percentage of Passes.	
			1896.	1895.
Goulburn	325	213	65	63
Braidwood	185	108	53	58
Bega	280	188	67	58
Yass	208	99	47	47
Totals	998	608	60	59

In the Goulburn Section there were 239, in the Braidwood Section 96, and in the Yass Section 79 pupils who had previously obtained certificates. The general results are about the same as those reported for 1895; and inasmuch as they indicate that 40 per cent. of the pupils examined failed to meet the very reasonable standard requirements, they cannot be taken as fully satisfactory. The failures occurred chiefly in arithmetic, and give evidence of a want of thorough grounding in the elementary rules, and of too strict an adherence to mere routine work.

Superior Schools.

The work done in these schools has been, for the most part, productive of good results. The fifth class pupils of the schools of this class under my personal supervision were examined, as in former years, on paper, in all subjects in which that course is practicable, and in certain subjects the questions were set on the lines of the University Public Junior examinations—as contemplated by the Regulations. The senior boys and girls of the Goulburn Schools attended a year's course of lectures on experimental physics, given at the local Technical College by Mr. A. J. Sach, F.C.S. They were accompanied to the lectures by the regular teachers, on whom devolved the duty of revising with the pupils the substance of each lecture, an arrangement which, for the past four years, has been productive of excellent results. At the end of November the pupils underwent a written examination, and acquitted themselves very creditably.

Kindergarten.

For six and a half years selected Kindergarten occupations have formed a distinctive feature of the instruction given in the infants' classes of the Goulburn and Queanbeyan Schools. These classes have numbered nearly 800 pupils each quarter, and the beneficial effects of this admirable method have well repaid the teachers for the earnestness and zeal with which they have laboured to give the little ones entrusted to their care the advantages of a system of instruction at once rational and pleasing. During the year the Goulburn Superior Public School received a certificate and medal awarded at the World's Fair, Chicago, for excellent exhibits of Kindergarten work, needlework, and school exercises. The Kindergarten exhibits were prepared by Miss E. de Courcy's pupils, and the needlework and exercise books were forwarded by girls under the care of Miss E. J. Rushforth.

Manual Training Class.

The Public School Manual Training Class, in connection with the Goulburn Technical College, comprising 55 boys from the Goulburn Schools, has made excellent progress under Mr. Thomas Wilkie. Admission to this class is eagerly sought for by the lads who are eligible for entrance to it, and the training received therein cannot but prove beneficial to those who are privileged to enjoy it.

Discipline.

No features of our schools are, I think, more deserving of praise than the order, good conduct, and general discipline of the pupils. There has been very little cause during the year to note defects under this heading, and in respect to this point the schools of the District may be regarded as in a satisfactory condition.

Teachers.

The total number of teachers of all grades in the District at the end of 1895, was 393—an increase of 13 for the year. They were distributed as follows:—

Section.	Teachers.		Mistresses.	Assistants.		Classified.	Unclassified.	Pupil Teachers.		Totals.
	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.			Males.	Females.	
Goulburn	50	22	6	3	12	77	16	6	12	111
Braidwood	50	22	...	...	4	55	21	1	7	84
Bega	78	14	1	1	4	79	19	2	9	109
Yass	49	26	...	...	5	53	27	2	7	89
Totals	227	84	7	4	25	264	83	11	35	393

With few exceptions, the teachers are careful and circumspect in their personal conduct, and imbued with a proper sense of the honourable and responsible nature of their calling. As a body, they are intelligent, skilful, and trustworthy.

Summary.

The educational wants of the District are well provided for, the results of inspection evidence the fact that the schools are affording a sound education to a large proportion of the available children, and the prospects of the present year are hopeful.

Reports from the Inspectors in charge, respectively, of Braidwood, Bega, and Yass Sections are appended hereto.

Goulburn, 4th January, 1897.

D. J. COOPER,
District Inspector.

ANNEX R.

INSPECTOR NOLAN'S REPORT.

At the close of 1895 my list contained 94 schools, 1 of which was not reopened. At the beginning of the current year 16 schools, transferred from the Nowra Section, were placed under my supervision; on the other hand, 8 schools were transferred from Braidwood to the Bega Section. During the year 1 new school was established, and 8 schools were permanently closed on account of small attendance. The present year closes with 94 schools.

As stated in former reports, the population of the greater portion of this section is of an unsettled character. Many rural settlements, formerly able to maintain a school, are now almost deserted, the general tendency of the residents being to gravitate to the larger townships; hence the difficulties in dealing with applications for the establishment of small schools, and the inadvisableness of

of erecting costly buildings. Where, however, the settlement is likely to be permanent, steps have been, or are being, taken to supersede the old make-shift buildings by others of a more substantial character. Arrangements are also being made to supply spacious verandahs, which, besides affording shelter, also furnish lavatory accommodation. Speaking generally, the existing schools meet the requirements of the District, and they are well distributed. During the coming year a few small schools will be required to meet the extension of settlement; but, on the other hand, others being unable to maintain the minimum attendance will probably be closed. The gross enrolment for the year was 3,796, and the average daily attendance was 2,189. The 4,757 seats now available afford more than ample accommodation.

Under Inspectorial supervision 2 new buildings were erected, at a total cost of £183 12s., and 19 schools were improved, at a cost of £69 10s. A new building, to cost £125 10s., is near completion at Nerriga. The undermentioned works, now in hand, are being carried out under the supervision of the Chief Clerk of Works:—

Burrill, new building	£134	7	6
Milton, painting and repairs	23	4	0
Bell's Creek, painting and repairs	130	0	0

Active steps will be taken during the ensuing year to improve several of the existing buildings. Of 103 schools open during the whole or some part of the year, 100 received regular inspection. Three Half-time Schools having been closed prior to my visit to their respective localities, were not inspected. After a rigid examination, 8 schools were found to be below, 1 up to, and 91 above, standard requirements. The corresponding results for 1895 were 8 below and 91 above standard. A comparison shows that an equal standard has been maintained during the two years. There were 2,326 children present at examination. Of 185 pupils examined for exemption certificates, 108 passed the prescribed test; 96 who obtained certificates in former years were found to be still regular school attendants. The majority of the schools are reasonably well equipped, and the departmental property is carefully guarded. Much more attention, however, needs to be paid to the ornamentation of the premises. The disciplinary condition is of a satisfactory character, and the moral tone is pleasing. The results of the instruction may be regarded as satisfactory, more especially in view of the many drawbacks incidental to country schools. School banks are in operation at 5 schools, with fair success. Several teachers are taking active steps in the formation of school libraries. With but rare exceptions the teachers are zealous in the discharge of their important duties. They uphold the dignity of their profession, and their local influence is of a salutary character. The pupil-teachers continue to give satisfaction to all concerned in their training.

W. NOLAN,
Inspector.

Braidwood, 26th December, 1896

ANNEX S.

INSPECTOR SHEEHY'S REPORT.

THE boundaries of this portion of the Goulburn District have been extended by the establishment of schools at Ledgerton and Uriarra, on the western side of the Murrumbidgee River, and at Godfrey's Creek, which is situated about midway between Burrowa and Cowra. The Yass Section now includes most of the counties of Murray, King, Harden, Buccleugh, and Cowley, together with portions of Argyle, Monteagle, and Clarendon.

At the end of 1895 there were 81 schools under my supervision. Cooba Creek, Nangus, and Cavan Half-time, in which the attendance had greatly diminished, were not opened after the Christmas vacation. Warham, which had been worked with the latter, was converted into a Provisional School. At the commencement of the March quarter, Brawlin Public was transferred to the Inspector at Young, and Cooradigbee Provisional was continued for a few weeks only, on account of paucity of attendance, through the removal of some of the residents from the locality.

In the course of the year new Provisional Schools were opened at Godfrey's Creek and Mulligan's Flat, and Half-time Schools at Grassy Creek and Talmo. The schools at Kenny's Creek and Waggallalah, which had been closed, were reopened as Half-time, the former to be worked with Grassy Creek, and the latter with Berebangalo, reduced from Provisional to Half-time rank. Bookham Public, which was discontinued for a few months, was made the companion school of Talmo.

In consequence of increased attendance, Galong Provisional, which had been enlarged, was converted into a Public School, and Kenny's Creek and Yammalree Half-time were converted into Provisional Schools. From the Wagga Wagga District, Jones' Creek Half-time was added to my list, to be worked in place of Yammalree with Bongongolong; and Grassy Creek, which had been opened in conjunction with Kenny's Creek, was transferred to the Inspector at Crookwell. After these changes the schools in operation in this section numbered 82, viz. :—

Public	48
Provisional	22
Half-time	12

In January new schools will be opened at Ledgerton and Uriarra.

From the residents of seven localities applications for the establishment of new schools were received and inquired into. The result is given hereunder:—

Locality.	Kind of School applied for.	Result.
Gundaroo Road, near Murrumbateman	Provisional	Declined.
Kangiarra Creek	"	"
Cade's Creek	Half-time	"
Jerrawa	Evening Public	"
Ledgerton	Half-time	Granted.
Uriarra	"	"
Talmo	"	"

Inspection.

The number of schools open during the year, or some portion of it, was 84. Except 1 Provisional School, which was in operation for a few weeks only in the month of January, all were fully inspected, and 1 received a second regular inspection. Opportunities occurred in connection with special visits to make in addition three ordinary inspections. Of the 83 schools examined, 2 were below, 3 up to, and 78 above the standard (50 per cent. of possible marks). The efficiency of the different classes of schools is shown in the following table:—

Schools.	Below Standard.	Up to Standard.	Above Standard.	Total.
Public	0	0	48	48
Provisional	0	2	20	22
Half-time	2	1	10	13
Totals	2	3	78	83
Totals in 1895	4	3	78	85

Organisation.

Except where the buildings were erected by the residents, the schools generally are in a satisfactory state of repair, and are provided with tanks. All are adequately supplied with working materials. In the majority of them the lesson guides are suitable, and show that care and judgment are bestowed on their construction. One exception was of a very pronounced character, and was suitably dealt with.

Discipline.

The discipline is, on the whole, healthy. Good order is maintained. The pupils are, as a rule, mannerly, and exhibit a becoming demeanour. There is an improvement in the regularity and punctuality as compared with last year. The attendance, however, at several schools was very much affected during the December quarter by the absence of pupils whose services were utilised in connection with shearing and harvesting.

Proficiency.

The number of pupils examined, and the percentage of passes in each subject, are given below:—

Subjects.	Number Examined.	Number Passed.	Percentages.	
			1896	1895.
Reading	2,416	2,067	85.5	80.2
Writing	2,269	2,169	95.5	93.8
Dictation	2,000	1,381	69.0	70.4
Arithmetic	2,281	1,967	86.2	80.6
Grammar	982	732	74.5	58.7
Geography	977	768	78.6	66.4
History—English	987	647	64.5	54.5
" Australian	125	123	98.4	100.0
Scripture	2,416	1,629	67.4	62.5
Object Lessons	2,415	2,256	93.4	87.6
Drawing	2,223	1,951	87.7	87.3
Music	2,416	1,392	57.6	50.1
Euclid	84	84	100.0	100.0
Algebra	23	23	100.0	100.0
Mensuration	27	27	100.0	68.4
Latin	31	31	100.0	100.0
Needlework	961	961	100.0	99.2
Drill	2,416	2,017	83.4	75.5

In most subjects the percentages show satisfactory progress since last inspection.

Of 208 pupils who were presented for exemption certificates, 99 passed the necessary examination. Seventy-nine pupils holding certificates were present at inspection, and 48 of these were enrolled in 4 schools.

Teachers.

There were 75 teachers in charge of schools, 5 assistants, and 9 pupil-teachers employed in this section at the end of the year. Their classifications are given in the subjoined table:—

	II A.		II B.		III A.		III B.		III C.		Un-classified.		Totals.		Grand Total
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Teachers in charge	6	0	3	0	17	2	7	8	3	4	13	12	49	26	75
Assistants	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	5	5
Totals	6	1	3	0	17	3	7	8	3	5	13	14	49	31	80

Pupil-teachers.

Class I.		Class II.		Class III.		Class IV.		Probationers.		Totals.		Grand Total.
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
1	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	2	7	9

The teachers as a body are earnest and painstaking in the discharge of their duties, and desirous to carry out suggestions where improvements are required.

Accommodation.

At the end of last year the number of seats reckoned at 100 cubic feet of air space for each pupil was 3,642. Of these, 300 were lost by the closing of 4 schools, the giving up of 3 old buildings, and the transfer of 2 schools from this section. By the erection of 6 new school-rooms, the re-opening of 2 schools, an addition to a school-building, and the transfer of a school to my list, 240 new seats were provided. Hence the present sitting accommodation consists of 3,582 places. This is sufficient, except in the case of 2 small schools, which were built by the residents.

New buildings erected during the year:—

School.	Cost.	Places at 8 square feet of floor space.	Places at 100 cubic feet of air space.	Supervised by	Remarks.
Lerida Public	£ s. d. 73 0 0	40	32	Inspector ...	Erected to replace old building.
Nurung Public	52 17 0	40	32	"	"
Watson's Reef Public	88 0 0	59	57	"	"
Mulligan's Flat Provisional...	.....	20	11	Residents...	Erected where no school existed before.
Grassy Creek Half-time .....	.....	27	19	"	"
Talmo Half-time .....	.....	15	8	"	"

Under the supervision of the Inspector the school-building at Griffiths' Flat was enlarged and renovated at a cost of £31 2s. Repairs, &c., were effected to 33 schools and 5 teachers' residences. The former cost £130 18s. 4d., and the latter £43 4s. 6d.

The following works are in progress:—Improvements to 3 schools and 4 residences, to cost £11 6s. and £70 9s. 6d. respectively.

Summary.

Three new schools have been opened, 2 others are fit for occupation, and 3 new buildings to replace old ones have been erected. There is an improvement in the general efficiency of a large number of schools, and 94 per cent. of the whole are above the requirements of the standard. The means of education are well distributed, and the prospects for 1897 are satisfactory.

Yass, 31st December, 1896.

P. F. SHEEHY,
Inspector.

ANNEX T.

INSPECTOR DURIE'S REPORT.

At the close of 1895 there were in the Bega section of the Goulburn District 99 schools, made up as follow:—69 Public, 10 Provisional, and 20 Half-time. At the beginning of 1896 there were transferred from Braidwood to Bega section the following seven schools:—Bateman's Bay and Mogo Public, Buckenbour Provisional, and Snaphook, Moggendoura, Burry, and Mosquito Bay Half-time; while later in the year Pleasant View Half-time was similarly transferred. During 1896 the following new schools have been opened:—Cooper's Glen and Pericce Provisional, and Glen Allan, Curry Flat, Green Cape, and Wombayn Half-time; while Avoca and Walaga Lake Public, and Bournda South, Quinburra, Dangelong, and Boco Half-time have been closed, on account of insufficient attendance. The following changes have been made during the year in the status of schools:—Killarney Swamp and Wapengo Provisional, Wandella and Fox Half-time have been raised to Public; Oakvale, Snowy River, and Bournda North have become Provisional, and Burrembooka, Maharatta, Garfield, and Stony Creek Public have been reduced to Half-time. Two Public Evening Schools were in operation during the year, viz., at Mumbulla and Bombala; the former, after a very brief existence, lapsed; the latter, which started about the middle of November, is still in operation. The schools existing at the close of 1896 consist of 69 Public, 14 Provisional, 24 Half-time, and 1 Public Evening School; total, 108.

The total enrolment of pupils in all schools for the year was 5,033, and the average attendance 3,041.9. The following table shows the attendance for 1895 and 1896:—

Quarter.	Enrolment.		Attendance.		Percentage.	
	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.
March	3,717	4,102	2,507.8	2,975.1	67.4	72.5
June.....	3,698	4,148	2,603.5	2,890.1	70.4	69.6
September	3,658	4,064	2,461.2	3,089.3	67.4	76.0
December	3,686	4,095	2,795.3	3,062.8	75.8	74.7

It will thus be seen that, while in 1895 the attendance was 70.2 per cent. of the enrolment, it reached 73.2 per cent. in 1896, an improvement of 3 per cent. for this year.

During the year I made 109 regular inspections. Four schools were not so inspected. These were Avoca and Panpong Public, and the Evening Public Schools at Mumbulla and Bombala. Of the Public Schools, Avoca was closed before the end of February, and Panpong School was not in operation when I paid the locality my visit of annual inspection; in fact, it has been closed, pending the appointment of a teacher, since the middle of August. The Evening School at Mumbulla was in operation for only a portion of September quarter, and Bombala Evening School opened on 11th November. I made an incidental inspection of the latter school a few nights after its opening. No ordinary inspections were made during the year.

The following table shows the comparative condition of the schools inspected in 1895 and 1896. It will be seen that the results are on the whole higher for this year:—

Schools.	Below Standard.		Up to Standard.		Above Standard.	
	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Public	6	4	20	24	74	72
Provisional.....	22	...	33	3	45	77
Half-time	4	4	23	11	73	85
All	7	4	22	20	71	76

At the close of 1896 there were employed in the schools of this district 109 teachers, viz., 81 males and 28 females. These are classified as follows:—

Class 1 B	2	Pupil-teachers—	
„ 2 A	8	Class 1	2
„ 2 B	7	„ 2	2
„ 3 A	45	„ 3	0
„ 3 B	10	„ 4	6
„ 3 C	7	Probationer	1
Unclassified	19		
Total	98	Total.....	11

Grand total, 109.

The teachers have maintained their high character for industry and trustworthiness, and are on the whole held in high esteem by the residents.

Summary.

1. The schools during 1896 have slightly improved in efficiency and regularity of attendance.
2. The education requirements of the district are well supplied.
3. The outlook for 1897 is encouraging.

Bega, 31st December, 1896,

P. DURIE,
Inspector.
ANNEX U.

ANNEX U.

DISTRICT INSPECTOR LOBBAN'S REPORT.

THE year 1896 closed with 319 schools or departments in operation in the Grafton District, viz., Public, 225; Provisional, 55; Half-time, 34; House-to-house, 4; and Evening Public, 1. There were 74 Public Schools, 16 Provisional Schools, 10 Half-time Schools, 4 House-to-house Schools, and 1 Evening Public School in the Grafton Section; 81 Public, 16 Provisional, and 8 Half-time Schools in the Port Macquarie Section; and 70 Public, 23 Provisional, and 6 Half-time Schools in the Lismore Section.

During the year 4 schools were closed through diminished attendance in the Grafton Section, 1 in the Port Macquarie Section, and 2 in the Lismore Section. On the other hand, 8 new schools were established in the Grafton Section, and 2 others that had been closed were reopened; 1 new school was established in the Port Macquarie Section, and 3 were reopened; and 3 new schools were established in the Lismore Section, and 2 were reopened. At the end of 1895 there were 307 schools in operation, so that the progress of the year 1896 is shown by an increase of 12 schools.

All works carried out in the Grafton Section were under Inspectorial supervision. A portion of the improvements in the other sections were supervised by the Department's Clerks of Works. In the Grafton Section 3 new school-buildings were erected by the Department, and 4 others, built by the parents, were given rent-free. In the Port Macquarie Section 1 new school-house was put up; and 5 schoolrooms were built in the Lismore Section.

Some old buildings were replaced by new ones; and 4 school-houses were enlarged. By these means 127 additional seats were provided, giving available places at the end of the year for 5,763 scholars; 5,636 seats were provided at the end of 1895. There is now adequate accommodation in most schools for the number of children in ordinary attendance. Those that are too small are either in process of enlargement, or steps are being taken to enlarge them. In old settled districts like the Grafton and Port Macquarie Sections, rapid increase of population is not expected; yet considerable progress in the way of settlement in both is being made. This is especially the case in the Grafton Section, where rich gold reefs are now being developed. Dairying has taken firm root on the Richmond and Clarence, and this industry will tend to the concentration of settlement in these districts.

No new residences were erected in the Grafton or Port Macquarie Sections; but one was built in the Lismore Section under the Architect's supervision. A large amount of time, after office hours, had to be devoted by the Inspectors to the preparation of plans and specifications for the works they had to carry out. Under Inspectorial supervision 9 new school-houses were built, 6 were enlarged, and 127 buildings were repaired or improved at a total cost of £2,021 7s., viz., Grafton, £847 10s. 9d.; Port Macquarie, £504 1s. 11d.; and Lismore, £699 14s. 4d. These sums do not include the expenditure under the Architect in the Port Macquarie and Lismore Sections. The Department's property throughout the District is well preserved and in good order. Considering the extent and population of the District, the expenditure on buildings and repairs has been small. Strict economy was practised by the Inspectors in the use of the funds placed at their disposal. It is gratifying to be able to add, however, that the Department's property has never been in a more satisfactory condition than it is at present.

All the schools in operation during any part of the year (326) received a regular inspection, and 6 of them underwent an ordinary or second regular inspection also. There were 11,725 pupils present at examination—63 more than in 1895. The number would, no doubt, have been greater had the practice followed last year, of notifying the dates of inspection to the teachers been continued. In the schools of the Grafton Section, 4,024 scholars were examined; 3,734 in the Port Macquarie Section; and 3,967 in the Lismore Section. There were 14 schools below the standard; 7 up to standard; and 305 above the standard: viz.—Grafton Section, 1 below, 2 up to, and 106 above; Port Macquarie 8 below, 4 up to, and 104 above; and Lismore, 5 below, 1 up to, and 95 above. It is thus seen that 96 per cent. of the schools were up to or above the standard. This is the best record the district has made. It may be added that of those below standard, some were not a year in operation, while others had not Third Class, without which the standard cannot be reached. The Chief Inspector examined the upper classes in the Boys' and Girls' Schools at Grafton, and also in the schools at Smithtown, Frederickton, East Kempsey, West Kempsey, and Taree. He also visited and incidentally inspected a large number of schools in the lower grades in the Grafton and Port Macquarie Sections. Mr. Board inspected all the schools in his own section, and 4 in the Grafton Section.

The following table shows the number of scholars examined in the three sections respectively, and the number of passes in each subject; with the percentage of passes for 1895 given for the purpose of comparison:—

Subjects.	Grafton.		Port Macquarie.		Lismore.		Total.		Per cent. 1896.	Per cent. 1895.
	Examd.	Passed.	Examd.	Passed.	Examd.	Passed.	Examd.	Passed.		
Reading	4,024	3,861	3,734	3,160	3,967	3,695	11,725	10,715	91	91
Writing	4,024	3,800	3,729	2,992	3,967	3,646	11,720	10,438	89	87
Dictation	3,444	3,020	3,121	2,592	3,238	2,448	9,803	8,004	81	82
Arithmetic	4,024	3,082	3,576	2,536	3,967	2,947	11,567	8,621	74	75
Grammar	1,620	1,299	1,430	1,095	1,490	1,119	4,549	3,513	77	78
Geography	1,620	1,335	1,430	1,143	1,490	1,180	4,549	3,661	80	80
History—English	1,618	1,292	1,423	1,037	1,490	1,048	4,531	3,374	74	75
" Australian	584	435	159	131	202	167	945	733	77	77
Scripture	3,629	3,051	3,585	2,663	3,739	3,051	10,953	8,765	80	80
Object Lessons	3,844	3,214	3,620	2,854	3,917	3,245	11,381	9,313	81	83
Drawing	3,908	3,152	3,707	2,758	3,967	3,317	11,582	9,227	79	79
Music	3,713	3,169	3,522	2,632	3,783	3,157	11,018	8,958	81	81
French	36	31	26	20	30	14	92	65	70	79
Euclid	141	120	111	94	120	100	372	314	84	75
Algebra	28	23	49	36	15	11	92	70	76	80
Mensuration	268	173	137	89	127	75	532	337	63	66
Latin	28	28	49	39	20	16	97	83	85	78
Trigonometry	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	100	83
Needlework	1,523	1,472	1,491	1,245	1,401	1,265	4,415	3,982	90	88
Drill	3,953	3,560	3,707	2,732	3,967	3,182	11,629	9,474	81	82
Natural Science	64	52	87	80	50	44	201	176	87	93

On the whole these results may be considered satisfactory. Arithmetic is the least effectively taught of the more important subjects, only 74 per cent. having satisfied or exceeded the standard. The great defect is in dealing with the compound rules and reduction. The country is now flooded with cheap arithmetic books, and these are relied upon in many cases to supply the necessary questions for solution. The subject is best taught in schools where the teachers frame their own questions and give much attention to mental arithmetic. In the better schools the higher classes do not use slates at all, their work being done on paper. The writing is fairly satisfactory in most schools; in a few it is very good. As a rule, the girls write better than the boys. Reading is carefully taught in most schools, and 91 per cent. of the pupils examined passed. Much care is bestowed upon spelling; and

81 per cent. of the pupils passed in dictation. More attention, however, needs to be given to derivation and word-meanings. Grammar does not appear to be so thoroughly taught as in former years, and in some schools the treatment of the lessons in geography is very crude. Most of the schools are well organised, and the discipline, as a whole, is of a healthy character.

Pupils from 12 schools were successful at the University examinations—1 senior and 42 juniors having passed. In this examination the Grafton Boys' School stood out prominently with 17 passes, including 6 matriculants; while Chatsworth Island Public, with 6 passes, deserves honorable mention.

During the year, 896 pupils were examined for exemption-certificates, but only 499, or 55 per cent. passed. In Grafton Section 320 were examined, and 233, or 72 per cent., passed; in Port Macquarie Section 266 were examined, and 92, or 34 per cent., passed; and in Lismore Section 310 were examined, and 174, or 56 per cent., passed. These results are decidedly unsatisfactory, when it is remembered that no pupil is required to undergo this examination who has not been four half years in the Third Class.

A considerable impetus has of late years been given to the study of English composition in the schools on the Clarence River by the valuable prizes offered each year by the Caledonian Society for the best essay on a subject connected with Scottish history, written by a Public School pupil in the presence of the District Inspector and the Secretary of the Society. This year three prizes were offered:—(i) A complete set of the Works of Sir Walter Scott; (ii) Separate editions of the Works of Shakespeare, Moore, and Wordsworth; (iii) Life and Works of Robert Burns, 1896 edition—all elegantly bound. Thirty pupils entered for the competition, and all did creditably. The subject was "Flodden Field." The first prize was won by Clarence Northcott, Ulmarra Public School; the second by Ida Garven, Grafton Superior Public School; and the third by Julia Farlow, Superior Public School, Maclean.

The attendance throughout the year was very fairly satisfactory. The highest enrolment in each section was reached in the September quarter:—

Grafton Section.—Enrolment, 5,173; average daily attendance, 3,889.6; 75 per cent.

Port Macquarie Section.—Enrolment, 4,922; average daily attendance, 3,581.2; 73 per cent.

Lismore Section.—Enrolment, 5,103; average daily attendance, 3,886.5; 76 per cent.

The regularity of attendance during September quarter was, it is seen, 1 per cent. better in the Lismore than the Grafton Section, and 3 per cent. better than in the Port Macquarie Section. For the other quarters the percentages were:—

Grafton	March, 73 per cent. ; June, 76 per cent. ; December, 74 per cent.
Port Macquarie	" 68 " " 72 " " 71 "
Lismore	" 69 " " 76 " " 74 "

From these figures, it appears that the regularity of attendance for the whole year is best in the Grafton Section, and worst in the Port Macquarie Section. Year by year the regularity of attendance in the Lismore Section continues to improve, as the enrolment of pupils increases, and it is not improbable that next year this section will stand first both in enrolment and average daily attendance. Legal action in connection with the compulsory clauses of the Act had to be resorted to in very few cases. This satisfactory state of affairs is largely due to the judicious and effective action of the teachers, in whose hands this matter now practically rests.

There were 1,876 free pupils on the rolls at the end of the year, viz., 675 in Grafton Section; 586 in Port Macquarie Section; and 615 in Lismore Section. None were granted free education who could reasonably be expected to pay school fees. A large number of persons who hoped to be able to pay, found after a time that they were unable to do so, and as they had not obtained free education, they were obliged to apply to the Department to cancel their debts, which in the aggregate amounted to a considerable sum. At the end of the year the arrears of fees amounted to £131 19s. 9d., viz., Grafton, £22 2s. 9d.; Port Macquarie, £65 8s. 9d.; and Lismore, £44 8d. 3d. It is probable that a considerable proportion of these amounts may be regarded as bad debts. Very few parents were summoned on account of failing to pay school fees; but when they were, verdicts were obtained, and the debts were promptly paid. More hopeful prospects are now in view, and it is confidently anticipated that the free list will be considerably less in 1897.

Most of the school banks continue to flourish. There were 21 in operation at the end of the year in Grafton Section, with 689 depositors on the books, having £157 9s. 3d. to their credit. In the Port Macquarie Section, there were 20 banks, with 393 depositors, having £91 17s. 6d. to their credit. In the Lismore Section there were 15 banks.

Several of the school grounds present a pleasing appearance, while others are bare and uninteresting. Some of the residences have quite a home-like aspect, in consequence of the thoughtfulness of the teachers in planting flowers and fruit-trees, and cultivating gardens. Pretty flower-beds impart a charm to the otherwise uninteresting surroundings of many of the small schools in the bush, taught by female teachers. This does not apply, generally, to schools similarly situated, but under the charge of male teachers. The school-grounds at Chatsworth Island are the best kept in the Grafton Section, and everything about the premises gives evidence of the teacher's care of the Department's property.

The Public School Boards continue to take an intelligent interest in the supervision of the schools in their respective Districts. Valuable assistance has been rendered by many of them in systematically supervising works in progress in connection with school-buildings; the result of their frequent inspections being satisfactorily-completed contracts.

The school staff at the end of the year consisted of 296 teachers, 4 mistresses, 26 assistants, 61 pupil-teachers, and 1 work-mistress, viz. —

Grafton Section.—97 teachers, 2 mistresses, 10 assistants, 28 pupil-teachers, 1 work-mistress.

Port Macquarie Section.—106 teachers, 6 assistants, 17 pupil-teachers.

Lismore Section.—93 teachers, 2 mistresses, 10 assistants, 16 pupil-teachers.

They are classified as follows:—

I B.		II A.		II B.		III A.		III B.		III C.		Nil.		Class I.		Class II.		Class III.		Class IV.		Probationers.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
4	1	47	5	15	1	95	27	30	8	9	5	47	32	5	8	2	4	12	5	10	14	0	1

The only work-mistress in the District is employed in the Girls' department of the Grafton Superior Public School. Most of the unclassified teachers have been trained as pupil-teachers, and will, in due course, be examined for classification. The teachers as a body are studious, industrious, and trustworthy, and conduct themselves in such a way as to command the respect of the people among whom they dwell. Many of the young ex-pupil teachers in out-of-the-way places are doing excellent work, and to them is due very largely the improved condition of the lower grades of schools. The pupil-teachers continue to maintain the reputation they have won for diligence and good conduct. There were very few failures at the yearly examination. Reviewing the year's operations there is much ground for encouragement. Many of the schools are presided over by able and capable teachers, and in nearly every school an honest attempt is made to do good work. The success of the schools depends upon the teachers, and it is gratifying to know that many of them aim at a high ideal, and realise that the training of character is as much a portion of their duty as the culture of the mind.

Grafton, 11th January, 1897.

A. LOBBAN,

District Inspector.

ANNEX V.

ANNEX V.

INSPECTOR WRIGHT'S REPORT.

Of the 116 schools under my charge during the year, 3 were schools temporarily closed during 1895, and reopened in 1896, and 1, Kundibakh Provisional, was a new school. Only 1 school, Nullenbullah Half-time, was closed during the year, so that there are now 115 schools in operation, viz. :—

81 Public.
16 Provisional.
18 Half-time.

The establishment of 4 new schools has been sanctioned, viz., Provisional Schools at Macleay Entrance and Mungay Creek, and 2 Half-time Schools on Five Day Creek, and these will be opened early in 1897.

Accommodation.

There is now accommodation in existing schools for 6,911 pupils, allowing 100 cubic feet for each child, or for 7,021 pupils, giving to each pupil 8 square feet of floor space. The gross enrolment for the year was only 5,932, and the highest quarterly enrolment 4,922; so that ample provision for the requirements of the District has been made.

Inspection.

All the schools (116) open during the year were fully inspected, and 108 (93 per cent.) were found to be up to or above the requirements of the standard. These results are 7 per cent. better than those obtained last year, and may be regarded as very satisfactory. The schools which received the highest marks for efficiency were Taree Superior Public and Wingham Public.

Teaching Staff.

At the end of the year there were 129 teachers employed, viz., 106 principal teachers, 6 assistant teachers, and 17 pupil-teachers. Of the principal teachers, 78 have classifications ranging from I B to III C, and 28 are unclassified. The teachers generally are zealous and earnest, and are held in high esteem as teachers and citizens.

School Property.

A number of school-houses, residences, &c., have been repaired during the year, and most of the premises are now in good order, and present a pleasing appearance. The school property is in most cases carefully attended to by the teachers, who generally prove satisfactory tenants.

Summary.

The educational requirements of this section are adequately met, the teachers are capable, and the work done is sound and progressive. The prospects for the coming year are satisfactory.

Port Macquarie, 2nd January, 1897.

STEWART WRIGHT,
Inspector.

ANNEX W.

INSPECTOR BOARD'S REPORT.

At the close of 1895 there were 96 schools in operation in this section. In the course of the past year new Provisional Schools have been opened at Jasper, Norton's Gap, and Wollumbin. The school at Riley, which was closed at the end of 1894, was reopened as Provisional in July, 1896; and the school at Tucki Tucki, closed in June, 1895, was reopened as Provisional in November, 1896. In all, 101 schools have been in operation during the whole or portion of the past year; of these, Brunswick Public School was closed in June last, and Drighlington Half-time School in October, leaving 99 in operation when the year closed. These are classified as follows :—Public, 70; Provisional, 23; Half-time, 6.

Tabulam Provisional School was closed during the first half of the year, but was reopened in July last. During the year the Provisional Schools at Condong and Durambah have been converted into Public Schools, and the Half-time School at Kyogle into a Provisional School. A Provisional School is about to be established at Keerong, near Lismore.

The area included in this section is now well provided with schools, which are distributed so as most conveniently to meet the requirements of the population. Where it has been found necessary school buildings have been removed and re-erected in positions where they better suit the needs arising from changes of settlement. The number of applications for new schools has been much smaller than in previous years; but, on the other hand, the demand for the enlargement of existing school buildings has increased. It is in this direction that the necessities of the near future must be chiefly met, as the trend of new settlement is towards parts of the District already provided with small schools rather than to more outlying portions. From this cause additional accommodation has had to be provided at Riley's Hill and Byron Creek, and additions to New Italy and Nunulgi schools will be completed during the present vacation. The number of seats provided at the end of 1895 was 5,734; by the erection of new school buildings and additions the number has been increased to 5,886, while the maximum quarterly enrolment has increased from 5,029 to 5,103.

In the course of the year new school buildings have been erected at Alstonville, White Swamp, and Pearce's Creek, to replace old ones, and repairs have been carried out as they were found to be necessary. Attention has been specially directed towards increasing the comfort of the smaller schools by the addition of verandahs, the supply of lavatories, and the internal lining of weather-board buildings. The erection of a new school at Alstonville and a teacher's residence at Byron Creek was carried out under the Architect at a cost of £421 7s. 6d. All other buildings and repairs have been under the Inspector's supervision. Completed works of this kind have cost £669 14s. 4d., and works now in progress will involve an expenditure of £564 13s. 8d. Excepting two or three buildings which will receive attention early in the coming year, the school premises in this Section are in good condition, and are well provided with teaching requisites.

All the schools in operation during the year received a regular inspection; two were regularly inspected a second time, and two ordinary inspections were made. The results of inspection show that the efficiency of the schools in 1895 has been maintained during 1896, the average general efficiency being 62.6 per cent. in both years. Of the 101 schools inspected, 5 were below standard, 1 up to standard, and 95 above standard. The results of examination in the various subjects of instruction show a general similarity to those of last year, the most noticeable variations being an advance of 4 per cent. in writing and dictation, of 2 per cent. in arithmetic, and a decline of 2 per cent. in grammar and English history. Greater attention has been given to the teaching of writing during the past year, and with the adoption of more skilful methods of treating the subject, a further advance is looked for. English history gives the least satisfaction, the passes in this subject being only 70 per cent. This is due in varying degrees to the fact that the treatment of the subject frequently embraces nothing more than the barren details supplied by the text-book prescribed for Third Classes, without being supplemented and illustrated from the larger knowledge of the subject, which it is essential the teacher

teacher should possess, and also to insufficient discrimination between what is of primary, and what is of merely secondary importance in historical events. The importance of the use of maps in the teaching of history needs to be more fully recognised.

During the year, 310 pupils were examined for exemption-certificates, and 174 passed, the percentage of passes being the same as in 1895.

The organisation and discipline of the schools are generally satisfactory; school libraries are being gradually extended, and the playgrounds, as a rule, are kept in good condition.

The total number of teachers in this section is 121, classified as follows:—Class II, 22; Class III, 57; unclassified, 26; pupil-teachers, 16; of the unclassified teachers, 17 have been trained as pupil-teachers. The teachers, as a body, are much respected, and the generally satisfactory character of the past year's work is due to earnestness and industry, with which they have discharged their duties.

Lismore, 2nd January, 1897.

P. BOARD,
Inspector.

ANNEX X.

DISTRICT INSPECTOR T. DWYER'S REPORT.

At the beginning of the year the following changes were made in regard to the distribution of the schools of this District, viz., 17 schools on the Upper Hunter were transferred to Armidale; one was placed in Wellington District, 20 schools were taken from the Sub-metropolitan District and added to this, and 13 schools of the Maitland Section were transferred to Dungog.

The number of schools in operation during some portion of the year was 245, comprising:—

197 Public Schools and departments.
20 Provisional.
21 Half-time.
4 House-to-house.
3 Evening Public.

Total..... 245

In the Maitland Section one small school, Murray's Run Half-time, was closed at the end of June for want of attendance. The school buildings in that locality have been taken down, and re-erected at Yango. The West Maitland Evening Public School was closed a few weeks ago. Three small schools were erected and opened during the year in places wherein no schools previously existed, viz., Luskiutyre Public, Maison de Dieu Provisional, and Manobali Provisional. A new class-room for Rix Creek was completed at the close of last year. Forty-three school buildings underwent repairs under my supervision, at a cost of £265 3s. 3d., and 13 teachers' residences were improved, under the same supervision, at an outlay of £193 7s. 3d. It has been decided to establish a Public School at Dalwood, and to erect a new school-room at Cox's Gap.

The number of schools in operation at the close of 1896 was:—

197 Public Schools and departments.
20 Provisional Schools.
21 Half-time Schools.
4 House-to-house Schools.
1 Evening Public School.

Total..... 243

Existing schools are centrally situated, and afford more than ample floor-space for the highest average attendance during any part of the year. The total floor-space for 1896 for the whole district is 25,579, and the total number of cubical spaces for the same period 27,202, as against 24,240 and 26,612 respectively in 1895.

Tree-planting and the cultivation of flower-gardens in the Maitland Section have almost been discontinued, except in the case of the following schools, in which considerable attention is still given to arboriculture and gardening, viz., Aberlcon, Bolwarra, Denman, Homeville, Horseshoe Bend, Hinton, and Largs. The organisation and discipline of the schools of this District continue to be very satisfactory. In a few schools, however, errors of a serious nature were found in the rolls, the admission registers were incomplete, daily report books were not posted for several days, and lesson registers were in arrear. In one school that record was found unposted for three consecutive months: Drill in the schools of this section, which are visited by Captain Mulholland, shows marked improvement since that gentleman's appointment.

The instruction of the pupils was, on the whole, very fairly imparted by such teachers as regularly and carefully prepared their work, while in the case of several who teach from imperfect knowledge, who have to use text books, even on the day of inspection, defective teaching and poor results were invariably met with.

The work of inspection for the year is shown hereunder:—

Section of District.	Regular Inspections.	Ordinary and second regular Inspections.	Total Number of Inspections.	Number of Pupils Examined.
Maitland	85	8	93	4,438
Newcastle	61	0	61	9,361
Dungog	98	23	121	2,940
Total.....	244	31	275	16,739

Every school in the whole district, except one small Evening Public, had a regular inspection. That Evening Public School was closed before the visiting Inspector had time to examine it. With reference to the proficiency of the inspected schools, it is found that in Maitland Section 96 per cent. of these schools succeeded in satisfying or exceeding the standard, 100 per cent. in Newcastle Section, and 95 per cent. in Dungog, the percentage for the whole District being 97 as against 94 for 1895.

The following schools sent up successful pupils to the Junior University Examination, held in Juno, 1896:—

Carrington, 1 passed; Denman, 1 passed; Maitland West, 2 passed; Mulbring, 1 passed; Newcastle, 12 passed; Wallsend, 1 passed; Wickham, 3 passed; St. Ethel's, 1 passed. That makes a total of 22 successful pupils from 8 schools. In 1895, 28 passed from 5 schools.

The number of pupils examined for exemption-certificates in the Maitland Section was 708, of whom 509, or 72 per cent., passed. In Newcastle Section the number examined was 850, and 461, or 54 per cent., passed.

The proficiency of the pupils in each subject of instruction, and the percentage of those who satisfied or exceeded the standard are shown in the following table :—

Subjects.	Number Examined.	Percentage.	Subjects.	Number Examined.	Percentage.
Reading—			Geography—		
Alphabet	1,889	78	Elementary	3,397	78
Monosyllables	3,159	80	Advanced	3,538	73
Easy Narrative	5,826	84	Total	6,935	77
Ordinary Prose	5,865	86			
Total	16,739	83	History—		
Writing—			English	6,907	78
On Slates	6,448	80	Australian	1,264	76
In Books	10,291	83	Scripture	16,380	80
Total	16,739	83	Object Lessons	16,539	79
Dictation	13,308	83	Drawing	16,634	81
Arithmetic—			Music	15,935	82
Simple Rules	10,604	76	French	251	77
Compound Rules	3,497	79	Euclid	961	69
Higher Rules	2,601	74	Algebra	266	80
Total	16,702	75	Mensuration	408	76
Grammar—			Latin	258	77
Elementary	3,638	79	Needlework	7,247	80
Advanced	3,302	77	Drill	15,642	80
Total	6,940	79	Natural Science	172	87

Compared with last year, compound rules are better by 10 per cent. ; higher rules and French have advanced 9 per cent. ; Australian history is better by 6 per cent. ; advanced grammar by 5 per cent. ; alphabet, algebra show an advance of 4 per cent. ; Latin is better by 3 per cent. ; English history, scripture, drawing, mensuration, and drill show an improvement of 2 per cent. ; simple rules, euclid, and elementary grammar are 1 per cent. better ; needlework is not so good by 5 per cent. ; object lessons, advanced geography, and writing on slates have fallen 3 per cent. ; easy narrative and ordinary prose are worse by 2 per cent. ; writing in books, natural science, and elementary geography have declined 1 per cent. The results in dictation were inadvertently omitted from last year's report. For this year the percentage is 83, which should be considered very satisfactory.

The total number of teachers, assistants, work-mistresses, and pupil-teachers employed in this district during the year is 475. With very few exceptions, they have devoted their full energy in the discharge of their official duties, and no serious complaint has been made against any of them during the year. Several gained promotion by examination, and a few gained an advance in grade under Article 103 of the Regulations. Their classification at the end of 1896 is shown in the following table :—

	I A.		I B.		II A.		II B.		III A.		III B.		III C.		Un. classified.		Total.		Grand Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Principal Teachers	4	..	15	..	25	1	20	1	49	6	17	8	8	9	17	15	158	40	198
Mistresses of Departments ..	..	3	..	6	..	123	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	32	32
Assistants .....	..	..	3	..	16	22	5	15	2	26	..	7	..	..	..	..	27	71	98
Total	4	3	18	6	44	46	25	16	51	32	17	15	8	9	18	16	185	148	333
	I.		II.		III.		IV.		Probationers.										
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.									
Pupil-teachers	7	52	2	9	13	7	26	15	4	2							52	85	137
Work-mistresses																	10	10	
Total Teachers of all ranks																	287	238	475

Summary.

Four new schools were opened during the year ; the sum of £930 18s. 11d. was expended by the Inspectors in improving schools and residences. With the exception of one small Evening Public School, every school in the district had a regular inspection, and 31 had ordinary and second regular inspections. The work of the year has been faithfully performed, and the primary schools of the Maitland District are in a creditable state of efficiency.

East Maitland, 5th January, 1897.

T. DWYER,
District Inspector.

ANNEX V.

INSPECTOR FLASHMAN'S REPORT.

THE schools under my supervision during the past year included 61 departments. The Infants Department at Carrington was closed, and an Evening School at Hamilton opened during the year.

The enrolment of pupils has been in excess of that of previous years, and was as follows :—

March quarter	12,297
June quarter	11,965
September quarter	12,319
December quarter	12,147

The accommodation provided in the schools is for 13,924 pupils.

It

It has been found necessary to increase the accommodation at Wallsend Boys' and Lambton Infants' Departments; this will be undertaken at once, and when completed no school in the district will be compelled to use weather-sheds for teaching purposes.

Many of the schoolrooms and teachers' residences have been repaired either under my own supervision or that of the Clerk of Works.

My experience has taught me that but very few teachers appear to take sufficient interest in their homes or home surroundings to induce them to make any improvements which might be called permanent. A teacher's garden is the exception, and not the rule, while the many little conveniences to be found in the homes of most householders are altogether absent. I can account for this only by the fact that, taking the teachers as a body, they appear to be very unsettled; the younger teachers expect soon to be removed to more important positions, and those holding good appointments hope the day is not far distant when they will be promoted to the Sydney District. Very few teachers have any desire to make a permanent home in this section.

I regret to report that, in nearly every instance, the school-gardens have been neglected. Since the bonus for gardening has been withdrawn the interest in this matter has been allowed to decline, and now very few schools have anything but posts and rails, which indicate where once the garden was. This is very much to be regretted, as I have found that the children generally took considerable interest in the school-garden when encouraged by their teachers.

Flowers, as schoolroom decorations, are not as common as desirable, especially in Boys' and Infants' Departments. A few girls' schools are always found to be gay and attractive with these "gifts of Nature."

All the schools were inspected during the year. The organisation of most of them was found to be of a very satisfactory character. The rooms are generally clean, neat, and attractive. The lesson documents were drawn, and the records complete and accurate.

In most cases the discipline is mild and effective. I have had very few complaints from parents respecting undue corporal punishment. The work of the schools is conducted in a methodical, cheerful manner; the pupils willingly obey the wishes of their teachers, and appear happy and contented in their school-life.

The attainments of the pupils, as ascertained at the inspection of the schools, were found to be in most cases most satisfactory. The standard requirements were reached in all cases, and in a few schools high results were obtained.

Arithmetic has received more intelligent treatment at the hands of the teachers, and, as a consequence, the results have been of a higher order than those of former years.

As a rule, dictation is well taught; more than half the fourth and fifth classes of the district obtained the mark "Excellent" for this subject, while several others obtained "Very good."

As a general rule, the writing in copy-books of the upper classes is good; but I cannot say the same for the writing of miscellaneous exercises, such as composition and reproduction on paper. These exercises are very frequently done badly by children whose copy-books are well done. From what I have observed, a pupil, during a writing lesson, will take a quarter of an hour to write a single line in his copy-book. The consequence is he is not accustomed to write rapidly, and when he is required to do so his writing is frequently disgraceful.

With the exception of two schools, I have not been satisfied with the results obtained in geometry. When it is remembered that the requirements in this subject are small, and that the classes which receive instruction in this branch are generally taught by teachers who are known to have good mathematical acquirements, it is surprising how few classes, as a whole, can be found which are able to do more than barely satisfy the standard. In most classes a small number generally do well; but the majority fail almost completely in working even the simplest proposition.

The teaching of drawing has much improved in very many of the schools, although I am not yet satisfied that the subject receives as much intelligent treatment as its importance deserves.

There were 850 examined for "exemption certificates"; 461 only succeeded in obtaining them. In most cases arithmetic was the weak subject.

In July last Captain Mulholland was appointed Drill Instructor to the schools of this section. The result of this action has been to rouse considerable interest in the instruction of drill in all the schools. It has been arranged for the Captain to visit all the schools at least once a quarter, and the larger schools more frequently. Provision has been made for the instruction of the senior boys in shooting, and the military authorities have consented to the use of their targets at Newcastle, Lambton, and Wallsend. A parade of all schools will be held once a quarter. It is hoped by these means to place the instruction of drill in a more favourable condition than it has been in the past. Ample provision has also been made for the instruction of the girls and infants. I have arranged that as many pupil-teachers as possible shall be present during the Captain's lessons, so that these young teachers may acquire some knowledge as to how they should conduct their lessons when the special instructor is absent.

I am pleased to report that Captain Mulholland has entered with considerable enthusiasm into the duties of his new office, and has succeeded in winning the confidence and respect of both teachers and pupils.

Two years ago a Public School District Athletic Association was formed. This was an exceedingly popular movement, and nearly all the leading teachers entered with considerable zest into the movement, while the enthusiasm among pupils and parents was most encouraging. The annual sports meeting was attended by at least 20,000 persons, and proved a great success in every sense of the word.

During the year classes for manual training of lads from the schools have been conducted under Mr. Jones, as teacher. Eighty lads have been in regular attendance at these classes; the pupils take considerable interest in their work, and from the teacher's report I gather that considerable progress has been made by most of them.

Sixty of the students were, under my supervision, subjected to a written examination at the close of the year's work; the result of this examination is not yet known.

The Cookery Class has been in active operation the whole of the year. 180 girls have received instruction, with very satisfactory results. This class is still very popular among parents. I have always more applicants than I can find places for. The teacher is painstaking, enthusiastic, and effective.

At the close of the year there were employed in this section 34 principal teachers, 25 mistresses, 72 assistants, 93 pupil-teachers, and 8 work-mistresses, making a total of 232 teachers of all grades.

Very few principal teachers have sought to improve their classification by examination during the year. Most of the mistresses hold a classification of II A; they seem to be quite satisfied with their status, for I am not aware of a single instance of any preparation being made to secure a higher grade.

All the pupil-teachers were examined during the year, and most of them gained promotion.

A competitive examination of male applicant pupil-teachers was held in September last. Fifty-one were examined, and 15 selected; all of these were superior lads, who displayed considerable literary ability as well as skill in the management of a class and the giving of a lesson.

The work of instruction has gone on smoothly during the year. A few of the most successful teachers have been rewarded with promotion, while many have good cause to be thankful for their success.

Newcastle, 1st January, 1897.

C. O. FLASHMAN,
Inspector.

ANNEX Z.

INSPECTOR KEVIN'S REPORT.

I took charge of this section of the Maitland District on the 1st February, and found under my supervision the following schools :—

Public	67
Provisional	15
Half-time.....	14
House-to-house	3
Evening Public	1
Total.....	100

Of these, however, 3 were not in actual existence—Strathisla, Invergordon, and Dunkirk—though being in course of erection, of which the first-named only was finished and is now working. The aid promised by the Department was withdrawn from the other 2, as the promoters seemed to take no interest in their final success. The year closes with schools, viz. :—

Public	69
Provisional	12
Half-time	14
House-to-house	3
Total.....	98

Of these, all were regularly inspected, 7 received a second or reinspection, and 16 an ordinary inspection, while a large number were visited incidentally. Bulga Evening Public which was closed abruptly and before my time of visiting did not receive an inspection of any kind.

A few unimportant changes took place during the year, but, as a whole, the District remains as in 1895, except that 13 schools were transferred from the Maitland Section at the beginning of the year.

Buildings.

Only 1 new school building—Strathisla Provisional—was erected during the year. No residences, and only one weather-shed—Tea Gardens Public. A large number, however, received repairs in various directions, including painting, fencing, water supply, &c., and their condition generally received proper attention. The total expenditure under my own supervision was £267 7s. 8d. As a whole, the buildings are in fair order.

Organisation.

Under this head matters are generally satisfactory, though a few of the buildings are very unsuitable and need superseding. The accommodation is sufficient and comfortable, and the supply of materials is adequate. The lesson guides are complete and generally skilful, and the records, except in three or four instances, are neatly and correctly kept.

Discipline.

This is healthy, as a whole, but in a few schools (of the smaller class) there is decided room for improvement. The pupils are quiet, well-behaved, and attentive to their work, and generally give little trouble. Drill has received fair attention during the year, but, owing to much rain and many hot days, it was impossible to give it the attention it deserves.

Inspection.

As has already been stated, all schools on my roll were regularly inspected except 1—a small Evening Public—and the results generally were satisfactory. The reading, writing, and arithmetic, however, show a falling off on last year's averages; the result, at least in two of the subjects, probably of the pupils meeting a new Inspector. In the other subjects there is little or no difference. All the schools, except 5, were up to or above the standard. A large number of pupils were examined for exemption certificates, and of those who passed but only a small percentage have left school.

Instruction.

This part of the teachers' public duty has been carried out earnestly and industriously during the year, except in the case of the schools re-inspected. These, however, were found to be in a satisfactory state at the second visit. I am quite in accord with the wisdom of withdrawing notice of the Inspector's intended visit of inspection.

The course of instruction is complete, except in three or four cases where singing is omitted, and the methods of instruction are, as a whole, skilful and intelligent. Teachers, however, would do better if they would carefully and systematically prepare their school-work.

The subject of school libraries was taken up by me early in the year, with the result that 71 have been opened—on most occasions with great *clat*—and the sum of £246 18s. cheerfully and willingly subscribed to purchase suitable books, of which there are now 5,000 in circulation. The movement everywhere is most popular, and in no instance have I heard a voice raised against these most useful institutions. I am glad to see the movement is spreading to other districts, and I hope the words of encouragement from the Chief Inspector, in last year's report, will be the means of giving vigorous and permanent life to the scheme. It certainly deserves more countenance and support from all quarters than has fallen to its lot in the past. The teacher, however, is, in almost every case, the life of the movement, and if his or her interest flags its doom is sealed.

The teachers and pupil-teachers were duly examined at the prescribed times; their conduct and attention to duty have been quite satisfactory as a body, and they are individually and collectively respected in their respective spheres of action, and as citizens.

To sum up—

Summary.

- (a) The means of education are sufficient and properly distributed.
- (b) The organisation and discipline are satisfactory; and
- (c) The instruction is well regulated, and carried on faithfully.

On the whole, therefore, the year's work has been a successful one, and I see no reason why next year's should not be at least equally satisfactory.

The usual statistics have already been forwarded.

Dungog, 26th December, 1896.

J. KEVIN,
Inspector.

Every school in the District, with the exception of Memagong Provisional (which was closed before it could be tested), received a regular inspection. The results of inspection are summarised in the subjoined table:—

Subjects.	Estimated Proficiency.			
	Total Number Examined.	Number Passed.	Percentage up to or above Standard.	
Reading—			In 1895.	In 1896.
Alphabet	133	101	80	76
Monosyllables	672	619	89	92
Easy narrative	943	886	90	94
Ordinary prose	1,297	1,258	92	97
Totals	3,045	2,864	90	94
Writing—				
On slates	1,212	1,165	95	96
In copy-books and on paper	1,819	1,793	98	99
Totals	3,031	2,958	97	98
Dictation	2,394	1,917	73	80
Arithmetic—				
Simple rules	1,637	1,404	83	86
Compound rules	634	452	72	71
Higher rules	647	470	72	73
Totals	2,918	2,326	78	80
Grammar—				
Elementary	580	469	84	81
Advanced	730	542	64	74
Totals	1,310	1,011	74	77
Geography—				
Elementary	290	210	81	72
Advanced	1,033	785	75	76
Totals	1,323	995	77	75
History—				
English	1,270	929	72	73
Australian	232	180	83	78
Scripture and moral lessons	2,531	2,068	83	82
Object lessons	2,939	2,498	86	85
Drawing	2,930	2,751	93	94
Music	2,805	2,334	80	83
French	48	38	78	79
Euclid	143	109	69	76
Algebra	52	38	52	73
Mensuration	101	69	64	68
Latin	51	29	56	57
Trigonometry	20	11	50	55
Needlework	1,163	1,094	94	94
Drill	2,842	2,533	87	89
Natural science	105	94	85	89

An examination of these figures will show that steady progress has been made, for about 80 per cent. of the subjects taught are in a more satisfactory condition than during last year. The schools which secured the best results at the regular inspections were:—Koorawatha, Hillmont, Springdale, and Barmedman. Pupils from the following passed the Junior Examination of the University, viz., Koorawatha, 3 passes; Grenfell, 3; Cowra, 3; Cootamundra, 3; Barmedman, 1; and Young, 1.

The teaching staff of the District is classified as follows:—

1 B	2
2 A	13
2 B	8
3 A	34
3 B	5
3 C	7
Unclassified (the majority of these formerly served as pupil-teachers)	24
Pupil-teachers	20
Total	113

A good percentage of the teachers have improved in efficiency. Complaints against them have been rare, and for the most part either unfounded or exaggerated. As a body, they are exemplary in conduct, zealous, and capable.

Summary.

1. The schools are liberally distributed, are mostly in good repair, and provide accommodation beyond existing requirements.
2. With one exception (already explained) they were submitted to a regular inspection.
3. The instructional results show a distinct advance.
4. The foregoing circumstances indicate a good record for 1897.

CHAS. J. W. FRIEND,
Inspector.

Young, 31st December, 1896.

ANNEX Z 3.

INSPECTOR PEARSON'S REPORT.

The year 1895 closed with 92 schools. Four of these—Boomanómana Provisional, Blowering West Provisional, Onkey Farm, and Tarramia Half-time—were not reopened, whereas Barooga and Bulgandra Provisionals were established in January; thus the year 1896 commenced with 90 schools, classified as—Public, 53; Provisional, 17; Half-time, 18; House-to-house, 2.

During the year Bulgandra, Finley, and Upper Bago Provisionals were raised to the rank of Public, Walbundrie Half-time converted to Provisional, and the following new schools established:—Manus Provisional, Handley, Mount Airy, and South Humula Half-time. At

At the close of the year 1896 the schools in operation were:—Public, 56; Provisional, 16; Half-time, 20; House-to-house, 2; total, 94.

When the new school at Burrumbuttock North is established, and the authorised enlargements to Borrigan, Finley, and Mulwala completed, it may be said the means of education, both as regards amount and distribution, will be adequate. The total number of schools and departments open during 1896, or any portion thereof was 94. All of these were regularly inspected. In addition, 3 ordinary inspections were made, thus raising the total to 97 inspections.

Seventy-nine schools, or 84 per cent., exceeded standard limits, 12 were below, and 3 just up to the standard, whereas last year the numbers were 78, or 85 per cent., 14, and 0 respectively.

The percentage of passes appears 1 per cent. less than last year. This is in a measure accounted for by the establishment of small schools, some of which were inspected soon after opening. Of the 12 schools that failed to reach the standard, 7 had not been in operation a full year at time of inspection.

The following subjects show an improvement:—Dictation, geography, scripture, drawing, music, French, mensuration, Latin, needlework, and natural science, whereas writing, arithmetic, grammar, object lessons, Euclid, and algebra are slightly lower, and in the case of reading, history, and drill no alteration on last year's results.

A perceptible improvement generally in organisation and discipline has been shown, and gives evidence of careful attention to the directions given at previous inspections. However, several cases were noted where serious discrepancies existed between lesson registers, time-tables, and programmes, thus showing that the latter guides have not been faithfully followed. I have reason to believe these defects will not exist next year.

The schools' books, I regret to say, are not in a flourishing condition, notwithstanding the attempts of the teachers to popularise them.

The results of examinations for exemption certificates were unsatisfactory. Of the 162 pupils examined, only 94, or 58 per cent., were successful, the majority failing in arithmetic. This poor result is probably owing, in a measure, to faulty classification.

On the whole, the school-rooms and premises present a neat and well-ordered appearance; in many cases well arranged and attractive gardens beautify the grounds. The schools of highest efficiency are, in order of merit—Albury Boys', Albury Girls', Germanton, Major's Plains, Urana, How-long, Corowa, Tumbarumba, Shepard's-town, Wagra, Wondalga, Albury Infants', and Gerogery. Only two schools, Yambula and Albury, were represented at the University Examination, the former being eminently successful, considering the smallness of the school. During the year a cookery class of 60 pupils was opened in Albury. The pupils were regular and attentive, and displayed great interest in this very important branch. The result of the examination test was highly gratifying, and it is hoped another class will be formed during the ensuing year.

The teaching staff at the end of the year consisted of:—Principal teachers, 82; mistresses, 2; assistants, 5; pupil-teachers, 14; total, 103. With but very few exceptions the teachers are earnest, painstaking, and zealous, and exert a beneficial influence in their respective centres.

School accommodation, allowing 8 square feet per child:—

Accommodation existing at commencement of 1896.....	5,592
Additional accommodation provided	426
Accommodation lost by closing, &c.	321
Accommodation existing at end of 1896	5,697

The December enrolment was 3,578, hence ample accommodation is provided.

Excellent buildings—school and residence—were erected by Architect at Tumumwal at a cost of £1,270; the former, which replaces the old, affords a total accommodation for 124.

New buildings erected by Inspector or supplied by residents:—

Names.	If new.	Seats.	Cost.
Finley.....	Formerly conducted in School of Arts.	30	£ s. d. 63 10 0
Bulgandra, commenced last year, opened this ...	New	21	45 0 0
Barooga, ..	"	30	57 19 6
Mount Airy	"	15	Residents.
South Humula	"	28	"
Manus.....	Old, reopened	21	"

The sum of £227 3s. 8d. has been expended in connection with repairs and improvements to 32 schools, and £165 8s. 2d. in repairing 6 residences.

A new school building is in course of erection at Burrumbuttock North. This will cost £57 10s., and afford accommodation for 30 children. The work of extending Finley is in hand, and will give additional seats for 17 pupils. The contract price is £41 10s. 6d.

The efficiency of the schools, generally speaking, has been maintained, the means of education are sufficient, and well distributed. All schools were regularly inspected, and it is expected the work of 1897 will be at least as satisfactory as the past.

F. PEARSON,
Inspector.

Albury, 28th December.

ANNEX Z4.

INSPECTOR MCKENZIE'S REPORT.

THE schools in this section are sufficient in number, well distributed, and satisfactorily meet the requirements of the residents.

At the close of 1895 there remained 65 schools in operation. Six new schools have since been established, and 1 reopened. There have been, therefore, 72 schools in operation during the year 1896, including 50 Public, 6 Provisional, 10 Half-time, 1 Evening, and 5 House-to-house Schools.

New schools were opened at Elindale, Hill Plain, Lynwood, North Deniliquin, Tomara, and Warangesda. A school was promised at Bungabil; and applications from Barham, Ballygrogan, Bringagee, Box Valley, and Wycott; Duhwilly, North Borellan, and Tolarno were declined.

A new school and residence at Mossiel and a new class-room at Hillston were taken over by the Department early in the year. A new class-room was erected at Mathoura, and a new residence at Boohgal. A residence is in course of erection at Mathoura; and extensive repairs and improvements have been sanctioned at Broken Hill, Moama, Carrathool, and Whitton.

Under the Inspector's supervision repairs and improvements were carried out in 40 schools and 13 residences; 6 small school buildings were erected, and 2 others are in progress.

Most of the school buildings are now in good repair, and the accommodation is ample. The gross enrolment for the year was 7,428, and the average attendance 4,114, while existing buildings provide floor-space for 7,065 pupils, and statute accommodation for 7,407.

All

All schools but 1 were fully inspected, and, as a rule, the premises were found to be well kept, the supply of furniture and school material sufficient, and the condition of the schools as regards organisation, discipline, and instruction, satisfactory. Of 71 schools inspected, 65 were above standard and 6 below, those taking highest rank being Alma, Broken Hill, Broken Hill North, Deniliquin, Hay, and Silverton.

Only 3 schools secured passes in the University Examinations, viz. :—Hay, 2 Juniors ; North Broken Hill, 2 Juniors ; and Wentworth, 1 Junior.

There are Savings Banks in all the principal schools, and arboriculture receives a fair amount of attention. The gardens at Hay and Balranald deserve special mention.

The total number of teachers of all ranks employed in the section at the end of the year was 122 ; and of the teachers generally it may be said that they are diligent and conscientious in the discharge of their duties, and have earned the respect of both pupils and parents.

A. D. McKENZIE,

Inspector.

Marrickville, 4th January, 1897.

ANNEX Z 5.

DISTRICT-INSPECTOR LONG'S REPORT.

THE divisions of the District for inspectoral supervision have remained unchanged, and consist of the Mudgee Section, under Mr. Inspector J. P. Rooney ; the Dubbo Section, under Mr. Inspector J. W. E. Baillie ; and the Central, or Wellington Section, under myself.

At the close of the former year there were 235 schools in the District. Eleven have been closed, 12 new ones opened, and 6 added from other Districts. During the year, or for part of it, there were 244 schools in operation—90 in the Mudgee Section, 70 in the Dubbo, and 84 in the Wellington. The number in existence at the end of the year was 240.

The buildings in which these schools are conducted suffice for 14,473 pupils at the regulation allowance of floor-space, and, therefore, provide ample accommodation, the enrolment for the last quarter being 11,150, and the average attendance 7,889·7. They are in good condition, and are provided with all necessary appliances.

During the year, under Inspectors' supervision, 8 school buildings and 2 weather-sheds have been erected, and 58 schools and 17 residences enlarged or repaired, at a total cost of £996 6s., which is little more than half the sum expended during the preceding year. More extensive works have been carried out under the Department's Architect.

All the schools were fully inspected during the year, excepting 2 small ones, 1 in the Mudgee Section, which was open for 6 days only, and 1 in the Wellington Section, which was closed before it could be visited. The total number of inspections effected was thus 242—89 in the Mudgee Section, 70 in the Dubbo, and 83 in my own. Of the 242 schools inspected, 231, or 95·5 per cent., were found to be in a creditable condition in regard to general efficiency, exceeding the number for the former year by '5 per cent. Of the 11 schools returned as below standard, some were in operation but a short time at the date of inspection, and in the case of others the attendance had been affected by causes beyond the teacher's control, such as epidemics and protracted drought. The number of schools whose efficiency reaches or exceeds standard affords evidence of commendable skill and diligence on the part of the teaching staff of the District.

The organisation almost invariably shows careful effort to comply with the prescribed system, and due appreciation of the salutary influence of neat and pleasing surroundings. In this connection, the attention bestowed in many instances on improving the appearance of school-grounds by planting trees, ornamental shrubs, and flowers, is deserving of commendation. Occasionally defects are met with in the classification of pupils, or in designing the course of instruction, but these are almost invariably traceable to inexperience. Errors in records, excepting, perhaps, the lesson register, are very rare.

The methods of government are, as a rule, appropriate, intelligent, and effective, and the discipline is, therefore, rarely otherwise than satisfactory. Occasionally we encounter a teacher so wanting in aptitude for his position, in diligence, or in mental perception, as to make fear of physical pain the sole means for influencing the immature intelligences committed to his charge, but such cases are fortunately exceptional. The pupils are uniformly of neat and well-dressed appearance, while their behaviour, attention, and general deportment are most pleasing. It is to be regretted that the effect of the training which produces this extends in so many cases to the school boundary only. The very regrettable cause, doubtless, is that outside associations tend to counteract the teacher's worth. Possibly this adverse influence will diminish with the decrease in the number of homes under the government of those who have not had the advantage of correct educational training.

The number of pupils examined at the inspections of the year was 8,107. The percentages of passes in the several subjects taught are higher than those for the former year in every subject excepting sewing, and range from 97·5 in natural science to 71·5 in grammar. The percentages of pupils up to or above standard in those most important subjects, viz., 87·7 in reading, 88·7 in writing, and 81·4 in arithmetic, are very satisfactory, especially in regard to writing, for in many country schools there are special difficulties to contend with in the teaching of this subject. The general result of the teaching for the year may, therefore, be regarded as satisfactory, and creditable to those entrusted with it.

During the year 614 pupils were examined for exemption certificates, under section 35 of the Act, and of these 410—or rather less than 67 per cent.—passed. A large proportion of those who did not, failed in arithmetic only, owing to inability to work questions involving ordinary applications of the rules in which they were tested. Easy questions of this kind frequently proved too much for pupils who could work sums in much more advanced rules. Such failures have, however, had the effect of directing attention to the necessity for improved methods of teaching the subject in several respects.

The number of teachers employed in the District is 282, including 55 who are unclassified, and 34 pupil-teachers. Their classifications and positions are given in the statistical returns for the year. With few exceptions, they are well fitted for their respective positions, and perform their duties with diligence and success, while they have gained the esteem of those amidst whom they are stationed. In some few cases there is observed a certain carelessness in details of personal deportment, which suggests defective appreciation of the responsibilities of the position voluntarily undertaken, and which must impair usefulness and success. The warning and advice given in such cases are, however, so far as my own observation extends, received in a spirit which indicates that proper effort will be made to remedy the errors referred to.

The pupil-teachers have displayed commendable aptitude, diligence, and usefulness, and, with one exception, have gained fully satisfactory reports.

In conclusion, it may be stated that the schools of the District are sufficient for its present requirements ; that their material condition and efficiency are satisfactory ; and that the general result of the year's work shows a gratifying measure of success in regard to the objects for which the Department exists.

The reports of the officers associated with me in the charge of the District are forwarded with this.

GEORGE ED. LONG,

District Inspector.

Waverley, 8th January, 1897.

ANNEX

ANNEX Z 6.

INSPECTOR ROONEY'S REPORT.

At the close of 1895 there were 93 schools in the Mudgee Section of the Wellington District.

Owing to insufficient attendance, the Half-time Schools at Kelgoola, Nulla Mountain, Springfield, Spring Flat, and the House School at Oxley's Peak were not reopened at the beginning of the year.

The Half-time School building at Piambong was destroyed by fire early in January, and has not been rebuilt. A few days afterwards the Half-time School at Rats' Castle closed, the school population having decreased to 6 in number.

Schools established.

New schools have been established at Barragon and Dexter Springs.

A new school, superseding an old rented building, has been erected at Menah.

A Provisional School has just been completed at Genowlan Shale-mine.

Schools converted.

Capertee Provisional was converted into a Public School early in the year, and Tara Public, after being closed for seven months, was reopened as Provisional in the month of November.

At the beginning of the year Budden Provisional School was placed under my supervision, having been transferred from the Maitland District.

Eight school buildings and 9 residences received substantial repairs.

A weather-shed was erected at Pinnacle Swamp.

The erection of new schools and the repairs of schools and residences were carried out under my supervision.

Under the supervision of the Architect, a residence is in course of erection at Burrindulla, and repairs are being effected at Cudgegong.

All the Public, 7 out of 11 of the Provisional, and 10 of the Half-time Schools are vested in the Department.

At the end of 1896 there were in operation in this section of the District 54 Public, 11 Provisional, 22 Half-time, and 2 House-to-house Schools: total, 89.

Accommodation.

The schools in the Mudgee Section give accommodation for 3,877 pupils, or 383 more than were enrolled for any quarter of the year. The material condition of all the Public Schools is good, but 1 Provisional and 6 Half-time schools are conducted in inferior non-vested buildings.

Twenty-four school playgrounds have ornamental trees. In 19 cases the trees are flourishing, and show that they have been well attended to by the teachers. In this respect the following schools deserve special mention:—

Bayly.	Lawson's Creek,
Cudgegong,	Mudgee.
Cullenbone,	Kylstone,
Eurunderee,	Willstree.

Enrolment and Attendance.

The total enrolment for the year was 4,199. Of this number, 380 were returned as pupils of more than one school.

The average daily attendance was 2,572.3, being a decrease of 59.2 on that for 1895. The decrease is accounted for by the removal of families of miners to other districts.

The amount of school fees received for the year was £1,307 14s. 3d., being an increase of £67 3s. 10½d. on the previous year.

The fees in arrear at the end of December amounted to £33 16s. 4½d.

There were at the end of the year, in the schools of this section, 377 free pupils, being an increase of 35 on the previous year.

Inspection.

Excepting Rats' Castle Half-time, which was closed in January, all schools received a regular inspection: 3 schools received ordinary inspection. During the year 2,737 pupils were examined. Out of 174 examined for exemption certificates, 150 passed the required test.

The attainments of the pupils show improvement in reading, dictation, arithmetic, grammar, history, and algebra. Music is badly taught in the majority of the schools.

I am of opinion that a marked improvement in writing would take place if the Department would issue a series of copy-books, supplying them to the schools either free or at a low price. At present the way the pupils have of obtaining copy-books, especially in remote places, is very unsatisfactory.

Teachers.

Under my supervision there are 84 teachers and 11 pupil-teachers. Of the teachers, 2 are in the first class, 18 in the second, 54 in the third, and 10 unclassified. Of the last-mentioned, 6 have served as pupil-teachers.

Only one complaint against a teacher was made during the year. The teachers are well-conducted, and the great majority of them have gained the esteem of the people of the localities in which they live.

Summary.

(a) This portion of the Wellington District is amply provided with the means of education.

(b) The material condition of the schools is good.

(c) The organisation and discipline are satisfactory.

The results of the year's work give much cause for satisfaction, and there is reason for believing the good work will be carried on during the coming year.

JOHN P. ROONEY,
Inspector.

Mudgee, 31st December, 1896.

ANNEX Z 7.

INSPECTOR BAILLIE'S REPORT.

During the year 1896 there were in operation in the Dubbo Section of the Wellington District 70 schools, viz., 48 Public, 14 Provisional, 3 Half-time, and 5 House-to-house.

At the close of the year the schools in operation were:—

Public Schools	48
Provisional Schools	14
Half-time Schools	2
House-to-house Schools	4
Total	68

A

A Provisional School was established at Durrulume. Belar Creek was reopened as a Half-time School, and worked with a new school at Mobla, at the beginning of the year; but the numbers attending during the first quarter warranted the conversion of Belar into a Public and Mobla into a Provisional. The Provisional School at Ironburks, closed through small attendance in 1895, was reopened. Collie and Coradgeric, worked as House-to-house Schools, were converted—the former into a Public and the latter into a Provisional. Ford's Bridge, worked with Gumbalie as a Half-time School, was converted into a Provisional School. Boogaldie, reopened as a Provisional, was converted into a Public School.

The following schools were closed through diminished attendance:—Raby Provisional, Gumbalie Half-time, Belleroy and Terembone, and Furlewaugh, Sand Creek, and Ulamabri House-to-house.

Schools transferred.—The undermentioned schools were transferred from this section:—Louth Public, Tilpa and Kallara Half-time, and in lieu thereof, Walgett, Collarendabri, Come-by-Chance, Pilliga Public Schools and Kercargo Provisional were added.

Timbriungie School (closed since April, 1893) was destroyed by fire on the night of the 25th May last.

Applications for the establishment of new schools at Dulla Dulla and Ramperdell are under consideration.

Improvements, including additions, painting, and repairs, have been effected at 24 schools, and 2 teachers' residences, at an outlay of £383 13s. 6d., under the Inspector's supervision, and 3 schools, at a cost of £330 10s. 6d., under the Architect's.

The works that have been authorised, but are incomplete, include additions and improvements to Belarbigill, Baradine, Belar Creek, Mundooran, Collie, Dubbo, and Narromine Schools, and additions, including wash-house, bathroom, &c., to the teachers' residences at Byrock and Brocklehurst.

The water from the town supply has been laid on to the school and teacher's residence at Dubbo at the small outlay of only £20 15s.

The accommodation at the end of 1895 provided floor-space for 5,400 pupils. At the end of 1896 there was accommodation for 5,804 pupils—giving an increase of 404 seats.

Enrolment and Average Attendance.

The enrolment and average attendance for the four quarters ending March, June, September, and December were:—

	Enrolment.	Average Attendance.
March quarter	3,900	2,409·3
June „	4,033	2,757·1
September quarter	4,033	2,882·7
December „	4,004	2,793·4

The highest enrolment any quarter last year was 3,760.

Total amount of school fees received for the year, £1,533 17s. 11d. Total amount in arrear, £44 12s. 4½d. Number of free pupils, 235.

Inspection, Instruction, and Discipline.

All the schools received a regular inspection, and several incidental inspections as opportunities offered.

Of the 70 schools inspected, 64 were above standard and 6 below. Eleven schools either reached or exceeded 75 per cent., and of these Dubbo Boys and Dubbo Infants' rank first and second respectively.

The Dux medals generously given by S. Phillips, Esq., M.P., to the Dubbo School, were, after a very close contest, won by Lavinia Cameron and Harold Wilson, and were presented at the breaking-up for the Christmas vacation, by G. Taylor, Esq., J.P., Chairman of the School Board.

Of the 3,105 pupils examined, 226 were examined for exemption certificates, of whom 118 passed a percentage of only 52. Arithmetic is still the weak subject in these examinations, and will continue so until it is thoroughly taught in the lower classes. Pupils who can work very fairly difficult questions in the higher rules blunder over questions in proportion and practice, requiring a little thought.

The order and discipline have been well maintained, and range from very fair to excellent, the demeanour is pleasing, the appearance bright and cheerful, and the conduct good. It is highly gratifying to observe that cleanliness is a special feature, both as regards teachers, pupils, and schools.

Drill is well taught at all the larger schools, and at all the smaller schools under the supervision of ex-pupil-teachers.

Teaching Staff.

The teachers as a body are earnest and zealous in their work, steady, sober, and industrious; the pupil-teachers are studious, smart, and intelligent, and bear excellent characters.

Classification of Teaching Staff.

Teachers—	
Class I B	2
„ II A	11
„ II B	6
„ III A	22
„ III B	10
„ III C	5
Unclassified	24
Total	80

Of the unclassified teachers, 9 are ex-pupil-teachers, who will present themselves for examination as soon as they are permitted to do so, in accordance with the Regulations, and one is an ex-student of the Training College.

Pupil-teachers—	
Class 1	4
„ 2	3
„ 3	2
„ 4	2
Total	11
Work-mistress, Dubbo Superior School	1
Total of all grades	92

Good work has been done during the year, and there is every indication of equally good work being effected during the ensuing year.

Dubbo, 31st December, 1896.

J. W. E. BAILLIE,
Inspector.

ANNEX

ANNEX Z 8.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE TRAINING SCHOOL, FORT-STREET.

The enrolment of students for the year 1896 was 26, classified as follows :—

16 with full scholarships.
9 with half scholarships.
1 with non-scholarship.

Course of Study.

Physiology, with special reference to school hygiene, was added to the curriculum at the beginning of the year. Dr. R. E. Roth was appointed lecturer, and his efforts in the direction of practical useful instruction in this subject were much appreciated by the students and several head-masters and assistants who were privileged to attend his classes. At an examination held in November, under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance Association, 24 students were successful in qualifying for the "first aid" certificate issued by that body.

The complete course of study is given below :—

Latin.—Cicero pro Sestio ; Arnold's Composition.

French.—First and Second French Course ; First French Reader (Macmillan) ; Polyeuete (Corneille).

English.—Meiklejohn's Book of English ; Julius Caesar ; Shakespeare's Tragedies and the Elizabethan Historical Drama ; Smith's Specimens of English Literature.

English History.—From 1789 to present time.

Mathematics.—The work prescribed for honor papers, matriculation examination.

School Management.—Theory and History of Education ; Practical School Management ; Public Instruction Act and Regulations ; the Kindergarten principle.

Natural Science.—Anatomy, Physiology, School Hygiene.

Music.—Sutton's Theory of Music ; Four-part Songs ; Stainer's Harmony ; Voice Training.

Drawing.—Practical, Plane, and Solid Geometry ; Perspective.

Drill.—Squad, company, and battalion drill ; manual and firing exercise ; physical drill, with and without rifle.

Practical Training.

Each student was employed for six weeks, at different periods of the year, in the general work of teaching, and during the last half of the year further practical experience was gained by each being entrusted with the management of a small school. A school of the 10th Class, comprising infants and pupils of second and third classes, was established in the Practising School, and each student in his turn took charge of this school for about a week, and was held responsible for the organisation, discipline, and progress of the pupils. Lectures on the principles and practice of teaching and class management were delivered regularly during the session, and specimen, test, and criticism lessons were given every week.

Staff.

The staff for the year 1896 consisted of the Principal ; J. D. St. Clair Maclardy, M.A., Lecturer in Languages and Mathematics ; J. Finney, B.A., Lecturer in English and English History ; Dr. Roth, Lecturer in Physiology ; Hugo Alpen, Music Master ; F. W. Woodhouse, Drawing Master ; W. Powrie, Teacher of Manual Training ; Q.M.-S. Smith, Teacher of Drill.

Manual Training.

Each student received two hours' instruction per week in the manual training workshop. This branch of technical education was very popular with the Session of 1896, and Mr. Powrie, the teacher, has again succeeded in obtaining highly satisfactory results.

Honors.	First Grade.	Second Grade.	Total.
4	10	11	25

Examinations.

The Chief Inspector visited the Training College frequently during the year, and examined the students quarterly. The examination to test the students' practical skill was held early in December. The final examination was held in the third week of December. The results are given below :—

II A with Honors.	II A.	II B.	III A.	Total.
1	4	12	5	22

One student was disqualified for infringement of rules of examination. The non-scholar did not compete ; and two students failed to complete their examination through illness.

Drill.

The excellent scheme of drill introduced at the beginning of 1895 has been productive of the best results. The outgoing students showed a lively interest in this important section of school-work. Regular target practice was obtained at the Rundwick Rifle Range. Twenty-six passed the annual examination in drill.

Health and Conduct.

The health of the students has been good, and their conduct, with few exceptions, satisfactory.
Training College, Fort-street, 22nd January, 1897.

J. W. TURNER.

ANNEX Z 9.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF HURLSTONE TRAINING COLLEGE.

Enrolment of Students.

15 full scholarships.
10 half scholarships.
4 non-scholarships.

Of these, 25 attended the final examination, the non-scholarship students being excluded according to a new regulation.

Course

Course of Study.

Latin.—Cicero Pro Sestio; Arnold's Composition.
 English.—Shakespeare's Julius Cæsar; Meiklejohn's Book of English; Shakespeare and the Shakesperian Dramatist.
 Arithmetic.—Theory and Practice.
 French.—Corneille's Polyeucte; Macmillan's Third Year.
 Algebra.—Smith's Smaller Algebra.
 Geometry.—Mackay's Euclid, Book I.
 English History.—1789 to 1870.
 School Management.—Public Instruction Act; the Regulations; the Records; Gladman's School Method; Kindergarten System; Practising School Work.
 Music.—Sutton's Theory of Music; Stamer's Harmony; Part Songs; Practice in Conducting Music Lessons.
 Drawing.—Plane and Solid Geometry; Model Drawing, Freehand and Perspective.
 Needlework.—Cutting out and Setting work; making one garment.
 Reading.—Macaulay's Essays; Julius Cæsar; Dowden's Shakespeare.
 Physiology.—Lectures by Dr. Roth; Ambulance work; First Aid to the Injured.
 Drill.—Calisthenics; Free Exercises; School Drill; Practice in Teaching Drill.
 Natural Science.—Chemistry and Physics.

The Teaching Staff.

The teaching staff for 1896 consisted of:—J. A. Nicoll, Principal; E. M. Mallarky, B.A., Assistant; Jessie Douglas, Teacher of Drawing; Elizabeth Banks, Teacher of Kindergarten; Maude Lance, Teacher of Cookery; J. D. St. Clair-Maclardy, M.A., Lecturer on Classics and Mathematics; Hugo Alpen, Lecturer on Music; A. Paul, Drill Instructor; Reuter Roth, M.D., Lecturer on Physiology; J. Taylor, B.A., LL.B., Lecturer on Physics and Chemistry.

Practical Training.

Each student had four weeks' actual teaching besides specimen, criticism, and test lessons. The Practising School, conducted by Miss S. H. Nicholls, is of valuable assistance in this branch.

Material Condition.

During the year 1896 all books not required under the present conditions have been exchanged for new books, which form a valuable addition to the library.

The interior of the house has been thoroughly renovated. The two wings hitherto quite separate have been joined by a covered bridge, which is a great convenience, and adds to the appearance of the premises. A telephone has been also added to the establishment, and has proved to be of great use. Many beautiful busts and casts have been sent from the Technical College.

Examinations.

Quarterly examinations were held by the Chief Inspector throughout the year.

The final examination was not completed till the 23rd December, therefore the results are not yet published.

The needlework examination was held in June, and the results were most gratifying.

Twenty-seven students attended a special examination for St. John's Ambulance Association, conducted by Dr. Vandeleur Kelly, and all the students passed, and gained certificates.

A special examination in geometrical drawing was held in June, and 17 students passed.

Remarks.

During the year 1896, Miss Storey, Teacher of Cookery, was transferred to the Technical College, and Miss Lance was appointed to Hurlstone in her place. The general health of the students have been exceptionally good, and their conduct has been most satisfactory. One student was ill during the first part of the year, but her health was restored after one month's leave of absence.

J. A. NICOLL.

APPENDIX XIII.

REPORT ON DRAWING.

The results of my inspections of 89 schools and 203 departments (of which 9 schools and 23 departments are sub-metropolitan) are as follows:—

	Up to Standard.	Below Standard.	Total.	Passes, 1896.	Passes, 1895.	Average Class-mark, 1896.	Average Class-mark, 1895.
Boys	10,259	3,469	13,728	74·8	71·0	7·17	7·07
Girls	8,763	3,666	12,429	75·0	68·8	7·05	6·91
Infants	13,593	3,798	16,391	82·9	76·0	7·31	7·23
Totals.....	32,615	10,933	42,548	76·6	72·5	7·17	7·0

It will be observed that the number of passes has considerably increased, while the average class-mark has slightly improved in each case. As the standard of work demanded has also risen, these improvements are even more satisfactory than appears on the surface. The total number examined is an increase of nearly 20 per cent. above the number in 1894.

Model-drawing and Geometry.

Suitable models are much needed in many schools. Teachers do not use much judgment or forethought in providing such as might easily be obtained, nor, do I think, is much thought given previously to the arrangement of a systematic and graduated course of instruction in this subject or in freehand.

Practical geometry is more generally taken up, but the want of suitable instruments is a common cause of unsatisfactory work. I have done all I can to further the study of scale-drawing (as being very useful and less hampered by this want), and have given many introductory lessons in it. Fortunately, though less attractive than model-drawing, practical geometry is of much greater importance, while its teaching puts a smaller strain on the powers of observation, resourcefulness, and common sense of the teacher.

Infants.

I am glad to note a decided improvement in the work of these classes. By using the Kindergarten method in the lowest classes, and equally-spaced lines in one direction in the middle, the great need of an intermediate step between the work of the lower and upper classes is supplied with good result.

results. There is still an apparent loss of energy in the teaching of form to the infants, through its not being kept up in the other departments, as it has to be reacquired when practical geometry is taken up. There is also great laxity in the use of terms (such as "straight," "perpendicular," &c.), which makes oral teaching less useful than it should be, a precise common language between teacher and pupil being the first desideratum.

High Schools.

At the Boys' High School the subject is an optional one. Only 9 take it, these being instructed at the classes in the Technical College. Taking the circumstances into consideration, the work at the Girls' High School is good, the teacher being most thorough and energetic.

Examinations.

The results of the examinations of 220 teachers, 52 training students, 677 pupil-teachers, and 363 applicant pupil-teachers in all subjects are given in the following table. The figures show the number examined and the percentage of passes:—

	Blackboard.		Freehand.		Model.		Geometry.		Perspective.	
	No. exd.	Pass.	No. exd.	Pass.	No. exd.	Pass.	No. exd.	Pass.	No. exd.	Pass.
Ap. P. Trs. ....	...	...	363	62.8	...	...	...	...	...	...
P. Trs.	120	82.5	158	65.8	390	42.3	...	...	...	...
Tg. Sts. ....	...	...	1	...	4	25.0	52	50.0	3	33.3
Trs.	29	62.0	83	45.7	31	54.8	62	51.6	15	60.0

It should be noted that of the training students two-thirds of the female students passed and only one-third of the male students. I think some change might be beneficially introduced into the curriculum for the training students in the direction of providing more instruction in teaching methods and tests of their ability to teach.

Model-drawing continues to be the weak point with the pupil-teachers, while in the schools it is hardly ever taught with success. These two facts are connected, for while the head-teachers have rarely any real grasp of the subject, it is to them that the pupil-teachers look for instruction, and by them that the subject is generally taught.

Incidental Visits.

The large increase in the number of classes and pupils makes it impossible to pay incidental visits to more than one-tenth of the departments, and I think it is a question for consideration whether more of my time should not be given to such visits to the schools and to the Training Schools rather than to the exhaustive inspections carried out at present.

Much more attention should be paid to collective class-teaching, and with more opportunity of paying extra visits I could give the matter the attention it deserves.

FREDERIC W. WOODHOUSE,
Superintendent of Drawing.

Sydney, 11th January, 1897.

APPENDIX XIV.

REPORT ON SINGING.

I HAVE visited and examined all the schools in the Metropolitan District (including those which during the past year have been added to it) in vocal music and theory. I have also, as often as time permitted, visited and given specimen lessons in such schools as seemed to require my assistance.

I have noticed with pleasure a greater refinement in singing in a fair number of schools. There is also a distinct advance in better and purer enunciation—a matter to which I have often earnestly directed the attention of the teachers. Much, however, remains to be improved in this subject.

The chief aim of our teachers ought to be to teach the children to read music at sight, acquire a good, clear tone of voice, and to enunciate properly.

In the reading at sight, fair, steady progress is being made, as even in the younger classes I test their ability by writing simple and sometimes harmonised passages on the board, increasing the difficulties in the higher classes. I notice here that in a good many schools the children sing the pitch of notes correctly enough, but are often weak in keeping time. I have directed the teachers' attention to this, which seems to me almost a characteristic fault of Australian singers.

The general results may be classed from "fair to very fair"; in fact, in most schools the latter mark applies.

The best singing I found in Fort-street Girls' Department (all classes), Kogarah Girls' Department (higher classes), and Fort-street and Cleveland-street Boys' Schools; yet the class which pleased me most during the year's examination was lower second class, Boys' Department, Paddington Superior Public School.

HUGO ALPEN,
Superintendent of Music.

APPENDIX XV.

REPORT ON NEEDLEWORK.

DURING the past year I have examined and reported upon 84 schools in and about the Metropolitan District. In all, 13,871 pupils were present at examination. The above numbers do not include the examinations of needlework I have attended for Public School exhibitions, or for prizes and awards at public competitions.

It is gratifying to note that the work of this large industrial branch of the Department continues to progress rapidly and well. In upper classes especially the results have been most favourable, the marks gained after close and searching tests ranging from very fair to excellent. This conclusively proves that the instruction imparted by work-mistresses is sound and progressive, and that the standard is closely adhered to.

The certificates of merit and medals awarded during the year by the judges of the Chicago Exposition to the Public Schools for the excellence of their various needlework exhibits act as a powerful incentive to further efforts, and also add the ready assurance that the system and standard of needlework adopted by the Department of Public Instruction for New South Wales is well appreciated and thoroughly maintained. By its means the individuality of school-girls is brought out and developed; it teaches them to embellish their homes; it inculcates habits of neatness and industry; it adds to the comfort of domestic life, and, therefore, proves itself a boon to the community at large.

Mixed

Mixed Schools.

Mistresses, teachers' wives, Infant School mistresses, and assistants in charge of needlework in mixed schools have obtained, with few exceptions, the same good results as formerly, many schools, on examination, ranking higher than the required standard.

The recognition extended by the ladies of the Local Board in many suburbs to the pupils for proficiency in needlework is highly to be valued, as, in effect, it fosters industry and incites to emulation.

The dressmaking lessons given in these mixed schools are much appreciated by parents, especially in suburban schools.

The small specimen squares worked with coloured cotton in lower classes prove an attractive, prominent, and fundamental feature of instruction among young children. It is pleasing to notice the anxiety and ambition of these small pupils as they proceed, also the painstaking manner with which they endeavour to embellish their work with various fancy stitches.

Pupil-teachers.

In my incidental visits to schools I find that the pupil-teachers are attentive to the instruction of work-mistresses, anxious to excel, and evince the same proficiency in the art of needlework and design as formerly.

In many schools pupil-teachers receive their needlework lesson from the work-mistress at the usual sewing lesson. This is an undoubted advantage, as it affords much varied and useful experience in cutting and setting, also in the management and control of sewing classes. This experience proves of good service at the close of their apprenticeship as pupil-teachers.

Dressmaking.

Dressmaking, in all schools I have visited and examined, is still a special subject with work-mistresses, and is carried out and made general in all Metropolitan schools, work-mistresses having acquired the practical knowledge necessary to impart this instruction.

In many large schools where no special work-rooms are provided it is almost impracticable to give the lesson, as the fitting-on attracts attention, and disturbs the quiet and order of the other classes.

Method and Discipline.

Method and discipline in sewing classes are still well maintained and time economised in giving out and receiving needlework. Work-aprons and needle-books, self-made and well furnished, are provided by the girls for sewing lessons, many most artistic devices showing culture, skill, and independence. Head-mistresses take interest and pleasure in the work of sewing classes, and this stimulates the pupils in their efforts to excel.

Throughout the schools I have visited and examined I am able to testify to the unremitting care and application given to needlework instruction during the past year, also to the support and interest taken in this subject by head-mistresses, teachers in charge of schools, and others.

ANNIE DADLEY,

Directress of Needlework.

20th January, 1897.

APPENDIX XVI.

CHIEF CLERK OF WORKS' REPORT.

In preparing the report of the work done by this branch for the past year, I have divided the expenditure into two parts, as the first half-year was under the direction of Mr. W. E. Kemp, the late Architect for Public Schools, while the second half was under myself, appointed as Chief Clerk of Works, and the work done is represented as follows:—

1st January to 30th June.

No.	Name.	Accommodation.	Cost.
9	School-buildings	970	£ s. d. 4,134 5 0
10	Residences .....	.. ..	3,596 18 6
1	Weather-shed .....	.. ..	12 0 0
5	Addition to residences .....	.. ..	837 0 0
13*	Additions to schools	917	4,065 10 1
130	Sundry works .....	.. ..	3,861 0 4

* Two cases not affording additional accommodation.

1st July to 31st December.

No.	Name.	Accommodation.	Cost.
1	School-building	92	£ s. d. 354 15 0
2	Residences .....	.. ..	813 11 6
1	Weather-shed .....	.. ..	45 0 0
2	Additions to residences .....	.. ..	239 10 6
5	Additions to schools	404	978 8 10
122	Sundry works .....	.. ..	4,407 14 1

It will be seen by the foregoing that the school accommodation has been increased this year by 2,333, at a cost of £9,562 18s. 11d., which works out to about £4 0s. 3d. per head.

In addition to the works completed, contracts are now in progress amounting to £20,497 18s. 5d., and are as follows:—

No.	Name.	Accommodation.	Cost.
12	School buildings	1,190	£ s. d. 3,529 13 11
11	Residences .....	.. ..	4,247 11 4
1	Weather-shed .....	.. ..	59 11 0
3	Additions to residences .....	.. ..	364 16 6
11*	Additions to schools	580	4,080 4 5
83	Sundry works .....	.. ..	8,216 1 3

*Three cases not providing accommodation.

It will be seen that the schools in course of erection, which will probably be occupied within the first six months of the new year, will give further increased accommodation for 1,770 pupils.

The following works have also been carried out:—Technical Colleges, £3,086 11s. 3d.; Industrial School, £133 7s. 6d.

In addition to the above, plans and specification were prepared and a contract entered into for the erection of a building for a Technical College at Bathurst, for the sum of £6,123. This building was placed under the supervision of the Government Architect, and will be completed some time during next year.

The changes made by the Public Service Board brought about quite a new condition of things in this branch of the Department's work. The original staff consisted of an architect, chief draftsman, 3 senior draftsmen, 3 junior draftsmen, 3 clerks, and 6 clerks of works; the whole of this staff was abolished on the 31st June last; since then the work has been carried on by Chief Clerk of Works, with two draftsmen kindly lent by the Government Architect. One commenced work 5th July, and the other 23rd October; one clerk, who was transferred from the position of Reader's Assistant at the Government Printing Office, 12th December; and 6 clerks of works. The cost of the present staff for the last six months has been £990 10s., exclusive of the 2 draftsmen, as against £2,219 10s. for the first six months.

30th March, 1897.

J. C. WIGRAM,
Chief Clerk of Works.

APPENDIX XVII.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS' REPORT, 1896.

I HAVE the honor to submit the report of the Examining Branch for 1896.

The number of individual examinations upon which reports have been furnished during the year 1896 is 2,672, as against 2,497 in the previous year. The following details show how this total was made up:—

1. Applicant Pupil-teachers.....	281
2. Pupil-teachers	638
3. Teachers	557
4. Training Students.....	79
5. High School Candidates	1,117
Applicant Pupil-teachers:—	
Passed	88
Failed	174
Completed Music or Drawing only.....	19
Total examined 1896, 281.	
" 1895, 206.	
Percentage of passes, 41·2, as against 36·8 in 1895.	
Pupil-teachers—Candidates for Training—	
Males—	
Passed	47
Failed	20
Females—	
Passed	116
Failed	43
Retired from examination	4
Percentage of passes—Males... 70·1	
" for 1895 68·6	
Percentage of passes—Females 72·3	
" for 1895 81·9	
Combined percentage..... 71·2	
" for 1895 76·2	
All Pupil-teachers—	
Promoted from Class I, 163; failed, 63.	
" " II, 158; failed, 63.	
" " III, 58; failed, 23.	
" " IV, 89; failed, 8.	
Examined in Drawing only	9
Retired from examination	4
Percentage of passes..... 70·5.	
" for 1895 81·8.	
Students in Training—	
Fort-street (Males)—	
Recommended for Class II A, with Honors	3
" " II A.....	7
" " II B.....	13
" " II B, conditionally	2
" " III A.....	1
Hurlstone (Females)—	
Recommended for Class II A, with Honors.....	1
" " II A.....	3
" " II A, conditionally	2
" " II B.....	7
" " II B, conditionally	8
" " III A.....	3
Examined in Drawing only—	
Passed	19
Failed	12
Teachers—	
Class I.	
Recommended for Class I.....	6
Failed	9
Class II.	
Recommended for II A.....	9
" " II B.....	29
Failed	63
Class III.	
Recommended for III A	132
" " III B	47
" " III C	20
Failed	103

Examined

Examined in Drawing or Music only—

Passed	87
Failed	45
Retired from Examination	5
Examinations cancelled	2
Percentage of passes	58·2
„ for 1895	59·5

High School candidates (representing examinations during three half years):—

Examined December 1895	Males, 189 ; females, 179
„ March, 1896	„ 10 ; „ 8
„ June, 1896	„ 169 ; „ 184
„ September, 1896	„ 5 ; „ 2
„ December, 1896	„ 226 ; „ 145
Recommended as having passed	1,075
Failed	42
Percentage of passes	96·2
„ for 1895	93·3

During the year the Board of Examiners has ceased to exist. This Board from September, 1889, till June, 1896, had control of all departmental examinations, and rendered excellent service. The work now devolves on the Examiner, who is helped by five assistant Examiners. These gentlemen perform this duty in addition to other services.

Nothing else has occurred calling for any special reference in this report.

R. N. MORRIS,
Examiner.

APPENDIX XVIII.

REPORT ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS CADET FORCE.

At the end of 1896, the Cadet Force numbered 3,164, and there appears to be a general revival among the teachers of interest in this important branch of the Public School curriculum, notwithstanding that no camp has been held for the last five years, and the strict economy exercised has limited the few attractions for the Force.

Except the monthly battalion parades, supplemented by the weekly drills at the various schools, and the target practices, the only attraction is the annual rifle meeting at the end of each school year, at which all city and country corps, which have prepared by the regular target practice, are invited to take part in competing for the Cadet Challenge Shield, presented by the Department of Public Instruction, and for other trophies presented by the Department and Sydney citizens. This event, together with the preparatory practices in their own Districts, does much towards training the lads and giving them a taste for the use of firearms, which may be very essential to them later on in life, when Australia takes her place amongst the nations.

Shooting is interfered with by the limited number of carbines fit for shooting purposes, and by the small quantity of ammunition.

It gave general satisfaction to see the Under Secretary, Chief Inspector, and Deputy Chief Inspector on the range at the Annual Shield Competition taking an active personal interest in the meeting. The Honorable J. Garrard, Minister of Public Instruction, in a few happy words, presented each winner with his prize. It is worthy of note that Mr. Garrard is the first Minister to visit the ground on an occasion like this. The meeting for 1896 took place on Friday, 18th, Saturday, 19th, and Monday, 21st December, and at this event 40 teams, representing 520 cadets, took part. The shooting was of high character generally ; in many cases excellent.

The cadets used the Braendlin carbine at ranges of 200 and 300 yards. The Challenge Shield went to Orange, which school has won it yearly since 1889.

Messrs. A. Hordern & Sons' 5-guinea gold medal for the individual championship of the Cadet Force was won by Cadet Wilkins, of Dubbo.

In addition to the Challenge Shield, about £50 in money and trophies were shot for.

Many country cadets stayed with city friends, but about 150 others were accommodated during the meeting at the Royal Agricultural Society's buildings, Moore Park, kindly placed at their disposal as in previous years, while the Military authorities considerably supplied blankets for the lads. Special arrangements for supervising the lads at camp were made, but the conduct throughout the meeting was excellent.

The results of the meeting show that a large number of boys would be ignorant of the use of firearms without the facilities given them by the cadet movement, and that these facilities, while disseminating great taste for and knowledge of the rifle, cost the State but little. In passing, I might state that some inquiries were made a short time ago as to the antecedents of New South Wales volunteers, and it was found that a large number were at one time Public School cadets.

Drill is a favourite subject with lads, and is taught in accordance with the Standard Military Text-book, under school conditions, the drill rifle taking the place of the sterner weapon ; and the lads who are physically fit are instructed in the use of this weapon, which is found most suitable. 1,300 of these rifles were purchased to meet the requirements of the new standard in drill, but more are yet needed. Excellent opportunities are afforded teachers for acquiring a knowledge of the various departments of drill in classes held for the purpose by the Cadet Staff at the Girls' High School.

Several important changes were made during the year in the Cadet Staff by the Public Service Board—Major Dettmann being graded an Inspector of Schools, Colonel Paul, Senior Staff Officer of Cadets ; the other members of the Staff being Captain Mulholland, Sergeant-major Murphy, and Quartermaster-sergeant Smith ; while the Chief Clerk (Jno. Beale) was transferred to the Accountant's branch. Captain Mulholland was placed at Newcastle to instruct the schools in that district.

The Cadet office and storeroom were removed to the Inspectors' quarters, as increased accommodation was required for the Department of Labour and Industry. This arrangement was most satisfactory, as the Cadet office and armoury adjoin each other.

New Cadet corps are being formed, chiefly by teachers, who develop as successful drill instructors, and take interest in the subject.

A large number of Cadet corps competed for the prizes in the liberal programme of the Public Schools Athletic Association, which held its annual meeting at the Sydney Cricket Ground, on the 18th and 19th September last, and at the conclusion of the meeting the competing corps gave an exhibition of attack and defence movements. The judges of these events were Staff drill-sergeants, who spoke in the highest terms of the lads' proficiency in the various drill evolutions. Infantry and physical drill events are prominent features in the branch associations in the country districts.

Cadet teams competed in the Military Tournament in various parts of the Colony, the Redfern Superior Public School cadets securing high honors for the second time at Newcastle, while the Auburn lads were successful at Clarendon, thus showing that boys can hold their own when pitted against the Military, which speaks volumes for the quality of the drill.

Drill

Drill Inspection.

All metropolitan, and many sub-metropolitan schools, were inspected in drill during the year, and detailed reports of inspection, furnished through the School Inspectors, as to results, which were generally very satisfactory, some schools attaining a high standard.

Sydney High Schools.

These institutions received a suitable course of instruction through weekly visits by a member of the Staff—the boys, company drill and physical drill, with and without arms, and the girls a complete course of calisthenics. These schools were fully inspected during the year.

The Fort-street and Hurlstone Training Colleges.

The students were fully posted in drill requirements of the standard for the different school classes, and were given every opportunity for teaching the subject to the pupils attending the Practising Schools. The year was concluded by an examination of the students, practically and theoretically, which examination showed most satisfactory results.

In conclusion, I feel assured that our teachers are fully seized with the importance of drill as an aid to discipline and the physical development of their pupils, and that there is a steady growth of desire with them to acquire a knowledge of drill, and impart it to their pupils.

A. PAUL, Lieut.-Colonel,
Senior Staff Officer.

ANNEX A.

CADET CORPS BRANCH.—DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1896.

RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.		
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance, on account of 1895	0 5 0	By Salaries	1,692 15 0	
Amount received from Treasury on account of Vote for 1895-6	2,000 0 0	Purchase of ammunition	185 16 3	
Amount received from Treasury on account of Vote for 1896-7	1,240 0 0	Travelling expenses, carriage of arms and ammunition, &c.	645 10 11	
		Grant for annual prize meeting	43 10 0	
		Military Instructors	189 8 10	
		Equipment of School Cadets	58 6 5	
		Allowances as per Regulations 35 and 66	318 0 0	
		Rifle practice, &c.	57 18 0	
		School drum and life bonds	10 0 0	
		Unexpended balance		3,139 7 5
				106 17 7
	£3,240 5 0			£3,246 5 0

E. & O.E.

Account Branch, Department of Public Instruction,
Sydney, 17th March, 1897.

A. E. BASSAN,
Accountant.

APPENDIX XIX.

REPORT ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION WITH ANNEX.

The enrolment of students for the year is shown in the following table. The numbers for 1895 are given for purposes of comparison:—

	1895.	1896.
Sydney Technical College	3,458	3,302
Suburban Classes	550	578
Country Classes	2,252	2,285
Classes connected with Public Schools ..	811	954
	7,071	7,119

Deducting from the total enrolment all cases where students have joined more than one class, the number of individuals entered was 5,396. The average weekly attendance of individual students throughout the year was 3,718.7.

TEACHING STAFF.

The teaching staff consists of 84 persons, distributed as follows:—

- 13 Lecturers in charge of Departments.
- 5 Resident Masters in charge of Branch Colleges or Schools.
- 36 Teachers.
- 17 Assistant Teachers.
- 13 Teachers in charge of classes, and remunerated by fees of pupils only.

A large and convenient room has been erected for the sheep and wool classes. The sanitary engineering classes have been located in a new building, and the plumbing workshop has also been extended.

The classes at Newcastle were removed to the new college, which had been erected during the previous year. It was officially opened on 20th February by the Minister, Mr. Garrard. A building has been erected at the Sydney Technical College for the old No. 1 engine, and the Watt engine. In the basement, refrigeration chambers have been provided, which will be used when opportunity offers for giving instruction in refrigeration. A contract has been accepted for the erection of the Technical College buildings at Bathurst. It is expected that the buildings will be ready for occupation by the end of the present year.

Applications for the services of the travelling lecturer in geology continue to be numerous. Sixty-three lectures were delivered, in addition to the visits paid to mining centres for giving useful hints to practical miners. The lecturer in agriculture also visited the agricultural districts, delivered lectures, and gave practical instruction. Special courses of lectures were also given on "fruit-growing."

Examinations for Master Plumbers' and Drainers' licenses have been conducted throughout the year. The Water and Sewerage Board has offered two gold medals to be competed for annually, one of which is for the honors pass in sanitary engineering, and the other for honors in advanced plumbing. In addition to the annual prizes awarded by the Department, a large number of private prizes was given by persons who take special interest in the work of Technical Instruction.

Agriculture.

Agriculture.

The agricultural classes have been well attended, and the number of students has exceeded that of previous years.

The enrolment was as follows.—Sydney, 197; Hunter's Hill, 19; and Hornsby, 8. A special course of lessons was given at Murrurundi, and at Toongabbie; the attendance being 28 and 25 respectively. Lectures were also delivered at Tilba-Tilba, Cobargo, Mangrove District, Auburn, and Glenhaven. Visits to orchards, bee-farms, &c., for practical out-door-work, have been arranged as often as possible. The want of a farm connected with the college is a serious drawback to this portion of the work. Much attention has also been paid to the science of dairying, fruit-preserving, syrup-making, the study of fungus and insect pests, and the means of checking them.

Veterinary Science and Farriery.

Classes have been held during the year, and good work has been done. The enrolment for the year was 33, with an average weekly attendance of 29.

Sheep and Wool Department.

The day classes in this department have been well attended, and many applied for admission for whom no space was available. The day students as usual attended the wool sales with the lecturer. The night-class was also full during the year. The students in both classes made satisfactory progress.

Chemistry.

The classes have had a large enrolment throughout the year. The number exceeded that of any previous year. Sixty-three students entered the practical, and 54 the theoretical classes. In addition to these, 6 came for instruction on Saturday mornings, whilst 21 attended during the day. Some of these desired only special instruction, such as fat-testing, &c. The conduct of the students has been most exemplary, and good progress was made by the majority of them.

Pharmacy.

The enrolments for the year show a slight increase on that of former years. Great difficulty arises owing to the mixed educational attainments of the students, many are not professionally employed, and follow various employments. To teach these with chemists' apprentices, so that all may profit, is a difficult task. The classes give promise of large numbers next year.

Geology, Mineralogy, and Mining.

The roll for this year shows a considerable increase on the previous year. In the mineralogy classes admission had to be refused to those who applied late in the term, in consequence of limited accommodation. The work during the year has been very satisfactory, and it is evident that most of the students attending the classes come to obtain such instruction as would be useful for mining purposes. Many students left after receiving the information they required for their particular object. The field work for students has been carried on regularly, and principally near Sydney. The accommodation was insufficient during the past year, but has been increased for the coming one.

Applied Mechanics.

This class has maintained its usual average of students. Very fair work has been done, but it is not up to the standard, mainly from the fact that the students so far have not passed through the physics class. With the increase of students in that class, a large number will be grounded in theory and ready to pass on to the applied mechanics. This will enable them to pass through the elementary course quickly, so as to take up more advanced work. The attendance has been very regular, and the attention good. The note-books kept by the students show that interest has been taken in the lectures given.

Mechanical Drawing.

There has been a great increase in the number of students in this class, the accommodation being taxed to meet the demand for admission, so much so, that additional nights are needed to overtake the work. With bench room for only 54, and an enrolment of 95, the students do not get the advantages they would with smaller classes. Some excellent work has been done. More models for practical work are required. A few additions have been made during the year by gifts of machinery and patterns from engineering friends who take interest in the classes.

Fitting and Turning.

The full roll has been maintained throughout the year, and good work has been done. Numbers of students have been refused admittance through the lack of accommodation. Several of the day students, who attend three days a week, have given their services on two other days, assisting in repairs and other work in the college. The night students have also given assistance. They are making a triple-expansion engine for the college, on which some excellent work is being done.

Blacksmithing.

The students have made fair progress. Very few of them follow the trade, but many join in order to learn enough smithing to be useful on a farm. With the limited number of hours for teaching this subject, the progress is somewhat slow.

Boiler-making.

The enrolment was good in this class, and useful work has been done; templating has been well studied, this being the branch the students wish principally to learn. Two hours each week only are available for practical work, and not very much can be done in the time. Some very good specimens are to be seen in the shape of small boilers, worked out in correct proportions.

Ironfoundry.

This class has not been satisfactory, the attendance being poor, though various attempts have been made to improve matters. The students are often detained at their respective workshops at night, and this reduces the average attendance. The work performed has been very good. The system introduced this year, of making castings in lead, has been much appreciated by the students.

Pattern-making.

This class has been thoroughly reorganised, and a new teacher appointed. The lines indicated in the syllabus have been followed, and already improvement is evident. The students will be more closely associated with the foundry, as they will be expected, after making a pattern, to observe the stages it passes through before a casting of it is obtained.

Slide Rule.

This class was placed under the Engineering department early in the year, and with the alteration of class nights, a larger attendance is expected. The subject is an important one, and is useful to every mechanic.

Electrical

Electrical Engineering.

Both the elementary and advanced classes have been well attended; an additional class in the latter has been formed. The syllabus was revised at the end of last year, with a view of preventing overlapping with the physics course. The oil engine has been utilised in driving the alternate current dynamo and exciter, and it is now belted directly to them. Two of the best modern types of alternating current arc lamps have been added to this portion of the plant, and have been successfully lighted directly from the alternator. The electric motor has been belted to the stamper battery, a line erected connecting the generator with the motor, and the transmission of power demonstrated. The number of instruments has been increased by the addition of some standard apparatus of the highest class. A portion of the oil engine room has been partitioned off and prepared for use as an accumulation or secondary battery-room.

Physics.

The total number of enrolments for the year, exclusive of High School classes, was 139. This shows a large increase over last year, when the aggregate enrolments did not exceed one-third of the present number. The attendance at the classes has been satisfactory throughout. The department has been moved to new quarters, and the change has resulted in a greatly-increased efficiency of working.

Very little new apparatus has been purchased during the year. Two or three pieces were required for experiments with the Röntgen Rays.

It has been decided not to carry on the Saturday morning classes next year, but to hold some extra week evening classes instead. A successful beginning has been made with the practical class; 13 students were enrolled for the third term. It is intended to extend this work in the future. The syllabus of applied physics has been reduced and made more general in character. A special course of lessons was given for the benefit of the senior boys of the High School in addition to the regular classes. The medal for physics at the Junior Public Examination was awarded to a member of this class.

Mathematics.

There has been a satisfactory increase in the attendance of this department, chiefly in the geometry and trigonometry classes. The average nightly attendance for the present year is 21, and for last year 13. The total enrolment for this year is 137; for 1895 it was 108. The students have been earnest and painstaking.

Sanitary Engineering.

The attendance during the year has been satisfactory. The increased accommodation afforded by the new building has been of great benefit to the students, and better work has been accomplished. Lectures on the design and principles of plumbing have been delivered at Sydney, Newcastle, and Maitland, which were well attended. Several students, who availed themselves of these lectures, have continued their studies and taken the higher branches of sanitary engineering. The examinations conducted by this department have already been referred to. The practical plumbing classes have made good progress. The students are all engaged in the plumbing trade, and by means of the instruction received at the College become more thoroughly and more rapidly proficient than they otherwise could. A large number of journeymen attend for special lessons in lead-burning and lead roofwork. The valuable medals offered by the Water and Sewerage Board and Messrs. Danks and Sons have caused a spirited competition during the whole year. The department of practical sanitation is doing good work.

Architecture.

The attendance at these classes has not been up to the standard of previous years, and the majority of those who did attend were beginners.

One reason for this decline is that many of the senior students have obtained employment in other countries, in some instances at a high rate of wages. Some of the drawings executed by the students are of a very high class. Many conveniences have been supplied during the year, such as drawers, presses, &c., which, together with the proposed additions to the curriculum of trades-drawing and day-classes, offer inducements for a larger attendance.

Building Construction.

This class was placed under the Lecturer in Architecture in June, and the attendance has been very good throughout the year, averaging about 90 per cent. of the enrolment.

Carpentry and Joinery.

These classes are progressing satisfactorily. During the year there has been an increase of students in the trade. The general conduct of the students has been very good.

Art Department.

This year the classes show a decrease in numbers. It was not to be expected that the rate of increase of the last few years would be maintained. The regulation providing that students shall not sit for examination, without due attendance at the classes, prevented them from taking up additional subjects during the last term of the year. A satisfactory rearrangement of class-rooms was made at the beginning of the year. One room is now available as a students' art gallery. This contains, from time to time, all the best work of the students, and is useful for showing to visitors the scope of the instruction.

Freehand and Model Drawing.

The class of work is of an improved character. The attendance on Saturday mornings is particularly good, and the day classes are generally better than the evening classes.

Plant Drawing.

In consequence of increased enrolments two lessons become necessary instead of one each week.

China Painting.

The attendance and work show an improvement. The day class was divided into two sections during the last term. Most of the students of this class will in future combine china painting with design.

Life Class.

There has been a steadily-increasing attendance. A new dais has been added to the fittings of the room, which is now all that could be desired. A number of students during the last term attended the National Art Gallery for the purpose of studying the best works there. Next year all students will be required to follow this practice.

Geometry and Perspective.

These classes do not make the headway they should, considering their technical usefulness. These subjects have been embodied in other courses as necessary for a diploma, and this will no doubt add to the enrolment.

Modelling

Modelling Class.

The work has proved to be better than that of previous years. A better classification of the course of study has been made, and a higher standard of execution has also been aimed at. Antique and ornamental modelling now embrace two separate courses. Some excellent life studies have been executed by senior students. Increased facilities for study will be made during the ensuing year. Good behaviour has prevailed through the three terms.

Industrial Art.

The subjects in this department comprise house painting, graining and marbling, signwriting decoration, and design.

The attendance has been good throughout the year. The students have been attentive, industrious, and efficient. Instruction on the lines laid down in the syllabus has been given.

Cookery.

The numbers for the early part of the year were high. The students were fewer during the second term; 130 enrolled in the last term. The class is in good order.

Dress-cutting.

In consequence of the change of teacher, the attendance fell off, but before the end of the term the number increased from 45 to 75. All the pupils were well behaved and industrious. Only 18 presented themselves for examination.

Lithography.

In this case a complete course of instruction has been given in accordance with the provisions of the syllabus. The College calendar for 1897 (in three paintings) is entirely the work of the students. In this work alone there is a complete course of instruction from the graining of stones to the finished printed copies. In the Photo-lithography class the whole course has been covered.

Manual Training—Students in Training.

The students' attendance has been good, and their progress satisfactory. Generally they have evinced great interest in their work, some indeed having advanced beyond the prescribed standard. More time has been devoted to drawing with beneficial results. The prospects of future good work are hopeful.

Boys' Classes.

The enrolment of these classes has fallen off. The progress under the circumstances has been satisfactory, while the conduct of the boys has been excellent. Useful work has been done. As a part of the class instruction, lessons were given in repairing school furniture.

The classes at Crown-street, Blackfriars, and Sussex-street have been in operation during the year, and the course laid down has been followed with a fair measure of success.

Geology.

The Travelling Lecturer in Geology reports:—During the year I delivered sixty-three lectures in various parts of the Colony. I pursued a somewhat different method to that of previous years, and found that by keeping to the towns I could command very large audiences; but while information was no doubt diffused in this way, more practical results came from visiting mining camps and small parties of working miners. The instruction given in this way, I have reason to know, was productive of much good. I include instruction of this kind and practical demonstrations under the heading of lectures.

Applications for lectures continue to increase, and I may state here that the reappointment of an assistant would go a long way to enable me to meet these applications.

Original Work.—As the result of a visit to the slopes of Mount Kosciusko in January and February, I made some important observations on the so-called glaciation of the Australian Alps. During this tour I visited a number of mining camps, and noted auriferous reefs at heights of from 5,000 to 6,000 feet above sea-level. During the year I did a considerable amount of work on the composition and distribution of the gems and precious stones of this Colony. Part of this work is embodied in an essay issued by the Royal Society, and for which the Society awarded me its prize and medal.

I prepared for the Press a work entitled "Geology for Australian Students." This book is illustrated with more than 200 figures, which are for the most part drawn by myself, and reproduced from my own photographs. I have also written a handbook for miners entitled "Useful Minerals, and how to tell them."

A very large correspondence has been kept up with *bona-fide* prospectors and working-men. This I have always considered as a most important method of imparting information, continuing the interest awakened by lectures. I have had to abandon it entirely, the services of my assistant being dispensed with.

While visiting the country between Wilcannia and Milparinka I discovered positive evidence that the artesian water of the west is derived from triassic and not from cretaceous rocks. This is in keeping with my previous discovery that the Coonamble artesian well was in triassic strata.

I am pleased to be able to add that my estimate of Wyalong gold-field is being fully borne out, and that the experiment I made of taking an assay plant to that field in its beginnings has been productive of the very best results.

NEWTON.

Freehand and Model Drawing.—The annual enrolments and attendance of students compare favourably with those of previous years. Satisfactory work was obtained from both classes. A smaller number of students presented themselves at the annual examinations this year, which is attributed to the regulation compelling them to attend two terms before they are eligible.

Mechanical, Geometrical, Perspective, and Architectural Drawing.—The teaching has been in strict accordance with the syllabus. The attendance during the early part of the year was not good, likely due to the fact that numbers of probable students were then out of work. Public lectures have been delivered on several occasions. The annual exhibition of students' work and presentation of prizes was held in the Town Hall, and was well attended. Visitors were afforded an opportunity of judging the character of the work done at the classes. The exhibits comprised examples of work from all the classes. The accommodation and equipment are all that could be desired.

ASHFIELD.

The classes have not increased during the year, but the prospects for the coming year are more hopeful. The accommodation and stock of appliances are sufficient for present purposes.

NORTH SYDNEY.

The classes continue to be popular, and a fair number attend for freehand and model drawing. Few apply for instruction in geometrical and perspective drawing. The regular attendance shows that the students are interested in their work.

Shorthand draws a good many pupils, and classes in this subject have been conducted with success.

ARNcliffe.

ARMIDALE.

During the first and second terms the depressed state of business, and lack of suitable rooms, rendered the enrolment small, but afterwards, with improved accommodation, the number on the roll almost doubled. The students have made good progress during the year.

PETERSHAM.

The attendance was much better than it was during the previous year.

The number enrolled for freehand did not approach that of former years, which may be accounted for by the leave of absence granted to the assistant teacher for a period of twelve months. In the first-year model drawing class the students were very regular in their attendance. This enabled them to go through a good course. It is a matter of regret that many of the more capable students did not avail themselves of the opportunity of sitting for examination. Very few passed through the second year's course. The plane and solid geometry class was well attended; the younger students took more interest in the subject. Perspective, as usual, did not command many pupils. Only persons who are compelled to learn this branch of drawing seem to take it up. Plant drawing has been taught during the year, involving a greater variety of work. This subject appears to command increasing interest. Antique drawing is the great aim of the students, but they are not permitted to study this section unless they have passed in the more elementary courses. The work executed by the students is very creditable. Painting from still life seems to have a great attraction, on account of the fascinating influence of colour.

Few entered for mechanical drawing, and it is difficult to understand why. Good work has been done in the architectural drawing class.

The attendance at the dresscutting and dressmaking classes was very small for the first three months, having only 6 on the roll, increasing afterwards to 19. The students made good progress.

Many students attended the shorthand class.

The general progress and the conduct of the students have been very satisfactory. An exhibition of student's work, in conjunction with the annual meeting, was held in June last, at which the Premier, the Hon. G. Reid, presented the prizes and certificates to the successful pupils. The exhibits were highly spoken of.

BATHURST TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

The total number of students enrolled in the various classes was as follows:—

Agriculture	10	Mineralogy	6
Botany	17	Mechanics.....	8
Book-keeping	47	Physics	11
Chemistry—		Freehand and Model Drawing.....	58
Practical	15	Geometrical and Perspective Drawing	27
Theoretical	5	Shorthand	17
Public Schools.....	175		
Geology	26	Total enrolment	467
Mathematics	45		

The total number of individual students was 303, being greater than in 1895, although the aggregate enrolment is slightly less.

There has been no change in the staff of the college during the year. An afternoon class was started in model drawing, and also a day class in botany. With these exceptions all the classes had been in operation in the preceding year.

The art classes have been well supported throughout the year, the enrolment being large and the attendance regular. Good work has been done, and marked progress made by many students.

The shorthand class has been fairly attended, and some students give promise of becoming expert writers.

Most of the classes under the resident science master have been well attended. As usual, the book-keeping and mathematics classes have proved most attractive. At both these good work has been done. A fair number has worked through a complete set of books by double entry, and all have learned to make entries and post ledgers in a business like manner.

The chemistry class consisted of regular students, several coming from the Public Schools, in order to obtain more advanced teaching than that given in the school course.

Junior Chemistry.—The class consists of the pupils from fifth classes at the Superior Public Schools who attend at the Technical College once a week for a lesson in science. The enrolment was very large, but a considerable number attended only during the latter part of the session, consequently they were not competent to sit for the annual examination. The attention shown by the students was very good. The lessons were fully illustrated by experiments.

Physics and mechanics were fair classes, but several promising students left Bathurst towards the close of the year, so that they were unable to present themselves for examination.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The evening classes in geology and mineralogy were small throughout the year. It is a matter of regret that so little interest is shown in these important subjects. Several young students have, however, made a promising beginning in geology.

Agriculture.—The agricultural class was very limited for the greater part of the year—so much so that it appeared doubtful whether it could be continued. Some new students joined towards the close of the year, and these are likely to continue. The establishment of a model farm at Bathurst will, it is believed, stimulate others to join the class. It is often difficult for farmers to come into Bathurst in the evening, after a hard day's work, and therefore only very earnest students have sufficient energy to do so regularly. All the practical farmers who have attended the class state that they have derived great benefit.

The botany class has been better attended, and several students have worked well. The lessons are always illustrated by fresh plants.

The conduct of the students has been uniformly good throughout the year.

Apparatus, &c.—The stock of plaster casts for the drawing classes is very complete and in good order. When the new college is being fitted up, considerable additions will be necessary for the chemistry and physics classes.

GRANVILLE.

The year's work was inaugurated by a lecture on "Paris," by Mr. H. Lord, Teacher of Agriculture, with lantern illustrations. The annual meeting of the school was held on 15th May, when the prizes and certificates won at the previous examinations were presented by the Hon. Jacob Garrard, Minister of Public Instruction, who also delivered an address on the advantages of technical education. Both these meetings were largely attended. During the first term classes were held in the following subjects:—Agriculture, applied mechanics, dresscutting, geometrical, mechanical, and model drawing, mathematics, and shorthand. The dresscutting class was closed at the end of the first term. The other seven classes were continued throughout the year. The total number of individual students enrolled was 136, as compared with 125 in 1895.

The students attending classes taught by the resident teacher visited the following places of interest:—Messrs. Brown and Brown, ironworks, Pymont, the Sydney Technical College workshops, Messrs. Murray Bros., woollen mills, Parramatta, Lake Illawarra smelting works, Dapto, and the Prospect Waterworks.

The

The enrolments in the agriculture classes for the year were :—Elementary, 45 ; advanced, 22 ; making a total of 67, compared with 59 last year. The course, as prescribed in the syllabus, has been followed, with slight modifications in favour of subjects of local or of special interest to the students. Arrangements were made for the students to accompany the Sydney class in their twenty-one outings, to gardens, orchards, bee-farms, poultry-farms, &c. In addition to these, six other outings were arranged to orchards, bee-farms, gardens, &c., of local students. On these occasions students did a large amount of practical work, such as pruning, grafting, budding, underground draining, gardening, handling bees, &c. They were also shown how to break in and train a horse for the plough, saddle, or harness.

The progress made by the students has been very marked. This has been ascertained by regular class examination papers.

GOLBURN.

As far as the number of students is concerned the Technical College has had a successful year. The total number of individuals attending the classes, exclusive of Public School pupils, has been 186. The enrolment has been as follows :—

Practical chemistry	5	Book-keeping	18
Theoretical	10	Shorthand	21
Physics	16	Carpentry.....	70
Geology.....	19	Wood-turning	19
Mineralogy	1	Fretwork	12
Freehand drawing	45	Carving.....	15
Model drawing	14	Physics—Public School pupils.....	192
Geometrical drawing	14	Manual training	74
Perspective drawing	1		
Mechanical drawing	2	Thus making a grand total of...	563
Arithmetic	15		

The accommodation consists of three rooms, one for science classes, one for art and commercial subjects, and one for wood-working classes.

The Public School physics class was so large that it was taught in two sections.

The appliances for teaching are fair, but additional scientific apparatus will soon be necessary. The conduct of the students has been uniformly good, and the majority has shown an eager desire to profit by the instruction given. Many of the art students become tradesmen, thus bringing their knowledge into practical use. A Technical College certificate forms the best of testimonials for a lad seeking employment, as it is recognised that a mechanical or a practical scientific training is useful in almost any walk of life. The science classes have been well attended. The students generally have been too young and inexperienced to pass the examinations after but one year's preparation.

The subjects treated in the art classes have been freehand, model, geometrical, and perspective drawing. The students have attended regularly, and careful work has been done. It is now desirable to have classes in plant drawing and still life.

With the erection of a new college an increased number of students might be looked for. The attendance during the past year shows an improvement. The existing carpentry workshop is unsuitable for present requirements ; it is stifling in hot weather, and bitterly cold in winter. The size is inadequate for the number of students. A large amount of work has been done. Many of the adult students prefer to make articles for themselves, and thus acquire general skill.

The turning class is also full on week-nights ; students, as a rule, are not able to attend on Saturday morning for this work.

NEWCASTLE.

During the year (the first at the new college) the work of the classes has been satisfactory, and their numerical strength fairly maintained, despite the influence exercised by the unfavourable condition of the district, disturbed as it was by labour troubles in the earlier part of the year. Instruction has been given in chemistry (theoretical and practical), mineralogy, geology, metallurgy (chiefly assaying), coal-mining (in Newcastle and four outlying townships), freehand, model, geometrical, perspective, antique, and mechanical drawing, boiler-making, carpentry, plumbing, mine surveying, steam and steam-engine, dressmaking, modelling in clay, and shorthand.

The individuals enrolled numbered 556.

The exodus of young men from the district to New Zealand coal-fields, West Australia, and South Africa materially affected the enrolment.

The conduct of the students in the class-rooms won the entire approval of the teachers, and the attendance, with a few exceptions, has been most regular.

The accommodation for the classes generally is suitable to their requirements, but the appliances could, in many instances, be largely supplemented with advantage.

The carpentry class has since its formation been growing in popularity. The numbers have increased each term, and the interest of the students has been well maintained throughout.

Manual Training.—In this class, notwithstanding many difficulties attending its commencement, the full course has, almost without exception, been fully completed by all the pupils who attended throughout the year. So far no difficulty has been experienced in maintaining a full roll. The boys have been attentive to the instruction given and regular in attendance.

The coal-mining classes began well, but the strike during the second term very severely affected the attendance. Despite this serious drawback, the third term showed an enrolment of 63 students, 40 of whom presented themselves for examination in December. The new Coal Mines Act provides that the Manager and Under Manager must respectively hold a first and second class certificate of competency. This should prove an incentive to the more intelligent miners of the district to avail themselves of the instruction given in the coal-mining classes.

The attendance at the mine-surveying class has been good, some of the students having been present 95 per cent. of the total lectures. The passing of the Coal Mines Regulation Act this year will have the effect of securing extra students, as the number of surveyors required under the new Act is doubled.

The metallurgy class has been well attended ; several practical gold and silver miners, with others interested in metal-mining, have received useful instruction.

The mechanical drawing class has maintained a very satisfactory attendance. At the completion of the last term there were 30 individual students. The result of the tuition given has been very gratifying to the teacher, as well as useful to the students.

The plumbing class is still doing well. The result of the 1895 examinations was very satisfactory, as all the students who went up for examination passed, two securing "Honours passes" in advanced plumbing.

The progress of the students attending the art classes has been satisfactory. The accommodation is ample. The appliances are suitable and sufficient, with the exception of the antique casts ; full-length figures are required to teach figure drawing. The present set comprises nothing but busts. The conduct of the students has been excellent. A steady increase in the enrolment has taken place since the opening of the classes in February, some of the students coming from places 15 or 16 miles away. It is encouraging to find so many enrolling for the advanced subjects.

There

There were only 37 students in the dressmaking classes during the year; the increase of fees seems to have been the cause of the falling off. The accommodation is very good. The students were well conducted, very anxious to learn the system, and therefore took a great interest in their work. The great advantage in the system is becoming known, and many more will in future take the opportunity of learning.

The shorthand class was fairly well attended. The number on the roll varied from 27 to 33. The conduct of the students was all that could be desired. The attendance for the third term was not so good. The prospects for the next year are very favourable.

WEST MAITLAND.

The individual enrolment for the West Maitland Technical College and District Technical School was 590. This is an increase over last year. The enrolment in the various classes has been :-

Art classes	578
Architectural drawing, building, construction, &c.	35
Mechanical drawing	22
Carpentry and joinery, &c.	45
Manual training	85
Practical plumbing ..	15
Scientific dresscutting and dressmaking	12
Shorthand	35

At the West Maitland Technical College the accommodation for the trades classes (carpentry and joinery, wood-carving, turning, and practical plumbing), also the manual training and modelling classes is satisfactory, but the success of the remainder is greatly impeded in the summer by the intolerable heat of the class-rooms. With the ceiling within the reach of a person of ordinary height, the gas alone warms up the room unpleasantly, but the greatest discomfort is felt when the sun has shone on the roof during the whole day. As a consequence, the students attend irregularly during the beginning and end of the year, affecting materially the course of study.

The classes generally are well provided with appliances. The conduct of the students throughout has been unexceptionable. The progress of the classes compares favourably with that of previous years. The coal-miners' strike unsettled some of the adult students, compelling them to seek work elsewhere, leaving younger men in the majority, but a lad who has had the advantage of the present-day system of education frequently makes a better student than an adult with more practical skill but neglected education. Altogether the future prospects of the classes are brighter and more promising. The district is gradually recovering from the effects of the 1893 flood, and many agriculturists have experienced quite a prosperous year. The coal-mining industry is also coming to the front. In one mine alone there are 250 men employed, and probably next year there will be a strong desire for a coal-mining class.

In May last the Hunter River Agricultural Association again offered a series of prizes for the advancement of technical education. The competition in the various classes was satisfactory, and a creditable display of students' work was made. In the district classes the work has been carried out in accordance with the calendar.

The manual training classes have been very satisfactory during the year, and good progress has been made. One additional class (from Homeville) has been formed. The attendance throughout has been good, and no trouble has arisen from late attendance, as heretofore. The conduct of the students has been excellent, and the accommodation is sufficient, except in the case of the High School workshops, where the space is limited. The technical classes held at night and on Saturdays have maintained the average attendance. In the case of the fretwork class the numbers have fallen, as anticipated, seeing that no permanent results were likely to follow. The work has lately been confined to two nights in the week, as it was found that better results could be obtained by concentrating the work (owing to the variety of subjects taught) to the evening, when both the teacher and assistant were present.

A first and second years' course of wood-turning and a first year's course of wood-carving have been arranged, as the absence of definite courses was found detrimental. The conduct of the students has been good, and the attendance regular. Generally speaking, it may be said that the classes have been highly successful and very beneficial to those instructed.

The plumbing class has maintained a good average, considering the continued dulness of the building trade in the district. It still remains popular. The future prospects are bright, and an increase in the enrolment is expected next year.

Several of the students attending the shorthand class are deserving of praise, for they have worked assiduously and systematically throughout the three terms.

The Seam classes have been fairly successful as regards the attendance and progress. Some of the most promising students, however, found it necessary to leave the district, owing to the lack of employment.

CLARENCE TOWN, MORPETH AND HINTON, AND SINGLETON.

Very successful classes have been held at these places. A large number of Public School teachers took advantage of these classes, which helped to maintain a good average attendance.

Since the oversight of the work of this branch was transferred to me I have watched the attendance of all the classes, and have visited most of the country centres. It is encouraging to find so many young men attending the evening classes after having spent a hard day at their various trades.

The teachers enter into their work with earnestness, which has a corresponding influence upon the students.

TECHNOLOGICAL MUSEUMS.

This year just closed unmistakably bears out the fact that the Technological Museums have grown in public favour, and maintained their prestige for imparting commercial and scientific knowledge. This is shown by the large correspondence conducted during the year, by the number of visitors to this and country museums, and by the varied donations. Public School teachers have largely availed themselves of the offer to determine specimens for them, and many botanical, mineral, and entomological specimens have been received for that purpose and reported upon. Although entailing much extra work the method is one whereby much valuable information is disseminated. The personnel of the scientific staff has undergone some changes. Mr. J. H. Maiden, who had held the position of Curator since the formation of the Museum, was transferred on the 1st of July to the directorship of the Sydney Botanic Gardens, and on the 1st of October Mr. W. W. Froggatt, the Entomologist, was transferred to the Department of Mines and Agriculture.

With so great a reduction in the scientific staff, less work has, of course, been attempted in the way of reclassification of specimens, but the agricultural courts have been thoroughly overhauled and rearranged. Mr. Baker has placed on exhibition and named a collection of Australian fungi, the first brought together in the Colonies, and these, together with the European and American models of funguses, form a unique collection in our vegetable products section. A start has been made at modelling types of the principal genera and natural orders of Australian flora. We have a good collection of exotics, but it has always been felt that the indigenous vegetation should also be represented, and without doubt this addition to the exhibits will be appreciated by teachers and students in botany. The timber collection has received particular attention from Mr. Baker, and some corrections in old labelling have been made, also the determination of the true origin of a number

of dubious species. A new style of labelling has also been introduced, giving full information of the economic purposes to which each species is best adapted. Specimens of the timbers with bark and label attached are being sent to the country museums.

A valuable collection of sandarachs (pinc-tree exudations) has been got together from all parts of the Colony, and will be described during the coming year. A still has been erected at the College for the use of the Museum, for the extraction of oils, so that the industry in this connection will be placed eventually on a purely scientific basis, so far as this Colony is concerned, and already the results obtained promise to be of value. Consequent on the reduction of the scientific staff, previously referred to, there has been very little time for original research in museum hours. However, Mr. H. G. Smith and Mr. Baker have succeeded in doing some original work. Mr. Baker has read the following papers before the Royal and Linnæan Societies respectively :—

1. "The occurrence of a true Manna on grass," *Andropogon annulatus*, F.
2. "Two new *Prostantheras* from New South Wales."
3. "Botany of the Rylstone and Goulburn River Districts."
4. "New descriptions, with figs., of 6 species of *Acacia*."

Mr. Smith has read the following :—

1. The chemistry of the Manna on grass.
2. On the constituents of the sap of the Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*).
3. On aromadendron or aromadentric acid from the turbid group of *Eucalyptus* kinds.
4. The dyeing properties of aromadendron and of the tannins of *Eucalyptus* kinds.

The research work on two or three, possibly new Colonial industries, was begun, and I hope to have some of them completed by the end of this year.

The collections on the ground floor have been much augmented during the year by many valuable collections and individual specimens. The fine collection of coal-tar products, lately received, cannot, however, at present be displayed, owing to the want of show-cases for that purpose; this is also true of the collections of decorative colours, bronzes, &c.

The mineral collections on this floor have been considerably increased and improved. The massive, tested specimens of iron have been repainted and relettered, thus increasing their educational value, as well as their appearance.

Much of Mr. Smith's time has, during the year, been taken up by the other portion of his duties, viz., the chemical investigation of the vegetable products of the Colony, and some success has attended this portion of his work, as the results obtained are likely to be of commercial use as well as of scientific value.

In the wool section of the animal products the total number of fleeces and samples received were 338, which is a little less than usual, owing, no doubt, to the effects of the very bad season. The specimens were mostly of a high-class order, coming from most of the best strains of the present day, and to give some idea of the quality of the work done, it is only necessary to say that a large number of fleeces and samples were reported upon,—many of these reports being reproduced in the pastoral journals published in the various Australian Colonies.

Several photographs of different breeds of sheep were added, and give a more finished look to the various courts, the most notable being that of "President," presented by the breeder, the Hon. Jas. Gibson, Bellevue, Tasmania.

Two collections of tallow of various brands and wools were prepared for the Imperial Institute, London, and Philadelphia (U.S.) Museum. There was also a special request from the Committee of the Murrumbidgee Pastoral Association that this Department should take charge of their wool-scouring test; this was done. Many teachers from different schools applied for, and were supplied with, a series of wool samples and photographs of machinery for object lessons. The twelve new wall-cases have been filled.

The attendance of visitors at the Technological Museums for the year 1896 was 226,010, viz. :—

Sydney	99,952
Newcastle	58,443
Goulburn	24,211
West Maitland	23,564
Bathurst	19,840

I am pleased to mention that the students in training at the Fort-street and Hurlstone Colleges continue to use very largely the collections to illustrate their object-lessons.

During the year 3,804 specimens have been added to the Museum, amongst the principal donations being :—A very interesting collection of native products from Tonga, received through the Rev. J. E. Moulton, consisting of kava, rope, fibre, arrowroot, &c. A representative collection of Tasmanian timbers, from the Launceston Technical School, in exchange for one sent from this Museum. Very good samples of tobacco-leaf from the Australian New Hebrides Company. A large collection of vegetable products, fibres, and timbers from the Botanical Gardens, Sydney. A "gingal," a clumsy-looking smooth-bore gun, used by two men, picked up at Tien-Chuan-Tye after the last battle between the Japanese and Chinese; a Manchu lady's pipe, and leather shoes worn by labourers at Manchuria, presented by Mr. George Fawcett, of Newchang, China, once a resident of Sydney. An old relic in the shape of a pump, originally used on the old Tank Stream in the early days of Sydney, presented by Mr. R. G. Brownlow, Waverley. Specimens of Australian fungi, presented by Mr. D. A. Porter, of Tamworth.

The following gentlemen have kindly presented valuable specimens of timber :—Clive Armstrong, Rylstone; J. V. De Coque, Sydney; John L. Bruce, Technical College; Owen Blacket, Technical College; Tait and McDiarmid, Mudgee; A. R. Crawford, Walcha; D. A. Porter, Inverell; Needlewood Pipe Company, Sydney; C. W. Darler and W. Trickett, Shea's Creek; H. J. Rumsey, Barber's Creek.

A very valuable collection of aniline and vegetable dyes, lead, pigments, iron, capsules, drugs, &c., was transferred to this Museum from the Department of Mines and Agriculture.

Exchanges outward.—Specimens of New South Wales timbers have been sent to the following :—The Government Technical School, Launceston, Tasmania; Commissioners appointed by the Government of Cape Colony to report on the agriculture of Australia; the National Society of Agriculture, Santiago, Chili; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, St. Petersburg, Russia; the Minister for Agriculture, &c., Germany; the Minister de Fomento, Madrid, Spain; Nederlandsch Landbouw Comité, The Hague, Holland; the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Brussels; Botanic Gardens, Sydney; Julius Levy, Sydney; A. H. Yabsley, Sydney; Dickson and Tregarthon, Sydney; Learmonth, Dickenson, & Co., Sydney; Arthur Griffith, M.L.A., Sydney.

BRANCH MUSEUMS.

I much regret to report that no visits of inspection have been paid to our local museums, as it was thought inadvisable for any officer to leave Sydney pending the inquiries of the Public Service Board, and during the last six months no one could be spared.

At the latter end of the year the Albury Free Industrial Museum was taken over by the Department, and now becomes the Albury Technological Museum, and will, of course, be carried on on similar lines to our other local museums.

R. N. MORRIS,
Superintendent of Technical Education.

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ANNEX A.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION BRANCH.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS from 1st January to 31st December, 1896.

RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.		
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance on account of 1895	9 0 2	<i>Sydney Technical College and Branch Schools.</i>		
Amount received from Treasury, on account of Vote for 1895-6	9,900 0 0	By Salaries—Administrative	1,416 5 0	
Amount received from Treasury, on account of Vote for 1896-7	10,460 0 0	„ Mechanical Staff	1,437 10 9	
Amount received from Treasury, on account of Loan Vote, £1,000, of 1896-7, for additions to Technical College, Sydney	850 2 10	„ Lecturers and Teachers	8,638 15 6	
		„ Caretakers and Cleaners	676 0 0	
		Apparatus and Fittings	721 11 9	
		Materials	968 14 8	
		Cleaning Branch Schools	165 3 4	
		Examination Fees	370 0 0	
		Prizes	62 2 0	
		Freight, Cartage, &c.	429 3 3	
		Library	92 19 10	
		Lighting	803 0 4	
		Rent	200 6 4	
		Repairs, &c.	115 2 9	
		Travelling Expenses	278 16 5	
		Fittings, Furniture, &c., Newcastle Technical College	45 4 8	
		Additions to Technical College, Sydney (paid from Loan Vote, £1,000, of 1896-7)	850 2 10	17,804 19 5
		<i>Technological Museums.</i>		
		By Salaries and Contingencies		8,838 16 6
		Unexpended Balance		21,208 15 11
				14 7 1
	£21,218 3 0			21,218 3 0

NOTE.—In addition to the above, the following payments were made by the Treasury during 1896:—

	£ s. d.
London payments	41 9 8
From Loan Vote of 1890, £20,000. Erection of Technical Colleges and Museums at Bathurst, Newcastle, &c.	1,867 13 8
From Loan Votes of 1880, £50,000. Erection of Sydney Technical College	1,287 17 2
	3,147 0 6

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—Fees Account.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance on account of 1895	5 7 2	By Fees paid to Teachers, Sydney Technical College	2,248 7 8	
Fees received from Students, Sydney Technical College	2,745 15 0	Fees retained by Teachers, Branch Technical Schools	1,867 5 3	
Fees received from Students, Branch Technical Schools	1,375 9 1	Fees paid to Branch Cookery Class Teacher	5 7 2	
Fees received from Branch Cookery Classes	46 4 0	Balance to the credit of the Technical Education Fees Trust Account at the Treasury	561 15 2	
	4,172 15 8			4,172 15 8

E. & O. E.

Account Branch, Department of Public Instruction,
17th March, 1897.

A. E. BASSAN,

Accountant.

APPENDIX XX.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SITES OBTAINED IN 1896.

Number of sites granted by the Government	63
„ „ resumed under Act 51 Vic. No. 37	20
„ „ purchased	4
Total number of sites secured during the year, as per following lists ...	87

1896.—School Sites granted by the Government.

Bago, Lower	Double Peak	Jacqua	Sam's Corner
Barham	Dunedoo	King's Plains	Sandigo
Bectric	Eastview	Kauthi	Sandholes
Beecroft	Finley	Kooree	Sam's Flat
Benny's Creek	Felton Wood	Kenthurst	Station Point
Bourke, North	Flyer's Creek	Manobah	Strathisla
Calamia	Goulburn (Technical	Marrar	Uroly
Cherry Tree	College)	Mount Gwyne	Wallangra
Clairville	Graham's Valley	Mohla	Weean
Cooper's Glen	Greswick	Muttama (reservation	Wedderburn
Crieffton	Gulf Creek	only)	Wirrimbi
Crow Mountain	Heron's Creek	Newton Boyd	White Cliffs
Cugong	Hill Plain	Norton's Gap	Whipstick
Darralume	Horton, Upper	Piedmont	Wirubelah
Derra Derra	Invergordon	Pinnacle Swamp	Wood's Reef
Dexter Springs	Illabo	Redmanvale	Wrightville.
Doctor's Creek			

1896.—School Sites resumed under the "Public Works Act of 1888" (51 Vic. No. 37).

Place.	Cost.	
	Amount already paid	Estimated amount still due.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Arcadia	46 0 11	.....
Beecroft	166 2 10	.....
Branga	* Nil.	.....
Brobenah .....	.....	5 0 0
Burrill .....	.....	25 0 0
Canyon Leigh	† Nil.	.....
Colo Vale .....	.....	25 0 0
Cundletown .....	.....	208 0 0
Derrain	‡ Nil.	.....
Grassy Creek.....	No claim made.	.....
Menah .....	.....	17 8 9
Morrison's Hill.....	§ Nil.	.....
Mundowey .....	.....	10 0 0
Muddy Creek .....	|| Nil.	.....
Newport	17 5 4	.....
North Creek .....	.....	30 0 0
Oakvale	No claim made.	.....
Telegraph Point .....	.....	25 0 0
Wandella .....	.....	15 0 0
Woodglen	5 4 2	.....
Totals	£ 234 13 3	360 8 9

* A gift from Mrs. Lynch.

† A gift from Mrs. Jane Murray.

‡ A gift from John D. McGrath.

§ A gift from

Mr. John Marman. || A gift from Mr. H. J. Brazier.

1896.—School Sites purchased.

Place.	Cost.
	£ s. d.
Bathurst Technical College	1,570 16 8
Botany (additional)	200 0 0
Coonamble (additional)	112 10 0
Merilla	27 5 4
Total	£1,910 12 0

APPENDIX XXI

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS of the Department of Public Instruction, from 1st January to 31st December, 1896.

RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Balance from 1895	729 18 8	By Salaries	14,617 8 2
„ Balance of Petty Cash in hand	5 14 11	„ Repairs and furniture	624 10 9
„ Amount received from Treasury on account of Vote for 1895-6	332,523 0 0	„ Books, printing, and stationery	258 5 5
„ Amount received from Treasury on account of Vote for 1896-7	320,000 0 0	„ Miscellaneous expenses— Fuel and light	131 8 3
„ Amount received from Treasury on account of Loan Vote (Land)	1,657 0 10	Travelling expenses, freight, cartage, and cab hire	70 19 6
„ Amount received from Treasury on account of Loan Vote (New Buildings)	5,000 0 0	Sundry small expenses	15 2 11
			217 10 8
		EXAMINER'S BRANCH.—To 30 June, 1896.	
		„ Salaries, from 1 January, to 30 June, 1896	302 10 0
		„ Rent, repairs, and furniture, from 1 January to 30 June, 1896	48 6 10
		„ Fuel and light, from 1 January to 30 June, 1896	5 2 7
		„ Books, printing, and stationery, from 1 January to 30 June, 1896	8 17 5
		„ Examination fees, from 1 January to 30 June, 1896	220 10 0
			585 6 10
		CHIEF INSPECTOR'S BRANCH.	
		„ Salaries	17,324 0 8
		„ Rent, repairs, and furniture (Payments on account of Rent are to 30 June, 1896, only, here)	281 12 4
		„ Fuel and light	23 15 0
		„ Books, printing, and stationery	171 8 11
		„ Travelling expenses	5,383 2 11
		„ Cleaning allowance	18 8 0
			23,202 13 10
		ARCHITECT'S BRANCH.	
		„ Salaries, from 1 January to 30 June, 1896	2,180 15 0
		„ Rent, repairs, fuel, light, and furniture, from 1 January to 30 June, 1896	103 10 8
		„ Water and sewerage rates, from 1 January to 30 June, 1896	3 0 2
		„ Travelling expenses, to 31 December, 1896 (Clerks of Works)	1,048 8 11
			3,336 12 9
		„ Rent of all offices, from 1 July to 31 December, 1896	201 1 5
		TRAINING SCHOOL, FORT-STREET.	
		„ Salaries and allowances and lectures	1,028 15 11
		„ Repairs and furniture	17 10 4
		„ Books, printing, and stationery	44 11 3
		„ Fuel and light	19 6 7
		„ Water and sewerage rates	4 19 8
			2,015 3 9
		TRAINING SCHOOL, HURLSTONE.	
		„ Salaries and lectures	1,106 1 11
		„ Additions, repairs, and furniture	380 1 7
		„ Books, printing, and stationery	53 10 0
		„ House expenses	640 8 10
		„ Travelling expenses	45 11 6
		„ Medical fees	11 16 6
		„ Water and sewerage rates and cleaning closets	32 11 4
			2,100 1 8
		HIGH SCHOOLS.	
		„ Salaries	5,833 0 0
		„ Rent, repairs, and furniture	209 14 4
		„ Cleaning allowance and fuel	41 17 4
		„ Books, printing, and stationery	125 6 1
		„ Law costs (Land)	153 18 3
		„ Travelling expenses	18 13 8
		„ Examination fees	41 15 8
		„ Water and sewerage rates and cleaning closets	154 17 11
			6,579 3 3
		PUBLIC SCHOOLS.	
		„ Salaries and allowances	460,698 13 1
		„ Buildings, repairs, rent, furniture, and sites	48,605 15 5
		„ Cleaning allowance	9,649 18 8
		„ Fuel	922 15 0
		„ Books, printing, and stationery	6,891 4 1
		„ Water and sewerage rates	1,590 5 1
		„ Travelling expenses	1,905 13 7
		„ Law costs	42 3 11
		„ Medical fees	130 16 6
		„ Cookery instruction (miscellaneous)	1,148 4 1
		„ Sundry small expenses	1 7 8
			531,505 17 7
		PROVISIONAL SCHOOLS.	
		„ Salaries and allowances	24,230 17 7
		„ Buildings, repairs, rent, furniture, and water	2,344 19 10
		„ Fuel	69 2 6
		„ Books, printing, and stationery	600 7 1
		„ Forge allowance	2 15 0
		„ Travelling expenses	365 4 1
			27,613 6 1
		HALF-TIME SCHOOLS.	
		„ Salaries and allowances	25,856 7 6
		„ Buildings, repairs, rent, furniture, and water	346 13 11
		„ Fuel	74 17 0
		„ Books, printing, and stationery	442 16 6
		„ Travelling expenses	137 14 11
		„ Forge allowance	2,282 5 10
			29,140 15 8
		HOUSE-TO-HOUSE TEACHING.	
		„ Salaries and allowances	3,700 8 2
		„ Books, printing, and stationery, and furniture (10s.)	60 0 8
		„ Travelling expenses	30 13 3
		„ Forge allowance	381 3 0
		„ Fuel	4 10 0
			4,185 14 8
		EVENING SCHOOLS.	
		„ Salaries and allowances	361 19 6
		„ Books, printing, and stationery	1 4 4
			363 3 10
		„ State scholarships, &c.	3,249 18 0
			649,037 0 4
		„ Refund to Treasury on 15 June, 1896 (unexpended balance), of 1894 account	526 16 8
		Balance of petty cash in hand	0 0 10
		Balance in City Bank of Sydney	9,751 16 7
			9,751 17 5
£	660,215 14 5	£	660,215 14 5

E. & O. E.
Account Branch, Department of Public Instruction,
Sydney, 8th March, 1897.

A. E. BASSAN,
Accountant.
APPENDIX

APPENDIX XXII.

STATEMENT showing the Payments made by the Treasury on Account of Services rendered to the Department of Public Instruction, from 1st January to 31st December, 1896.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Amount from Vote of £689,418, Item No. 302, of Appropriation Act of 1895-6	685	0	0	By Salaries	1,370	0	0
To Amount from Vote of £666,446, Item No. 316, of Appropriation Act of 1896-7	685	0	0				
	£1,370	0	0		£1,370	0	0

Account Branch, Department of Public Instruction,
Sydney, 8th March, 1897.

A. E. BASSAN,
Accountant.

[3s. 3d.]

Sydney: William Applegate Gullick, Government Printer—1897.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

(REPORT OF TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR 1896.)

 Presented to Parliament pursuant to Act 17 Vic. No. 2, sec. 9.

Printed under No. 9 Report from Printing Committee, 1 July, 1897.

To HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,—

The Trustees of the Australian Museum have the honour to submit to Your Excellency their Forty-third Annual Report.

1. There have not been any changes in the membership of the Board during the year.

2. The Museum continued open to visitors during the usual hours, viz., from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sundays and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on all week-days, except Mondays, which were reserved for cleaning purposes, and except one day closed for repairs. On Monday afternoons the collections have, as usual, been accessible to students and schools for teaching purposes, on application being made to the Curator. The total number of visitors recorded is shown in Appendix VI. The average was 316 on week-days and 663 on Sundays. The slight decrease on week-days is accounted for by a portion of the Museum having been closed to the public during some months for repairs.

3. The Trustees have been able during the past year to make a few important purchases. The remains of the Elephant "Jumbo" were acquired from the New South Wales Zoological Society; the skin has been preserved and put into store, there being at present no facilities for setting it up; the skeleton has been mounted and forms a conspicuous object among the Osteological Collections. A Leopard skin and skeleton have also been purchased from the same Society. Other noticeable acquisitions by purchase were:—some ancient Peruvian Urns; the Bower or "Playground" of one of the Bower Birds; a collection of Insects, including many typical specimens; and some casts of Fishes.

4. Although no Collecting Expeditions—with the exception mentioned in a later paragraph—have been organised, some of the members of the Museum Staff have, at various times, been able to collect specimens, many of which are of value to the Museum. The Curator had an opportunity of visiting the Wombeyan Caves, Yaralumla, and other places in the interior, from which he procured much interesting material.

5. The most important presentation was the well-known "Dobroyde" Collection of Australian Birds and Eggs, made by Messrs. Ramsay, and containing many type specimens. This was purchased by the Government of New South Wales from Mr. J. S. Ramsay and has been delivered to the Trustees. Another valuable donation is a piece of Meteoric Iron weighing over 44 lb. found on the Nocolche Holding, near Wanaaring, New South Wales, and presented to the Museum by Mr. Geo. J. Raffel. This will be known as the "Nocolche" Meteorite. Steps are being taken to have a few slices cut and polished which will be available for exchange. The semi-fossil remains of a Dugong having been discovered in the excavations for a canal at Shea's Creek, near Sydney, were presented to the Museum. This is the first instance of the discovery of Dugong remains so far south. The British Government and the governments of several foreign countries having been asked for representative collections of current coins for the Numismatological Department of this Museum, favourable replies, with series of coins, have been received from the British, German, Austro-Hungarian, and Hawaiian Governments. Mr. W. A. Horn has presented the Museum with a selection from the collections of the "Horn Expedition" including some of the type specimens, and with a copy of the published Reports of the Expedition.

The Government Architect has lent to the Trustees a very fine collection of New South Wales Marbles, prepared by Mr. W. Roberts, of Bathurst, and it is hoped that a selection from these will be allowed to remain permanently in the Museum.

6. A commencement has been made at the works for extension of the Museum buildings, for which a sum of £6,000 was voted by Parliament in 1895. Under the direction of the Government Architect the old ant-eaten roof has been removed, and a new roof, built of steel, wood, and copper, has been constructed. While this was in progress a thorough inspection of the building was made to ascertain the extent of the ravages of the "white ant," with the result that it was found necessary to renew the floor and some of the cases in the Ethnological Hall. During the progress of these works portions of the Museum were necessarily closed to the public.

7. The Local Committee of the "Funafuti Coral Reef Boring Expedition, of the Royal Society of London," in charge of Professor W. J. Sollas, LL.D., F.R.S., having offered to allow one of the officers of the Museum to accompany the expedition, Mr. Charles Hedley was selected for the purpose, and left Sydney with the expedition in H.M.S. "Penguin," Captain Mostyn Field, R.N., on 1st May, and after a residence on the island for two and a half months, returned to Sydney on 22nd August. During his stay on Funafuti he succeeded in amassing an interesting collection, particularly of Invertebrate and Ethnological objects, together with much valuable scientific information. The collections are now in process of description by the Scientific Staff of the Museum, and the results will be published in the order in which the study of the various groups is completed.

8. The Trustees regret to announce the death, on 10th June, 1896, of Mr. F. A. A. Skuse, who held the position of Entomologist in this Museum. Mr. W. J. Rainbow has been appointed his successor.

9. The Publications issued during the year are:—Records of the Australian Museum, Vol. II, No. 7, completing the volume. Memoirs of the Australian Museum, III, Part 1, containing the first of the Reports on the Funafuti Expedition.

10. Full information with respect to the Museum will be found in the Appendices attached to this Report, viz.:—

- I.—Curator's Report.
- II.—Reports of Scientific Assistants.
- III.—Secretary's Report.
- IV.—Statement of Receipts and Expenditure.
- V.—Attendance of the Trustees.
- VI.—Attendance of Visitors and summary for fifteen years.
- VII.—Return of Specimens acquired during 1896.
- VIII.—Donations.
- IX.—Exchanges.
- X.—Return of information supplied to the Public.
- XI.—Additions to the Library.
- XII.—Publications of the Australian Museum.
- XIII.—Museum Staff.

The Common Seal of the Museum was hereunto affixed by order of the Board, this 6th day of May, 1897.

(L.S.) JAMES C. COX, M.D.,
Chairman.

S. SINCLAIR,
Secretary.

APPENDIX I.

CURATOR'S REPORT FOR 1896.

["The degree of civilisation to which any nation, city, or province has attained is best shown by the character of its Public Museums, and the liberality with which they are maintained."—G. BROWNE GOODE, M.A.]

Sydney, 4th January, 1897.

To the Trustees of the Australian Museum.
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to hand you the following Report dealing with the work of the Australian Museum during the past year, and the condition of the Collections in your charge:—

General Condition.—A somewhat more increased state of prosperity than has existed during the last few years may, I think, be evinced by our power, to some extent at least, to resume purchases, not certainly from an increase in income but from a decrease in expenditure brought about by a rigid general exercise of economy on the part of the Secretary and myself.

A more anxious twelve months than the last it would in all probability be impossible to pass through again, in consequence of the renewed discovery of the depredations of *Termites*. A forecast of this trouble was made in the 1895 Report, and now that it is practically over, for a time at least, one only realises the amount of unlooked for, and what should have been unnecessary work on the part of nearly the whole Staff, to say nothing of the anxiety borne by the executive officer. It involved the closing and cleaning of all the cases in the central portion of the Upper Main Hall, and disorganisation of the wings attached; the emptying of various cases in the Main Hall; the closing and entire disarrangement of the Ethnological Hall and contiguous galleries—a state of confusion to some extent still existing; and, worst of all, the undoing of previously completed good work. With these exceptions the general condition of the Museum is as satisfactory as during last year.

Award.—From the Commissioners of the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, an award of three Bronze Medals and three Certificates of Merit was received.

Fire Appliances.—Through the abolition by the Public Service Board of the Inspecting Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, the supervision of the fire appliances now devolves on your officers.

Staff Duties, &c.—I have again much pleasure in testifying to the general attention of the whole Staff to their duties during the past year.

After a very brief illness, Mr. Frederick A. A. Skuse, your Entomologist, died on June 10th.

Four additions were made to the Staff. In July, Mr. W. J. Rainbow was temporarily employed to take up the duties of the late Mr. Skuse, and was confirmed thereto on September 3rd. Mr. F. P. Clark, who was appointed clerk in the place of the late Mr. W. H. Hill, commenced his duties on January 2nd, and has in every way realised the favourable expectations I had formed of him. In consequence of the withdrawal of Attendant Robert Grant from warding duties to attend to the collections removed from the Upper Main Hall, it became necessary to obtain the services of an additional temporary attendant. On the recommendation of the Government Architect (W. L. Vernon, Esq.), Edward Francis was selected for this purpose in July last, and has continued to perform his duties with diligence. In April, Joseph Spencer was temporarily appointed Messenger in the place of G. Sparks, who resigned, and was subsequently confirmed in his appointment. During the year the number of Special Constables was increased by the swearing-in of Attendant F. Kippax, and Night-watchman J. W. Pidgeon. On the application of Professor T. P. Anderson Stuart, M.D., A. Cronin was temporarily appointed, without salary, on January 1st, to gain instruction in articulation and taxidermy on behalf of the University Anatomical Museum, to which he was recalled at the end of the following March. Mr. Cronin proved a very apt pupil under the tuition of the Articulator (Mr. H. Barnes) and the Taxidermist (Mr. J. A. Thorpe); indeed, his assistance at that time was most opportune. During March last, Mr. Leslie King applied to be allowed to attach himself to the Museum Staff, without salary, to gain experience in the preparation of Natural History specimens. He has so continued to the close of the year, and it affords me gratification to say that his services were eminently useful, and, I am under the impression, of advantage to himself. I have also had the advantage of assistance from another volunteer, Mr. W. Stalkartt, who joined in September under similar conditions. He has worked steadily since then with the Taxidermist and Mr. J. Jennings—chiefly the latter—and his help has been of great assistance at a time when we were overburdened with work.

I earnestly desire to call your attention to the inadequate scale of remuneration received by the Staff individually, in comparison with that prevailing in some of the Service Departments. Taking the Department of Public Instruction, with which we are affiliated, for example, we see that whilst only four of my professional assistants are in receipt of £215 per annum, there are in the Ministerial office of the Department (exclusive of the Chief Clerk, Cashier, and Record Clerk) no less than twelve ordinary clerks, with salaries ranging from £250 to £350 per annum. It must not be overlooked that the Scientific Assistants are, by educational status and scientific attainments, entitled to rank as professional men, and yet there exists the above glaring anomaly. With regard to the skilled mechanics, we find practically the same state of things, for both in the Technical Education Branch and Technological Museum the skilled workmen are paid at a proportionately higher rate than three out of the six occupying a similar position with us. In the National Art Gallery the attendants are also paid at a higher rate than those similarly situated in the Australian Museum.

The Museum still remains much under-manned—a fact brought under your notice in previous Reports. An additional Carpenter and an Assistant Taxidermist are required, and a permanent labourer is a desideratum. I advocate the separation of Mr. North's duties into two—he retaining the Birds, whilst the Anthropology, Ethnology, and Numismatics should be handed over to another officer, to be appointed. A Curator's Mechanical Assistant would be a decided advantage, for it must be remembered that I am endeavouring (I cannot say I have satisfactorily succeeded) to discharge a dual duty—that of Curator and an Assistant (Palaeontologist). As a result the palaeontological work does not progress in the same ratio with the other sections. I regard the position of Curator of such an institution as this, as one carrying with it the necessity of engaging in original research. As matters are at present constituted this is an impossibility.

Public

Public Service Board of 1895.—By a notification in the Estimates of Expenditure for 1896-7 (foot-note, p. 184), it appears that "the Australian Museum does not come under the provisions of the Public Service Act of 1895."

Care of the Collections.—The same distribution of work in the care of the Skin Collection existed as detailed in my Report for 1895. It affords me great pleasure to state that constant watchfulness on the part of Attendant Grant, and the Taxidermist (Mr. J. A. Thorpe), when his many duties permitted him, had the effect of reducing the existence of insect life amongst the Mounted and Skin Collections to almost *nil*. I am confident that the Australian Museum will now compare favourably in this respect with any other.

Cleaning Duties.—The two additional male Attendants referred to in last year's Report were duly appointed, and these, with the temporary hand already referred to, have enabled the cleaning duties to be much more thoroughly carried out.

Space.—As foreshadowed in my last year's Report, the erection of the two additional wall-cases in the Main Hall fills not only the space that can be devoted to the Mammalia, but also completes the wall-casing of that part of the building, unless it be by the partial removal of the glass screen at the public entrance, which in my opinion occupies far too much space. Similarly with the erection of the wall-cases in the central portion of the Upper Main Hall, already authorised and in progress, this portion of the Museum will be cased to its utmost capacity. There only remains the upper narrow unused gallery over the portion just referred to, which is thoroughly well adapted for exhibition purposes. Of this I have obtained an independent professional opinion. I have on a previous occasion suggested to you that this gallery would accommodate itself to the Fish Collection, and it is to be hoped that an appropriation for this purpose will be obtained during the coming financial year.

Duplicates.—Through some extensive additions to the Entomological Collection, duplicates are now available in that section. In consequence of the rearrangement of the skeletons I have been able to relegate some mounted Osteological specimens to this category. Otherwise matters of this nature remain much as they were.

Structural Matters.—In my last year's Report I expressed the hope that the construction of the new roof would be proceeded with early in the year. After much delay, arising from circumstances over which you had no control, it was commenced in April and completed at the end of July. The contract was let to Messrs. McIntyre & Co., of Paddington. As a preliminary step it was necessary to close to the public the whole of the upper floor of the Museum, to denude the central portion of the Upper Main Hall of all its cases, and afford safe storage for their contents. This, I am happy to say, was safely accomplished, and the property so removed was placed in the care of Attendant R. Grant, who discharged his special duties to my entire satisfaction. Hardly had this commenced when the work in connection therewith revealed the presence of *Termites* in the flooring and joists of the Main Hall, necessitating the partial clearing of some of the Osteological cases. This led to a general survey of the entire building by the Government Architect's Officers and the Contractor's staff; and here, I think it is not out of place to express our indebtedness to Mr. Thomas Barnet, Assistant Architect, and Mr. G. Anderson, foreman to Messrs. McIntyre & Co., for their indefatigable exertions in the almost hopeless task of eradicating this troublesome and insidious pest. It was found that from the Main Hall the insects had made their way through the masonry joints into and under the floor of the Ethnological Hall, and had as completely destroyed the wood-work of that structure as of the roof. It was ultimately decided to replace the floor with a new one, and asphalt the ground beneath it; but to accomplish this the whole of the wall cases had to be drawn out in sections, after being stripped of their contents. The work was commenced in September and finished in November, but the re-arrangement of the specimens will not be completed for some time.

With the view of throwing more light into the north end of the Upper Main Hall, occupied by the Australian Birds, the galvanized iron ceiling of the Geological Hall was pierced in two places to utilise some disused windows in the wall of the former that had become blocked by the latter, with beneficial results.

A new low retaining-wall was built along a portion of the fence separating your Grant from that of the Sydney Grammar School Trustees, and the area between this and the Museum south end was deepened and drained, to obviate traces of damp that began to appear in this portion of the building.

New louver shutters were provided to the north and south wings of the main roof—repairs long wanted.

The old bath-room existing in the basement was dismantled, and refitted as an additional store-room for Ethnology.

The whole of the air-ways beneath the general structure were cleaned and white-washed by labour engaged for the purpose, whilst the private lavatories and that attached to the Board Room were ventilated.

It was mentioned in the 1895 Report that the sum of £6,000 had been placed on the 1895-6 Estimates to provide a new Spirit Room and Workshops, the latter to form a portion of the basement of the future south wing. After much unnecessary delay, work was commenced on this much-needed improvement shortly before the close of the year. The contractors are Messrs. Wall and Sons, of Newtown.

Portions of the Museum exterior, especially along the College-street frontage, are very much in want of cleansing; the outer face of the stone is scaling off, and the pointing requires renewing. In addition, the Corinthian capitals require wiring-in to prevent the resting of pigeons; and the wood-work of all the doors and windows, back and front, needs re-painting.

New Cases.—The expenditure under this head was again much and inconveniently delayed in consequence of the late passing of the Appropriation Act for 1896-7. The two new wall-cases in the Main Hall have already been referred to. They were erected by Messrs. T. Jones & Co., and have been devoted to the display of the Quadrumana. The same firm built a fine stand for the skeleton of the Asiatic Elephant "Jumbo," so constructed that the intended glass cover can be added when funds are available; and a small separate case to contain the model of the head of a *Neobalena marginata*.

An extra glass shelf was supplied to the whole of the Invertebrate wall-cases (except the Insecta) which has enabled an expansion of the Collections under Mr. T. Whitelegge, to be made.

New cabinets for study and store purposes were provided—one each for the Entomologist, Conchologist, Osteologist, and Invertebrate Zoologist; and fifty additional covered trays for general purposes.

Numerous

Numerous alterations to old stored movable cases were made by the carpenters (referred to under that heading), and brought into use.

The balustrade and intermediate flat cases in the Invertebrate Gallery are in want of new locks, and until such are provided the cases cannot be regarded as secure; an undue amount of responsibility is thus also thrown on the Attendants.

Collecting and Field Work.—No organised collecting was attempted, again in consequence of lack of funds. During February, I visited the Wombeyan Caves to investigate a reported discovery of fossil bones, and obtained a small series of specimens. This deposit occupies a small depression on the side of a limestone hill. The bones are all small and much comminuted, being those of Marsupialia, Rodentia, and Chiroptera. To the researches of Dr. R. Broom, late of Taralga, the deposit has yielded the remains of six extinct animals,* the type specimens of which he has generously presented to the Museum. During October, I visited Cunningham Creek, near Harden, to investigate the reported discovery of large fossil bones. My proceedings are recorded in a part of our Records now being issued. At the close of the year I proceeded, in company with Mr. John Mitchell, of Narellan, to Yarralumla, near Queanbeyan, to examine a deposit of Silurian fossils described many years ago by the Rev. W. B. Clarke.† The search did not repay our expectations. The deposit consists of a few small patches of mudstone with Brachiopoda and Trilobites, indicative of the Bowring Series, and containing limestone nodules, chiefly Corals.

The Local Committee of the Funafuti Coral Reef Boring Expedition of the Royal Society (London), in charge of Professor W. J. Sollas, LL.D., F.R.S., having suggested to you that one of your officers should be deputed to accompany the Expedition, Mr. Charles Hedley was selected for the purpose. Mr. Hedley left Sydney in H.M.S. "Penguin," under the command of Captain Mostyn Field, R.N., on May 1st, arriving at Funafuti on May 21st. He remained on the island two and a half months, leaving in the same vessel. On the return voyage to Fiji the island of Nukulailai was touched at, where scientific investigations were renewed for two days. Mr. Hedley finally reached Sydney on August 22nd. During his stay on Funafuti he succeeded in amassing an interesting collection, particularly of Invertebrate and Ethnological objects, together with much valuable scientific information. Too much credit cannot be awarded to Mr. Hedley for his praiseworthy efforts under very trying difficulties.

The establishment of the post of Collector is much to be desired. No systematic additions to the general collection can be made until this is done.

Exchanges.—I am happy to be able to state that we are now in a much better position to effect exchanges than we have been for some time past, notably in the Insecta, but still much remains to be desired, amongst the Minerals and Rocks in particular. The difficulty in obtaining the latter appears to be one of our weak points, and arises from the fact that we have never possessed a Geological Collector, and from the want of a connection amongst the mining community. The principal exchanges effected during the year were:—Ethnology, from the South Australian Museum; Post-Tertiary Fossils, from the Wanganui Museum, and to that institution Minerals, Reptiles, and Gold-nugget Models; "Challenger" Mollusca from the British Museum (Nat. Hist.); Minerals, Birds, Fossils, Mollusca, Crustacea, &c., from the Museo de la Plata, and to it Minerals, Echinodermata, Reptilia, &c.; British Minerals, from the Kelvin Grove Museum, and to it Marsupialia, Birds, and Reptilia; Minerals and Insecta to and from the Musée Coloniale, Noumea; Deep-sea Mollusca from the Indian Museum, Calcutta, in exchange for Mammalia; Mammalia, Ethnology, Birds, &c., from the Pietermaritzburg Museum; Mammalia, Skeletons, &c., from the United States National Museum, and to it Reptilia, Fish, Birds, Mollusca, and Minerals; photographs of "Cook Relics" to the Bishop Museum at Honolulu; mounted Mammalia to the Western Australian Museum; and Australian Stone Weapons and New Guinea Shell Ornaments to the Florence Museum.

Presentations.—These on the whole have flown in copiously. The more important were:—Types of the "Honey-ants" of the Horn Central Australian Exploring Expedition, and a further collection of Birds of the same from Professor W. Baldwin Spencer, M.A., on behalf of himself and Mr. W. A. Horn, Adelaide; the Nocoleche Meteorite, from Nocoleche Station, near Wanaaring, weighing 44 lb. 3 oz, the gift of Mr. G. J. Raffel; Stalactites from Jenolan Caves, collected by Mr. Jeremiah Wilson; Stalagmites from Wombeyan Caves, from the Department of Mines and Agriculture; Queensland Cattle Ticks in all stages of development, from Mr. C. J. Pound; the "Dobroyde" Collection of Australian Birds and Eggs; Dugong skeleton from Shea's Creek, Alexandria, from the Engineer-in-Chief for Harbours and Rivers; Hawaiian Current Coinage in duplicate from the Hawaiian Government; Prussian Current Coinage in duplicate from the Imperial German Chancellor; Austro-Hungarian Current Coinage from the Austro-Hungarian Government; and British "Jubilee" Coinage from the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Purchases.—The more important were; (1) Pottery of ancient type from Peruvian excavations; (2) Bower of Newton's Bower-bird (*Prionodura newtoniana*); (3) Co-types of Skuse's Diptera; (4) Australian Coleoptera; (5) Carcase of the Asiatic Elephant "Jumbo," &c.

Publications.—Only one new publication was issued during the year, but three others are in hand. That published in December is the first part of Memoir iii, which is to be devoted to the elaboration of Mr. Hedley's Funafuti collections. It comprises the General Account, Birds, and Rock-specimens. The second part is now in the printer's hands and will contain descriptions of the Insecta, Arachnida, and Crustacea. The MS. of the third part is well advanced and will embrace Mammalia, Pisces, and Reptilia. A further portion of the "Records" is also in course of printing and almost ready for publication. A second edition of Dr. E. P. Ramsay's Catalogue of the Australian Birds, Part I, Accipitres, now out of print, is in preparation, and will be published during the current year.

Information Disseminated.—Portions of our collections have been freely used by inquirers. Mr. Hedley calls attention to the number of students who availed themselves of the facilities now presented for naming local Shells; Mr. North the interest in the Nest-group Collection, and Ornithological assistance given to many, both personally and by letter; whilst Mr. Rainbow has been actively employed in exhibiting the cabinet Insects. Demonstrations to the Burwood Ladies' College were given by

* Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S. Wales, 1896, p. 48.

† Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., IV, 1848, p. 63.

by Mr. Hedley and myself. The King's School, Parramatta, was supplied with named collections of minerals and shells. On the application of the Director the birds in the Botanical Gardens were examined and named by Mr. North. The Biological Laboratory at the University was supplied with certain duplicates to fill gaps in the teaching series, and the Geological Laboratory with a large number of rock fragments and unlocated minerals for analytical purposes. A full return under this head will be found in *Appendix X*.

Spirit Room.—Mr. Whitelegge continued his investigations of the Spirit Room stores, and completed the fishes preserved in tanks. There only remains to be examined now a large assortment of all classes in bottles and jars.

Taxidermist.—In the interval between Mr. Skuse's death and the temporary employment of Mr. Rainbow, the Taxidermist (Mr. J. A. Thorpe) took charge of the Entomological Collection. In connection with the new roof, he superintended the removal, cleaning, and re-arrangement of nearly the whole of the specimens in the Upper Main Hall, amounting to several thousands, in which he was ably assisted by the Carpenters, Attendant Grant, and other members of the Staff. During this work the large Fish (23 in number) suspended from the uppermost gallery, were removed, cleaned, restored, and rehung; also the Turtles and Tortoises, 55 in number. The occasion of transferring the Monkeys and Lemurs to the newly-erected cases was taken advantage of to thoroughly clean, and in some instances remount and restore the specimens, to the number of 71. Eight Cetaceans and Sirenians, 50 Carnivora, and 69 Chiroptera underwent the same process. In the workshop, 53 Mammal skins were prepared, and 60 mounted, and 10 groups set up. Amongst the Birds, 130 skins were prepared, 55 skins mounted, 8 groups, and 10 nest groups set up. Five Fish and 5 Reptiles prepared, 4 mounted, and 1 Crustacean.

Articulators (Messrs. H. Barnes and H. Barnes, jun.).—The well known Asiatic Elephant "Jumbo" died at the gardens of the Zoological Society on January 18th. After much labour on the part of the whole Mechanical Staff the hide and bones were conveyed to the Museum, and after three months close application the skeleton was erected at the entrance to the Osteological portion of the Main Hall. It now forms one of the most notable objects in the Museum, and is one of the happiest efforts amongst the many fine exhibitions of his skill on the part of Mr. H. Barnes. Thirty-five skeletons were macerated and cleaned, and eighteen were mounted.

Formatori (Messrs. H. Barnes and H. Barnes, jun.).—Thirty moulds were prepared during the year, and forty-seven casts or reproductions taken. Amongst these the most notable was the "Nocoloche" Meteorite.

Photographers (Messrs. H. Barnes and H. Barnes, jun.).—Forty-eight negatives were taken, and 248 prints were thrown off.

Carpenters (Messrs. R. Barnes and B. Lucas).—The principal work performed in the carpenter's shop was the preparation of specimen stands in all branches; renovation of several old cases from store; six slopes for the interior of Palæontological table cases; tables for Rat Kangaroo group, Dugong, and Turtles and Tortoises; tank for reception of Elephant skin; stand for carved tree; and general Museum repairs. Valuable assistance was lent by Messrs. Barnes and Lucas in the preparation and mounting of the Elephant skeleton, and the heavy work arising from the moving of cases consequent on roof and floor renovation. During the current year their duties will be increased by the supervision of the fire appliances.

Smiths (Messrs. B. Lucas and R. Barnes).—I am glad to be able to report that we are now doing our own blacksmith work. The whole of the ironwork necessary for the support of six large Cetaceans and Sirenians, and for the Elephant, was made on the premises, besides small jobs too numerous to mention.

Printer (Attendant F. Kippax).—The printing of labels, foreshadowed in the 1895 Report, is now an accomplished fact, 2,868 having been produced during the year. The Pearl Platen Printing Press has proved a great success. The labels were distributed as follows:—Mammalia, Reptilia, &c., 741; Aves, 520; Entomology, 77; Conchology, 55; other Invertebrates, 441; Ethnology and Palæontology, 519; Mineralogy, 515.

Mammalia.—The work of rearrangement mentioned in the 1895 Report was continued, and with the addition of the Chiroptera, Carnivora, and Quadrumana, it is now complete with the exception of the permanent labelling. The want of space prevented the mounting of the Asiatic Elephant skin, which is much to be regretted. It reposes at present in a specially-constructed tank, and there for some time to come it must remain. Opposite the main entrance have been grouped together, as the most convenient and appropriate place from their contiguity to the other Mammalia, the large Cetacea and Sirenia so far as the space would permit, including the Dugong (*Halicore dugong*), the Manatee (*Manatus americanus*), the Sulphur-bottomed Whale (*Balaenoptera huttoni*), Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), Lesser Sperm Whale (*Cogia breviceps*), and the Pigmy Whale (*Neobalena marginata*). These were partly taken from store and partly from other parts of the Museum, where they were inappropriately placed. The Monkeys and Lemurs were arranged in the two new wall cases, thus bringing these important groups into their proper systematic position. The whole of the Mammal Skins have now been sorted, and the duplicates selected and marked. The group series was increased by the addition of a Rat Kangaroo (*Aepyprymnus rufescens*), with its form, or so-called "nest," a realistic group, presented by Mr. R. Crossley, of Bowring. The model of the head of a Pigmy Whale (*Neobalena marginata*) now occupies a separate case, and is so displayed to much better advantage than formerly. The Registrations in this section amounted to 144.

Aves.—In my Report for 1895 I referred to the filling of the new wall-cases at the north end of the Upper Main Hall. Those at the south end, previously only partially occupied, have now been fully used by an extension of the Foreign Birds. This has effected a very marked improvement in the disposition of the skins in the older cases, in consequence of a gain of space. The most important addition ever made to the Ornithological Collection was received shortly before the close of the year—the celebrated "Dobroyde" Collection of Australian Birds and Eggs, brought together by the Messrs. Ramsay, of Dobroyde, Ashfield. It will, I feel sure, be a matter of gratification to my predecessor (Dr. E. P. Ramsay) to feel that the gatherings of so many years by himself and brothers, have, through the liberality of the Government of New South Wales, found a resting-place in the Institution over which

which he presided so long. It will be one of Mr. North's especial duties during the current year to pass this fine series through our Registers. In addition to the types of the "Horn Expedition" Birds, referred to in last year's Report, a further series has been liberally presented by Mr. W. A. Horn. After much delay, for which the Australian Museum is in no way responsible, the first part of Mr. North's valuable article, "List of the Insectivorous Birds of New South Wales" (illustrated), prepared at the request of the Honorable the Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, appeared in the *Agricultural Gazette*; and as the plates for the second part are now ready, it is to be hoped the publication will be completed without delay. Mr. North's attention has been latterly taken up with the preparation of a second edition of Part I, Accipitres, of Ramsay's "Catalogue of Australian Birds," &c. The Registrations amounted to 604.

Reptilia and Batrachia.—The principal work of the year under these headings was the revision of the collection of Chelonians, indigenous and exotic. At the Asylum for the Insane, Gladsville, two large examples of the Galapagos Tortoise (*Testudo nigrita*), were living. The female died last year, and was generously presented by the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Eric Sinclair. This will be mounted during the current year, both as a skeleton and a partial skin and cast. An additional large table was placed in the Upper Main Hall, on which were arranged the larger Turtles and Tortoises. The two Luths (*Dermatochelys coriacea*) were raised on standards above the others, and now form marked objects of interest. Last year was fertile in the addition of several examples of that peculiar little Lizard, the "Thorny Devil" (*Moloch horridus*), by presentation. The Registrations amounted to 245.

Pisces.—Consequent on the clearing of the central portion of the Upper Main Hall for the operations of the roof contractor, the Sharks and other large Fish had to be removed. I took advantage of this to have the duplicates withdrawn, thereby affording room for the better display of the remainder. A portion of Mr. Waite's time was occupied in the elaboration of the fishes brought from Funafuti by Mr. Hedley. The former's suggestion with regard to coloured casts of fishes is one I have had in my mind's eye for some time, but it cannot be carried out as long as our Mechanical Staff remains in its present limited condition. The Registrations numbered 198.

Osteology.—A thorough rearrangement of the Skeletons was commenced early in the year by Mr. Waite, with the view of bringing them into systematic order. This was completed with the exception of the Marsupialia, Monotremata, Aves, Reptilia, and Pisces, when duties of another nature compelled him to relinquish for a time this very important work. It will be resumed and completed early this year. Amongst the additions to the cases were several of the late Dr. Gray's types of Cetacea that had for many years remained overlooked in store. With the view of exhibiting some skulls and crania of Ungulates, a series of iron collars with movable hooks was devised to encircle the Corinthian pillars of the Main Hall; on these the specimens were hung. The Registrations numbered 64.

Insecta, &c.—Until the collection passed into the hands of Mr. Rainbow, its condition, for reasons it is unnecessary to mention, caused me much anxiety; but I feel confident that, with the attention I know he will bestow on it, the state of the specimens will soon be all that can be desired. His opinion that a large amount of re-registration is required, I can quite bear out—in fact, this was one of the chief desiderata to which his attention was called on taking up his duties. Another essential matter that will need Mr. Rainbow's consideration in the near future will be the renovation and rearrangement of the Coleoptera of the exhibited collection, at present in a very indifferent state. The additions in this section, 12,484, are larger than in any other, owing chiefly to the purchase of two collections—one of Coleoptera, the other the co-types of Mr. Skuse's Diptera, and large collections made by Dr. E. P. Ramsay. This increase has enabled me to place our duplicate series in this branch on a much better footing than it has been for some time past. The Insecta and Arachnida from Funafuti, an entirely new geographical area to us, were systematically worked out. An important donation was received from Mr. Henry Deane, M.A., the type specimen of *Actinopus formosus*, Rainbow, the first recorded occurrence of the genus in Australia. Another interesting presentation consisted of examples of the Queensland Cattle Tick (*Boophilus bovis*) in various stages of development, by Mr. C. J. Pound.

Mollusca.—In the early part of the year Mr. Hedley devoted some time to the examination of the Conchological stores, as forecast in the 1895 Report, and had succeeded in bringing together the greater portion of the unexhibited foreign Land Shells, when he was detailed for duty with the Funafuti Expedition. On his return he prepared a general account of the structure of the Atoll that is now published. His work for the current year will largely consist of a description of the Ethnology of Funafuti, and this will be followed by an account of the Mollusca. The Registrations amounted to 689.

Invertebrata (exclusive of Insecta, &c., and Mollusca).—Good progress was made in perfecting the exhibited portion of the Invertebrata, particularly the Entozoa, Leeches, Gephyrea, and Planarian Worms. Over 300 specimens of Crustacea from Funafuti were determined and described, and the manuscript is ready for the printer. Mr. Whiteleggo is now engaged investigating the Echinodermata from the same atoll. Further experiments with formol as a preservative were also made. The principal acquisition was a series of deep-sea Echinoderms from Prof. R. Koehler, of Lyons. The Registrations numbered 258.

Ethnology and Anthropology.—The additional room added to the Ethnological Hall, and referred to in my last year's Report, was opened on 14th January. The re-arrangement of this section on something approaching a systematic plan, or at any rate as near as the limited space will allow, had steadily progressed, thanks to the exertions of Mr. J. Jennings, up to the discovery of *Termites* in the floor of the Hall, when the latter was closed to the Public, and the whole collection dismantled. Up to that date, the manufactures of the Australian Aborigines, the Australian and New Zealand Stone Implements, and those from some of the Pacific Islands, the ancient Peruvian and Arizona Pottery, a series of Egyptian Mummy-heads, decorated Skulls and Skull-masks, and New Guinea Bead and Shell Ornaments, had been placed in such a condition as to render comparative study possible. The fine collection of Aboriginal Carved Trees was also added to. A valuable addition to the Peruvian Pottery was obtained by purchase, on very advantageous terms. Through the kindness of Mr. J. N. Brooks we were able to at last obtain an example of the mysterious "hand" imprints, so freely scattered over the Aboriginal Rock-shelters of the Colony, from Wollombi. The most valuable addition, however, was a fine collection of objects from Funafuti Atoll, brought by Mr. Hedley. The Registrations numbered 569.

Historical.

Historical.—A number of old documents, certificates of award, &c., were framed and exhibited—the first in the Ethnological Hall, the second at the public entrance. The “Cook Collection” was enriched by the addition, on loan from Mrs. Johnston of Homebush, a kinswoman of the circumnavigator’s, of his punch-bowl. The Registrations numbered 2.

Numismatics.—Good progress has been made in the classification and display of the Australian Tokens by Mr. J. Jennings, and a commencement made with the Silver Coins, when the work was brought to a standstill by the cause already explained in a preceding paragraph.

I am happy to report that my efforts to increase this branch of our collections have met with marked success. Through the good offices of their respective Consuls in Sydney or Melbourne, the Imperial German Government, the Austro-Hungarian Government, and that of the Hawaiian Islands have presented complete sets of their current coinage. The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlin, M.P.) was pleased to forward on behalf of H.M. Government, a set of the “Jubilee” coinage. In connection with this presentation we have to thank Sir Saul Samuel, K.C.M.G., Agent-General in London, for his good offices in the matter. The Registrations numbered 219.

Mineralogy and Chemistry.—Dr. Cooksey’s attention was for some time turned to the colouring and arrangement of the crystallographic models, each face receiving a colour that is retained to express the same crystal surface throughout each system. Four hundred of these have been so treated, and the work will be continued during the current year.

The valuable and very complete series of N. S. Wales Marbles, over 300 slabs, prepared by Mr. W. Roberts, District Inspector of Works at Bathurst, was lent by the Government Architect towards the close of the year, and forms an attractive exhibit. It is to be sincerely hoped that a selection from these will be secured, as we have ample room for their display in contiguity to the British Ornamental Stones already on view.

The most important donation was that of the “Nocolecho” Meteorite, presented by Mr. G. J. Raffel. In due course Dr. Cooksey will describe this in the “Records.” At present a preliminary chemical analysis only has been made. The meteorite was entrusted to Professor H. A. Ward, of Rochester, New York State, to be cut and polished and portions etched.

A chemical analysis was made of the few rocks brought from Funafuti by Mr. Hedley, and the results published in Part I of Memoir III.

I desire to impress on our Mineralogical well-wishers that an increase in the National Collection entirely depends on their generous help, particularly in the acquisition of Australasian specimens. We stand greatly in need of minerals and rocks from West Australia and New Zealand.

The Registrations amount to 529, and several specimens were chemically analysed.

Palæontology.—In consequence of the large amount of supervision I felt called on to exercise during the past twelve months, the work in my own section has fallen far short of that accomplished last year. The number of specimens registered amounted to 1,069, whilst to the exhibited collection were added 555. Of these 402 were Vertebrates, and 153 Invertebrates. The former consisted of Post Tertiary Bird, Monotreme, and Marsupial remains, with type casts and large specimens for the wall cases. The whole of the large specimens distributed over the floors of the hall were supplied with permanent printed labels. Two additional table cases were fitted with slopes for the reception of Marsupial remains, and in consequence of the sloping shelf in the wall cases cutting off light from the lower portions, I caused it to be removed and a narrow shelf erected in its place. This work was performed by our own Carpenters.

The most important addition was the presentation by Mr. C. W. Darley, Engineer-in-Chief for Harbours and Rivers, of the Dugong remains found in excavating the canal at Shea’s Creek, Alexandria. Dr. R. Broom, late of Taralga, presented the types of his new Marsupials from the Wombeyan Caves, and Mr. J. W. Wilson and Party, the *Dipropodon* bones from their claim at Cunningham Creek.

Library.—An additional book-case was placed in the Library, but there is no further room. The additions comprise 399 volumes, and many parts or pamphlets. During the year the books were carefully gone over and checked. Binding was effected, but it is still much in arrear from want of funds.

I have, &c.,

R. ETHERIDGE, JUNR.,
Curator.

APPENDIX II.

REPORTS OF SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANTS.

To the Curator.

Sir,

I have the honour of submitting to you the Report for 1896.

Mammals.

At the date of the last Annual Report it was mentioned that the Marsupials had been placed in order. Since that time all the other Mammalian Orders have been thoroughly worked through and are now in admirable condition. They still require, however, uniform labels—a matter which will receive attention as opportunity offers.

The duplicate mammals have been placed in a more satisfactory condition than for many years past, and MS. catalogues have been compiled.

In overhauling the collections in spirits, two species of *Perameles* were discovered, not hitherto represented in the exhibited collection; this omission was at once rectified.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging with much pleasure the gratuitous services rendered by Mr. Leslie King; but as the collections assigned to my care are so large and varied, the need of a permanent assistant is greatly felt and renders much work, other than that of a mechanical character, out of the question.

The acquisitions during the year were	101	Specimens.
There were re-registered from old collection	43	„
	144	„
Total Registrations	144	„

Reptiles and Batrachians.

During the past two years the gallery devoted to the Reptiles and Batrachians has been a source of much trouble.

As previously mentioned, in 1895 the roof was found to be defective, owing to the ravages of "white ant," and all progress was stayed. The condition was renewed the following year, when a new and permanent roof was supplied. During the whole period of renovation, including the time occupied in re-decorating the interior, the collections were withdrawn and were inaccessible.

The principal work undertaken in this department was the identification of the Chelonians, of which we have a tolerable collection; previously they were almost all unnamed and in but indifferent condition. Diagrams and descriptive labels were also prepared uniform with those previously supplied for the Lizards, Frogs, and Fishes.

Tables have been specially prepared to accommodate the mounted Crocodiles and larger Chelonians, which reptiles are now shown to good advantage.

By the kindness of Dr. Sinclair, of Gladsville, we have received one of the gigantic Galapagos Tortoises lately living in the Hospital gardens. This should provide material for an interesting communication, could the necessary time be found for its examination.

The acquisitions during the year were	240	Specimens.
There were re-registered from old collection	5	„
	245	„
Total Registrations	245	„

Fishes.

The damage to the Museum roof previously alluded to was also operative in disorganising the Fish Collection. The larger sharks and rays have been rehung to advantage, and the smaller mounted, and spirit specimens also have received necessary attention.

A few casts of Australian fishes were purchased during the year, and personally I should much like to see the present collection of stuffed fishes gradually replaced by nicely coloured casts. This, considering that the casts of snakes are being produced on the premises, could be done without cost other than that of the material.

The closing weeks of the year were devoted to an examination of the material collected on the Funafuti Atoll by Mr. Charles Hedley.

The acquisitions during the year were	182	Specimens.
There were re-registered from old collection	16	„
	198	„
Total Registrations	198	„

Skeletons.

After the Mammalian Gallery, that devoted to the skeletons received the largest share of attention, and I was generously assisted by two volunteer workers—Messrs. Leslie King and W. Stalkartt.

The large collection of human crania, mainly from the Australian Continent and the Pacific Islands, was first dealt with; and in this connection you kindly assisted me in cases of difficult identification. Many unsuspected cranial treasures were uncarthed, among which may be specially mentioned the artificially distorted skulls of the Mallicollo (New Hebrides) islanders. Many of these still retaining the painted clay mask, were passed over to the Ethnological Department.

Among the more notable Osteological preparations of the year the skeleton of the Indian elephant stands first. The Australian "Jumbo" was for many years a familiar feature of the Sydney Zoological Gardens, whence it was received when deceased.

The acquisitions during the year were	61	Specimens.
There were registered from old collection	3	„
	64	„
Total Registrations	64	„

Yours, &c.,

EDGAR R. WAITE.

To the Curator,—

Sir,

I have the honour to hand you herewith the Reports for the year 1896, of the Sub-departments under my charge.

Birds.

The birds, nests, and eggs determined and registered during the year numbered 664 Specimens.

The specimens enumerated above are only those determined and registered, for the most important addition yet made has been received during the year. This consists of the well known "Dobroyde Collection," containing several thousand skins and eggs—the result of forty years collecting—which has been recently transferred to the custody of the Trustees by the Government of New South Wales.

Although the Australian Ornithological and Oological Collections in the Museum probably surpass any other in the world, there are a few gaps still to be filled, principally from Central and West Australia.

Another small but important collection of bird skins from Central Australia was presented by Mr. W. A. Horn, through Professor W. Baldwin Spencer, of the University of Melbourne. This addition contains the types of the bird described by me in the "Zoology of the Horn Expedition," published this year.

The exceedingly dry weather in the winter and early spring months has again been the means of the Museum securing several inland species that had been driven to the coastal districts. Chief among these may be mentioned *Emblema picta*, a North-western and Central Australian species, obtained for the first time in New South Wales at Campbelltown, of which several specimens were presented by Mr. A. M. N. Rose. Occasional donations have also been made by the Trustees of the Zoological Gardens, Moore Park, and the Director of the Botanic Garden. By exchange the collections have been enriched by a small series of skins received from the Museo de la Plata, Buenos Ayres, and by a number of European Birds' eggs from the Athens Museum, Greece. Skins from the Antipodes, Snares, and Solitary Islands have also been received from Mr. Travers.

During the year the following additions to the Group Collection have been prepared by the Taxidermist:—*Zonæginthus bella*, *Lalage tricolor*, *Acanthiza nana*, *Chthonicola sagittata*, *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*, *Pomatostomus temporalis*, *Petroica goodenavii*, *Acrocephalus australis*, *Lichmera australasiana*, and *Merula vinitincta*. This portion of the bird gallery, in addition to illustrating the life history of each species and being useful to the student, proves the most popular with the general public. The collections at the present time are in a good state of preservation, but owing to recent accessions an assistant to the Taxidermist is much required to give his undivided attention to the mounted and skin collections.

From lists prepared the printer has struck off about 500 labels, the greater part of which have been affixed to the specimens. Several collections of birds and eggs have been determined for private individuals, and in some instances exchanges have been made. Information too, has been given to many persons during the year, either personally or by letter. Small collections of birds were sent in exchange to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, and the Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow.

In connection with the work of this sub-department the following papers have been published:—

On the seasonal changes in the plumage of *Zosterops caerulea*. Rec. Austr. Mus. Vol. II. No. 7. Jan. 1896.

Aves of the Horn Expedition to Central Australia. Part II. Zoology. Febr., 1896.

Notes on *Chlamydodera orientalis*. Vict. Nat. Vol. XII. No. 9. Jan., 1896.

Notes on the nesting of *Calyptorhynchus banksi* and *Erythrodryas rosea*. Vict. Nat. Vol. XII. No. 11. March, 1896.

A List of the Insectivorous Birds of New South Wales. Part I. *Agricultural Gazette*, N.S.W. June, 1896.

Birds from Funafuti. The Atoll of Funafuti. Aust. Mus. Mem. No. III, Part I. Dec., 1896.

Plates for Part II of The Insectivorous Birds of New South Wales are now ready. Towards the close of the year I was engaged in preparing a second edition of Dr. Ramsay's "Catalogue of the Australian Birds in the Australian Museum." Part I. Accipitres.

Ethnological.

The following are the accessions to the Ethnological Collection, received during the year:—

The acquisitions during the year were	551	Specimens.
There were re-registered from old collection	18	"
Total Registrations	569	"

Considerably over the average number of Ethnological specimens have been added during the year. Mr. Hedley brought back with him from Funafuti a large and interesting collection of articles used by the Ellice Islanders at the present time, also models of those in use in bygone days. Food-substances too were not forgotten, or various plants and flowers used either in their manufactures, or for the decoration of their persons. As Mr. Hedley is now engaged in writing the Ethnological portion of the Funafuti Memoir, in which the articles brought back by him are fully described, it is unnecessary to make any reference here to those worthy of special mention.

The principal acquisitions by exchange are various articles used by the natives of South Africa, received from the Pietermaritzburg Museum, Natal, and spears, &c., from Central Australia, sent by the South Australian Museum, Adelaide.

During the year a small but valuable collection of Peruvian pottery was obtained by purchase. By presentation the collection has been enriched by a number of specimens, among which may be mentioned an impression of an aboriginal hand on rock obtained by Mr. Jas. N. Brooks in a cave-shelter at Wollombi; a long conical seed-crusher from the Lachlan District, presented by the Rev. J. Milne Curran; and a bull-roarer and quartzite spear-heads, presented by yourself. The principal donations of Aboriginal food substances have been received from the late Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, F.C.M.G.; Mr. Charles Moore, F.Z.S., late Director of the Botanic Garden, Sydney; and Mr. F. M. Bailey, F.L.S., Colonial Botanist, Brisbane.

Owing

Owing to the ravages of the "white ants" it was found necessary to close the Ethnological Hall in September. This has greatly retarded the progress of the proper display of the exhibits, commenced by Mr. J. Jennings, under your supervision, last year. Nevertheless, since the closing of the hall to the public, a new floor has been substituted for the old one affected by the *Termites*, and a number of specimens have been arranged in the cases. During the year the room at the end of the gallery on the upper floor, used as a store-room, has been utilized for the display of stone axes, quartzite spear-heads, mika knives, &c. Arranged against the north wall of this room are a number of tree-trunks, with Aboriginal carvings on them. In the table-cases, on the upper floor, dilly-bags, necklets, belts, and various articles ornamented with teeth and shells have been properly arranged and labelled during the year.

Numismatical and Historical.

The acquisitions to the Numismatical Collection are both numerous and valuable, and far exceed the aggregate number of specimens registered in previous years. This is chiefly owing to the requests made by yourself, through the Minister for Education, to the British and various foreign Governments for donations of the current issue of coins of each country, and which have been responded to in a most liberal manner. Newly minted gold, silver, and bronze coins have been presented by the British Government, through the Right Honorable Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies. Worthy of special mention in this donation are the gold five-pound and two-pound pieces, and a set of Maunday money. A similar donation of freshly struck coin has been received from His Highness the Chancellor of the German Empire, through Herr Pelldram, Imperial General Consul for Germany in Sydney. This includes twenty, ten, and five mark gold pieces, and various other silver, nickel, and copper coins current at the present time. Another valuable presentation of coins was made by the Minister of Finance in Austria, through Mr. J. Mergell, Austro-Hungarian Consul in Sydney. The Hawaiian Government has also presented the silver coinage of the country, through Mr. W. E. Dixon, Hawaiian Consul-General for Australasia.

Although commercially not of the same face value, but possessing as much interest for Numismatists as the above, is a collection of Australian, Tasmanian, and New Zealand copper tokens, current in the early days of the colonies, presented by Dr. Long.

Three bronze medals were received through the New South Wales Commission of the Chicago Exposition of 1892-3, and one from the Corporation of the City of London, struck in commemoration of the opening of the Tower Bridge by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G., on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, on the 30th June, 1894. Altogether, 219 numismatical specimens were registered during the year.

Only two Historical specimens were added to the collection, neither of which call for special comment.

I am, &c.,

ALFRED J. NORTH.

To the Curator,—

Sir,

I have the honour to hand you herewith the Annual Report of the Entomological Section for 1896.

Insecta and Arachnida.

The number of additions to the collection registered during the year amount to 12,484 specimens, representing a wide range of species, and are included in 1,361 entries.

The year's acquisitions include a large number of interesting and valuable specimens. Of those purchased the most important is a collection consisting chiefly of Coleoptera and Diptera, from the widow of Mr. F. A. A. Skuse, my predecessor, and a collection of Coleoptera from Mr. F. Arthur, of Cranbrook, Penrith.

The specimens collected during the year, mainly by Dr. E. P. Ramsay, consist chiefly of Coleoptera, and these when mounted and worked out will form a valuable addition to our duplicate collection, and be of great value as a medium of exchange. A small but interesting collection of insects was made by Mr. Hedley during his visit to Funafuti, in the Ellice Group; these have been worked out. The collection of Arachnida obtained upon the island, although scarcely representative of that branch of fauna, was much larger than the former. These have also been worked out, and papers dealing with and elucidating the collections are now in hands of the printer.

The specimens obtained by exchange are chiefly from La Plata (per Museo de La Plata), consisting wholly of Coleoptera, and from New Caledonia and New Hebrides (per Musée Colonial, New Caledonia), and consist chiefly of specimens of Coleoptera and Lepidoptera. A small but valuable collection of Coleoptera and Lepidoptera was received during the year from Mr. C. French, Melbourne.

The number of specimens received as donations has been very large. Of these the most noteworthy is a collection of Honey Ants and Spiders (co-types) from Central Australia, the result of the Horn Exploring Expedition, presented by Professor Baldwin Spencer and Mr. W. A. Horn. Liberal contributions to our cabinets have also been made by Mrs. Burnell, Mr. W. S. Dun, Mr. W. D. Campbell, and Mr. D. A. Porter. Mr. Henry Deane, M.A., has also presented the Museum with the type specimen of *Actinopus formosus*, Rain.; this is an exceedingly valuable donation, the specimen being the first of its genus recorded from this Continent.

The new Invertebrate gallery was completed and opened to the public in October, 1895, since when it has been visited and used by many students of natural history; in addition to this the cabinet collection has at all times been open to those desirous of obtaining names and information.

Many

Many specimens of the old collection not having been numbered, it will be necessary when revising and remounting to re-register them; this, although a task that will involve much time and labour, is absolutely necessary, because, under present conditions, it is impossible to say whether they have ever been registered; and not only is this so, but in some instances collections have been entered *in globo*. Such entries are of little value, as no indication is made as to whether they contain representatives of all branches of the Insecta, or whether on the other hand, they consist of specimens of only one or two orders.

In January, 1896, my predecessor, Mr. F. A. A. Skuse, published in "Records of the Australian Museum," vol. ii, No. 7, two short papers—one entitled, "Description of a Dapanoptera from Australia," with a figure; and "Stephanocircus, Sk.: a Rejoinder." A posthumous contribution from the same author—"Additional Localities for *Peripatus leuckartii*"—is at present in the press.

The duties appertaining to the office of Entomologist were discharged by Mr. Skuse up to June, 1896, when the position was rendered vacant by the death of that gentleman. In July, next succeeding, I was employed to temporarily keep the collection in order, and acted in that capacity until the commencement of September, when the permanent appointment was conferred on me. Upon taking charge of this section, my first duties were, acting upon your instructions, to rearrange and revise the cabinet collections, and a commencement in this direction has been made. Owing to the work involved by the Funafuti collection and other departmental duties, the task of rearrangement had to be temporarily suspended, but the work will be proceeded with without delay.

Close application and unremitting attention to the cabinets and exhibition cases have had the effect of preventing the specimens contained therein suffering from the raids of museum pests.

I have, &c.,

W. J. RAINBOW.

To the Curator,—

Sir,

I have the honour to hand you herewith my Report on the Conchological Section for the year 1896.

Mollusca.

Comparatively little improvement was this year effected in the Conchological Section, owing to its custodian being detailed for duty in other directions. From the middle of April to the conclusion of the year, only routine duty, such as registering receipts and arranging exchanges, could be performed. In fulfilment of the design expressed in last year's Report, several weeks were devoted to the examination and re-arrangement of stored specimens. A considerable amount of foreign Land-shells had been roughly, that is generically, stored when office work was interrupted.

In the field, a fairly representative collection was gathered of the Mollusca of Funafuti, for the examination of which time has not, at this date, yet been found.

The exhibits have remained almost untouched during the year. Reliable locks for the cases continue to be the greatest need of the Section.

It is gratifying to observe that young naturalists avail themselves of the collection displaying local shells. Almost every day enthusiastic beginners can be seen at the cases, with a note-book and a pocket-full of shells, intent on the study of Conchology.

By your instructions a named series of a hundred species was furnished, for teaching purposes, to the King's School, Parramatta.

The registered acquisitions to the Collections amounted to 631 species, which, though less than last year's increment, includes numerous substantial additions. From the British Museum were obtained by exchange a most valuable series of specimens dredged by H.M.S. "Challenger." Other deep sea Mollusca were similarly obtained from the Indian Museum. A collection from West Australia, presented by Mr. F. H. Moore, included several rarities. The Rev. W. T. Whan gave a useful series of localised Victorian shells. Author's types of a recently described species, *Australium moniliferum*, Hedley and Willey, were obtained from Dr. Arthur Willey; and from the Governor of British New Guinea was received that large and handsome Papuan snail shell, figured and described as *Thersites septentrionalis* in "Records of the Australian Museum," vol. iii, No. 1.

The acquisitions during the year amounted to 2,195 specimens, registered in 639 entries.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES HEDLEY.

To the Curator,—

Sir,

I have the honour of submitting my Report for the year 1896.

Marine Invertebrata.

The additions received and registered in 258 entries during the past year are classified as follows:—

Tunicata	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Vermes and Polyzoa	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Crustacea	...	...	...	...	...	...	389
Echinodermata	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Coelenterata	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	607

The principal acquisitions consist of a series of deep sea Echinoderms received, in exchange, from Dr. E. Koehler; a small collection of Sponges, Echinoderms, Crustacea and Worms dredged at Camden Haven, N.S.W., and presented by Dr. J. C. Cox; a number of well-preserved English specimens from Plymouth, presented by Captain Meryon, R.N.; also the large collection made by Mr. C. Hedley, at Funafuti,

Funafuti, the Crustacea alone amounting to over 300 specimens. These have been worked out, and in addition to many rare forms hitherto not represented in the collection five new species were described. The work of overhauling, classifying, and cataloguing the larger spirit specimens begun in 1895 has been continued and completed so far as the fishes are concerned; there yet remains the somewhat large collection of specimens in bottles, which will be attended to as soon as convenient. A considerable amount of time has been devoted to the exhibits; family and generic labels have been printed and placed in the cases. The authentic type specimens have been distinguished by the authorised small orange disc, and the Australian exhibits by a magenta one.

An additional shelf has been erected round the whole of the wall cases, thus providing about one-fourth more exhibition space, which was largely utilised.

The Entozoa have been sorted out, mounted, and placed in the cases. There are now about seventy species represented, including fourteen of the late Mr. Gerard Krefft's types.

The Leeches, Gephyrean, and Planarian Worms have also been mounted and placed on view.

The latter part of the year has been devoted to working out the material from Funafuti, the Crustacea have been gone through, and the examination of Echinodermata is now in progress.

Further experiments have been conducted with regard to formol as a preservative. In March last a number of specimens of *Physalia* was killed by adding a 10 per cent. solution of formol to the vessel containing them, and as soon as fixed diluting with sea water to 1 per cent. Two specimens were afterwards transferred to a 1 per cent. solution of formol in fresh water and placed on exhibition. These latter, after nine months, exhibit a slight fading, whilst those left in the 1 per cent. formol in sea water remain unchanged, and are now as bright and fresh looking as immediately after fixation.

I have, &c.,
T. WHITELEGGE.

To the Curator,—

Sir,

I have the honour of submitting to you the Report of my Section for 1896.

Minerals.

The improvement of the exhibited collection has been the chief object of care, and to this end many formerly hand-written labels have been replaced by printed ones, more especially in the case of the larger division and class labels; and additional specimens have been gradually added, to fill, as far as possible, the gaps in the Australian collection.

In order to simplify and increase the instructiveness to the public of the collection of crystal models, the colouring of these has been undertaken, and about half (400) of them are so far finished. Each of the crystallographic surfaces has received a distinctive colour, which is adhered to as far as possible throughout the same system, and to which reference is made on the label. This work is necessarily very tedious and consumes a great amount of time, but the instructive value seems to me to be so greatly increased that the result is well worth the time and trouble spent upon it. The labels for the first or isometric system have already been printed and attached to their corresponding models. The plan adopted is the following:—

The symbols used by both Miller and Naumann are given for each crystallographically different surface on the model, the colour of which is stated in brackets. Each surface with its corresponding symbol, therefore, can be easily distinguished by the visitor.

The large collection of marbles, prepared by Mr. Roberts, Public Works Inspector of Western New South Wales, and exhibited first at Parliament House, has been kindly lent by Mr. W. L. Vernon, Government Architect, and has been placed at the western end of the Geological Hall, on the ground floor. It forms a fine representative series of New South Wales marbles, and a selected number of them mounted would be a very valuable addition to our own collection of foreign specimens.

The specimens registered during the year were obtained as follows—

The acquisitions were	...	...	...	...	...	430 Specimens.
There were re-registered from old collection	...	...	...	...	...	99 "
Total Registrations	...	...	...	...	...	529 "

Foremost among the donations stands the "Nocoleche" Meteorite, which is a mass of meteoric iron weighing just over 44 lb. It was presented by Mr. Geo. J. Raffel. At the present moment it is with Prof. H. A. Ward, of Rochester, N. York State, who has undertaken to cut and polish it. Other valuable donations were a series of stalactites from the Jenolan Caves, collected by Mr. Jeremiah Wilson, and a number of large stalagmites and calcite specimens from the Wombeyan Caves, presented by the Mines Department, a selected number of which have been mounted and placed on view in the wall-cases of the Mineral gallery.

By exchange with the Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow, the Musée Colonial, New Caledonia, the Museo de la Plata, and the Institute of Mines, St. Petersburg, we have obtained a number of beautiful specimens, some of which are entirely new to our collection.

Of the minerals and rocks collected you have contributed practically the whole number. The examination and analyses of the rock specimens brought by Mr. Hedley from Funafuti, and published in December last, occupied a considerable amount of time, but were carried on simultaneously with other work.

Four complete analyses and several partial ones were carried out during the year.

I am, &c.,
T. COOKSEY.

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APPENDIX V.

ATTENDANCE OF THE TRUSTEES DURING 1896.

Crown Trustee.

J. C. Cox, Esq., M.D., F.L.S. 18

Official Trustees.

His Honor the Chief Justice 0
 The Honorable the Colonial Secretary 0
 The Honorable the Attorney-General 0
 The Honorable the Colonial Treasurer 0
 The Auditor-General 10
 The Collector of Customs 0
 The President of the Medical Board 0

Elective Trustees.

J. Belisario, Esq., D.D.S. 11
 A. Liversidge, Esq., M.A., F.R.S. 0*
 The Honorable Jas. Norton, LL.D., M.L.C. 15
 H. H. B. Bradley, Esq. 6
 Charles Moore, Esq., F.L.S., F.Z.S. 2*
 The Honorable P. G. King, M.L.C. 5
 W. D. Campbell Williams, Esq., L.R.C.P., London, &c. 7
 W. A. Haswell, Esq., D.Sc. 8
 T. W. Edgeworth David, Esq., B.A. 8*
 James R. Hill, Esq. 5
 J. T. Wilson, Esq., M.B. 8
 The Honorable S. H. Hyam, M.L.C. 2

Number of Meetings during the year—11 ordinary, 2 special, and 5 Committees.

* Had leave of absence granted.

APPENDIX VI.

I.—ATTENDANCE OF VISITORS DURING 1896.

	Week-days.	Sundays.	Total.
January	8,450	2,167	10,617
February	6,506	2,381	8,887
March	5,911	3,203	9,114
April	8,998	3,207	12,205
May	7,701	3,625	11,326
June	6,029	3,324	9,353
July	7,761	3,487	11,248
August	4,968	3,340	8,308
September	6,260	2,485	8,745
October	7,933	1,887	9,820
November	6,331	3,469	9,800
December	6,503	1,919	8,422
Totals for the year	83,351	34,494	117,845
Daily average	316	663	

II.—COMPARISON OF ATTENDANCE OF VISITORS DURING FIFTEEN YEARS.

	Week-days.			Sundays.		
	Number.	Increase.	Decrease.	Number.	Increase.	Decrease.
1882	81,596			52,505		
1883	86,114	4,518		51,287		1,018
1884	81,653		4,461	44,387		6,900
1885	82,594	941		43,918		469
1886	85,972	3,378		41,259		2,659
1887	85,931		41	36,868		4,391
1888	89,028	3,097		40,337	3,469	
1889	92,858	3,830		45,552	5,215	
1890	87,900		4,958	36,824		8,728
1891	91,910	4,010		40,935	4,111	
1892	94,438	2,528		36,263		4,672
1893*	81,551		12,887	30,776		5,487
1894	86,246	4,695		34,324	3,548	
1895*	86,353	107		32,226		2,098
1896*	83,351		3,002	34,494	2,268	

* Partially closed for repairs during these years.

APPENDIX VII.

RETURN OF SPECIMENS ACQUIRED DURING 1896.

Registration mark.	Department.	No. of Specimens acquired by				Total.	No. of Specimens sent away in Exchange.
		Donation.	Exchange.	Purchase.	Collection.		
M.	Mammals	64	23	3	11	101	46
O.	Birds	288	336	8	32	664	59
R.	Reptiles	175	11	25	20	240	86
I.	Fishes	81	1	4	96	182	260
S.	Skeletons	35	17	9	.....	61	8
C.	Mollusca	1,503	691	1	.....	2,195	709
K.	Insecta, Arachnida, &c.	1,694	782	4,125	5,883	12,484	82
G.	Other Invertebrata	142	40	3	422	607	89
F.	Fossils	363	345	77	284	1,069	1
D.	Minerals	186	179	6	59	430	411
E.	Ethnological	153	116	49	233	551	61
H.	Historical	2	.....	.....	.....	2	.....
N.	Numismatical	218	.....	1	.....	219	.....
B.	Miscellaneous	20	.....	.....	.....	29	33
Total		4,933	2,541	4,311	7,049	18,834	1,896

APPENDIX VIII.

DONATIONS OF SPECIMENS TO THE MUSEUM, 1896.

Donor	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names	Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.
MAMMALIA.					
Mr. Bull	1	Sea Leopard— <i>Ogmorhinus leptonyx</i> .	Professor W. Baldwin Spencer.	8	Rats and Mice—1 <i>Conilurus pedunculatus</i> (type), 1 <i>Conilurus var. brachyotis</i> (type of var.), 1 <i>Mus musculus</i> , 1 <i>Mus gouldi</i> , 1 <i>Mus greyi</i> , 1 <i>Mus fieldi</i> (type), 1 <i>Mus hermannsburgensis</i> (type), 1 <i>Mastacomys sp.</i>
Mr. John H. Castle	1	Opossum— <i>Pseudochirus peregrinus</i> .	Do	2	Nest-building Jerboa Rats— <i>Conilurus conditor</i> .
Dr. N. A. Cobb	1	Crescent Wallaby— <i>Onychogale lunata</i> .	Do	7	2 <i>Dasyuroides byrnei</i> , 2 <i>Sminthopsis larapinta</i> .
Dr. J. C. Cox	1	Water Rat— <i>Hydromys chrysogaster</i> .	Miss E. M. Stacy	1	1 Crest-tailed Pouch Mice— <i>Phascogale cristicaudata</i> , 2 <i>Phascogale macedonellensis</i> .
Mr. G. Dixon	1	Opossum— <i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i> . (Fœtus.)	Mr. J. Stein	1	White-striped Bat— <i>Nyctonomus australis</i> .
Mr. W. S. Dun	1	Dog— <i>Canis familiaris</i> .	Do	1	Scrub Wallaby— <i>Macropus ualabatus</i> (Young)
Miss Faithfull	2	Persian Cats— <i>Felis domesticus</i> .	Do	1	Little Flying Opossum— <i>Acrobates pygmaeus</i> .
Mr. Claude Fuller	1	Pigmy Flying Opossum— <i>Acrobates pygmaeus</i> .	Mr. R. J. Thorpe	1	Pied Rat <i>Mus decumanus</i> .
Mr. J. B. Ilenson	1	Plicated Bat— <i>Nyctonomys plicatus</i> .	Mr. Edgar R. Waite	2	Waltzing Mice— <i>Mus musculus var.</i>
Mr. W. J. Hill	1	Platypus— <i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i> .	Mr. Edgar H. Webb	1	Opossum— <i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i> . (Fœtus.)
Do	1	Egg of do.	Mr. Fred. Whalen	1	Scrub— <i>Macropus ualabatus</i> .
Mr. D. Hogarth	1	Native Porcupine— <i>Echidna aculeata</i> .	Mr. A. A. Wilson	1	Scrub Wallaby— <i>Macropus ualabatus</i> (Fœtus)
Mr. W. A. Horn	1	Rat— <i>Conilurus pedunculatus</i> .		64	
Do	2	Mice— <i>Mus hermannsburgensis</i> .			
Mr. Samuel Miller	1	Young Monkey— <i>Cercopithecus sp.</i>			
N.S.W. Zoological Society	1	Puma— <i>Felis concolor</i> .			
Do	1	Squirrel Monkey— <i>Chrysothrix entomophaga</i> .			
Do	1	Lioness— <i>Felis leo</i> .			
Do	1	Bear— <i>Ursus arctos</i> .			
Do	1	Margay— <i>Felis tigrina</i> .			
Do	1	Red-necked Wallaby— <i>Macropus ruficollis</i> .			
Do	1	Deer— <i>Cervus sp.</i>			
Do	1	Brown Macaque— <i>Macacus arctoides</i> .			
Do	1	Buffalo— <i>Bos</i> .			
Do	1	Deer— <i>Cervus sp.</i>			
Do	1	American Opossum— <i>Didelphys marsupialis</i> .			
Do	1	Sum Bear— <i>Ursus malayanus</i> .	Mr. H. J. Ackland	1	Yellow-faced Honey-eater— <i>Ptilotis chrysops</i>
Do	1	Coati— <i>Nasua rufa</i> .	Do	4	Warty-faced Honey-eaters— <i>Meliphaga phrygia</i> .
Mr. J. D. Ogilby	1	Tree Rat— <i>Conilurus arboricola</i> .	Do	1	White-bellied Sea Eagle— <i>Haliastur leucogaster</i> .
Mr. P. J. Pidgeon	1	Red-necked Wallaby— <i>Macropus ruficollis</i> .	Do	1	Whistling Tree Duck— <i>Dendrocygna acuta</i> .
Dr. H. C. Purcell	1	Mongoose— <i>Herpestes griscus</i> .	Do	1	White-headed Stilt— <i>Himantopus leucocephalus</i> .
Mr. A. M. N. Rose	1	Native Cat— <i>Dasyurus viverrinus</i> . Dark variety, with six young in the pouch.	Mr. G. M. Alley	2	Satin Bower Birds (semi-adult males)— <i>Ptilonorhynchus violaceus</i> .
Do	2	"Nests" of Rat Kangaroo.	Mr. W. Barrett	1	Australian Goshawk— <i>Accipiter approximans</i> .
Master William Sawtell	1	Incisor-tooth of Wombat— <i>Phascotomyx</i> .			
Mr. E. Spalding	1	Red-necked Wallaby— <i>Macropus ruficollis</i> .			

Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.	Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.
AVES—continued.			AVES—continued.		
Mr. J. H. Bell	1	Piping Crow-Shrike (light var.)— <i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i> .	Hon. W. P. Cullen, L.L.D., M.L.C.	1	Black-breasted Plover— <i>Sarcophorus pectoralis</i> .
Mr. C. Berghoff	1	Common Starling— <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> .	Do	1	Marsh Tringa— <i>Limnocolinus acuminatus</i> .
Mr. Albert Boswell	1	Nankeen Night-Heron— <i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i> .	Do	1	Swallow-Dicæum— <i>Dicæum hirundinaceum</i> .
Botanic Gardens (Director).	1	Golden Pheasant— <i>Chrysolophus picta</i> .	Mr. James Dall	1	Great Kiwi— <i>Apteryx grandis</i> .
Do do	1	Vinous-fronted Pigeon— <i>Phlogoenas stairi</i> .	Do	1	South Island Wood-hen— <i>Ocydromus australis</i> .
Mr. J. A. Boyd	1	Rufous Crow-Shrike (juv.)— <i>Cracticus rufescens</i> .	Mr. W. S. Dun	1	Olive-backed Oriole— <i>Oriolus viridis</i> .
Miss Bundock	1	Skin of Cross-bred Fowl.	Do	1	Chestnut-breasted Finch— <i>Donacicola castaneathorax</i> .
Mr. H. Burns	1	Spotted Swamp Harrier— <i>Circus assimilis</i> .	Mr. Charles French	1	Nest of the Eastern lilac-naped Bowerbird— <i>Chlamydotera orientalis</i> .
Do	1	Black-throated Grebe— <i>Podiceps novæ-hollandiæ</i> .	Mr. Charles French, jun.	1	Hybrid between Black-backed and White-backed Crow-shrikes— <i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i> × <i>G. leuconota</i> .
Do	1	Black-backed Porphyrio— <i>Porphyrio melanonotus</i> .	Mr. C. Gordon	1	White Heron— <i>Ardea egretta</i> .
Mr. H. S. Burton	1	White-eyebrowed Wood-Swallow— <i>Artamus superciliosus</i> .	Mr. R. Grant	3	Eggs of the Garrulous Honey-eater— <i>Myzantha garrula</i> .
Rose E. Camp	1	Turtle Dove (albino)— <i>Turtur turtur</i> .	Do	2	Eggs of the Wattle Honey-eater— <i>Anthochaera carunculata</i> .
Mr. R. Campbell	3	Red-vented Parrakeets— <i>Psephenus hæmatorrhous</i> .	Do	2	Eggs of the Yellow-breasted Thick-head— <i>Pachycephala gutturalis</i> .
Mr. W. D. Campbell	1	Nest of the Common Bronze-wing— <i>Phaps chalcoptera</i> .	Mr. R. Helms	1	Nest of Grey-crowned Pomatostomus— <i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i> .
Do	2	Eggs of do.	Do	2	White-fronted Herons— <i>Ardea novæ-hollandiæ</i> .
Mr. J. M. Cantle	1	Black-faced Graucalus— <i>Graucalus melanops</i> .	Do	2	Tawny-shouldered Frogmouths— <i>Podargus strigoides</i> .
Do	1	Pied Crow-Shrike— <i>Strepera graculina nigricans</i> .	Do	1	Boobook Owl— <i>Ninox boobook</i> .
Do	2	Tree Swallows— <i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i> .	Do	1	Little Black and White Cormorant— <i>Graculus melanoleucus</i> .
Do	1	White-fronted Heron— <i>Ardea novæ-hollandiæ</i> .	Do	1	Spotted Swamp Harrier— <i>Circus assimilis</i> .
Do	3	Sanguineous Honey-eaters— <i>Myzomela sanguinolenta</i> .	Miss Lily Hill	1	Gang-gang Cockatoo— <i>Callocephalon galeatum</i> .
Do	1	Nest of the Red-eyebrowed Finch— <i>Aegintha temporalis</i> .	Mr. R. A. Hill	1	Channel-bill Cuckoo— <i>Sycthyrops novæ-hollandiæ</i> .
Do	1	Nest of the Black and White Fantail— <i>Sauroprocta motacilloides</i> .	Mr. Thos. A. Hindmarsh	1	Australian Barn Owl— <i>Strix delicatula</i> .
Do	1	Pallid Cuckoo— <i>Cuculus pallidus</i> .	Mr. W. A. Horn	39	A Collection of Birds from Central Australia.
Do	1	Spine-billed Honey-eater— <i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i> .	Mr. A. E. Ivatt	1	Nest of little Brown Acanthiza— <i>Acanthiza pusilla</i> .
Do	1	Rose-breasted Robin— <i>Erythrodryas rosea</i> .	Do	1	White-shafted Fantail— <i>Rhipidura albicapsa</i> .
Mr. J. Chalker	1	Owllet Nightjar— <i>Egotheles novæ-hollandiæ</i> .	Do	1	White-shouldered Lalage— <i>Lalage tricolor</i> .
Mr. Archibald Childs	1	Swamp Coucal, or Swamp "Pheasant"— <i>Centropus phasianus</i> .	Do	1	White-plumed Honey-eater— <i>Ptilotis penicillata</i> .
Mr. John Childs	1	Gang-gang Cockatoo— <i>Callocephalon galeatum</i> .	Do	1	Masked Wood Swallow— <i>Artamus personatus</i> .
Do	2	Nests of the Friar-bird or "Leather-head"— <i>Tropidorhynchus corniculatus</i> .	Do	1	White-eyebrowed Wood Swallow— <i>Artamus superciliosus</i> .
Do	2	Eggs of do.	Mr. A. P. Kemp	2	Eggs of the Satin Bowerbird— <i>Ptilonorhynchus violaceus</i> .
Do	2	Nests of the White-throated Gerygone or "Native Canary"— <i>Gerygone albigularis</i> .	Do	1	Semi-albino Pied Grallina— <i>Grallina picata</i> .
Mr. R. J. Cooper	1	White-shouldered Lalage— <i>Lalage tricolor</i> .	Mr. J. D. Lankester	1	Black-faced Graucalus— <i>Graucalus melanops</i> .
Mr. C. A. Copeland	1	Sapphire-crowned Lorikeet— <i>Loriculus galgulus</i> .	H. E. Sir Wm. Macgregor, K.C.M.G.	8	Stones from crops of Goura Pigeons.
Mr. W. B. Corderoy	1	White Goshawk— <i>Leucospizias novæ-hollandiæ</i> .	Mr. A. Morkham	2	Black Dragon Pigeons— <i>Columba livia</i> .
Mr. R. W. Cox	1	Nest of Spotted-sided Finch— <i>Stagonopleura guttata</i> .	Mr. F. W. Mouzier	1	Alexandrine Parrakeet— <i>Palæornis eupatria</i> .
Do	1	do Grey-crowned Pomatostomus— <i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i> .	Mr. H. Newcombe	3	Grey-rumped Swifts— <i>Cypselus pacificus</i> .
Do	1	do Yellow-rumped Geobasileus— <i>Geobasileus chrysorrhœa</i> .	Do	3	Black-spotted Turnix— <i>Turnix maculosa</i> .
Do	1	do Black and white Fantail— <i>Sauroprocta motacilloides</i> .	Do	1	Australian Coot— <i>Fulica australis</i> .
Do	1	Young Bird of do do	Do	1	Pectoral Rail— <i>Hypotaenidia philippensis</i> .
Mr. H. J. Creed, J.P.	1	Australian Pipit— <i>Anthus australis</i> .	Do	1	Spotted Swamp Harrier— <i>Circus assimilis</i> .
Do	1	Barraband's Parrakeet— <i>Polytelis barrabandi</i> .	N.S.W. Zoological Society	1	Eared Vulture— <i>Otologyps auricularis</i> .
Do	1	Short-billed Scrub-Tit— <i>Smicrorhynchus brevirostris</i> .	Do	1	Red-billed Liethrix— <i>Liethrix lutea</i> .
Do	1	Garrulous Honey-eater— <i>Myzantha garrula</i> .	Do	2	Australian Cassowaries— <i>Casuarus australis</i> .
Do	2	Grey-crowned Pomatostomus— <i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i> .	Do	1	Golden Pheasant— <i>Chrysolophus picta</i> .
Do	1	Roschill Parrakeet— <i>Platycercus eximius</i> .	Do	1	Bleeding-heart Dove— <i>Phlogoenas lezonica</i> .
Do	1	Rose-breasted Cockatoo— <i>Cacatua roseicapilla</i> .	Do	1	Buff-necked Hornbill— <i>Buceros ruficollis</i> .

Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.	Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.
AVES—continued.			AVES—continued.		
Mr. A. J. North	2	Australian Bee-eaters— <i>Merops ornatus</i> .	Mr. James Stein	2	Warty-faced Honey-eaters— <i>Melipha phrygia</i> .
Do	3	White-shouldered Lalages— <i>Lalage tricolor</i> .	Do	1	Boobook Owl— <i>Ninox boobook</i> .
Do	1	Masked Wood Swallow— <i>Artamus personatus</i> .	Do	1	Collared Sparrow-hawk— <i>Accipiter cirrhocephalus</i> .
Do	1	White-vented Wood Swallow— <i>Artamus albiventris</i> .	Do	1	Sulphur-crosted Cockatoo— <i>Cacatua galerita</i> .
Do	4	White-eyebrowed Wood Swallows— <i>Artamus superciliosus</i> .	Mr. D. Swift	4	Eggs of the Pied Grallina— <i>Grallina picata</i> .
Do	1	Sacred Kingfisher— <i>Halcyon sanctus</i> .	Do	2	Eggs of the Brown Fly-catcher— <i>Micrera fascians</i> .
Do	1	Grey-crowned Pomatostomus— <i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i> .	Do	3	Eggs of the Superb Warbler— <i>Malurus cyaneus</i> .
Do	1	Brown Tree-Creeper— <i>Climacteris leucophaea</i> .	Do	1	Egg of the Pallid Cuckoo— <i>Cuculus pallidus</i> .
Do	2	Grey Struthideas— <i>Struthidea cinerea</i> .	Do	1	Egg of the Rufous-tailed Bronze Cuckoo— <i>Lamprolaima basalis</i> .
Do	3	Lanceolated Honey-eaters— <i>Plectorhyncha lanceolata</i> .	Do	5	Eggs of the White-eyebrowed Wood Swallow— <i>Artamus superciliosus</i> .
Do	1	Nest of do.	Do	3	Eggs of the Black and white Fantail— <i>Sauloprocta motacilloides</i> .
Do	1	do Short-billed Scrub-Tit— <i>Smicromnis brevirostris</i> .	Mr. J. A. Thorpe	3	Nests of the White-eyebrowed Wood Swallow— <i>Artamus superciliosus</i> .
Do	1	Chestnut-rumped Acanthiza— <i>Acanthiza uropygialis</i> .	Do	2	Skins of do.
Do	1	Black Falcon— <i>Falco subniger</i> .	Do	2	Eggs of the Harmonious Thrush— <i>Collyriocichla harmonica</i> .
Do	1	Tawny-shouldered Frogmouth— <i>Pidargus strigoides</i> .	Do	2	Eggs of the Red-eyebrowed Finch— <i>Egyntha temporalis</i> .
Do	1	Sombre Gallinule— <i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i> .	Do	2	Olive-backed Orioles— <i>Oriolus viridis</i> .
Hon. James Norton, L.L.D., M.L.C.	1	Nest of White-eared Honey-eater— <i>Ptilotis leucotis</i> .	Unknown donor	1	Satin Bower-bird— <i>Ptilonorhynchus violaceus</i> .
Mr. G. Packham	1	Pacific Heron— <i>Ardea pacifica</i> .	Do	1	Silver-eye— <i>Zosterops carulescens</i> .
Mr. H. Payten	2	Brown Plovers— <i>Charadrius veredus</i> .	Mr. Edgar H. Webb	1	Nest of the Welcome Swallow— <i>Hirundo neoxena</i> .
Mr. Henry Peir	1	Pallid Cuckoo (jur.)— <i>Cuculus pallidus</i> .	Do	2	Nests of the Sanguineous Honey-eater— <i>Myzomela sanguinolenta</i> .
Mr. R. Palleine	2	Buff-vented Acanthizas— <i>Acanthiza apicalis</i> .	Mr. W. Wilcoxsin, jun.	1	Red-billed Liiothrix— <i>Liiothrix lutea</i> .
Mr. Quinnell	1	Red and Blue Parrot— <i>Eclectus pectoralis</i> .	Mr. G. S. York	1	Red-shouldered Parrakeet— <i>Palaornis nipalensis</i> .
Mr. A. S. Read	1	White Goshawk— <i>Leucospizias nova-hollandica</i> .		288	
Mr. S. Robinson	2	Nests of the Yellow-faced Honey-eater— <i>Ptilotis chrysops</i> .	REPTILIA.		
Do	1	Nest of the Spine-billed Honey-eater— <i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i> .	Mr. Walter All	2	Lizards— <i>Lygosom casuarina</i> .
Do	1	Nest of the Red-capped Robin— <i>Petroica goodenovii</i> .	Mr. J. S. Black	2	Island Boas— <i>Erygus bibroni</i> .
Do	1	Nest of the Black and White Fantail— <i>Sauloprocta motacilloides</i> .	Mr. Theo. A. Bossen	1	Jaw Lizard— <i>Amphibolurus barbatus</i> .
Mr. A. M. N. Rose	2	Olive-backed Orioles— <i>Oriolus viridis</i> .	Mr. J. H. C. Bond	1	Hawk's bill Turtle— <i>Chelone imbricata</i> .
Do	2	Collared Crow Shrikes— <i>Craicticus torquatus</i> .	Mr. J. A. Boyd	1	Northern Blue tongued Lizard— <i>Hemiphaeriodon perrardii</i> .
Do	4	White-backed Crow Shrikes— <i>Gymnorhina leucanota</i> .	Do	1	Blind Snake— <i>Typhlops torresianus</i> .
Do	1	Boobook Owl— <i>Ninox boobook</i> .	Do	2	Frogs— <i>Chiroleptes australis</i> .
Do	1	Peaceful Dove— <i>Geopelia tranquilla</i> .	Do	1	do do <i>brripalmatus</i> .
Do	1	Australian Goshawk— <i>Astur approximans</i> .	Mr. Edwin Brazier	1	Rock Gecko— <i>Gymnodactylus platurus</i> .
Do	2	Chestnut-eared Finches— <i>Tantopygia castanotis</i> .	Do	1	Sharp-nosed Lizard— <i>Lialis burtoni</i> .
Do	3	Painted Finches— <i>Emblema pictu</i> .	Mr. J. H. Bruning	1	Snake like Lizard— <i>Pygopus lepidopus</i> .
Do	1	Pied Grallina— <i>Grallina picata</i> .	Mr. Hugh Cameron	1	Ornate Snake— <i>Denisonia ornata</i> .
Do	4	Pallid Cuckoos— <i>Cuculus pallidus</i> .	Do	1	Brown Snake— <i>Diemema textilis</i> .
Do	2	Fan-tailed Cuckoos— <i>Caiomantis flabelliformis</i> .	Do	1	(Head.)
Do	1	Rufous-tailed Bronze Cuckoo— <i>Lamprolaima basalis</i> .	Do	1	Red-naped Snake— <i>Pseudelaps diademata</i> .
Do	1	Rufous-fronted Flycatcher— <i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i> .	Mr. W. D. Campbell	1	Blue-tongued Lizard— <i>Tiliqua scincoides</i> .
Do	1	Nest of Australian Pipit, built in a tin— <i>Anthus australis</i> .	Do	1	Rock Gecko— <i>Gymnodactylus platurus</i> .
Do	2	Eggs of Australian Pipit, from above Nest.	Mr. J. Chalker	1	Crowned Snake— <i>Denisonia coronoides</i> .
Mr. R. Rose	1	Striated Reed Lark— <i>Calamanthus fuliginosus</i> .	Mr. David Chapman	1	Gecko— <i>Oedura robusta</i> .
Do	1	Rufous-rumped Lark— <i>Ptenaedus rufescens</i> .	Dr. J. C. Cox	2	Skins— <i>Egernia whitii</i> .
Forester Rotton	1	Crested Shrike-Tit— <i>Falcunculus frontatus</i> .	Hon. W. P. Cullen, L.L.D., M.L.C.	1	Rock Gecko— <i>Gymnodactylus platurus</i> .
Mr. J. H. Sandilands	1	Semi-albino Black-backed Crow Shrike or "Magpie"— <i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i> .	Mr. W. A. Cunco	1	Blind Snake— <i>Typhlops polygrammicus</i> .
Mr. A. J. Sharman	1	African Grey Parrot— <i>Psittacus erithacus</i> .	Mr. Fred Curtis	1	Thorny Devil— <i>Moloch horridus</i> .
Miss Ella Shepherd	1	Wedge-tailed Eagle— <i>Aquila audax</i> .	Mr. F. Empson	1	do <i>Moloch horridus</i> .
Dr. E. Sinclair	1	Common Starling— <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> .	Mr. Alfred Fathers	1	Gecko— <i>Diplodactylus vittatus</i> .
Mr. F. Smithers	1	Boobook Owl— <i>Ninox boobook</i> .	Mr. C. H. Fitzhardinge	1	Sharp-nosed Lizard— <i>Lialis burtoni</i> .
			Mr. J. Fred. Fitzhardinge	1	Tiger Snake— <i>Notechis scutatus</i> .
			Do	1	Black-bellied Snake— <i>Denisonia signata</i> .
			Mr. P. Flecknoc	1	Brown Snake— <i>Diemema textilis</i> .
			Mr. J. J. Fletcher	1	Blind Snake— <i>Typhlops</i> .
			Mr. C. Frost	1	do do <i>diversus</i> .
			Mr. John Gale	1	Tadpole—Larva of large <i>Batrachian</i> (Frog.)
			Mr. S. Hargrave	1	Blind Snake— <i>Typhlops polygrammicus</i> .

Donor.	No. of Specimens	Common and Scientific Names.	Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.
REPTILIA—continued.			REPTILIA—continued.		
Mr. A. U. Henn	1	Sea Snake— <i>Platurus scutatus</i> .	Mr. Ernest A. Smith	1	Rock Gecko— <i>Gymnodactylus platurus</i>
Mr. Geo. Hill	1	Rock Gecko— <i>Gymnodactylus platurus</i> .	Mr. William Smith	1	Parcel of Snake's Eggs.
Mr. J. H. Hobbs	1	Yellow-bellied Sea Snake— <i>Hydru</i> <i>platurus</i> .	Mr. F. J. Steere	1	Sea Snake— <i>Hydrophis</i> .
Mr. W. A. Horn	36	Lizards, Snake, and Frogs.	Mr. J. Stein	1	Mud Turtle— <i>Thionyx</i> .
Messrs. Hunter & Sons	1	Tiger Snake— <i>Notechis scutatus</i> .	Do	1	Green Tree-snake— <i>Dendrophis punctu-</i> <i>tuata</i> .
Mr. J. C. Irving	1	Ringed Snake— <i>Furina occipitalis</i> .	Mr. Jas. Stein	1	Water Lizard— <i>Physignathus lesueurii</i> .
Do	1	Treo Snake— <i>Dendrophis punctulata</i> .	Mr. J. E. Stevenson	1	Sharp-nosed Lizard— <i>Lialis burtonii</i> .
Do	1	Tiger Snake— <i>Notechis scutatus</i> .	Mr. H. Thurston	1	Cunningham's Skink— <i>Egernia cum-</i> <i>ninghamii</i> .
Do	1	(Head only.)	Mr. Fred. Tolley	1	Rock Gecko— <i>Gymnodactylus platurus</i>
Do	1	Mottled-headed Snake— <i>Hoplocephalus bitorquatus</i> .	Messrs. Tucker & Co.	1	Black Snake— <i>Pseudechis porphyriacus</i>
Do	1	Brown Snake— <i>Diemenia textilis</i> .	Do	1	Whip Snake— <i>Diemenia psammophis</i> .
Do	1	Black-bellied Snake— <i>Denisonia signata</i> .	Do	1	Brown Snake— <i>Diemenia textilis</i> .
Mr. William Johns	1	Death Adder— <i>Acanthophis antarctica</i> .	Do	1	Black-naped Snake— <i>Denisonia gouldii</i> .
Mr. A. P. Kemp	11	Green-Tree Snakes (young)— <i>Dendrophis punctulata</i> .	Do	1	Ringed Snake— <i>Furina occipitalis</i> .
Do	1	Black Snake— <i>Pseudechis porphyriacus</i> .	Do	1	Superb Snake— <i>Denisonia superba</i> .
Mr. C. J. Kenrick	1	Flat-tailed Gecko— <i>Gymnodactylus milii</i> .	Unknown Donor	1	Rock Gecko— <i>Gymnodactylus platurus</i> .
Mr. King	1	Eggs of Snake—No data.	Do	2	Skink— <i>Egernia depressa</i> .
Mr. R. J. King	1	Flat-tailed Gecko— <i>Gymnodactylus milii</i> .	Do	1	do <i>Tympanocryptis sp.</i>
Mr. W. O. Lees	1	Scale-footed Lizard— <i>Pygopus lepidopus</i> .	Do	2	Gecko— <i>Gymnodactylus milii</i>
Mr. Benton Lucas	1	Blind Snake— <i>Typhlops polygrammicus</i> .	Water Police	1	Diamond Snake— <i>Python spilotes</i> .
Master B. Maddock	1	Blue-tongued Lizard— <i>Tiliqua scincoides</i> .	Mr. A. W. E. Weaver	1	Rock Gecko— <i>Gymnodactylus platurus</i> .
Mr. John Mitchell	1	Water Lizard— <i>Physignathus lesueurii</i> .	Mr. J. Wilson	1	Black Snake— <i>Pseudechis porphyriacus</i> .
Do	2	Spiny Lizards— <i>Amphibolurus muricatus</i> .	Mr. Yarnton	1	Black Snake— <i>Pseudechis porphyriacus</i> .
Do	1	Skink— <i>Lygosoma quoyi</i> .		175	
Do	1	Tree Frog— <i>Hyla carulea</i> .			
Do	3	Marsh Frogs— <i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i> .			
Do	1	Goana— <i>Varanus varius</i> .	Mr. A. Alder	3	Jaws of Barramundi— <i>Ceratodus forsteri</i> .
Mr. H. J. McCooy	1	Blind Snake— <i>Typhlops bituberculatus</i> .	Mrs. Chinnery	1	Large-eyed Herring— <i>Elops saurus</i> .
Do	1	Gecko— <i>Gehyra australis</i> .	Dr. J. C. Cox	1	Bullrout <i>Centrotopogon robustus</i> .
Do	1	Skink— <i>Ablepharus, sp.</i>	Do	2	<i>Eleotris versicolor</i> .
Do	1	do <i>Egernia striolata</i> .	Do	3	<i>Eleotris australis</i> .
Do	3	Gould's Snakes— <i>Denisonia gouldii</i> .	Do	1	Box-fish— <i>Ostracion concatenatus</i> .
Do	1	Carpet Snake— <i>Python spilotes, var. variegata</i> .	Mr. George Crowley	1	Giant Tondo— <i>Tetrodon inermis</i> .
Do	1	Black Snake— <i>Pseudechis porphyriacus</i> .	Mr. F. Crowther	1	Spiny Pipe-fish— <i>Solenognathus spinosissimus</i> .
Do	1	Gould's Goana— <i>Varanus gouldii</i> .	Mr. H. S. W. Crummer	5	<i>Glyphidodon uniocellatus</i> .
Do	3	Variogated Geckos— <i>Gehyra variegata</i> .	Fisheries Department	2	Salmon-trout— <i>Salmo trutta</i> .
Do	1	Superb Snake— <i>Denisonia superba</i> .	Do	1	Sucking-fish— <i>Echeneis naucrates</i> .
Do	2	Geckos— <i>Diplodactylus intermedius</i> .	Do	1	Herring— <i>Potamalosus nova-hollandiae</i> .
Do	1	Mottled headed Snake— <i>Hoplocephalus bitorquatus</i> .	Mr. W. J. Guise	1	Black King-fish— <i>Elacate nigra</i> .
Master Allan Murdoch	1	Frog— <i>Philocryptus flavoguttatus</i> .	Mr. W. A. Horn	5	<i>Chatassus horni</i> .
N.S.W. Railway Commissioners	1	Carpet Snake— <i>Python spilotes, var. variegata</i> .	Do	6	<i>Therapon truttaceus</i> .
Mr. D. A. Porter	1	Gecko— <i>Edura ocellata</i> .	Do	4	<i>Nematocectrotus tatei</i> .
Do	1	do <i>Diplodactylus spinigerus</i> .	Do	5	<i>Nematocectrotus winneckeii</i> .
Do	1	do <i>Edura tryoni</i> .	Mr. Joseph Hyam	1	Tobacco-pipe Fish— <i>Fistularia serrata</i> .
Do	1	do <i>Gehyra australis</i> .	Mr. J. Jennings	1	Sea Poreupine— <i>Dicotylichthys punctulatus</i> .
Queensland Pearlshell Co.	1	Frilled Lizard— <i>Chlamydosaurus kingii</i> .	Do	3	Toad-fish— <i>Tetrodon</i> .
Do	1	Sea Snake— <i>Aipysurus laevis</i> .	Mr. S. A. Josephson	1	Box-fish— <i>Aracana lenticularis</i> .
Mr. J. S. Postlethwaite	1	Blind Snake— <i>Typhlops</i> .	Honorable P. G. King, M.L.C.	1	Crested Blenny— <i>Cristiceps australis</i> .
Mr. James Ramsay	1	Brown Snake, variety— <i>Diemenia textilis</i> .	Mr. E. Le Bihan	1	Tasmanian Blenny— <i>Blenniuss tasmanicus</i> .
Mr. A. Reuben	1	Blue-tongue Lizard— <i>Tiliqua scincoides</i> .	Hon. W. A. Long, M.L.C.	4	Gudgeon— <i>Eleotris grandiceps</i> .
Mr. S. Robinson	1	Ringed Snake— <i>Furina occipitalis</i> .	Captain Meryon	1	Miller's thumb— <i>Cottus bubalis</i> .
Mr. Lawson Rodd	1	Rock Gecko— <i>Gymnodactylus platurus</i>	Do	1	Elephant fish (snout)— <i>Chimera antarctica</i> .
Mr. R. Rose	1	Brown Snake (young)— <i>Diemenia textilis</i> .	Rev. Robert McKeown	1	Sucking fish (young)— <i>Echeneis naucrates</i> .
Dr. Chisholm Ross	1	Young Brown Snake— <i>Diemenia textilis</i> .	Mr. A. Newcombe	1	Leafy Sea-horse— <i>Phyllopteryx foliatus</i> .
Do	1	Tiger Snake— <i>Notechis scutatus</i> .	Mr. H. Newcombe	1	Tobacco Pipe Fish— <i>Fistularia depressa</i> .
Mr. H. W. Sadler	1	Blind Snake— <i>Typhlops polygrammicus</i> .	Mr. J. D. Ogilby	1	<i>Galaxias findlayi</i> .
Mr. James H. Saunders	1	Ornate Snake— <i>Denisonia ornata</i> .	Do	2	Velvet fish— <i>Haloxenus cutaneus</i> .
Mr. Thomas Sawtell	1	Brown Snake— <i>Diemenia textilis</i> .	Mrs. Onslow	1	Australian Perch— <i>Percalates colorum</i> .
Mr. Hy. V. Seale	1	Gecko— <i>Edura robusta</i> .	Do	1	English Tench— <i>Tinca vulgaris</i> .
Mr. George Sharp	1	Brown Snake (young)— <i>Diemenia textilis</i> .	Do	2	Fresh-water Herring— <i>Potamalosus nova hollandiae</i> .
Mr. J. T. Small	1	Frog— <i>Notaden bennettii</i> .	Mr. E. W. Powell	1	Bat fish— <i>Platax tiera</i> .
			Dr. H. C. L. Purcell	1	Leafy Sea-horse— <i>Phyllopteryx foliatus</i> .

PISCES.

Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.	Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.
INSECTA—continued.			INSECTA—continued.		
<i>Hymenoptera</i> —continued.			<i>Coleoptera</i> .		
Hon. W. P. Cullen, L.L.D., M.L.C.	1	Bee— <i>Perga dorsalis</i> .	Mr. H. G. Bray	1	Beetle— <i>Scapanes solidas</i> .
Mr. G. Dixon	1	Bulldog Ants' Nest.	Master Edwin Brazier	34	Beetles—27 <i>Anoplognathus porosus</i> , 3 <i>Repsimus manicatus</i> , 1 <i>Schizorrhina dorsalis</i> , 1 <i>Cyria imperialis</i> , 1 <i>Crocephalus erythrocephalus</i> , 1 <i>Adelium porcatum</i> .
Mr. W. S. Dun	2	Wasps— <i>Pison spinola</i> .	Miss Mary E. Bundoek	5	Beetles, and 1 grub of same— <i>Bosttrychus jesueta</i> .
Mr. R. Etheridge	14	Sugar or Honey Ants— <i>Myrmecoclytus (?) sp.</i>	Mr. Burnell	369	Beetles, containing specimens of the genera— <i>Hebescus</i> , <i>Symphyletes</i> , <i>Penthia</i> , <i>Monochamus</i> , <i>Melon</i> , <i>Demonassa</i> , <i>Agapete</i> , <i>Chaodalis</i> , <i>Trogocerus</i> , <i>Eburophora</i> , <i>Hesthesia</i> , <i>Epithora</i> , <i>Callirhoe</i> , <i>Tryphocaria</i> , <i>Macrotoma</i> , <i>Encara</i> , <i>Cardiothorax</i> , <i>Colochromus</i> , <i>Amarygmus</i> , <i>Trigondera</i> , <i>Orphanistes</i> , <i>Eccloconrus</i> , <i>Ethucca</i> , <i>Chrysolophus</i> , <i>Paropsis</i> , <i>Stigmodera</i> , <i>Melobasis</i> , <i>Chalcotonia</i> , <i>Pamborus</i> , <i>Bulbocerus</i> , <i>Lamprima</i> , <i>Xylotrupes</i> , <i>Schizorrhina</i> , <i>Lomaptera</i> , and <i>Anchon</i> .
Mr. A. J. Ewen	1	Wasp— <i>Polistes variabilis</i> .	Mr. W. D. Campbell	1	Beetle— <i>Stigmodera jacquinota</i> .
Mr. W. W. Froggatt	15	Honey Ants— <i>Camponotus midas</i> .	Master Ernest Cantle	49	Beetles—1 <i>Stigmodera grandis</i> , 2 <i>Stigmodera maculata</i> , 2 <i>Stigmodera semicincta</i> , 5 <i>Stigmodera variabilis</i> , 16 <i>Stigmodera suturalis</i> , 9 <i>Lyraphora palmata</i> , 5 <i>Cacochroa gynopleura</i> , 2 <i>Cacochroa gynopleura</i> , (var. <i>concolor</i>), 3 <i>Eupeocila australasia</i> , 2 <i>Phyllotocus macleayi</i> .
Do	12	do do <i>inflatus</i> .	Mr. Cecil Cooper	1	Wood-boring Beetle— <i>Callirhoe polita</i> .
Do	13	do do <i>cowleyi</i> .	Mr. W. S. Dun	25	Beetles—10 <i>Paropsis sp.</i> , 1 <i>Adelium plieigerum</i> , 6 <i>Chrysolophus spectabilis</i> , 1 <i>Leptops sp.</i> , 1 <i>Oxytes sp.</i> , 1 <i>Tularinus rugosus</i> , 2 <i>Sclerorinus sp.</i> , 2 <i>Monocrepidius striatus</i> , 1 <i>Phorocantha recurva</i> .
Mr. W. A. Horn	16	do do <i>inflatus</i> . (Material from Horne Expedition.)	Mr. A. J. Ewen	1	Wire-worm—Larva of <i>Elateridae sp.</i>
Mr. A. P. Kemp	2	Carpenter Bees and Gallery— <i>Xylocarpa sp.</i> , ♂ et ♀. (Specimens living.)	Do	2	Wire-worms— <i>Elateridae sp.</i>
Mr. A. J. North	1	Mason Wasp's Nest— <i>Discollinus sp.</i>	Do	1	Beetle— <i>Eurhynchus sp.</i>
Mr. D. A. Porter	1	Wasp— <i>Pterogopherus sp.</i>	Mr. C. Fuller	4	Beetles— <i>Callirhoe polita</i> .
Do	1	do <i>Scolia sp.</i>	Mr. John Gaggia	17	Beetles—6 <i>Lampidoderma albohirtum</i> , 11 <i>Calloodes mastersi</i> .
Do	2	Bees— <i>Lestes sp.</i>	Mr. Edgar J. Godfrey	1	Beetle— <i>Mallodon figuratum</i> .
Mrs E. Woollams	1	Insect Architecture, Entrance Tunnel, Ant's Nest.	Mr. H. C. E. Newcombe	88	Beetles—2 <i>Repsimus purpureiceps</i> , 15 <i>Repsimus manicatus</i> , 1 <i>Anoplognathus porosus</i> , 70 <i>Anoplognathus viridis-geneus</i> .
<i>Hemiptera</i> .			<i>Homoptera</i> .		
Mrs. E. B. Bassel	9	Helicoid larval shells of Leaf-hoppers— <i>Aphrophorada sp.</i>	Mr. Burnell	4	Locusts (so called)— <i>Cicada sp.</i>
Miss Mary E. Bundoek	1	Gigantic Water Bug— <i>Belostoma indicum</i> .	Master E. A. Brearley	2	Cicadas— <i>Thopha saccata</i> .
Mr. Burnell	1	Water Scorpion— <i>Nepa sp.</i>	Do	2	do (Yellow Monday)— <i>Cyclochila australasia</i> .
Do	3	Bugs— <i>Pentatoma sp.</i>	Mr. W. D. Campbell	3	Cicadas— <i>Fevicina angularis</i> .
Mr. W. D. Campbell	1	Bug— <i>Reduvius sp.</i>	Mr. T. Coubro	4	do <i>Proarma sp.</i>
Dr. J. C. Cox	50	Plant Bugs— <i>Harpactor sp.</i>	Dr. J. C. Cox	12	do <i>Proarma sp.</i>
Mr. Hugh Dixon	1	Bug— <i>Arma sibellanbergi</i> .	Do	5	do <i>Cylochila australasia</i> .
Mr. W. S. Dun	1	Plant Bug— <i>Achilus stamens</i> .	Mr. George Dixon	40	do <i>Proarma sp.</i>
Master Goldfinch	1	Back-swimming Water Boatman— <i>Notonecta sp.</i>	Mr. W. S. Dun	1	Cicada (tree-hopper)— <i>Cicidetta torrida</i> .
Do	1	Water Scorpion— <i>Nepa sp.</i>	Mr. J. H. Elder	13	Cicadas—1 <i>Proarma sp.</i> , 1 <i>Cyclochila australasia</i> , 3 <i>Fevicina angularis</i> , 3 <i>Thopha saccata</i> , 2 <i>Psaltoda mearns</i> , 3 <i>Cyclochila australasia</i> .
Mr. D. A. Porter	2	Bugs— <i>Scutellera sp.</i>	Mr. A. J. Ewen	1	Cluster of Scale Insects— <i>Ctenochiton sp.</i>
Do	6	do <i>Pentatoma fetidum</i> .	Mr. Geo. Lyell, jun.	9	Cicadas—8 <i>Thopha saccata</i> , 1 <i>Fevicina angularis</i> .
Do	1	Tree-hopper— <i>Psylla sp.</i>	Mr. D. A. Porter	4	Cicadas—1 <i>Cystosoma saundersi</i> , 1 <i>Fevicina angularis</i> , 1 <i>Cyclochila australasia</i> , 1 <i>Psaltoda mearns</i> .
Do	6	do <i>Eurybrachys sp.</i>	Mr. H. Selkirk	4	Cicadas—2 <i>Psaltoda mearns</i> , 1 <i>Fevicina angularis</i> , 1 <i>Thopha saccata</i> .
Do	2	Bugs— <i>Scutellera sp.</i>	Mr. J. A. Thorpe	2	Cicadas—1 <i>Thopha saccata</i> , 1 <i>Cyclochila australasia</i> .
Mr. W. J. Rainbow	1	Plant Bug— <i>Reduvius sp.</i>	Mr. E. N. Webb	12	Cicadas—1 <i>Thopha saccata</i> , 1 <i>Fevicina angularis</i> , 10 <i>Psaltoda mearns</i> .
Mr. A. M. N. Rose	5	Lice— <i>Lipeurus sp.</i>	<i>Neuroptera</i> .		
Do	1	Collection of Aphides— <i>Aphis mali</i> .	Master Fred. Brazier	1	Lace-wing Fly— <i>Chrysopa sp.</i>
<i>Homoptera</i> .			Mr. William Street	27	White Ants— <i>Termites sp.</i>
Mr. Burnell	4	Locusts (so called)— <i>Cicada sp.</i>	Mr. Thomas H. Wiseman	1	Lace-wing Fly— <i>Chrysopa sp.</i>
Master E. A. Brearley	2	Cicadas— <i>Thopha saccata</i> .	<i>Coleoptera</i> .		
Do	2	do (Yellow Monday)— <i>Cyclochila australasia</i> .	Mr. H. G. Bray	1	Beetle— <i>Scapanes solidas</i> .
Mr. W. D. Campbell	3	Cicadas— <i>Fevicina angularis</i> .	Master Edwin Brazier	34	Beetles—27 <i>Anoplognathus porosus</i> , 3 <i>Repsimus manicatus</i> , 1 <i>Schizorrhina dorsalis</i> , 1 <i>Cyria imperialis</i> , 1 <i>Crocephalus erythrocephalus</i> , 1 <i>Adelium porcatum</i> .
Mr. T. Coubro	4	do <i>Proarma sp.</i>	Miss Mary E. Bundoek	5	Beetles, and 1 grub of same— <i>Bosttrychus jesueta</i> .
Dr. J. C. Cox	12	do <i>Proarma sp.</i>	Mr. Burnell	369	Beetles, containing specimens of the genera— <i>Hebescus</i> , <i>Symphyletes</i> , <i>Penthia</i> , <i>Monochamus</i> , <i>Melon</i> , <i>Demonassa</i> , <i>Agapete</i> , <i>Chaodalis</i> , <i>Trogocerus</i> , <i>Eburophora</i> , <i>Hesthesia</i> , <i>Epithora</i> , <i>Callirhoe</i> , <i>Tryphocaria</i> , <i>Macrotoma</i> , <i>Encara</i> , <i>Cardiothorax</i> , <i>Colochromus</i> , <i>Amarygmus</i> , <i>Trigondera</i> , <i>Orphanistes</i> , <i>Eccloconrus</i> , <i>Ethucca</i> , <i>Chrysolophus</i> , <i>Paropsis</i> , <i>Stigmodera</i> , <i>Melobasis</i> , <i>Chalcotonia</i> , <i>Pamborus</i> , <i>Bulbocerus</i> , <i>Lamprima</i> , <i>Xylotrupes</i> , <i>Schizorrhina</i> , <i>Lomaptera</i> , and <i>Anchon</i> .
Do	5	do <i>Cylochila australasia</i> .	Mr. W. D. Campbell	1	Beetle— <i>Stigmodera jacquinota</i> .
Mr. George Dixon	40	do <i>Proarma sp.</i>	Master Ernest Cantle	49	Beetles—1 <i>Stigmodera grandis</i> , 2 <i>Stigmodera maculata</i> , 2 <i>Stigmodera semicincta</i> , 5 <i>Stigmodera variabilis</i> , 16 <i>Stigmodera suturalis</i> , 9 <i>Lyraphora palmata</i> , 5 <i>Cacochroa gynopleura</i> , 2 <i>Cacochroa gynopleura</i> , (var. <i>concolor</i>), 3 <i>Eupeocila australasia</i> , 2 <i>Phyllotocus macleayi</i> .
Mr. W. S. Dun	1	Cicada (tree-hopper)— <i>Cicidetta torrida</i> .	Mr. Cecil Cooper	1	Wood-boring Beetle— <i>Callirhoe polita</i> .
Mr. J. H. Elder	13	Cicadas—1 <i>Proarma sp.</i> , 1 <i>Cyclochila australasia</i> , 3 <i>Fevicina angularis</i> , 3 <i>Thopha saccata</i> , 2 <i>Psaltoda mearns</i> , 3 <i>Cyclochila australasia</i> .	Mr. W. S. Dun	25	Beetles—10 <i>Paropsis sp.</i> , 1 <i>Adelium plieigerum</i> , 6 <i>Chrysolophus spectabilis</i> , 1 <i>Leptops sp.</i> , 1 <i>Oxytes sp.</i> , 1 <i>Tularinus rugosus</i> , 2 <i>Sclerorinus sp.</i> , 2 <i>Monocrepidius striatus</i> , 1 <i>Phorocantha recurva</i> .
Mr. A. J. Ewen	1	Cluster of Scale Insects— <i>Ctenochiton sp.</i>	Mr. A. J. Ewen	1	Wire-worm—Larva of <i>Elateridae sp.</i>
Mr. Geo. Lyell, jun.	9	Cicadas—8 <i>Thopha saccata</i> , 1 <i>Fevicina angularis</i> .	Do	2	Wire-worms— <i>Elateridae sp.</i>
Mr. D. A. Porter	4	Cicadas—1 <i>Cystosoma saundersi</i> , 1 <i>Fevicina angularis</i> , 1 <i>Cyclochila australasia</i> , 1 <i>Psaltoda mearns</i> .	Do	1	Beetle— <i>Eurhynchus sp.</i>
Mr. H. Selkirk	4	Cicadas—2 <i>Psaltoda mearns</i> , 1 <i>Fevicina angularis</i> , 1 <i>Thopha saccata</i> .	Mr. C. Fuller	4	Beetles— <i>Callirhoe polita</i> .
Mr. J. A. Thorpe	2	Cicadas—1 <i>Thopha saccata</i> , 1 <i>Cyclochila australasia</i> .	Mr. John Gaggia	17	Beetles—6 <i>Lampidoderma albohirtum</i> , 11 <i>Calloodes mastersi</i> .
Mr. E. N. Webb	12	Cicadas—1 <i>Thopha saccata</i> , 1 <i>Fevicina angularis</i> , 10 <i>Psaltoda mearns</i> .	Mr. Edgar J. Godfrey	1	Beetle— <i>Mallodon figuratum</i> .
<i>Neuroptera</i> .			Mr. H. C. E. Newcombe	88	Beetles—2 <i>Repsimus purpureiceps</i> , 15 <i>Repsimus manicatus</i> , 1 <i>Anoplognathus porosus</i> , 70 <i>Anoplognathus viridis-geneus</i> .
Master Fred. Brazier	1	Lace-wing Fly— <i>Chrysopa sp.</i>	Hon. James Norton, L.L.D., M.L.C.	1	Ground Beetle— <i>Pterostichus regalis?</i>
Mr. William Street	27	White Ants— <i>Termites sp.</i>	Do do	1	Beetle— <i>Cardiothorax mastersi</i> .
Mr. Thomas H. Wiseman	1	Lace-wing Fly— <i>Chrysopa sp.</i>	Do do	2	Beetles—1 <i>Eudemina alternans</i> , 1 <i>Catadromus sp.</i>
<i>Coleoptera</i> .			Mr. J. D. Ogilby	18	Beetles—1 <i>Tessaromma undulata</i> , 1 <i>Callirhoe vigintata</i> , 1 <i>Perperus sp.</i> , 1 <i>Lixus mastersi</i> , 1 <i>Adelium geniale</i> , 1 <i>Amarygmus bicolor</i> , 2 <i>Monocrepidius sp.</i> , 1 <i>Monocrepidius striatus</i> , 1 <i>Heteronyx australis</i> , 1 <i>Abax boisduvali</i> , 1 <i>Allecula sp.</i> , 2 <i>Egulus sp.</i> , 2 <i>Rhinzopertha giblicollis</i> , 1 <i>Aniculus sp.</i> , 1 <i>Platysoma sp.</i>
<i>Coleoptera</i> .			Mr. D. A. Porter	74	Beetles—2 <i>Lamprima rutilans</i> , 1 <i>Nyctoxilus sp.</i> , 1 <i>Hesthesia vigilans</i> , 3 <i>Rhipicera sp.</i> , 17 <i>Australira sp.</i> , 1 <i>Holepta sydnensis</i> , 1 <i>Melobasis sp.</i> , 3 <i>Tranes sp.</i> , 4 (Fireflies) <i>Atyphella flammans</i> , 1 <i>Gigadema politum</i> , 4 <i>Diphucephala sericea</i> , 5 <i>Diphucephala ignota</i> , 5 <i>Metriorhynchus erythropterus</i> , 6 <i>Diphucephala rugosa</i> , 1 <i>Diphucephala ignota</i> , 1 <i>Eutoma mastersi</i> , 1 <i>Pamborus alternans</i> , 1 <i>Carenum sp.</i> , 2 <i>Cardiothorax walckenaeri</i> , 1 <i>Monocrepidius bruxii</i> , 1 <i>Monocrepidius striatus</i> , 1 <i>Monocrepidius sp.</i> , 1 <i>Agrilus sp.</i> , 7 <i>Laccon sp.</i> , 1 <i>Platysoma convexius</i> , 1 <i>Platysoma sp.</i> , 1 <i>Spilophya sp.</i>

Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.	Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.
INSECTA—continued.			ARACHNIDA—continued.		
Coleoptera—continued.			ARACHNIDA—continued.		
Mr. W. J. Rainbow	16	Beetles—1 <i>Callirhoe allapsa</i> , 1 <i>Amarygmus opacicollis</i> , 2 <i>Paropsis reticulata</i> , 2 <i>Paropsis sp.</i> , 3 <i>Heteronychus picipes</i> , 1 <i>Callirhoe allapsa</i> , 1 <i>Amarygmus opacicollis</i> , 1 <i>Callirhoe alapsa</i> , 2 <i>Attractus sp.</i> , 1 <i>Monocrepidius striatus</i> , 1 <i>Paropsis sp.</i>	Master Arthur Johnston	1	Spider— <i>Mygale sp.</i>
Mr. F. A. A. Skuse	19	Beetles—1 <i>Philoscaphus tuberculatus</i> , 1 <i>Promecoderus gracilis</i> , 1 <i>Diaphomerus genernani</i> , 1 <i>Hypharper deyrellei</i> , 1 <i>Helluo costalis</i> , 2 <i>Lamprima varians</i> , 1 <i>Ryssonotus nebulosus</i> , 2 <i>Adolela australis</i> , 1 <i>Stigmodera goryi</i> , 1 <i>Stigmodera semicincta</i> , 1 <i>Stigmodera producta</i> , 1 <i>Stigmodera plagiata</i> , 1 <i>Stigmodera crenata</i> , 1 <i>Stigmodera elongata</i> , 1 <i>Stigmodera bella</i> , 1 <i>Stigmodera inconspicua</i> , 1 <i>Stigmodera apiculis</i> .	Miss Ellen Mason	1	Spider and young— <i>Caelania excavata</i> .
Do	2	Beetles— <i>Helluo sp.</i>	Mr. Percy M'Arthur	1	Spider— <i>Gasteracantha sacerdotalis</i> .
Professor W. Baldwin Spencer.	1	Beetle— <i>Aposites macilentus</i> .	Mr. C. J. Pounds	25	Cattle Ticks (♂ et ♀), adults, larvae, and eggs—24 <i>Böophilus (Ixodes) bovis (?)</i> ; 1 specimen of hide with ticks attached. (Probably American cattle tick.)
<i>Town and Country Journal</i>	12	Beetles— <i>Buprestis sp.</i>	Mr. W. J. Rainbow	3	Spiders—1 <i>Nephila Edwardsi</i> (type), 1 <i>Nephila ventricosa</i> (type), 1 <i>Nephila victorialis</i> .
Mr. E. R. Waite	67	Pupæ of— <i>Epilachna 28-punctata</i> .	Do	2	Spiders— <i>Epeira wagneri</i> (type specimen.)
Do	14	Larvæ do	Do	3	Leaf-nests— <i>Epeira wagneri</i> .
Do	12	Imagines do	Do	1	Spider— <i>Dolomedes neptunus</i> (type specimen.)
Do	1	Beetle— <i>Ophidius sp.</i>	Do	1	Spider— <i>Dolomedes spinipes</i> (type specimen.)
Do	2	Pupæ do	Do	4	*Spiders— <i>Gasteracantha quadrispina</i> .
Orthoptera.			Do	1	Pseudo-scorpion— <i>Chelifer brevidigitatus</i> .
Mr. W. D. Campbell	3	Orthoptera Larvæ— <i>Forficula sp.</i>	Do	1	Spider— <i>Epeira coronata</i> (♀), (type specimen.)
Do	1	Cricket— <i>Anotostoma sp.</i>	Do	1	Flying spider— <i>Attus splendidus</i> (♂), (type specimen.)
Mrs. Corcoran	1	Walking-stick Insect— <i>Mantis dolomedes</i> .	Do	1	Scorpiu— <i>Buthus flavicruris</i> (type specimen.)
Mr. W. S. Dun	2	Locust— <i>Locusta sp.</i>	Do	1	Spider— <i>Pachynatha superba</i> (♀) (type specimen.)
Do	1	Grasshoppers— <i>Tetrix sp.</i>	Do	1	Spider— <i>Epeira protensa</i> . (Rare.)
Do	1	Cockroach— <i>Panesthia sp.</i>	Do	1	Spider— <i>Argiope regalis</i> .
Master Goldfinch	2	Larvæ of Dragon-flies— <i>Lestes sp.</i>	Do	3	Spiders— <i>Argiope regalis</i> (2 ♂ et 1 ♀)
Mr. Charles Hanna	1	Stick-insect— <i>Tropidoderus sp.</i>	Mr. S. J. A. Roberts	1	Spider— <i>Nephila picta</i> (type specimen.)
Do	2	Cockroach— <i>Blatta orientalis</i> .	Mr. Thomas Sawtell	1	Scorpion— <i>Isometrus melanophysa</i> .
Hon. James Norton, J.L.D., M.L.C.	1	Mantis— <i>Mantis (?) religiosa</i> (Young specimen.)	Mr. J. T. Small	1	Spider— <i>Gasteracantha sacerdotalis</i> .
Mr. D. A. Porter	2	Dragon-flies— <i>Lestes sp.</i>	Do	9	Spiders—2 <i>Gasteracantha sacerdotalis</i> , 1 <i>Gasteracantha minax</i> , 1 <i>Thotia testudinea</i> , 1 <i>Thotia clypeata</i> (♀), 1 <i>Thotia clypeata</i> (♂), 1 <i>Epeira lutulenta</i> , 1 <i>Epeira flavopunctata</i> (immature), 1 <i>Hemicloea major</i> .
Do	5	Ant-lions— <i>Myrmeleon sp.</i>	Mr. J. A. Thorpe	5	Spiders—4 <i>Mela sp.</i> ; 1 <i>Epeira sp.</i>
Mr. W. D. Campbell	5	Ant-lions— <i>Myrmeleon sp.</i>	<i>Town & Country Journal</i>	30	Spider's nest.
Mr. H. V. Watkins	6	Cockroaches— <i>Blatta americana</i> .	Do	6	Ticks— <i>Ixodes hydrosauri</i> .
Do	1	Earwig— <i>Forficula sp.</i>	Mr. G. R. Waite	1	Trap-door Spider— <i>Ixalus varius</i> (♂).
Mr. Lewis Whitfield	1	Locust— <i>Gryllus sp.</i>	Mr. T. Whiteleggo	1	Spider— <i>Epeira sp.</i>
Miscellaneous.			MYRIOPODA, &c.		
Mr. D. A. Parker	2	Wood-lice— <i>Oniscus sp.</i>	Mr. W. D. Campbell	1	Centipede— <i>Scolopendra prosina</i> .
Mr. S. Sinclair	1	"Forty-legs"— <i>Scutigera forceps</i> .	Mrs. Lawler	1	do <i>Scolopendra horrida</i> .
ARACHNIDA.			Captain E. D. Reid	3	Centipedes— <i>Heterostoma (sulcoides)</i> .
Miss F. W. Brain	1	Spider— <i>Voconia immanis</i> .	Mrs. C. Woollams	1	Centipede— <i>Scolopendra horrida</i> .
Do	2	Chelifers ("Pseudo-scorpions")— <i>Chelifer sp.</i>	MOELLUSCA.		
Mr. James Brown	1	Spider— <i>Caelania excavata</i> .	Captain Anderson	2	Shells— <i>Melongenæ corona</i> .
Miss Mary E. Bundoock	1	do <i>Hemicloea sp.</i>	Do	1	Limpet— <i>Helcioniscus sanguinans</i> .
Mr. W. D. Campbell	1	do <i>Epeira sp.</i>	Do	2	do <i>Patella barbara</i> .
Do	1	do <i>Astia minitabunda</i> ♂.	Do	1	do <i>Patella longicosta</i> .
Mr. H. Deane	1	do <i>Actinopus formosus</i> (Rare; type sp.)	Mr. C. Bertie	1	<i>Xanthomelon angasiana</i> .
Mr. Hugh Dixon	1	Spider— <i>Epeira mucronata</i> .	Master Lionel Collins	4	Cowries— <i>Trivia australis</i> .
Do	1	do <i>Stephanopis longipes</i> .	Rev. A. H. Coombes	1	<i>Columbella semiconvexa</i> .
Mr. A. J. Ewen	115	Spiders—Mostly <i>Epeirida</i> .	Dr. J. C. Cox	2	<i>Anomia elyros</i> .
Mrs. W. J. Green	1	Spider— <i>Isopeda conspersa</i> .	Do	2	<i>Tellina spectabilis</i> .
Mr. G. N. Griffiths	16	Cattle Ticks—14 <i>Böophilus (Ixodes) bovis (?)</i> ; 2 specimens of hide (bullock and cow) attacked by ticks.	Do	2	<i>Tellina inflata</i> .
Mr. S. Hargrave	1	Trap-door Spider— <i>Hadronyche cerberæa</i> .	Do	2	<i>Pholas sp.</i>
Mr. H. H. Hart	1	Spider— <i>Gasteracantha astrigera</i> .	Do	2	<i>Arca tortuosa</i> .
Mr. W. A. Horn	12	Spiders—1 <i>Phlogius crassipes</i> , 1 <i>Lycosa crispipes</i> , 1 <i>Lycosa pulveresparsa</i> , 1 <i>Isopedia persleri</i> , 1 <i>Idiocles helva</i> , 2 <i>Miturga lineata</i> , 1 <i>Voconia dolosa</i> , 1 <i>Nephila eremiana</i> , 3 <i>Zora marmorea</i> (Material from Horn Expedition.)	Do	3	<i>Venus calophylla</i> (var.).
			Do	2	<i>Eastonia pellucida</i> .
			Do	2	<i>Macra obesa</i> .
			Do	1	<i>Tellina sulcata</i> .
			Do	1	<i>Tapes tetrica</i> .
			Do	1	<i>Pholas orientalis</i> .
			Do	2	<i>Arca granosa</i> .
			Do	4	<i>Lutraria philippinarum</i> .
			Do	1	<i>Solarium perspicuum</i> .

Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.	Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.
MOLLUSCA—continued.			MOLLUSCA—continued.		
Dr. J. C. Cox.....	2	? <i>Venus calophylla</i> .	Mr. S. Lower.....	87	Shells—1 <i>Xanthomelon kowringensis</i> ,
Do	1	<i>Donax cuneata</i> .			5 <i>Acanthochites retrojectus</i> , 4
Do	2	<i>Maetra dissimilis</i> .			<i>Cryptoplax striatus</i> , 6 <i>Liolophura</i>
Do	2	<i>Psammobia lessoni</i> .			<i>gaimardi</i> , 4 <i>Onithochiton lyellii</i> , 7
Do	1	<i>Maetra depressa</i> .			<i>Callistochiton antiquus</i> , 4 <i>Callo-</i>
Do	4	<i>Dosinia scabriuscula</i> .			<i>chiton platessa</i> , 4 <i>Ischnochiton</i>
Do	4	? <i>Tellina mellea</i> .			<i>australis</i> , 7 <i>Ischnochiton divergens</i> ,
Do	2	<i>Paphia mitis</i> .			7 <i>Ischnochiton fruticosus</i> , 12
Do	1	<i>Arca pilula</i> .			<i>Ischnochiton crispus</i> , 1 <i>Ischnochi-</i>
Do	1	<i>Solen grandis</i> .			<i>ton crispus</i> var. <i>decorata</i> , 7
Do	2	<i>Asaphis deflorata</i> .			<i>Ischnochiton lentiginosus</i> , 3 <i>Chiton</i>
Do	2	<i>Fusus philippi</i> .			<i>limans</i> , 2 <i>Chiton pellis serpentis</i> ,
Do	3	<i>Cyprina sublobata</i> .			5 <i>Chiton jugosus</i> , 2 <i>Pyramitella</i>
Do	18	<i>Terebratulina cancellata</i> .			<i>tincta</i> , 1 <i>Trochus yatesi</i> , 1 <i>Trochus</i>
Do	1	<i>Chiton coxi</i> .			<i>omalomphalus</i> , 1 <i>Turritella cla-</i>
Do	1	<i>Acanthochites granostriatus</i> .			<i>thrata</i> , 1 <i>Tellina decussata</i> , 2
Do	1	<i>Acanthochites coxi</i> .			<i>Tellina albinella</i> .
Do	3	<i>Acanthochites nebstoides</i> .	H. E. Sir Wm. Macgregor,	32	Shells—4 <i>Rhyssota flyensis</i> , 6 <i>Chlorites</i>
Do	2	<i>Hauleya variabilis</i> .	K. C. M. G.		<i>rekei</i> , 17 <i>Papuna tayloriana</i> , 3
Do	3	Snails— <i>Thersites mitchellæ</i> .			<i>Thersites septentrionalis</i> (Type), 2
Mr. H. S. W. Crummer..	94	Shells—1 <i>Cypraea testudinaria</i> , 2			<i>Thersites</i> sp.
		<i>Cypraea reticulata</i> , 2 <i>Cypraea</i>	Dr. T. H. May	20	Shells <i>Assiminea affinis</i> .
		<i>ventriculus</i> , 1 <i>Cypraea ligris</i> , 1			
		<i>Cypraea mauritiana</i> , 4 <i>Cypraea</i>	Mr. F. H. Moore	454	Shells—1 <i>Crassatella castanea</i> , 1
		<i>nucleus</i> , 6 <i>Cypraea caput-serpentis</i> ,			<i>Dosinia lamellata</i> , 2 <i>Cardium ver-</i>
		4 <i>Cypraea moneta</i> , 6 <i>Cypraea</i>			<i>tebratum</i> , 1 <i>Cardita marmorea</i> , 1
		<i>helvola</i> , 3 <i>Cypraea poraria</i> , 2 <i>Cyp-</i>			<i>Cardita</i> sp., 1 <i>Cardita crassico-</i>
		<i>raea childreni</i> , 10 <i>Cypraea isabella</i> ,			<i>stata</i> , 1 <i>Venus marica</i> , 1 <i>Lima</i>
		2 <i>Cypraea talpa</i> , 2 <i>Cypraea car-</i>			<i>squamosa</i> , 1 <i>Venerupis exotica</i> , 4
		<i>neoala</i> , 7 <i>Cypraea fimbriata</i> , 1 <i>Cyp-</i>			<i>Septifer bilocularis</i> , 1 <i>Mytilus</i>
		<i>raea cicercula</i> , 1 <i>Cypraea irrorata</i> ,			<i>menkeanus</i> , 2 <i>Tellina decussata</i> ,
		2 <i>Ovulum ovum</i> , 1 <i>Trivia scabri-</i>			1 <i>Lamopsis</i> sp., 1 <i>Lucina</i> sp., 1
		<i>uscula</i> , 1 <i>Conus literatus</i> , 1 <i>Conus</i>			<i>Lucina</i> sp., 1 <i>Lucina</i> sp., 1 <i>Maetra</i>
		<i>marmoratus</i> , 2 <i>Oliva erythrostoma</i> ,			<i>polita</i> , 2 <i>Acmaea costata</i> , 12
		2 <i>Nerita maxima</i> , 2 <i>Cassia vibex</i> ,			<i>Acmaea crucis</i> , 2 <i>Scutus anatinus</i> ,
		2 <i>Terebra crenulata</i> , 1 <i>Dolium</i>			2 <i>Stomatella imbricata</i> , 2 <i>Haliotis</i>
		<i>perdix</i> , 2 <i>Vertagus obeliscus</i> , 2			<i>tricolorata</i> , 1 <i>Haliotis elegans</i> , 3
		<i>Lutirus nodatus</i> , 2 <i>Haliotis varia</i> ,			1 <i>Turbo imperialis</i> , 3 <i>Turbo sta-</i>
		1 <i>Melampus castaneus</i> , 1 <i>Ricinula</i>			<i>mineus</i> , 2 <i>Turbo argyrostomus</i> , 3
		<i>ricinus</i> , 1 <i>Columbella varians</i> , 1			<i>Phasianella australis</i> , 5 <i>Phasianella</i>
		<i>Phasianella variegata</i> , 1 <i>Peri-</i>			<i>variegata</i> , 3 <i>Astralinum tenlori-</i>
		<i>sternia</i> , sp., 1 <i>Turricula</i> , sp.			<i>forme</i> , 1 <i>Delphinula lacinata</i> , 45
					<i>Monodonta zeus</i> , 28 <i>Monodonta car-</i>
Professor T. W. E. David	1	<i>Pinna rudis</i> .			<i>bonaria</i> , 1 <i>Monodonta</i> sp., 15 <i>Can-</i>
Mr. W. S. Day	2	<i>Helicorion brazieri</i> .			<i>tharidus chlorostomus</i> , 20 <i>Canth-</i>
Do	1	<i>Rhytida franklandiensis</i> .			<i>aridus</i> sp., 15 <i>Cantharidus lesneri</i> ,
Do	4	<i>Rhytida</i> , sp.			15 <i>Cantharidus lesneri</i> var. <i>ram-</i>
Do	3	<i>Thersites bipartita</i> .			<i>burgi</i> , 14 <i>Cantharidus pulcherrimus</i> ,
Do	1	" <i>beltendenkerensis</i> .			1 <i>Trochus personatus</i> , 1 <i>Trochus</i>
Do	1	<i>Xanthomelon pachystyla</i> .			sp., 3 <i>Trochus atropurpureus</i> , 4
Mr. Hugh Dixon	1	<i>Nanina naninoides</i> .			<i>Euchelus atratus</i> , 35 <i>Vertagus</i>
Do	1	" <i>vitrinoides</i> .			<i>cordigerum</i> , 1 <i>Vertagus fasciatus</i> , 1
Mr. Walter Fielder	3	<i>Amphipeplea papyracea</i> .			<i>Cerithium leve</i> , 3 <i>Bittium grana-</i>
Do	8	<i>Bulinus tenuistriatus</i> .			<i>rium</i> , 1 <i>Triton tuberosus</i> , <i>Triton</i>
Do	2	" <i>aliceæ</i> .			<i>quoyi</i> , 2 <i>Purpura pica</i> , 7 <i>Ricinula</i>
Do	12	<i>Potamopyrgus</i> , sp.			<i>concatenata</i> , 1 <i>Scalaria granulosa</i> ,
Do	20	<i>Segmentina victoriae</i> .			2 <i>Comminella</i> sp., 15 <i>Comminella</i>
Do	11	<i>Planorbis gilberti</i> .			sp., 4 <i>Conus anemone</i> , 4 <i>Hippoxz</i>
Mr. C. Hedley	1	Shell— <i>Haliotis parva</i> .			<i>australis</i> , 3 <i>Bulla ampulla</i> , 2 <i>Melo</i>
Do	2	" <i>Thersites lismorensis</i> .			<i>didema</i> , 2 <i>Strombus floridus</i> , 2
Mr. R. Helms	1	<i>Flammulina pantherina</i> .			<i>Dolium variegatum</i> , 2 <i>Fusus pro-</i>
Do	8	<i>Flammulina helmsi</i> .			<i>boscidiferus</i> , 1 <i>Tectarius mibaris</i> ,
Do	3	<i>Flammulina zelandica</i> , v. <i>antipoda</i> .			4 <i>Natica</i> sp., 1 <i>Natica filosa</i> , 2
Do	1	<i>Hyalina cellaria</i> .			<i>Olivia australis</i> , 3 <i>Nassa pauper-</i>
Mr. A. U. Henn.....	65	Shells—2 <i>Peristernia rudolphi</i> , 17			<i>ata</i> , 5 <i>Nassa fasciata</i> , 1 <i>Nassa</i> sp.,
		<i>Marginella nympha</i> , 1 <i>Pleurotoma</i>			5 <i>Nassa glans</i> , 2 <i>Mitra variabilis</i> ,
		<i>edwini</i> , 1 <i>Vanikoro gracilis</i> , 1			50 <i>Columbella pardalina</i> , 2 <i>Colum-</i>
		<i>Turbonilla scalarina</i> , 2 <i>Eulimella</i>			<i>bella menkeana</i> , 2 <i>Liotia</i> sp., 2
		<i>pulchra</i> , 10 <i>Odosomia indistincta</i> ,			<i>Avicula citrina</i> , 1 <i>Cypraea arabica</i> ,
		7 <i>Odosomia henni</i> , 9 <i>Bittium varie-</i>			1 <i>Cypraea vitellus</i> , 1 <i>Cypraea caput</i>
		<i>gatatum</i> , 2 <i>Triforis graniferus</i> , 3			<i>serpentis</i> , 2 <i>Cypraea helvola</i> , 1
		<i>Rissoa strangei</i> , 3 <i>Rissoa ochro-</i>			<i>Voluta nivosa</i> , 1 (?) <i>Cantharidus</i>
		<i>leuca</i> , 1 <i>Homalogyra pulcherrima</i> ,			<i>erogulus</i> , 1 <i>Cantharidus chloro-</i>
		2 <i>Puncturella harisani</i> , 2 <i>Glyphis</i>			<i>stemus</i> , 1 <i>Delphinula lacinata</i> , 1
		<i>watsoni</i> , 2 <i>Turbonilla scalarina</i>			<i>Cerithium fasciatum</i> , var., 2 <i>Phasi-</i>
		var., 1 <i>Atrictia brazieri</i> .			<i>anella australis</i> , 1 <i>Planaxis sulca-</i>
Mr. R. S. Hurd	1	<i>Cassia nana</i> .			<i>tus</i> , 4 <i>Cerithium tuberculatum</i> , 2
Mr. A. M. Lea	38	Shells—1 <i>Nerita plicata</i> , 5 <i>Nerita</i>			<i>Cantharus fumosus</i> , 2 <i>Nassa pau-</i>
		<i>punctata</i> , 1 <i>Strombus floridus</i> , 1			<i>perata</i> , var., 4 <i>Olivia irisans</i> , 1
		<i>Liotia peroni</i> var., 1 <i>Calliostoma</i>			<i>Cypraea scotti</i> , 5 <i>Cypraea moneta</i> ,
		sp., 1 <i>Conus pontificalis</i> , 1 <i>Cypraea</i>			5 <i>Cypraea pulicaria</i> , 7 <i>Trivia aus-</i>
		<i>caput serpentis</i> , 1 <i>Cypraea moneta</i> ,			<i>tralis</i> , 1 <i>Bulla ampulla</i> , 10 <i>Phasi-</i>
		2 <i>Mitra scutulata</i> , 1 <i>Columbella</i>			<i>nella ventricosa</i> , 1 <i>Phasianella</i>
		<i>turturina</i> , 10 <i>Tectarius rugosus</i> ,			<i>variegata</i> , 2 <i>Conus anemone</i> , 1
		6 <i>Risella melanastoma</i> , 2 <i>Septifer</i>			<i>Marinula patula</i> , 1 <i>Gena strigosa</i> ,
		<i>bilocularis</i> , 2 <i>Purpura</i> sp., 1			1 <i>Gibbula n. sp.</i>
		<i>Acmaea</i> sp., 2 <i>Siphonaria</i> sp.			

Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.	Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.
MOLLUSCA—continued.			MOLLUSCA—continued.		
Mr. Harold Mort	2	Shells— <i>Trochus concavus</i> .	Rev. W. T. Whau	...	Shells—continued.
Mr. D. A. Porter	1	River mussel— <i>Unio ambiguus</i> , Parreyss.			<i>mauritanus</i> , 6 <i>Littorina acutispira</i> , 5 <i>Risella melanostoma</i> , 3 <i>Bilium granarium</i> , 1 <i>Potamides australis</i> , 2 <i>Nerita punctata</i> , 2 <i>Liotia clothrala</i> , 3 <i>Liotia angasi</i> , 1 <i>Liotia tasmanica</i> , 3 <i>Australium tentoriforme</i> , 6 <i>Gibbula aurea</i> , 2 <i>Cantharidus conicus</i> , 2 <i>Cantharidus lesueri</i> , v. <i>ramburi</i> ; 4 <i>Cantharidus bellulus</i> , 2 <i>Cantharidus badius</i> , 10 <i>Cantharidus fasciatus</i> , 2 <i>Monodonta striolata</i> , 1 <i>Monodonta constricta</i> , 2 <i>Euchelus baccatus</i> , 3 <i>Euchelus tasmanicus</i> , 2 <i>Trochus limbatus</i> , 7 <i>Gibbula</i> sp., 2 <i>Monodonta odontis</i> , 2 <i>Monodonta adelaida</i> , 2 <i>Gena strigosa</i> , 5 <i>Megatebennus trapezinus</i> , 1 <i>Lucapinella pritchardi</i> , 2 <i>Macroschisma tasmanica</i> , 2 <i>Macroschisma producta</i> , 5 <i>Emarginula dilecta</i> , 3 <i>Acmæa cantharus</i> , 5 <i>Acmæa mamorata</i> , 5 <i>Acmæa jacksoniensis</i> , 1 <i>Acmæa costata</i> , 4 <i>Helcioniscus tramosericus</i> , 2 <i>Patella aculeata</i> , 1 <i>Patella ustulata</i> , 11 <i>Marinula patula</i> , 4 <i>Ampullarina fragilis</i> , 1 <i>Siphonaria denticulata</i> , 3 <i>Siphonaria zonata</i> , 1 <i>Siphonaria diemenensis</i> , 1 <i>Acmæa septiformis</i> , 1 <i>Potamides turritella</i> .
Mr. H. B. Preston	93	Shells—12 <i>Gundlachia</i> sp., 3 <i>Flammulina compressivoluta</i> , 4 <i>Helicodonta angigyra</i> , 3 <i>Helicodonta obvoluta</i> , 3 <i>Helicodonta nautiliformis</i> , 3 <i>Helicigona personata</i> , 2 <i>Hygromia edentula</i> , 2 <i>Hygromia ciliata</i> , 2 <i>Bulota fruticum</i> , 8 <i>Helicella carthusiana</i> , 2 <i>Helicella strigella</i> , 4 <i>Vallonia pulchella</i> , 6 <i>Bulimus detritus</i> , 12 <i>Pupa megacheilos</i> , 14 <i>Balea perversa</i> , 12 <i>Pupa quadritens</i> , 3 <i>Onchidium nigricans</i> .	Mr. T. Whitelegge	17	Shells—6 <i>Solarium luteum</i> , 6 <i>Fiona marina</i> , 5 <i>Trochoides desmaresti</i> .
Mr. R. Palleine	2	<i>Latirus pulleinei</i> .	Mr. Voss Wiburd	17	Shells—1 <i>Helicarion verreauxi</i> , 11 <i>Succinea arborea</i> , 5 <i>Thersites gulosa</i> (new variety).
Queensland Pearlshell Company.	9	Shells—2 <i>Gastrochaena lamellosa</i> , 5 <i>Lithodomus teres</i> , 1 Valve of <i>Melœograna boreal</i> <i>L. teres</i> , 1 <i>Chitinous pearl</i> .	Mr. G. M. Woodford	1	Nautilus jaw, from stomach of shark.
Captain E. D. Reid	84	Shells—2 <i>Cypræa reticulata</i> , 2 <i>Cypræa caput serpentis</i> , 25 <i>Cypræa moneta</i> , 10 <i>Conus herbræus</i> , 5 <i>Turbo argyrosomus</i> , 3 <i>Ricinula horrida</i> , 3 <i>Ricinula undata</i> , 5 <i>Ricinula tuberculata</i> , 4 <i>Ricinula ricinus</i> , 1 <i>Vasum ceramicum</i> , 1 <i>Peristernia</i> sp., 1 <i>Cerithium columna</i> , 17 <i>Mitra literata</i> , 3 <i>Nerita plicata</i> , 1 <i>Littorina obesa</i> , 1 <i>Triton gemmatus</i> .		1503	
Mr. William Taylor	1	<i>Xanthomelon angosiana</i> .	The following List was omitted from the Report of 1895:—		
Do	1	<i>Xanthomelon perinflata</i> .	Mr. A. U. Heun	...	A Collection of Shells, containing:— <i>Pugnus parvus</i> , type; <i>Arca tortuosa</i> , <i>Arca semitoria</i> , <i>Arca scapha</i> , <i>Arca helblingii</i> , <i>Arca navicularis</i> , <i>Nucula obliqua</i> , <i>Pectunculus vitreus</i> , <i>Limopsis cancellatus</i> , <i>Tellina murrayi</i> , <i>Tellina meyeri</i> , <i>Tellina squamulosa</i> , <i>Tellina elegantissima</i> , <i>Tellina casta</i> , <i>Tellina</i> sp., <i>Tellina</i> sp., <i>Dosinia deshayesi</i> , <i>Dosinia mira</i> , <i>Poromya australis</i> , <i>Leda lata</i> , <i>Leda corbiculoides</i> , <i>Crasatella rhomboides</i> , <i>Corbula scaphoides</i> , <i>Corbula macgillivrayi</i> , <i>Corbula monilis</i> , <i>Corbula</i> sp., <i>Neræa elegans</i> , <i>Neræa</i> sp., <i>Septifer bicularis</i> , <i>Venus submodulosa</i> , <i>Venus lionot</i> , <i>Venus infans</i> , <i>Pecten pallium</i> , <i>Cardium fornicatum</i> , <i>Cardium torresi</i> , <i>Cardium hemicardium</i> , <i>Carditella torresi</i> , <i>Cardita insignis</i> , <i>Circe</i> , sp., <i>Cytherea regulans</i> , <i>Cytherea cozeni</i> , <i>Lima</i> sp., <i>Myodora trigona</i> , <i>Myodora oblonga</i> , <i>Montacuta acuminata</i> , <i>Montacuta paula</i> , <i>Montacuta</i> sp., <i>Modiolaria</i> sp., <i>Lucina desiderata</i> , <i>Lucina semina</i> , <i>Lucina</i> sp., <i>Pecten tegula</i> , <i>Amusium japonicum</i> , <i>Ostrea</i> sp., <i>Spondylus victoria</i> , <i>Chama spinosa</i> , <i>Strombus vittatus</i> , <i>Cassis saburon</i> , <i>Cypræa subviridis</i> , <i>Euchelus atratus</i> , <i>Xenophora solaroides</i> , <i>Dentalium</i> sps., <i>Cylichna concentrica</i> , <i>Cylichna bizona</i> , <i>Cylichna sulcata</i> , <i>Cylichna</i> sp., <i>Cylichna reticulata</i> ,
Mr. O. Thomber	3	<i>Vermatus</i> sp.			
Mr. J. A. Thorpe	1	Calcareous pearls.			
Professor H. A. Ward	2	<i>Olivæ porphyria</i> .			
Mrs. J. G. Waterhouse	33	Shells—2 <i>Nonina sophia</i> , 5 <i>Risella</i> sp., 1 Eggs of <i>P. bivaricosus</i> , 1 <i>Arca divaricata</i> , 1 <i>Turricula</i> sp., 1 <i>Triforis</i> sp., 5 <i>Ischnochiton</i> , sp., 2 <i>Rissoina</i> sp., 2 <i>Rissoina</i> sp., 4 <i>Euchelus scrobiculatus</i> , 1 <i>Conus planorbis</i> , 4 <i>Partula spadicea</i> , 1 <i>Panopæa australis</i> .			
Rev. W. T. Whau	259	Shells—1 <i>Haliotis albicans</i> , 1 <i>Haliotis tricostalis</i> , 2 <i>Murex</i> sp., 2 <i>Urosalpinx neglecta</i> , 1 <i>Purpura succinta</i> , var. <i>texilosa</i> ; 2 <i>Ricinula humilis</i> , 2 <i>Ricinula adelaidensis</i> , 9 <i>Triton quoyi</i> , 1 <i>Triton olearium</i> , 1 <i>Fusus ustulatus</i> , <i>Pisania reticulata</i> , 1 <i>Trophon bednalli</i> , 2 <i>Siphonalia clarki</i> , 3 <i>Comminella costata</i> , 3 <i>Comminella alveolata</i> , 2 <i>Nassa jonasi</i> , 2 <i>Nassa fasciata</i> , 3 <i>Nassa jacksoniana</i> , 2 <i>Nassa pauperata</i> , 6 <i>Nassa paupera</i> , 1 <i>Lyræa mitriformis</i> , 3 <i>Mitra badia</i> , 3 <i>Marginella turbinata</i> , 5 <i>Marginella tubinata</i> var. <i>volutiformis</i> , 2 <i>Ancillaria marginata</i> , 5 <i>Columbella semiconveza</i> , 3 <i>Columbella austriana</i> , 1 <i>Cancellaria levigata</i> , 1 <i>Cancellaria spirata</i> , 3 <i>Drillia angasi</i> , 5 <i>Pleurotoma</i> sp., 2 <i>Mangilia spurea</i> , 4 <i>Mangilia lineata</i> , 4 <i>Pleurotoma</i> sp., 2 <i>Conus anemone</i> , 2 <i>Cypræa angustata</i> , 3 <i>Trivia australis</i> , 1 <i>Natica incei</i> , 1 <i>Natica conica</i> , 2 <i>Natica umbilicata</i> , 2 <i>Hipponyx australis</i> , 1 <i>Monilea callifera</i> , 2 <i>Scalaria granulosa</i> , 2 <i>Scalaria australis</i> , 1 <i>Litipsa</i> sp., 1 <i>Scalaria aculeata</i> , 10 <i>Turbonilla maria</i> , 6 <i>Littorina</i>			

Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.	Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.
MOLLUSCA—continued.			LOWER MARINE INVERTEBRATA—continued.		
Mr. A. U. Henn.....	...	Collection of Shells—continued. <i>Smaraydinella</i> sp., <i>Utriculus fameliens</i> , <i>Utriculus acrobeles</i> , <i>Utriculus ambainensis</i> , <i>Utriculus similimus</i> , <i>Utriculus amphizostus</i> , <i>Ringicula pusilla</i> , <i>Ringicula</i> sp., <i>Scaliola</i> sp., <i>Triforis corrugatus</i> , <i>Triforis rufula</i> , <i>Triforis</i> sp., <i>Tarbovilla homolata</i> , <i>Tarbovilla dipsyche</i> , <i>Tarbovilla</i> sp., <i>Eulima camphylla</i> , <i>Eulima martinii</i> , <i>Eulima acerrima</i> , <i>Eulima</i> sp., <i>Columbella troglodytes</i> , <i>Columbella</i> sp., <i>Columbella lentiginosa</i> , <i>Cyclostrema marchei</i> , <i>Cyclostrema</i> sp., <i>Eulimella acerrima</i> , <i>Eulimella</i> sp., <i>Scalaria denticulatum</i> , <i>Scalaria</i> sp., <i>Rissoa</i> sp., <i>Marginella pachia</i> , <i>Marginella</i> sp., <i>Mitra intertirata</i> , <i>Bittium parvulum</i> , <i>Bittium diplax</i> , <i>Bittium</i> sp., <i>Liolia</i> sp., <i>Alys semistriata</i> , <i>Alys</i> sp., <i>Glyphis</i> sp., <i>Natica</i> sp., <i>Cavolina longirostris</i> , <i>Sigaretus</i> sp., <i>Amathina tricostata</i> , <i>Monilea</i> sp., <i>Teinostoma crenelliferum</i> , <i>Teinostoma</i> sp., <i>Turritella cingulifera</i> , <i>Vanikoro</i> sp., <i>Trochus</i> sp., <i>Barbecia imbricata</i> , <i>Erato angulata</i> , <i>Scissurella declinans</i> , <i>Rissoina transenna</i> , <i>Rissoina</i> sp., <i>Clathurella</i> sp., (?) <i>Plesiotrochus</i> sp., <i>Torinia virgata</i> , <i>Vitriella liricincta</i> , <i>Calyptraea calyptraeformis</i> , <i>Alaba fulva</i> , <i>Fusus</i> sp., <i>Nassa</i> sp., <i>Leptothyru</i> sp., <i>Mangelia nitens</i> , <i>Mangelia</i> sp., <i>Crosseia striata</i> , <i>Odotonia amaebia</i> , <i>Odotomia kymatodes</i> , <i>Odotomia convoluta</i> , <i>Odotonia scopulorum</i> , <i>Odotomia</i> sp., <i>Pleurotoma</i> sp., <i>Venus roseotincta</i> , <i>Stomatella imbricata</i> , <i>Schismope carinata</i> .	Crustacea—continued.		
			Hon. James Norton, LL.D., M.L.C.	1	Crab— <i>Carpilius maculatus</i> .
			Captain E. D. Reid	2	Robber Crabs— <i>Birgus latro</i> .
			Do	1	Crab— <i>Calappa hepatica</i> .
			Do	1	do <i>Lophozozymus octodentatus</i> .
			Do	1	Hermit Crab— <i>Calcinus</i> sp.
			Do	2	Crabs— <i>Gelasimus tetragonon</i> .
			Do	2	do <i>Poutonia meleagris</i> , from pearl-shell.
			Dr. V. Gunson Thorpe ...	1	Larval form of Crawfish— <i>Phyllosoma</i> stage of <i>Palinurus</i> sp.
LOWER MARINE INVERTEBRATA.			Vermes.		
			Mr. Augustus Berney.....	1	Polyzoa or Bryozoa— <i>Idmonea radians</i> .
			Mr. S. E. Bradford.....	1	Hair Worm— <i>Gordius</i> sp.
			Mr. George Brewer	1	do <i>Gordius</i> sp.
			Dr. J. C. Cox	2	Marine Worms— <i>Stylarioides cinctus</i> .
			Do	1	Marine Worm— <i>Eunice aphroditois</i> .
			Mr. Fraser	2	Planarian Worms— <i>Bipalium kewense</i> .
			Mr. A. J. Giennan.....	1	Hair Worm— <i>Gordius</i> sp.
			Mr. Paul Hoerder.....	30	"Pololo" Worms— <i>Pololo viridis</i> .
			Mr. George A. King	1	Planarian Worm— <i>Bipalium kewense</i> .
			Captain Meryon, R.N. ...	1	Worm, "Sea Mouse"— <i>Aphrodite aculeata</i> .
			Do	1	Polyzoon— <i>Crisia eburnea</i> .
			Do	1	Marine Worm— <i>Polycirrus aurantiacus</i> .
			Mr. T. H. Moore	1	Polyzoon— <i>Retepora monilifera</i> .
			Captain E. D. Reid	2	Marine Worms— <i>Amphinome</i> sp.
			Mr. T. R. Shepherd	1	Land Planarian— <i>Geoplana munda</i> .
			Mr. E. A. Silva	1	Marine Nemertean Worm— <i>Borlasia</i> sp.
			Professor W. Baldwin Spencer	1	Giant Earthworm— <i>Megascotides australis</i> .
			Professor A. Vayssiere ...	8	Polyzoon-Bryozoa— <i>Myrionozoum truncatum</i> , <i>Eschara tabulifera</i> (var. <i>cericornis</i>), <i>Escharia fascialis</i> , <i>Cellepora</i> sp., <i>Froncipora reticulata</i> , <i>Flustra</i> sp., <i>Retepora</i> sp., <i>Salicornaria sarcinoides</i> .
			Coelenterata.		
			Dr. J. C. Cox	4	Gorgonias— <i>Ctenocella pectinata</i> .
			Do	1	Gorgonia— <i>Muricea</i> sp.
			Do	3	Zoophytes— <i>Ceratella fusca</i> .
			Do	1	Sponge— <i>Plectispa elegans</i> .
			Do	1	do <i>Leiosella mantelli</i> .
			Do	1	do <i>Papillissa lutea</i> .
			Do	1	do <i>Plumohalichondria incrustans</i> .
			Do	1	do <i>Dendrilla</i> sp.
			Do	1	do <i>Aplysina</i> sp.
			Do	2	Calcareous Sponges— <i>Leucandra microrrhaphis</i> .
			Do	2	Calcareous Sponges— <i>Ute syconoides</i> .
			Do	1	Coral— <i>Cylicia rubeola</i> .
			Crustacea.		
Master Edwin Brazier ...	1	Crab— <i>Pachygrapsus transversa</i> .	Do	1	Gorgonia— <i>Muricea</i> sp.
Do	4	Barnacles— <i>Alepas tubulosa</i> .	Do	3	Zoophytes— <i>Ceratella fusca</i> .
Do	1	Piece of Wood with Barnacles attached— <i>Lepas anatifera</i> .	Do	1	Sponge— <i>Plectispa elegans</i> .
Mr. W. D. Campbell.....	1	Young of Lobster— <i>Phyllosoma</i> of <i>Palinurus hugelii</i> .	Do	1	do <i>Leiosella mantelli</i> .
Dr. J. C. Cox	1	Crab— <i>Calappa cristata</i> .	Do	1	do <i>Papillissa lutea</i> .
Do	1	Isopod, "Sea Lice"— <i>Steneltrium armatum</i> .	Do	1	do <i>Plumohalichondria incrustans</i> .
Do	1	Isopod, "Sea Lice"— <i>Sphaeroma pubescens</i> .	Do	1	do <i>Dendrilla</i> sp.
Do	2	Isopod, "Sea Lice"— <i>Cirolana lata</i> .	Do	1	do <i>Aplysina</i> sp.
Do	4	Amphipods, "Sand Hoppers"— <i>Moera</i> sp.	Do	2	Calcareous Sponges— <i>Leucandra microrrhaphis</i> .
Captain Meryon, R.N. ...	1	Whale Barnacle— <i>Coronula reginae</i> .	Do	2	Calcareous Sponges— <i>Ute syconoides</i> .
Mr. John Mitchell	1	Sculptured Crawfish— <i>Scyllarus sculptus</i> . (Very rare.)	Do	1	Coral— <i>Cylicia rubeola</i> .

Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.	Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.
LOWER MARINE INVERTEBRATA—continued.			MINERALS.		
<i>Zoophytes.</i>			Mr. A. Argles...	1	Native Arsenic.
Captain M. Breach	1	Gulf Weed (<i>Sargassum bacciferum</i>), with Zoophyte (<i>Obelia sp.</i>)	Do	1	Native Arsenic in quartz vein, containing mispickel.
Captain Meryon, R.N. ...	1	Hermit Crab— <i>Anapagurus sp.</i> , with <i>Epizoanthus</i> attached.	Do	1	Arsenide of Iron (<i>Leucopyrite</i>).
Do	1	Sea Anemone— <i>Bunodes gemmaceus</i> .	Do	1	Pyrites.
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>			Do	2	Galena, Mispickel, Blende, and Pyrites.
Captain Meryon, R.N. ...	1	Sea Spider— <i>Pycnogonum, sp.</i>	Do	1	Galena and Pyrites.
Do	1	Bottle of Mud, containing Shells and Foraminifera, Norfolk Island	Do	2	Sibnite.
Do	1	Bottle of Mud, containing Shells and Foraminifera, Port Lincoln, S.A.	Do	1	Mispickel and Pyrites.
Do	1	Surface Algae— <i>Trichodesmium, sp.</i>	Mr. Geo. Armour	1	Sapphire.
FOSSILS.			Mr. R. W. Armour	1	Gem Stones — Sapphires, Zircons, Topaz.
Mr R. T. Baker.....	2	Honeysuckle — <i>Banksia integrifolia</i> (Cones).	Mr. Thomas Beedle	3	Encrinitic Marble (dark).
Mr. Arturo Boffi	2	<i>Bulinus grandis</i> .	Do	1	Brecciated Marble.
Mr. J. Brazier	2	1 Plant, 1 Fish—Mesozoic beds of the Talbragar River.	Do	1	Marble.
Dr. R. Broom.....	3	1 <i>Burramys parvus</i> , 1 <i>Palaopetaurus elegans</i> , 1 <i>Dromicia nana</i> .	Do	1	Calcite (Calespar).
Do	10	2 <i>Pseudochirus antiquus</i> , 1 <i>Dromicia nana</i> , 3 <i>Perameles wombeyensis</i> , 1 <i>Macropus wombeyensis</i> , 1 <i>Phascogale flavipes</i> , 2 <i>Potorous tridactylus</i> .	Do	1	White Encrinitic Marble.
Mr. Joseph Burnett	1	Extinct Wombat — <i>Phascelomys sp.</i> (part of right ramus, lower jaw).	Do	2	Marble.
Do	2	Extinct Wallabies — <i>Macropus sp.</i> (parts of lower jaws).	Do	2	Marble.
Do	1	Extinct Kangaroo — <i>Macropus sp.</i> (molar tooth).	Mr. A. J. Brownlow	1	Encrinitic Limestone.
Dr. J. C. Cox	2	<i>Macrophthalmus (Gonoplax) latreillei</i> .	Mr. Thomas Coldclough..	1	Copper Pyrites (<i>Chalcopyrites</i>).
Mr. W. A. Cuneo	1	<i>Fenestella sp.</i> (impressions).	Mr. Santano Crasto	1	Imitation Aventurine.
Mr. C. W. Darley	53	Dugong— <i>Halicore dugong</i> .	Hon. Dr. J. M. Creed,	5	Pieces of charred stem of tree containing carbonate of lime.
Mr. George Dixon.....	1	Seed-vessel (undescribed).	M.L.C.	1	Ironstone Nodule.
Do	1	<i>Glossopteris sp.</i>	Mr. W. A. Cuneo	1	Clay Ironstone.
Do	2	<i>Glossopteris linearis</i> .	Department of Mines,	1	Slate, with markings.
Do	1	<i>Gangamopteris</i> .	Melbourne.	3	Limestone.
Do	1	Plant remains.	Department of Mines,	1	Limestone (Marble).
Mr. T. Dodds.....	1	<i>Diprotodon</i> (part of humerus).	Sydney.	9	Stalagmites.
Mr. W. S. Dun	2	<i>Athyris maclayana</i> .	Do	14	Stalactites.
Do	1	<i>Spirifera</i> .	Do	16	Incrusted Bones.
Mr. R. Etheridge	50	<i>Saccamina carteri</i> .	Do	2	Calcareous Concretions.
Do	6	Fresh-water Mussels— <i>Unio sp.</i>	Do	1	Limonite.
Mr. R. Grant.....	3	<i>Phyllothea</i> (portion of stem and leaves).	Do	9	Calcite.
Mr. G. N. Griffiths	1	<i>Belemnites</i> .	Do	7	Bone Breccia.
Mr. R. L. Jack	3	Teredo— <i>Kuphus nanni?</i>	Do	2	Limestone.
Mr. F. Jenner	1	<i>Diprotodon</i> .	Mr. G. Dixon	1	Specimen of Coal.
Mr. G. Lidgley	1	<i>Dicenasus ida</i> .	Mr. R. Etheridge	1	Auriferous Quartz.
Captain Meryon, R.N. ...	1	Piece coral, from Mt. M'Donald, Efate, New Hebrides, 1,800 feet above sea level.	Mr. R. Grant.....	1	Shale.
Mr. R. A. F. Murray.....	11	<i>Dicenasus ida</i> .	Mr. R. Helms	18	Rocks from Mount Kosciusko.
Do	1	Problematical organism.	Do	9	Gold-bearing Copper Ore (4 oz. to ton)
Dr. M'Douall.....	1	<i>Spirifera vespertilio</i> .	Do	3	Rocks from Cooma.
Rev. D. M'Lennan	1	<i>Tribrachyocrinus clarkii</i> .	Do	1	Rocks from Adamina'by.
Mr. E. F. Pittman	2	<i>Leptolepis gregarius</i> .	Do	3	Rocks from bed of Upper Snow.
Do do	1	<i>Aphnelepis australis</i> .	Mr. E. Hall	1	Iron Pyrites.
Do do	1	<i>Leptolepis talbragarensis</i> .	Mr. H. S. Jones	1	Zircons and Sapphires.
Do do	2	<i>Archaeomene tenuis</i> .	Mr. R. Krebs.....	20	Nodular Iron Pyrites.
Mr. W. Roberts.....	150	Rough slabs of marble from Fernbrook and other New South Wales localities.	Mr. Lucas	1	Galena in Quartz and Gossan.
Mr. E. Smith	3	<i>Hormotoma sp.</i>	Mr. B. Lucas	2	Kerosene Shale, showing conchoidal fracture.
Do	1	<i>Vetotuba brazieri</i> .	Mr. John Mitchell	1	Calcite.
Do	11	<i>Cyclonema tilydalensis</i> .	Do	1	Dyke Rock.
Mr. G. Sweet.....	1	<i>Nucleospira, sp.</i> , and other casts.	Miss Mountain	1	Collection of Agate specimens.
Wilson and Party	21	<i>Diprotodon</i> (portions).	Mr. W. Musson	1	Auriferous Quartz.
Do	1	<i>Macropus</i> .	Mr. H. J. M'Cooley	1	Chalcedony.
363			Hon. James Norton,	1	Aragonite.
363			LL.D., M.L.C.	1	Wood Opal.
363			Mr. George Pidding	3	Gabbro.
363			Mr. D. A. Porter	2	Chalcopyrites in Quartz.
363			Mr. William Pyne	1	Gold in Pyrites.
363			Mr. Rae	1	Pyrites with Galena.
363			Do	1	Meteoric Iron.
363			Mr. Geo. J. Raffell	1	Bog Manganese.
363			Mr. T. Randall	2	Marble.
363			Mr. W. J. Clunies Ross..	1	Nodular Coal.
363			Mr. A. S. Steven	2	Mugnetite.
363			Mr. W. M. Thomas	1	Malachite, with Azurite and Red Oxide.
363			Master John Vivian	1	Eozoon Canadense.
363			Mr. T. Whitelegge	1	A Collection of Stalactites.
363			Mr. J. Wilson	1	Auriferous Mispickel.
363			Mr. Charles Wooller.....	1	Limonite.
363			Mr. M. A. Yeomans	1	
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Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names	Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.
ETHNOLOGICAL (inclusive of Ethno-Botany and Ethno-Conchology.)			ETHNOLOGICAL—continued.		
Mr. F. M. Bailey	1	Packet of Sour Plum— <i>Owenia acidula</i> (Fruit).	Madame Kolbe	1	Piece of Native-grown Tobacco from Samoa wrapped in Banana leaf and bound with cord of <i>Hibiscus</i> fibre.
Do	1	Packet of <i>Barringtonia racemosa</i> (Seeds).	Do	1	Piece of Tobacco
Do	1	Packet of Native Rice— <i>Oryza sativa</i> .	Do	1	do Banana leaf with which Cigarettes are made.
Do	1	Packet of <i>Parinari nonda</i> .	Do	2	Cigarettes made from portion of above leaf.
Do	1	Packet of Burdekin Plums— <i>Spondias pleiogyra</i> (Seeds).	Mr. B. Lucas	1	Pod of Bean-tree.
Do	1	Packet of seeds, 1 pod— <i>Abrus precatorius</i> (Pod and seeds).	Do	1	Seed of do
Do	1	Packet of <i>Mucuna gigantea</i> (Seeds).	H. E. Sir Wm. Macgregor,	1	Armlet made with small shells, and appendages of <i>Thersites</i> .
Do	1	Packet of <i>Canarallia obtusifolia</i> (Pod).	K. C. M. G.	2	Plaited Armlets with appendages of <i>Thersites</i> .
Do	1	Packet of <i>Cycas media</i> . (Nuts after preparation for food.)	Do	2	Rattles formed of strung <i>Thersites</i>
Do	1	Packet of <i>Helicia whelani</i> .	Mr. Arthur Mahaffy	1	Marshall Islander's Chart.
Do	1	Packet of <i>Loranthus Quandong</i> .	Mr. E. Milne	1	Piece of old Opossum skin (sewn with sinew) found around skeleton of a native in aboriginal's grave.
Do	1	Packet of <i>Casuarina subrosa</i> (Leaves.)	Mr. Chas. Moore	1	Bottle of Fruits of <i>Mesembrianthemum aquilaterale</i> .
Do	1	Packet of <i>Polygonum hydropper</i> .	Do	1	Packet Pods of <i>Acacia farnesiana</i> .
Do	1	Packet of <i>Polygonum orientale</i> .	Do	1	do Pods and Seeds of <i>Acacia longifolia</i> .
Do	1	Packet of <i>Euphorbia Drummondii</i> .	Do	2	Packets of Leaves of <i>Melaleuca leucadendron</i> .
Hon. J. Berry	1	Beetle— <i>Mallodon figuratim</i> . <i>Na-gavato</i> , grubs eaten by Fiji Natives.	Do	1	Packet of Bark of <i>Melaleuca leucadendron</i> .
Mr. C. F. Bolton	1	Stone Pounder.	Do	1	Leaf of <i>Ptychosperma cunninghami</i> , do of <i>Livistona australis</i> .
Mr. J. Brazier	1	Portion of Spear.	Do	1	Packet of Leaves of <i>Xanthorrhoea arborea</i> .
Mr. James N. Brooks	1	Impression of Aboriginal's hand on rock, cut out of Woollombi Cave Shelter.	Do	1	Packet of Rhizomes of <i>Blechnum serrulatum</i> .
Do	3	Stone Tomahawks.	Do	1	Packet of Bean and Seeds of <i>Castanospermum australe</i> .
Commissioners of Police, Brisbane.	2	Aboriginal spinning tops from Bellen-den Ker Ranges, N.E. Queensland.	Do	1	Packet of Plants of <i>Sparabolus indicus</i> .
Dr. J. C. Cox	1	Spear.	Do	5	Seed-cones of <i>Banksia ornata</i> .
Mr. W. A. Cunéo	1	Iron Tomahawk, formerly belonging to one "Tommy Bundle," illustrating the earliest form of implement issued by the Government to the blacks.	Do	2	Large mill-stones used for grinding Nardoo seed on; from Butterbone Station, Mount Harris, Lower Macquarie, N. S. Wales.
Do	3	Stone Tomahawks.	Do	1	Packet of Nardoo seeds.
Do	1	Sandstone Pointed Instrument.	Do	2	Millstones.
Rev. Milne Curran	1	Conical Stone Seed-crusher.	Do	2	Stone Tomahawks.
Professor T. W. E. David	1	Stone Tomahawk, Shea's Creek.	Do	1	do Tomahawk (partly formed.)
Mr. W. S. Day	1	Small box of Bird-lime, made from species of <i>Ficus</i> by the natives of Mt. Bartle Frere.	Do	2	Grinding-stones.
Mr. R. Etheridge	1	Stone head of Club.	Do	1	Stone Pounder.
Do	1	Chert Implement, McKinlay River, N.T.	Do	1	Portion of Stone Pounder.
Do	3	Flint-chips, Mullabie Rock-hole, Bunda Plateau, S.A.	Mr. W. Roche	2	Stone Axe-heads.
Do	5	Spear-heads, Wyeculcuna Water-hole, Clayton River.	Mr. S. Sinclair	2	Pieces of Arrowroot.
Do	3	Quartz-chips, do do	Mr. T. H. Souter	1	Hunting Assegai-head.
Do	1	Quartzite Knife, N. Australia.	Do	1	Knob-kerris.
Do	1	"Bull-roarer."	Do	1	Native Kuffir Pipe.
Mr. J. A. Flemming	1	Piece of Native Bread— <i>Mylitta australis</i> .	Do	1	Woman's Dress.
Mr. H. Foden, R.N.	1	Shell Fish-hook, Makira Harbour, Solomon Islands.	Do	1	do Pouch.
Rev. W. Wyatt Gill	6	Papuan Native Dresses.	Do	1	Necklace.
Do	1	do Basket.	Do	1	Fiddle.
Do	5	do Plaited Armlets.	Do	1	Child's dress.
Do	1	do Shell Armlet.	Do	1	Snuff-box.
Do	1	Bone-borer.	Do	1	Hair Fly Flap.
Do	2	Stone-headed Clubs.	Do	1	Feather do
Mr. T. P. Hayes	2	Portions of trees with Aboriginal Carvings.	Do	2	Pipes.
Mr. Karl Hein	1	Hank of Kurrajong Bark Fibre.	Do	1	Spoon.
Mr. C. Hedley	1	Palm-leaf Basket from Suva, Fiji.	Do	5	Wire Bracelets.
Do	1	Stone Spear-head	Mrs. J. G. Waterhouse	4	Small Shell fish-hooks, from Gala, Solomon Islands.
Do	1	Message-stick.	Do	1	Eye-shade from the Solomon Islands.
Mr. G. Herdman	2	Pieces of "Native Bread"— <i>Mylitta australis</i> .	Mr. G. M. Woodford	4	Specimens showing manufacture of Shell Money from Malaita, Solomon Islands.
Mr. John Jennings	1	Stone Sinker from Bay of Islands, N.Z.	Miss Yeoman	1	Fruit of <i>Capparis Mitchellii</i> .
			Mr. A. Yeoman	1	Stone Seed-pounder.
			Do	1	do grinder.

Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.	Donor.	No. of Specimens.	Common and Scientific Names.
NUMISMATICAL AND HISTORICAL.			NUMISMATICAL AND HISTORICAL—continued.		
Bridge House Estates Committee of the Corporation of the City of London	1	Bronze medal, struck in commemoration of the opening of the Tower Bridge by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G., on behalf of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, on the 30th June, 1894.	Mr. H. B. McCalmont, M.P.	41	Roman copper coins, discovered at Bishopswood, near Ross, Herefordshire.
Government of Austro-Hungary.	1	20 Crown piece in gold (Austrian).	Mr. A. S. Stevens	...	Part of the <i>Sheffield and Rotherham Independent</i> , Thursday, March 17th, 1864, containing an account of the Great Flood.
	1	10 do do do do			
	1	1 Florin do silver do	Mr. O. Thomber	1	Old fashioned single-barrelled pistol, found in a crevice of the rocks on Cockatoo Island.
	1	1 Crown do do do			
	1	20 Fillér do white metal (Austrian).	N.S.W. Commissioners for the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago.	1	Bronze medal; obverse, landing of Columbus in America; reverse, a winged figure on each side of globe, above, "World's Columbian Exposition in commemoration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the landing of Columbus, 1892-3." Department of Ethnology.
	1	10 Fillér do do do (Austrian).	Do	2	Bronze medals; obverse, landing of Columbus in America; reverse, a winged figure on each side of globe, above, "World's Columbian Exposition in commemoration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the landing of Columbus, 1892-3." Department of Liberal Arts.
	1	2 Fillér do bronze (Austrian).			
	1	1 do do do do	Do	3	Diplomas.
	1	20 Crown piece, gold (Hungarian).	Mr. W. A. D. Young	1	One cent. (copper), 1872, Straits Settlements.
	1	10 Crown piece, gold (Hungarian).	Do	2	One Mil pieces, Hongkong, 1865-6 (copper).
	1	1 do do silver do	Do	2	Chinese coins (brass).
	1	20 Fillér do white metal (Hungarian).	Do	1	Five-cent piece (silver), Hongkong, 1895.
	1	10 do do do do (Hungarian).			
Government of the German Empire.	2	20 marks (gold coins) current in the German Empire.			
	2	10 do do do do			
	2	5 do do do do			
	2	5 do (silver coins) do do			
	2	2 do do do do			
	2	1 do do do do			
	2	50 pfennigs do do do			
	2	10 do do do do			
	2	20 do (nickel coins) do do			
	2	10 do do do do			
	2	5 do do do do			
	2	2 do (copper coins) do do			
	2	1 do do do do			
				222	
Government of Great Britain and Ireland.	1	Five pound piece, 1893 (gold).			
	1	Two do 1893 do			
	1	Sovereign, 1893 (gold).			
	1	Half-sovereign, 1893 (gold).	Mr. Augustus Berney	1	Double Coconut, from Seychelles Islands.
	1	Crown piece, 1893 (silver).	Curator, Warrnambool Museum.	2	Photographs of a Shark.
	1	Half-Crown piece, 1893 (silver).	Mr. W. S. Day	2	Photographs of the Bowers of Newton's Bower Bird.
	1	Florin do do	Mr. R. Etheridge	2	Photographs of Aborigines of Musgrove Ranges, S.A.
	1	Shilling do do	Mr. F. B. Guthrie	1	Photograph of Elephant "Jumbo."
	1	Sixpence do do	Mr. C. Hedley	4	Photographs of Fijian subjects.
	1	Threepence do do	Mr. H. M. Seton-Karr	1	Photograph of Palæolithic Stone Implements from Somaliland.
	1	Penny, 1896 (bronze).	Mr. C. J. Pounds	5	Photographs of Ticks.
	1	Half-penny, 1896 (bronze).	Mr. R. Morrison Stewart	2	do of "Red Dust."
	1	Farthing do do	Do	7	do of Ticks.
	1	Fourpenny piece } Maundy money	Mr. Wm. Street	1	Drum "White Ant" Poison.
	1	Threepenny do } (silver, 1896).	Mr. Deighton Taylor	1	Collection of English Wild Flowers, Ferns, and Mosses.
	1	Twopenny do } (silver, 1896).			
	1	Penny do } (silver, 1896).			
Government of the Hawaiian Republic.	2	One dollar silver pieces, Hawaii, 1883.			
	2	Half do do do do			
	2	Quarter do do do do			
	2	Dimes, silver pieces, Hawaii, 1883.			
Mr. John Jennings	1	Spurious Spanish dollar (copper), countermarked Geo. III.			
Dr. M. H. Long	7	Copper tokens.			
Do	89	Australian, Tasmanian, and New Zealand copper tokens.			
Do	4	English copper tokens.			
				29	
			MISCELLANEOUS.		

APPENDIX IX.
EXCHANGES, 1896.

Specimens received.	Specimens forwarded.	Specimens received.	Specimens forwarded.
Mr. Thos. Beedle, Bective. (52) Minerals—3 specimens.	Minerals—7 specimens.	Museum, Launceston. (51) Mammals—3 specimens. Reptiles—3 specimens.	Reptiles—1 specimen.
Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Honolulu. (63)	Photographs—7 prints.	Museum, Perth, W.A. (15)	Mammals—8 specimens.
British Museum, London. (21) Fossils—5 specimens. Coelenterata—4 specimens. Mollusca—150 specimens.		Museum, Pietermaritzburg, Natal. (9) Mammals—4 specimens. Birds—5 specimens. Reptiles—4 specimens. Arachnida—1 specimen. Skeletons—1 specimen. Ethnological—33 specimens.	
Sir W. L. Baller, Wellington, N.Z. (20)	Birds—1 specimen.	Museum, Institute of Mines, St. Petersburg. (34) Minerals—35 specimens.	
Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, N.Z. (5) Fossils—11 specimens.	Mammals—1 specimen. Skeleton—1 specimen.	Natural History Museum, Athens. (22) Birds (eggs)—255 specimens. Reptiles (eggs)—4 specimens.	
Rev. J. Milne Curran, Sydney. (28) Fossils—3 specimens.	Glass tubes—24 tubes.	Mr. J. Nicholas, Oberon. (18) Fossils—1 specimen.	Minerals—8 specimens.
Mr. George Dixon, Sydney. (40) Fossils—9 specimens.	Insects—16 specimens.	Public Library of N.S.W., Sydney. (26) Books—9 volumes.	Books—36 volumes.
Mr. S. H. Drew, Wanganui, N.Z. (10) Fossils—75 specimens.	Fossils—1 specimen. Minerals (casts)—6 specimens. Reptiles—24 specimens.	Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide. (6) Ethnology—60 specimens.	
Mr. W. S. Dun, Sydney. (58) Book—1 volume.	Book—1 volume.	Queensland Museum, Brisbane. (7) Mammals—2 specimens.	
Mr. R. Etheridge, Sydney. (27) Books—14 volumes.	Books—2 volumes.	Mr. H. S. Rienitz, Mt. Victoria. (41) Mineral—1 specimen.	Minerals—16 specimens.
Faculté des Sciences, Marseilles. (20, 47) Mollusca—165 specimens.	Mollusca—163 specimens.	Royal Zoological Museum, Florence. (3)	Mammals—1 specimen. Reptiles—7 specimens. Ethnological—45 specimens.
Mr. C. French, Melbourne. (50) Birds (Eggs)—33 specimens. Insects—36 specimens.	Birds—12 specimens.	Prof. Smitt, Museum, Stockholm. (48) Mammal—1 specimen. Skeletons—1 specimen.	
Government Geologist, Sydney. (59) Minerals—5 specimens.	Cast of Mineral—1 specimen.	Mr. T. H. Souter, Sydney. (41) Ethnological—2 specimens.	Skeletons—1 specimen.
Mr. Richard Grant, Lithgow. (46) Bird—1 specimen.	Bird—1 specimen.	Mrs. Starkey, North Sydney. (61) Mollusca—2 specimens. Fossils—1 specimen. Ethnological—2 specimens.	Mollusca—38 specimens.
Mr. E. Guerin, Paris. (13)	Insects—19 specimens.	Tasmanian Museum, Hobart. (24) Ethnological—5 specimens. Mammals—6 specimens. Fishes—1 specimen.	
Mr. Ernest Hall, Ashfield. (33) Ethnological—1 specimen. Fossils—14 specimens.	Minerals—40 specimens.	Technological Museum, Sydney. (1) Birds—2 specimens. Reptiles—2 specimens.	Reptiles—6 specimens.
Mr. R. Heims, Sydney and Perth (W.A.) (19)	Mollusca—328 specimens.	Mr. H. H. Travers, Wellington, N.Z. (43) Birds—11 specimens.	Birds—15 specimens.
Indian Museum, Calcutta. (31) Mollusca—31 specimens. Reptiles—5 specimens.	Mammals—1 specimen. Skeletons—1 specimen.	U.S. National Museum, Washington. (2) Mammals—1 specimen. Skeletons—3 specimens. Books—1 volume of photos.	Birds—25 specimens. Fishes—258 specimens. Reptiles—10 specimens. Mollusca—72 specimens. Minerals—80 specimens.
Mr. John Jennings, Sydney. (36, 42, 62) Ethnological—10 specimens. Fossils—2 specimens. Minerals—6 specimens. Mollusca—206 specimens.	Mollusca—6 specimens. Ethnological—16 specimens.	University, Sydney. (8) Minerals—3 specimens. Fossils—14 specimens.	Miscellaneous—18 specimens. Mammals—1 specimen. Reptiles, &c.—2 specimens. Mollusca—4 specimens. Arachnida—1 specimen. Verms, &c.—3 specimens. Minerals—133 specimens.
Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow. (37) Minerals—87 specimens.	Mammals—15 specimens. Reptiles—9 specimens. Fishes—1 specimen. Birds—4 specimens. Skeleton—1 specimen.	Mr. Edgar R. Waite, Sydney. (17) Mammals—4 specimens.	Books—6 volumes.
King's School, Parramatta. (30)	Minerals—65 specimens. Mollusca—154 specimens.	Prof. Hy. A. Ward, Rochester, N.Y. (38, 65) Minerals—1 specimen. Fossils—4 specimens. Minerals—3 specimens.	Minerals—11 specimens. Skeletons—4 specimens.
Prof. Koehler, Lyons. (35) Echinodermata, &c.—28 specimens. Mollusca—1 specimen.	Echinodermata, &c.—35 specimens.	Dr. Arthur Willey, Sydney. (30) Ethnological—3 specimens. Fossils—1 specimen. Mollusca—23 specimens.	Spirits of Wine. Crustacea—1 specimen.
Dr. T. H. May, Bundaberg. (49) Mollusca—87 specimens.	Mollusca—4 specimens.	Mr. James Wylie, Lithgow. (60) Birds—2 specimens.	Bird—1 specimen.
Musée Colonial, Nouméa. (45) Insects—109 specimens. Minerals—23 specimens.	Insects—46 specimens. Minerals—15 specimens.		
Museo de la Plata. (32) Mammals—2 specimens. Birds—27 specimens. Mollusca—17 specimens. Insects—545 specimens. Crustacea, &c.—17 specimens. Fossils—11 specimens. Minerals—12 specimens. Skeletons—12 specimens.	Mammals—1 specimen. Reptiles—27 specimens. Fishes—1 specimen. Echinodermata, &c.—42 specimens. Minerals—30 specimens.		

APPENDIX X.

RETURN OF INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO THE PUBLIC, 1896.

Name.	Details.	Name.	Details.
Mr. W. Affleck, M.L.A.	Re a Caterpillar-like formation on branches of Silver-wattle.	Mr. Johnston.....	Re Venomous and Innocuous Snakes.
Mrs. Aiken	Re Horse's Tooth.	Mr. A. P. Kemp	Re Birds and determining Eggs, Reptiles and Fishes; names of Birds; Caterpillars of a Noctuid Moth.
Mr. F. Alexander	Re the method of determining the sexes of Fishes.	King's School, Parramatta.	Determination of a Collection of Birds' Eggs.
Mr. H. C. Bell	Determination of young <i>Psychida</i> .	Mr. R. Leath	Determination of <i>Eunice aphroditois</i> .
Mr. P. G. Black.....	Determination of <i>Cermatia smithii</i> ; information re Shell-dealers in London.	Mr. W. H. C. Macintosh	Names of Aboriginal places around Sydney.
Hon. Miss Brand and Party from Government House.	Showing and Explaining Ornithological Cabinet and Exhibition Collections.	Mr. J. H. Maiden	Names of <i>Chelonian</i> in Botanic Gardens.
Mr. J. S. Bray	Determination of Snake.	Mr. W. A. Metcalf ...	Re Life History of <i>Zeuzera eucalypti</i> .
Mr. J. Brazier	Determination of <i>Anthera eucalypti</i> .	Mr. H. J. M'Cooley ...	Determination of <i>Heteropoda</i> .
Mr. H. Y. L. Brown...	Re supposed Fossils from Cambrian Rocks of South Australia.	Rev. D. M'Lennan.....	Naming Minerals, Rock Specimens, and a Collection of Permo-Carboniferous Fossils.
H. E. Sir T. F. Buxton, Governor of South Australia.	Showing and Explaining Ornithological Collections.	The Hon. the Minister for Mines, Sydney.	Concerning the proposed introduction of <i>Bubo virginianus</i> into Australia.
Mr. A. J. Campbell ...	Determining Specimens of <i>Sericornis</i> from the Kent Group, King Island, Victoria, and New South Wales.	Hon. J. Norton, LL.D., M.L.C.	Determination of <i>Harpalis pulcher</i> .
Mr. W. D. Campbell...	Determination of <i>Mantis</i> sp.; references to illustrations of the Cetacea; naming Lizards and Snake.	Dr. John Paterson ...	Re Mounted Collection of Australian Birds.
Mr. W. S. Campbell...	Determination of <i>Oriolus viridis</i> .	Mr. C. Puckey	Determination of Tooth of <i>Orca gladiator</i> .
Sir Astley Cooper and Party.	Showing and Explaining Ornithological Cabinet and Exhibition Collections.	Mr. N. Reid	Naming Shell from Lower Marine Series of the Permo-Carboniferous.
Misses Creed	Showing Ornithological Cabinet Collection.	Mr. A. Reuben	Determination of 152 specimens of 41 species of Birds' Eggs, and making lists.
Hon. Dr. J. M. Creed, M.L.C.	Re Baleen; determination of a species of <i>Isodes</i> .	Mr. H. H. Rice.....	Re Parrots.
Hon. W. P. Cullen, LL.D., M.L.C.	Determination of <i>Panesthia</i> sp.	Mr. Thomas Rigg	Determination of <i>Eristalia tenax</i> ?
Daily Telegraph (Reporter and Artist from).	Information re <i>Dorippe callida</i> and other Crustacea.	Mr. B. C. Rodd.....	Determination of Moth, <i>Spilosoma obliqua</i> .
Prof. T. W. E. David...	Particulars of Museum progress during 1895.	Mr. A. M. N. Rose ...	Re a Four-legged Chicken.
Department of Fisheries	Determination of <i>Salmo salar</i> ; <i>Elacate nigra</i> .	Mr. H. C. Russell	Re Sand.
Mr. G. Dillberg	Determination of Titaniferous Iron Ore.	Mr. D. H. Soutar	Re Personal Relics of Captain Cook, and Colours of Naval Uniform of the end of the 18th Century.
Mr. Hugh Dixon	Re 2 Weevils infesting Orchids; re Vine-moth Caterpillar and Predatory Bug.	Mr. R. M. Stewart.....	Re Ticks and Exhibiting Slides of Mounted Specimens.
Rev. P. Dowling	Naming Mineral "Crocoite."	Stock and Station Journal.	General Information regarding the Museum Collections.
Mr. G. Doyle.....	Determining Birds' Eggs and making list of same.	Mr. Stoddart.....	Addresses of Shell-dealers in London.
Mr. W. S. Dun	Re determination of a Bone.	Dr. Sturt.....	Showing Ornithological Cabinet Collections.
Mr. H. J. Elvery	Determination of 16 species of Birds' Eggs.	Technological Museum	Determination of Lizards, Snakes, and Fish; naming Shells; determination of a Tertiary Plant, <i>Eucalyptus pluti</i> , M'Coy.
Rev. Walter Fielder ...	Naming Shells.	Mr. Thurston.....	Re Duck.
Mr. Fitz	Determination of <i>Notechis scutatus</i> , Peters.	Town and Country Journal.	Determination of <i>Phascogale penicillata</i> ; <i>Isodes hydrosauri</i> ; Moth's Eggs; <i>Bu-prestida</i> .
Mr. C. H. Fitzhardinge	Determination of <i>Eudoxyia eucalypti</i> .	Mr. Tucker and Co. ...	Determination of <i>Heterostoma sulcidens</i> .
Mr. J. J. Fletcher.....	Re the supposed extinct land, known as "Gondwana Land," of Suess; re Frog.	Visitor.....	Re Insects and Exhibiting Gallery Collection.
Mr. W. W. Froggatt...	Giving information on <i>Agaristida</i> ; assisting in naming a collection of Australian Beetles; informing him of names of Moths and showing collection.	Visitor.....	Naming Fish.
Mr. R. R. Gurley	Re British Dictyonemata.	Visitor.....	Re American Reptiles.
Viscountess Hampden..	Showing and Explaining Ornithological Cabinet and Exhibition Collections.	Mr. J. H. Whitley ...	Re Composition of a Black Silicate of Iron, Alumina, and Magnesia with Titanic Acid.
Mr. H. F. Handley ...	Determination of <i>Schizorhina australasie</i> .	Mr. Wills	Showing concealed portions of Carved Figures in Ethnological Hall.
Mr. R. L. Jack	Re Fossils from Lat. 23°, near Queensland and South Australian border; additional information re former; naming Permo-Carboniferous Fossils.	Mr. J. Wilmot	Re Specimen containing Carbonate of Iron and Lime in Quartz.
		Mr. Wimble	Re Raven.
		Mr. A. E. Witherby...	Determination of <i>Charocampa celerio</i> .
		Mr. T. C. Wollaston...	Re Opalised bones of an Sauropterygian Reptile from White Cliffs, N.S.W.

APPENDIX XI.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Reg. No.	Book.	How acquired.	Reg. No.	Book.	How acquired.
PART I.—BOOKS.			PART I.—BOOKS (continued).		
8151	ADMIRALTY CHART of Pacific Ocean, 1895. Coloured by Lieut. Dawson. H.M.S. "Penguin," by permission of H.E. Rear-Admiral Bridge, to show the Islands and Groups under the protectorate of different nation, the marking being taken from best information obtainable, but not to be considered "official." Folded in 1 vol. Im. fol.	Purchased	8255	HEGYFÖKY (Jakob). Über die Windrichtung in den Ländern der Ungarischen Krone nebst einem Anhang über Barometerstand und Regen. 1 vol. Svo. Budapest, 1894.	Presented
8268	ANDERSON, (E.) and SPRY (F. P.) Victorian Butterflies. 1 vol. Svo. Melbourne, 1894.	Presented	8379	HIND (H. Y.) Essay on the Insects and Diseases injurious to the Wheat crops. 1 vol. Svo. Toronto, 1857.	Presented
8121	ASHLEY (George Hall). The Neocene of the Santa Cruz Mountains. 1. Stratigraphy. (Leland Stanford Junior University Publications. Geology and Palaeontology No. 1.) 1 vol. Svo. Palo Alto, Ca. 1895.	Exchange	8125-26	HUMPHREYS (H. Noel). The Coin Collector's Manual, or Guide to the Numismatic Student in the formation of a Cabinet of Coins. 2 vols. Svo. London, 1853.	Exchange
8129-30	BALFOUR (Francis M.) A Treatise on Comparative Embryology. 2 vols. Svo. London, 1880.	Exchange	8128	KELVIN (Baron) [Sir Wm. Thomson]. Geology and General Physics. (MacMillan's Nature Series. Popular Lectures and Addresses of Sir Wm. Thomson, vol. ii.) 1 vol. Svo. London, 1894.	Exchange
8301	BORNTREGER (Gebrüder). Die Litteratur des Jahres 1892 über Morphologie Systematik und Verbreitung der Phanerogamen nebst Register. (Sonderabdruck aus "Justs Botanischem Jahresbericht.") 1 vol. Svo. Berlin, 1895.	Presented	8377	KIRBY (W. F.) Elementary Text Book of Entomology. 1 vol. Svo. London, 1885.	Purchased
8091	BREITHAUPT (August). Die Paragenesis der Mineralien. 1 vol. Svo. Freiberg, 1849.	Purchased	8089	KOCH (C. L.) System der Myriapoden, mit den Verzeichnissen und Berichtigungen zu Deutschlands Crustaceen, Myriapoden und Arachniden. Heft 1-40. (Kritische Revision der Insectenfauna Deutschlands von Dr. Panzer und Dr. Herrich-Schäffer, Band iii.) 1 vol. Svo. Regensburg, 1847.	Purchased
8082	BROWER (J. V.) Prehistoric Man at the Head-water Basin of the Mississippi. 1 vol. Svo. St. Paul, Minn., 1895.	Presented	8131-32	LESSON (Dr. A.) Les Polynésiens, leur Origine, leurs Migrations, leur Language. Ouvrage rédigé d'après la Manuscrit de l'Auteur par Ludovic Martinet. (Vol. 111 missing.) 2 vols. Svo. Paris, 1880.	Exchange
8176	BROWNE (Montagu). Artistic and Scientific Taxidermy and Modelling. 1 vol. Svo. London, 1896.	Purchased	8098	LICHTENSTEIN (Karl). Ueber die Antilopen des nördlichen Africa (Akad. d. Wiss., 1824). 1 vol. 4vo. 1824.	Purchased
8277	COMPENDIOUS VIEW of Universal History and Literature, grounded on fifth edition of G. G. Bredow, to which is appended a Table of Painters, from Notes of Sir Matthew Van Bree, translated by Major James Bell. 4th edition. 1 vol. Fol. London, 1833.		8154-63	LINNE (Caroli A.) Systema Naturae per Regna tria naturae, secundum Classes, Ordines, Genera, Species, cum Characteribus, Differentiis, Synonymis, Locis. Editio decima tertia. Cura Jo. Frid. Gmelin. 3 vols. in 10 vols. Lipsiae, 1788-93. Tomus 1. Part 1. Mammalia, Aves. Part 2. Aves. Part 3. Amphibia, Pisces. Parts 4-5. Insecta. Part 6. Vermes. Part 7. Index. Tomus 2. Parts 8-9. Plantarum. Tomus 3. Part 10. Lapidum.	
8127	CONYBEARE (W. D.) and PHILLIPS (Wm.) Outlines of the Geology of England and Wales. Part I (all published). 1 vol. Svo. London, 1822.	Exchange	8113 & 8289	LOCKHART (J. H. Stewart). The Currency of the Farther East from the Earliest Times to the present day. 2 vols. 8vo. and 4vo. Hongkong, 1895.	Purchased
8380	CRAWFORD (Frazer S.) Report on the Fuscladiums (black spot, scab, and mildew diseases), the Codlin Moth, and certain other fungus and insect pests, attacking apple and pear trees in South Australia. 1 vol. Svo. Adelaide, 1886.	Purchased	8102	LUCAS (Dr. Robert). Die Pompidilen Gattung Pepsis. 1 vol. Svo. Berlin, 1895.	Presented
8142-44	EDGE-PARTINGTON (James). An Album of the Weapons, Tools, Ornaments, Articles of Dress, &c., of the Natives of the Pacific Islands, drawn and described from examples in public and private Collections in England, by James Edge-Partington. Issued for private circulation by James Edge-Partington and Charles Heape. 2 vols in 3 vols. Obl. Manchester, 1890 and 1895.	Purchased	8373	MARTIN (John H.) Manual of Microscopic Mounting, with Notes on the Collection and Examination of Objects. 1 vol. Svo. London, 1872.	Purchased
8090	ESCHSCHOLTZ (Dr. Fr.) System der Acalephen. Eine ausführliche Beschreibung aller Medusenartigen Strahlthiere. 1 vol. 4to. Berlin, 1829.	Purchased	6034	MARTINI and CHEMNITZ. Systematisches Conchylien-Cabinet. Band I. Abth. 9. Die Familie Bulidae, bearbeitet von Dr. Willh. Kobelt. Nürnberg, 1895-96.	Purchased
8254	FILARSKY (Nándor). Die Characcon (characcon L. Cl. Richard) mit besonderer Rücksicht auf die in Ungarn beobachteten Arten. 1 vol. 4to. Budapest, 1893.	Presented	8103	MEYRICK (Edward). Handbook of British Lepidoptera. 1 vol. Svo. London, 1895.	Purchased
8095	GRAY (John Edward). Synopsis Reptilium or Short Descriptions of the Species of Reptiles. Part 1. Cataphracts, Tortoises, Crocodiles, and Enaliosaurians. 1 vol. Svo. London, 1831.	Purchased	8241	MINERVA. Jahrbuch der Gelehrten Welt. Herausgegeben von Dr. R. Kukula und K. Trübner. IV Jahrgang, 1894-95. 1 vol. Sm. Svo. Strasburg, 1894.	Presented
8370	GREENE (Joseph). Insect Hunter's Companion. Third edition, revised and extended by A. B. Farn. 1 vol. Svo. London, 1880.	Purchased	8430	MOORE (F.) Lepidoptera Indica. Vol. II. Rhopalocera. Family Nymphalidae. 1 vol. 4to. London, 1893-96.	Purchased
8081	HARKER (Alfred). Petrology for Students. (Cambridge Natural Science Manuals). 1 vol. Svo. Cambridge, 1895.	Purchased	8092	NATURALISTS' DIRECTORY of the United States and Canada. Compiled by S. E. Cassino. 1 vol. Svo. Boston (U.S.) 1895.	Purchased
			8374	NICHOLSON (H. A.) Synopsis of the Classification of the Animal Kingdom. 1 vol. Svo. Edinburgh and London, 1832.	Purchased
			8118	NOUVEAU DICTIONNAIRE d'histoire naturelle appliqué aux Arts. 36 vols. Svo. Paris, 1818-19.	Purchased

Reg. No.	Book.	How acquired.	Reg. No.	Book.	How acquired.
PART I.—BOOKS (continued).			PART I.—BOOKS (continued).		
8245-50	PALÉONTOLOGIE FRANÇAISE, ou Description des Fossiles de la France continuée par une Réunion des Paléontologistes sous la direction d'un comité spécial. 2 ^e Série.—Vegetaux. Plantes Jurassiques, par le Marquis De Saporta. Tome IV. Texte et Atlas. 2 vols. 8vo. Paris, 1891. 1 ^{re} Série.—Animaux Invertébrés. Terrain Jurassique. Tome X. Deuxième partie. Echinides Réguliers, par G. Cottreau. Texte et Atlas. 2 vols. 8vo. Paris, 1880-5. Do.—Tome VI. Crinoids, par P. de Loriol. Texte 2 parts, Atlas 2 parts. 4 vols. 8vo. Paris, 1882-83. 2 ^e Ser. Vegetaux. Ter. Jurass. T. III. Pts. 80-83. 1 ^{re} Ser. An. Inv. Ter. Jurass. T. III. Pts. 57 & 80. Do do do T. VI. Pts. 77 & 79. Do do Ter. Crétacés. T. VIII. Pts. 20 to 33. 6 vols. and Parts.	Purchased	8123	THURBAU (G.) Synopsis of a Report on Mining in California and Nevada, U. S. A. 1 vol. 8vo. Melbourne, 1879.	Exchange
8124	PHILLIPS (John). Geology of Oxford and the Valley of the Thames. 1 vol. 8vo. Oxford, 1871.	Exchange	8171	TORTORI (Egisto). Genesi organizzazione e metamorfosi degli Infusori opera postuma. 1 vol. 4to. Firenze, 1895.	Presented
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8372	Enumeration of the Diptera of the Malay Archipelago, collected by Prof. O. Beccari, Mr. L. M. D'Albertis, and others. [Ann. Mus. Civ. St. Nat. Gen. XVI, 4-7.] Supplement (Ann. Mus. Civ. St. Nat. Gen. XVIII, 1892-4) bound with above. 1 vol. 8vo. Genoa, 1881-84.	Purchased	8256	SCHAFARZIK (Franz). Die Pyroxen-Andesite des Oserhät. (Mit. Jahrb. d. K. Ungar. Geol. Anstalt. IX.) 1 vol. 8vo. Budapest, 1895.	Presented
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PART II.—PERIODICALS (continued).			PART II.—PERIODICALS (continued).		
	AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM. Records, Vol. II (continued). Contents:— No. 6. Published September 1895 The Skull of <i>Dendrolagus dorianus</i> , Ramsay, by Edgar R. Waite Note on a Semi-Albino Specimen of <i>Dacelo gigas</i> , by Alfred J. North. Note on a Nest of <i>Petroica leggii</i> , Sharpe (The Scarlet-breasted Robin), by Alfred J. North. <i>Dendrotrachus</i> , Pilsbry, assigned to <i>Trochomorpha</i> , by C. Hedley. On a case of Presumed Protective Imitation, by Frederick A. A. Skuse. Some suggestions regarding the Formation of "Enhydros" or Water-Stones, by T. Cooksey. No. 7. Published January, 1896.— A Museum Encyca—Dust, by Edgar R. Waite On the Seasonal Changes in the Plumage of <i>Zosterops ceruleascens</i> , by Alfred J. North. Notes on the Mollusca from the Alpine Zone of Mount Kosciusko, by C. Hedley. Description of <i>Pignus</i> , a New Genus of Ringiculidae, from Selsey Harbour, by C. Hedley. Description of a <i>Dapanoptera</i> from Australia, by Frederick A. A. Skuse. <i>Stephanoverus</i> , Sk.: a Rejoinder, by Frederick A. A. Skuse. Mineralogical Notes, Nos. 1 and 2, by T. Cooksey.				
7203	AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM. Report of Trustees for the year 1895.				
8278	GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF N.S.W. Records, Vol. IV, 1894-95. 1 vol. 8vo. Sydney, 1896.	Presented	8275	NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAY INSTITUTE. Railway Budget. Vols. III, IV, 1894-96. 1 Vol. 4to. Sydney, 1895-96.	Presented
A 7	— Records, vol. v, part I.	Presented	A 6	— Railway Budget. Vol. v. Parts 49-51	Presented
P 14	HAWKESBURY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE. Prospectus, 1895.	Exchange	A 9	ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA. Journal. Vol. VI, Nos. 1, 2.	Presented
8063 & 8282	HISTORICAL RECORDS OF NEW SOUTH WALES. Vol. III; Hunter, 1796-99. Vol. IV; Hunter and King, 1800, 1801, 1802, edited by F. M. Bladen. 2 vols. 8vo. Sydney, 1895-96	Presented	8175	ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES. Journal and Proceedings for 1895. Vol. XXIX. 1 Vol. 8vo. Sydney, 1896.	Presented
8274	LINNEAN SOCIETY OF N.S.W. Proceedings, second series, vol. x, 1895, with Supplement. 1 vol. 8vo. Sydney, 1896.	Presented	8298	REGISTRAR-GENERAL. A Statistical Account of the Seven Colonies of Australasia, 1895-96, by T. A. Coghlan. 1 vol. 8vo. Sydney, 1896.	Presented
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PART II.—PERIODICALS (<i>continued</i>).			PART II.—PERIODICALS (<i>continued</i>).		
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PART II.—PERIODICALS (<i>continued</i>).			PART II.—PERIODICALS (<i>continued</i>).		
8418-9	ANNALS AND MAGAZINE OF NATURAL HISTORY. Vols. xvii, xviii. Sixth Series. 2 vols. 8vo. London, 1896.	Purchased	8420	THE GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, or Monthly Journal of Geology. New Series, Dec. 4. Vol. III. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1896.	Purchased
8209-11	ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. Memoirs read before the Society. Vol. I, 1863-64; vol. II, 1865-66; vol. III, 1867-8-9. 3 vols. 8vo. London, 1864-70.	Purchased	8426	GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. Quarterly Journal. Vol. LII. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1896.	Purchased
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	— Transactions, 1863.		8169	LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON. General Index to the first twenty volumes of the Journal (Zoology) and the Zoological portion of the Proceedings, 1838 to 1890. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1896.	Purchased
8220	— Journal of Anthropology. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1870 and 1871.	Purchased	8429	— Transactions. Second Series. Vol. IV. Botany. 1 vol. 4to. London, 1894-96.	Purchased
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8223	— The Plurality of the Human Race, by Georges Pouchet. Translated and edited (from the Second Edition) by Hugh J. C. Beavan. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1864.	Purchased	B 12	MARINE BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE U.K. Journal. N. Series. Vol. IV, No. 2.	Presented
8224	— On the Phenomena of Hybridity in the Genus Homo, by Paul Broca. Edited by C. Carter Beake. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1864.	Purchased	B 6	MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY. Index to Vols. I to X of Mineralogical Magazine.	Presented
8225	— Lake Habitations and Pre-historic Remains in the Turbaries and Marl Beds of Northern and Central Italy, by Bartolomeo Gastaldi. Translated and Edited by Chas. H. Chambers. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1865.	Purchased	B 5	— Mineralogical Magazine and Journal. Vol. XI, No. 51, October, 1896.	Presented
8226	— The Anthropological Treatises of Johann Friedrich Blumenbach; Memoirs of him, by K. F. H. Marx and M. Flourens; an account of his Museum, by R. Wagner; and Inaugural Dissertation of John Hunter on the Varieties of Man. Translated and Edited by Thos. Bendyshe. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1865.	Purchased	8427	QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF MICROSCOPICAL SCIENCE. Vol. XXXVIII. New Series, 1895-96. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1896.	Purchased
8227	— Anthropologia: in which are included the proceedings of the London Anthropological Society. Vol. I, 1873-1875, and Supplement. 1 vol. 8vo. London.	Purchased	8428	ROYAL MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY. Journal, 1896. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1896.	Purchased
8228	ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND. Journal. Vol. I, 1872. Appendix containing proceedings of Anthropological and Ethnological Societies, prior to date of Amalgamation.		8286-87	ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. Philosophical Transactions. (A) Vol. CLXXXVI, Parts 1 and 2, for 1895.	
8229-38	— Journal. Vol. II, 1873; vol. III, 1874; vol. IV, 1875; vol. V, 1876; vol. VI, 1877; vol. VII, 1878; vol. VIII, 1879; vol. IX, 1880; vol. X, 1881; vol. XI, 1882. 11 vols. 8vo. London, 1873-82.	Purchased	8288 & 8369	— (B) Vol. CLXXXVI, Parts 1 and 2, for 1895. 4 vols. 4to. London, 1896.	Purchased
B 20	— Journal. Vol. XXVI, Part 1.	Presented	8398	— Proceedings. Vol. LIX. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1896.	Presented
8080	— Index to the Publications, 1843-1891, by George W. Bloxham. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1893.	Purchased	8401	SCIENCE GOSSIP. An Illustrated Monthly Record of Nature and Country-Lore. New Series. Vol. I, Nos. 1 and 2, 1894. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1894.	Presented
8148	BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE. Report of the Sixty-fifth Meeting, held at Ipswich, September, 1895. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1895.	Purchased	8285	YEAR BOOK of the Scientific and Learned Societies of Great Britain and Ireland. 1895. Thirteenth Annual Issue. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1896.	Purchased
8281	ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. Transactions for the year 1895. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1895.	Purchased	8152	ZOOLOGICAL RECORD. Vol. XXXI, being Records of Zoological Literature, 1894. Edited for the Zoological Society, by D. Sharp. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1895.	Purchased
8421	THE ENTOMOLOGIST: An Illustrated Journal of General Entomology. Vol. XXIX. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1896.	Purchased	BRITISH EMPIRE—(England).		
8422	THE ENTOMOLOGIST'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE. Second Series. Vol. VII. (Vol. XXXII). 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1896.	Purchased	3508	CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY. Thirtieth Annual Report of the Museums and Lecture Rooms Syndicate for 1895. Annual Report of the Library Syndicate, 1895.	Presented
8196-99	ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. Journal. Vol. I, 1848; vol. II, 1850; vol. III, 1854; vol. IV, 1856.		B 23	CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND. Journal of Conchology. January, April, July, October, 1896.	Presented
8200-26	— Transactions. New Series (being a second series of the Journal). Vol. I, 1861; vol. II, 1863-64; vol. III, 1864-65; vol. IV, 1865-66; vol. V, 1866-67; vol. VI, 1867-68; vol. VII, 1868-69.		B 2	LANCASHIRE SEA FISHERIES LABORATORY. Report for 1895.	Presented
8207-8	— Journal. New Series. Vol. I, 1868-69; vol. II, 1869-70. 13 vols. 8vo. London, 1848-70.	Purchased	B 2	LIVERPOOL GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION. Journal, vol. XV. Session 1894-5.	Presented
			B 2	LIVERPOOL GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. Proceedings, Session XXVI, 1894-5. Part 3, vol. VII.	Presented
			B 2	LIVERPOOL MARINE BIOLOGICAL COMMITTEE. Ninth Annual Report.	Presented
			B 3	LEEDS PHILOSOPHICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY. Annual Report for 1895-96.	Presented
			B 5	MANCHESTER LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY. Memoirs and Proceedings. Vol. X, Nos. 1, 2, 3. List of Members, &c.	Presented
			8357	MANCHESTER MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY. Transactions and Annual Report, 1895. 1 vol. 8vo. Manchester, 1896.	Presented
			B 4	MANCHESTER MUSEUM. Report, 1895-96.	Presented

Reg. No.	Book.	How acquired.	Reg. No.	Book.	How acquired.
PART II.—PERIODICALS (continued).			PART II.—PERIODICALS (continued).		
8067-68	UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY. Fourteenth Annual Report, 1892-93. J. W. Powell, Director. 2 vols. 4to. Washington, 1893. Presented	Presented	8086	UNITED STATES FISH COMMISSION. Bulletin. Vol. xiv for 1894. 1 vol. 8vo. Washington, 1895. Presented	Presented
	Part 1 contains—Report of the Director. Part 2 contains— Potable Waters of Eastern United States, by W. J. McGee. Natural Mineral Waters of the United States, by A. C. Peale. Results of Stream Measurements by F. H. Newell The Laccalinic Mountain Groups of Colorado, Utah, and Arizona, by Whitman Cross. The Gold-Silver Veins of Ophir, California, by Waldemar Landgren. Geology of the Catalin Belt, by Arthur Keith. Tertiary Revolution in the Topography of the Pacific Coast, by J. S. Diller. The Rocks of the Sierra Nevada, by H. W. Turner. Pre-Cambrian Igneous Rocks of the Unkar Terrane, Grand Canyon of the Colorado, Arizona, by Charles D. Walcott, with Notes on the Petrographic Character of the Lavas, by Joseph Paxson Siddings. On the Structure of the Ridge between the Taconic and Green Mountain Ranges in Vermont, by T. Nelson Dale. The Structure of Monument Mountain, in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, by T. Nelson Dale. The Potomac and Roaring Creek Coalfields in West Virginia, by Joseph D. Weeks.		8272	— Bulletin. Vol. xv for 1895. 1 vol. 4to. Washington, 1896	
8299	— Fifteenth Annual Report, 1893-91. J. W. Powell, Director. 1 vol. 8vo. Washington, 1895. Presented	Presented	8103	UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM. Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution for year ending June, 1893. Report of the U. S. National Museum under the direction of the Smithsonian Institution for the year ending June, 1893. 1 vol. 8vo. Washington, 1895. Presented	Presented
	Contains:— Preliminary Report on the Geology of the Common Roads of the United States, by N. S. Shaler. The Potomac Formation, by Lester Frank Ward Sketch of the Geology of the San Francisco Peninsula, by Andrew C. Lawson. Preliminary Report on the Marquette Iron-bearing District of Michigan, by Charles Richard Van Hise and William Shirley Bayley; with a chapter on the Republic Trough, by Henry Lloyd Smith. The General Relations of the Granitic Rocks in the Middle Atlantic Piedmont Plateau, by G. H. Williams. The Origin and Relations of Central Maryland Granites, by C. B. Keyes			Contains— Report of the Assistant Secretary. The Poisonous Snakes of North America, by Leonhard Stejneger. Chinese Games with Dice and Dominoes, by Stewart Culin. The Onyx Marbles: Their origin, composition, and use, by George P. Merrill. The Cowbirds, by Charles Bendire. Primitive American Armour, by Walter Hough. The Weapons and Wings of Birds, by Frederick A. Lucas. Notes on the Ethnology of Tibet, by Wm. Woodville Rockhill. Two Persopolitan Casts in the U. S. National Museum, by Cyrus Adler. Museum Collections to illustrate Religious History and Ceremonials, by Cyrus Adler. If Public Libraries, why not Public Museums? by Ed. S. Morse.	
8294-96	— Sixteenth Annual Report, 1894-95 Charles D. Walcott, Director. Parts 2, 3, 4. 3 vols. 8vo. Washington, 1895. Presented	Presented	8104	— Proceedings. Volume XVII, 1894. 1 Vol. 8vo. Washington, 1895. Presented	Presented
	Part 2, Papers of an Economic Character, contains:— Geology and Mining Industries of the Cripple Creek District, Colorado, by Whitman Cross and R. A. F. Penrose, Jr. A Geological Reconnaissance across Idaho, by Geo. H. Eldredge The Geology of the Road building Stones of Massachusetts, by Nathaniel Southgate Shaler. Economic Geology of the Mercury Mining District, Utah, by J. Edward Spur, with introduction by S. F. Emmons. The Public Lands and their Water Supply, by Frederick H. Newell. Water Resources of a portion of the Great Plains, by Robert Hay.			Contains:— The Relationship of the Lacertine Genus <i>Anniella</i> , Gray, by G. Baur. Scientific Results of Explorations by the U. S. Fish Commission Steamer "Albatross." No. XXXIII. Descriptions of two new Flounders, <i>Gastropsetta frontalis</i> and <i>Cyclosetta chittendeni</i> , by A. Barton Bean. Description of a new species of Rockfish, <i>Sebastes brevispinus</i> , from Alaska; by Tarleton H. Bean. Description of a new species of Fish, <i>Ilekeria gilli</i> ; by Tarleton H. Bean. Description of <i>Gobionides brasssoneti</i> , a fish new to North America, from the Gulf of Mexico, by Tarleton H. Bean and Barton A. Bean. Description of Nests and Eggs of some new Birds, collected on the Island of Aldabra, North-west of Madagascar by Dr. W. L. Abbott, by Charles E. Bendire. The Pterylography of certain American Goatsuckers and Owls; by Hubert Lyman Clark Notes on the Geographical Distribution of Scale Insects; by T. D. A. Cockerell. Monograph of the Genus <i>Gauchaum</i> , Gray (<i>Rangia</i> , Desmoulins); by William Healy Dall. A Revision of the Fishes of the sub-family <i>Sebastesinae</i> , of the Pacific Coast of America; by Carl H. Eigenmann and Charles H. Beeson An Analysis of Jadeite from Mogooing, Burma; by Oliver C. Farrington. On the Nomenclature and Characteristics of the Lampreys, by Theodore Gill The Nomenclature of the <i>Myliobatrachidae</i> or <i>Aetobatrachidae</i> ; by Theodore Gill. The Nomenclature of the Family <i>Pavillidae</i> or <i>Cyprinodontidae</i> ; by Theodore Gill The Differential Characters of the <i>Salmonidae</i> and <i>Thymallidae</i> ; by Theodore Gill On the Relations and Nomenclature of <i>Stizostedion</i> or <i>Luciopeca</i> ; by Theodore Gill On the Botherothoracine Insects of the United States; by L. O. Howard. A Review of the Fossil Flora of Alaska; by F. H. Knowlton Notes on Reptiles and Batrachians collected in Florida, 1892-93, by Einar Lannberg. Notes on the Anatomy and Affinities of the <i>Cercobidae</i> and other American Birds; by Frederick A. Lucas. Overlaying with Copper by the American Aborigines, in Old T. Murray. Description of a New Species of Cotton Rat, <i>Sigmodon merina</i> from New Mexico; by Edgar A. Mearns. On the Formation of Stalactites and Gypsum Incretations in Caves; by George P. Merrill. The Formation of Sandstone Coarctions; by George P. Merrill. Notes on some Eruptive Rocks from Gallatin, Jefferson and Madison Counties, Montana; by George P. Merrill. Notes on a Blue Mineral, supposed to be Ultramarine, from Silver City, New Mexico, by R. L. Packard Descriptions of two New Species of Crabs from the Western Indian Ocean; by Mary J. Rathbun. Descriptions of a New Genus and two New Species of African Fresh-water Crabs, by Mary J. Rathbun. Notes on the Crabs of the Family <i>Inachidae</i> in the U. S. National Museum; by Mary J. Rathbun. Descriptions of a new Genus and four new Species of Crabs from the Antillean Region; by Mary J. Rathbun. Diagnosis of a New Genus of Trogons (<i>Heterotrogon</i> based on <i>Haploiderma vittatum</i> of Shelley; by Charles W. Richmond.	
8409-11	— Bulletins, Nos. 128, 129, 131, 132, 133, 134. 3 vols. 8vo. Washington, 1894-95. Presented	Presented			
C 11	— Monographs. Vol. xxiii. Geology of the Green Mountains in Massachusetts, by Raphael Pumpelly, J. E. Wolff, and T. Nelson Dale. Vol. xxiv. Mollusca and Crustacea of the Miocene Formations of New Jersey, by Robert Parr-Whitfield. 2 vols. 4to. Washington, 1894. Presented	Presented			
8070-71	— Bulletin No. 2. New Series. Proceedings of the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Association of Economic Entomologists. 2 vols. 8vo. Washington, 1895. Presented	Presented			
8099	— Bulletin No. 3. The San Jose Scale. Presented	Presented			
8100	— Bulletin No. 8. The Jack Rabbits. Presented	Presented			
C 8	— Technical Series. No. 2. The Grass and Grain Joint-worm Flies. Presented	Presented			
C 8	— No. 4. Mexican and Japanese Injurious Insects. Presented	Presented			
C 8	— North American Fauna. Nos. 10, 11, 12. Presented	Presented			
8177	UNITED STATES EXPLORING EXPEDITION, 1838-42. Under Capt. C. Wilkes. Atlas to vol. xii. Mollusca (reproduced by photography at the U. S. National Museum). 1 vol. Fol. Exchange	Exchange			

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PART II.—PERIODICALS (continued).			PART II.—PERIODICALS (continued).		
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM. Proceedings, Volume XVII, 1894 (continued).			SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION. Miscellaneous collections (continued).		
Contains:—			As follows:—		
Descriptions of twenty-two New Species of Birds from the Galapagos Islands, by Robert Ridgway.			Vol. x. No. 190. Queries relative to Tornados.		
Descriptions of some New Birds from Aldabra, Assumption, and Gloriosa Islands, collected by Dr W. L. Abbott, by Robert Ridgway.			No. 234. Questions relative to the Food Fishes of the United States. No. 235. Instructions for observations of Thunderstorms. No. 236. Circular relative to Heights. No. 237. Directions for Constructing Lightning Rods. No. 238. List of the Institutions, Libraries, Colleges, and other Establishments in the United States in correspondence with the Smithsonian Institution, 1872. No. 243. List of Foreign Correspondents of the Smithsonian Institution. 4th ed., 1872. No. 245. Check List of Publications of the Smithsonian Institution, 1872. No. 257. Systematic Index.		
Additional Notes on the Native Trees of the Lower Wabash Valley, by Robert Ridgway.			Vol. vi. No. 230. Arrangement of the Families of Mammals, by Theodore Gill, 1872. No. 247. Arrangement of the Families of Fishes, by Theodore Gill, 1872. No. 256. Monographs of the Diptera of North America. Part iii, by H. Loew. No. 261. Directions for Collecting and Preserving Insects, by A. S. Packard, 1873.		
Distribution of the Land and Fresh-water Mollusks of the West Indian Region, and their Evidence with regard to past changes of Land and Sea; by Charles Torrey Simpson.			Vol. xii. No. 181. Review of North American Birds in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution. Part i, by S. F. Baird, 1864-1872.		
The Shells of the Tres Marias and other localities in California; by Robert E. C. Stearns.			Vol. xxxix. No. 514. A Catalogue of Scientific and Technical Periodicals (1885 to 1882), together with Chronological Tables and Library Check-List; by Henry Carington Bolton, 1885.		
Description of a New Lizard, <i>Verticaria baldingi</i> , from California; by Leonhard Stejneger.			Vol. xxxi. No. 501. Synoptical Flora of North America. The Gamopetalas. A second edition of Vol. i, part 2 and vol. ii, part 1, collected; by Asa Gray, 1885.		
Notes on a Japanese Species of Reed Warbler, by Leonhard Stejneger.			Vol. xxvii. No. 658. Index to the Literature of the Spectroscope, by Alfred Tuckerman, 1883. No. 659. A table of Specific Gravity for Solids and Liquids. (Constants of Nature. Part vi.) New edition, by Frank Wigglesworth Clarke, London, 1888.		
Description of <i>Uta mearnsi</i> , a New Lizard from California; by Leonhard Stejneger.			Vol. xxxiii. No. 543. Bulletin of the Philosophical Society of Washington. Vol. vi, 1883 (1884). No. 592. Vol. vii, 1884 (1885). No. 636. Vol. viii, 1885 (1886). No. 661. Vol. ix-x, 1886-1887 (1888).		
Notes on Butler's Garter Snake; by Leonhard Stejneger.			Vol. xxxiv. No. 630. Transactions of the Anthropological Society of Washington. Vol. iii, 1883-85, 1886. No. 663. Index to the Literature of Columbia, 1801-1837; by Frank N. Trapagen, 1888. No. 664. Bibliography of Astronomy for 1887; by William C. Winlock, 1883. No. 665. Bibliography of Chemistry for 1887; by H. Carington Bolton, 1888. No. 708. The Toner Lectures, Lecture x, a Clinical Study of the Skull; by Harrison Allen, 1890. No. 741. Index to the Literature of Thermodynamics; by Alfred Tuckerman, 1890. No. 764. The Correction of Sextants for Errors of Eccentricity and Graduation; by Joseph A. Rodgers, 1890. No. 785. Bibliography of the Chemical Influence of Light; by Alfred Tuckerman, 1891. No. 843. The Mechanics of the Earth's Atmosphere. A collection of Translations by Haviland Abbe, 1891.		
On the Specific Name of the Coach Whip Snake, by Leonhard Stejneger.			Vol. xxxv. No. 852. Appendix. No. 854. Smithsonian Geographical Tables; prepared by H. S. Woodward, 1894.		
Description of a New Salamander from Arkansas; by Leonhard Stejneger.			Vol. xxxvii. No. 856. An index to the Genera and Species of the Foraminifera; by Charles Davies Sherborn. Part i, A to N, 1893.		
The Box Tortoises of North America; by W. F. Taylor.			Vol. xxxviii. No. 969. The Varieties of the Human Species, Principles and Method of Classification; by Giuseppe Sergi, 1884. No. 970. Bibliography of Aceto Asceic Ester and its Derivatives; by Paul H. Seymour, 1894. No. 971. Indexes to the Literatures of Cerium and Lanthanum; by W. H. Mudge, 1895. No. 972. Index to the Literature of Didymium, 1842-1893; by A. C. Langmuir, 1891.		
Notes on Mammals of Balistan and the Vale of Kashmir, presented to the National Museum by Dr. W. L. Abbott, by Fred. W. True.			8414 ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA. Proceedings, 1895. 1 vol. 8vo. Philadelphia, 1896. Presented		
Notes on some Skeletons and Skulls of Porpoises of the Genus <i>Prodelphinus</i> , collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott in the Indian Ocean; by Fred. W. True.			C 14 — Proceedings, 1896. Part 1. Presented		
Diagnosis of New North American Mammals; by Fred. W. True.			8174 AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY. Bulletin, Vol. VII, 1895. 1 vol. 8vo. New York, 1895. Presented		
On the Rodents of the Genus <i>Sminthus</i> in Kashmir; by Fred. W. True.			C 10 — Memoirs, Vol. I, Part 2. Presented		
Diagnosis of some described Wood Rats (Genus <i>Neotoma</i>) in the National Museum; by Fred. W. True.			C 13 — Annual Report for the year 1895. Presented		
Descriptions of New Species of Starfishes and Ophiurians; by A. E. Verrill.			8425 AMERICAN NATURALIST. A monthly journal devoted to the Natural Sciences in their widest sense. Vol. XXX. 1 vol. 8vo. Philadelphia, U.S.A., 1896. Purchased		
Discovery of the Genus <i>Oidhamia</i> in America; by Charles D. Walcott.			8412 AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION. The Auk, a Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. New Series, Vol. XIII. 1 vol. 8vo. New York, 1896. Presented		
Notes on the Invertebrate Fauna of the Dakota Formation; by Charles A. White.			C 19 AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY. Proceedings. Vol. X, Index. New Series. Vol. IX, Part I. C 19 ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, ST. LOUIS. Transactions. Vol. VII. Nos. 1, 2, 3. Presented		
Scientific Results of Explorations by the U.S. Fish Commission Steamer "Albatross"—No. xxviii. On <i>Cetomacridae</i> and <i>Rondeletidae</i> , two New Families of Bathybal Fishes from the North-western Atlantic; by G. Brown Goode and Tarleton H. Bean. No. xxix. A Revision of the Order <i>Heteromi</i> . Deep Sea Fishes; by G. Brown Goode and Tarleton H. Bean. No. xxx. On <i>Harricotta</i> , a New Type of Chimæroid Fish from the deeper waters of the North-western Atlantic; by G. Brown Goode and Tarleton H. Bean. No. xxxi. Descriptions of New Genera and Species of Crabs of the Family <i>Lithodidae</i> ; by James E. Benedict. No. xxxii. Report on the Crustacea of the Order <i>Stomatopoda</i> ; by Robert Payne Bigelow. No. xxxiii. Descriptions of two New Flounders, <i>Gastropsettia frontalis</i> and <i>Cyclosetta chittendeni</i> ; by Barton A. Bean. No. xxxiv. Report on <i>Mollusca</i> and <i>Brachiopoda</i> , dredged in deep water, by William Healy Dall.			8358 AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY. Held at Philadelphia, for promoting useful knowledge. Transactions. Vol. IV. New Series. Exchange		
C 7 — Bulletin, No. 48. Presented			8134 BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY. Memoirs, being a New Series of the Boston Journal of Natural History. Vol. IV. 1 vol. 4to. Boston, 1886-93. Presented		
8178-92 SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION. Miscellaneous collections. 15 vols. 8vo. Washington. Presented					
As follows:—					
Vol. i. No. 57. Psychometrical Table: for determining the elastic force of aqueous vapour and the relative humidity of the atmosphere, by James H. Coffin, 1856. No. 148. Directions for Meteorological Observations and the Registry of Periodical Phenomena. 1855.					
Vol. ii. No. 27. On recent improvements in the Chemical Arts, by Prof. Jas. O. Booth and Campbell Morfit, 1852. No. 34. Directions for Collecting, Preserving, and Transporting Specimens of Natural History. 3rd ed., 1850. No. 49. Catalogue of North American Reptiles in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution. Part I.—Serpents, by S. F. Baird and C. Girard, 1853. No. 53. Portraits of North American Indians, with Sketches of Scenery, &c., painted by J. M. Stanley, deposited with the Smithsonian Institution, 1852. No. 115. Extracts from the Proceedings of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution in relation to the Electro-magnetic Telegraph. 1858. No. 187. Circular to Officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, 1860. No. 189. Circular in Reference to the Degrees of Relationship among Different Nations, 1860.					
Vol. viii. No. 168. Circular relative to Collections of Birds from Middle and South America, 1863. No. 178. Circular to Entomologists, 1860. No. 189. Catalogue of the Orthoptera of North America, by Samuel H. Scudder, 1868. No. 205. Circular relating to Collections in Archaeology and Ethnology, 1867. No. 210. Arrangement of Families of Birds, adopted provisionally by the Smithsonian Institution, 1860. No. 219. Monographs of the Diptera of North America. Part iv, by R. Osten Sacken, 1869.					
Vol. ix. No. 174. Bibliography of North American Conchology; by W. G. Binney. Part II. Foreign Authors, 1864. No. 179. Catalogue of Publications of Societies and of Periodical Works belonging to the Smithsonian Institution, 1866.					

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PART II.—PERIODICALS (continued).			PART II.—PERIODICALS (continued).		
C 19	BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY. Memoirs. Vol. v. Nos. 1 and 2.	Presented	C 2	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA. Bulletin of the Department of Geology. Vol. I. Nos. 10-11.	Presented
8416	— Proceedings. Vol. XXVI, 1892-95. 1 vol. Svo. Boston, 1895.	Presented	5604	ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA. Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Board of Directors. 1895-96.	Presented
C 19	— Proceedings. Vol. XXVII, pp. 1-74.	Presented	AUSTRIA, HUNGARY, &C.		
8108	BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON. Proceedings. Vols. VIII, 1893; IX, 1894-5. 1 vol. Svo. Washington, 1893-95.	Presented	F 35	ACADEMIE DES SCIENCES, Cracovie. Bulletin International. Jul., Oct., Nov., Dec., 1895; Jan., Feb., Apr., 1896.	Presented
C 4	— Proceedings. Vol. X, pp. 1-132.	Presented	T 42	ANTHROPOLOGISCHE GESELLSCHAFT. Vienna. Mittheilungen, Bd. XXV, 1895, Nr. 2 and 3. Bd. XXVI, 1896, Nr. 2.	Presented
8406	CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. Proceedings. Second Series. Vol. V, 1895. 1 vol. Svo. San Francisco, 1896.	Presented	8065 & 8303	KÖNIGL.-BÖHMISCHE GESELLSCHAFT DER WISSENSCHAFTEN. Mathematisch - Naturwissenschaftliche Classe. Sitzungsberichte. Jahrgang. 1894-95. 2 vols. Svo. Prag, 1895-96.	Presented
C 2	CALIFORNIA STATE MINING BUREAU. Sheet Bulletin, No. 8, Mineral Productions for 1895.	Presented	F 41	— Jahresbericht für das Jahr. 1894.	Presented
C 2	— Bulletins, Nos. 9, 10.	Presented	8251-53	KÖN.-UNGARISCHE NATURWISSENSCHAFTLICHE GESELLSCHAFT, BUDAPEST. Mathematische und Naturwissenschaftliche Berichte aus Ungarn. Mit Unterstützung der Ungarischen Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Königlich-ungarischen Naturwissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft. Redigirt von J. Frohlich. Band X, 1891-92; Band XI, 1892-93; Band XII, 1893. 3 vols. Svo. Berlin and Budapest, 1892-93.	Presented
C 19	CHICAGO ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. Thirty-eighth Annual Report. Bulletin. Vol. II. No. 2.	Presented	P 5	— Cypridicola parisiatica, von E. v. Daday.	Presented
C 19	CINCINNATI MUSEUM ASSOCIATION. Fifteenth Annual Report, 1895. Catalogue of Spring Exhibition.	Presented	F 42	— Aquila, December 1894, and April 1895.	Presented
C 19	FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM, CHICAGO. Pub. II. Authentic Letters of Columbus. Pub. III. Meteorite Collection. Pub. IV. Flora of Yucatan. Pub. V. Structure and Development of Vert. Column of Amia. Pub. VI. Annual Report of the Director, 1894-95. Pub. VII. On Portions of Skeleton of Protostega gigas. Pub. VIII. Archeological Studies. Pub. IX. Flora of West Virginia.	Presented	F 34	UNGARISCH GEOLOGISCHEN GESELLSCHAFT. Földtani Közöny. Band XXVI, Parts 1-10.	Presented
8120	GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF OHIO. Report. Vol. VI. Economic Geology. 1 vol. Svo. Columbus, 1888.	Exchange	F 30	NATURHISTORISCHES HOFMUSEUM, Vienna. Annalen. Band X, Nr. 1; XI, Nr. 1.	Presented
8139-40	GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. Palaeontology. Vol. VIII. An Introduction to the Study of the Genera of Palaeozoic Brachiopoda. Parts 1 and 2, by James Hall, assisted by John M. Clarke. 2 vols. 4to. Albany, N.Y., 1892 and 1894.	Presented	F 32	ORNITHOLOGISCH VEREIN, VIENNA. Mittheilungen. "Die Schwalbe" Jahr. XX, 1896. Nos. 1, 2, 3.	Presented
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LOEW (H.) Revision der Blepharoceridæ. (<i>Zeits. f. Ent. neue Folge VI</i> , 1877.)		— American Platyppezidæ. (<i>Kansas Univ. Quart. III</i> , 2, 1894.)	
— Analytische Tabelle zum Bestimmen der nordamerikanischen Arten der Tipuliden-Gattung Pachyrrhina. (<i>Verhand. K. K. Zool.-Bot. Ges. Wien</i> , 1879.)		— Descriptions of North American Trypetidæ, with Notes. (<i>Kansas Univ. Quart. II</i> , 3, 1894.)	
MÜLLER (Fritz.) Contribution towards the History of a new form of larvæ of Psychodidæ (Diptera) from Brazil. (<i>Trans. Ent. Soc. Lon.</i> , 1895.)		— Cnephalia and its Allies. (<i>Kansas Univ. Quart. III</i> , 3, 1895.)	
REITER (Edm.) Ueber den angeblichen Umsturz in der Entomologie der Gegenwart. (<i>Wien Ent. Zeit.</i> XI, 1, 1892.)		— American Platyppezidæ, Paper 2. (<i>Kansas Univ. Quart. III</i> , 3, 1895.)	
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RÖDER (V. von.) Dipterologische Notizen. I. Europäischen Ulidinen. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeit.</i> XXV, 2, 1881.)		TOWNSEND (C. H. Tyler.) A remarkable new Hippoboscid from Mexico. (<i>Entom. News</i> , 1891.)	
— Ueber Cyphipelta Big. (<i>Wien Ent. Zeit.</i> I, 3, 1882.)		— An Exorista parasitic on Lago opercularis. (<i>Entom. News</i> , 1891.)	
— Ueber die Gattung Brachyrrhopala Meq. (<i>Wien Ent. Zeit.</i> II, 11, 1883.)		— A Tachinid Parasite of Chrysophanus dione. Exorista chrysophani n. sp. (<i>Entom. News</i> , 1891.)	
— Ueber die systematische Stellung der Diptereugattung Tetanura (pallidiventris) Fall. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XXXI, 1, 1885.)		— New North American Tachinidæ. (<i>Entom. News</i> , 1892.)	
— Ueber Pangonia longirostris Hardw.		— New Jamaica Tachinidæ. (<i>Entom. News</i> , 1892.)	
— Apheshia chalybaea n. sp.		— Some Deformities in the Abdominal Segments of Tachinidæ. (<i>Entom. News</i> , 1892.)	
RÜBSAAMEN (Ew. H.) Die Gallmücken des Königl. Museums für Naturkunde zu Berlin. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XXXVII, 3, 1892.)		— On the so-called Throat Bot. (<i>Entom. News</i> , 1892.)	
— Vorläufige Beschreibung neuer Cecidomyiden. (<i>Ent. Nachr. Karsch</i> XIX, 11, 1893.)		— The Puparium and Pupa of Subula pallipes Lw. (<i>Entom. News</i> , 1893.)	
— Eine neue Gallmücke, Asphondylia capparid n. sp. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XXXVIII, 4, 1893.)		— Hemiptera collected in Southern Michigan. (<i>Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash.</i> II, 1, 1891.)	
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TRYON (Henry.) Coleoptera collected by Mr. A. C. English in New Guinea. (<i>Second Report Admin. N. Guin.</i> , 1890.)		— Note on the Genera Triptotricha Lw. and Agnotomyia Will. (<i>Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash.</i> II, 1, 1891.)	
TUTT (J. W.) Melanism and Melanochromism in British Lepidoptera. (<i>Entom. Rec.</i> I, 12, 1891.)		— Ticks in the Ears of Horses. (<i>Journ. N. Y. Ent. Soc.</i> I, 2, 1893.)	
THOMAS (Fr.) Ueber das Heteropteroecidium von Teucrium capitatum und anderen Teucrium-Arten. (<i>Abhand. Bot. Ver. Brandenburg XXXI</i> , 1889.)		— Note on Termopsis angusticollis Hagen. (<i>Zool.</i> IV, 2, 1893.)	
		— On the Life History of Lygæus turcius, Fab. — Notes on Parnassius clodius. (<i>Canad. Entom.</i>)	
		— Note on the proposed new Genus Calotarsu. (<i>Canad. Entom.</i>)	
		— A Sarcophagid Parasite of Cimbex americana. (<i>Canad. Entom.</i>)	
		— Description of a Muscid, bred from Swine Dung, with Notes on two Muscid Genera. (<i>Canad. Entom.</i>)	

Book.	How acquired.	Book.	How acquired.
PAMPHLETS (continued).		PAMPHLETS (continued).	
<p>TOWNSEND (C. H. Tyler). Notes on North American Tachinidæ sens lat., with descriptions of new Genera and Species. Paper I. (<i>Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash.</i> II, 1, 1891.) Paper II. (<i>Trans. Am. Ent. Soc.</i> XVIII.) Paper III. (<i>Trans. Am. Ent. Soc.</i> XIX.) Paper V. (<i>Canad. Entom.</i> XXIV, 3, 1892.) — On a Species of Simulium from the Grand Canon of the Colorado. (<i>Trans. Am. Ent. Soc.</i> XX, 1893) — Notes on the Diptera of Baja, California. (<i>Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci.</i>, (2) IV.) — A Trypetid bred from Galls on Bigelovia. (<i>Canad. Entom.</i>) — A Very Remarkable and Anomalous Syrphid. (<i>Canad. Entom.</i>) — Two new Tachinids. (<i>Psyche</i>, 1891.) — A new Simulium from Southern New Mexico. (<i>Psyche</i>, 1891.) — A Parasite of the Fall Web-Worm. (<i>Psyche</i>, 1891.) — A Tachinid Parasite of the Oak Unicorn Prominent. (<i>Psyche</i>, 1891.) — Contribution to a List of the Coleoptera of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. (<i>Psyche</i>, 1889.) — Description of a Sarcophaga bred from Helix. (<i>Psyche</i>, 1892) — Tachinid Parasite of <i>Eucaterva variaria</i> Grote, and other notes. (<i>Psyche</i>, 1892.) — An <i>Aporia</i> bred from <i>Limacodes</i> sp. (<i>Psyche</i>, 1892.) — Descriptions of Cecidid Larvæ taken from the Jack Rabbit and Cotton-Tail. (<i>Psyche</i>, 1892) — A Cockscomb Gall on <i>Rhus microphylla</i>. (<i>Psyche</i>, 1893.) — A Cone-like Cecidomyiid Gall on <i>Bigelovia</i>. (<i>Psyche</i>, 1894.) — A Dexiid Parasite of a Longicorn Beetle. (<i>Jour. Inst. Jamaica</i>, I, 3.)</p>		<p>OSTEN-SACKEN (C. R.) Characters of the Larvæ of Mycetophilidæ. (<i>Proc. Ent. Soc. Phil.</i>, 1862.) Heidelberg, 1886. — Bemerkungen über Blepharoceriden. Ein Nachtrag zur "Revision" dieser Familie von Prof. Dr. Loew. (<i>Deut. Ent. Zeits.</i> XXII, 1878.) — Diptera from the Philippine Islands brought home by Dr. Carl Semper, and described by C. R. Osten-Sacken. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XXVI, 1, 1882.) Berlin, 1882. — Diptera from the Philippine Islands brought home by Dr. Carl Semper, and described by C. R. Osten-Sacken. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XXVI, 2, 1882.) — On Prof. Brauer's Paper: Versuch einer Charakteristik der Gattungen der Notacanthæ, 1882. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i>, 1882.) Berlin, n.d. — On the Genus <i>Apiocera</i>. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XXVII, 2, 1883.) — Verzeichniss der Entomologischen Schriften von Hermann Löw. (<i>Verh. K. K. Zool. Bot. Ges. Wien</i>, 1884.) — Some North American Tachinæ. (<i>Can. Entom.</i> XIX, 1887.) — Studies on Tipulidæ. Part I. Review of the published Genera of the Tipulidæ Longipalpi. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XXX, 2, 1886.) Berlin, n.d. — Studies on Tipulidæ. Part II. Review of the published Genera of the Tipulidæ Brevipalpi. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XXXI, 2, 1887.) Berlin, n.d. — On Mr. Portchinskii's Publications on the Larvæ of Muscidæ. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XXXI, 1, 1887.) — Suggestions towards a better grouping of certain Families of the Order Diptera. (<i>Entom. Mo. Mag.</i>, (2), II, 1891.) — On the Characters of the three divisions of Diptera: <i>Nemocera vera</i>, <i>Nemocera anomala</i>, and <i>Eremochacta</i>. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i>, XXXVII, 4, 1892.) — Explanatory Notice of my Views on the Sub-Orders of Diptera. (<i>Entom. Mo. Mag.</i>, (2), IV, 1893.) — Zur Geschichte der sogenannten Brustgräte (breast-bone) der Cecidomyien. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XXXVIII, 4, 1893.) — On the Atavic Index-Characters, with some remarks about the Classification of the Diptera. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XXXII, 1, 1894.) — Synonymica about Tipulidæ. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XXXIX, 2, 1894.) — Three Trochobolæ from New Zealand and Tasmania. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XXXIX, 2, 1894.) — <i>Eristalis tenax</i> in Chinese and Japanese Literature. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XL, 1, 1895.) — Contributions to the Study of the Liponeuridæ Loew. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XL, 1, 1895.) — Correction to my Paper: Three Trochobolæ. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XL, 1, 1895.) — Supplement to my recent Paper on Liponeuridæ. (<i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XL, 3, 1895.) — Other Papers not enumerated.</p>	
8386 Pamphlets, Vol. XXXII, No. 7, Insects; by E. Gigliolo and Joseph Mik, in 1 vol. 8vo. Contains:—	Purchased		
<p>GIGLIO-LOS (Dott E.). Nuove Specie di Ditteri del Museo Zoologico di Torino. I. (<i>Atti. R. Acad. Sci. Torino</i>, XXV, 1890) Torino, 1890. — Nuove Specie di Ditteri del Museo Zoologico di Torino. II. (<i>Boll. Mus. Zool. Anat. comp. Torino</i>, V, 1890.) — Le Specie Europee de Genere <i>Chrysotoxum</i> Meig. (<i>Atti. R. Acad. Sci. Torino</i> XXVI, 1890.) Torino, 1890. — Nuove Specie di Ditteri del Museo Zoologico di Torino III. (<i>Boll. Mus. Zool. Anat. comp. Torino</i>, VI, 1891.) — Di alcune Specie del Gen. <i>Echinomyia</i> Dum. (<i>Boll. Mus. Zool. Anat. comp. Torino</i>, VI, 1891.) — Nuove specie di Ditteri del Museo Zoologico di Torino. IV. (<i>Boll. Mus. Zool. Anat. comp. Torino</i>, VI, 1891.) — Nuove Specie di Ditteri del Museo Zoologico di Torino. V. (<i>Boll. Mus. Zool. Anat. comp. Torino</i>, VI, 1891.) — Diagnosi di quattro nuovi generi di Ditteri. (<i>Boll. Mus. Zool. Anat. comp. Torino</i>, VI, 1891.) — Parassitismo di una Larva d'<i>Aricia</i> in un Carabo. (<i>Ann. R. Acad. Sci. Torino</i>, XXIV, 1891.) Torino, 1892.</p>		PAMPHLETS UNBOUND.	
<p>MIK (Josef). Collection of Pamphlets and Extracts on Diptera (Mostly from <i>Wien Ent. Zeit.</i> II, 1893, to IX, 1890, and <i>Verh. Zool. Bot. Ges. Wien</i>, 1883 to 1889).</p>	Purchased	<p>AGASSIZ (A.) On Underground Temperature at Great Depths. Exchanged AURIVILLIUS (Chr.) Diagnosen neuer Tagfalter aus Africa BENNIE (James). Arctic Plants and Apus Remains at Kirkmichael. BLANCHARD (Dr. Raphael). Nouvelles Observations sur les Larves de <i>Dermatobia norialis</i>. — Hirudineen aus dem Togoland. — Description de quelques Hirudines asiatiques. BRAZIER (John). New Species of Cone from Solomon Islands. BORDA (J. I.) Biograficos. COPE (E. D.) The Reptilian Order Cotylosauria. — On Pliocene Mammalia from Petite Anse. — Criticism of Dr Baur's Rejoinder, and reply to critique. DENDY (A.) Notes on N. Z. Land Planarians. Part II. — Note on the Discovery of Living Specimens of <i>Geonemertes novae-zealandicæ</i>. — Presidential Address on Cryptozoic Fauna of Australia. DRAPER (D.) Marble Beds of Natal. Exchanged FESTA (E.) Descrizione di un nuovo genere e di una nuova specie di Teiidæ raccolta nel Darien.</p>	
<p>8387.—Pamphlets, Vol. XXXIII, No. 8. Insects by C. R. Osten Sacken; in 1 Vol. 8 vo. Contains:— OSTEN-SACKEN (C. R.) Die Tanyderina, eine merkwürdige Gruppe der Tipuliden. (<i>Verh. K. K. Zool. Bot. Ges. Wien</i>, 1879.) — Synonymica concerning Exotic Dipterology. (<i>Wien Ent. Zeit.</i> I, 1882, and <i>Berlin Ent. Zeits.</i> XXXII, 2, 1883.) — Referate über einige in russischer Sprache erschienene Dipterologische Schriften. (<i>Wien Ent. Zeit.</i> I, 1882.) — Bericht über eine in russischer Sprache erschienene Dipterologische Arbeit. (<i>Wien Ent. Zeit.</i> IV, 1885.) — An Essay of Comparative Chaetotaxy, or the arrangement of the characteristic bristles of Diptera. (<i>Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond.</i>, 1884.)</p>			

Book.	How acquired.	Book.	How acquired.
PAMPHLETS UNBOUND (<i>continued</i>).		PAMPHLETS UNBOUND (<i>continued</i>).	
FIELDER (Rev. W.) Intermediate Hosts of Fluke—First, Second, and Third Notes.		PECKHAM (G. W.) Occasional Papers:—Some observations on the Special Senses of Wasps. Additional observations on Sexual Selection of Spiders of <i>Attila</i> . Ant-like Spiders of Family <i>Attila</i> . Spiders of the <i>Marphusa</i> Group. Spiders of the <i>Homalattus</i> Group. Spiders of the Family <i>Attila</i> from Central America and Mexico.	
FOWKE (G.) Archeologic Investigations.		POCTA (P.) Parallèle entre les Dépôts Siluriens de la Bretagne et de la Bohême.	Exchange.
FROGGATT (W. W.) On the Bag-shelters of Lepidopterous Larvæ of the Genus <i>Teana</i> .		PHILIPPI (R. A.) Museo Nacional de Chili. Anales, Sec. 1. Zoología "Cervus Antisensis."	
— The Entomology of the Grass Trees		PRITCHARD (G. B.) On the present state of our Knowledge of the older Tertiaries of Southern Australia.	
— Notes on Cicadas.		RAINBOW (W. J.) Descriptions of some new Araneidae of N.S.W. No. 6.	
— Australian Termitidae. Part I.		RAMOND (G.) Géologie des Indes Anglaises.	
— Paper on Honey Ants (of Horn Expedition).		ROBERTSON (Dr. M.) Brief Account of the Natives of West Australia.	
HEMSLEY (W. Botting). On an Obscure Species of <i>Tramsetta</i> .		— Report by Dr M. Robertson on Habits of Aborigines of W.A.	
— Some Remarkable Phanerogamous Parasites.		SALVADORI (T.) Catalogo di una collezione di Uccelli delli vicinanze di Deli in Sumatra.	
— The Flora of Lord Howe Island.		— Descrizione di una nova specio del genere <i>Rhaphiocelus</i> di Chiriqui.	
HEDLEY (C.) Stray Notes on Papuan Ethnology.		SARS (G. O.) On a new fresh-water Ostracod, <i>Stenocypris chevreaui</i> .	
JACK (Robert L.) The Submarine Leakage of Artesian Water.		— Description of two new Phyllopora from North Australia.	
— Note on the Discovery of Organic Remains in the Cairns Range, Western Queensland.		SATTSURE (Henri de). Note sur la Tribu des Embiens.	
JARVIS (Edmund) Life History of <i>Xenia hobartia</i> .		SCHAUDINN (Dr Fritz). Heliozoa.	
PEACH (B. N.) and HORNE (J.). The Old Red Volcanic Rocks of Shealand.	Exchanged	SHAMBAUGH (B. F.) Documentary material for History of Iowa. Parts 1 and 2.	
KARSON (F.) Ethiopische Heteroceren T, II.		SMITH (Edgar A.) On a Collection of Land Shells from Selayar, &c.	
KIRK (T.) Displacement of Species in New Zealand.		— On a Collection of Land Shells from South Celebes.	
KOLBE (H. J.) Afrikanische Coleoptera des K. Museums.		— List of Land and Fresh-water Mollusca of Trinidad.	
LEA (Arthur M.) Descriptions of New Species of Australian Coleoptera; parts 1 and 2.		— Descriptions of five new Species of Land Shells from New Guinea.	
— Descriptions of New Species of Bostrychida.		— Non-marine Mollusca of St. Vincent.	
— Papers from the "Journal of Agriculture."		— On the Genus <i>Cica</i> .	
LORIOU (P. de). Études sur quelques Échinodermes de Cinn.		— Land Shells from Central Africa.	
— Étude sur les Mollusques du Rauracien supérieur du Jura Bernois.		— Notes on <i>Nassodonta insignis</i> .	
— Supplément aux Échinodermes de la Baie d'Amboine.		— Natural History Notes from "Investigator," Ser. II, No. 20. Report on some Mollusca in Arabian Sea, 1894-95.	
LUCAS (A. H. S.) and FROST (C.) Paper on Reptilia (of Horn Expedition)		SMITH (J. P.) Geologic Study of Migration of Marine Invertebrates.	Exchange.
MAITLAND (A. Gibb). The Geological Structure of extra Australian Artesian Bore.		SUTER (H.) Further Contributions to the Molluscan Fauna of N.Z.	
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MOBIUS (K.) Die Aesthetische Betrachtung der Thiere.		TATE (R.) Palæontology of the Horn Expedition.	
MORSE (Edward S.) If Public Libraries, why not Public Museums?		— General Geology of Horn Expedition.	
NORTH (A. J.) Notes on <i>Chilmydodera orientalis</i> .		— Physical Geography of Horn Expedition.	
— Notes on the Nesting of <i>Calyptorhynchus banksi</i> and <i>Erythrodyptis rosæ</i> .		TATE (R.) and HEDLEY (C.) Mollusca of the Horn Expedition.	
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— Descriptions of two new Genera and Species of Australian Fishes.		WANDOMEZEK (Benno). Ueber die Fuhlerformen der Dipteren.	
PERACCA (M. G.) Rettili ed Anfibi raccolti a Kazangula		WELFNER (W.) Spongiæ.	
— Sul fatto di due distinte dentizioni nell' <i>Tinqua</i> <i>Scincoides</i> White.			
— Sopra alcuni Oidii nuovi o poco noti dell' America meridionale.			
— Rettili ed Anfibi raccolti nei Darien ed a Panama dal Dott. K. Feste.			
— Rettili ed Anfibi.			
— Sopra un nuovo genere ed una nuova specie di colubride a capo dell' America meridionale			
CHERRIT (D. P.) Bassin de Villaines.	Exchange.		
PEAL (J. E.) Table of Comparison of Words.			

APPENDIX XII.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM UP TO THE END OF 1896.

I.—CATALOGUES.

1. Catalogue of the Specimens of Natural History and Miscellaneous Curiosities in the Australian Museum, by G. Bennett. 1837. Svo. pp. 71. (Out of print.)
2. Catalogue of Mammalia in the Collection of the Australian Museum, by G. Krefft. 1864. 12mo. pp. 133. (Out of print.)
3. Catalogue of the Minerals and Rocks in the Collection of the Australian Museum, by G. Krefft. 1873. Svo. pp. xvii-115. (Out of print.)
4. Catalogue of the Australian Birds in the Australian Museum, by E. P. Ramsay, Part I, Accipitres, 1876. Svo. pp. viii-64, and Supplement, 1890. Part II, Striges, 1890. Svo. pp. 35. Part III, Psittaci, 1891. Svo. pp. viii-110. Part IV, Halcyones, 1894. Svo. pp. viii-24.
5. Catalogue of the Australian Stalk and Sessile-eyed Crustacea, by W. A. Haswell. 1892. Svo. pp. xxiv-324, with 4 plates.
6. Catalogue of the Library of the Australian Museum. 1883. Svo. pp. 178. Wrapper, with two supplements. (Out of print.) New edition. Part III, Pamphlets.
7. Catalogue of a Collection of Fossils in the Australian Museum, with Introductory Notes, by F. Ratte. 1883. Svo. pp. xxviii-160.
8. Catalogue of the Australian Hydroid Zoophytes, by W. M. Bale. 1884. Svo. pp. 198, with 19 plates.
9. Descriptive Catalogue of the General Collection of Minerals in the Australian Museum, by F. Ratte. 1885. Svo. pp. 221, with a plate.
10. Catalogue of Echinodermata in the Australian Museum, by E. P. Ramsay, Part I, Echini, 1885. 2nd edition, 1890. Svo. pp. viii-54, with 5 plates.
11. Descriptive Catalogue of the Medusæ of the Australian Seas. Part I, Scyphomedusæ. Part II, Hydromedusæ, by R. von Lendenfeld. 1887. Svo. pp. 32 and 49.
12. Descriptive Catalogue of the Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds, by A. J. North. 1889. Svo. pp. iv, v-407, with 21 plates.
13. Descriptive Catalogue of the Sponges in the Australian Museum, by R. von Lendenfeld. 1888. Svo. pp. xiv-260, with 12 plates.
14. Catalogue of the Fishes in the Australian Museum. Part I, Palaichthyan Fishes, by J. Douglas Ogilby. 1888. Svo. pp. 34.
15. Catalogue of the Marine Shells of Australia and Tasmania, by J. Brazier. Part I, Cephalopoda, 1892. Svo. pp. 20. Part II, Pteropoda, 1892. Svo. pp. 22. Part III, Gasteropoda (Murex), 1893. Svo. pp. 32.
16. Catalogue of Australian Mammals, with Introductory Notes on General Mammalogy, by J. Douglas Ogilby, 1892. Svo. pp. xvi-144.

II.—MONOGRAPHS.

1. Australian Lepidoptera and their Transformations, by the late A. W. Scott, with Illustrations by his daughters, Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Forde. Edited and revised by A. S. Olliff and Mrs. Forde. Vol. II, Parts 1, 2, 3, and 4.

III.—MEMOIRS.

1. History and Description of the Skeleton of a new Sperm Whale in the Australian Museum, by W. S. Wall. 1851. Svo. pp. 66, with plates. Reprint 1887.
2. Lord Howe Island: its Zoology, Geology, and Physical Characters. 1889. Svo. pp. viii-132, with 10 plates.
3. The Atoll of Funafuti, Ellice Group; its Zoology, Botany, and General Structure, based on Collections made by Mr. C. Hedley. Part I., 21st Dec., 1896. Svo. pp. 86.

IV.—GUIDES.

1. Guide to the Australian Fossil Remains in the Australian Museum. 1870. Svo. (Out of print.)
2. Guide to the Contents of the Australian Museum. 1883. Svo. pp. iv-56. (Out of print.)
3. Guide to the Contents of the Australian Museum. 1890. Svo. pp. 156.

V.—MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS.

1. List of old Documents and Relics in the Australian Museum. 1884. Reprinted with additions, 1890. Svo. pp. 4.
2. Descriptive List of Aboriginal Weapons, Implements, &c., from the Darling and Lachlan Rivers, by K. H. Bennett, F.L.S. 1837. Svo. pp. 8. (Out of print.)
3. Notes for Collectors. 1887. Svo. pp. 43.
4. Hints for Collectors of Geological and Mineralogical Specimens, by F. Ratte, pp. 26, with a plate.
5. Hints for the Preservation of Specimens of Natural History, by E. P. Ramsay. 1891. 4th Edition, pp. 32.

VI.—RECORDS.

- Records of the Australian Museum, Vol. I., 1890-91. Svo. pp. 202. 30 plates.
Vol. II., 1892-96. Svo. pp. 112. 23 plates.

May be obtained from the Attendants at the Museum, or from Messrs. Angus and Robertson, Castlereagh-street, Sydney; Messrs. Turner and Henderson, Hunter-street, Sydney; Mr. E. W. Cole, George-street, Sydney, Book Arcade, Melbourne, and Rundle-street, Adelaide; Messrs. Melville, Mullen, and Slade, Melbourne; Messrs. R. Friedlander and Son, Berlin; Messrs. Kegan, Paul, Trench, Trübner, & Co., Paternoster House, Charing Cross Road, London.

[Exchanges of Serials, Works, Reports, and other Publications are earnestly solicited on behalf of the Museum Library.]

APPENDIX XIII.

LIST OF THE MUSEUM STAFF, 1896.

No. at end of 1895.	No. at end of 1896.	Name and Office.	Date of appointment to present position.	Date of first appointment in the Museum.
1	1	Robert Etheridge, Junr., Curator	1 Jan., 1895	18 April, 1887
2	2	Sutherland Sinclair, Secretary	11 Sept., 1882	
3	3	Edward P. Ramsay, Consulting Ornithologist, Collector, &c.	1 Jan., 1895	22 Sept., 1874
4	4	Thomas Whitelegge, Scientific Assistant	1 July, 1887	27 Aug., 1883
5	.....	Frederick A. A. Skuse do do (deceased)	15 Oct., 1890	
6	5	Alfred J. North do do	1 Aug., 1891	22 Nov., 1886
7	6	Thomas Cooksey do do	9 May, 1892	
8	7	Edgar R. Waite do do	17 April, 1893	
9	8	Charles Hedley do do	1 Jan., 1896	1 April, 1891
.....	9	W. J. Rainbow do do	3 Sept., 1896	July, 1896
10	10	John Jennings do do (temporary)	16 Sept., 1895	
.....	11	F. T. Clark, Clerk	1 Jan., 1896	
.....	12	Joseph A. Spencer, Messenger	7 April, 1896	
11	13	Henry Barnes, Articulator, Photographer, &c. ...	15 March, 1896	
12	14	John A. Thorpe, Taxidermist	5 June, 1869	
13	15	Robert Barnes, Carpenter	— 1866	
14	16	Benton Lucas, Assistant Carpenter and Smith ...	10 May, 1887	1 March, 1883
15	17	Henry Barnes, Junr., Assistant Articulator, &c. ...	1 Oct., 1888	— 1878
16	18	Michael O'Grady, Attendant	— 1854	
17	19	Richard Hillsdon, do	1 Jan., 1888	12 Sept., 1887
18	20	Robert Grant, do	12 Jan., 1892	— 1888
19	21	Samuel Long, do	1 Jan., 1896	7 Dec., 1891
20	22	Fred. Kippax, do and Printer	1 Jan., 1896	5 Nov., 1888
.....	23	Edw. Francis, do (temporary)	24 April, 1896	
21	24	Mrs. A. Dashwood, do	1 Sept., 1882	
22	25	Mrs. K. Fraser, do	1 April, 1889	
23	26	Robert Long, Night Watchman	5 April, 1894	
.....	27	John W. Pidgeon, do	1 Jan., 1896	
24	.....	George Sparks, Boy (temporary to 31 March) ...	27 Aug., 1895	

Sydney: William Applegate Gullick Government Printer.—1897.

[1s. 9d.]

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

NATIONAL ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

(REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR 1896.)

Printed under No. 2 Report from Printing Committee, 6 May, 1897.

Report for the Year 1896.

In presenting their Annual Report for the year 1896, the Trustees desire to emphasize the value to the National Art Collection of the first enlargement of the Gallery, as sanctioned by the Honorable the Minister of Public Instruction, the contract for which is now approaching completion.

Some idea may now be formed of the architectural scheme for the complete Gallery, and the Trustees congratulate the Colony upon the good taste and appropriateness of its design.

Contracts for a continuation of the plan will, the Trustees understand, be shortly entered upon.

The attendance of visitors during the year is recorded as 215,602, the daily average being 427 on week days (312) and 1,581 on Sundays (52).

Thirty-six (36) additional students have been admitted during the year, giving a total of 248 registered.

Country Loan Collections.—On 20th February the Honorable Mr. Garrard, Minister of Public Instruction, assisted by Mr. Du Faur, President of Trustees, officially opened at Newcastle the Third Country Collection, consisting of twenty-four Oil Paintings and eleven Water-colour drawings, contributed by the Trustees and Members of the Art Society of New South Wales. Encouraging results in the direction of Art culture are recorded in each of the three country centres to which pictures have been sent, viz.:—Bathurst, Goulburn, and Newcastle.

The "Third Interchanges" of pictures with the National Galleries of Victoria and South Australia were effected in April, public interest in these interchanges being fully sustained.

In November, with the sanction of the Honorable Mr. Garrard, a first interchange of four (4) pictures was effected with the National Gallery of Queensland.

The Trustees have to deplore the loss of their esteemed colleague, the Honorable Sir George Innes, who was appointed to the Trust in 1892.

Particulars of purchases and presentations during the year are annexed hereto.

E. DU FAUR,
President.

List of Works purchased by the Trustees in 1896, at a cost of £963 14s. 9d.

OIL PAINTINGS.

"The Cry of the Mothers"; F. P. Mahony. "The Bride"; Arthur Burrington. "Portrait Study"; J. Longstaff. "Summer Evening"; D. Davies. "A Bush Idyll"; G. Lambert. "Mid-day"; S. Long. "Waiting"; Gordon Coutts. "A Southern Headland, Tas."; W. C. Piquenit.

WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS.

"Maiden Meditation"; A. J. Hanson. "The Close of Day"; A. J. Hanson. "Queenie"; Mary Stoddard, jun. "Bad Hay Weather, Westmoreland"; Paul Naftel. "A Sketch, N. Wales"; Paul Naftel. "Entrance to Sydney Harbour"; Conrad Martens. "New Zealand Landscape"; F. C. Terry. "Study of Aboriginal Female"; B. E. Minns. "A Surveyor's Camp"; A. Streeton.

BLACK AND WHITE.

Engraving, "Changing Pastures," after Rosa Bonheur. Charcoal Studies, "2 Heads"; J. Wolinski.

MODELLING.

Plaster Bust, "Aboriginal Boy"; N. Illingworth.

MISCELLANEOUS.

*83—

[550 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £1 8s. 0d.]

MISCELLANEOUS.

Specimen of Chinese Embroidery, from the Palace of the Empress Dowager at Peking. 16 feet x 3 feet.

PRESENTATIONS to the Gallery in 1896.

Pencil drawing, "Lily". Presented by W. A. Inman.

Water-colour drawing, "Lung Arno, Florence". Presented by Mrs. R. R. Armstrong and other ladies.

Brown Circular Tile, from the famous Porcelain Tower of Nanking. Presented by E. Molloy, Nanking.

ADDENDA.

Five persons were permanently employed, with three extra attendants on Sundays and holidays. The Gallery was open on 364 days in the year.

Year's Expenditure to 31st December, 1896.

For Works of Art purchased	...	...	...	...	...	£963	14	9
Salaries and wages	...	...	...	...	...	1,112	3	0
Maintenance, including insurance, frames, freights, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	672	14	0
Repairs, fittings, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	388	17	7
						<u>£3,137</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.
(REPORT FROM TRUSTEES FOR 1896.)

Printed under No. 2 Report from Printing Committee, 6 May, 1897.

The Trustees of the Public Library of New South Wales to The Minister for
Public Instruction.

Sir,

Sydney, 10 February, 1897.

The Trustees have the honor to submit their Report for the year 1896, being their Twenty-sixth Annual Report.

1. The Board have to record with regret the death of Mr. John Stewart on July 30th, 1896, after twenty-three years' service, commencing on April 20th, 1873, and of the Hon. Sir J. G. L. Innes, Kt., who died in London on October 26th, having served on the Board since February 11th, 1879.

In January Sir William Windeyer went to England on leave of absence, and the Board placed on record their high sense of the value of his services to this Library.

There have been twelve meetings of the Board during the year, the average attendance being five.

2. The general collection of books has been increased by 5,525 volumes, and after allowing for 116 struck off the Lending Branch stock as worn out or lost, the total number now in the Library is 115,908, details of the classification of which are given in Appendix A.

3. The Reference Library was open for 359 days, and the attendance reached 174,130, being an increase of 17,742 over that of the previous year. The Lending Branch was open for 349 days, and the total number of borrowers' visits reached 80,928, showing a small increase of 146. The attendance at the Newspaper Room fell off from 171,894 to 161,124. The average daily attendance at the Library for the year was 1,167. Details are given in Appendix B.

4. In the Lending Branch the borrowers numbered 6,061, which is a decrease of 89 on the previous year. In Appendix C will be found details of the classes of books taken out by borrowers, showing for each class—(a) the number of volumes available at the end of the year; (b) the number issued during the year; (c) the daily average of volumes issued; (d) the ratio between volumes and issues. These figures show that fiction forms 11·7 per cent. of the volumes in the Lending Branch and 28·3 per cent. of the total issues; and that each volume of fiction was borrowed, on an average, 8·5 times during the year.

5. The figures given in Appendix D serve to show to what extent and in what directions the public avail themselves of the contents of the Library on Sundays.

*25—A

[900 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £8 19s.]

6.

6. The number of Country Libraries applying for the loan of boxes of books has increased from 91 to 107; and 172 boxes, containing 14,208 volumes, were sent out, as against 164 boxes, with 12,893 volumes, in the previous year. Two more boxes were equipped during 1896, 268 new volumes added to the stock available for loan in this way, and 85 volumes were withdrawn, leaving the total 6,131 volumes.

The Trustees are of opinion that the Country Libraries which benefit by this system of exchange may fairly be asked to make a yearly contribution to a fund which will by degrees equip a number of new boxes with the best modern literature of all classes, until there shall be at least enough boxes to supply all applicants, and thus ensure a rapid circulation of about 10,000 volumes among 150 centres throughout the Colony.

A yearly contribution of £5 from each Country Library would thus provide about 1,500 volumes each year, which rate of increase would soon make it possible for every Library to borrow 400 volumes per annum, at an average cost to themselves of 3d. per volume—the State paying all costs of transit.

7. The donations for the past year comprise 1,504 volumes and pamphlets, of the value of £417 6s. 6d., of which 356 were placed among the duplicates, but are valuable for exchange purposes; and also 76 newspapers supplied regularly from Great Britain and British Colonies for the use of the Newspaper Room. Appendix G contains the names of the principal donors. Under the Copyright Act 256 volumes and pamphlets, to the value of £29 11s. 1d., have been received, as well as 272 newspapers and periodicals published in New South Wales.

8. The Newspaper Room is now supplied with newspapers from different parts of the world, and is evidently appreciated by the large number of respectable men who frequent it every day. The Trustees would reiterate the remarks of their last Report as to the unsuitability of the old iron building which is being used for a Lending Branch and Newspaper Room.

9. The practice of lending special collections of text-books to groups of students in country districts has been continued with encouraging results, and is much appreciated by the students and the University Extension Board.

10. Steady progress has been made with the preparation of catalogues. A Supplement containing the books added to the Library in the years 1893–95 is now ready for the Printer, and a very complete Index to the same will be finished within three months. A Supplement for the year 1896 has been issued in quarterly parts by our own staff, and these parts are now combined in one alphabet, and ready with the Index for printing in one volume. The type of this Supplement will be kept standing, and the quarterly slips printed during this year will be combined with it at the end of 1897 to form a two years' Supplement, and so on till a large five years' Supplement shall have been put together. An Index covering the whole of the 60,000 books received from 1869 to 1892 will, we hope, be ready for printing by the middle of this year. The cataloguing of the books in the Lending Branch has been steadily kept up to date.

11. This Library was represented at the Library Conference held in Melbourne in April last by the Principal Librarian. An Australasian Library Association was formed, and it was decided that the first general meeting of the Association should be held in Sydney about Easter of this year. With this end in view the Hon. Dr. Norton, M.L.C., Professor MacCallum, and Mr. H. C. L. Anderson were elected the Executive Officers for 1897. A further communication with regard to this proposed meeting will be addressed to you.

12. The Officers of the staff are efficient and diligent, and are generally zealous in working to make themselves fit for any duties that may be assigned to them.

13. The question of providing more accommodation is becoming a pressing one, for within a short time all the available space in this Library will be occupied.

During the past year the work connected with administering the Copyright Act of 1879 has been transferred to the Library, and a considerable amount of space has been taken up by the necessary Registers and Exhibits. The officer entrusted with editing the Historical Records of New South Wales has also been transferred to the Library Staff, and a further encroachment on the rooms hitherto assigned to special students has been found necessary. The Trustees feel it their duty to urge the

the advisability of considering at once how the further accommodation which will be necessary in the near future is to be provided. The splendid site which was bought for this Library with a special Parliamentary grant has not yet been devoted to any other purpose, and it is a question for immediate attention whether the difficulty should not be boldly faced by using the site as originally intended, and removing the Reference Library, together with the Lending Branch and Newspaper Room which must disappear in a short time to make room for the proposed Parliamentary buildings, to a central position where they would be more accessible, and their general usefulness thereby largely increased. The Trustees are of opinion that it is both impracticable and inexpedient to attempt to enlarge the present building with any hope of providing suitable accommodation for the work now being done at the Lending Branch, or for the prospective requirements of a National Library for New South Wales.

14. *Expenditure for 1896.*

From the Parliamentary Votes for the year 1895-6 (£7,640), and the current financial year ending June 30th, 1897 (£7,176).

	£
Salaries—Reference Library and Country Exchanges ...	2,810
„ Lending Branch	1,339
„ Newspaper Room	145
Books, periodicals, newspapers, and binding ...	1,904
Incidentals—including insurance, freight, book-shelves, repairs, &c.	278
Wages of cleaners and carpenter	315
Conveyance of books to Country Libraries	179
	£6,970

JAMES NORTON,
President.

APPENDIX A.

NUMBER of VOLUMES in the PUBLIC LIBRARY of NEW SOUTH WALES on the 31st December, 1896.

Synopsis of Classification.	Reference Department.		Lending Branch.		For Country Libraries.		Total.
	Added 1896.	Total.	Added 1896.	Total.	Added 1896.	Total.	
Natural Philosophy, Science and the Arts	819	10,869	139	4,168	27	1,369	16,406
History, Chronology, Antiquities, and Mythology	210	7,161	128	3,560	62	1,174	11,895
Biography and Correspondence	164	5,174	92	4,086	55	1,441	10,701
Geography, Topography, Voyages and Travels	134	6,965	66	3,628	35	1,136	11,729
Periodical and Serial Literature	1,718	24,315	.....	.....	31	47	24,362
Jurisprudence, Political and Social Economy	317	5,538	52	1,172	13	199	6,909
Theology, Moral and Mental Philosophy, and Education	378	5,183	26	1,502	8	164	6,849
Poetry and Drama	115	2,888	27	940	6	127	3,955
General Literature, Philology, and Collected Works	168	6,300	287	6,237*	29	472	13,009
Works of Reference	61	4,876	.....	.....	2	2	4,878
Duplicates	356	5,215	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,215
Total added during 1896	4,440	.....	817	.....	268	.....	5,525
Total Number of Volumes .....	.....	84,484	.....	25,293	.....	6,131	115,908

Books worn out, or lost during the year, deducted from the stock :—Lending Branch, 116.

* Including 2,993 vols. of Prose Fiction.

APPENDIX B.

NUMBER and AVERAGE of VISITS of READERS to the LIBRARY, the NUMBER of DAYS on which the LIBRARY was OPEN to the PUBLIC, and the AVERAGE NUMBER of VOLUMES used on SUNDAYS and on WEEK-DAYS from 1st January to 31st December, 1896.

Number of VISITS for the year—

To the Reference Library	174,130
To the Lending Branch	80,928
To the Newspaper Room	161,124
Total.....	416,182

Total Visits to the Reference Library on Week-days.....	166,402	On Sundays ...	7,728
Total Visits to the Lending Branch on Week-days.....	76,614	On Sundays ...	4,314
Daily average of Visits to the Reference Library on Week-days	542	On Sundays ...	148
Daily average of Visits to the Lending Branch on Week-days.	256	On Sundays ...	86

Total number of Days that the REFERENCE LIBRARY was open (including 52 Sundays) ... 359

Total number of Days that the LENDING BRANCH was open (including 50 Sundays) 340

Average number of VOLUMES used on SUNDAYS—

Reference Library (from 2 to 6 o'clock p.m.)	193
Lending Branch (from 2 to 6 o'clock p.m.)	95
Total.....	288

Average number of VOLUMES used on WEEK-DAYS—

Reference Library (from 10 o'clock a.m. to 10 o'clock p.m.).....	1,626
Lending Branch (from 10 o'clock a.m. to 9 o'clock p.m.)	288
Total.....	1,914

Summary of VISITS to the Library, 1869-1896 :—

1869 (three months—1 Oct. to 31 Dec.) ...	17,006	1883	155,431
1870	59,786	1884 (eleven months)	161,877
1871	60,165	1885.....	165,715
1872	48,817	1886	168,685
1873	76,659	1887 (closed three months for moving)...	139,203
1874 (eleven months)	57,962	1888	149,425
1875	66,900	1889	132,983
1876	72,724	1890	155,822
1877 (Lending Branch first opened).....	124,688	1891	173,205
1878	117,047	1892	197,235
1879 (Exhibition open)	152,036	1893	216,089
1880	134,462	1894 (Newspaper Room opened).....	330,431
1881	136,272	1895	409,064
1882 (eleven months)	133,731	1896	416,182

APPENDIX C.

CLASSES of BOOKS BORROWED from the LENDING BRANCH of the PUBLIC LIBRARY of NEW SOUTH WALES, from 1st January to 31st December, 1896.

No. of days open.	No. of Tickets issued to Borrowers.	No. of Borrowers' visits.	Synopsis of Classification of Reading.	No. of Vols. available.	No. of issues.	Daily average of Vols. issued, including Sundays.	Ratio of Vols. to issues
349	6,061	80,928	Natural Philosophy, Science and the Arts	4,168	10,242	29.3	1:2.5
			History, Chronology, Antiquities, and Mythology ..	3,560	9,347	26.8	1:2.6
			Biography and Correspondence	4,086	8,019	23.0	1:2.0
			Geography, Topography, Voyages and Travels	3,628	13,718	39.3	1:3.8
			Jurisprudence, Political and Social Economy	1,172	1,835	5.3	1:1.5
			Mental and Moral Philosophy, and Education	1,502	3,246	9.3	1:2.1
			Poetry and Drama	940	2,660	7.6	1:2.8
			General Literature	3,254	15,349	43.9	1:4.7
			Prose Works of Fiction	2,983	25,474	73.0	1:8.5
Total				25,293	89,890	257.5	1:3.5

APPENDIX D.

CLASSES of BOOKS READ, the NUMBER of VOLUMES USED, and the NUMBER of VISITS to the LIBRARIES on SUNDAYS during the year 1896.

No. of Sundays open.	No. of Visits.	Daily average of Visits.		No. of Volumes available.	No. of Volumes used.	Daily average of Vols. used on Sundays.
REFERENCE LIBRARY.						
52	7,728	148	Natural Philosophy, Science, and the Arts	10,869	1,316	25.3
			History, Chronology, Antiquities, and Mythology	7,161	754	14.5
			Biography and Correspondence	5,174	1,051	20.2
			Geography, Topography, Voyages and Travels	6,965	932	17.8
			Periodical and Serial Literature	24,315	1,271	24.5
			Jurisprudence, Political and Social Economy	5,588	625	12.3
			Theology, Moral and Mental Philosophy, and Education ...	5,183	457	8.4
			Poetry and Drama	2,888	613	11.8
			General Literature, Philology, and Collected Works	6,300	2,260	43.5
Works of Reference	4,876	768	14.7			
Total				79,269	10,047	193
LENDING BRANCH.						
50	4,314	86	Natural Philosophy, Science, and the Arts	4,168	531	10.6
			History, Chronology, Antiquities, and Mythology	3,560	487	9.7
			Biography and Correspondence	4,086	467	9.4
			Geography, Topography, Voyages and Travels	3,628	889	17.8
			Jurisprudence, Political and Social Economy	1,172	130	2.6
			Mental and Moral Philosophy, and Education	1,502	169	3.4
			Poetry and Drama	940	125	2.5
			General Literature	3,254	658	13.2
Prose Works of Fiction	2,983	1,291	25.8			
Total				25,293	4,747	95

APPENDIX G.

Donations received during 1896.

By whom Presented	List of Donations Received.	Vols.
Adelaide University	Calendar for 1896	1
Alabama Geological Survey	Iron-making in Alabama. By W. B. Phillips	1
	Bulletin No. 5. A preliminary Report on the Mineral Resources of the Upper Gold Belt, &c.	1
America: Geological Society	Bulletin No. 7	1
American Agricultural Colleges and Experimental Stations. Reports and Bulletins.	Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Cornell University, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Ottawa, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Storrs School, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.	130
Aron, J.	Canada, Transvaal	1
Astronomer Royal, Greenwich	Cape Observations for 1856, 1857-58, 1859-60, 1871-73, 1874-76, 1879-81, 1882-84, 1885-87. Cape Catalogue for 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1885. Cape Heliometer Observations, 1881-83. Cape Annals, Vol. 1, pts. 2, 3, and 4. Vol. 2.	18
Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science	Proceedings. Vol. 5	1
Balch, T. W.	International Courts of Arbitration. By Thomas Balch	1
Board for International Exchanges, Sydney.	Official Publications of the Argentine Republic, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chili, France, New Zealand, South Australia, United States, Uruguay, and Victoria.	822
California State Mineralogist	Bulletin No. 7	1
Canada Agricultural Department	Statistical Year Book of Canada, 1894 and 5	2
Canada Geological Survey of	Publications of	7
Canadian Government	Archaeological Report, 1891-5	1
	Statistical Year Book of Canada for 1895	1
	Quarterly Report of the Department of Trade and Commerce of Canada, to 31st March, 1896.	1
Canadian Institute	Transactions, Vol. 4, pt. 2, December, 1895	1
Canterbury College (N.Z.)	Calendar for the year 1896	1
	Annual Report for 1895-6	2
Chicago Board of Trade	Annual Report for 1895	1
Christian Commonwealth Publishing Company.	Brief Comments	1
Clark, J. M.	The Functions of a Great University. By J. M. Clark	1
Cobden Club	Publications	6
Colombo Museum	Report for 1894 and 5	2
	Supplement to the Library Catalogue, pt. 2	1
Ferguson, A. M. and J.	The Tropical Agriculturist, 1894-5	1
Fitzgerald, D.	Short Description of the Boston Water-works. By D. Fitzgerald	1
Fussell, J. C.	An Inventory of the Goods, &c., of John Choldham, Esq., 1638	1
Gill, Dr.	Report of Her Majesty's Astronomer, Cape of Good Hope	1
Hobart, Council of Agriculture	The <i>Agricultural Gazette</i> . Vol. 4	1
Imperial Federation Defence Committee.	Address to Her Majesty's Ministers, The Navy, and The Colonies. By H. O. A. Forster	2
Iowa State Historical Society	Iowa Historical Record, Oct., 1895, July, 1896. History of Iowa, Nos. 5 and 6	4
Ireland, National Library of	Publications, &c.	16
Kesteven, L.	Typhoid Fever. By L. Kesteven (2 copies)	2
Leland Stanford Junior University.	Publications	3
Library Reports	Auckland, Battersea, Bolton, Brighton, Brooklyn, Cardiff, Cincinnati, Concord, Detroit, Dunedin, Knoch Pratt, Heginbottom, Leeds, Lincoln, Manchester, Mitchell, Newberry, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Norwich, Peabody Institute, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Richmond, St. George's, St. Helen's, St. Louis, St. Marten-in-the-Field, Sheffield, Victoria, Wellington, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton.	
List, N. A.	Who were the Authors of the "Arts and Science" Literature of the Ancients	1
	The Redemption of Women from the Errors of Theology	1
Liverpool, Literary and Philosophical Society of.	Proceeding of, 1889-90 to 1894-5	6
Liversidge, Prof. A.	On some N. S. Wales and other Minerals, &c.	1
Madras Government	Publications	2
Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labour.	Report for 1894	1
Melbourne, Exhibition Trustees	Official Handbook	1
Melbourne University	Calendar for 1896	1
Melville, Mullen, and Slade	Melbourne University Calendar for 1897	1
Michigan, Department of State.	Annual Registration Reports of Michigan Vital Statistics, 1871-1893	23
Minnesota Geological & Natural History Survey.	22nd and 23rd Annual Reports for 1893 and 4	2
Montgomery, Eleanor E.	Songs of the Singing Shepherd	1
	Pilgrim of Eternity	1
Murray, D.	An Archaeological Survey of the United Kingdom. By David Murray	1
New Hampshire State Library	Annual Reports for 1894	3
	New Hampshire Laws, 1895	1
New South Wales, Colonial Secretary of.	Official Publications of Great Britain, United States, Canada, &c.	
New South Wales, Department of Public Works.	Official Publications	6
New Zealand Government	Official Publications	34
	Journal of the Legislative Council, 1895	1
New Zealand Institute	Transactions and Proceedings. Vol. 28, 1895	1
New Zealand Mines Department	Papers and Reports relating to Minerals, 1896	1

By whom Presented.	List of Donations Received.	Vols.
Newspapers, Proprietors of	Yearly issue of <i>Advertiser</i> (Adelaide), <i>Age</i> (Melbourne), <i>Agriculturist and Review</i> (Jamestown), <i>Argus</i> (Melbourne), <i>Ballarat Courier</i> , <i>Bendigo Advertiser</i> , <i>British Australasian</i> (London), <i>British Weekly</i> (Edinburgh), <i>Canterbury Times</i> (Christchurch), <i>Cape Argus</i> (Capetown), <i>Champion</i> (Melbourne), <i>Colonial Enterprise</i> (London), <i>Colonist</i> (Maryborough), <i>Coolgardie Miner</i> , <i>Coolgardie Mining Review</i> , <i>Coolgardie Pioneer</i> , <i>Cork Examiner</i> , <i>Croydon Golden Age</i> , <i>Daily Telegraph</i> (Launceston), <i>Eagle</i> (Charters Towers), <i>Echuca and Moama Advertiser</i> , <i>Evening Star</i> (Dunedin), <i>Freeman's Journal</i> (Dublin), <i>Geraldton-Murchison Telegraph</i> , <i>Glasgow Weekly Mail</i> , <i>Guardian</i> (London), <i>Hamilton Advertiser</i> , <i>Hobart Mercury</i> , <i>Indian Daily News</i> (Calcutta), <i>Inquirer</i> (Perth), <i>Japan Weekly Mail</i> (Yokohama), <i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> , <i>Launceston Examiner</i> , <i>Leader</i> (Melbourne), <i>Ladies Pictorial</i> (London), <i>Mackay Chronicle</i> , <i>Mackay Mercury</i> , <i>Manchester Courier</i> , <i>Melbourne Punch</i> , <i>Mirror</i> (Geraldton), <i>Morning Herald</i> (Perth), <i>Mt. Morgan Herald</i> , <i>Murchison Times</i> (Cue), <i>Natal Witness</i> (Pietermaritzburg), <i>New York Tribune</i> , <i>New Zealand Herald</i> (Auckland), <i>New Zealand Mail</i> (Wellington), <i>New Zealand Tablet</i> (Dunedin), <i>New Zealand Times</i> (Wellington), <i>Nhill Free Press</i> , <i>North British Agriculturist</i> (Edinburgh), <i>Northern Public Opinion</i> (Roeburne), <i>North Queensland Herald</i> (Townsville), <i>North Queensland Register</i> (Charters Towers), <i>Oamaru Mail</i> , <i>Otago Witness</i> (Dunedin), <i>Portadown Record</i> , <i>Port Denison Times</i> (Bowen), <i>Polynesian Gazette</i> (Fiji), <i>Reynolds' Newspaper</i> (London), <i>Riverine Herald</i> (Echuca), <i>San Francisco Chronicle</i> , <i>Southern Cross</i> (Adelaide), <i>Standard</i> (London), <i>Standard and Diggers' News</i> (Johannesburg), <i>Telegraph</i> (Brisbane), <i>Toowoomba Chronicle</i> , <i>Week</i> (Brisbane), <i>Weekly Scotsman</i> (Edinburgh), <i>Weekly Times</i> (Melbourne), <i>West Australian</i> (Perth), <i>Western Australian Record</i> (Perth), <i>Western Champion</i> (Barrabooline), <i>Western Mail</i> (Perth), <i>Worker</i> (Brisbane), <i>World</i> (London), <i>Yarravongga Chronicle</i> , <i>Zeehan and Dundas Herald</i> .	
Oliver, C. A.	Medical Pamphlets	3
Ontario, Department of Agriculture ..	Bulletins and Reports	6
Peach, Dr. H.	The Dentists' Register, 1895	1
	Medical Register for the Cape of Good Hope, 1893	1
Pennsylvania Library Department ..	Laws of Pennsylvania. Sess. 1895	1
Philadelphia Library Co.	Bulletins for March and September, 1896	2
Queensland Agricultural Department ..	Bulletins	4
Queensland, Government Printer ..	Acts of Parliament, 1895	1
Radcliffe Observatory	Publications	48
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	Quain's Elements of Anatomy. (10th ed.) Vol. 1, pts. 1 and 2; Vol. 2, pts. 1 and 2; and Vol. 3, pts. 1 and 3.	6
Rowland, P. F.	Foster's Text-book of Physiology. (5th ed.) Pts. 1-4	4
Royal Geographical Society of Australasia. (Victorian Branch.) ..	Oxford University, Cobden Prize Essay for 1896, &c.	1
Royal Historical Society	Transactions. Vols. 12 and 13	1
Royal Humane Society of Australasia ..	Transactions. Vol. 10 (n.s.)	1
Royal Society, Dublin	Report for 1896	1
Royal Society of South Australia ..	Report, 1895	1
Royal Society of Tasmania	Transactions. Vol. 16, pt. 3; Vol. 19, pt. 2	2
Royal Society of Victoria	Papers and Proceedings 1894-5	1
	Transactions. Vol. 4, 1895	1
	Proceedings. Vol. 8 (n.s.)	1
Service, Dr. J.	Thir Notandums, &c. By J. Service	1
Sherwood, G. E. T.	On the Natural and Artificial Feeding and Care of Infants. By John Service	1
Smithsonian Institution	Genealogical Queries and Memoranda. Vol. 1, Nos. 1 and 2	2
South African Philosophical Society ..	Publications	2
South Australian Government ..	Transactions. Vol. 8, pt. 2	1
South Australia, Government Astronomer ..	Official Publications	115
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Tasmanian Government	Report, Horn Expedition to Central Australia; Ed. by Baldwin Spencer, M.A.	4
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	Exploration in British New Guinea. By J. P. Thomson	1
	Transit of Mercury, 1894. By J. P. Thomson	1
	Viti. By J. P. Thomson	1
	Notes on "The Melanesian Plateau." By J. P. Thomson	1
	Recent Exploration in British New Guinea. By J. P. Thomson	1
	The Physical Geography of Australia, &c. By J. P. Thomson	1
	Practical Suggestions to Travellers. By J. P. Thomson	1
Trader, G. H.	Rudimental Divine Science. By M. Eddy	1
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United States Department of the Interior ..	Reports. Vols. 1, 2, and 3. 1894	3
	Report of the Commissioner of Education for 1893-94. Vols. 1 and 2	2
United States Department of Labour ..	Bulletin No. 1	1
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United States Patent Office	Annual Report, 1894	1
Victoria, Dairymen's and Beekeepers' Associations of ..	The Australian Farm and Home. Vol. 4	1
Victorian Government	Acts of Parliament of Victoria, 1895-6	1
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Western Australia, Registrar-General, Perth ..	Year Book for 1894-5	1
Wisconsin Historical Society ..	Historical Collections. Vol. 13	1
Woodward, H. P.	Mining Handbook to the Colony of Western Australia	1
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1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY.

(REPORT FOR 1896.)

Printed under No. 2 Report from Printing Committee, 6 May, 1897.

REPORT of the Senate of the University of Sydney for the year ending
31st December, 1896.

1. The Senate of the University of Sydney, in pursuance of the provisions of section 22 of the Act of Incorporation, 14 Victoria No. 31, has the honor to transmit the account of its proceedings during the year 1896, for the information of His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council.

Matriculation.

2. The number of persons who qualified themselves for Matriculation in 1896 by passing one of the various University Examinations was 295. Of these, 96 passed the ordinary Matriculation Examination, 135 the Junior Public Examination, 21 the Law Matriculation Examination, 33 the Senior Public Examination, and 10 the Entrance Examination for Medicine and Science. The number of students actually admitted to Matriculation, with a view to proceeding with the curriculum in one of the several Faculties, was 82.

Annual University Examinations.

3. The numbers of students who attended and passed the annual examinations in December, 1895, and March, 1896, after attending the prescribed courses of lectures, are shown in the following table:—

	Faculty of Arts.	Candidates.	Passed.
First-year examination	86	65
Second-year examination	56	39
Third-year examination	67	57

In addition to the students passing through the regular curriculum, 43 evening students and students of special subjects passed examinations in individual subjects.

	Faculty of Law.	Candidates.	Passed.
Intermediate examination	15	12
Final examination...	10	7
	Faculty of Medicine.		
First-year examination	31	23
Second-year examination	24	22
Third-year examination	24	21
Fourth-year examination	19	12
Fifth-year examination	19	18
	Faculty of Science.		
First-year examination	3	3
Second-year examination	1	1
Third-year examination	1	1
	Faculty of Science.—Department of Engineering.		
First-year examination	10	7
Second-year examination	10	9
Third-year examination	7	5

Attendance at Lectures.

4. The following table shows the numbers of students attending lectures in the several faculties:—

Faculty of Arts (day), 158; (evening), 71; total	229
Faculty of Law	45
Faculty of Medicine	136
Faculty of Science	9
" Department of Engineering	35
Total	454

Included are 64 women who attended in the Faculty of Arts, 8 in Medicine, and 3 in Science; total, 75.

* 22—A

[550 copies.—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £12 6s.]

Degrees

Degrees conferred.

5. The following degrees were conferred after examination:—

Master of Arts (M.A.):—Arthur Henry Garnsey, B.A.; Alfred John Griffith, B.A.; Godfrey William Millard, B.A.; John Frazer Sydney Russell, B.A.; Joseph Henry Smairl, B.A.; John Stonham, B.A.

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.):—Ernest Robert Abigail, Maud Edith Anderson, Edwin Charles Arnold, John a'Beckett Darvall Barton, Ada Beardmore, Charlotte Maud Bertie, Reginald Austin William Black, William John Bloomfield, Theophilus Robert Bowmaker, Nelson Leopold Boxall, Henry John Wolverton Brennand, Cecil Thomas Hawkes Broderick, Henry James Sidney Brook, Mary Jane Bruce, Edith Annie Bunting, Pollie Bushnell, Lily Comyn Byrne, Hilda Caro, Michael Alphonsus Casey, James Robert Castling, Montague Charles Lyttelton Chubb, Peter Joseph Clines, Wallace Clubb, Stella Maud Campbell Crawford, Jennie Cumming, Agnes Marianne Harrison Davis, Horace De Lissa, Samuel Beaumont Davison, Edith Lucy Doust, James Cooke Elphinstone, Lucy Isabel Flavelle, Henry James Clifton Foreman, Ambrose William Freeman, Henry Halloran, John Harold Hammond, John Alfred Hedberg, Thomas James, Mary Eleanor Johnston, James M'Dowall, James M'Kay, Alexander Duncan M'Laren, Gregan M'Mahon, Reginald William H. Maffey, James W. Miller, Ernest Meyer Mitchell, Hortense Henriette Montefiore, Arthur Frank Macquarie Mullens, Florence Jane Murray, Mabel Alicia Noakes, Henry Stuart Osborne, Catherine Agnes Phillips, John James Galton Reidy, Donald Grant Stewart, Kenneth Ffoulkes Swanwick, Elizabeth Ironside Taylor, Septimus Thornton, George Washington Waddell, Alfred Henry Yarnold.

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.):—Francis Stewart Boyce, Spencer Joseph St. Clair Butler, Francis Louis Verhuist Coffey, Joseph Cuthbert Kershaw, Edric Sydney Scarvell, James Ernest Walker, Harrie Dalrymple Wood.

Doctor of Medicine (M.D.):—Aeneas John McDonnell, M.B., Ch.M.

Bachelor of Medicine (M.B.):—Harold Graves Bennetts, Frederick Francis Ormond Bode, Edmund Henry Burkitt, William Aloysius Conlon, Aubrey Joseph Clarence Crawley, George Henry Baring Deck, Norman John Dunlop, John Charles White Halliday, Lawrence Herschell Levi Harris, Alexander Kethel, Llewellyn Bentley Lancaster, Walter Cecil McClelland, Guy Dixon Menzies, Arthur Charles O'Connor, Erskine Hugh Robison, Stratford Sheldon, Robert Blakeway Wade, Frederic Sobieski Wladimir Zlotkowski.

Master of Surgery (Ch.M.):—Harold Graves Bennetts, Aubrey Joseph Clarence Crawley, Norman John Dunlop, John Charles White Halliday, Lawrence Herschell Levi Harris, Walter Cecil McClelland, Guy Dixon Menzies, Arthur Charles O'Connor, Erskine Hugh Robison, Stratford Sheldon, Frederic Sobieski Wladimir Zlotkowski.

Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.):—John Macpherson.

Master of Engineering (M.E.):—Civil Engineering—John Job Crew Bradfield.

Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.):—Civil Engineering—Moreton John Godden Colyer, William Francis Hole, Basil Sawyer, John Morris Simeon Woore. Mining Engineering—Henry Twynam.

Ad eundem Degree.

6. The following *ad eundem* degree was conferred in accordance with the provisions of the "*Ad Eundem* Degrees Act," 44 Victoria No. 22:—

Doctor of Medicine (M.D.):—Francis Alexander Bennet; M.D., Aberdeen.

7. The total number of degrees conferred during the year was thus 108, divided as follows:—M.A., 6; B.A., 58; LL.B., 7; M.D., 2; M.B., 17; Ch.M., 11; B.Sc., 1; M.E., 1; B.E., 5.

8. The degrees conferred by the University from its foundation to the end of 1896 are:—M.A., 256; B.A., 851; LL.D., 23; LL.B., 57; M.D., 37; M.B., 108; Ch.M., 75; B.Sc., 24; M.E., 3; B.E., 37. Total, 1,471.

Honours at Degree Examinations.

9. The following honours were awarded at Degree Examinations:—

Faculty of Arts—M.A. Examination.

Philosophy and French Literature—Class II:—J. Stonham, B.A.

B.A. Examination.

Latin—Class I:—E. M. Mitchell. Class II:—Florence J. Murray. Class III:—Maud E. Anderson.

Greek—Class I:—E. M. Mitchell.

French—Class I:—Hortense H. Montefiore. Class III:—Mary E. Johnston.

English—Class I:—Ada Beardmore, Edith A. Bunting, Edith L. Doust. Class II:—Lily C. Byrne.

History—Class I:—Edith L. Doust and A. H. Yarnold, equal; Florence J. Murray. Class III:—H. J. C. Foreman. Class I (evening):—W. J. Bloomfield.

Mathematics—Class I:—D. G. Stewart. Class II:—K. ff. Swanwick. Class III:—E. M. Mitchell.

Logic and Mental Philosophy—Class I:—K. ff. Swanwick, Elizabeth I. Taylor. Class II:—W. J. Bloomfield, Ada Beardmore, and Agnes M. H. Davis, equal.

Geology and Palæontology—Class II:—Hortense H. Montefiore, H. J. S. Brook, C. G. W. Officer.*

Faculty of Law—LL.B. Examination.

Class II:—J. E. Walker, B.A.; F. S. Boyce, B.A.; J. C. Kershaw, B.A.

Faculty of Medicine—M.B. and Ch.M. Examination.

Class II:—G. H. B. Deck and J. C. Halliday, equal; W. C. McClelland, R. B. Wade, W. A. Conlon.

Faculty of Science—B.Sc. Examination.

Physics—Class II:—T. P. Strickland.*

Department

* Not passing through the regular course for the Degree.

Faculty of Science—Department of Engineering—M.E. Examination.
Civil Engineering—Class I:—J. J. C. Bradfield, B.E.

B.E. Examination.

Civil Engineering—Class II:—W. F. Hole, J. M. S. Woore, E. W. Hedgeland.*

10. The following Scholarships were awarded:—

(a) At the Matriculation Examination.

Bowman Cameron Scholarship for General Proficiency—R. C. Teece.
Cooper Scholarship, No. II, for Classics—Gained by R. C. Teece, but awarded to B. P. McEvoy,
R. C. Teece being the holder of two Scholarships.
Barker Scholarship, No. II, for Mathematics—R. W. Hawken, *prox. acc.* G. A. Waterhouse.
Lithgow Scholarship for Modern Languages—G. G. Nicholson.
Freemason's Scholarship for General Proficiency—R. C. Teece.
Horner Exhibition for Mathematics—R. W. Hawken, *prox. acc.* G. A. Waterhouse.

(b) At the First Year Examination in Arts.

Cooper Scholarship, No. III, for Classics—D. P. Evans-Jones.
George Allen Scholarship for Mathematics—F. G. Griffiths.

(c) At the Second Year Examination in Arts.

Cooper Scholarship, No. I, for Classics—H. E. Whitfield.
Barker Scholarship, No. I, for Mathematics—S. D. Chalmers.

(d) At the B.A. Examination.

Frazer Scholarship for History—Edith L. Doust and A. H. Yarnold, *æq.*; Florence J. Murray,
prox. acc.

(e) At the Intermediate Examination in Law.

G. Wigram Allen Scholarship for General Proficiency—J. H. Hammond.

(f) At the First Year Examination in Medicine.

Kenwick Scholarship for General Proficiency—W. F. Burfitt, B.A.

(g) At the Third Year Examination in Medicine.

John Harris Scholarship for Anatomy and Physiology—J. Macpherson, B.A.

(h) At the First Year Examination in Science.

Levey Scholarship for Chemistry and Physics—W. G. Woolnough.

(i) James King, of Irrawang, Travelling Scholarship—G. E. Smith, M.D., Ch. M.

Prize Compositions.

11. The awards made for Prize Compositions were:—

Wentworth Medals for English Essays—subject: "The Historical Novel." Prize for Graduates
—J. S. Griffith, B.A.; Prize for Undergraduates—H. S. Dettmann.
Professor Anderson's Medal for the best essay on a philosophical subject—"The Ethics of
Socialism"—D. Cowan, B.A.

First Classes at Annual Examinations.

12. The following students were placed in the first-class in Honours at the annual examinations
other than the final examinations for degrees:—

Faculty of Arts.

First-year Examination:—Latin—Isabel M. Fidler, D. P. Evans-Jones, N. G. Pilcher. Greek—
D. P. Evans-Jones, F. G. Griffiths. French—Isabel M. Fidler, N. G. Pilcher. German—
N. G. Pilcher. Mathematics—F. G. Griffiths, W. G. Forsyth, W. G. Woolnough (Science).
Second-year Examination:—Latin—H. E. Whitfield, H. S. Dettmann. Greek—H. E. Whitfield,
H. S. Dettmann. German—H. S. Dettmann. English—H. S. Dettmann. Mathematics—
S. D. Chalmers. Logic and Mental Philosophy—D. Wallace, H. E. Whitfield. History—
Elsie I'A. Bloomfield, S. D. Chalmers, W. W. Monahan, J. E. F. Penman.

Faculty of Medicine.

First-year Examination:—Chemistry—W. F. Burfitt, B.A. Physics—W. F. Burfitt, B.A.,
W. E. Harris. Biology—W. F. Burfitt, B.A.

First and Second-year Examinations:—Organic Chemistry—E. Ludowici, F. P. Sandes.

Third-year Examination:—Passed with high distinction—J. Macpherson, B.A.

Faculty of Science.

First-year Examination:—Physics—W. G. Woolnough. Chemistry—W. G. Woolnough.

Faculty of Science—Department of Engineering.

First-year Examination:—Applied Mechanics and Descriptive Geometry—G. A. Peckey.

Annual Prizes.

13. Annual Prizes were awarded as follows:—

University Prize for Physiography—G. Harker. Norbert Quirk Prize for Mathematics—S. D.
Chalmers. Professor Anderson's Prizes for Logic and Mental Philosophy—Second Year—
D. Wallace. Third Year—K. H. Swanwick, Elizabeth I. Taylor, *prox. acc.* Professor
Haswell's Prizes for Zoology—W. G. Woolnough, W. F. J. Burfitt, B.A., *prox. acc.* For
Laboratory Notes—H. G. Holmes, W. J. Durack, W. E. Harris, *æq.* Professor Mac-
Callum's Prizes for English Essays—First Year—W. G. Forsyth; Second Year—H. S.
Dettmann; Third Year—Ada Beardmore. Professor Wood's Prize for History—Elsie
I'A. Bloomfield. Collie Prize for Botany—W. F. Burfitt, B.A. Slade Prizes, Practical
Chemistry—N. Reid; Practical Physics—W. G. Woolnough. Smith Prize for Physics—
W. F. Burfitt, B.A. Professor David's Prize for Geology—W. A. Shortland. Dr. Dixon's
Prize for Materia Medica—J. Macpherson, B.A. Dr. Wilkinson's Prize for Pathology—
G. P. Dixon.

Bursaries.

14. The following bursaries were awarded, each consisting of a payment to the student of £50 per annum, or in the case of a half bursary, £25 per annum, for three years, together with exemption from the payment of lecture fees:—

Maurice Alexander (one half).	Burdekin.
Levey and Alexander.	J. B. Watt Exhibition.
John Ewan Frazer.	Walker No. I (one half).
William Charles Wentworth No. I (one half).	Walker No. III (one half).

The number of students permitted to attend lectures without paying fees was 56, including 25 State Bursars and 16 holders of University bursaries. The payments to bursars amounted to £795, and to scholars £893.

18 students of State Training Schools attended at a reduced scale of fees.

Public Examinations.

15. The Junior Public Examination was held in June in Sydney and at the following local centres:—

New South Wales.—Adelong, Albury, Allynbrook, Araluen, Armidale, Ballina, Barmedman, Bathurst, Bega, Bellingen, Blayney, Bourke, Bowral, Braidwood, Broken Hill, Camden, Campbelltown, Carcoar, Casino, Chatsworth Island, Cobar, Cooma, Cootamundra, Cowra, Deniliquin, Dubbo, Dungog, Forbes, Glen Innes, Goulburn, Grafton, Grenfell, Gundagai, Hay, Hornsby Junction, Inverell, Junee, West Kempsey, Kiama, Lismore, Lithgow, Maitland East, Manilla, Moruya, Mount Victoria, Mudgee, Murrumburrah, Narrabri, Newcastle, Nowra, Orange, Parramatta, Port Macquarie, Rylstone, St. Albans, Seone, Singleton, Tamworth, Tenterfield, Tumut, Wagga Wagga, Wentworth, Windsor, Wingham, Wollongong, Yass, Young.

Queensland.—Brisbane, Bundaberg, Charter's Towers, Ipswich, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Townsville, Warwick.

There were 1,481 candidates, and 935 were successful.

16. The Senior Public Examination was held in November concurrently with an examination for Matriculation Honors and Scholarships, in Sydney and at the following local centres:—

New South Wales.—Armidale, Bowral, Braidwood, Grenfell, Lithgow, East Maitland, Parramatta.

Queensland.—Brisbane, Ipswich, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Townsville.

There were 143 candidates, of whom 109 were successful.

17. The prizes for general proficiency in the Senior and Junior Examinations were awarded as follows:—

Seniors.

John West Medal and Grabame Prize Medal—

Eleanor Elizabeth Bourne, *proxime accesserunt*, William Rowall Horn, Henry Montagu Stephen, Reginald Norman Robson.

Fairfax Prize for female candidates—

Eleanor Elizabeth Bourne.

Juniors.

University Prize for Boys—

Roy Noel Teece.

Fairfax Prize for female candidates—

Jessie Bowmaker, Grace Mitchell Bruce, *aq.*; Jessie I. Stewart and Elsie A. H. Mills, *proxime accesserunt*.

18. Two examinations of candidates for the Civil Service were held during the year. At these there were 139 candidates, of whom 57 passed. These examinations will no longer be conducted by the University, as it is understood that the Public Service Board intend to hold periodical examinations for admission to the Public Service.

19. Three Law Examinations were held, similar and equal to that prescribed for Matriculation, for candidates for Articles of Clerkship with Solicitors. At these there were 36 candidates, and 21 passed.

Senate.

20. The Senate held eleven ordinary meetings, five special meetings, in addition to the annual commemoration, and five meetings of the Conjoint Board consisting of the Senate of the University and the Board of Directors of the Prince Alfred Hospital.

The attendances of the various Fellows were as follows:—

MacLaurin, the Hon. H. N., M.A., M.D., LL.D., M.L.C., Chancellor ...	22
Backhouse, His Honor Judge, M.A., Vice-Chancellor ...	22
Anderson, H. C. L., M.A. ...	19
Barton, Edmund, M.A. ...	6
Butler, Professor, B.A. ...	20
Cobbett, Professor, M.A., D.C.L. ...	17
*Cullen, the Hon. W.P., M.A., LL.D., M.L.C. ...	5
†Gurney, Professor, M.A. ...	15
‡Jones, P. Sydney, M.D. ...	21
†Knox, Edward W. ...	16
†Liversidge, Professor, M.A., LL.D. ...	...
¶Manning, the Hon. Mr. Justice, M.A. ...	1
‡O'Connor, the Hon. R. E., M.A., M.L.C. ...	6
†Oliver, Alexander, M.A. ...	8
Renwick, the Hon. Sir Arthur, B.A., M.D., M.L.C. ...	18
Rogers, F. E., M.A., LL.B., Q.C. ...	5
Russell, H. C., B.A., F.R.S., C.M.G. ...	17
Stephen, C. B., M.A., ...	15
§Scott, Professor, M.A. ...	2
Stuart, Professor T. P. Anderson, M.D. ...	18
Teece, Richard, F.I.A., F.F.A. ...	17
†Windeyer, the Hon. Sir William C., M.A., LL.D. ...	...

Thirty-one

* Elected June 20, 1896.

† Absent on leave.

‡ Ceased to be an ex-officio member in October

¶ Resigned, May 4, 1896.

§ Elected an ex-officio member in November.

21. Thirty-one meetings of Sub-Committees of the Senate for finance, by-laws, and other matters, were held during the year, the attendances of members being as follows:—The Chancellor (The Hon. Dr. MacLaurin), 30; the Vice-Chancellor (His Honor Judge Backhouse), 27; Professor Cobbett, 4; the Hon. Dr. Cullen, 2; Professor Gurney, 9; Mr. E. W. Knox, 19; the Hon. R. E. O'Connor, 1; Mr. Alexander Oliver, 1; the Hon. Sir Arthur Renwick, 13; Professor Scott, 1; Mr. C. B. Stephen, 10; Mr. H. C. Russell, 6; Professor Stuart, 4; and Mr. R. Teece, 6.

Chancellor.

22. Early in the year, the Chancellor (the Hon. Sir William Windeyer) was granted six months' leave of absence from the meetings of the Senate in consequence of a projected absence from the Colony for a time, and in the month of October a communication was received from him stating that as he had resigned his office as a Judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, and intended to remain in England longer than was certain when he left Sydney, he thought it right to resign his office as Chancellor of the University.

In accepting his resignation, the Senate unanimously passed the following resolution:—

“That the Senate desires to place on record its great regret on account of the necessity which has arisen for the resignation of the office of Chancellor by Sir William Windeyer, and also an expression of its thanks for the services rendered by him to the University during his tenure of office.”

At the same time, the Senate granted him further leave of absence from its meetings for six months.

The election of a successor to Sir William Windeyer in the office of Chancellor resulted in the unanimous appointment of the Hon. Henry Norman MacLaurin, M.A., LL.D., M.D., M.L.C.

Vice-Chancellor.

23. The appointment of the Hon. Dr. MacLaurin as Chancellor having left a vacancy in the office of Vice-Chancellor, the Senate, at its meeting in November, unanimously elected His Honor Alfred Paxton Backhouse, Esq., M.A., District Court Judge, to that office for the remainder of the Academic year.

Resignation and election to vacancy in Senate.

24. In the month of May the Senate received with regret a communication from Mr. Justice Manning resigning his seat on the Senate in consequence of his inability to attend the meetings of the Senate through ill health.

A Convocation of Electors to fill the vacancy thus created was held on the 13th of June, a ballot being taken on the 20th of June, which resulted in the election of the Hon. William Portus Cullen, M.A., LL.D., M.L.C.

Deans of Faculties.

25. In accordance with the usual practice for the Biennial Election of Deans of the several Faculties, the Senate received recommendations from the various Faculties as to the branches of learning the Professors of which should be *ex-officio* Fellows of the Senate under the provisions of the Act 24 Victoria No. 13, and should be elected to the office of Dean for a period of two years.

Acting upon these recommendations an amended by-law referring to *ex-officio* memberships was made and approved by the Governor in Council, and the following were appointed in November to be Deans of Faculties and *ex-officio* Members of the Senate for a period of two years:—

Faculty of Arts	Professor Scott, M.A.
Faculty of Law	Professor Cobbett, M.A., D.C.L.
Faculty of Medicine	Professor Stuart, M.D.
Faculty of Science	Professor Liversidge, M.A., LL.D.
Acting-Dean during Professor Liversidge's absence ...	Mr. H. C. Russell, B.A., C.M.G.

Convocation.

26. A meeting of Convocation of the University was convened by the Vice-Chancellor in response to a requisition, and was held on the 18th of September, when the following resolutions were passed:—

1. That Fellows of the Senate hereafter elected should hold office for a period of five years only, but should be eligible for re-election on the expiration of their term of office.
2. That the elected Fellows now in office should retire in rotation within the next five years, but should be eligible for re-election.
3. That the voting at contested elections of Fellows should be taken by letter.

These resolutions are still under the consideration of the Senate.

Leave of Absence.

27. Leave of absence from the meetings of the Senate, for a period of three months, was granted in November to Mr. E. W. Knox, in consequence of his expressed intention of leaving the Colony for that period.

Leave of absence for the first Term of 1897 has been granted to Dr. Max, Assistant Lecturer in French and German, in consequence of ill-health.

Leave of absence was also granted for two Terms, without salary, to Mr. F. Lloyd, B.A., LL.B., Assistant Lecturer in Latin, and to Mr. J. P. Hill, Demonstrator in Biology. Mr. J. B. Peden, B.A., is acting as Assistant Lecturer in Latin during Mr. Lloyd's absence, and arrangements are being made whereby the Demonstrator in Biology in the University of Edinburgh will probably be appointed as Mr. Hill's substitute during his absence.

Staff

Staff Appointments, &c.

28. In September a vacancy occurred in the Lectureship in Midwifery and Diseases of Women through the death of Dr. Chambers, who had filled the office with ability from the year 1883.

In accordance with a previous resolution of the Senate, separate Lectureships were established in Midwifery and Gynæcology respectively, and after applications had been publicly invited, Mr. James Graham, M.D., was appointed to the former Lectureship, and Mr. Joseph Foreman, L. et L. Mid. R.C.P. (Edin.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), to the latter.

In the month of March Mr. George Lathrop Murray, M.B., Ch.M., was appointed Demonstrator in Anatomy for the year 1896.

Mr. A. W. Jose was appointed Secretary for the University Extension Board for the year 1896. Mr. J. C. Dibbs has been reappointed Auditor of the University for the years 1897 and 1898.

Russell Donation.

29. The Senate has to report with gratitude the receipt of a munificent gift from Peter Nicol Russell, Esq., lately of Sydney, but now resident in England, to endow the Department of Engineering, which will henceforth be called by his name. The offer was made to the Senate through Mr. Russell's representative, Sir W. P. Manning, and a Deed of Gift was drawn up embodying the following conditions:—

1. That the Department of Engineering at present existing in the University, together with such additions as may be made thereto, shall be called the P. N. Russell School of Engineering.
2. That the University shall, out of the income to be derived from the sum of £50,000, afford both practical and theoretical teaching in the following subjects, in so far as such subjects relate to the School of Engineering, viz.:—Mechanical Engineering, Surveying, Mining, Metallurgy, Architecture, and such further instruction as the Senate of the University may deem necessary to give effect to the intention of Mr. P. N. Russell in connection with the P. N. Russell School of Engineering.
3. The University shall apply the income of the Fund in the maintenance of the P. N. Russell School of Engineering, but shall not charge such income with any proportion of the cost of the existing buildings, nor with the expense or any proportion thereof of service by ordinary attendants, nor with the expense of any proportion thereof of the Professorships of Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Geology, or the Challis Chair of Engineering.

Other conditions of the Deed of Gift relate to the mode of investment of the principal sum, and provide that any unused surplus of income shall be added to the principal sum, and invested as if it formed a part of the original donation.

The principal sum has been invested in New South Wales Funded Stock, and the following Lecturers have been placed on the Foundation, in accordance with the terms of the Deed of Gift:—

Assistant Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering and Drawing ...	Mr. S. H. Barraclough, B.E. (Syd.), M.M.E. (Cornell).
Lecturer in Surveying ...	Mr. G. H. Knibbs, L.S., F.R.A.S.
Lecturer in Mining ...	Mr. Edward F. Pittman, A.R.S.M.
Lecturer in Metallurgy ...	Mr. Wm. F. Smeeth, M.A., B.E., F.G.S., A.R.S.M.
Lecturer in Architecture ...	Mr. John Sulman, F.R.I.B.A.
Mechanical Instructor ...	Mr. Henry Blay.

University Extension.

30. The report of the University Extension Board, presented to the Senate in the month of December, shows that courses of lectures were delivered at Armidale, Blackheath, Camden, Cootamundra, Goulburn, Maitland, Mosman, Newcastle, Tamworth, and Waverley. The average attendance was forty. The operations of the Board were limited on account of the smallness of the grant which the Senate was able to make for University extension, and several applications for courses of lectures had to be declined through lack of funds necessary to defray the expenses of the appointment of lecturers.

Jubilee of Lord Kelvin.

31. In response to an invitation from the University and City of Glasgow, the Chancellor (Sir William Windeyer) and Professor Liversidge, who were both in Europe at the time, were appointed as delegates to attend the Jubilee of the Right Hon. Lord Kelvin as Professor of Natural Philosophy in that University.

At the celebration the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon Professor Liversidge.

Queensland Examinations.

32. The University, at the request of the Queensland Department of Public Instruction, conducted an examination of candidates for exhibitions to Universities granted by the Government of Queensland, and also an examination of teachers seeking admission into Class 1 under that Department.

Accounts.

33. The annual statements of receipts and expenditure, and statements showing the position of the various trust funds of the University at the 31st of December, duly certified by the auditor, Mr. J. C. Dibbs, are appended to this report.

H. E. BARFF,
Registrar.

APPENDIX.

RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the University of Sydney for the year ending 31st December, 1896.

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

DR.				CR.	
RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Received from the Government of New South Wales:—			Balance due Commercial Bank, 31st December, 1895		154 6 9
The Statutory Annual Endowment ...	5,000 0 0		Paid Salaries		17,799 8 7
The Additional Endowment	4,000 0 0		„ Examiners		45 15 0
For payment of Carpenter's salary, and other charges, from votes for Additions, Repairs, and Furniture, 1895 and 1896	400 0 0		„ Printing and Stationery, including University Calendar	528 7 1	
Towards expenses of Evening and Extension Lectures	2,000 0 0		„ Advertising	36 1 9	
		11,400 0 0	„ Repairs, Alterations, Furniture, and Fittings	264 18 11	
Received Lecture Fees ...	£7,612 14 9		„ Fuel and Lighting, including Laboratories	820 8 6	
Less paid to Professors and Lecturers	2,142 18 4		„ Fire Insurance Premiums	256 16 5	
	5,469 16 5		„ Rent of Chambers	248 17 0	
Received Matriculation Fees	594 17 6		„ Supervision and Attendance at Examinations	17 6 6	
„ Degree Fees	574 5 0		„ Uniforms	25 9 0	
„ Civil Service Examination Fees, after payment of expenses ...	96 0 6		„ Maintenance and use of Telephones	42 10 0	
„ University Examination Fees ...	282 0 0		„ Water and Sewerage Rates	405 13 2	
„ Testing Fees	61 1 0		„ Cleaning	26 7 3	
„ Public Examinations Fees ...	100 0 0		„ Bank Charges, exchange on Drafts, &c.	21 16 8	
„ General Purposes Fees	992 16 0		„ Miscellaneous Charges	57 4 9	2,252 17 0
		8,170 16 5	„ Grant to University Extension Board		200 0 0
„ for Pasturage		100 0 0	„ for Periodicals and Binding Books for Library ..		153 15 9
„ Fees for use of Microscopes		65 0 0	„ for Improvement of Grounds		58 12 2
„ from Challis Fund, towards administration ..		500 0 0	„ for University Prizes		13 17 6
„ from Macleay Curatorship, towards salary of Curator of the Macleay Museum		198 12 8	„ for Microscopes		141 5 6
„ from Hoveil Lectureship, towards salary of Lecturer in Geology and Physical Geography		179 6 11	„ for Maintenance of Scientific Departments		827 16 7
„ from Fisher Estate, for salaries of Librarians ..		313 6 8			
„ from P. N. Russell Endowment, for salaries of Lecturers, &c., P. N. Russell School of Engineering		352 10 0			
Balance due Commercial Bank, 31st December, 1896 ..		368 2 2			
		£ 21,647 14 10			£ 21,647 14 10

JOHN C. DIBBS,
Auditor.ROBERT A. DALLEN,
Accountant.

STATEMENT of Receipts and Expenditure on account of the Junior and Senior Public Examinations for the year ending 31st December, 1896.

DR.				CR.	
RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance in Commercial Bank, 31st December, 1895 ...	82 15 2		Paid Examiners' Fees and all other expenses in connection with the Examinations and grants towards expenses of local centres		1,688 10 8
Received Candidates' Fees	1,730 7 4		Balance in Commercial Bank, 31st December, 1896 ..		124 11 10
		£ 1,813 2 6			£ 1,813 2 6

JOHN C. DIBBS,
Auditor.ROBERT A. DALLEN,
Accountant.

RECEIPTS

RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the University of Sydney for the year ending 31st December, 1896.

Dr.

CHALLIS FUND ACCOUNT.

Cr.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Received interest on Investments—			Balance due Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney, 31st December, 1896
Debentures	2,522 0 0		Paid Salaries
Bank Deposits	1,038 2 6		Premium on Funded Stock
Mortgages	6,586 19 2		General Account, towards administration expenses
	10,147 1		Sundry charges
from Challis Trustees, Interest on Guarantee Fund after payment of Australian Annuity, etc.	717 17 7		Balance in Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney, 31st December, 1896
	10,864 19 3		
Less Transfer to Special Reserve Fund	2,079 15 11	8,785 3 4	
from P. N. Russell Endowment for Salaries of Lecturers, P. N. Russell School of Engineering		168 2 6	
		£ 8,943 5 10	£ 8,943 5 10

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT.

Received principal sum of Mortgage	6,000 0 0	Paid for N.S.W. Government Funded Stock	6,000 0 0
	£ 6,000 0 0		£ 6,000 0 0

SPECIAL RESERVE FUND.

Balance in Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney, 31st December, 1895	1,034 5 10	Paid quinquennial increases—salaries	688 1 6
Received interest on Investments	481 11 3	Premium on Debentures	66 0 0
from Challis Fund, interest over 4 per cent. on investments, for providing quinquennial increases to Professors and for equalising income from investments	2,079 15 11	for Investment—	
		N.S.W. Government Funded Stock	1,100 0 0
		Bank Deposits	1,100 0 0
	£ 3,595 13 0	Balance in Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney, 31 December, 1896	2,200 0 0
			641 11 6
			£ 3,595 13 0

JOHN C. DIBBS,
Auditor.

ROBERT A. DALLEN,
Accountant.

P. N. RUSSELL ENDOWMENT.

(Included in Private Foundations Account)

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Received from Peter Nicol Russell, Esq., for the Endowment of the School of Engineering	50,000 0 0	Paid for Investment—Funded Stock	47,170 0 0	
Half-year's Interest on Funded Stock	637 16 9	Commercial Banking Co. for Fixed Deposit, first instalment towards sinking fund to defray premium on Funded Stock	140 8 0	
		Premium on Stock		47,310 8 0
		Salaries, &c.		2,830 4 0
		Balance		600 12 6
	£ 50,637 16 9			46 12 3
				£ 50,637 16 9

ROBERT A. DALLEN,
Accountant

STATEMENT showing Private Foundation Cash Balances and Investments at 31st December, 1896.

Private Foundations.	Ledger Account Cr. Balance.	Investments.			
		Mortgages.	Buildings and Land.	Fixed Deposits.	Funded Stock and Debentures.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Levey Scholarship	1,026 3 2			700 0 0	325 0 0
Barker Scholarships	2,473 1 4	100 0 0	1,120	181 5 0	1,070 0 0
Deas-Thomson Scholarships	2,283 7 3	25 0 0	1,036	191 5 0	1,030 0 0
Wentworth Prize Medal	531 0 7	100 0 0		18 15 0	400 0 0
Cooper Scholarships	2,547 9 7		1,120	131 5 0	1,320 0 0
Salting Exhibition	785 10 8			30 0 0	755 0 0
Wentworth Fellowship	1,904 0 5	232 10 0		968 11 8	695 0 0
Lithgow Scholarship	2,016 6 8	190 0 0		190 16 8	1,630 0 0
Nicholson Medal	562 9 5	52 10 0		108 15 0	400 0 0
Earl Belmore Medal	542 0 3			127 13 4	415 7 3
John Fairfax Prizes	546 3 1	50 0 0			500 0 0
Alexander Bursary	1,084 18 6	25 0 0		700 0 0	350 0 0
Levey and Alexander Bursary	1,106 17 6				1,100 0 0
West Prize	215 11 10	15 0 0		200 0 0	
E. M. Frazer Bursary	1,532 11 2	25 0 0		18 15 0	1,495 0 0
J. E. Frazer Bursary	1,444 6 0				1,430 0 0
W. C. Wentworth Bursary, No. 1	1,000 0 0				1,900 0 0
W. C. Wentworth Bursary, No. 2	1,000 0 0				1,000 0 0
W. C. Wentworth Bursary, No. 3	910 12 2	50 0 0		705 8 4	150 0 0
Burdekin Bursary	1,085 16 2			1,045 0 0	70 0 0
Hunter-Baillie Bursary, No. 1	1,164 1 5			1,048 6 8	150 0 0
Hunter-Baillie Bursary, No. 2	1,277 19 3	420 0 0		263 13 4	585 0 0
J. B. Watt Exhibitions	3,764 12 6	199 0 0		2,220 0 0	1,335 0 0
Renwick Scholarship	1,139 19 0			636 5 0	495 0 0
Bowman-Cameron Scholarship	975 0 0				1,000 0 0
Hovell Lectureship	6,025 0 0	525 0 0	4,400	825 0 0	275 0 0
George Allen Scholarship	1,101 13 4			980 8 4	120 0 0
Freemasons Scholarship	1,273 13 2	25 0 0		110 0 0	1,130 0 0
J. G. Raphael Foundation	82 19 1			57 8 4	20 0 0
James Aitken Scholarship	1,107 0 0				1,100 0 0
Thomas Walker Bursaries	5,269 0 1			4,958 6 8	375 0 0
G. Wigram Allen Scholarship	1,614 5 11	500 0 0		318 6 8	795 0 0
Struth Exhibition	1,228 2 5	725 0 0		286 13 4	190 0 0
Fisher Estate	9,562 1 3	8,518 0 0	700	455 16 8	375 0 0
Fisher Estate (Building Account)	29,275 0 5	8,005 0 0		15,995 5 5	4,880 0 0
Norbert Quirk Prize	158 14 4			112 10 0	40 0 0
Smith Prize	111 14 7	100 0 0			
Radham Bursary	992 9 1			750 0 0	250 0 0
Slade Prizes	298 8 8	25 0 0		256 13 4	
Card Scholarship	1,547 3 11	150 0 0		910 16 8	475 0 0
James King of Irawang Scholarship	4,337 14 10	50 0 0		4,168 15 0	185 0 0
Macleay Curatorship	5,909 13 0			6,000 0 0	
John Harris Scholarship	1,002 0 3	1,000 0 0			
Horner Exhibition	211 8 11			193 6 8	
Council of Education Scholarship	407 8 9	335 0 0		25 0 0	45 0 0
Frazer Scholarships	2,350 3 0	50 0 0		2,188 6 8	115 0 0
Grahame Prize Medal	97 13 10	100 0 0			
Collie Prize	100 17 1			56 5 0	50 0 0
P. N. Russell Endowment	47,357 0 3			140 8 0	47,170 0 0
Challis Estate	219,062 13 10	126,860 0 0		27,250 0 0	61,600 0 0
Challis Fund—Special Reserve Fund	13,741 11 6	4,400 0 0		7,600 0 0	1,100 0 0
	£ 387,151 9 5	152,852 0 0	8,376	83,125 1 9	141,990 7 3

ROBERT A. DALLEN,
Accountant.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

SYDNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

(REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1896.)

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Sydney Grammar School Act of 1854, secs. 10 and 16.

Printed under No. 11 Report from Printing Committee, 15 July, 1897.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees to The Minister of Public Instruction.

Sir,

Sydney Grammar School, 5 May, 1897.

The Trustees of the Sydney Grammar School, in compliance with the provisions of their Act of Incorporation, have the honor to submit the following Report of their proceedings and of the progress of the School during the year 1896, for the information of His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council.

Sir William Windeyer was elected Chairman of the Trustees, and acted in that capacity until 12th October last, when, having ceased to be a Trustee of the School through his resignation of the office of Chancellor of the University of Sydney, Mr. A. J. Cape was elected Chairman in his place for the remainder of the current year.

Mr. E. W. Knox was elected Vice-Chairman. The Honorable Dr. McLaurin, having been elected to the Chancellorship of the University of Sydney, took his seat as an Official Trustee.

The percentage reduction in the salaries of the Masters, referred to in the last year's Report, was discontinued during the year.

Mr. W. H. Savigny, B.A., Oxford, was appointed to an Assistant Mastership in the School.

During the year a modification of the Swedish Drill was introduced into the School, under the supervision of Dr. Roth, with satisfactory results.

The high standard of the School, both in teaching and discipline, is still maintained, the Head Master and the other Masters associated with him continuing to perform their duties to the entire satisfaction of the Trustees, and always evincing the greatest interest in the welfare of the boys.

The Reports founded upon the examination of the School in December last are submitted herewith.

With the sanction of the founders, it was decided that the Wigram Allen Prize Fund should for the future be applied towards establishing two prizes—one for proficiency in Mathematics, and the other for proficiency in Natural Science.

The average number of boys at the School during the past year was 378.

An account of the Income and Expenditure of the School during the year 1896, duly certified by Mr. James Clegg Taylor, the School Auditor, accompanies this Report.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED J. CAPE,
Chairman.

REPORT ON THE EXAMINATIONS, DECEMBER, 1896.

UPPER SCHOOL.

A.—LANGUAGES.

1. *Latin*.—The knowledge of Latin is distinctly sound : the scope of teaching is increasing in width : there is greater facility in dealing with unprepared work. Relatively, the best work was done in the two lowest Forms.

2. *Greek*.—The work at the head of the School is probably better than it has been for many years past : in the Lower Divisions good work has been done, in many cases with very poor material.

3. *English*.—The results show a vastly-improved average, while there has been special development in the teaching of English History. On the Commercial side, though there has been no improvement in the material, the distinctive work, especially in composition, shorthand, and mechanical style, has distinctly improved.

4. *French*.—In the upper Forms the teaching has been more stimulating and suggestive ; the work shows improvement in composition and unseen translation, and the standard is now eminently satisfactory : in the middle Forms an advance has been made by the introduction of an author, which has infused far more vitality into the work, whilst not impairing the general efficiency of the teaching of grammar : in the lower Forms the use of a more compact and methodical grammar has proved a signal success, and made the contact with the Lower School closer and the continuous progress more effective.

5. *German*.—In the Highest Division the general standard is not as high as in previous years, though the highest work is as efficient as before ; but in the Second Division the standard has been well maintained, and some excellent work sent in : in the two Lower Divisions, whilst the material is promising and the knowledge sound, the amount of work submitted has been too small to enable the higher Forms to maintain their present standards without special exertion. The work in both languages is characterised by more vitality, the stock of knowledge is larger, and the efficiency of the teaching in all the Divisions has been most praiseworthy.

B.—MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCE.

The chief changes in Mathematics during the year are the introduction of Dynamics into the work of the First Division and the greater attention given to deductions in Geometry in the Lower Divisions. It is hoped that a decided stimulus will be given to the general mathematical work of the School by the training in reasoning and original thinking thus afforded. The larger volume and better quality of this form of work is noticeable in Divisions Ic to VI inclusive, with the possible exception of Division II.

In the Divisions below the first there is no sign of any special brilliance, but on the other hand the general level of these Divisions is especially high, and the standard attained is above that of previous years. This generally higher level of attainment in the Lower Divisions is a very good augury for the future.

Natural Science has been taught in each Form of the Upper School. In Form VI the subject taken was Chemistry, in the two lowest Forms Elementary Physics and Chemistry. In the Commercial Form advantage was taken of the fact that it was not necessary to make such a thorough study of any one subject, to cover a wider field by taking up in succession Physical Geography, Physics, and Chemistry. The examiners were particularly pleased with the Geology papers sent in by Form IV.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the Trustees have divided the Wigram Allen Prize into two, one to be called the Wigram Allen Prize for Mathematics, and to be awarded to the best mathematician in the School, and the other to be called the Wigram Allen Prize for Natural Science, and to be awarded to the boy in the Upper School who at the Christmas Examination shows the greatest proficiency in Science.

LOWER SCHOOL.

The result of the examinations is on the whole distinctly satisfactory. In English there is a noticeable improvement on the literary side in the work of the lower Forms, while the History and Geography are specially good. The Latin accidence was good throughout, but the upper Forms are weak in composition : these boys are, however, comparatively young. In French the accidence is good, and it is hoped that the new text book to be introduced next year will produce increased facility in composition.

The Mathematical results are perhaps the most satisfactory of all, especially those in Euclid and Algebra. The Handwriting is satisfactory, and shows a distinct advance on last year.

RETURN of the Income and Expenditure of the Sydney Grammar School for the year 1896.

Income.	Total.			Expenditure.	Total.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To fees from School Pupils	6,650	0	0	By Balance due to the Commercial Bank ..	480	5	4
" Statutory Endowment	1,500	0	0	" Salaries	6,752	7	7
" Prizes founded by private Benefactors—Interest	13	3	2	" Allowances	855	6	8
" Rent from Luncheon Caterer	50	0	0	" Capitation fees	327	10	0
" Sports Committee, towards salary of Gymnastic Instructor, &c.	50	0	0	" Examination expenses			
" Balance due to the Commercial Bank	182	15	5	" Stationery	97	7	4
				" Printing	11	7	2
				" Advertisements	13	0	0
				" School prizes			
				Prizes founded by Private Benefactors			
				By E. Knox prizes	10	0	0
				" Sir George Wigram Allen prizes	8	0	0
				" George Knox prize	2	0	0
				" Sir William Windeyer prize	3	3	0
				" Citizens' prizes	21	0	0
				" Repair account	44	11	6
				" Insurance	8	18	6
				" Postage and sundry expenses			
				" Grant to Athletic Sports	250	0	0
				" Interest on overdrawn account	10	0	0
	£	8,345	18 7		£	8,345	18 7

Audited—

JAMES C. TAYLOR, F.S.I.A., Public Accountant.
Sydney, 11 February, 1897.

W. H. CATLETT,

Secretary to Trustees,

11 January, 1897.

RETURN

RETURN of the Salaries and Allowances of the Masters of the Sydney Grammar School for the year 1896.

Office.	Name.	Salaries.	Allowances.	Fees from Pupils.	Total.	Remarks.
Head Master	Albert Byethesa Weigall	£ 409 7 6	£ 250 0 0	£ 827 10 0	£ 1,576 17 6	* For residence.
Mathematical and Science Master	George Ernest Blanch	509 3 4	.....	.....	509 3 4	
Master of the Lower School	Arthur Giles	499 7 6	.....	.....	499 7 6	
Master of Modern Languages	Arthur Roy Farrar	449 9 7	6 0 0	.....	455 9 7	
Second Classical Master	Charles Edward Hewlett	449 9 7	3 0 0	.....	452 9 7	
Second Mathematical Master	Herbert James Carter	349 13 9	50 0 0	.....	399 13 9	
Assistant Master	Charles Dashwood Goldie	249 17 11	20 0 0	.....	269 17 11	
Do do	Leonard Harford Lindon	32 18 4	.....	.....	32 18 4	
Do do	David McBurney	299 13 4	60 0 0	.....	359 13 4	
Do do	Charles De Kantzow	225 0 0	.....	.....	225 0 0	
Do do	Charles Thomas Soar	349 13 9	5 0 0	.....	354 13 9	
Do do	Norman Filtz	250 0 0	.....	.....	250 0 0	
Do do	Reginald Heber Boda	204 3 4	45 16 8	.....	250 0 0	
Do do	George Pitty Barbour	299 15 10	50 0 0	.....	349 15 10	
Do do	George Frederick Vaughan	299 15 10	50 0 0	.....	349 15 10	
Do do	Thomas John O'Reilly	175 0 0	50 0 0	.....	225 0 0	
Do do	W. H. Savigny	105 0 0	.....	.....	105 0 0	
Writing Master	James Bruce	79 16 0	.....	.....	79 16 0	
Assistant to Science Master	Arthur Norman	21 0 0	.....	.....	21 0 0	
Lecturer and Inspector of Drill	Rouler E. Roth	14 2 0	.....	.....	14 2 0	
Janitor and Drill Sergeant	Frank Morris	200 0 0	.....	.....	200 0 0	
Secretary and Accountant to Trustees	William Henry Catlett	100 0 0	65 10 0	.....	165 10 0	
		£ 5,752 7 7	655 6 8	827 10 0	7,235 4 3	

Audited—

JAMES C. TAYLOR, F.S.I.A., Public Accountant,
Sydney, 11 February, 1897.W. H. CATLETT,
Secretary to Trustees,
11 January, 1897.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

EDUCATION.

(REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE NAUTICAL SCHOOL-SHIP "SOBRAON" FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL, 1897.)

Printed under No. 18 Report from Printing Committee, 7 October, 1897.

The Commander and Superintendent, N.S.S. "Sobraon," to The Under Secretary of Public Instruction.

Nautical School-ship "Sobraon,"

Sir,

Sydney, N.S.W., 30 June, 1897.

I have the honor to submit, for the information of the Minister of Public Instruction, my Annual Report concerning the Nautical School-ship "Sobraon" during the year ended 30th April, 1897, as provided for under the 14th clause of the ship's regulations.

This being the first occasion on which such has been my privilege, I should like to preface my remarks by reference to the great loss caused this Institution by the removal of Captain Neitenstein's services to a higher position. That gentleman gave so many years' (some twenty-three) earnest work and devoted service to the purpose of perfecting a system, mainly originating from his own practical experiences, that the responsibilities of his successor, relieved as they are from the necessity for alteration in regard to the fundamental principles pursued, none the less become most onerous in providing for what has been the guiding aim of the Institution for so many years, viz., progress and against retrogression.

PART I.

THE BOYS ON THE SHIP.

2. The present Report is the thirtieth one of the Institution's work. Established in 1867, it has lived through many troubled times and adverse criticisms, expanding and progressing, until now it holds pride of place as being the oldest of any reformatory agency in Australasia.

The period with which I have to deal has been productive of much activity. The admissions were slightly lower than those of the previous year, being 171; but, on the other hand, both the discharges (246) and the total enrolment (578) show substantial increases, being the highest yet recorded.

Comparison being made in regard to cost with that of any former year proves satisfactory, the result being £20 15s. 3d. per head, computed against the daily average on board; and this is obtained without any impaired efficiency in the matter of providing requisites, and with a smaller available daily average. It is also inclusive of increased cost in providing for apprentices' outfits and conveyance by rail or steamer, which, until within the last twelve months, formed a charge against the employers. This amounts to some £340, and, by practising strict economy, is included in the reduced rate.

The boys are decidedly healthier, better fed, clothed, and housed, and participate in more extended privileges than obtained when the cost was 100 per cent. higher; this is directly attributable to the application of practical experience gained over a lengthy period and applied to the best advantage.

3. The same immunity from sickness which has always characterised the vessel still holds good, the last twelve months completing thirty years with the small proportion of twelve deaths amongst over 3,600 inmates. Some cases of skin eruption, and a few of pneumonia during the winter months, attributable to neglect and the want of nourishing food prior to reaching the ship, were the passing ailments which leave the sick-bay untenanted at the present juncture.

4. Table "B" furnishes an index to the antecedents of those admitted, and shows that the small number of eighty-two only were without some recorded instance of State restraint; forty-one had been previously under institutional control; fifty-six before a police court bench—eleven upon three occasions, five had been four times dealt with, and four recorded five and six previous appearances.

Of those given as not having been previously convicted, the majority admit that such freedom is more due to leniency granted them than to any absence of wrong-doing on their part. It necessitates much careful training and supervision to eradicate the evil tendencies which obtain an influence over the actions of such lads, and it is only by not permitting any laxity to creep in, that such instincts are prevented from obtaining the mastery.

Taking these facts into consideration, and making due allowance for bad and vicious early impressions and surroundings, renders my being able to give the youngsters credit for general good behaviour all the more gratifying. There is a decidedly healthy tone pervading the vessel, much of which is due to the force of good example obtained from the boys themselves, who, by meritorious conduct, attain the position of petty officers and materially assist in creating a spirit of emulation and encouragement amongst their shipmates.

The system of rewards and privileges, worked to its fullest extent, soon makes it evident to all joining the ship that their own personal comfort and well-being are mainly regulated by their behaviour; and the deprivation of such advantages, by loss of classification, forms a far more effective mode of punishment than resorting to corporal chastisement, the necessity for which is thus reduced to a minimum.

I am again able to claim exemption from loss by absconding, and this, without finding it necessary to in any way restrict the utmost freedom and liberty in dealing with the lads.

Nothing of the objectionable prison aspect is visible about the vessel, and that such is appreciated and rendered unnecessary is borne out in the total absence of anything approaching riots or disturbances, usually brought about by injudicious treatment, giving rise to resentment on the part of those subjected to methods which grate upon ideas of fair play and freedom.

5. The following estimate gives a fair insight into the method adopted in utilising the industrial labour of our juvenile crew:—

	£	s.	d.
Sailmakers' Work.—Making 100 hammocks, at 3s.	15	0	0
" 60 clothes-bags, at 4s.	12	0	0
" 20 dumb-bell bags, at 4s.	4	0	0
" 70 pudding-bags, at 1s.	3	10	0
" 2 mast coats, at 10s.	1	0	0
" 3 tarpaulins, at 10s.	1	10	0
" hammock clues, lashings, &c.	10	0	0
General repairs, awnings, sails, hammocks, bags, tents, screens, covers, hose, fenders, man-ropes, &c.	200	0	0
Carpentry.—General repairs, decks, boats, pumps, and ship	120	0	0
Glazing and joinery work	30	0	0
Tailoring.—Making and repairing clothes, lanyards, &c.	120	0	0
Painting.—Ship and boats	180	0	0
Masts, yards, and booms	20	0	0
Shore premises	10	0	0
Riggers' Work.—Tarring, scraping, setting up rigging, repairs to boats' gear, fenders, and general seamen's work	200	0	0
Gardening.—Planting, mowing, keeping trees, plants, &c. in order	50	0	0
Cooking.—Preparation of meals, stewarding, waiting, &c.	250	0	0
Musicians' Work.—Keeping instruments clean and in order, copying music, services of band when playing out	120	0	0
Laundry.—All work done by boys, each of whom washes his own clothing (8 pieces) weekly, besides blankets, serge, hospital clothes, &c.—180,000 pieces, at 1d.	750	0	0
Photography.—Applied to records and recreative purposes, lantern	100	0	0
General Work.—Coaling ship weekly	52	0	0
Washing and cleaning decks daily	150	0	0
Lamp trimming and cleaning	60	0	0
Cleaning and keeping in order boats, play-ground, dormitory, sheds, swimming bath, ship's hull, rifles, swords, aviaries, landing-places, hold, storerooms, &c.	150	0	0
Work on steam-launch and water supply	100	0	0

Total value of industrial labour (apart from value of school work,
drill, keeping watch, and other training) £2,709 0 0

6. It will thus be seen that little opportunity is given for idleness, but much useful employment is at all times available, and the above statement certainly does not over-estimate the value of such work. When it is understood that a large vessel such as the "Sobraon" has to be daily kept clean in regard to decks, paint and glass work; at frequent intervals painted in-board and out, also aloft, together with a large fleet of boats, it will follow that no lack of occupation for all exists.

Half our complement of lads is available daily for such work, the others being handed over to the charge of our staff of teachers, under whose tuition the time is well spent. The age upon admission unfortunately forms no guide to the educational attainments of our lads, with whom truancy has been a prominent failing. Many instances occur in which boys of 15 and upwards are deficient in the most rudimentary knowledge; this soon, however, gives way to a more satisfactory condition of things under the regular attendance exacted and subject to the ship's advantages. No boy leaves for apprenticeship prior to being able to read and write.

Notwithstanding such grave drawbacks being added to by the constant change in our numbers, the general standard is well sustained by the Chief Schoolmaster, Mr. A. Thompson, assisted by Messrs. Leer and Humphries, the result of whose effectively applied joint labours have been productive of the following very satisfactory report from the pen of one of the most exacting, and, at the same time, impartial, Metropolitan Public School Inspectors, viz., Mr. M. Willis:—"Organization, fair to very fair; discipline, excellent; demeanour and general conduct of pupils, excellent. Regarded generally, this school is skilfully managed, and zealously and effectively taught. The pupils enter heartily into their work, and most of them are making satisfactory progress. M. WILLIS, Inspector."

Out of a possible 10 marks, the average obtained for all subjects was 7·7, or over 75 per cent.

Since the date of the last report, the school has been deprived of Mr. Stayner's services as Chief Schoolmaster, owing to his well-merited promotion, after rendering much effective work in raising the tone and standard to a high class. His duties have been taken up by a gentleman well qualified to maintain and extend the good work handed over to him.

7. The boys not told off for school or as a working division form the drill contingent, and derive much benefit therefrom; the constant change and variety of procedure not permitting any sameness or monotony

monotony to take place. The direct outcome of these exercises is shown in the much improved physique and smart martial bearing, all tending to personal habits previously foreign to the class from which we recruit, and forming the best foundations for the practical work to be entered upon after leaving here. Every boy on board the ship goes through some physical exercise daily, and instruction is also given in that most necessary of accomplishments, viz., swimming. The spacious bath at Cockatoo Island is well patronised, both for instruction and recreation, and all boys must be able to master the art of keeping themselves afloat before apprenticeship.

It must be admitted that the majority of city lads coming on board are fair swimmers, and to these the bath is a great privilege.

Our photographic camera has been turned to good account, and, under the skilful manipulation of Mr. E. Mason, many pleasing pictures have been produced, showing various drill squads, gymnasium, and shore premises. The magic lantern has also been provided with a number of interesting slides from this source. Results bear testimony to considerable artistic skill and painstaking labour on the part of the officer named, who cheerfully gives his leisure to the treatment of this interesting and useful work.

8. The small number of officers which constitutes our staff is supplemented by a number of deserving and trustworthy boys, who attain their positions as petty officers by obtaining special marks for meritorious behaviour, awarded by the various officers. These lads render material service in supervising and dealing with a large number of inmates, and, by force of good example, furnish the most practical service by influencing the new-comers for good. Such lads have to earn their privileges before promotion, and that they value them, is proved by the rare necessity for deprivation owing to misconduct.

9. It is a universally recognised fact that in all large institutions an important consideration is wholesome recreation and relaxation from duty. The "Sobraon" has always been well to the front in providing many safety-valves of this kind. The numerous clubs are well patronised, and retain all their proficiency. The athletic, swimming, cricket, and vocal representatives all vie with one another for prominence; and, as entry or membership rests with the various committees formed from amongst themselves, a large amount of activity and animation prevails at all meetings. The cricket season has given our team many opportunities for displaying its prowess against outside schools, upon all of which occasions, whether victors or vanquished, the friendliest and most creditable of spirits has been maintained.

The pictures have been added to, and a valuable collection of birds' eggs lends attraction to the museum. The ship's library and recreation hall still draw full attendances every evening. For the latter a number of new games have been very recently acquired. The dumb creation find the ship a veritable ark of refuge, all kinds of birds and animals being represented, and receive the utmost attention and care at the hands of the youngsters.

Weekly visits and excursions also serve to relieve any sense of restraint, and, although these are of the most frequent occurrence, not a single instance has taken place in which any abuse of confidence was shown.

PART II.

THE SECOND STAGE.—APPRENTICESHIP.

10. A wise provision of the Industrial Schools Act, under which this vessel carries on its work, is that providing an outlet through the medium of apprenticeship for boys, who, after being subject to the many reforming influences and firm discipline on board, can, at the discretion of the Superintendent (who remains their legal guardian until 18), be trusted to advance a step further towards qualifying for fitness to earn their own livelihood. This can, as a general rule, be done after an average period of from sixteen to eighteen months' detention here.

It might occur to many that with each boy leaving the vessel a portion of responsibility is removed from the Superintendent, and although correct as regards the Home training-ships, it is not so with the "Sobraon." On the contrary, this is just where the largest amount of anxiety and work commences, for, as it is clearly impressed upon each lad on leaving that at all times, and whenever in need of advice or counsel, he must look to the Superintendent as the person ready and willing to assist; so also, from a different standpoint, does the master refer to the boy's guardian.

Were these parties alone to be dealt with the responsibilities would be sufficiently heavy, but it is not so unfortunately. The most disturbing element of all comes from a source which is both dangerous and unfair. I refer to the relatives, who, after having in the most unmistakable manner exemplified their unfitness to have charge or inability to act up to their parental responsibilities, still desire to avail themselves of the services of their offspring, when rendered useful, for selfish ends.

The majority of these people are most plausible, and upon sentimental grounds readily obtain the sympathy of well-meaning people who are impressed with the seemingly unnatural desire on the part of the Superintendent to keep relatives in ignorance of their children's whereabouts.

After close upon twenty years' experience in the working of this rule, I venture to affirm that almost without exception, the success or failure of our apprentices depends upon the boy being kept from the influence of those who formerly exercised such to so little profit.

I attach much weight to this matter, as it is one that is most vital in its effect, and is constantly to the front.

To those who disagree with me, I would ask their perusal of Tables B and E, Class 4. That there are some exceptions I grant, but they are very few, and can well be left to the person held responsible for results to deal with.

11. During the time that boys are undergoing instruction at the hands of their masters they, as an equivalent for services rendered, receive board and lodging, all necessary clothing, and, in addition to a small sum as pocket money, a deposit of wages is every month placed to the joint credit of the Superintendent and boy, the total amount of which is handed to the youth upon completion of his term.

No less a sum than £11,727 has been paid in cash to boys in this way, within the space of seven years.

I regret to say that such money frequently, solely through mercenary motives, awakens parental interest in our protégés.

As the after and permanent good result of the ship's training constitutes the main object to be successfully achieved, it is most pleasing to be able to state that amongst 402 apprentices, the number receiving unfavourable reports was only 30, the other 372 being successes. This gives the very favourable average of 92.5 per cent.

In

In considering this result the Institution is entitled to receive consideration for something beyond the bare figures advanced, satisfactory as they are. I refer to the class with which we deal, and for this purpose I would invite attention to Tables "B" and "E" of Appendix, where it will be seen that up to the time of committal to the ship, not only have the lads been regarded as incorrigibles by those dealing with them, but in the majority of cases their earliest impressions and surroundings have been of the vilest and most undesirable description.

Then again, is it not worth considering what, under conditions where no such training as the ship's might be available, would be the lot of these lads? Most certainly the fate of other criminally tainted unfortunates, who become the habitual occupants of our police courts and goals, forming not only a standing menace to all respectable persons, but also a continuous charge upon the community.

Surely the cost of reformation at some £30 per head, is cheaply accomplished, in turning such into reputable and law-abiding citizens.

These boys are far more sinned against than sinning, and, at the age at which the present Act hands them over to the ship's care, can be rendered amenable for good under kindly but firm management.

Table "B" will show that numbers of those dealt with here have previous records to the extent of from three to six police court appearances.

The number apprenticed during the last twelve months is considerably in excess of any former year, notwithstanding which fact I have at the present time applications awaiting attention as boys qualify. This is practical testimony to the good esteem in which our lads are held, and many masters after finding themselves well served for a lengthy term favour us in providing desirable employment for others.

There is one most important matter which should receive consideration in any proposed amending legislation which may be introduced, and that is the method of dealing with those who prove failures when apprenticed. Fortunately they are but few in number, but the present plan of returning some of these boys, at times young men of 17 and upwards, is altogether wrong.

Such subjects form the worst of examples, both to other lads at service and even more so to those with whom they come into contact when returned to the ship. Boy-like, they are regarded by many of their comrades as subjects to be lionised, in view of their seniority in years and having been able to defy recognised authority and restraint, they also representing not too truthfully the causes leading to cancellation of indentures and posing as subjects for sympathy and condolence.

Within a small compass such as the ship it is a matter of impossibility to keep these boys distinct, and although the supervision is thorough, it cannot overcome the force of bad example always present with these boys.

What is needed, and has been wanted for years, is a small but secure establishment for the reception of this class, together with other lads of 16 and upwards, who should be provided with plenty of work and drill without any of the special indulgences and privileges applying to the "Sobraon."

They could attend school and be permitted relaxation, and after a time they would probably become more desirous of profiting by any opportunity for earning an honest livelihood.

I feel sure that were it known such an establishment was available, that fact alone would cause many boys to hesitate regarding doing any thing to forfeit a good situation, with such an alternative as going to a much less attractive institution than the one they had left.

To be just and effective in its working it would be necessary to place a certain amount of discretionary power in the hands of the Superintendent, who, from his previous knowledge of the boys and later confidential reports, would be the best able to decide as to whether the cause of failure was attributable to the boy or owing to want of firm, but kindly management on the master's part.

Even with our few failures the apprentice is not in many instances the defaulting party to the contract and frequently upon being reapprenticed, receives a very satisfactory report.

As in other matters, many worthy persons are absolutely devoid of fact, and as this is a requisite equally with sympathetic consideration in dealing with the boys, its absence proves fatal to success.

12. The contents of a few recent reports from employers and the police, will point to the grounds for claiming good accruing from the ship's training, and may be of interest.

Mr. R. W. Burstal, J.P., Manager, Bank of New South Wales, Temora, writes:—"I beg to forward my half-yearly report upon this apprentice, and have much pleasure in stating that his conduct is in every way satisfactory. I have found him honest, truthful, obedient, willing, and respectful. His health has been good; he is growing very fast, and at the same time putting on condition. If this youngster is a fair sample of the boys turned out from the 'Sobraon,' you have every reason to be proud of your system, which must be the means of saving many young lives from complete wreck."

Dr. E. S. Stokes, M.B., of Crookwell, writes:—"Will you kindly send me a form of application for another apprentice from your ship? The present boy I have is very satisfactory. He is scarcely strong enough for the out-door work, and I have placed him inside. This work I find more suitable for his tastes. He is very willing and intelligent, and should turn out well."

Mr. W. Dolan, of Warren:—"Regarding the boy, I can say nothing but what is good of him. He is about the best boy I ever knew. He is very obedient, and a good boy to work, and very attentive to his work, and is progressing well. He is very honest and upright; in fact, I have taken to him so much, I will be quite sorry when his time is up."

Mr. P. J. Shoppee, of South Hythe:—"Would you be good enough to place on record the good behaviour of this lad? He is a very active lad, and, properly handled, will get through a fair amount of work. He is very anxious to try and please. B. is a first-class young fellow, and the greatest disappointment to him is to miss his turn to visit the ship."

Mr. W. G. Killen, of Dunoon, writes:—"I have much pleasure in stating that he is going along all right, and conducting himself very well."

Mr. F. Beedle, of Myrtle Vale, Bective:—"In respect to the boy, he is a willing and obedient lad."

Mr. D. Timbs, of Albion Park:—"I can recommend W. R. as a good lad, since being in my employ. I always found him very obedient, a straightforward young fellow, and always agreeable to work as a farmer. He is the best boy in the land."

Mr. Samuel McCaughey, J.P., of Coonong, Narrandera (our largest New South Wales squatter), writes:—"I am very glad to be able to inform you that the two boys with me are making themselves very useful, and are obedient, and conduct themselves to my entire satisfaction. I have paid the full amount of their wages into the Savings Bank."

Mr. M. Riley, of Greenridge, Casino:—"You will be pleased to learn that the boy arrived here safely. His quiet disposition and respectful demeanour have made him a general favourite already."

Mr.

Mr. J. W. Selwin, of Bective :—"I have much pleasure in stating that he is in good health, and his conduct has been good."

Mrs. L. Pether, of Bruncker Place :—"David is a good boy; I am well satisfied with him."

Mr. J. F. Creswick, of Oxley Station, *via* Hay :—"I am very well pleased with him. He is willing, obliging, and civil, and I will do all I can to advance him."

Mr. William Warbrick, of Lavender Bay :—"The boy having now finished his time, I have much pleasure in informing you he has behaved well, and conducted himself in a most exemplary manner, and I must say that I part with him with feelings of regret, and sincerely wish him every success in the life he may choose to follow, and feel sure that with the lessons and training that he has received at your hands, and those under you, he should in every way prove a credit to the ship."

Mr. Edmund Ross, J.P., of Ballina :—"The youth under engagement is a good lad, and gives general satisfaction."

Mr. J. D. Recce, J.P., of Tilba Tilba :—"I purpose applying to you for another lad. I feel it my duty, as far as I can, to assist your efforts in the reformation of these poor lads; in fact, I view the whole scheme as a noble institution. You will, I know, be pleased to learn that J.N. acted upon your advice, and wrote to me. The result is, he returned to my employ, and is a good, useful, and trustworthy fellow. We are proud of him; he is our confidential, and often sits at our table with us. He will write to you. G. is a good, steady, young man, and keeps himself highly respectable."

Mr. A. J. Ison, of Piallaway :—"The boy is still attending school, and I am pleased to state that his conduct is first-class. He is quiet and obedient, and I am satisfied with his ways."

Mr. E. Terry, of Rudd's Point :—"As my apprentice. His time has now expired, but he has made arrangements to stay on with me, as he does not care to go back to Sydney."

Mr. A. Pether, of Kiandra :—"The lad sent by you to my mother, is giving much satisfaction. Would you kindly forward me the necessary papers to obtain a lad."

Mr. Hugh McMaster, of Bundella :—"The lad arrived safely. I am very pleased indeed with him."

Mr. S. Elliott, of Macleay River :—"The boy has conducted himself well."

Mr. J. Hickey, of Coonamble :—"I am very much pleased with his appearance, and think he will make a good lad."

Mr. H. T. Whitty, of Mulwala :—"I beg to state that my apprentice has conducted himself well, and has given me satisfaction. His time will expire on the 8th June next, and I believe he purposes staying on with me."

Mr. G. Bull, of Kempsey :—"I have to inform you the lad has conducted himself well. I am satisfied with him."

Mr. G. H. Johnson, of Mullamuddy :—"I received your letter regarding the boy. I wish to inform you that I am well satisfied with him. He works very well, and is obedient in all I ask him to do, and I must thank you very much for sending me such a good boy. I must say his conduct is very good. I want another boy, if you will send me one as good as him."

Mr. Gilcreest, of Forbes :—"Replying to your question, I have to say that my apprentice has conducted himself satisfactorily."

Mr. K. W. Spark, of Bex Hill :—"The boy arrived safely, and will, I believe, give satisfaction, as he appears willing and smart."

Mr. W. F. Sinclair, of Queanbeyan :—"The boy's conduct has been good."

Mr. G. Timbs, of Albion Park :—"My apprentice is a very good boy."

Mr. John Kelly, of Shellharbour :—"The boy is in good health, and doing very well; in fact, I have no complaints to make."

Mr. Portlethwaite, of Grenfell :—"The general conduct of our apprentice, I have much pleasure in stating, is very satisfactory; and that we are well satisfied with him, and trust he will continue to act in the future as he has done in the past, whilst he remains in our employ."

Mr. Phillip Denning, of Forbes :—"I beg to state the boy is behaving very satisfactorily. He is obedient and willing in performing his duties."

Mr. M. Links, of Nyngan :—"The boy has behaved himself very well."

Mr. Peter Links, of Cowra :—"My apprentice has, I must say, conducted himself very well since in my service."

Mr. W. Bourke, of Upper Bomby :—"The lad continues to conduct himself well, proving very industrious. He is now a fine, sturdy, young man, weighing nearly 12 stone, although short in stature."

Mr. L. D. Scott, of Moparaba :—"I am pleased to state my apprentice has conducted himself well, and given satisfaction. I quite expect a continuance of good behaviour, as he appears to be well satisfied with his home, and is not at all likely to mix with any bad company."

Mr. E. Blow, of Kiama :—"I beg to inform you that my apprentice has conducted himself in a satisfactory manner during the time he has been in my service."

Mr. J. MacGregor Dunn, J.P., of Lismore :—"I have the pleasure to report, as my apprentice, as follows :—He has conducted himself to my entire satisfaction. He has grown considerably, and seems to like his work."

Mr. William Argue, of Wyrallah :—"He still continues a good, obedient boy, and is giving every satisfaction."

Mr. J. M. Lett, J.P., of Adaminaby :—"These boys are doing well, contented, and happy. W. has become a really good lad. He is quite contented and happy, and always eager to please his mistress. If you will give me the names of anyone about here who has one of your boys I will visit them. I take almost as great an interest in these poor waifs as you do yourself. As Chairman of the Board here, I have never, during fifteen years, had one of these boys before me."

Mr. P. J. Shoppee, of South Hythe :—"I have the honor to state that both boys have conducted themselves admirably. I have no fault whatever to find; they are both excellent boys."

Mr. Frank Bevan, of Wollongong :—"I have very much pleasure in stating that my apprentice has conducted himself in a very creditable manner. I find him a very willing, good, working lad."

Mr. P. B. Fenwick, J.P., of Kunopia :—"I have the honor to report that my apprentice has conducted himself entirely to my satisfaction. He is a very good, obliging, hard-working lad, and reflects great credit on the institution from which he came. The amount of money now standing to his credit is £8 11s. 7d."

Mr.

Mr. E. Heffernan, of Moggendoura:—"Re my apprentice, I beg to inform you that his conduct has been excellent during the time he has been with me. I have paid 15s. in the Savings' Bank to his and your credit, and I have requested him to write to you, which he will do first opportunity. There is another boy with me, who was at one time on the 'Vernon,' and served his time with Mr. R. Heffernan. He is a very steady and trustworthy young fellow."

Mr. W. D. Boles, of Kiama:—"Re my apprentice, I may state that I am very pleased with the lad. He has always been most obedient and willing to do his work, and appears to be quite contented with his home."

Mr. J. B. Pearson, of Winton:—"My apprentice has conducted himself well. I find him willing and obedient. He is well in health, and seems to be satisfied with his home."

Mr. G. Nowland, of Quirindi:—"C.R. is behaving and working very well. I have paid £2 in the bank for him."

Mr. James Ross, of Exeter:—"I must say the lad has conducted himself very well. There is £1 13s. deposited in his name in the bank."

Mr. F. J. Mears, of Winton:—"I beg to inform you that his conduct has been satisfactory. He is growing fast, and seems thoroughly healthy. He also seems very willing, and has a good adaptability to any kind of work."

Mr. J. A. Magill, of Tamworth:—"I must say I am very pleased with the boy. He seems a good, willing, boy to work and I hope I will have no trouble with him; in fact, I do not think I will."

Mr. J. Somerville, of Jasper's Brush:—"My apprentice's time is up with me, and I must say he has been a very good boy, and has done what I told him during the four years he has been with me."

Mr. D. Orman, of Bective:—"My apprentice has conducted himself very well, and I am very well satisfied with him."

Mr. J. Robinson, of Young:—"I beg to inform you that the lad has conducted himself well since he has been in my service, and I will be willing to employ him when his term of apprenticeship expires. The sum of £9 10s. is now deposited in your name and his."

Mr. G. Embley, of Winton:—"I have much pleasure in telling you I am much pleased with my lad; he seems to be a very good boy."

Mr. R. Bryen, of Grannaile:—"They are two good boys. I am well pleased with them. I will get the boys to write to you."

Mr. K. C. Cummings, of Woodlands:—"He has been very good, and conducted himself in like manner, and I think will continue so until the end of his time, which is next September, he says. Then he intends going to his mother in Goulburn for a holiday, but he will return to me after so doing. That is what he says himself."

Mr. J. F. Hadden, of Albion Park:—"His conduct is very good. He is very willing to do any kind of work I put him at. He seems anxious to learn everything about farm work. I am well satisfied with him. I have asked the boy to write to you, and he is doing so."

Mr. C. B. Manusu, of Mundooran:—"The boy has conducted himself very well. I have instructed him to write to you, which he has done."

Mr. W. C. Stewart, of Warneton:—"I have the honor to inform you that my apprentice is well-behaved, and has given satisfaction. J.W.P. came back to me the other day, and will be staying till the maize is harvested."

Mrs. C. M. Lawson, of Adelong Crossing:—"Just a few lines to tell you that I am very well pleased with my boy. He is a very good and willing little fellow. He likes his home well. I do not think I will have any trouble with him."

Mr. E. M'Reynolds, of Yass:—"In reply to your circular re my apprentice, I beg to state that he is doing well, and giving satisfaction. The amount to credit is £2."

Mr. J. H. M'Donough, of Fig Tree:—"The boy has behaved himself very well since I got him. I cannot complain of him in any way."

Mr. J. Jacob, of Moonbi:—"My apprentice has conducted himself very well. I am very well satisfied with him, and I thank you very much for sending me a good boy."

Mr. E. Butler, of Barmedman:—"Mr. Maddisson asked me to inform you that, as far as can be judged, E. seems to be a good lad; and I am to thank you for the trouble you have taken in the matter. The boy speaks very highly of his treatment on board the 'Sobraon.' He is now, I know, in a good home, so that I trust there will be no reason on either side to regret his having been sent here."

Mr. G. N. Magill, of Moree:—"Just a line to let you know of the boy. He is getting along very well—willing, smart, and obedient, and if he only continues so, I will be much pleased. I will get the boy to write to you soon. He is getting fat, and looking first-rate."

Mr. A. Pike, of Hillsdale:—"Re my apprentice, I am very pleased with him. I shall get him to write to you often."

Mr. J. Giles, J.P., of Nowra:—"I beg to say S.M. has behaved himself well. He has written you."

Mr. Macdonald, of Mudgee:—"The apprentice has conducted himself very well during the time that he has been in my service. I have requested him to write to you, and hope that he will do so, and give a satisfactory account of himself."

Mr. F. J. Smyth, of Tintenbar:—"I have much pleasure in informing you about the boy I have got, as he gives me every satisfaction, is well behaved, and very obedient. There is a youth living at one of my neighbours. He came off the 'Vernon,' and what I hear of him is, that he is a very good and respectable boy."

Mr. H. Saunderson, of Riverstone:—"In answer to your inquiry, I have much pleasure in informing you that the boy's conduct has been very good since he has been with me. I have requested him to write to you himself. E. has never given me the least trouble since he has been with me. I find him a very willing lad, and very respectful. Wishing you every success with those under your care."

Mr. P. J. Brady, of Manilla:—"In reference to the boy apprenticed to me, he is getting on very well. I have paid his wages up to the 19th February. The boy has written to you about three weeks ago, and received a reply to the same. I think I can get situations for a few more boys."

Mr. Collier, of Jandra:—"A few lines in regard to A.A. We are well pleased with him. He is very civil, obedient, and always ready and willing. He seems to be contented."

Mr.

Mr. Martin, of Hamilton:—"He has grown stout and much stronger, and is working very satisfactorily. I would deem it a favour if you would drop a line to him. It would be an encouragement for him to write regularly to you."

Mr. A. F. H. Stephen, of the Audit Department:—"I have been requested by my sister, who is ill at my house, to reply to the above. Young L. has proved honest, industrious, and good tempered, and has given every satisfaction. He will be requested to write to you."

Mr. T. Ditchfield, of Erda Vale:—"He has been very good. Amount, £6 14s. in wages."

Mr. J. W. Selwin, of Winton:—"In compliance with your request, I had an interview with Mr. F. Beadle, in reference to the conduct of his apprentice, and I am pleased to report that he is well, shows an intelligent idea of the various duties he has to perform, and up to the date of my interview has given entire satisfaction."

Mr. J. J. Gray, of Alstonville:—"I am now living at the Richmond River, and I have brought C.C. with me. He is all right, and doing very well. He likes this place."

Mr. A. S. Jackson, of Kellyville:—"I am in receipt of yours of the 2nd instant. I am very well satisfied with the boy's behaviour. He is always very obliging, and seems anxious to learn; and I think in time, if he sticks to farming, will turn out a good hand."

Mr. P. B. Eddy, of Eddy Park:—"The boy is still in my employ, and will remain with me while he continues to do as he has done in the past."

Mr. J. Jacob, of Moonbi:—"I am penning you these few lines to let you know that my apprentice suits me very well, and I thank you very much for choosing me such a good boy. If he had been one of my own he could not behave better. I am very well satisfied with him."

Mr. J. Gilbert, of Botany:—"I must inform you that my apprentice has behaved himself very well, and I have no fault to find with him. I send him regularly to school, and try to do my duty to him as a master. He is writing to you himself."

Mr. H. Gadsby, of Nyngan:—"I may state that the boy is in good health, and quite satisfied, as I am also."

Mr. H. Bruniges, of Merewether:—"My apprentice is a good lad, and all that I could desire. He is well conducted, and very willing to do as he is told. He attends his church regularly."

Mr. J. Broadhurst, of Ashfield:—"I have to report that D.E. has conducted himself very well. I have asked him to write to you."

Mr. J. Hickey, of Coonamble:—"The lad is giving me every satisfaction. He has grown to be a fine, strong, young man. I will get him to write to you by next mail. I am sending down by next mail an application for another apprentice. The lad Mr. F. S. Caswell got from the ship seems to be giving his master every satisfaction. Mr. Caswell speaks very well of him. The lad F., whom I got from the ship several years ago, and who served about three years with me, has just gone to Sydney for a trip after again being in my employ."

Captain H. Olive, of Australian Club:—"The apprentices have conducted themselves well. E. has deposited £20 16s. 6d., C. £7 18s., H. 5s. I am directing the lads to write to you. V.R. has finished his time, and I no longer control his money matters. I am sending C. on board to you with a note."

Mr. V. H. Cooke, of Tomingley:—"The boy arrived safely last Friday; I was there to meet him as promised. He is as right as can be, quite at home, and contented. I think he will make a good lad, as he seems willing and active. I will do my duty to him. The boy C. my father has at Parkes is a very smart, good boy, and I think far above the average boys of his age. He is quite happy there, and has a really good home. Much obliged for your favour in sending the boy as you did."

Captain Rugg, of Mr. Dangar's fine ship "Neotsfield":—"I was very pleased to get a letter from you the other day, but I have been so busy, or would have answered it before. My boys have turned out very well, and I am proud of them. I have no doubt I shall want two more boys on my next voyage, and I will come to you for them."

Mr. H. Prior, J.P., of Bathurst:—"The boy has conducted himself very well. His conduct has been very good."

Captain F. W. Neitenstein, J.P., of Mosman:—"I beg to say that my apprentice is behaving satisfactorily. He is a smart, honest lad, truthful, and possesses wholesome instincts. He has been with me some eight months, and I should hardly know what to do without him. Ten shillings is the amount to his credit, and to this must be added 3s. of his pocket-money, which he has voluntarily deposited. I will request him to write to you."

Mr. J. W. Selwin, of Bective:—"I have much pleasure in forwarding my quarterly report, re my apprentice E.H., to inform you that he has enjoyed excellent health, is happy and contented, and has been a good lad."

Mr. W. Martin, of Winton:—"I have much pleasure in reporting that I am satisfied with the lad apprenticed to me, and he seems to be satisfied with his place. He has had good health ever since arrival, and attends church and Sunday school every Sunday. I gave him 20s. for pocket-money, and 'Christmas box' on Christmas Day. He will write himself by this mail."

Mr. W. Cooke, of Laurel Hill:—"I have been requested by my two sons to inform you that they are prepared to enter into an agreement with you for a lad each, something like young P. that you sent me some time ago."

Mr. P. B. Fenwick, J.P., of Kunopia:—"I may mention whilst writing, that my boy R., whom I have now had two years, is all that one could desire, and does the Institution the greatest credit."

Mr. R. Bryen, of Gramiailla:—"He is a splendid boy; I have been highly pleased with him all through. I want you to send me another boy, about 15 years of age. Kindly send me one like D."

Mr. J. M. Carbury, of Gobarralong:—"I have a letter from the boy, and he says that owing to his mother being old, and not having anybody to help her, that he cannot return to me. He was a really good boy whilst with me, and I am very sorry that he cannot come back. I expect to be in Sydney in the course of a couple of months, and will call on you and procure another boy, if you have any that you can recommend."

Mr. T. Ditchfield, of Erda Vale:—"I must say that I am very well pleased, and he has conducted himself very well."

Constable R. Fraser, of Somerton:—"W., who is in the employ of Mr. W. Martin, of Winton. The boy's character is good; he is in good condition, and well treated. No complaints have been made by boy or master. Wages, £1 7s. Constable

Constable Fraser reports in similar terms of fourteen other boys in the same district. Their wages are all paid up.

Senior-constable Penlington, of Milton, reports of A.:—"His character has been very good. Receipt for bank-book is enclosed."

Mr. Inspector T. Parker, of Grafton, reports:—"The boys you sent to Southgate are doing well."

Mr. Superintendent Read, of Sydney, reports of eighteen boys, located in the Metropolitan district, as, without exception, bearing excellent characters.

Senior-constable Gracey, of Oxley, reports on the boy L., that "he is of exceptionally good character, is very bidable, and intelligent. The boy speaks highly of Mr. Creswick as a master."

Constable Langley, of Maude:—"The apprentice C. is a good worker, and well conducted, and gives great satisfaction. The boy says that he is kindly treated, and well satisfied with his home. His bank-book shows wages paid up to date."

Constable J. Hanney, of Smithtown:—"The boy S. suits Mr. Plummer well. The boy likes his place and master, and states he is thoroughly satisfied."

Constable Baker, of Quirindi, reports apprentices O'D. and R. having good characters, being well treated, and wages paid to date.

Senior-constable Moroney, of Garah:—"The boy R.'s character and health good, and well treated; no unpleasantness exists between master and apprentice; wages, £8 14s. 4d."

Senior-constable H. W. King, of Boggabri:—"Apprentices R. and C.'s character, condition, and treatment all good; wages 2s. and £4 7s. respectively."

Senior-constable F. Gardiner, of Moonbi:—"Boys R., C., H., M., W., R., T., and M.'s characters, condition, and treatment all very good. Wages paid."

Sergeant W. McCabe reports visiting apprentice S. "Found him well conducted, in good health, and has been well treated. Wages paid £16 12s."

Constable W. G. Carvett, of Carroll:—"Apprentice T.'s character good, in good health, is well treated. Both the boy and his employer expresses their satisfaction with each other. Wages to date £1, deposited in Savings Bank at Carroll; no arrears."

Constable Fox:—"Apprentice S. was given a good character by his employer. He is in good health, and says he is well treated. Wages £1 9s."

Senior-constable Byren, of Murwillumbah:—"Apprentice R., also his master, Mr. Ingram, were seen by the constable. The boy bears a very good character, and is well treated by his master. All wages have been paid up. Apprentice M. and his master, Mr. J. White, were also visited. This boy bears a very good character, and is well treated by his master. Wages £2."

Senior-constable Harris, of Uralla:—"Visited apprentice N., whose character is very good. Wages, £4 10s., all paid to date."

Sergeant Tippett, of Lismore, reports, regarding apprentices G., A., A., and H.:—"All receiving good characters. Wages £11 16s., 10s., £7 10s., and £1 10s. No complaints from either masters or boys."

Constable Brennan, of Lismore, reports, regarding apprentices B., C., R., B., and H.:—"All are receiving good characters. Wages £7, £1 7s., £1, and 12s. No complaints."

Senior-constable E. H. Thompson, of Ballina, furnishes a return regarding the conduct of twelve apprentices in his district:—"Character, condition, and treatment of each boy is good. Wages are all paid, and no unpleasantness exists between masters and boys."

Constable E. West, of Glen Innes:—"Apprentice L., with Mr. A. Wesley, of Glen Innes. His character is very good; he is well satisfied with his master, as also his master is well satisfied with him. All wages are paid up, amounting to £1 15s."

Senior-constable F. McRae Steele, of Deepwater:—"Apprentice C. states that he is well treated by his master, that he has plenty of clothing, is well fed, and well satisfied with his place. His master states he is well conducted. Wages, £1 18s."

Constable E. Randall, of Glen Innes:—"Apprentice W. bears a good character, looks well, and appears to be very comfortable. Wages, £1 18s."

Constable John Furneaux, of Manilla:—"Boys W. and S. The characters and condition of the boys are good, and they say they are well treated, and have good homes. The wages are fully paid up. No unpleasantness exists between boys and master."

Constable Scannell, of Moree:—"I have this day visited the boy S. at the residence of Mr. H. R. Murray. The boy is well conducted, bears a good character, and he informed the constable that he is well treated. Mr. Murray states that the boy is obedient and attentive to his work, and is giving satisfaction. £18 9s. 5d. is now to the credit of the boy and the Superintendent."

Senior-constable J. Byrne, of Werris Creek:—"Inspected the apprentice M., who is most reliable, honest, and in every respect well conducted. He is in good condition, and well treated and clothed."

Constable J. Bath, of Mullvala:—"He saw Mr. Whitty, who states that the boy has finished his time. He has been very well satisfied with the boy, and has him now employed on the station."

Constable W. Collis, of Yerong Creek:—"Mr. Rossler states that the character of the boy S. is very good. He has £5 12s. 6d. in the bank. From the constable's own observation he believes this boy to be one of the best that he ever saw come from the 'Sobraon.'"

Senior-constable Costello, of Jindera:—"The senior-constable would state, from his own personal knowledge of the boy, his character, condition, and treatment is all that would be desired. Wages amount to £9 14s."

Constable Pritchard, of The Rock:—"The boy T. states he is well treated by Mr. Westendorf, who speaks highly of the boy's character. The lad T. says he will remain with his master after his time is up."

Constable J. A. Fergusson, of Corowa:—"Sobraon' apprentice McL. is looking well, and receives very good treatment. He likes his place, and his master is well pleased with him. He is, in fact, a very good boy. Wages, £3 7s."

Senior-constable Walsh, of Junee:—"Visited S. He is given a good character by his master, is in good health, and states he is well treated and clothed. Wages, 19s."

Constable W. J. Madden, of Junee:—"Visited the boy B. at the residence of Mr. Thompson, who speaks highly of the boy; states that he is industrious, well behaved, and gives every satisfaction. Wages, £1 1s."

Senior-constable

Senior-constable Anderson, of Urana:—"Visited Coonong Station, and interviewed the two apprentices, H. and R., who stated that they were well cared for, had a good and comfortable home, and have each a good supply of clothing. They also speak in the highest terms of Mr. McCaughey's kindness to them, and in return Mr. McCaughey gives the boys an excellent character. Wages, £2 14s. and £1 1s."

Constable Wisbey, of Gundagai:—"Visited D., with Mrs. Lawson, of Adelong Crossing, and find that the boy is very well behaved, is well treated and cared for. The boy states he is well satisfied with his place. All wages due to the 20th instant have been paid."

Constable Laidman, of Grafton:—"Apprentice M., who is with Mr. Gulliford, of Southgate. This boy bears an excellent character, and is treated as if he were one of the family. He looks very well. Wages paid. Apprentice W., who is with Mrs. Coulter, H.W., who is with Mr. Leeson, and B., who is with Mr. W. Smith, all receive excellent characters. The wages in each instance are paid. No unpleasantry of any sort exists between masters and boys."

Constable Betson, of Byron Bay:—"C., K., and F. are all given good characters by their masters."

Constable Middleton, of Glen Innes:—"Visited the boy apprenticed to Mr. M. H. Fitzhardinge, solicitor, of Glen Innes. E's. master gives him a very good character, and is perfectly satisfied with him. The wages due to the boy, to date £1 13s., have been paid into the Savings Bank."

Constable W. J. Maroney, of Inverell:—"Visited apprentice F. and his master, Mr. C. F. Travers. F. is a good, trustworthy lad. He is healthy and well cared for, and is well pleased with Mr. Travers' treatment of him. Wages, £3 10s. Apprentice H., with Mr. P. B. Eady, is a hard-working, quiet, and well-behaved lad, and gave every satisfaction to Mr. Eady. He is strong and perfectly healthy, and has the appearance of having been well cared for. He has £26 6s. 10d. to his credit in the Government Savings Bank."

Constable Kane, of Guyra:—"Saw Mr. Ensor at his residence, Ben Lomond, and was informed that the boy R. bears a first-class character. He is very well treated, and looks in the best of health. Wages paid up, £13 18s."

Sergeant M'Donnell, of Bathurst:—"The character, condition, and treatment of the boy R. is good. Mr. Boyd speaks of this apprentice in the highest terms."

Constable Colin M'Rae, of Orange, reports of apprentices "T., C., that they are well behaved, and that they are well treated by their employers."

Sergeant W. Parker, of Warren:—"Apprentice J., with Mr. Dolan, is of good character, well fed and clothed, and kindly treated. £1 4s. in the bank."

Senior-sergeant Francis, of Coonamble, reports of apprentices C., P., Q., M., and G.:—"Characters and condition are good. They are well treated; wages amount to £7 3s., £5 6s., £8 14s., and £3 10s."

Constable J. E. Williams, of Peak Hill:—"Apprentice McP. told the constable he was well treated and liked his master; received his pocket-money. Mr. Wier said he could answer for the boy's character. He was a good, obedient boy, and gave general satisfaction. As far as the constable could learn, there seems to be mutual satisfaction between master and boy."

Senior-constable E. Rainford, of Parkes, reports regarding apprentices B., C., and R.:—"All three boys are receiving good characters, are well cared for, and have good homes."

Senior-Constable Slack, of Cobbora:—"Apprentice J.H. bears a most excellent character. He is well treated and clothed, and has never had a complaint to make. The Cobbora police see him almost every week. His employer, Mr. Bourke, speaks very highly of him. His wages, amounting to £9, are paid into the Savings Bank."

Constable T. C. Dixon, of Forbes:—"Apprentices D., L., and H. are all reported by their masters as having good characters, and giving every satisfaction. Their wages have been placed to their credit, up to date."

Constable F. W. Dolman, of Mudgee:—"Apprentices J., F., H., M., and O'N. are all well satisfied with their masters, and state that they are well treated. The masters state that these apprentices are good boys. There are no arrears of wages due to either of the above apprentices."

Sergeant Roberts, of Grenfell:—"The boy is in the best of health, states he is kindly treated, and has nothing to complain of. His employer gives him an excellent character. All wages due have been paid up."

Constable Minter, of Trundle:—"A.K., in the employ of John M'Inerney, bears a good character."

Senior-constable J. Bentley, of Mundooran:—"Apprentice M'N. bears a very good character. His employer, Mr. Manus, states that he is a good boy."

Constable J. Robertson, of Central Kempsey:—"Apprentice S. is in good health. He is very willing to work, and his master states that he has no complaint whatever to lodge against the boy."

Constable J. Canney, of Smithtown:—"D. has a very good character, is well cared for, and states he is well satisfied."

Constable A. Aden, of Dungog:—"Re the 'Sobraon' boys W., J.P., and H.P., all three boys received good characters."

Senior-constable R. Brown, of Hamilton:—"Saw Mr. Martin, also apprentice S. The boy is of excellent character, is well treated, and quite satisfied with his position."

Senior-constable Robinson, of Merewether:—"Apprentice L. has a very good character, and is well treated."

Constable Grigor, of Riverstone:—"Apprentices G. and E. receive excellent characters. They look healthy, clean, and tidy, and state their treatment is all that they could desire."

Constable J. C. Tomkins, of Rous Hill:—"Apprentice W. bears an excellent character. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson speak very highly of the boy."

Senior-sergeant Sykes, of Berrima, reports of twelve apprentices, "that they are all receiving good characters; are well treated; their wages range from £14 12s. to £1."

Constable R. C. Bray, of Albion Park, reports of eight apprentices in his district:—"All boys are receiving good characters, and have no complaints; wages range from £15 7s. to 10s."

Constable E. R. Williams, of Kiama, reports on ten apprentices in his district, that they are all favourably reported on; their wages range from £17 7s. to £1 6s.

Senior-sergeant Bragg, of Moruya:—"Re apprentices McE. and G., the masters, Messrs. Heffernan, state both boys to have good characters. They are well treated and cared for."

Senior-constable Kennedy, of Crookwell :—"Apprentice A., who is with Dr. E. Stokes, receives an excellent character from his master. The boy states that he is well treated, happy, and contented."

Senior-constable J. Willis, of Yass, reports that he has seen the lad Q., and his master, who gives him a first-class character. The boy appears very healthy and contented, and states he is well treated, and would not like to leave his master. The lad's master states that since he received him he has never once given him cause to complain. Bank pass-book shows £3 paid to date.

Apprentice G. writes :—"I am very glad to say that my master is a man having plenty of influence with the squatters; and, if everything goes well with me, I might have a chance of getting a situation with one of them when my time is finished. I met the boy C., and he told me he would write to you, and let you know how he is getting along with his master. As my career is just about to start, I have not much to tell you until I write again. With many thanks for getting me such a good situation. I remain, yours sincerely, J. G."

H.H. writes :—"Dear Sir,—I received your last and welcome letter with much pleasure. I went to the show both days, and my master gave me half-a-crown. How I got half-a-crown was: my master gave me 6d. to get in the gate with. I was carrying exhibits, and the gate-keeper let me in for nothing. I told my master, and he gave me 2s. for being honest. He thought I would keep the 6d., and say nothing about it. I like my master and mistress. I am saving up my pocket-money, and I have got 1s. 4d. in three weeks, instead of 6d. I remain, yours sincerely, H.H."

D. McF. writes :—"Dear Captain,—I am glad to tell you I have a kind master, and am quite content with my place. I go to school every day, and try to get on as well as I can. I am treated as one of the family. I hope the boys are all quite well. Remember me kindly to all the officers, and I hope they are quite well, likewise yourself. I remain, yours obediently, D.McF."

H.C. :—"Dear Sir,—I am very glad to tell you that I am getting along with my work splendidly. All the people are pleased with me, and I am pleased with them. I can lift a big can of milk, and put the harness on the horse, and know they are right. I remain, yours sincerely, H.C."

My former pantry-boy, R.A. writes :—"Dear Captain,—I write to thank you for getting me this nice situation. I am very comfortable, and my work is not too much; yet it is sufficient to keep me occupied all day. I have to attend to the house now. At first, when I came, I had the stables and yard to attend to. I learned to groom a horse, and milk a cow, mind poultry; but as the weather here is extremely cold in winter, I shall be glad not to have that to do. Again thanking you for all your kindness. I am, dear sir, respectfully yours, R.A."

Apprentice S. :—"Dear Sir,—I received your kind letter, and I was very glad to hear from you. I hope Mr. Stayner is quite well, and Mr. Robilliard, and Mr. Wood, also all the boys on board are quite well, as it leaves me at present. Mr. Beedle is a very nice gentleman; and I like my place very well, and they are kind to me. You must excuse a short letter this time. Your obedient servant, E.S."

An apprentice, now employed by a well-to-do tradesman, who was at one time an inmate of the Institution :—"Dear Sir,—I now take the pleasure of writing you these few lines, hoping to find you in good health. I am getting on well up here. My master and mistress are very good to me. I go for a ride nearly every Sunday afternoon. I saw the boy S. up here, and I was speaking to him about the 'Sobraon.' This is all I have to say this time. I remain, yours truly, E.M.J."

C.R. writes :—"Dear Captain Mason,—Just a few lines to let you know I am getting on well. I have learned a lot of farm work—ploughing, harrowing, &c.; and I hope some day to have a farm of my own. I can ride well, and often have fresh horses. I can gallop, and jump logs. I hope to see you all when I go to Sydney. I hope O. and C. have not forgotten me; I have got their keepsakes yet. This is all the news this time. Yours truly, C.R."

Apprentice A.L. :—"Dear Captain,—The time is slipping away like lightning. It only seems as if I was on the ship last month, but yet it is nine months ago. My master received your circular to-day, and I suppose you will have a report from him of the behaviour and conduct of myself. You could not have got me a better situation. If any boy says that they have a good master, I'll say that I have better. My master sold his farm, 1,300 acres. I don't think living in town is as good as living out in the bush, for we live at the bottom of a big mountain, Big Ben. I will try and send you down one of my photos. I read in the *Sydney Mail* about the ship nearly going ashore. The boys I know of here are seven in number. I remain your obedient servant, A.L. P.S.—Thank the fore-castle men from me, for it was them taught me one of the rules of good manners, 'cleanliness.'"

E.L. writes :—"Dear Sir,—Just a few lines to let you know how I am getting on at my place. I like it very well. I could not get a better master anywhere. Would you kindly remember me to boys S., D., and M. I remain your obedient servant, E.L."

Apprentice L.A.S. :—"Dear Sir,—Having just secured an opportunity of writing to you, I do so with the utmost pleasure. I am very sorry I never wrote to you before this, but, never mind, I will try and write to you as regular as I can. I am getting on first-rate up here. I am very glad you got me this situation, and I'll never forget you as long as I live. My master is very good to me, and takes me shooting with his eldest son. Remember me to Mr. Dermody and Mr. Wadling and Mr. Stayner. Yours truly, L.A.S."

J.J.R. writes :—"Dear Sir,—I now have the pleasure of writing you a few lines, hoping to find you in the best of health, as it leaves me at present, also all the officers and boys. I like my place and master very well, and I thank you for getting me such a good situation. We milk forty-five cows. I drive the milk-cart and sometimes plough a little. I help to cut greenstuff for the cows and we draw two big loads every evening. I am very sorry for not writing before. Your affectionate friend, J.J.R."

Apprentice J.T. :—"Dear Captain,—I write you these few lines, hoping they will find you in good health. I like my place very much indeed. My master is very kind to me, also my mistress. They are like mother and father to me. A gentleman was coming up with me and he said he would like a good boy, so I told him the boy B. was a good lad, and he said he would send down for him. I will do all in my power to please my master. I hope Mr. Stayner, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Leer, and Mr. Humphries are quite well. I thank you, sir, for getting me such a nice place. Your obedient servant, J.T."

Apprentice A.S. :—"Dear friend,—Just a few lines to let you know how I am getting on. Mr. Dunstan wishes me to write to you. I am very sorry that I did not write before this. I hope all the boys and officers are all in the best of health, as Mr. Dunstan and I are at present. I like my place very well, and I am glad I got it. I am very sorry that the ship had drifted out of its place; I hope no one got hurt. I have nothing serious to tell you this time. This is all. Trusting to hear from you, I remain your true friend, A.S."

H.S.A.

H.S.A. writes:—"Sir,—I am glad to inform you that I am satisfied with my new home. I like my master and mistress very well, and I hope I will be able to please them in every way. I have learnt to ride and drive well. There is a young man up here that was on the 'Vernon.' His name is J.C. Please remember me to all my comrades. I send my best wishes to the officers on board. I remain, Apprentice H.S.A."

Apprentice G.M. writes:—"Dear Sir,—I received your letter and the two cards which were sent to me from home. I was very thankful to S. for the letter which he wrote to me, and to know that he had not forgotten me. My work for the present is to husk corn—a thing which I am not a very smart hand at. It also makes my hands rather sore, but that has to be put up with, like a good many other things in this world. On New Year's Day I went to the Highland gathering, and enjoyed myself first-rate. I remain, yours sincerely, G.M."

13. The above are a few cases promiscuously taken from many hundreds in similar terms, and will, I think, serve to prove even to the most sceptical that the short period of detention on board this vessel is fully justified by profitable after-results. The boys' letters number many hundreds, and as each merits, and receives, an immediate acknowledgment, it can be understood the duty is not a light one. Free and unrestricted correspondence between boys and the Superintendent assists materially in giving satisfaction to all parties, and I always feel it my duty to strongly discountenance anything likely to interfere with this.

It has been a matter of great regret to me that the customary visits of inspection formerly made by Captain Neitenstein and myself have not been possible this year, owing to changes in our staff not permitting absence from the ship. Nothing proves more encouraging to our lads than a friendly visit, showing as it does that although many miles distant from their former home a practical interest is evinced in their welfare. I have made many such visits in past years, and can testify to the utility of bringing masters and boys into pleasant relationship with one another after some slight misunderstanding, which will always arise, but gives way readily under the mediation of one recognised as anxious to conserve the best interests of both parties.

It is also desirable to see the class of home and nature of surroundings applying to those whom we desire to in every way safeguard.

14. Thanks to that most kind-hearted of gentlemen, Mr. Inspector-General Fosbery, the invaluable services of his capable metropolitan officers, and that fine body of inspectors and staff constituting the country constabulary, have been again enlisted in carrying out the supervisory work of this Institution. This means a lot of work; each one of some 400 lads and their respective masters being visited and interviewed, wages amount checked, and in many instances arrears collected and paid to credit. This is productive of miles of travel and long hours of additional duty, cheerfully rendered by the police, to whose tactful, intelligent, and sympathetic ability, ably directed from headquarters, is largely due what constitutes the real success of the institution, viz., the permanent reform of our juvenile delinquents.

The full share of credit due to the police is often, I fear, overlooked. Having been the direct means of bringing the boys under the ship's influences, they afterwards act not only as guardians, but as friendly advisers all through apprenticeship, and later, as the majority of lads remain in the country, there is no one more conversant with their progress than the local constabulary, who have a knowledge of all in their district.

PART III.

THIRD STAGE.—EX-APPRENTICES.

15. This is the period when, having attained their 18th year, they pass beyond my legal guardianship and become free agents regarding their future mode of life. Few forsake the country districts, where they command lucrative employment for the experience gained during previous years.

16. During the thirty years that the Institution has carried on its work it has dealt with 3,600 boys. Their terrible antecedents being such as described under Table "E," and only coming here after all previous treatment had failed, surely it would be unreasonable that reformation should be looked for in all such subjects.

17. Surprisingly few reach our goals, as will be noticed from the results of an annual return furnished to me from all the goals in the Colony. The total number of ex-inmates thus dealt with is 45, made up as follows:—12 convicted during apprenticeship, 20 during a period extending over twenty-seven years, 4 discharged (being 18 years of age) after a brief detention on board, 7 discharged to relatives on petition and free from the ship's control, and 2 transferred to another institution at a juvenile age. This percentage, as applied to the 3,600 dealt with, is small indeed.

18. Upon completion of the period covered by apprenticeship, not only is the young man capable of turning his knowledge gained to advantage, but he obtains a sum of money, being wages earned, as a tangible result of his service. Since May, 1890, up to that month in this year, boys have received close upon £12,000 in cash payments, with quite a similar sum now to the credit of others in the Government Savings Bank. This is altogether apart from the cost defrayed by their masters in providing board, lodging, and clothes. One of the most pleasing features of the ship's work to those engaged on the staff is the absolute absence of any animus on the part of the boys towards those who have exercised authority over them; not only do the many hundreds of letters received point to such being the case, but the boys, upon becoming free agents, look upon a visit to their former floating home as one of the most enjoyable ways of spending a Sunday. Since January twelve months we have received 579 such visits, and many gratifying assurances have been conveyed to me upon these occasions. A fine, well set-up, young fellow, who left the "Vernon" eighteen years ago, writes and derives much satisfaction in informing me that he is again under the leadership of his old chief as a warder in one of the principal goals, and also has occupied several positions in the Government Service. He is a single man, supporting an aged mother residing near the ship.

A.J.S. writes from the Nambucca River:—"Dear Sir,—Just a few lines to let you know that I am still in the land of the living, and flourishing. I suppose you must think by this time I have forgotten all about the past, but it is not so, and I shall always hold you in high esteem and the good old ship 'Vernon.' You made a man of me, whereas I would have been a scapegrace if I was not sent there to reform. In the last letter I wrote I was leaving the tug 'Volunteer.' I was in work two hours after and built a butcher's shop on a piece of land here, and then went farming. In two months' time I was sent for to go back again, and I am still in her and thought a lot of by the captain. I am going to be married in three months'

months' time. We have had very dirty weather down here, but it seems to be settling up a little. Dear Sir, it is a long time since I saw you on the ship, but if things go as I anticipate I will visit you with my young wife within a few months. I conclude with sincere affection to Captain Neitenstein and all hands. Long live the 'Sobraon,' and all her officers; may she flourish. I remain your sincere scholar and friend, H.H."

H.H. was apprenticed five years ago in the Macleay River district, where I upon two occasions visited him, and received excellent reports. He is a pleasant, deserving lad, and I have just succeeded in obtaining employment for him at one of our leading clubs.

J.J.N. left us six years ago. Returned on board, and has expressed his gratitude for what the ship has done for him; he has over £40 to his bank credit.

Seven well set up, smart young men, who were former inmates, now occupy leading positions in the Permanent Force Band, and frequently visit the ship, and have a chat about old times.

D.J.W. left the ship over thirteen years ago. Now owns his own farm at Attunga. He is known as a steady, respectable man, and does not forget the ship's training.

A.E.R. came on board with his master, who gives him an excellent character, and promises to still find him employment. I had pleasure in handing him bank-book and cheque amounting to £28 12s.

R. was profuse in his thanks for what had been done for him.

W.D. is a prosperous tradesman, employing several men in his lucrative business. He employs one of our lads, and writes, enclosing a photo., at the same time reporting having seen ex-inmates C. and R., who are both doing well, and send kind messages.

J.W. This was a pronouncedly hard case on arrival at the ship. He has served three years with credit, and writes to me stating his intention of remaining in the country, which I had advised in a previous letter.

J.A.B. comes on board to inform me he has shipped in a vessel to America, and would value a reference for the time he had been with me.

J.S.H. writes from London, where he arrived in Mr. Dangar's fine ship "Neotsfield." He reports other boys than himself as being well, and giving satisfaction, that the owner had paid them a visit, and presented them with 10s. each. He asks to be kindly remembered to all officers and boys, and states that he is looking forward to visiting the "Sobraon" upon their return to Sydney.

R.R. left the ship seventeen years ago; is now married; and writes regarding his doings; also expressing pleasure at hearing of Captain Neitenstein's promotion.

W.J.R. left the ship twelve years ago; married; writes congratulating officers on their promotion.

P.V. left the ship fifteen years back, writes congratulating Captain Neitenstein upon his promotion. A very steady, respectable fellow.

A highly respectable, steady young man, who received an excellent report from his master, is now carrying on a business of his own.

P.L. is a smart, respectable fellow; now employed by Messrs. O'Brien and Roberts, and earning £2 10s. per week; frequently spends a Sunday with us.

C.W., who is one of three brothers, sent to the ship fourteen years back, is now married, and owns a fine farm in the Gerringong district, recently valued at £1,000. This property he has just let to advantage; and is about to pay a visit to his elder brother, now in West Australia. He came on board to say "good-bye," and states that the ship was the making of him. His farm was originally taken up as a selection, cleared with his own labour, and is now a valuable property.

K.R.G. is a highly respectable, deserving young man, who has obtained an excellent character since he left the ship ten years back; he has been employed for a considerable time at the Ice Works, Darling Harbour; and now wishes to go afloat. I gave him a letter to Captain Eddie, Shipping-master.

R.V. has been ten years with Mr. Thorburn in the South Coast district. Recently visited the "Sobraon" for the first time, and was greatly pleased. He was formerly on the "Vernon," and commented upon the great improvements pertaining to the new ship. Steady, respectable, and deserving.

J. A. is a very competent blacksmith, who has served some years at the trade. He recently visited and presented the ship's aviary with a parrot. States his intention of visiting West Australia, where he thinks he can do well at his trade.

A comparison between the antecedents and previous history of some of these lads with what now applies to their condition of life may prove of interest:—

J.F.B. sent to the "Vernon" in 1889, after having been twice previously before a police court and discharged, remained aboard that ship for some months and was then discharged, on petition, to his relatives, in opposition to the recommendation of the Superintendent. Again committed to the ship in April, 1890, in a neglected, dirty condition. Apprenticed from the "Vernon" in August, 1891, served over five years with credit, and obtained an excellent character from his employer, who has now taken another apprentice from the "Sobraon." He came from Mudgee to Sydney, and spent Christmas Day on board this ship with a younger brother. He is now a presentable and highly respectable young man, and intends to return to the country.

G.R. sent to the "Vernon" in October, 1891, for frequenting bad company, and after serving a sentence in gaol for larceny. Apprenticed in January, 1893; served his full time with Mr. Forster, of Riverstone, who gives him a four-years' reference of a highly satisfactory nature. Visited recently with his bank-book, showing £24 to his credit. A steady, industrious, and civil young man.

C.M., whose father was a highly respectable man, sent here in January, 1884, from the Redfern Police Court. Three previous gaol sentences. Apprenticed in March, 1885, over twelve years ago, to Mr. Kinnear, of the Clarence River, where I visited him on two occasions, and found him to be acquitting himself most creditably. He is now a fine young man, who admits he has much to thank the ship for. Visited us the other day and informed me he was married, had one of a family, and is in steady employment, at 9s. per diem, with Government contractors. He is one of our greatest successes, having previously been quite beyond the control of his parents.

J.D. was a lad who had been boarded-out by the State Children's Relief Department upon several occasions. In each instance he absconded. As a last resource he was sent here in September, 1893, and after a time I obtained him a situation on the Richmond River, where he still remains. Under date the 11th April I received a letter from him, acknowledging a cheque obtained as wages earned prior to his coming to the ship, and thanking me for obtaining him the good situation which he now holds, and where he gives his employer every satisfaction. Mr. Ross, J.P., of Ballina, in speaking to me of this lad, gives him the best of characters.

D.G.

D.G. was the son of a well-to-do Yorkshire manufacturer; proving troublesome at home in England he was sent out to Newcastle as an apprentice in a ship, from which he ran away. He was picked up by the police and sent on board the ship in July, 1886. He left, under engagement to Messrs. Lysaght Bros., with whom he remained for some years, the latter portion of which time he earned £4 per week at piece-work. A few Sundays back he came on board, accompanied by his little daughter of 2 years of age, who was a picture of neatness, and spent some time with me, conversing about old times and his future prospects. He now forms one of the most desirable class of colonists that could be wished for.

A.McG., sent here from the Central Police Court in March, 1887, ten years ago, as being the companion of thieves, for housebreaking and larceny. Left the ship in May, 1888. Has been steadily employed for a period of seven years with one of our best known steam-ferry proprietors, during which time I have seen him weekly, and know him to be regarded as one of the most reliable and civil of employees. He paid me a visit last week, and told me he was next in turn to obtain charge of a steamer. He is in receipt of £2 per week, which money he places to his bank credit.

R.McM., sent from the Redfern Police Court under the following conditions:—"Sleeping in a sewer and under houses; in the habit of committing thefts in the neighbourhood of Darlington and Golden Grove, and beyond his parents' control." Left the "Vernon" in December, 1886, served his apprenticeship as a printer with Messrs. Else Brothers, at Wingham, on the Manning River, where I on two occasions visited him, and always received an excellent report from his employers. He is now a good compositor, earning a respectable livelihood in that occupation with one of our leading houses. He paid me a visit within the last few days, and is a pleasant and intelligent young man, as much so as any reared under more auspicious surroundings.

J.J., sent from the Central Police Court in September, 1888, for stealing poultry. Now a well-to-do tradesman. Spent last Sunday afternoon on board, well dressed, and very respectable.

A.C., sent from the Central Police Court in July, 1882; could neither read nor write; habitually wandering from home. Left in September, 1884, and served apprenticeship with credit at Camden Haven. Now owns his own dray, with which he makes a good living. Paid his first visit to the "Sobraon" a few Sundays back, and expressed his admiration for the present inmates' surroundings.

19. I have also been favoured on occasions with pleasing acknowledgments from the parents of boys who have derived marked benefit from the ship's efforts towards reform. A mother writes:—"I hope God will abundantly bless you for your kindness to my dear boy, and I can see you have brought a wonderful change in him. I hope he will never forget your kindness. I will leave him to do all you wish him to do. I remain, Sir, yours respectfully, N.B."

Another mother writes:—"I am more than grateful to you for your extreme kindness to me in sending my son's letter for perusal, and I feel fully happy and contented now about my son's welfare. When I look at everything, perhaps you are right at my not knowing his whereabouts at present, as it might make the boy grieve. Dear Sir, I hope all the boys on the ship are well, and may all my good wishes visit them, also the officers, not forgetting yourself. Trusting to your kindness to remember me to my son when next you write. Yours sincerely, F.C."

I wish many other relatives would as sensibly recognise the good being done for their children, and abstain in the same judicious way from unwisely interfering with them. I receive a fair number of such letters.

20. It would occupy too much space to report fully of the numerous inquiries made regarding the facilities for placing boys voluntarily on board the "Sobraon," but of such I receive a very large number from many respectable parents whose children prove refractory, and who would be glad of an opportunity to place them under wholesome restraint. It may, however, be well to quote a few such letters:—

"Dear Sir,—I have a son of which I can do no good at all. I am writing to know if I could put him in your charge. I would willingly pay £1 per month towards his keep. He will not go to school. I have given him every chance. I find my best remedy is to put him on board the 'Sobraon.' Hoping this will succeed, I remain, &c., G.J."

"Dear Sir,—Will you kindly let me know if you could take a boy of 9 on the 'Sobraon' without conviction. He is perfectly unmanageable, having got into a set of larrikins in the neighbourhood. I have had to remove him from three schools, the last the C.E.G. School, N. Sydney, as he will not go to school or do anything but prowl about the bush. He has been well caned by his father, master, and myself. In fact, we have done everything in our power. Now, I have his clothes locked up, but he goes away all the same without. We are gentle people, so would not like him to be convicted, although we feel very urgent measures must be taken now to save his life being ruined. One night lately he stayed out all night, sleeping in an empty house. If you would kindly let me know if you could arrange to take him, and for as long as you think advisable, we would be glad to pay whatever you think fair for the arrangement. I feel sure no boarding-school would suit, as he seems bent on running away. He could not from a ship. Yours, &c., A.J.B."

"Dear Sir,—Would you kindly inform me your terms and arrangements for young boys, as I have a young boy of 10 years, who has given me a great deal of trouble of late. He has missed eight days at school during the last quarter. He has got with a crowd of bad boys, and I have lost all control over him of late. I am a nurse, and am not always at home. Kindly inform me if you will take a fee, and the lowest, as I would like him to be kept away from the other boys. I would like him to be kept under strict supervision. His father two years ago was inspector of railways. Kindly inform me at your earliest convenience. Yours, &c., B.E.W."

It must be remembered that prior to reaching this Institution our boys have been a source of trouble to all having contact with them, and it is only when recognised as incorrigibles by every one else that we take them in hand. Very many of our inmates have formerly proved failures from other homes and institutions.

PART IV.

MISCELLANEOUS.

21. Prior to entering upon, and at the conclusion of, our daily proceedings, prayers are said.

On Sundays (weather permitting) the boys are landed and marched to their respective churches in Balmain.

I have also to thank the Incumbent of St. John's and his *locum tenens*, the Rev. D. Hudson, and the Rev. J. Fitzpatrick; also the lady workers, Mrs. Ford and the Misses Hughes and Maguire, who, at considerable

considerable personal inconvenience, brave the elements to visit the vessel, and, by kindly Christian efforts, minister to the spiritual welfare and instruction of the lads, many of whom have been entirely ignorant of any such matters.

22. It has been my desire to keep closely in touch with all similar institutions to the one under my charge, and I receive all the latest reports from England, the Continent, and the United States.

Information regarding our doings is being constantly asked for by the other colonies, which I am always pleased to supply.

Visits for this purpose have been paid me by representative officers from Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, New Zealand, and Tasmania. The desire to establish a somewhat kindred institution to the "Sobraon" seems to be gaining ground in more than one of these centres.

The ship also has received frequent visits during the past twelve months from our Ministerial Head, the Hon. J. Garrard, M.P.; the Under Secretary, Mr. J. C. Maynard; and the principal officers of the Public Instruction Department; all of whom take the keenest and most practical interest in the ship and her inmates.

As many distinguished visitors from all parts of the world visit and inspect the "Sobraon," it may not be amiss to quote a few of the impressions formed under observation, and recorded in the official visitors' book.

Upon a recent visit the following entry was made by Messrs. W. Rigg, Dugald Thomson, James Storey, and S. J. Law, M's.P.:—"Ship is a credit to the country." "Had no conception of the magnitude and success of the Institution." "Discipline and general conduct of boys excellent." "An object lesson in discipline."

Mr. S. T. Whiddon, M.P.:—"Well satisfied with all I have seen."

Major Loveday, who is connected with the penal establishments in New Zealand, writes:—"I cannot speak too highly of the whole system adopted in the general management, discipline, and cleanliness of every part of the ship, as also those of the boys. The band is excellent, and reflects great credit on the bandmaster, who must have taken great pains to bring the boys to such a state of perfection. * * *

Messrs. H. Wells, C. Brockhoff, and S. J. Horstmann, of London, Melbourne, and Brisbane respectively:—"Have enjoyed the visit immensely. A similar vessel would be of advantage to Queensland."

Mr. W. H. Wilks, M.P.:—"Compelled to repeat that I still enjoy the highest opinions of this Institution. It holds the same general excellence as when under Captain Neitenstein."

A gentleman entitled to be considered as an authority, namely, Mr. E. Fosbery, J.P., Inspector-General of Police:—"I have been greatly gratified and interested in examining the system followed in this school, and its successful results."

Lieutenant R. S. Sieveking, R.N., accompanied by Lieutenant J. F. Whitmarsh, Royal Marines, H.M.S. "Mildura," and Mr. F. Raphael:—"I have now visited this ship three or four times, and each time I am more delighted with the cleanliness of the ship, also the discipline, which is quite equal to a man-of-war; with all this the boys seem very happy." "I can only say that I fall in most heartily with Lieutenant Sieveking's remarks. The physical drill was excellent, and would do credit to a newly-passed squad of recruits of an English regiment." "I extend hearty congratulations to the musical director on his excellent training, and to the whole training-ship on its work."

A large party of the principal school inspectors were accompanied on board by the Under Secretary, Mr. Maynard. They consisted of the Chief Inspector, Mr. F. Bridges, Messrs. J. McCredie, M. Willis, J. W. Baillie, F. Pearson, S. S. Smith, W. G. Thomas, W. Dwyer, H. Skillman, J. Dawson, and W. Guille: their comments were as follows:—"The visitors wish to express their entire satisfaction with the excellent order and discipline maintained amongst the boys on board the ship. They were also extremely well pleased with the arrangement for accommodation, instruction, and amusement of the boys. The proficiency of the pupils was satisfactory, and the singing of the English glees was particularly good. The general management reflects the greatest credit upon the captain and officers of the ship." "The visitors who on this occasion had the advantage of seeing the N.S.S. 'Sobraon' were very much struck with its arrangement and with the excellent order prevailing, which is evidently the result of a firm and kind discipline. Everything about the ship gives the impression of management of a high order. The captain and his officers are to be complimented on the results achieved. They are doing a noble work for the Colony."

Captain F. W. Neitenstein, J.P., Comptroller-General of Prisons:—"Glad to revisit the old ship; everything in good order. Perfect discipline. A clean bill of health, and boys cheerful and bright looking. Observe several alterations, especially in drill, since I left, which are decided improvements and show progress."

Dr. C. F. Warren, R.N.:—"The results obtained are excellent. The boys look happy and healthy, and everything connected with the health and sanitation of the ship is perfect."

Captain Francis Hixson, R.N., President, Marine Board:—"Found the ship very clean; boys appear comfortable and happy, notwithstanding the mishap of last evening." (Ship broke adrift).

On another occasion Captain Hixson visited, in company with the officers of the Naval Brigade and Mr. W. Cruickshank, C.E., and made the following entry:—"The ship and the discipline of the boys is a credit to the officers. The benefit of the Institution will be felt in the Colony in years to come. We should be glad to hear of provision being made to draft some of the boys into the R.N."

Major-General G. A. French, Commanding the Military Forces of New South Wales, accompanied by Mr. T. A. Dibbs, J.P., and others. The General made the following complimentary entry:—"On board for several hours, visited every part of the ship, and was much impressed with the cleanliness and good order apparent in every part. The physical drill was performed excellently; the manual exercises were carried out capitally. I feel assured that the systematic drill and discipline daily enforced must have a most beneficial effect on the future life of the boys."

Sir Charles Lilley, late Chief Justice of Queensland, accompanied by Mr. M. A. H. Fitzhardinge, J.P., writes:—"I have derived the greatest possible pleasure from my visit. I am sure the value of the discipline on board this ship cannot be overestimated. The feeling which it must create among the boys of the value of good character in life must prove a powerful safeguard in their future life, wherever it may be passed."

The Hon. F. H. Piessé, M.P., Commissioner of Railways, and Director of Public Works, Perth, Western Australia, writes:—"I have had great pleasure in making a complete inspection of the ship, and am surprised to find such an admirable and useful institution. The discipline is excellent, and the training received by the boys should fit them for almost any occupation in after life. * * *

Mr.

Mr. T. A. Coghlan, late Commissioner, Public Service Board :—" Everything on board is a tribute to the excellence of the system followed. The ship is a true reformatory."

Messrs. S. Phillips and W. F. Schey, Ms.'P. :—" Exceedingly pleased with everything I have seen on the ship." " An excellent institution, excellently conducted."

Mr. George Steward, Under Secretary, Tasmania :—" Am delighted with all I have seen ; have spent one of the most profitable afternoons in my official life in the direction of cognate institutions."

These visits do much to encourage the youngsters by showing that there are numbers of influential people who evince an interest in their doings. They also serve to relieve the monotony of the ordinary everyday procedure ; frequently they also prove of service in the matter of enlisting sympathetic help to our boys when placed at service in the interior of the Colony, where a kindly word of encouragement proves invaluable at a time when they feel their isolation from former companionship.

23. I would take this opportunity of returning my grateful thanks to the numbers of ladies and gentlemen who have been instrumental in rendering assistance in the form of contributions to the boys' amusement during the past year, viz. :—The Honorable Jacob Garrard, M.P., Minister of Public Instruction, Mr. J. C. Maynard, J.P., Under Secretary, His Honor Judge Fitzhardinge, Mr. E. Fosbery, J.P., Mr. F. Bridges, Chief Inspector, Dr. Morris, LL.D., Mr. T. A. Dibbs, J.P., Messrs. Horsfall and McCaughey, Messrs. Baker and Rouse, Mesdames Smith and Gollan, the fruit-growers of Dural, Messrs. Abel and Company, the Committees of the Anniversary, Balmain, Drummoyne and Hunter's Hill, and New South Wales Yacht Club Regattas.

24. The ship was honored with a visit from His Excellency the Governor and Viscountess Hampden, accompanied by Captain Ferguson, A.D.C., who were received on board by the Honorable J. Garrard, M.P., and expressed pleasure at what was seen.

25. Two very unpleasant events have been experienced which I think it well to mention, although the latter of these is outside the period under review. Both caused me considerable anxiety. The first took place during a sudden and heavy squall, in which the ship's moorings parted, and the result was that we nearly drifted ashore. The second was a terrific blow of cyclonic violence from the N.E., which caused considerable damage to movable goods on board, but during which the ship fortunately only dragged her anchors slightly. On both occasions the boys behaved in the most creditable manner, obeying implicitly and without fear or confusion all orders. The circumstances were quite exceptional, and such as I trust it may never be my experience to undergo again.

26. I cannot close my report without bringing under notice the loyal and efficient service rendered me by my capable and painstaking staff of officers. Without any exception, I have found them deserving of the highest encomium, willing and ready to give cheerful service whenever the ship's duties required it.

The institution sustained a severe loss in the removal of her worthy Commander, Captain Neitenstein, to which I before referred. A second loss was the withdrawal of a specially-qualified and popular officer, Mr. Stayner, who made a most reliable Lieutenant. Both these officers now fill more responsible positions, and their promotions have caused an opportunity for rewarding most of the staff after lengthy service, which fact, apart from my own advancement, is very pleasing to me.

I feel sure that the Institution will not be allowed to deteriorate by the removal of previous valued officials, inasmuch that the aim and desire of those taking up their duties will be to fully sustain the high standard attained in its work by their predecessors.

I have, &c.,
W. H. MASON,
Commander and Superintendent.

Class 4.

Parents of bad character :—

Mother prostitute ; father deserted...	4
Mother prostitute ; father dead	2
Mother prostitute ; boys illegitimate	9
Mother deserted ; father dead	2
Mother prostitute ; father neglects to control	2
Mother a drunkard ; father unable to control	2
Father in gaol ; mother deserted	1
Father a drunkard ; mother dead	2
Father deserted ; mother dead	4
Father deserted ; mother neglects to control	11
Father a drunkard ; mother neglects to control	5
Father in gaol ; mother unable to control	3
Father in gaol ; mother dead...	3
Father in lunatic asylum ; mother no control	1
Mother in gaol ; father neglects to control...	1
Mother a drunkard ; father dead	1
Both parents in gaol	2
Parents unfit to have charge of their sons	4
Total	59, or 35 per cent.

(F.)

AGES of Boys admitted.

Under 12	49
12 to 14	55
Over 14	67

(G.)

POLICE Courts committing.

Sydney and suburbs...	93
Country	78

(H.)

TOTAL Expenditure, including all repairs and alterations.

	£	s.	d.
1. Provisions	3,732	2	1
2. Salaries (including pay of three school-teachers)	2,856	2	10
3. Clothing and boots	381	8	6
4. Charges of Public Works Department for alterations and repairs	551	19	1
5. Stores, rope, paint, repairing boats, keeping grounds in order	372	5	1
6. Fuel and light	209	16	5
7. Bedding, hammocks, blankets, bags	192	9	10
8. School appliances, library, reading-room, and good-conduct pay	89	4	1
9. Band instruments, music, and repairs...	57	14	0
10. Medicines, hospital expenses	54	14	1
11. Petty expenditure	56	16	6
12. Laundry, including scrubbing-brushes, towels	22	14	0
13. Crockery, knives, forks, mess utensils	69	1	10
14. Apprentices' travelling expenses	128	7	6
15. Apprentices' outfits	209	14	4
			<hr/>
Deduct parent's contributions	£372	6	2
„ value of half stores	1,200	0	0
			<hr/>
Net cost		7,412	4 0
Cost per head of boys maintained on ship only :—			
Calculated on year's enrolment (578)	£12	16	5
„ on daily average aboard (357)	20	15	3
Expenses in connection with apprentices :—			
Proportion of salaries	£300	0	0
Visiting, stamps, stationery	25	0	0
Railway fares	128	7	6
Outfits	209	14	4
			<hr/>
		663	1 10
Total expenditure for the year	£8,075	5	10
Cost per head of apprentices, £1 12s. 11d.			
Number of boys under the Superintendent's legal control, 759.			
Cost per head for the year, £10 12s. 9d.			

GROWTH and Progress of the Institution as compared with twenty years ago.

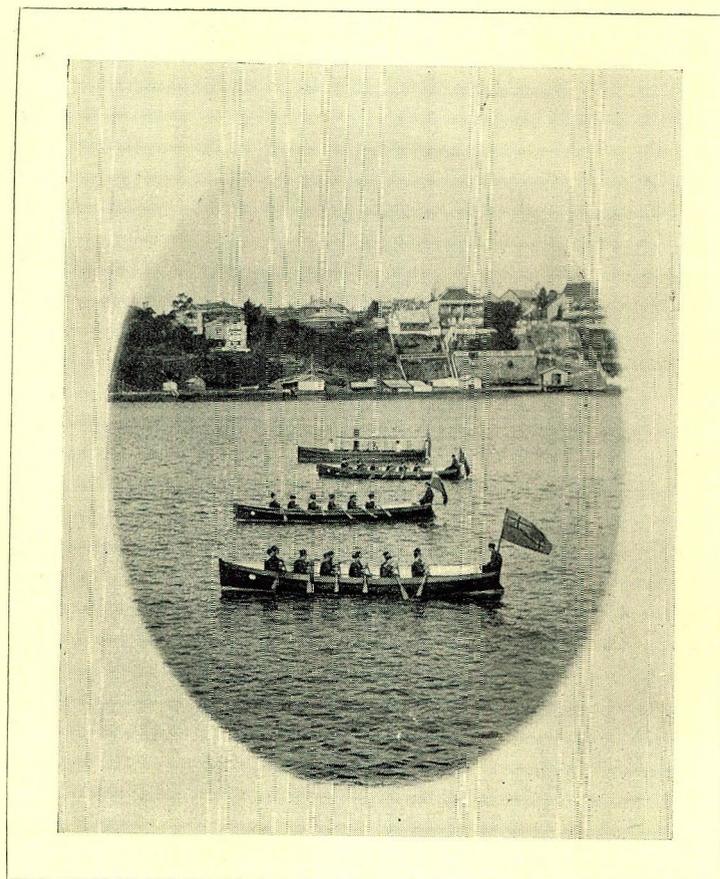
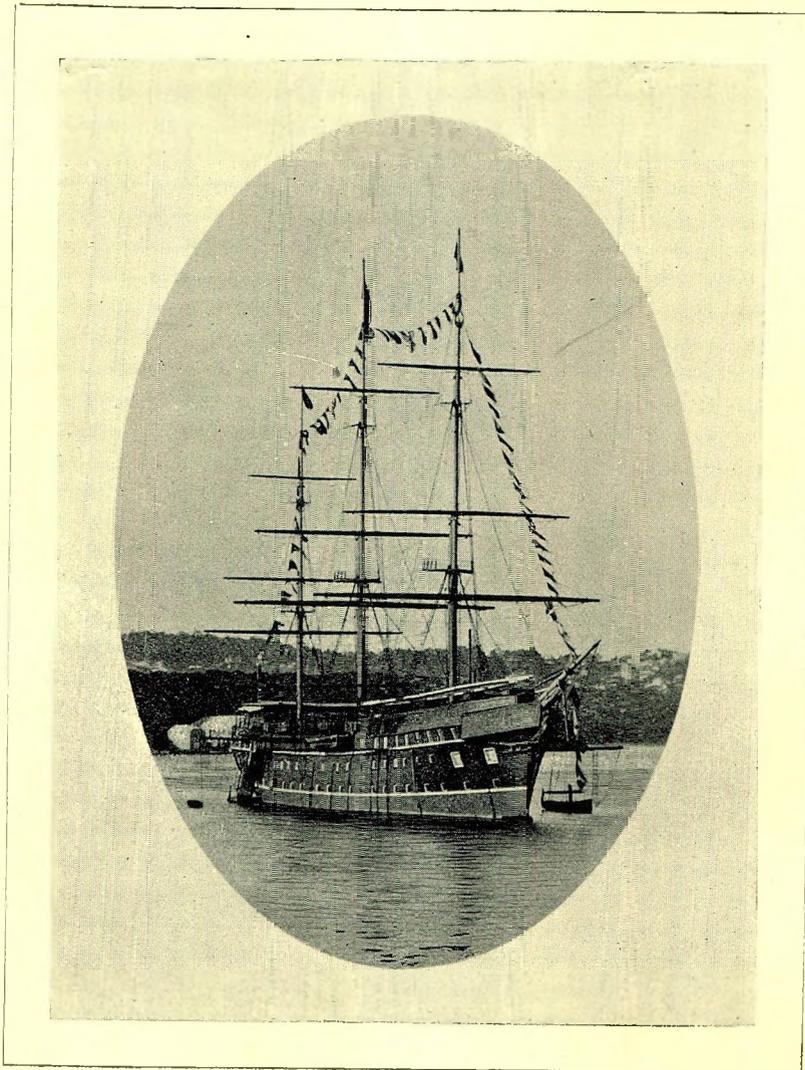
Item.	1877.	Year ended 30th April, 1897.	Remarks.
Admissions	63...	171...	Increase of 108.
Discharges	78...	246 ..	Increase of 168.
Deaths	0...	0...	.....
Absconders	1...	0...	.....
Cost per head	£37 15s. 11d. ...	£20 15s. 3d. ...	Decrease £17 0s. 8d.
Enrolment	174...	578...	Increase of 404.
Daily average	100...	357...	Increase of 257.
Medical expenses	{ £86 15s. 8d. ... 17s. 4d. per head ...	{ £54 14s. 1d. ... 3s. 1d. per head ...	} Reduction of 14s. 3d. per head.

EDUCATIONAL Status of Admissions and Discharges.

	Well.	Indifferent.	Not.	Total.
READING.				
On board 30th April, 1896	213	183	11	407
Admitted to 30th April, 1897	25	93	53	171
Discharged to 30th April, 1897	183	61	0	246
On board 30th April, 1897	153	65	14	332
WRITING.				
On board 30th April, 1896	270	126	11	407
Admitted to 30th April, 1897	18	100	53	171
Discharged to 30th April, 1897	197	49	0	246
On board 30th April, 1897	157	61	14	332
ARITHMETIC.				
On board 30th April, 1896	204	192	11	407
Admitted to 30th April, 1897	13	97	61	171
Discharged to 30th April, 1897	147	99	0	246
On board 30th April, 1897	111	107	14	332

[Twelve photographs.]

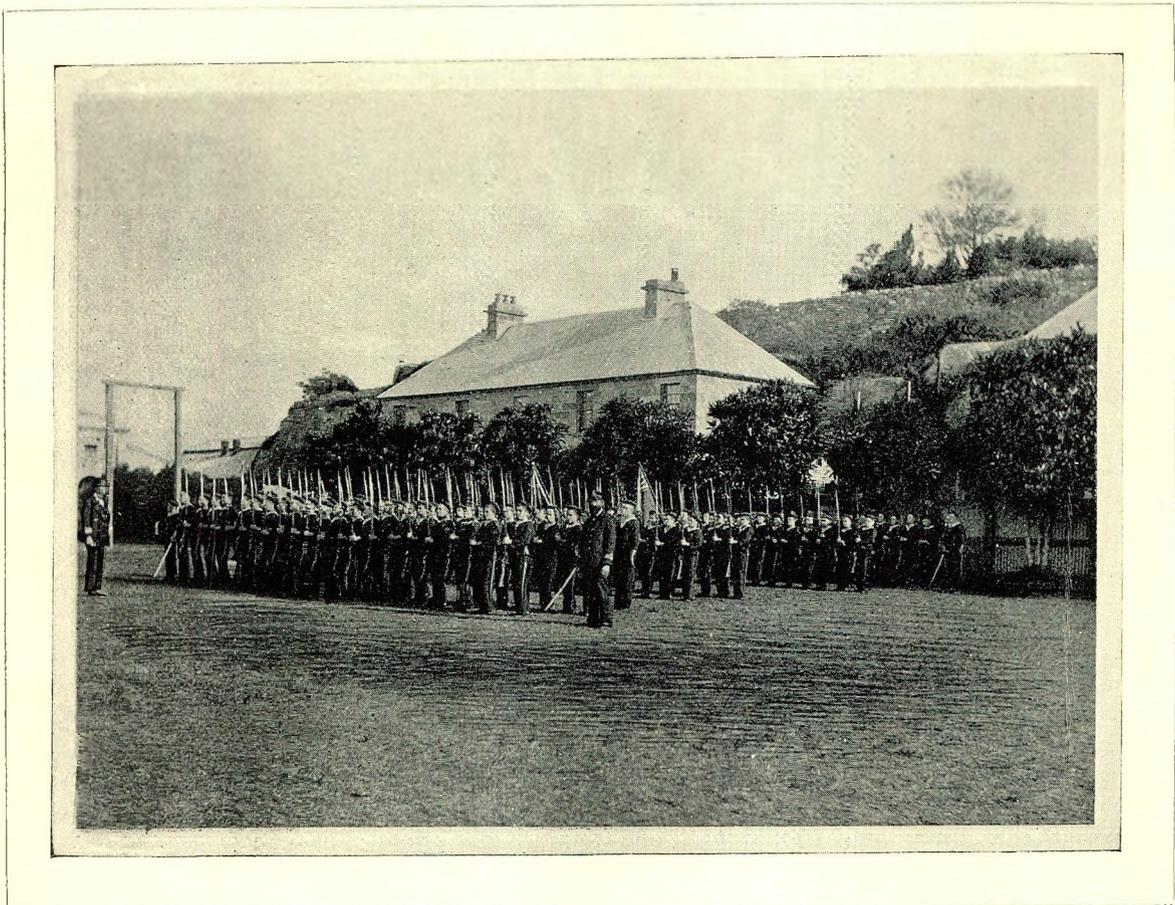
[8s.]



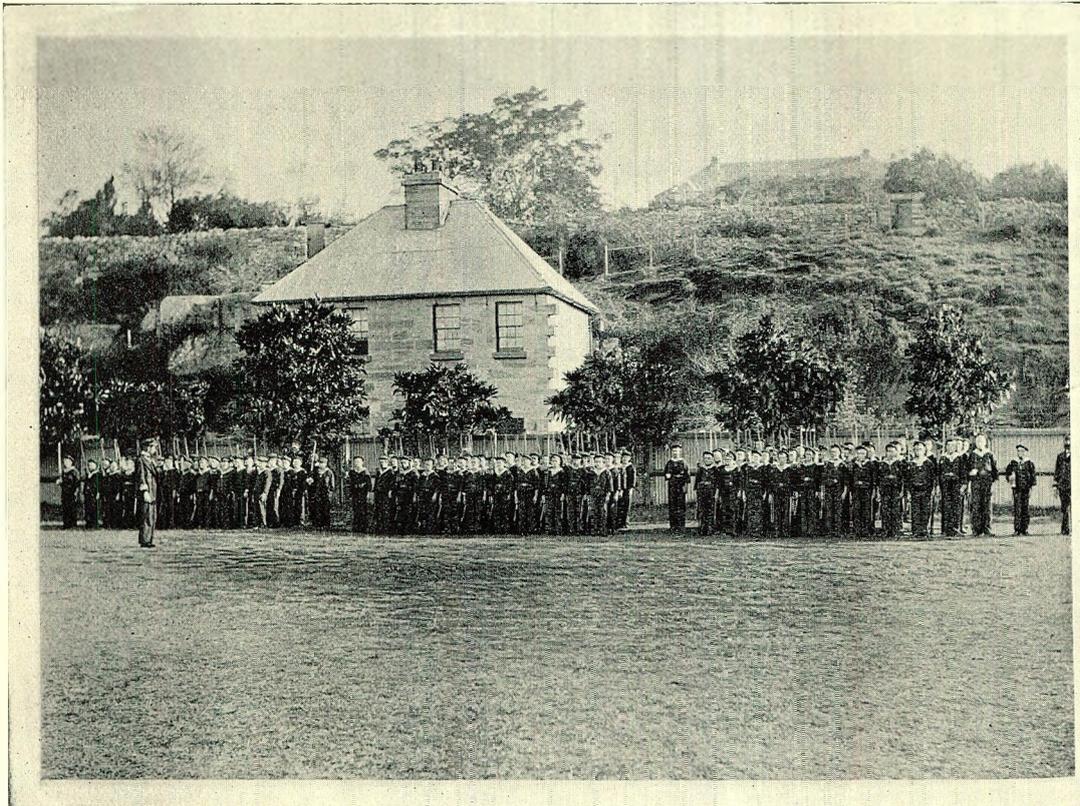
THREE CUTTERS AND STEAM-LAUNCH.



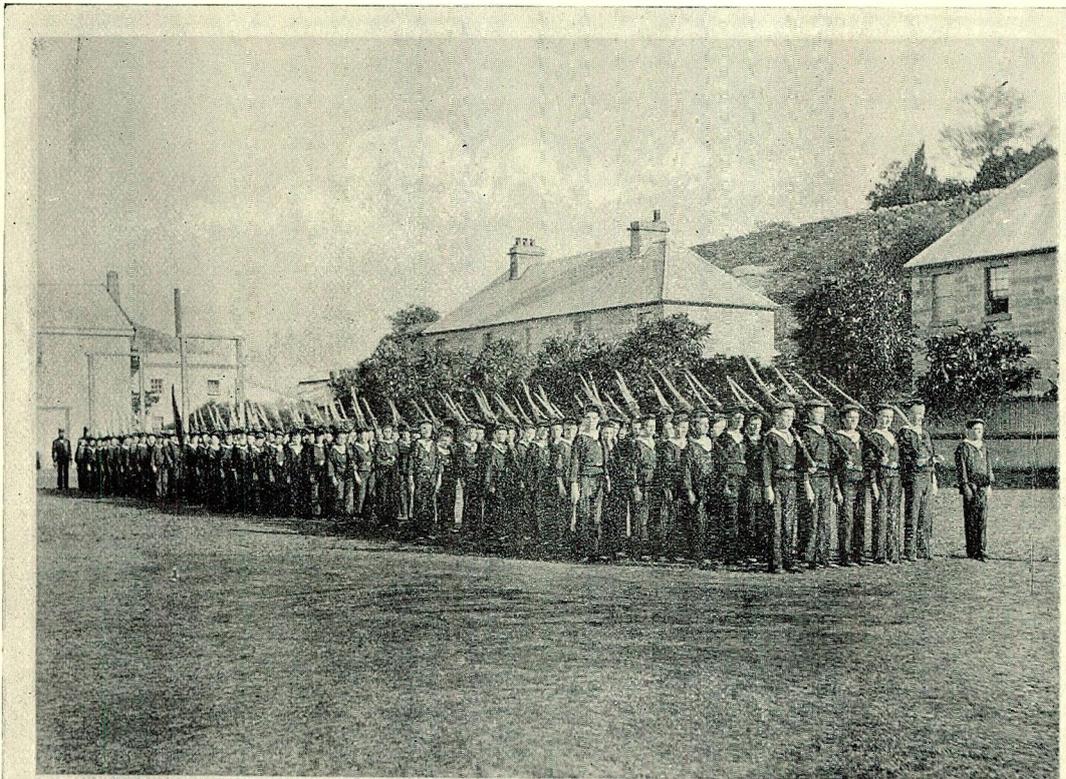
"SOBRAON" BAND.



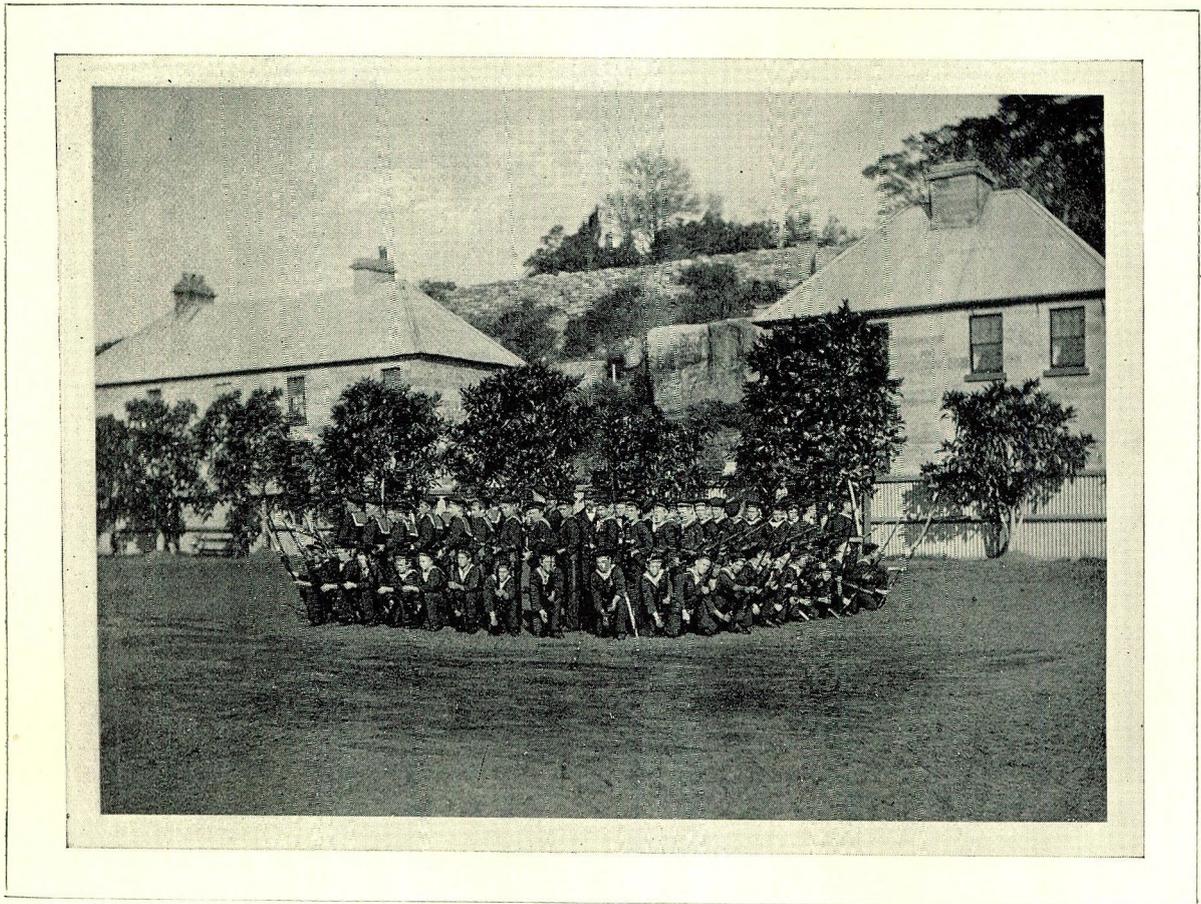
IN COLUMN—"PRESENT ARMS."



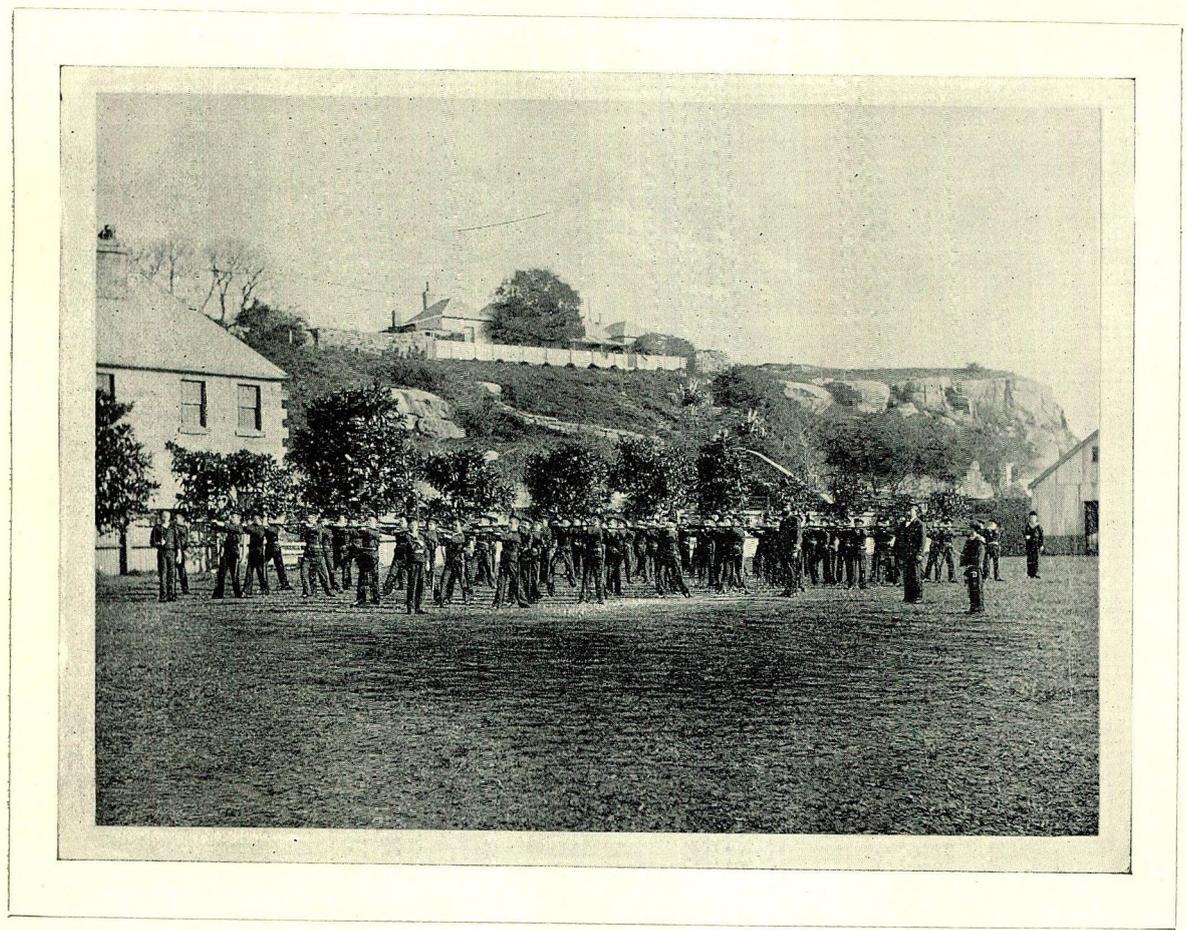
IN COMPANIES—"SHOULDER ARMS."



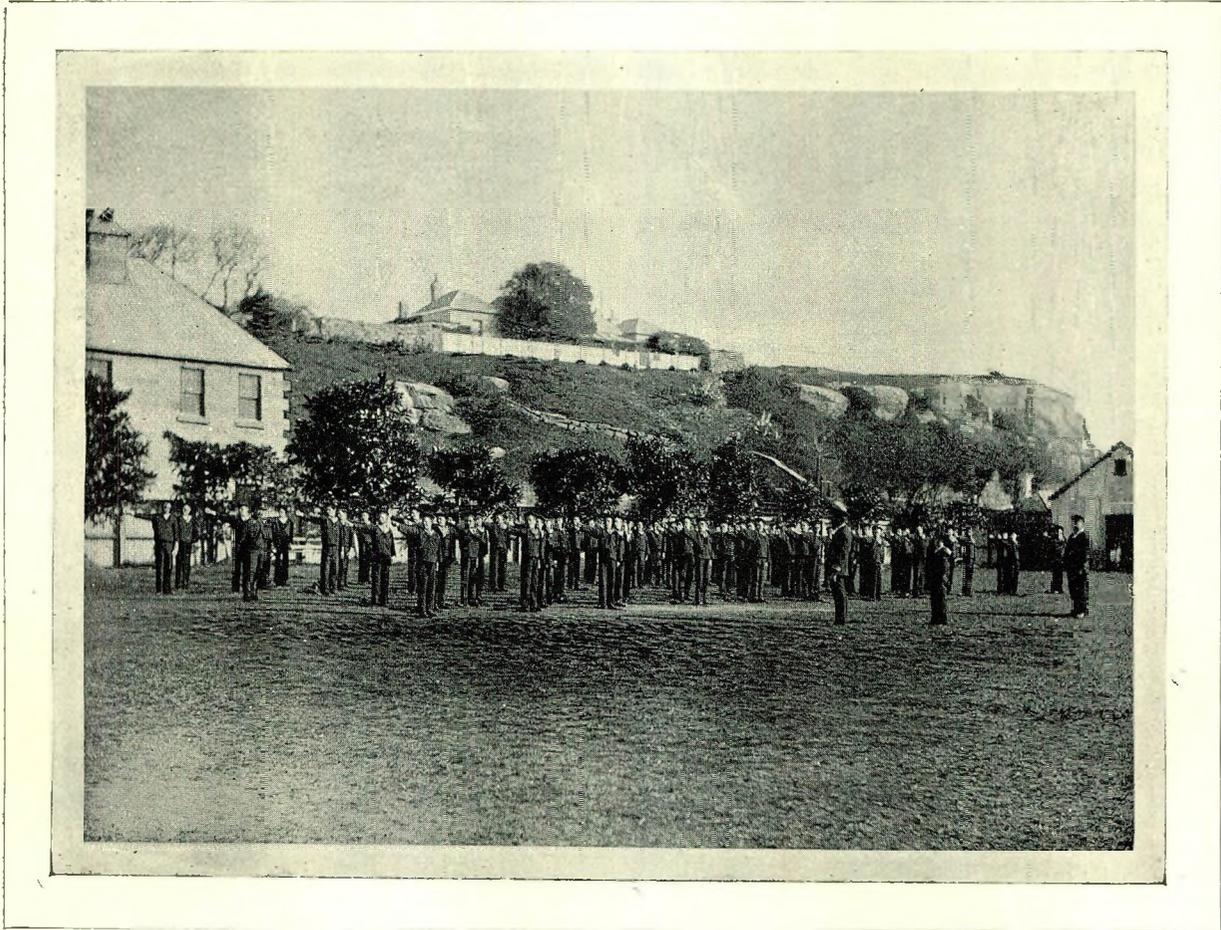
BATTALION IN FOURS—"SLOPE ARMS."



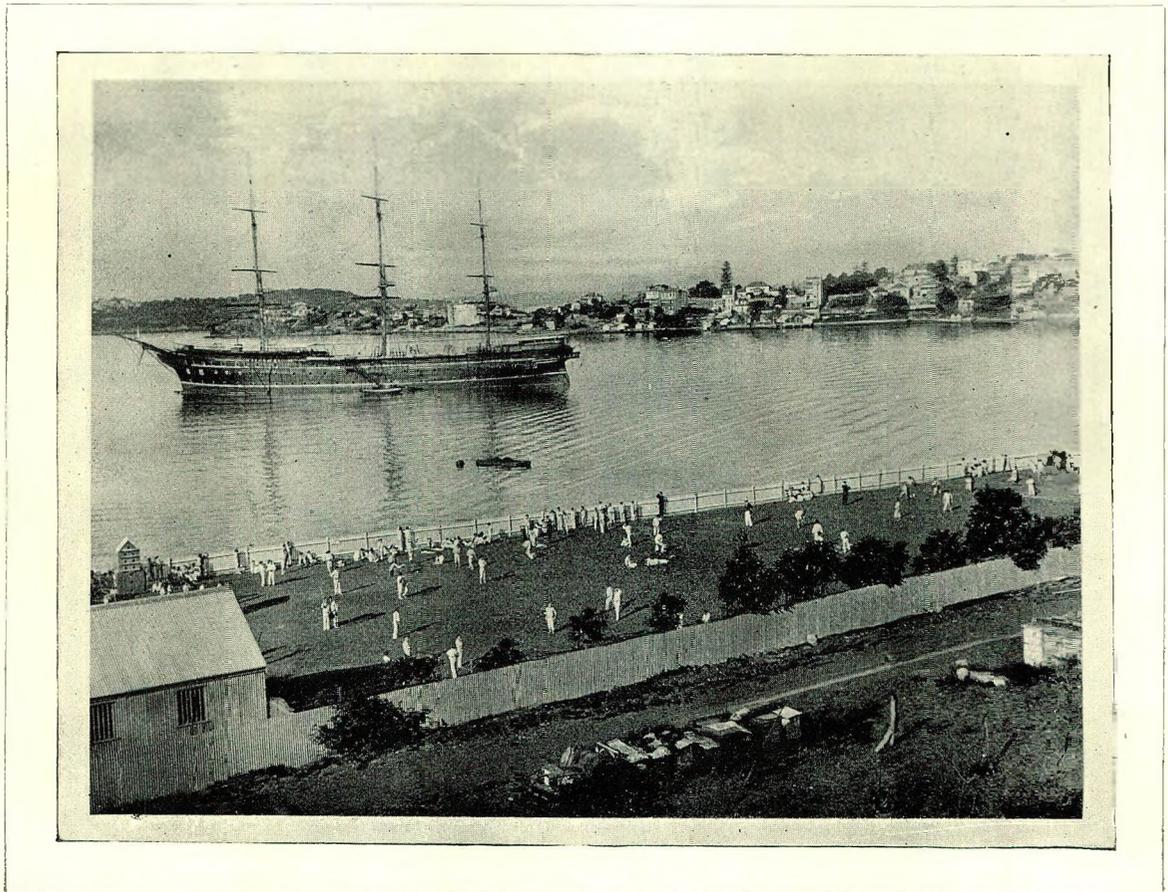
HOLLOW SQUARE—"CAVALRY."



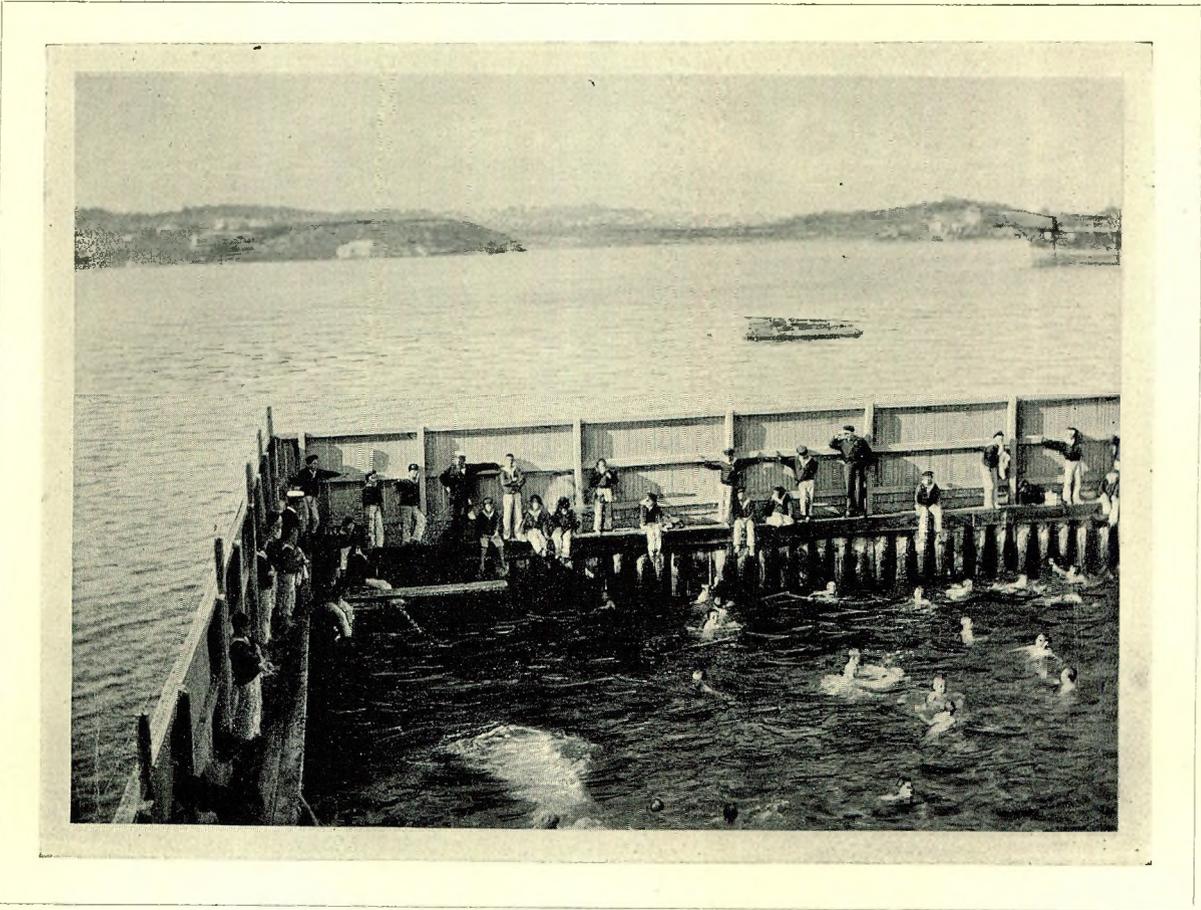
PHYSICAL DRILL—WITH ARMS.



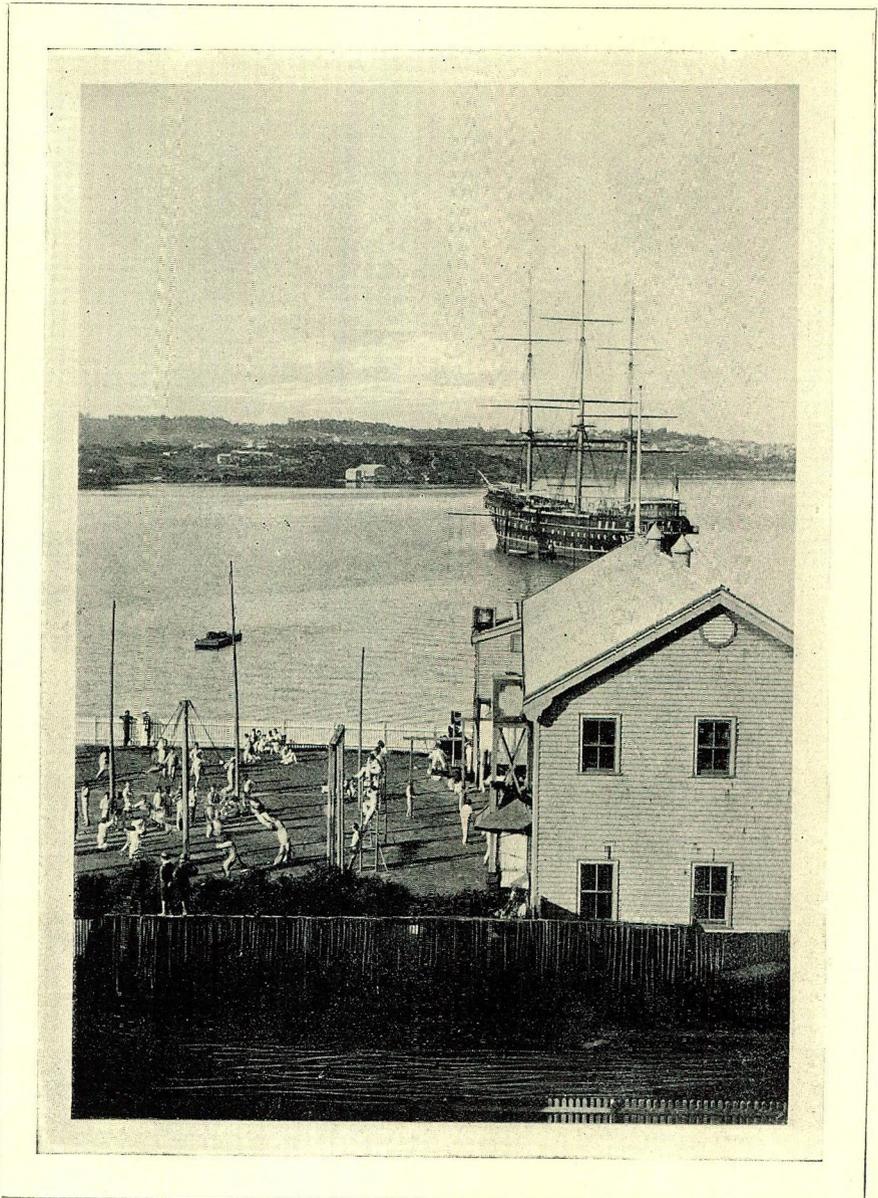
PHYSICAL DRILL—WITHOUT ARMS.



BOYS' PLAYGROUND—RECREATION.



SWIMMING-BATH—RECREATION.



GYMNASIUM—RECREATION.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

EDUCATION.

(RETURN RESPECTING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CADET CORPS.)

Printed under No. 20 Report from Printing Committee, 21 October, 1897.

Question.

11. DR. ROSS *asked* THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,—
 (1.) The number of Cadet Corps in the Colony in connection with our Public Schools?
 (2.) The number in each corps?
 (3.) The name of the school to which the corps belongs?

Answer.

- (1.) Ninety-four.
 (2.) See Return appended.
 (3.) See Return appended.

LIST of Cadet Corps, City and Suburbs.

Name of School.	No. of Cadets.	Name of School.	No. of Cadets.
Ashfield	35	Kogarah	20
Auburn	31	Marrickville	16
Auburn, North	25	Newtown	90
Balmain	41	Newtown, North	40
Birchgrove	50	Paddington	60
Burwood	35	Parramatta, North	40
Camdenville	30	Parramatta, South	40
Camperdown	50	Plunkett-street... ..	60
Canterbury	26	Randwick	10
Cleveland-street	76	Redfern... ..	60
Crown-street	70	Rockdale	17
Croydon	30	Ryde	30
Croydon Park	25	Stannmore	20
Darlington	40	St. Peters	12
Double Bay	12	Summer Hill	42
Erskineville	30	Waterloo	33
Fort-street	40	Waverley	10
Forest Lodge	10	William-street... ..	40
Gardener's Road	25	Woolahra	50
Glebe	40	Willoughby	25
Glenmore Road	13	Petersham	40
Granville	35	Surry Hills, South	27
Granville, North	25	Blackfriars	20
Greenwich... ..	15		
Hurstville... ..	60		
			1,674

List of Cadet Corps, Country Districts.

Name of School.	No. of Cadets.	Name of School.	No. of Cadets
Adaminaby	17	Junee	20
Adelong	13	Kelso	15
Albury	65	Kempsey	15
Armidale	50	Niama	32
Bathurst	35	Liverpool	25
Blayney	27	Miltown	17
Bourke	12	Moama	32
Bowral	15	Lithgow	36
Braidwood	30	Mudgee	62
Bungendore	4	Murrumbidgee	31
Camden	5	Muswellbrook	20
Campbelltown	20	Orange	78
Canowindra	9	Penrith	39
Condobolin	20	Raymond Terrace	23
Cooma	30	Singleton	56
Crookwell	20	Tamworth	48
Cudal	12	Tamworth, West	13
Deniliquin	30	Tumut	20
Dubbo	56	Wagga Wagga	30
Glen Innes	33	Wagga Wagga, South	35
Goulburn	30	Wellington	52
Goulburn, South	20	Young	19
Grafton	65		
Grenfell	29		
			1,365

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

FISHERIES OF THE COLONY.
(REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS OF FISHERIES FOR YEAR 1895.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 44 Vic. No. 26, sec. 69.

Printed under No. 17 Report from Printing Committee, 26 August, 1897.

Report of the Commissioners of Fisheries for New South Wales on the Fisheries of the Colony, for the year ending the 31st December, 1895.

Sir,

In submitting our Report on the Fisheries of this Colony for the year 1895, we have to record the resignation of Dr. Edward Pearson Ramsay, F.R.S.E., LL.D. This vacancy has been filled by the appointment of F. Farnell, Esq., M.P.

The composition of the Board otherwise remains unchanged, the Hon. W. R. Campbell, M.L.C., and J. R. Hill, Esq., whose terms of office expired in October, having been reappointed.

Finance.

The revenue of the Department has suffered a reduction of £150 19s. 11d.

This is attributable to the smaller number of fishermen's and fishing-boat licenses which were applied for during the year, also to a diminution in the amounts received from rents on arcas leased for the purpose of oyster-culture—deposits on applications—deed fees and transfer fees on leases, fines and forfeitures.

Oysters.

We are again able to report a marked improvement in the supply of oysters which have been taken from the beds and deposits under lease for the purpose of oyster-culture during the year, the total number of bags removed being 9,413, showing an increase of 1,327 upon that of last year, whilst the quantity imported from Queensland was 2,103 as against 1,536, showing an increase of 567; from New Zealand, 4,981 as against 5,137, showing a small decrease of 156.

The following figures show the quantities taken from the principal leased areas:—Clarence River, 26 bags as against 69 bags for previous year; Richmond River, 254 as against 400; Tweed River, 153 as against 138; Camden Haven, 969 as against 749; Hastings River, 239 as against 216; Manning River, 1,948 against 1,843; Wallis Lake, 2,140 against 2,012; Port Stephens, 737 against 465; Hunter River, 589 against 302; Hawkesbury River, 864 against 660; Bellinger River, 166 against 166; Evans' River, 166 against 192; George's River, 27 as against 12; Shoalhaven River, 112 as against 250; Clyde River, 803 against 405; Bermagoe River, 50 as against 24; Narrawillie Creek, 18; Brisbane Water, 115; Port Hacking, 20; Pittwater, 17.

*31—A

[697 copies.—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £10 7s. 3d.]

It

It will be observed that there has been an increase in the output from the Clyde River of 398 bags; Camden Haven, 220; Hunter River, 287; Port Stephens, 272; Hawkesbury River, 204; Manning River, 205; and Wallis Lake, 88.

We have still to contend with a few lessees who follow out a systematic robbing of oysters from the Crown lands not under lease; using their leased areas as a depository for their spoil, and forwarding the oysters to market in bags branded in accordance with the provisions of the Oyster Fisheries Act.

For this unsatisfactory state of affairs we must hold ourselves blameless, having submitted a remedy for it in 1890, when we saw what would come of the defects in the existing law; and, if our suggestions had been carried out, these depredations could not have been carried on. Seeing that there was no chance of immediate new legislation, we invited the Honorable the Chief Secretary to have section 15 of the Oyster Fisheries Act repealed, but no action was taken. If this had been done it would have helped materially in protecting the Crown lands from the ravages of pilferers, and thus saved the unleased areas from being denuded of oysters.

The worm disease has, we are pleased to note, greatly diminished. Some of the lessees have done much to stamp out the pest, especially in the Hunter River, which was, without doubt, the worst infested river in the Colony. Some have simply let it take its course, to the detriment of their own interests and those of others in the vicinity.

It was reported to us during the year that the worm pest had made its appearance in the Manning River. Notice was sent to the lessees informing them; fortunately, the statement proved to be greatly exaggerated.

At the close of the year a number of applications were received from lessees for renewal of their leases under section 4 of the Oyster Act, which were granted. This gives them a fresh tenure for fifteen years.

There are no arrears of rent for oyster leases in consequence of the system at present in vogue of not allowing the rents to accumulate.

There is good reason for believing that there will be an increase in applications for oyster leases during the coming year, as the spawning has been good, some of the foreshores showing young oysters in abundance.

Lessees should guard their own interests to prevent diseased shells being transhipped to waters for the purpose of forming a hard bottom on any lease, as, although the shelly bottom may be made, the disease is transferred to that particular bed.

The oyster deposits in the Colony, more especially in the Northern Division, have materially improved,—indeed, to such an extent as to lead us to hope that, in the near future, oysters from the parts referred to will be as plentiful in the market as heretofore.

So far as oyster-culture is concerned, the lessees, with few exceptions, do not carry on oyster-culture, simply contenting themselves with taking oysters from the areas, without the slightest thought or intention of cultivating or replenishing the supply. The lessees who cultivate oysters to the best of their ability not only benefit themselves, but, in their honest endeavours to carry out the provisions of the Oyster Fisheries Act, improve the public estate. Some of the lessees have expended considerable sums in laying down stones and wood for the collection of spat, and removing the oysters upon their attaining a moderate size to the fattening beds, to mature for market. Other lessees expend large sums in having their deep water-beds kept clear, by having men to work the dredge without the netting, thus keeping the oysters free from mud; if the disease is bad, they work the dredge with the net on, and when the oysters are put into the boat those that are diseased are put aside, and the clean ones put back in the water. The diseased oysters are taken to the shore and put out of the range of the water, to kill the worm and its eggs before being replaced on the beds. This has been largely done on the Hunter River with satisfactory results.

The spawning season has, generally speaking, been fair; but in the Tweed and Richmond Rivers, Camden Haven, Manning River, and Wallis Lake, Port Stephens, Hunter and Clyde Rivers it has been very good. We have received specimens of stones, &c., from the Camden Haven, Wallis Lake, Hunter and Clyde Rivers, which show the prolific fall of spat which has taken place there, the specimens being literally covered with young oysters. It is most pleasing to note that the Hunter River oyster beds are in a fair way to being restored to their former condition, as the spawning has been more general than it has been for some years past.

Inland Waters.

The returns from Moama and Koondrook, two principal centres on the Murray River from which Victoria draws her chief supply of freshwater fish, show a substantial increase of 12,758 lb. over the amount sent during the previous year. There were 2,413 lb. of this class of fish sent to the Woolloomooloo Markets during the year, which arrived in splendid order, and sold at very satisfactory prices, paying the catchers well for their labour. Attention may be drawn to the way in which some of the fish were sent to market, there being such carelessness evinced in the packing that the value of the fish has been much depreciated, and the fishermen thus lose a large portion of the benefits arising from their labour.

We note with regret the number of Murray cod which have been sent to market in full roe, and think the time has come for restrictions to be placed upon the fish being caught at those periods when the spawning is at hand.

We have maintained the closures in the rivers adjacent to various inland towns, making the closure against the use of nets to extend as a rule for a distance of 5 miles on each side of the towns.

The benefits accruing from these closures are very evident, and demonstrate the desirableness of continuing the system of protecting the breeding grounds as much as possible.

The Victorian authorities having taken in hand the matter of protecting the Murray River, in conjunction with this Colony, have issued a proclamation prohibiting any person having in their possession during certain months Murray cod, perch, or bream in Victoria. This will help this Colony in its desire to protect the fish in these waters, and the difficulty experienced in the past with the Victorian fishermen will be avoided.

During the year numbers of fish have died in the upper parts of the Hunter River. Many of the affected fish, on being examined, were found to be suffering from the worst of all diseases which fish are liable to take, viz., *Saprolegnia ferox*.

Fishing Industry.

The fish forwarded direct to the Woolloomooloo Market during the year has been 39,030 baskets, showing a decrease of 3,252 baskets; still there is no actual falling off in the supply, the returns hereunder showing that there were received in addition in the market 137,037 dozen fish, whereas in the previous year there were only 105,331 dozen, an increase of 31,706 dozen.

There has been also an increase in the amount realised from the sale of fish at the Woolloomooloo Markets, the total amount paid being £26,950 9s. 7d., as against £25,367 15s. 2d. for the previous year, an increase of £1,582 14s. 5d.

At Hudson's Market, situated at Redfern, in close proximity to the Eveleigh Railway Station, a very large amount of fish were received, viz., 26,416 baskets, as against 20,000 received during the previous year, an increase of 6,416, while the amount realised reached £8,251. This illustrates the importance of a more central market being established, more especially for the convenience of the dealers and others who supply the eastern suburbs. This market has the advantage of being close to the station, and having a frontage to the railway line, the fish being delivered at its doors.

From M'Fadyen's Market, situated at Redfern, near the Eveleigh Railway Station, we are not in a position to give very full returns, but from the limited information at our disposal, there appears to have been a fair quantity received, the sale of which came to £2,100; therefore, with this and the other two markets, the fish sold realised the satisfactory total of £37,302 9s. 7d.

It is impossible to estimate the amount realised on the sale of fish other than that quoted, as in the city and suburbs a large quantity is sold, for which no record can be obtained. It is stated that from Botany and George's River alone over 3,000 baskets were so sold, and throughout the Colony quantities of fish are disposed of, both fresh and salt water, sent away by train. Referring to the undermentioned list, an idea may be obtained of the amount taken at some of our fishing stations and sent to Sydney, viz.:—Clarence River, 2,300 baskets; Wallis Lake, 2,600; Port Stephens, 7,800; Lake Macquarie, 13,850; Tuggerah Lake, 10,300; Brisbane Water, 2,592; Hawkesbury River, 4,160; Sydney Harbour, 10,500; Botany and George's River, 9,000; Lake Illawarra, 9,252; Shoalhaven River, 2,000; Sussex Inlet, 1,240; Bateman's Bay, 700; Bermagoe, 1,100; Tathra, 60; Merimbula, 200; Eden, 45—giving a total of 77,699 baskets. This does not include fish sent direct from the fishing-grounds to the country by train.

Newcastle has received 3,640 baskets of fish, caught in the Hunter River and tributaries, giving the very handsome total of 81,339 baskets, and as each basket contains about 70 lb. weight, this shows that not less than 5,693,730 lb. of fish were caught for Sydney and Newcastle alone.

There has been an increase in the supply of nearly all kinds of fish, more especially the finer kinds, viz. :—There were received in Woolloomooloo Market 5,802 dozen of schnapper, as against 4,711 during last year, an increase of 1,091 dozen; of black bream 20,076 dozen were received, as against 9,453, an increase of 10,623 dozen; of flathead 11,520 dozen, as against 9,021, being an increase of 2,499 dozen; of whiting 10,812 dozen, as against 8,181 dozen, being an increase of 2,631 dozen; of soles and flounders 2,802 dozen, as against 1,746 dozen, being a small increase of 1,056 dozen.

There has been a considerable increase in the quantity of fish seized and condemned as unfit for food from January to December, being 1,621 baskets, as against 1,076 of the previous year. It will be noticed that during the month of July there were no less than 219 baskets condemned, as against 29 of the same month of last year, and 1 in May, as against 28 of the corresponding month of the previous year; these fish were seized during the cool weather, having been forwarded from our most distant fisheries. From April to September, 786 baskets were condemned as unfit for food. During the hot months 835 baskets were found unfit for consumption, and condemned. Out of these numbers were included fish which arrived from waters in close proximity to Sydney, as well as those received from distant fisheries.

During the month of March shoals of herrings, almost identical with the English pilchard, visited our coast. In the month of September shoals came into our harbour when an effort was made to secure them, and when caught they were sold at the markets at a very small price. No attempt was made to cure them on a commercial basis. One of the fish agents, as an experiment, cured about forty dozen, and his efforts proved a success. The fish were so plentiful that one fisherman who shot his gar-fish net, 90 fathoms in length, could not land it on account of the vast quantity of fish he had surrounded. He was obliged to hold down the cork lines to allow very many to escape, and by this means landed 90 baskets. Each basket of such fish would weigh 80 lb.; this would give his catch as 7,200 lb.

Another species of the herring, class *Clupea sardiniaca*, were also observed passing our port, and a fair quantity caught. The same may be said of these as with the pilchards: no effort was made to procure any for curing. The value of these fish in an economic point of view is without doubt considerable. Besides the two species referred to, there are others which pass in a northerly direction in the winter months in enormous shoals. The fish mentioned are of great value commercially, especially the anchovies, and might be utilised to an unlimited extent in many ways. The application of a little capital and intelligent management would make the herrings, and probably the anchovies, a profitable industry.

We have been informed that the herring appeared to the south in March, whereas they did not appear to have passed our harbour till September. To get complete data of the movements of the herring is hardly possible at present. The masters of vessels trading along the coast, as well as the pilots and others, might be asked to take an interest in this matter and report the vicinity and the movements of the shoals. [See Appendix, page 13.]

We have continued our usual practice in keeping certain waters closed from the use of net fishing, and most gratifying results have followed. The figures quoted largely refute the assertion generally made by fishermen and others that the maintenance of substantial portions of the coastal waters from the operations of fishing nets is destroying the trade and depriving the fishermen of the means of earning a living. We are, however, satisfied that if the waters were not closed the fish supply would soon become exhausted. A great increase in the quantity of smoked fish prepared in the Colony on sale in the city and suburbs is noticeable, and it is fair to assume that the business just begun will increase materially during the coming year. The foundation for an export trade has been laid, and it is to be hoped that some of our full flavoured fish, such as mullet, tailer, cod, mackerel, trevally, and jew-fish, will be introduced with advantage to fish consumers in other parts of the world. There is a general desire expressed by professional fishermen that they should be allowed to sell their own fish in the market under the supervision of an Inspector.

There has been a great increase in the number of men who gain a living by selling fish; a large number of these are foreigners. The prices they obtain are probably about 40 per cent. over the cost; and complaints are frequently made consequently about the retail cost of fish. The proportion of profit to the net fishermen is not commensurate with their labour and outlay, for with market dues and auctioneer's fees their remuneration is not a fair share of what the fish realise.

Coops are used largely by foreigners for keeping their crayfish alive. Nearly the whole of this trade has fallen into the hands of aliens. They have well equipped boats, are persevering, and have established crayfishing grounds on many parts of the coast, especially at Port Stephens. We are of opinion that it is desirable that protection should be afforded the crayfish fisheries. We would have recommended close seasons had the law permitted us to do so.

We have pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of some fine specimens of trout which had been caught in the waters of the Colony, clearly proving that our endeavours in the past to acclimatise this species of fish have been marked with success.

A cormorant, the natural enemy of the trout, caught a splendid specimen at the Prospect Dam, weighing 10 ounces, and 11 inches in length, and one taken from a drain leading from the reservoir was found to be full of milt. During November, H. Copeland, Esq., M.L.A., presented a fish that had been caught stranded in the water at Bibbenluka by H. E. Edwards, Esq., measuring 15 inches in length, and 9½ in girth, the latter gentleman also, in December, reported having caught two trout in the Coolumbuka River, weighing 11 and 8 lb. respectively.

We issued instructions during the year for the Inspectors to carefully note and report the period in which they noticed roe in any one kind of fish, in order that something might be determined as to the seasons in which the fish showed in spawn.

It was reported during December that a number of flounders were observed in the harbour in full roe, and in the same month a female schnapper was caught at the South Reef filled with a very fine advanced roe, which alone weighed between 3 and 4 lb., and the fish weighed 20 lb. when cleaned.

In August a garfish which had been taken from the waters of Port Jackson was in the same condition.

The Inspector stationed at Lake Macquarie reported large bream in full roe during September and October, and the officer at Port Stephens noticed the same in mullet and garfish.

Bream were also caught in George's River during August containing roe.

We cannot conclude our Report without expressing regret at there being no new legislation for the fisheries, although in 1890 we drew special attention to the defects of the Acts which we had to administer, and at the same expressed a hope that the Bill we then submitted would be passed into law, leaving us to administer a very defective Act for so lengthy a period, and contrary to the wishes and advice of the Commissioners.

JAMES C. COX, M.D.,
President.

APPENDICES.

COMMISSIONERS of Fisheries for New South Wales:—

James C. Cox, M.D., President.

Jas. R. Hill, Esq.

Hon. W. R. Campbell, M.L.C.

Hon. S. H. Hyam, M.L.C.

E. P. Ramsay, F.R.S.E., LL.D.

Resigned 16th April, 1895; succeeded by—

F. Farnell, Esq., M.L.A.

Staff.

Lindsay G. Thompson, Secretary and Chief Inspector (absent on Royal Commission from 1st January to 31st December, 1895).

Fred. W. Smithers, Travelling Inspector (Acting Secretary from 1st January to 31st December, 1895).

Livingston F. Mann, First Clerk and Draftsman.

Percival H. O'Mcagher, Clerk.

W. Lannen, Messenger.

Inspectors.

Chas. Gordon, Assistant Inspector of Fisheries, Tuggerah.

John D. Grant, " " George's River.

David W. Benson, " " Wollongong.

Peter Smith, " " Hawkesbury.

Richard Hellings, " " Sydney.

George Glading, " " "

R. Aldrich, " " Lake Macquarie.

Richard Seymour, " " Fish Market, Woolloomooloo.

John Cain, " " Brisbane Water, Tuggerah.

(Appointed from 4th December, 1895.)

Henry Laman, Acting Assistant Inspector of Fisheries, Port Stephens.

W. E. Learoyd, " " Liverpool.

Inland Waters { Osborne Wiltshire, Assistant Inspector of Fisheries, Deniliquin.

{ John A. Manton, " " Moama.

REVENUE of the Department of Fisheries for the year ending 31 December, 1895.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Fisherman's licenses, 735 at 10s.	367	10	0			
" " 147 at 5s.	36	15	0			
Fishing-boat " 331 at 20s.	331	0	0			
" " 84 at 10s.	42	0	0			
					777	5 0
Deposits on lease applications	65	0	0			
Rent on leased areas	1,395	16	0			
Deed fees... ..	8	0	0			
Transfer fees	26	0	0			
Fines, forfeitures, &c.	186	0	5			
					1,680	16 5
Total	£2,458	1	5			

EXPENDITURE of the Department of Fisheries for the year ending 31 December, 1895.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries, as per Estimates-in-Chief	2,230	0	0			
Unexpended of this Vote	Nil					
Actually expended in salaries					2,230	0 0
Contingencies, as per Estimates-in-Chief—						
Travelling expenses... ..	500	0	0			
Incidental expenses	90	0	0			
Erection houses for trout-hatching	250	0	0			
	840	0	0			
Unexpended of this Vote	160	0	0			
					680	0 0
Total amount of Fisheries Vote	3,070	0	0			
Unexpended of this Vote	160	0	0			
Total amount of expenditure... ..	2,910	0	0			

AMOUNT realised from Sale of Fish at Eastern Fish Market, for year 1895.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January	2,494	10	8	August	1,709	18 2
February	2,169	3	0	September	1,733	0 8
March	2,282	5	6	October	2,759	19 3
April	2,409	2	0	November	2,341	4 7
May	2,469	4	0	December	2,178	17 6
June	2,034	6	3			
July	2,368	18	0	Total	£26,950	9 7

RETURN

RETURN showing the quantity, in baskets, of Fish seized under the Fisheries Act, and sent to Charitable Institutions, for year ending 31st December, 1895.

Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
...	3	...	8	...	...	...	...	11

RETURN showing the quantity, in baskets, of Fish seized under the Fisheries Act, and condemned as unfit for food, from January to December, 1895.

Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
193	121	91	246	185	35	219	71	30	115	154	161	1,621

FISH EXPORTED FROM NEW SOUTH WALES TO VICTORIA.

RETURN showing Quantity of Fish exported to Victoria, *via* Moama, during year ending 31 December, 1895.

	lb.		lb.
January	15,000	August	500
February	3,260	September	1,600
March	2,100	October	1,600
April	6,956	November	2,760
May	4,300	December	500
June	600		
July	500	Total	39,676

RETURN showing Quantity of Fish exported to Victoria, *via* Koondrook tram, during the year ending 31 December, 1895.

	lb.		lb.
January	5,000	August	900
February	1,900	September	700
March	2,000	October	3,300
April	4,100	November	800
May	1,900	December	700
June	1,700		
July	1,400	Total	24,400

Total amount exported *via* Moama 39,676 lb.

” ” *via* Koondrook 24,400 ”

Grand total 64,076 lb.

RETURN showing quantity, in bags, of Oysters received from places outside the Colony for year 1895.

	bags.
Queensland	2,103
New Zealand	4,981
Total	7,084

RETURN showing supply of Fish received at the Eastern Market, Woolloomooloo, for year 1895.

Total number of baskets ...	39,030	Nannegai	569 dozen.
Schnapper	5,650 dozen.	Salmon	703 ”
Red bream	5,291 ”	Mullet (sea)	23,020 ”
Black bream	20,855 ”	Mullet of kinds	16,819 ”
Flathead	11,471 ”	Long Toms	99 ”
Whiting	11,393 ”	Rock Cod	34 ”
Flounders	1,184 ”	Garfish	3,683 baskets.
Soles	884 ”	Blackfish	5,279 dozen.
Kingfish	1,193 ”	Teraglin	4,013 ”
Jewfish	17,675 ”	Tailer	2,468 ”
Groper	144 ”	Crayfish	4,620 ”
Travally	3,053 ”	Prawns	5,365 baskets.

NUMBER of bags of Oysters removed from Leased Areas during year ending 31 December, 1895.

Manning River	1,948 bags.	Bermagui	50 bags.
Clyde River	803 ”	Brisbane Water	115 ”
Narrawillie Creek	18 ”	Tweed River	153 ”
Hunter River	589 ”	Bellinger River	166 ”
Port Stephens	587 ”	Shoalhaven	75 ”
Hawkesbury	864 ”	Port Hacking	20 ”
Cape Hawke	510 ”	Pittwater	17 ”
Evans River	166 ”	Hastings River	239 ”
Richmond River	254 ”	Myall Creek	150 ”
Camden Haven	969 ”	Botany	27 ”
Clarence River	26 ”		
Crookhaven	37 ”	Total	9,413 bags.
Wallis Lake	1,630 ”		

SCHEDULE of Applications for Leases of Shore for Oyster Culture during 1895.

Applicant.	Length of Foreshore.	Locality.	Applicant.	Length of Foreshore.	Locality.
Gibbins, F. J.	yards. 500	Hunter River.	McMilan, J.	yards. 500	Durras Lake.
Smith, E. E.	400	Clarence River.	Denham G. & Adkins, E.	500	Hastings River.
Severs, C.	500	Kiah River.	Blanch, J.	500	Port Stephens
Woodward, H.	400	Manning River.	Latona, V.	600	Tuross Lake.
Baalman, P. J.	1,000	Botany Bay.	Cameron, Eliz.	500	Manning River.
Newton, Hannah M.	500	Manning River.	Wells, H.	500	Tweed River.
Johnson, J.	100	Wagonga.			

FINES imposed, year 1895—Seizure of Nets, &c.

Name.	Nature of Offence.	Fine.
Kelly, T.	Fishing in closed waters	Fined £1.
Powell, J.	"	" £1.
Ryland, T.	Fishing without license	" 5s.
Bunnamano, B.	Fishing in closed waters	" £3. Net confiscated.
Farvo, V.	"	" £3.
Passecessi, P.	Fishing with sunk net	" £3.
Favor, F.	"	" £3.
Kelly, T.	Fishing in closed waters	" £1. Net confiscated.
Locani, F.	Fishing with sunk net	" £3
Johns, F.	"	" £2
Cussamalle, M.	"	" £2
Novollo, M.	"	" £2.
Smith J.	Selling undersized fish	" 10s.
Stanley, W.	Fishing in closed waters	" £1. Net confiscated.
Spears, H.	"	" £1.
Stanley, W.	Fishing without licenses	" 5s.
Spears, H.	"	" 5s.
Newbury, E.	Exploding dynamite to take fish	" £10 each.
Marks, P.		
Kelly, G.	Using illegal net	" £2.
White, J.	Fishing in closed waters	" £2.
Wells, J.	Fishing without license	" 10s.
Woodbridge, E.	Fishing with illegal net	" £2. Net returned.
Thurgood, B.	"	" £2.
Woodbridge, E.	Giving wrong name to Inspector	" £2.
Fraser, W.	Fishing in unlicensed boat	" £1.
Fraser, W., junior	"	" £1.
Cook, E.	Fishing in closed waters	" £10.
Cook, J.	"	" £10.
Nicholl, W.	Taking oysters from closed beds	Fined £5.
Stoyles, W.	"	" £5.
Goldsborough, —	"	Summons not served.
Taylor, —	"	"
Francis, W.	"	"
Coote, J.	Fishing in closed waters	Fined 5s. Net confiscated.
Clifford, J.	"	" 5s.
Lewis, T.	"	" 5s.
Cole, W.	"	" £1 10s.
Woods, G.	"	" £1 10s.
Lloyd, W.	"	" £1 10s.
Woods, G.	Fishing without license	" 10s.
Lloyd, W.	"	" 10s.
Williams, C.	"	Case withdrawn.
Bennett, J.	"	"
Whitehall, R.	Taking oysters from closed beds	Fined £5.
Whitehall, R.	"	" £5.
Cole, W.	"	" £5.
Cole, S.	"	" £5.
Lloyd, J.	"	" £5.
Buri, J.	"	" £5.
Luken, P.	Fishing in closed waters	" 5s. Net confiscated.
Harris, F.	"	Summons not served.
M'Carthy, J.	"	"
Coombes, A.	Using illegal net	Case withdrawn.
Coombes, W.	"	"
Davis, J.	"	Fined £2.
Campbell, A.	"	" £2.
Campbell, R.	"	" £2.
Oliver, —	"	" £2.
Beamish, J.	Under Inland Fisheries Act	" £1.
Beamish, J.	"	" £1.
Evanowish, P.	Using sunk net	" £2. Net confiscated.
Polisi, G.	"	" £2.
Cain, C.	Fishing in closed waters	Summons not served.
Moxham, J.	"	"
Thompson, S.	Fishing without license	Case withdrawn.
Tonkins, J.	"	"
Smith, J.	Fishing in closed waters	Fined £1. Net confiscated.
Goodwin, W.	Under Inland Fisheries Act	" 5s.
Lilly, S.	Shipping oysters in unbranded bags	Six charges. Fined £1 on each.
Clifford, J.	Hauling sunk net	Case dismissed.
Jones, J.	"	"
Prior, R.	"	"
Hazelton, W.	"	"

Camden Haven.

Camden Haven cannot be classed as a fish-producing water, on account of there being no certain communication with Sydney, the traders there being sailing craft only. It is strange that while there is no trade done with fresh fish there is no attempt at curing, for there are fish to be caught in abundance; and, moreover, the finer kinds are very plentiful. No doubt the time will come when this place will be used by fishermen.

Oysters.—As usual it has kept up its supply, and from reports to hand it is shown that there has been a good fall of spat on all of the beds there.

Manning River.

Has kept up a very constant supply of fish throughout the year, which was shipped to the metropolis in baskets during the cooler months, and in boxes packed in ice during the warm weather.

The oyster supply has been exceedingly good, and shows an improvement on the previous year, the lessees evidently being aware of the fact that it is essential for them to look well to their leases, and by so doing obtain a greater output.

Wallis Lake.

This place bids fair to rank as foremost amongst our fisheries on account of its wonderful productiveness in both fish and oysters. As regards fish, the output has been very good, but we are of opinion that fish of the finer kinds are on the decrease, it is our intention to recommend that an Inspector be placed there to prevent the ruthless destruction of small and adult fish by the indiscriminate use of nets of any size mesh. The fish arrive from the Lake once and sometimes twice a week by a small steamer, and unless this boat gets caught in bad weather—the fish invariably arrive in good order. With the supervision we propose giving it, we are certain that the supply of fish will increase very much, and will thus be a great boon to the Lake fishermen, and add to the value of the place as a fish-producing water.

Oyster Fisheries.—The oyster fisheries are in a most thriving condition, as most, if not all the forshores are well stocked with oysters, and upon every one, or upon any stone or shell, may be seen a vast quantity of spat. The fall of spat has in our opinion been greater during the last year than any previous one, which no doubt means that the supply of oysters will increase considerably during the ensuing period. Through the splendid prospects of a good supply of oysters setting in, we have had applications for a number of additional areas there, which will give fresh life to oyster culture, and a considerable increase to the revenue. There is one bed, known as the Cutting Bed, which is worthy of notice, being very productive. It is no doubt a unique oyster lease.

Clarence River.

This river has kept up a continuous supply of fish to Sydney throughout the year, which arrived in the market in fair order. In the warmer months, although ice was freely used, it did not prevent a quantity going bad; but, taken all through, the loss has not been very large; and perhaps if a little more care had been used in the packing, the loss would have been reduced to a minimum.

Oysters.—The oysters have not yet recovered from the worm disease, but it is thought it is now decreasing very much.

Bellinger and Macleay Rivers.

Have produced a fair amount of fish, considering the very uncertain mode of transit on account of the bad bars at their entrance frequently causing loss to the catchers, who, having caught their fish, find the steamer cannot cross out, thus leaving them on their hands; and through there being no local demand the fish are thrown away.

The oysters have done well in these waters, and from the large fall of spat which has taken place there is every prospect now of a large output being the result.

Lake Macquarie.

Lake Macquarie has again resumed the premier position with regard to the take of fish during the year. Last year the catch was 11,574 baskets; this year it is 13,850: thus showing a substantial increase of 2,276 baskets of fish. As there was an average number of seventy fishermen working, it gives 197.46 baskets each man for the year, unless we deduct the share each of the twenty-six boats used receives; this will reduce the catch to 141.26 baskets each.

We attribute this increase, in a great measure, to the strict supervision over the closed waters.

During the month of October the whole of the closed waters of this lake were thrown open to net-fishing for thirty days, and in the channel entrance no less than eighteen boats were at work the first night of its opening, and made a catch of 250 baskets of fish, consisting mostly of the finer kinds.

Examination of the closed waters after the expiration of the month showed that they had been almost denuded of fish, and it was some few weeks before the supply returned to its normal state.

Sharks have been caught in large numbers during the latter part of the year, they being induced, no doubt, to enter the lake after the salmon which appeared in very large shoals.

Very large quantities of prawns have been caught here; but as there was little or no sale for them, the catching was discontinued. All prawns for market had to be cooked before shipment.

Large quantities of schnapper have been caught in the net, on one occasion no less than thirty-nine baskets being obtained in one haul.

The closed waters are, according to reports, again abounding with fish. In the open waters fish are not reported to be plentiful by the Inspectors.

The line-fishermen are reported to have made large catches during the year, though it is impossible to state the quantities caught.

Blubber has been exceedingly plentiful, and has caused trouble to the fishermen.

Tuggerah Lakes.

Tuggerah Beach Lakes have produced considerably less fish this year than last. In 1894, 13,888 baskets of fish were caught, and this year 8,071 baskets, showing a decrease of 5,817 baskets.

We deemed it advisable to remove Inspector Gordon from Sydney to take permanent control of these waters, and stop any illegal fishing that might occur in the closed waters at the entrance.

The line fishermen have made many good catches during the past twelve months in and about the channel entrance.

We regret to note that the bar at the mouth of Wyong Creek is causing great trouble, it being with the greatest difficulty that the fisherman can get over it without damaging their boats. The only remedy to this would be by having a small channel cut to admit of boats passing in and out—indeed, we would like to see the channel made deep enough to allow the small steamer which at present carries the fish from the mouth of the creek to Wyong, going about the lake to pick up the fish from different points. This would be a great boon to the fishermen, as it would save them unnecessary travelling, and would also be appreciated by excursionists.

Hawkesbury River.

There has been a very considerable falling off in the catch of fish during the year, as the total is given as 4,160 baskets, as against 5,740 baskets caught during the previous year, showing a decrease of 1,580 baskets. The supply fell off greatly during the month of May, and not till towards the end of the year was there any recovery.

There is no doubt that from the continued dry weather, quantities of fish have worked well up the river, far away from where the net-men of this place would think of going.

Mullet, bream, and whiting, were the principal fish caught. The line-fishers are reported as having made good catches.

Sharks have been very numerous again during the year, especially at Cowan Creek, where they were found to be more plentiful.

Port Jackson.

These waters still continue to produce large quantities of fish and prawns, yet there have not been as many net-boats at work as in previous years. The decrease in fishing-boats have been among those which used nets of a large size mesh, but there has been no diminution in the number of the small mesh-nets, more especially the sunk nets—the most destructive net to fish life; and by reference to the Bill submitted to the Government in 1890, it will be seen that special provision was made to do away with this class of net.

The tributaries have been closed against net-fishing with the usual good results, as will be seen by Inspector Gordon's Report in Appendices. It was decided to close almost all the remaining portion of the harbour during the winter months, viz., waters westward of a line drawn between Parsley Point and George's Head, and from the Spit upwards in Middle Harbour. The result of this has been highly satisfactory, and also saved the continuous use of the nets beforementioned.

The whole harbour being closed against the taking of prawns during the months of June, July, August, and September, also saved the destruction of immature fish.

The line-fishermen have, as usual, caught a great quantity of fish, and we must say that they also destroyed large numbers of small fish.

Although the reward for the destruction of sharks is still open, the calls upon it are not very large; yet we have the satisfaction of knowing that a number of very large man-eaters have been caught, some of which measured 14 feet.

The chief shark catcher is W. Proctor of Chowder Bay.

We still have to draw attention to the polluted state of the Parramatta River and other parts of the harbour where the refuse of tanneries, tweed and other factories are helping to fill the water with a large accumulation of filth, causing the water to throw off noxious and poisonous gases which destroy every vestige of insect and vegetable life intended by nature as food for the fish.

Botany and George's River.

These waters have produced about 9,000 baskets of fish during the year, thus keeping up their reputation, the principal fish caught being mullet, black-bream, blackfish, jewfish, garfish, and whiting. During the year the fish were very plentiful in closed waters, whilst in the open they were very scarce. This tends to show the value of the system of closure.

Finding the fish were so plentiful in the waters we preserved, it was decided to open George's River, which had been closed with Woronora River for a period of two years, from October instead of allowing it to run its full term, viz., to end of July, 1896.

We deemed it advisable, however, to keep the waters of Woronora River closed for the full term.

The line-fishermen have as usual met with very great success throughout the year. We have no means of stating what the actual catch has been, which has no doubt been large, when it is stated that there are no less than 400 boats used for the purpose of line-fishing.

Prawns.—The catch has not been quite so large as taken during the previous year, the falling off having taken place at Lady Robinson's Beach.

Sharks.—Have been more than plentiful in the bay and up the river.

Fisheries Inspectors' Reports.

Sir,

Fisheries Office, Nelson's Bay, Port Stephens, 7 January, 1896.

I have the honor to submit the following Report on the condition of the Port Stephens fisheries for the year 1895:—

The output of fish has been about 7,800 baskets, or an increase of something like 1,300 baskets as compared with previous year. Now, it would appear to anyone unacquainted with these waters that the fishing industry has a bright prospect before it; but, in point of fact, the industry is dead. Certainly some good hauls of fish have been made in the vicinity of the Heads, but they have been travelling fish—either fish that periodically make their exit from the Lakes, or fish approaching from seaward. The great bulk of the fish have been captured in Myall and Smith's Lakes, and it is a rarity now to see a mullet jump in the local waters here.

The distance the fish have to be conveyed from Myall and Smith's Lakes makes the industry in those waters prohibitive to everybody save to those who own small steam launches. There are two such launches employed on the Lakes during the winter months, and one only during summer time. The owners of these launches convey their own fish to Nelson's Bay for transhipment to a somewhat larger vessel; but I have been told that after all expenses are paid very little "grist" remains.

The advent of prawns in the Myall Lake is generally about two month's later than the River Hunter. During the first three months of the year prawn fishing was in full swing, when a rise in the Lake put a stop to the industry.

About 600 bags of oysters have been despatched from the Port Stephens beds. I regret to say that the mud and worm disease is as bad as ever, and that no attempts at eradication have been made by the lessees. Since the advent of the disease, and the disastrous floods which denuded the bed of the river Karuah of its oysters, the oysters have never reappeared in the Karuah.

With regard to the crayfishing industry I have very little to report, as I have no knowledge of the quantities taken during the season; but from observation, and from what I can gather from all sources, it would appear that the grounds have been over-fished and need a rest for a year or two.

I have, &c.,

H. LAMAN,

The Acting Secretary, Sydney.

Acting Assistant Inspector of Fisheries.

Sir,

4 January, 1895.

I have the honor to submit my Report on the waters under my supervision for the year 1895.

Lake Macquarie yielded a great many more fish this year than it did the previous one; but, I must say, I expected a great deal more, for enormous shoals of bream and whiting travelled up the channel to the Lake during the winter months, and not one-fourth of them have been caught. One great drawback to the supply of fish was the exceptionally dry winter. The bottom of the Lake at that period of the year could be seen almost anywhere, and, as the nets used were diver nets, fish could see their way of escape, as soon as they found themselves enclosed, by merely swimming over the cork line. Notwithstanding this fact, two of the largest catches of fish of the species named below that can be remembered by fishermen of Lake Macquarie were obtained by W. Clouten. They were thirty-nine baskets of all schnapper caught on the 2nd July, and eighty baskets of bream caught on the 30th July, both hauls being made within a stone's throw of each other at Wangi Wangi Point. The river and other portions of the Lake were thrown open to the use of fishing nets during October after having been closed for two years. This proved a great harvest to fishermen. Eighteen boats' crews worked in and about the river, where no less than 250 baskets of fish of all kinds were caught on the first day, a great many of them being very large sand whiting. Towards the end of the year salmon came into the river from sea by myriads. These were accompanied by numbers of large sharks. Over a dozen of them were caught with line and hook off the bridge here at night by residents, the largest being 10 feet long. Prawns were very plentiful again this year, but they are of no use for market, as, when cooked, all are found to contain inside some black substance resembling mud. It does not spoil the flavour of the prawn, but they will not sell. A great many are caught by anglers for bait. Amongst those prosecuted for breaches of the provisions of the Fisheries Act were three persons convicted of fishing in closed waters and two others convicted for exploding dynamite to destroy fish. They were fined the minimum penalty, which was afterwards reduced to £3 and costs each. The total number of baskets of fish sent to market and direct to different country towns from Lake Macquarie was 13,850.

I have, &c.,

F. ALDRICH,

MR. F. W. SMITHERS,

Acting Secretary,

Department of Fisheries, Sydney.

Assistant Inspector of Fisheries, Swansea.

Sir,

13 January, 1896.

I have the honor to forward to you my Annual Report of the fisheries of the Parramatta River, which were under my supervision till December, 1895.

There has been a great improvement in the quantity of fish in the Parramatta River this last few months, all the bays being alive with mullet. This I attribute to the closing of Sydney Harbour against net-fishing and prawners during the winter months, and I think this should be done every year. In the winter fish will carry long distances; but in the summer, when fish will not keep, there can always be a supply of fresh-caught fish from Sydney Harbour.

Tuggerah Lakes.

Since 1 December I have been stationed at Tuggerah Lakes.

These lakes are in a very low condition, there having been no Inspector stationed here for two years, and only occasional visits having been made by Inspectors from Sydney.

The low condition of these lakes is due, in a great measure, to the fishermen using great lengths of net, the nets being set and hauled in the entrance from the sea, thereby stopping and frightening the fish away which would otherwise have come into the lakes.

The channel entrance is also almost closed, and will close altogether unless there comes a heavy fall of rain to wash the entrance out. Since I have been stationed here I have seen large shoals of fish come to the entrance, but could not get over, there being not sufficient water to allow them to get in.

In all the creeks there are large quantities of small fish, a large percentage of them being bream from 2½ to 4 inches long.

There

There is a large quantity of blubber in these lakes, which has been the only protection the fish have had lately, the men having to let the blubber out of the net before they get the net half-way in to shore, and a good many fish escape along with the blubber.

There have been several boats left these lakes lately, which must show that the fish are decreasing. The take for the month of December has only been 528 baskets.

The Secretary, Department of Fisheries.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES GORDON,

Assistant Inspector of Fisheries.

Sir,

Hawkesbury River, 9 January, 1896.

I have the honor to submit herewith my annual report on the Net, Line, and Oyster Fisheries of the Hawkesbury River, the district under my supervision.

The total quantity of net and line fish caught and sent to market during the past year is 4,160 baskets, which is a serious falling off of quantities caught in former years.

The kinds of fish caught with the net are principally mullet, bream, whiting, perch, blackfish, whilst the line fishermen contribute jewfish and flathead, and also a few schnapper. Line fishing is also largely carried on by picnic parties.

I beg to state that Cowan Creek, and also the lower Hawkesbury River, is again infested with sharks, whilst turtle are also seen, but difficult to capture.

I beg to state, for your information, that the net fish above enumerated are fairly plentiful during the present time, but that a great scarcity of fish was experienced during the whole of the winter months, when most of the fishermen were compelled to seek employment elsewhere.

I would again respectfully urge upon the Commission the necessity of entirely banishing or abolishing the gar-fish nets, which nets are alone responsible for the great destruction of small and immature fish.

Of the oyster fisheries of the Hawkesbury River, which not many years ago gave employment to several hundred persons on this river, there are still a few oyster leases in existence, but no oyster culture has ever taken place, or ever attempted at the Hawkesbury River.

I beg also to state that there is still some worm disease in the oysters, but this disease is now mostly confined to low water oysters; and it is therefore not a serious obstacle to oyster culture. But the whole object of an oyster lessee is to pilfer all he can get off Crown land not under lease.

The total quantity of oysters shipped during the past year, and said to have come off the leased areas, is 963 bags.

Of this quantity, 100 bags may be said to be New Zealand laid oysters, and not the product of this river.

The Secretary, Department of Fisheries.

I have, &c.,

P. SMITH,

Assistant Inspector.

Sir,

George's River, 6 January, 1896.

I have the honor to submit the following report of the fisheries under my supervision during the year ending 31st December, 1895.

Closed Waters.—In the closed waters of George's and Woronora Rivers throughout the year, mullet and jewfish were in great abundance, while whiting, bream, and other fish were plentiful. Looking from the Como Railway Bridge during the winter months the whiting and bream could be plainly seen lying about the bars and flats. From about the end of September, during every hard blow, the fish would travel, the hard-gut mullet leaving in fine shoals. The anglers obtained some very nice catches of black bream, flathead, and jewfish about the Railway Bridge, Jewfish Point, and other places.

Open Waters.—From the beginning of the year to the latter part of May, fish (principally mullet) were very plentiful, and some very large hauls were made at Kurnell and La Perouse beaches, and during February and March some nice lots of sea garfish also were caught about the Heads and Kurrannulla Beach, but during June, July, and August fish of all descriptions were very scarce, many of the boats and crews leaving for waters both north and south. Others pulled their boats up, and went to work on shore, as they could not catch enough fish to pay for wear and tear of gear. From the beginning of October the fish began to improve in quantity, and about the end of the year were plentiful, in fact, the fisherman say they have seldom seen them more so, but owing to them laying wide and the vast quantities of blubber, they were unable to make any large hauls. Although the George's River was opened to net-fishing on 10th December the fishermen, owing to the blubber, did not work it regularly, but up to the end of the year about thirty hampers of sand whiting and seventy of mullet and blackfish were taken out of these waters. I may state that I cannot account for the scarcity of trumpeter-whiting during the year; and I think it is a good number of years since they were so scarce. In former years, during May and June, they were nearly always to be found about the mouth of the river, but this year they have almost entirely disappeared.

Prawns.—This has been another very prosperous season for prawns. From January to the end of May, and from September to the end of the year, they were very plentiful about the Salt-Pan Creek and Cook's River. At Lady Robinson's Beach during February and March they were in great abundance, as many as thirty hampers being killed in one haul.

Oyster Fisheries.—The oyster fisheries of my district are still in a very bad state and show no signs of improvement, the foreshores being kept bare by the public and oyster pilferers. The mud or worm disease is still prevalent, and has now reached the mangrove leases. I saw some few oysters from leases Nos. 2,250 and 2,258, and three or four in each dozen are very bad, but those that have escaped are in splendid condition.

In conclusion I would like to draw your attention to the great quantities of sharks that now infest these waters. They range from 5 to 12 feet in length, and travel miles up the river, a large one, measuring 10 feet in length, being caught in a net, about 7 miles above the railway bridge. In my opinion it is the mullet that attract these monsters so far up these waters as they are to be often seen breaching after these fish about the river and bay.

Chief Inspector of Fisheries, Sydney.

I have, &c.,

J. D. GRANT,

Assistant Inspector Fisheries, George's River.

Sir,

Sir,

Wollongong, 20th January, 1896.

I have the honor to submit my annual report on the fisheries of the Illawarra District.

Lake Illawarra still keeps its reputation as a most prolific fishery, the output for 1895 showing an increase of 2,063 baskets on that of the previous year.

Seven thousand two hundred and thirty-seven baskets were railed to Sydney to meet the metropolitan supply, and 2,015 were consumed by the inhabitants between Kiama, which is 6 miles to the south of the fishery, and Helensburgh, which is 20 miles to the north.

In addition to these, 248 boxes of prawns were taken, which is an increase of 151 on the previous year.

The varieties caught consisted of bream, blackfish, mullet, flathead, jewfish, and a few perch and whiting.

The supply of bream was much larger than last year, and the quality of the fish much better. During November and December large schools of bream were observed outside and some worked into the lake, of these it was noticed that they were full roed, while fish of the same variety in the creeks and the lake itself were in that condition as early as August and September.

The supply of mullet and garfish was not so good as in previous years, but unusual quantities of the young of the former fish have been noticed this year, and the fishery is well stocked with young fish of the varieties caught. Large shoals of sea garfish have been seen outside, but no attempt made to take them.

No prawns were taken between April and October as they took off during those months, but they were fairly plentiful in November and December.

The channel is fairly well stocked with oysters and no disease exists. Tom Thumb Lagoon and Para Creek are well stocked with young mullet, bream, and whiting. The oyster deposits in the former place are in fair condition.

In September and October outside fishermen reported to me, and I myself saw from the beach at the entrance, immense schools of pilchards at sea. They lay off the coast between Five Islands and Barr's Point for several weeks. No effort was made to capture any.

The crayfish which abound in the reefs of the coast have, as usual, not been worked. I am sure they exist in large and payable quantities.

I regret having to report that, owing to a defect in the "Sunk Nets Act," I failed to get a conviction in a case in which I prosecuted certain fishermen for using a net which, although not a sunk net within the meaning of the Act, is a net when in use equally damaging to the fishery, and is a sunk net morally although not legally.

The net I refer to was 552 yards long, 6 feet deep in the wings, and 40 feet in the centre, the lead lines were twice as thick as the lead lines of an ordinary hauling-net, and the lead twice as heavy, and fixed about 18 inches apart. The corks were further apart than in the ordinary hauling-net, and insufficient to float the net if shot in water deeper than the depth of the centre of the net. The wings were hung on the half instead of a third as usual.

It was shot about 500 yards from the shore into deep water, and hauled ashore by means of hauling-ropes about 500 yards long, which were attached to windlasses. While being hauled the cork line was under the surface and the lead lines scraped the bottom. When in using this net, if hauling is stopped, the cork lines of the centre float, because the water of the lake is so shallow that the leads do not draw on them, but if the net were hauled in sufficiently deep water the whole would sink.

The extraordinarily deep centre of the net forms a purse as soon as the net is hauled, but the purse not being attached to the net, and the cork line of the centre floating when the hauling is stopped was, in the opinion of the Magistrate, sufficient to take the net out of the definition of a sunk net as contained in the Act.

On the first occasion the net was used about 100 baskets were taken in one haul, and it is now a usual thing to take 40 and 50 baskets in a haul.

In the opinion of the most experienced fishermen on the lake, the continuance of the use of such nets will have a ruinous effect on the fishery, the area covered by the net and ropes being so great, and the effect of the scraping the bottom, being calculated to frighten the ground fish away from the place.

I may say that with reference to the extension of the Sunk Net Act to the fishery, I took action in the representation made to me by nine of the resident fishermen, representing thirty-four other fishermen, who was convinced that the use of such nets would spoil the fishing in a very short time.

I have, &c.,

The Secretary, Department of Fisheries.

D. W. BENSON.

HERRINGS FOUND ON THE COAST

1. Blue Sprat—*Spratelloides robustus*, Ogilby. In shoals. December to May.
2. Maray—*Etumeus jacksoniensis*, Macleay. Appearance uncertain, in shoals. Autumn and winter. Possibly abundant outside.
3. River Herring—*Potamalosa antiqua*, Ogilby. Abundant; all eastern rivers.
4. Sandy Sprat—*Hyperlophus spratellides*, Ogilby. Estuaries.
5. Silver Sprat—*Hyperlophus glycyis*, Ogilby. In shoals. Outer beaches. Autumn.
6. Pilchard—*Clupanodon neopilchardus* (Steindachner). In shoals. Outside. Winter. Rarely entering bays.
7. Herring—*Kowala castelnaui*, Ogilby. In shoals, principally outside. Winter.

ANCHOVIES.

1. Southern Anchovy—*Engraulis antipodum*, Gunther. In shoals. Autumn.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

FISHERIES OF THE COLONY.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS OF FISHERIES FOR YEAR 1896.)

Presented to Parliament, pursuant to Act 44 Vic. No. 26 sec. 69.

Printed under No. 17 Report from Printing Committee, 26 August, 1897.

Report of the Commissioners of Fisheries for New South Wales on the Fisheries of the Colony, for the year ending the 31st December, 1896.

Sir,

In submitting our Report on the Fisheries of the Colony for the year 1896, we have the honor to state that the constitution of the Board remains unchanged.

Finance.

The departmental revenue shows a small increase over that of 1895.

In the number of fishermen's licenses there has also been a slight increase in the issue for the same period. The following substantial increase has also taken place in the amount paid as deposit on lease applications for the purpose of oyster-culture, viz., £577, as against only £65 the previous year, thus showing an increase of £612.

The sum paid for deed fees, although not in the same ratio, presents a very gratifying result, being £98 in the past year as against only £8 in 1895.

Rents paid on leased areas, however, mark a small decrease from the previous year, as we have received the sum of £1,345 15s. in payment thereof, whereas the previous year produced £1,395 10s. This decrease of £49 15s. is to some extent accounted for by the cancellation of a number of areas for non-payment of rent. We anticipate an increase in the rentals for 1897, which we think will be highly satisfactory.

Official Staff.

We have to report a substantial reduction in our staff during the year. The estimate for salaries alone was £2,338; but, in June, the Public Service Board, acting in some measure upon our recommendation, reduced these by £562. Mr. Lindsay Thompson, Secretary and Chief Inspector, with a salary of £470 was retired, and Mr. Smithers, the Travelling Inspector, was appointed to his position at a salary of £300, and the position formerly held by Mr. Smithers was not filled. Mr. O'Meagher, the Accountant, whose salary was at the rate of £180 per annum, was transferred to another Department.

*50—A

[537 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £6 15s. 6d.]

Messrs.

Messrs. H. Laman and R. Seymour were also retired. The former, who was Customs Officer at Port Stephens, supervised the fishing there, and for which duty he received the sum of £50 per annum. We feel the loss of this officer, as he was always most attentive and painstaking in the performance of the duties entrusted to him. Mr. Seymour, Inspector of Nuisances in Sydney, was also allowed £50 for his services in attending the Fish-markets at Woolloomooloo, and in keeping a check on the sale of small fish and those that were unfit for consumption, and also furnishing returns weekly of the quantity of fish sold at the market, with the prices realised.

The loss of these two officers has been keenly felt by us, as not only is Port Stephens left without supervision, but we are also deprived of the returns from Woolloomooloo Markets, robbing our Report of much useful information generally shown in the Appendices.

Oyster-culture.

The beds and deposits under lease for oyster-culture are in a very satisfactory state, and show that oyster-culture during 1896 has been well attended to by the many persons who have taken up areas for that purpose.

We report an increase of 2,874 bags in the supply taken from the leased areas throughout the Colony during the year. The take has been 12,287 bags, as against 9,413 for the previous year.

The enumeration of the take from the various oyster fisheries on our coast is as follows:—From the Tweed River, 573 bags as against 153 last year; Richmond River, 580 bags as against 254; Evans River, 454 bags as against 166; Clarence River, 43 bags as against 26; Bellinger River, 322 bags as against 166; Hastings River, 481 bags as against 239; Camden Haven, 669 bags as against 969; Manning River, 1,205 bags as against 1,948; Wallis Lake, 1,859 bags as against 2,140; Port Stephens, 1,136 bags as against 737; Hunter River, 1,231 bags as against 589; Brisbane Water, 26 bags as against 115; Hawkesbury River, 1,488 bags as against 864; Pittwater, 15 bags as against 18; George's River, 265 bags as against 27; Shoalhaven River, 176 bags as against 112; Jervis Bay, 38 bags; Narrawillie, 15 bags as against 18; Clyde River, 1,704 bags as against 803; Bermagui, 14 bags as against 50.

We are able to report a decrease in the number of bags of oysters imported during the year, as 5,629 bags were received as against 6,776 of the previous year, Victoria having sent 65 bags; Queensland, 3,276; South Australia, 228; and New Zealand, 2,060.

TABLE showing the approximate quantity of Oysters taken from the areas under lease in the Colony for the last nine years.

Year.								Bags.
1888	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,184
1889	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,914
1890	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,092
1891	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,727
1892	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,428
1893	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,542
1894	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,086
1895	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,413
1896	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,287

In reference to the foregoing detailed comparison of annual returns, it is noteworthy to observe the marked improvements in the take from the leased areas in the Colony, and this can be traced to the greater care bestowed on holdings by the lessees. We have only to refer to the tabulated list from 1893 to the year of this Report in the Appendices to be convinced, not only that oyster culture is not waning, but also that it is steadily growing, and all things seem to indicate a great and successful future for this bivalve of succulent fame. The remarkable increase seen between the 9,413 bags of 1895 and the 12,287 bags of 1896 needs no trumpeting; it speaks volumes for itself.

The spawning has, in general, been most satisfactory all along the coast.

Some of the fisheries have been very heavily depleted through the ravages of the worm disease, more particularly at the Hunter River. At this place the lessee has adopted the drastic plan of putting men on to dredge up the oysters and shells, and place them on the shore to kill both the worm and its eggs.

There has been during the year an exceptional demand for lengths of foreshore for oyster culture, and great care has been exercised in recommending the issue of leases only to desirable persons, and the Report of the current year will show with what result.

Fishing.

Fishing.

We are unable to furnish a record of the quantity of fish received at the Woolloomooloo Market during the past year, as it had been deemed advisable to dispense with the services of the officer whose duty it has hitherto been to provide such returns, and also owing to the rearrangement of the rules regulating the disposal of the fish. Various officers have, however, been constantly visiting the Market, and, in response to inquiries made from time to time, we have been informed that the volume of fish received has, to a small extent, decreased, owing to the alteration of the old rules. You will thus see that those now in force are militating against the progress of this centre of distribution.

We have to draw your attention to one improvement, and that is the introduction of marble tables, upon and from which the fish are exposed for sale. You will recollect that heretofore the fish were sold by the auctioneers from the floor, but a few marble tables have now begun to supersede the old system, and from these the agents now sell the fish. There is much to be said for this innovation. While successful in the direction of cleanliness, the increased expense in connection with them is anything but a financial success.

Hudson's Market.—This centre is fast assuming the premier position in the amount of business passing through it; and this is to be accounted for, to a very great extent, by the fact that it is situated on the railway line, and fish from the various waters abutting on the railway line are thus enabled to be placed directly on the market, without incurring the expense of cartage, which, as you are aware, is a consideration of no small moment to all concerned.

The method of disposal is from wooden tables, and the system has been found to answer admirably; and fishermen, in a great measure, take advantage of the central distributing position of this market, and patronise it to a great extent, followed likewise by the hawkers and dealers. There appears to be a greater degree of interest in this market, and more pains seems to be taken to make things move without friction; and this, in our opinion, is a factor not to be lost sight of in matters of this kind.

We have obtained information from this market which shows that the sale of fish realised the sum of £7,659 10s. 3d.

McFadgen's Market.—This market's returns also show a substantial increase, 8,616 baskets having been sold during the past year, which realised the sum of £6,031, whilst for those sold during 1895 only £2,100 was obtained. This increase will be admitted as highly satisfactory.

The prices realised are to be accounted for by the fact that the fish received from Botany are, for the most part, in the pink of condition, thus commanding high figures.

The fish marketed from both Botany and George's River present so evenly saleable an appearance that they are sought after with growing appreciation.

Fish Acclimatisation.

In the course of the year just terminated, we completed the purchase of a considerable quantity of trout ova from the Wellington Acclimatisation Society of New Zealand, part of which was the variety known as brown trout, and the rest from the rainbow, the latter fish being well known for its hardiness and adaptability to higher temperatures, and is, in consequence, as you will see latter on in this Report, in considerable demand in the warmer parts of the Colony.

The whole of the two shipments were received by us in splendid condition, and, on their arrival, were, as expeditiously as possible, removed to the hatching-house, at Prospect; and the hatching, we are pleased to say, was carried out with most gratifying results.

Distribution.—As soon as the fry were in condition to be moved, they were first placed in the rills and ponds, till they increased in size and strength sufficient to warrant their final dispersion throughout the Colony; and this has been carried out, in our opinion, most successfully in every respect to the following places:—Hastings River, Lawson, Adaminaby, Tarana, South Creek, St. Mary's, Peel River, Collector, Forbes, Wallerawang, Burrowa, Muswellbrook, Carcoar, Orange, Hartley, Severn River, Quirindi, Dubbo, Moki River, Buckley's Crossing, Bathurst, Wollondilly River, Manning River, Murrumbidgee, Teralga, Paterson, Glanmure, Macdonald River, Bell River, Page River, Beardy River, Lithgow, Joadga Creek, Maitland, Singleton, Mudgoe, Tumut, Nimitybelle, Upper Queanbeyan River, Upper Murray River, Rylestone, Tumut, Bendemeer, Apsley River, Glen Innes, Tumbarumba, Armidale, Abercrombie River, Ben Lomond, Waterloo Creek, Hill Top, Illawarra Line, Berry, Umarella, Jindabine, Woolbrook, Snowy River, George's River, Albury, Gundagai, Marulan, Moonbi, Walcha, Crookwell, Kelso, Uralla, Clarence Town, Llangothlin, Queanbeyan, Uriarra, Goodradigbee, Michelago, Bungendore, Captain's Flat, Tarago, Bredalbane, Bombala, Matherson, Glanmire, Deepwater, Raglan, Tuena, Aberbaldie, Wellington, Blaxland Platform.

We

We placed a number of the fry in the rearing-ponds, and the progress made in their growth has far exceeded our expectations, as we have now some very fine fish wonderfully well developed, proving their adaptability to all circumstances.

The introduction of the rainbow trout is, in our opinion, a matter of no small moment on account of its hardy nature, as already stated, and the high perfection it attains in waters of a comparatively high temperature. We anticipate a great future, as a result of our efforts in this direction, with this variety of fish.

At the request of the Government of Queensland we hatched at our hatchery some 20,000 ova, and towards the close of the year the fry were duly forwarded to Warwick in safety.

We have, during the year, received a number of reports either of trout having been seen or caught, and in the Appendices will be found an interesting letter from Mr. Burnside, who caught fish at Bibbenluke.

We wish to record our sincere thanks to the Commissioners of Railways for again so materially assisting us in our distribution of the young fish by carrying them free of charge, and also by granting a free pass to the officer in whose charge they were.

Inland Fisheries.

The Returns.—During the year 9,420 lb. of fish were sent to Victoria from Moama and Koondrook, as against 64,076 lb. in 1895. The returns from both these centres on the Murray River, which form Victoria's principal supply of fresh-water fish, show a decrease, which, in our opinion, is caused through overnetting, which was carried on to such an extent that we considered it necessary to have the whole of the River Murray closed against the use of fishing-nets from October to February inclusive, whilst the Victorian authorities issued a proclamation proclaiming a close season from the 1st July to the 15th October.

The steps taken have, in our opinion, been the means of thus protecting a vast number of fish, more especially during the spawning season of the Murray cod and perch.

Although the closures were made as stated, we notice fish were sent to Victoria, notwithstanding, during the months named, thus proving that supervision is required.

It is our intention to make some important closures during the coming year, if provided with sufficient staff to give effect to our decisions by exercising the requisite oversight.

Wallis Lake.

We have to record a most satisfactory increase of both fish and oysters in the waters of this lake, and in order to continue to protect this important fishery, we considered our best course would be to send Inspector Massingham to supervise, and this was done with most satisfactory results.

The present year will, we hope, show a corresponding increase for our next Report.

Port Stephens.

Here, unfortunately, we have but little to record, as owing to the lack of supervision, caused by the withdrawal of Inspector Laman, the fishing grounds have been at the mercy of one and all, and with results which can be better imagined than described.

You cannot fail to see how disastrous is the course followed, and there is no need for further comment—the facts speak but too loudly for themselves—though we of course see that owing to the limited funds available nothing else could be done.

Tuggerah Lakes.

Tuggerah Beach Lakes still continue to keep up with Lake Macquarie in the quantity of fish caught, taking no less than 11,422 baskets, as against 8,071 the previous year.

We deemed it essential to have a small area resumed at the lakes' entrance, in order that the Inspector could reside there to more effectually supervise the lake entrance, channel, and flats, as the officer will be located upon the part which requires the most supervision, in order to effectually preserve the fisheries of this important lake. We have experienced a large amount of trouble in keeping the entrance clear, and eventually it was found absolutely necessary to employ labour to cut a channel through the sand bank which unfortunately made right across the entrance, thus stopping the inflow of the sea, and was found to be acting most detrimentally upon the fishing.

The line fishermen have not had the same good catches as hitherto. This may be accounted for by the entrance blocking up.

Hawkesbury

Hawkesbury River.

The supplies from this direction are about the same as last year, and as the closing of the waters against the use of fishing nets appears to have led to the increase of the fish, we decided, towards the close of the year, to open them to net-fishing, with the single exception of Cowan Creek, where we trust the fish will be protected, and we look forward to being able to report more extensively of these waters at the close of the coming year.

The line fishermen have again been most successful, but we have no means of ascertaining the quantities caught by them, but we are satisfied that the total catch has been large.

Port Jackson.

The fish supply has been maintained from these waters. Nearly 120 licensed fishing boats have been in use procuring the same for market. Contrary to the course pursued last year of closing the tributaries of the harbour against net-fishing we, during the summer months, had the proclamation closing the various parts of the harbour rescinded with satisfactory results, as the markets were well supplied with fish freshly caught during the summer which was a great boon to consumers.

We regret, however, to have to record again the unnecessary destruction of small fish by the line fishermen, who seem to be regardless of the damage they are doing in the waters.

Prawns.—These waters have produced a large quantity of prawns during the year, and the market has been well supplied. There is, in our opinion, great destruction caused to young fish-life by the prawn fishermen, who continue to use what is termed a "sunk net," which net is a most destructive implement of fishing, for nothing escapes it.

Sharks.—Again a number of these have been caught in the harbour, and a reward of 5s. is paid for those measuring from 8 feet to 10 feet, and 10s. for those over 10 feet. The measurement is taken from end of snout to tip of tail.

Unfortunately line fishermen, "sunk nets," &c., are not the only foes with which we have to contend in our efforts to conserve the young fish. We have yet to discover how to effectually nullify, if we cannot do away with, the continual increase of sewerage matter which flows into the harbour from the various tannerics and other noxious trades, thereby polluting the water and causing great destruction to fish-life.

Botany Bay and George's River.

These waters have again produced over 12,000 baskets of fish for the year, and, as a rule, the class of fish has been the same.

The reputation of these waters has been well kept up, as, we think, is deserved.

A very large number of boats with both lines and nets are constantly at work here, and all seem to get a fair harvest of all varieties with the exception of sea mullet which has not been caught in anything like the quantities gathered in previous years. These fish came in large shoals, but kept too wide for the fishermen.

The closures enforced as reported last year with beneficial results are being continued.

We had the proclamation prohibiting the catching of prawns during the months of June to September extended to these waters with most beneficial results, thus preventing the continuous working of the prawn net by fishermen who were unable to work them in Port Jackson on account of the proclamation being in force there.

The line fishermen have as usual destroyed an incalculable number of small fish, which could be prevented if we had different Regulations.

Lake Illawarra.

Last year's encouraging report on this lake has, to a small extent, been lowered this year as the catch of fish has been 8,386 as against 9,252 of the previous year, and for which decrease there is no accounting for, as certainly the fish were plentiful in the lake.

The sand formed a bank right across the entrance which interfered, to a small extent, to the fishermen following out their calling until the residents, with the aid of the fishermen, undertook to make an opening; and they were fortunate in their efforts.

Shoalhaven River.

As with last year, there is little of importance to note, the fish supply being about the same.
Oysters.—The supply has certainly increased.

Jervis Bay, Berrewhere.

Of these waters we have nothing of note to report, as the production of fish and oysters has been about the same as the previous year.

Numbers of fishermen come from other parts to these waters during the cool months and send their catch to Sydney by rail from Nowra, a distance of 92 miles.

JAMES C. COX, M.D.,
President.

APPENDICES.

COMMISSIONERS of Fisheries for New South Wales, 1896.

James C. Cox, M.D., President.

J. R. Hill, Esq.	The Hon. S. H. Hyam, M.L.C.
The Hon. W. R. Campbell, M.L.C.	Frank Farnell, Esq., M.L.A.

Official Staff.

Lindsay Thompson, Chief Inspector and Secretary to 30th June.	
Fredk. W. Smithers, Chief Inspector and Secretary from 1st July.	
L. F. Mann, Clerk and Draftsman.	P. H. O'Meagher, Clerk, to 30th June (transferred).
W. Lannen, Messenger.	
C. Gordon, Assistant Inspector of Fisheries,	Tuggerah Lakes.
P. Smith, " "	Hawkesbury River.
J. D. Grant, " "	George's River.
D. W. Benson, " "	Lake Illawarra.
R. Hellings, " "	Sydney.
G. Glading, " "	" "
F. Aldrich, " "	Lake Macquarie.
J. Cain, " "	Brisbane Water.
J. Massingham, " "	Wallis Lake (from 2nd July).
H. Laman, " "	Port Stephens (retired 30th June).
R. Seymour, " "	Fish Market, Woolloomooloo (retired 30th June)

REVENUE of the Fisheries Department for the year ending 31 December, 1896.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Fisherman's licenses, 718 at 10s.	374	0	0
" " 147 at 5s.	36	15	0
Fishing-boat " 147 at £1	147	0	0
" " 67 at 10s.	33	10	0
						591 5 0
Deposits on leased areas	677	0	0
Rent on leased areas	1,345	15	0
Deed fees	98	0	0
Transfer fees	6	0	0
Fines and forfeitures	85	5	0
						2,212 0 0
Total	£2,803 5 0

FINES imposed, year 1896—Seizure of Nets, &c.

Name.	Nature of Offence.	Fine.
Hawyard, J.	Using illegal net	Fined £2. Net returned.
Willis, J.	"	" £2.
Cromarty, J.	Taking oysters from a lease	" 5s. and £2 2s. professional costs.
Eagleton, W.	"	" 5s. and costs.
Martin, J.	Stalling	" £1 each. Net returned.
Hannan, W.	"	" £2 each. "
Douglass, J., senior	"	" £2 each and costs. Net returned.
Douglass, J.	"	" £2 each. "
Douglass, T.	"	" £2 each and costs. Net returned.
Douglass, E.	"	" £2 each and costs. Net returned.
Brown, J.	"	" £2 each and costs. Net returned.
Smith, W.	"	" £2 each and costs. Net returned.
Whitehall, R.	Taking oysters from reserve	Fined £5.
Hibbs, S.	Removing oysters without notice	" £2.
Merrick, J.	Taking oysters from reserve	" £5.
Cole, S.	Not marking lease	" £1.
Cole, W.	"	" £1.
Ross, E.	Fishing in closed waters	" £1.
Colyc, W.	"	" £5.
Johnson, J.	Not informing shipment of oysters	" £1.
Lambert, —	"	" £1 each. Net confiscated.
Lacy, R. E.	Fishing in closed waters	" £1 each. Net confiscated.
Newman, T.	"	" £1. Net confiscated.
Newman, J.	"	" £1. Net confiscated.
Byles, J.	Abusive language to Inspector	" £5 and £2 2s. costs.
Thorogood, J.	Taking oysters between sunset and sunrise	" £10.
Thorogood, J.	"	" £5.
Lilly, S.	Abusive language to Inspector	" £2 and £2 2s. costs.
Reynolds, M.	"	" £2 and £2 2s. costs.
Doyle, J.	"	" £2 and £2 2s. costs.
Manning, T.	"	" £2 and £2 2s. costs.
M'Intyre, J.	Fishing without license	Pleaded guilty; let off with caution.
Lee, P.	"	" £2 and £2 2s. costs.
Parker, J.	"	" £2 and £2 2s. costs.
Parker, J.	"	" £2 and £2 2s. costs.
Tonkin, J.	Fishing in closed waters	Fined 10s. each. Net confiscated.
Tonkin, John.	"	" 10s. each. Net confiscated.
Laurence, G.	" " (breach of section 10)	" £10. Net confiscated.
Baschatt, J.	" " " "	" £10. "
Dunn, T., junior	Selling small fish	" £2. "
Johnson, J.	Unbranded bags	" £1.
Wells, S.	"	" £1.
Ah See	Selling small fish	" 10s.

Fisheries Inspectors' Reports.

Sir,

Sydney, 4 February, 1896.

I have the honor to inform you that, in accordance with your request, I proceeded to Bibben-luke River, with a view to report on its capabilities as a trout stream, as to the present condition of the trout already therein, and also to catch some of them in the orthodox way, viz., with an artificial fly or minnow and rod and line.

Owing to the protracted drought—there having been little or no rain for two years—the river is lower than it has been for many years, and is also very full of weeds and generally in a dirty condition. There are, however, several big, deep holes, in which the fish are at present. It is well adapted for trout, as the bed consists of gravelly stretches, rocky runs and stickles, with big, rocky, deep pools, alternating in a most suitable manner. The banks are lined in places with splendid willows, the roots of which and the overhanging banks providing excellent cover and protection for the fish; the bed, also, in places consists of large boulders and rocks, which also provide excellent shelter, and I am of opinion that with from 1 foot to 2 feet more water (which is, I am informed, its usual summer level), this river would be a most excellent river for trout. There appears to be abundance of food for the fish in the shape of flies and their grubs (which latter live in the weeds), water spiders, beetles, and many other sorts of water insects, which I saw but did not examine closely. There is also a small blackfish, which I was told was the Victorian blackfish, sometimes called the marble trout. I also saw large eels, which no doubt feed on the trout-spawn and fry; but, on the other hand, the large trout will feed on the young eels, and so balance matters. There appears to be few black cormorants about; but Mr. Edwards wages perpetual war against them, shooting them whenever he gets a chance.

With regard to the fishing, I succeeded in catching with a fly three fish weighing 3 lb. each. The only time the fish seem to be on the feed is from 5 p.m. till dark, and perhaps all night; and even then it greatly depends on the weather, as out of the five evenings during which my visit lasted only two were any good for fishing, and on those two evenings I caught the fish. On the other evenings there was either a cold sea-mist with an easterly wind, or a southerly gale, both of which conditions of the weather were equally successful in putting the fish down, not a sign of a fish being seen, although I spent the whole of one day and the morning of another wandering up and down the river for 2 or 3 miles. I tried with the Devon and Chantom minnows, and with a Haleyon spinner (all very deadly in Great Britain and Tasmania), but had no success, principally because the weeds were too thick, and the current not strong enough in the present low condition of the river. I have, however, no doubt that fish up to 5 lb. and over will some day be caught there with these and other lures besides the fly, especially when the river has been in flood and the weeds washed away. On opening one of the last fish caught I found it was a
hen

hen fish, with the ova well defined, there being two strings of ova, from 6 inches long and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch broad and 1 inch thick. The two other fish showed no signs of either ova or milt. I am told that 10 miles higher up, the river leaves the basalt plains or downs and enters the hills, and there becomes a rocky, quick-running stream, with dark-coloured water; and that the small fish have been seen travelling up towards these hills, no doubt to take up their quarters in the stronger-running waters. I did not see any small fish except fry, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches long; and I cannot say whether they were trout or not, as I had no means of catching them. I, however, saw one small dead fish, about 4 inches long, which was undoubtedly a trout.

The recent very hot weather has no doubt killed a few fish, as I saw four dead fish, all about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 lb. in weight; and, as you are aware, Mr. H. T. Edwards caught and sent down three fish of varying sizes, all of which were caught in the shallows, having no doubt been sickened by the hot, shallow water.

In conclusion, I consider there is a great future for the trout and trout-fishing in the Bibbenluke and surrounding rivers, especially if an annual supply of from 500 to 1,000 yearlings were put in these for the next few years. I would also recommend that an expert be sent to the district to strip the fish artificially next spawning season (I believe about August and September); or, should that be impracticable, that Mr. Edwards be asked to try and do so, and that full details of the methods usually followed be supplied to him for his guidance and assistance. The ova so obtained could be treated on the spot, or brought to Sydney to be hatched at the Prospect Dam hatchery.

Mr. H. T. Edwards told me that three kinds of trout had been placed in the river; but the ones I caught were all brown trout, of the same kind as those I have caught in the Tasmanian rivers.

I have, &c.,

C. K. BURNSIDE.

The Commissioners of Fisheries of New South Wales.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit my annual report of the fisheries of Tuggerah Beach Lakes for the year 1896.

The fish supply of these lakes for the year just ended has been quite equal to former years, although at the beginning of the year the entrance became silted up, thus to a certain extent stopping the fish from getting either in or out; then when rain came the waters in the lakes rose and covered all the landing, so that the fishermen could not land their nets.

The fishermen made three attempts to open the lake, but failed. It was then taken by contract by P. Flanagan for the sum of £10, and he succeeded in opening the lake on the 1st August, thus lowering the water in the lake, and enabling the fishermen to work again.

I am sorry to say that through the absence of any heavy rainfall the entrance is silting up again. I think that some steps might be taken to try and keep the entrance to these lakes open, seeing that they contribute so largely to the general supply of fish.

I may mention one peculiar instance of fish-travelling which I saw. On February 27th there was a heavy sea on, and at high water, when the sea was washing over the bank, the fish (bream) would come over and would lay stranded till the next sea came and washed them further into the lake. At that time three fishermen caught twenty-three baskets of those fish as they lay stranded waiting for the next sea to carry them into the lake. On that occasion there must have been many hundreds of baskets came into the lakes.

The average number of men working has been about seventy and thirty-five boats, but the men shift about very much. The total catch sent by rail for the year has been 1,142 baskets. This is exclusive of the quantity which are smoked, which would fully make up to 1,000 baskets per month as the catch of the fishermen.

C. GORDON.

Sir,

Blakehurst.

I have the honor to submit the following report of the fisheries under my supervision during the year ending 31st December, 1896:—

Woronora River.—These waters were closed to net-fishing the greatest part of the year, and during that time fish of all varieties were very plentiful. From the early part of June to the latter part of September it was thrown open, and during that time upwards of 1,000 baskets of mixed fish were killed. From the beginning of November, during hard southerly and westerly winds, a large lot of hard-gut mullet left these waters.

George's River.—These waters were open to net-fishing all the year, and with the exception of the month of June and July there was a good supply of fish. During these months there was a heavy freshet in the upper part of the river, which brought the fish down about the mouth, the boats catching from ten to twelve baskets (principally black-bream) at a haul. This freshet also killed great numbers of jewfish, and I have seen dozens of soles floating on the surface; but they mostly recovered as soon as the freshet abated, although numbers were left dead along the shores. The catch of sea-mullet this season was very small; not that there were not plenty of fish travelling, but they kept on the rocks or in the middle of the bay, and out of the reach of the fishermen.

The supply of fish for the year would, to give a rough estimate, total about 12,000 baskets; about 3,000 from that quantity were used for local consumption.

I would beg to draw your attention to the quantities of red bream and whiting, not weighing more than 4 oz. and 2 oz. respectively, that are killed by pleasure parties by line, as many as 20 dozen being killed in a day by a party of three. Frequently you can count from ten to twenty boats' crews catching these fish.

Prawns.—The principal ground for prawns in this district is Lady Robinson's Beach, which failed to uphold its reputation this season, very few being caught. From Cook's River there was a medium supply, while in Saltpan Creek and other parts of the river they were very scarce.

Oyster

Oyster Fisheries.—The oyster fisheries about the upper parts of the river and in the deep water are still in a bad state with the worm disease, and though it has shown signs in the oysters about the mangroves at the mouth of the river it does not seem to spread. During the year there were six applications for oyster areas about the mangrove flats, about 6,000 yards being applied for. The oysters collected from the various leases amounted to 287 bags, the removal of which I have reported.

The following persons have been convicted for breaches of the Fisheries Act during the year, viz., W. Smith, J. Brown, J. Martin, W. Hannan, H. Sweetman, R. Keep, J. Douglass, junr., J. Douglass, senr., Thomas Douglass, and E. Douglass. I also seized an illegal net, but could find no owner.

I have, &c.,

J. D. GRANT,

Assistant Inspector, George's River.

Sir,

Wollongong, 20 March, 1897.

I have the honor to submit my annual report on the fisheries in my district for the year ending 31st December, 1896.

There have been forwarded from Lake Illawarra to the metropolitan market 6,661 baskets of fish and eight baskets of prawns, 1,725 baskets of fish being consumed locally.

I have to report a decrease in the output for 1896, showing a falling off of 856 baskets on that of the previous year.

The principal varieties caught were bream, blackfish, mullet, flathead, jewfish, garfish, tarwhine, and whiting.

The supply of bream has continued good, large quantities being caught. During July, August, and September these fish were very scarce, but during the summer months they were caught in large quantities up to the end of the year.

The supply of mullet and blackfish has been good. Several large shoals of hard-gut mullet worked into the lake during the month of February. Large quantities of young bream and mullet have been noticed in the creeks and bays of the lake from 2 to 6 inches in length. During the month of June very large schools of young fish from 1 to 12 inches in length were noticed in the entrance and flats in the lake adjacent to the entrance; these fish worked in from the sea. Several of the best hauling grounds have weeded up, and are in consequence of no value for hauling purposes, but there is no doubt they will be of great value for breeding grounds and protection of young fish.

Prawns this year have not been worked, only eight baskets being forwarded to the metropolis for the year. The channel is fairly well stocked with oysters, and no disease exists.

Large shoals of fish have been noticed coasting along in a northerly direction at sea during the schooling season. No means were taken to identify the different varieties the fish belong to.

Crayfish as usual has not been worked.

Tom Thumb Lagoon and Para Creek are fairly well stocked with fish. The proclamation closing Tom Thumb Lagoon from the use of fishing nets expired during the year, and it was found necessary, in consequence of overnetting, to close these waters for a further period of twelve months.

The deposits of oysters in these waters are in fair condition; no disease exists.

I have, &c.,

D. W. BENSON.

Sir,

Hawkesbury River.

I would herewith most respectfully beg to forward my annual report on the fisheries and oyster fisheries of the Hawkesbury for the year 1896.

Of the net fisheries, I beg to report that during the earlier part of the year fish were moderately plentiful; but during the winter months any kind of fish were then very scarce in all the lower parts of the Hawkesbury River and tributaries.

In the winter months the shoals of fish, consisting of mullet, bream, perch, Jewfish, and prawns, will travel then many miles to the upper part of the Hawkesbury River, and unless they are driven down by a freshet, will remain in deep holes until the approach of summer.

During the past year far more attention has been paid to prawn-fishing than formerly, and I may state that this river has produced a considerable quantity.

I would also beg to report that line fishermen have seriously diminished the supply in Cowan Creek, probably by the great number of picnic and fishing parties, and the indiscriminate destruction of small fish by the use of the fly-hook; and unfortunately the law cannot reach this kind of fisherman.

The total quantity of fish and prawns sent by railway and steamer during the year was 6,890 baskets, but of which many were not full.

Of the oyster fisheries of the Hawkesbury River, I beg to state that this once important industry is now in a very neglected condition.

Of the many areas held in the Hawkesbury River for oyster-culture, or for the more plentiful production of oysters, I would beg to state that not the slightest attempt has been made on any one lease to increase the oyster production, which could in many instances be done with a little labour and industry.

It appears to me, as I have pointed out on former occasions, that the possession of an oyster lease is only a license for stealing oysters and in getting them to market, which advantage a person has not if not a lessee.

The total quantity of oysters shipped during the past year, and said to have come off the several leased areas, is 1,158 bags.

I have no hesitation on stating that, in my opinion, the production of oysters in this river, under a different system of leasing and enforcing oyster culture, could be increased to a wonderful extent in each year's output.

I have, &c.,

P. SMITH,

Assistant Inspector.

Sir,

Sir,

Forster.

I have the honor to submit report of the net and of oyster fisheries of Wallis Lake during the period of my supervision, viz., from July 14th to December 31st, 1896.

The supply of fish during that period has been fairly good. During the months of July and August some exceptionally good hauls of jewfish were made by the Italian fishermen. Mullet, bream, and blackfish were also well represented.

During November and December, whiting, bream, and flathead were taken in fairly large quantities. Of the latter there is abundance in the lower waters, and provide remarkable good sport for the angler. I have been informed that in former years schnappers were in the lake in quantities, but the floods appear to have driven them all out. At present there are very few, only an odd one being taken at intervals.

Owing to the very extensive area of shallow water in this district, and the disadvantage under which the fishermen laboured with the short nets, the provisions of the Fisheries Act Amendment Act of 1894 has been extended to the waters of Wallis Lake. This Act allows nets up to 300 fathoms to be used which I think should meet all the requirements of the fishermen, and also be of considerable benefit to the fisheries, inasmuch as fewer hauls over the same ground will require to be made, and the fish less harassed and disturbed.

Owing to the want of proper supervision, I found on arrival that some of the fishermen had neglected to take out licenses; they, however, on being cautioned applied for them at once. I was also informed that some of their nets were illegal; the owners, however, took good care to keep them out of my sight, knowing that I had no boat to go after them.

On being supplied with a boat I made a seizure of two illegal nets, which were both confiscated. The number of licenses issued for the local men was 22 and licensed fishing-boats 7. These men are chiefly residents who pursue their calling all the year round, but during the winter months the number is augmented by Italians from the waters of Port Jackson and Botany. The output of fish for the period above mentioned was 1,697 baskets which is conveyed to the metropolis in ice-chests by steamer making irregular trips.

With reference to schnapper-fishing, little is carried on except for local requirements. A departure, however, will shortly be made in this direction, in the form of a well-boat, built and fitted out expressly for purpose of fishing the deep-sea grounds and conveying the catch to Sydney. It is to be hoped the enterprising builder and owner will meet with every success.

Oyster Fisheries.

Of these fisheries it is gratifying to note that the present condition and future prospects are very encouraging, and the areas are entirely free from disease of any description. All the principal beds are heavily stocked with both mature and immature oysters. As evidence of the future prospects of the oyster fisheries, as anticipated by the number of applicants for leases, I may state that I have measured and reported upon twenty-one applications, comprising 5,800 yards of foreshore, thus making the total length of foreshore under lease and applied for 19,380 yards. Some of these areas applied for are fairly well stocked with oysters fit for market, while others have been applied for as reserves for the purpose of catching spat for removal to more suitable grounds. Up to the present no deep-water deposits have been discovered in these waters; for some reason (as yet to me unaccountable) the spat does not appear to sink, or if it does it does not live; but between high and low water mark in suitable places the deposits of spat is heavy, everything being literally covered with young oysters. Some endeavours have been made in a cultivation of oysters by laying down shells sent from Sydney—these shells are thoroughly bleached before being laid down—also by separating the clusters and removing oysters which would otherwise become covered in mud and sand; this latter is caused by the action of the water at half and low tide, and is a constant source of labour to the lessees. One enterprising lessee has placed stakes at intervals, with branches interlaced on the outer boundaries of his areas, in order to catch the spat which would otherwise escape from his own layings.

The output of oysters since the 14th July has been 946 bags to Sydney, and for local consumption 4, making a total of 950 bags: but this number does not by any means represent the capabilities of the district, for immense quantities more might be obtained if a more remunerative market were found, and I think here is an opening for a new enterprise, viz., by shipping oysters to the London or American market during the months of May, June, July, and August, this being the period when oysters are out of season, and consequently very scarce in those markets. The method to be adopted would be to shell them and place them in jars or cans, and place them on board steamers in their refrigerating chambers. This would be a matter which in all probability the Fresh Food and Ice Co. would take in hand. By this means the surplus stock of oysters could be disposed of, and should (if put upon the market in a proper time) realise top prices. It would also give an impetus to the cultivation of oysters in the inlets, and perhaps also lead to the development of the numerous oyster deposits along the coast of the Colony.

I have, &c.,

JAMES MASSINGHAM,
Assistant Inspector.

1897.

—
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
FOR THE YEAR
1896.

Printed under No. 16 Report from Printing Committee, 19 August, 1897.

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1897.

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THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1896 ON THE POST OFFICE, MONEY ORDER OFFICE, GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK, AND ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

MY LORD,

I have the honor to transmit to your Excellency the Annual Report for the year 1896 on the Department under my ministerial control.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following Statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1896, as compared with 1895:—

	1895.				1896.						
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
<i>Revenue.</i>											
Postage	465,184	4	6				499,759	15	10		
Less amount transferred to Stamp Duties as the approximate value of Postage Stamps used as Duty Stamps during the year...	24,000	0	0				24,000	0	0		
				441,184	4	6			475,759	15	10
Fees for Private Bags and Boxes				6,206	2	8			6,708	14	3
Collections from other Governments				4,505	2	11			4,080	17	0
Electric Telegraphs				149,102	4	6			153,648	16	10
Telephones				25,955	10	5			31,955	6	8
Money Order commission				14,978	8	6			15,231	12	3
Poundage on Postal Notes				6,316	12	4			7,838	17	4
Interest on Savings Bank Investments				86,288	13	0			138,313	19	3
Interest due on uninvested Savings Bank balances in Treasury				41,384	17	9					
Miscellaneous receipts				603	9	4			592	4	10
TOTAL				776,525	5	11			833,940	4	3
Balance of Expenditure over Revenue				115,373	9	4			38,530	15	11
				891,898	15	3			872,471	0	2
<i>Expenditure.</i>											
Salaries				427,255	0	4			405,174	11	0
Postal and Telegraphic working expenses other than those specially shown herein				84,064	17	1			89,773	7	2
Conveyance of Mails:—per horse, coach, &c.	95,805	11	8				88,675	17	3		
" " " railways and tramways	67,702	18	8				67,609	14	7		
" " " steam and sailing vessels—non-contract	5,949	14	4				7,636	9	7		
" " " <i>via</i> Suez	28,562	16	8				29,613	19	0		
" " " San Francisco	4,000	0	0				4,309	12	5		
" " " Vancouver	8,333	6	8				10,773	15	7		
				210,354	8	0			208,619	8	5
Cable Subsidies, &c.				20,435	10	10			18,434	2	7
Interest allowed to Savings Bank Depositors				128,640	10	9			128,629	11	4
Postage Stamps re-purchased from public, used as remittances by public officials, and affixed to Postal Notes				15,477	1	0			15,623	19	1
Allowance to Railway Department for transacting postal and public telegraph business at railway offices				5,671	7	3			6,216	0	7
TOTAL				891,898	15	3			872,471	0	2

The following are the items of expenditure paid from Votes under the control of other Ministers :—

	1895.	1896.
Stores and stationery	£3,932 13 9	£4,185 3 8
Repairs and alterations to buildings	5,297 1 7	4,368 6 4
Furniture (including carriage)... ..	116 9 5	410 8 11
Printing, bookbinding, <i>Gazette</i> advertisements, <i>Gazettes</i> , &c..	10,535 10 3	7,342 0 4
Printing postage stamps	4,814 16 8	4,834 9 3
Do postal notes	329 16 9	478 7 6
Municipal and other rates	2,428 14 9	2,323 10 10
Postage	780 0 0*	840 0 0*
Advertising in newspapers	352 0 7	248 9 5
Fuel and light	2,311 12 5	2,084 3 2
Total	£30,898 16 2	£27,114 19 5

* Estimated.

The interest on the cost of construction of Electric Telegraph Lines is estimated at £35,579, and the interest on the cost of buildings owned by the Government, and used as Post and Telegraph Offices in various parts of the Colony, is estimated at £32,182.

Adding the expenditure on account of the services of the Postmaster-General from the Votes of other Departments, and the interest on the cost of buildings and construction of telegraph lines, the expenditure properly chargeable to the Department under my control for the year 1896 was £967,346 19s. 7d., or £133,406 15s. 4d. in excess of the revenue for the same period.

It should, however, be mentioned that while all the legitimate charges against the Post Office are brought to account in the foregoing statement, the Department performs a number of services for the public and for other Government Departments, for which no monetary credit is taken. These services include the conveyance by post of petitions to the Governor, the Executive Council, and Members of either House of Parliament, newspapers under seven days old, returns under the "Land and Income Tax Assessment Act of 1895," letters and packets for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the "Census and Industrial Returns Act," and returns of births, deaths, and marriages, all of which are by law exempt from postage; also all mail matter on Her Majesty's Service, the postage properly chargeable on which is thought to be not fully covered by the annual vote of £31,000 for this purpose; the supply of shipping and weather intelligence by telegraph; the performance by Postmasters and other officers in various districts of the Colony of the duties of Electoral Registrar, Deputy Electoral Registrar, Registrar of births, deaths, and marriages, Meteorological Observer, &c.; and the maintenance of the electric light at Parliament House, Circular Quay, Cowper's Wharf, and the Jenolan Caves.

It is impossible to accurately appraise the value of these services, but it will be understood from the nature of them that they entail a considerable amount of expenditure on the Department, probably not less in the aggregate than £50,000 per annum.

INTERCOLONIAL POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC CONFERENCES.

A special Ministerial Postal and Telegraphic Conference was held at Sydney on the 17th, 18th, and 20th January, 1896, when the various Australasian Colonies were represented as follows :—

<i>New South Wales</i> :	Hon. JOSEPH COOK, M.P., Postmaster-General, New South Wales, who acted as President of this Conference.
<i>New Zealand</i> :	Hon. W. P. REEVES, New Zealand.
<i>Queensland</i> :	Hon. A. J. THYNNE, M.L.C., Postmaster-General, Queensland.
<i>South Australia</i> :	} Hon. J. A. COCKBURN, M.D., M.P., Minister for Education and Agriculture, South Australia.
<i>Tasmania</i> :	
<i>Victoria</i> :	Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY, M.P., Postmaster-General, Victoria.

The subjects that received consideration were the proposed cable communication across the Pacific Ocean to America, and the proceedings connected with the invitation for tenders for the new contract for the Federal Mail Service to Europe, *via* Suez.

In

In regard to the proposed Pacific Cable, the Honorable Sir Saul Samuel, K.C.M.G., C.B., Agent-General for the Colony of New South Wales, and the Honorable Duncan Gillies, Agent-General for the Colony of Victoria, were nominated as representatives of the Australasian Colonies on the Commission to be appointed by the Imperial Government for the purpose of fully considering the subject. These Representatives, on all important points, were to consult the Agents-General for the other Australasian Colonies; and it was provided that any scheme submitted by this Commission should be subject to the approval of the Governments of the respective Australasian Colonies.

The conditions of tender for the new contract for the Federal Mail Service received a large amount of attention (necessarily of a confidential character); not only at the Ministerial Conference, but by means of correspondence both before and after that event. A report of the proceedings of this Conference having been laid before Parliament, it is not needful to make further allusion to it in this Report.

In November, 1896, another Intercolonial Conference was held at the General Post Office, Sydney. *President*:—The Honorable Joseph Cook, M.P., Postmaster-General of New South Wales.

All the Colonies of Australasia were represented except New Zealand.

The Conference opened its session on Saturday, the 14th, and concluded its business on the 19th November, 1896.

The Conference was mainly convened for the purpose of considering two matters, viz. :—

1. The business connected with the tenders for the Federal Mail Service, copies of which tenders had been forwarded to the Governments of the respective Australian Colonies by the Imperial Government.
2. The question of representation at the Universal Postal Union Congress to be held at Washington in May, 1897.

But it was determined to take advantage of the meeting for the consideration of other matters deemed to be of sufficient Intercolonial urgency and importance.

As the proceedings of this Conference have also been laid before Parliament it is not necessary to further allude to them in this Report, except in regard to the Federal Mail Service, on which subject it will be useful to record herein the position of the matter.

At the Intercolonial Conference held in Sydney in January, 1896, it was agreed to sanction the calling of tenders by the London Post Office.

On the 7th July, 1896, the London Post Office received tenders.

On the 24th July, 1896, the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the colonies forwarded to the colonies copies of the tenders received.

The existing contracts provide a weekly service by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and the Orient Company, each on alternate weeks.

The subsidy to each company is £85,000 per annum, or £170,000 in all, of which the British Post Office pays £95,000, and the Australian Colonies, £75,000. The former collects and *retains* the sea transit charges at Postal Union Rates, viz. :—

On letters, 15 francs per kilogramme (5s. 6d. per lb.).

On other articles, 1 franc per kilogramme (4½d. per lb.).

on correspondence forwarded to the colonies by other countries making use of the service.

The colonies, in like manner, collect and *retain* the charges for sea conveyance on the homeward correspondence of New Zealand and other places not parties to the Federal Service.

New Zealand is charged—

On letters, 12s. per lb.

On packets, 1s. per lb.

On newspapers, 6d. per lb.

12s. per lb. on letters is equivalent to nearly 3d. (2·9) per single-rate letter.

The subsidy paid by the contracting colonies (£75,000) is apportioned on the basis of population.

In addition to the Australian service, the Peninsular and Oriental Company have the contracts for the India and China mails, weekly to Bombay and fortnightly to China, for which they are paid £265,000 per annum. Under

Under existing arrangements the Indian mails every alternate week are carried by the Australian steamers between Brindisi and Aden, where they are transhipped to or from the Bombay boat.

The China and Singapore mails are also carried in the Australian (Peninsular and Oriental) steamers to and from Colombo and Italy.

Contract time between—

Brindisi and Adelaide (P. and O. steamers) 780 hours.
 Naples and Adelaide (Orient steamers) ... 780 ,,

The original time allowed to the Orient Company was 768 hours, but on the extension of the contract, or from May, 1895 (since which the steamers have called at Colombo both ways), the time was extended to 780 hours.

The only tenderers for the new service were the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and the Orient Company, the present contractors.

The former provide, as at present, for the India, China, and Australian service, viz., weekly mail to Bombay, and fortnightly to both Australia and China (Shanghai). They submitted alternative tenders for mails *via* Marseilles and Brindisi.

The Orient Company's tender provides, as now, for a through service between Naples and Australia (Adelaide), calling at Colombo both ways.

Both tenders were for a seven years' contract and the following is a summary of them :—

Peninsular and Oriental Tender No. 1, £310,000.

	From Marseilles.	From London.
	hours	hours
Marseilles to Bombay (weekly)	342	370
Marseilles to Shanghai (fortnightly)	782	810
Marseilles to Adelaide (fortnightly)	732	760

Peninsular and Oriental Tender No. 2, £330,000.

	From Brindisi.	From London.
	hours	hours
Brindisi to Bombay (weekly)	302	352
Brindisi to Shanghai (fortnightly)	736	786
Brindisi to Adelaide (fortnightly)	686	736

Showing a difference of £20,000 between the amounts of the two tenders.

Present Cost of P. and O. Services.

India and China	£265,000	
Australia	85,000	
		£350,000
Carriage of parcels to and from Thames		3,550
		£353,550
Saving in cost of present contracts <i>via</i> Brindisi		£23,550
Saving in cost <i>via</i> Marseilles		43,550
and Italian transit charges (say)		30,000
Total saving on present cost <i>via</i> Marseilles... ..		£77,550

Present Contract Time—

Brindisi to Adelaide	780 hours
Time as per tender No. 2	686 ,,
Saving in time <i>via</i> Brindisi	94 hours

It will be seen that a saving of £50,000 a year (£20,000 difference in tender, and £30,000 the estimated payments for Italian transit) might be effected by adopting the Marseilles route for the P. and O. Company's service. This, however, would involve twenty-four hours loss of time, which the Imperial Post Office thinks would not be acceptable to the public in the United Kingdom, India, and the colonies.

Orient Company's Tender—

The Orient Company's tender (£85,000) is the same as present contract, but there will be 60 hours' saving of time, viz.:—

Present contract—Naples to Adelaide	780 hours
Specified in tender, ,, ,,	720 ,,
Saving	60 hours

While the time specified by the P. and O. Company between Brindisi and Adelaide is 686 hours (28 days 14 hours), the Orient Company require 720 hours between Naples and Adelaide. After

After a lengthy negotiation by cablegram, involving a discussion relating to the coloured labour question, which will be found more fully particularised in the Conference proceedings, it was determined to transmit the following cablegram to London:—

“FEDERAL MAIL TENDERS.—In view of your cables on the subject, and our desire to secure continuance of Federal Mail Service, there appears no alternative but to consent acceptance tender P. & O. as well as Orient Company, as suggested by Imperial Government. Conference in consenting urges negotiations to secure following modifications.—

1. Term of contracts—five years.
2. Duration of voyage—672 hours for both Companies between Naples, Brindisi, and Adelaide.
3. Time of departure from Adelaide—Saturday, 2:30 p.m.
4. Steamers to enter Princess Royal Harbour, Albany, until Fremantle Harbour approved by Admiralty Surveyors, after which steamers to enter latter harbour.

The following is the text of the reply received through the Colonial Office on the 17th March last:—

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, 28 January, 1897.

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you for the information of the Secretary of State, in continuation of previous correspondence, on the subject of the Eastern and Australian Mail Service, that the Postmaster-General has now accepted tender No. 2 of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for a seven years' contract, by the Brindisi route, and also the tender of the Orient Company for the same period, the European port of departure in their case being Naples.

The total subsidy under the Peninsular and Oriental contract will be £330,000 per annum, and under the Orient Company's contract, £85,000 per annum.

The Postmaster-General will have the right, without additional payment, to send mails by all the Peninsular and Oriental Company's services during the term of the contract, whether such services are specifically referred to or not.

The Indian Post Office will have the right to commence the sorting work between Port Said and Aden, if the development of the service should require it; but the number of additional men to be carried gratuitously is limited to five sorters and five packers.

The directors of the company undertake to employ more than one steam launch, when necessary, both at Aden and Bombay.

They will interpret as favourably as possible to the wishes of the colonies the qualification which they have felt obliged to introduce into the condition relating to the substitution of Fremantle for Albany as the port of call in Western Australia, and to the entrance of Princess Royal Harbour, so long as the steamers call at Albany.

The Orient Company will also be ready to enter the inner harbour whenever practicable, and to substitute Fremantle for Albany as the port of call, as soon as they can be satisfied that Fremantle Harbour is safe.

This company has further agreed to reduce the time of transit between Naples and Adelaide to 696 hours, and will endeavour in practice to give an earlier arrival at Adelaide and Naples, than is prescribed by the contract.

The dates of departure from Bombay and Adelaide are not yet arranged, but will form the subject of further negotiation between the Postmaster-General and the two companies.

I am, &c.,

E. W. HAMILTON.

The Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

On the 1st March, 1897, a Conference of Ministers was held at the General Post Office, Melbourne, when the undermentioned gentlemen, representing the colonies, were present, viz.:—

The Hon. R. J. SEDDON, M.P., Premier and Postmaster-General of New Zealand.

The Hon. J. COOK, M.P., Postmaster-General of New South Wales.

The Hon. A. J. THYNNE, M.L.C., Postmaster-General of Queensland.

The Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY, M.P., Postmaster-General of Victoria; also representing Tasmania and Western Australia.

The Hon. R. J. Seddon was elected as President, and the following business was transacted, viz.:—The Hon. J. Gavan Duffy was chosen as the Delegate and Ministerial Representative of the colonies at the Washington Postal Union Congress, I, as Postmaster-General of New South Wales having previously declined to be nominated for the position. The President undertook to inform the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the colonies, in terms of memorandum of the 11th December, 1896, that the Hon. J. Gavan Duffy, Postmaster-General of Victoria, had been appointed. It was also resolved that the Premiers of the respective colonies should furnish the Hon. J. Gavan Duffy with the necessary credentials, and that Mr. James Smibert, late Deputy Postmaster-General of Victoria, should accompany the Hon. J. Gavan Duffy as Postal Official. It was further resolved that five hundred pounds (£500) should be the sum fixed to defray the expenses of the Ministerial Representative, and that the sum of three hundred pounds (£300) be approved to defray the expenses of Mr. James Smibert, Postal Official, accompanying

accompanying the Hon. J. Gavan Duffy. The whole amount to be found, in the first instance, by the Colony of Victoria, and afterwards the other colonies to pay their share on the basis of population. The Conference also expressed its great satisfaction that the Pacific Cable Commission, which met in London, had decided to recommend the adoption of the proposals formulated at the Sydney Conference, and, in view of the great importance to the Empire of the construction of the cable, expressed the hope that means may, at an early date, be found for its speedy realisation.

INLAND SERVICE.

The new postal routes opened during the year 1896, as shown in the annexed return, amounted to 1,124 miles, viz. :—

Postal Line.	No. of times per week.	Postal Line.	No. of times per week.
<i>In the Western Country.</i>		<i>In the Southern Country—continued.</i>	
From Caloola to Caloola Creek	3	West Blowering to Yellowin	2
Clarence Tunnel to Dargan's Creek	6	West Wyalong to Yalgogrin North	2
Cobar to The Peak	3	Yanko to Mr. Davies's	2
Conley's to Black Range	1		
Effield to Carlisle	2	<i>In the Northern Country.</i>	
Girilambone to Brewarrina	1	From Ashford to Pindari Station	2
Gulgamree to Bocoble (re-established)	1	Billeroo to Pilliga	1
Locksley to Kinnatown	12	Brookfield to Dungog (re-established)	3
Nangerbone to Conley's	1	Cassilis to Turee Vale	1
Pine Mount to Darby's Falls	2	Clybucca to Beachport	2
Rockley to Charlton	1	Comborah to John Simpson's	1
Rylstone to Cudjegang	2	Cudgen to Duranbah	3
Sussex Station to Kergunyah Station	1	Cundletown to Narrim	3
Tallewang to Tucklan	2	Dinoga (Barraba-Bingara mail line) to Upper Bingara	1
Wanaaring to Milperinka	1	Ellalong to Congewai	3
		Goolnangar to Jiggi	2
<i>In the Southern Country.</i>		Karangi to Upper Bucca Bucca	2
From Ballalaba to Harold's Cross	1	Kinchela Creek Wharf to Post Office	1
Berrigan to Railway Station and Post Office	3	Kunopia to Boggabilla	1
Bombala to Cathcart	2	Marrana Creek to Meramie Station	3
Burrage to Arkstone	1	Moonbi to Gill	3
Burrowa to Gunnary Creek	1	Mt. Vincent to Quorrobolong	3
Campbelltown to Wedderburn	3	New Park to J. Reeves's	1
Cowra Creek to Upper Cowra Creek	2	Pumpkin Creek to Upper Gloucester	2
Craigie to Mila	3	Raymond Terrace—Stroud Road to Meadowie	6
Craigie to Quinburra	3	Sherwood to Dondingalong	1
Deniliquin to Daly's Selection	1	Swan Creek, Steamers' Wharf to Receiving Office	6
Ginninderra to Weetangerra	2	Tallawudjah to Avery's Creek	2
Goulburn to Bungonia	3	Upper Coldstream to Lavadia	2
Hopefield Railway Station to Receiving Office	2	Uralla—Bundarra mail line to Balala	3
Monahan's Homestead to Redlands	2	Wallangarra to Tarban	1
Murrumburrah to Marshall M'Mahon Reef	4	Yarraldool to New Cryan	1
Narrawa to Reeves	3	Yetman to Durkin's	1
Nelligen to Brimbramalla	1		
Unanderra to Griffin's	6		

The postal routes abolished, amounting to 777 miles, are shown in the following return :—

Postal Line.	No. of times per week.	Postal Line.	No. of times per week.
<i>Western Roads.</i>		<i>Northern Roads.</i>	
Between Black Springs and Arkstone	1	Between Ashford and Walker's Store	1
Coolabah and Brewarrina	1	Bald Nob and Vindin's	1
Freeman's Reach and Bull Ridge	3	Ben Lomond Railway Station and Ben Lomond Hotel	2
Genanagic and Peak Hill	2	Bexhill and Numulgi	2
Gulgamree and Bocoble	2	Bukkulla Station and Pindari Station	2
Locksley and Kinnatown	12	Cardiff Railway Station and Post Office	6
Mt. M'Donald and Darby's Falls	2	Cassilis and Turee Creek	1
Murrumbidgee and Eulomogo	6	Gerrymberryn and Seelands	2
		Kingtown and Linton	1
<i>Southern Roads.</i>		Kunopia and Goondiwindi	1
Between Brooman and Brimbramalla	1	Lismore and Jiggi	1
Deniliquin and W. Watson's (Thurgoon)	1	Lismore and Woodlawn (by road)	2
Jerilderie and Berrigan	2	M'Lean's (near Elsmore) and Wilson's	3
Mahratta Station and Mila	1	Rivertree and Tooloom	1
Pinnacles and Thackaringa	2	Upper Copmanhurst and Cangai	1
The Rocks (landing place) and Merimbula	6	Walgett and Yarraldool	1
Wyalong and 16-mile Tank	6	Waratah and Wallscnd-Plattsburg (by coach)	6

Increased communication on existing lines was afforded as follows :—

Postal Line.	No. of times per week.		Postal Line.	No. of times per week.	
	From	To		From	To
<i>Western Roads.</i>			<i>Northern Roads.</i>		
Between Cobar and Wilcannia	2	3	Between Armidale and Puddledock	1	2
Galston and Arcadia	3	6	Ballina and Teven Creek	1	2
Gilgunnia and Mount Hope	1	2	Cobbadah and Stormont	1	2
Marsden's and Waroo	1	2	Comara and Bellbrook	1	2
Oberon and Sweetbriar	2	3	Cooperook and Harrington	2	4
Woodstock and Pine Mount	1	2	Deepwater and Torrington	3	6
<i>Southern Roads.</i>			Dinoga and Upper Bingara	1	2
Between Barham and Koondrook	3	6	Hillgrove and Wollomombi	2	3
Bermagui and Murrumbidgee	2	3	Inverell and Ashford	2	3
Berridale and Rocky Plain	1	2	Lismore and Goolmangar	1	3
Bookham and Tumut	1	2	Macksville and Burrupine	1	2
Brungle Bridge and Wagragobilly	3	6	Monkerai and Weismantel's	2	3
Carrathool and Hillston	2	3	Morree and Mungindi	2	3
Curraweela and Jerrong	1	2	Port Macquarie and Rawdon Island	3	5
Jerilderie Railway Station and Post Office	3	9	Telegraph Point and Upper Rolland's Plains	3	4
Morundah and Chanticleer	1	2	Wardell and Alstonville	2	3
Narrandera Railway Station and Post Office	12	15			
Perricoota and Womboo (Rogers)	2	3			
Picton and Bargo	2	3			
Thackaringa and Cockburn, S.A.	2	6			
Tocumwal and Berrigan	2	3			

The communication existing on the following lines was decreased :—

Postal Line.	No. of times per week.		Postal Line.	No. of times per week.	
	From	To		From	To
<i>Western Roads.</i>			<i>Northern Roads.</i>		
Between Gorman's Hill West and Lake Cudgellico	2	1	Between Armidale and Hillgrove	12	6
Oberon and Jenolan Caves	6	3	Boggabilla and Goondiwindi	6	4
<i>Southern Roads.</i>			Chatsworth Island and Woodburn	10	6
Between Bombala and Cathcart	6	3	Hillgrove and Wollomombi	3	2
Grenfell and Forbes	6	3	St. Albans and Upper McDonald	3	2
Ivanhoe and Wilcannia	2	1	Walcha Road and Walcha	12	6
Marulan and Bungonia	6	3			
Moama and Perricoota	6	5			
Murrumburrah and Garangula	6	3			

The extent of postal route traversed in the Colony up to the 31st December, 1896, was 34,083 miles, as compared with 33,693 miles traversed in 1895—

	1895.	1896.
On horseback	10,675 miles	10,258 miles.
By coach	19,545 "	20,309 "
By railway	2,581 "	2,624 "
By tramway	68 "	68 "
By steamer	824 "	824 "

The extension of mail route by railway during 1896 was as follows :—Jerilderie to Berrigan, 22 miles ; Parkes to Bogan Gate, 21 miles.

The number of miles travelled in the year 1896 was 9,773,500, being an increase of 435,500 on the mileage of the previous year.

The number of Post Offices established was 44, viz. :—Arcadia, Badgery's Creek, Ballimore, Binnie Creek, Bogan Gate, Bonnyrigg, Boppy Mountain, Bugaldi, Burragate, Comara, Congewai, Cookamidgera, Corndale, Crabbe's Creek, Crow Mountain, Cugong, Curban, Dargan's Creek, Dignam's Creek, Double Peak, Eltham, Kinnatown, Lakesland, Leura, Lower Bucca, Mallan, Marrana Creek, Mila, Moonan Flat, Mount Wilson, Nicholson's, Pipeclay Creek, Tallagandra, Terra Bella, The Albert, Tomooroma, Tooraweenah, Turill, Upper Bucca Bucca, Wagonga, Wahroonga, Wamboyne, Wedderburn, and Yantabulla.

The number of Post Offices discontinued was 11, viz. :—Bulgandramine, Bull Ridge, Bumble, Darke's Forest, Deep Creek, Harris-street, Kinnatown, Little Bendigo, Nicholson's, Sixteen Mile Tank, and Yandarlo. It

It was found desirable to change the designations of the following Post Offices, viz.:—Bungwall Flat to Bungwahl, Croki to Jones' Island, Hillgrove West to Metz, Landsdown to Lansdowne, and Upper Lansdown to Upper Lansdowne.

In the Appendix will be found a list of the 1,503 Post Offices in the Colony on the 31st December, 1896. In addition to these there are three travelling Post Offices which run between Sydney and the northern border of the Colony at Jennings, between Sydney and Albury on the southern border, and between Sydney and Dubbo in the West.

206 changes of Postmasters occurred during the year.

Receiving Offices were established at the following places:—Avery's Creek, Back Creek, Barooga, Baryulgil, Bennett's Flat, Bielsdown, Boggy Camp, Boney's Rocks, Bonnyrigg, Boyd, Buddabuddah, Burrumundra, Caloola Creek, Carlisle, Cell's Field, Chilcott's Grass, Collingwood, Conley's, Darke's Forest, Daroobalgie, Deep Gully, Dinoga, Dondingalong, Duranbah, Five Islands, Gill, Gordonville, Gunnary Creek, Hellman's Tank, Isabella, Lavadia, Mackay, Moongulla, Mowabla Tank, Naranghi, Nirrim, North Araluen, Pee Dee, Quinn's, Quorroolong, Redlands, Roslyn, St. Leonards, Swan Creek, Tarban, Tartna Point, The Peak, Tilbuster, Tucklan, Turee Vale, Upper Bingara, Upper Gloucester, Wakool Crossing, Wang Wauk, Warrumbungle, Wectangerra, West Blowering, Willanthry, Wrightville, and Yellowin.

The Receiving Office at Reeves was re-established.

The names of the following Receiving Offices were changed, viz.:—Doroughby Grass to Doroughby, Hannah Bay to Anna Bay, and Mackay to Yuelba.

The Receiving Offices at the following places were converted into Post Offices, viz.: Arcadia, Badger's Creek, Ballimore, Binnie Creek, Bonnyrigg, Boppy Mountain, Burragate, Bugaldi, Comara, Cookamidgera, Corndale, Crabbe's Creek, Crow Mountain, Cugong, Curban, Dignam's Creek, Double Peak, Eltham, Lakesland, Leura, Mallan, Marrana Creek, Mila, Moonan Flat, Mount Wilson, Nicholson's, Pipe Clay Creek, Tallagandra, Terra Bella, Tomooroma, Toorawcenah, Turill, Wagonga, Wahroonga, Wamboyne, and Yantabulla.

The Receiving Offices at the following places were discontinued, viz.:—Ashley, Beggan Beggan, Ben Lomond, Bob's Range, Cangai, Cobark, Coramba Battery, Currowan, Eulomogo, Forest Vale, Great Southern Colliery, Greenwood, Hawke's Nest, Lochiel, Mangargool, Peacock Creek, Possum Power, Seelands, The Fens, The Weir, Turee Creek, Wallan Billan, Wilga Vale, and Wyan.

In the Appendix will be found a list of the Receiving Offices in existence at the close of the year, 503 in number.

Appendix A.

Appendix A contains a return of the Government Buildings for the transaction of the Postal, Money Order, Savings Bank, and Telegraph business, and particulars of the premises rented or otherwise provided for the purpose. Government Buildings at the following places were completed and occupied during the year 1896, viz.:—Anmandale, Bungendore, Camperdown, Coolamon, Enngonia, Five Dock, Glen Innes, Homebush, Lawrence, Minmi, North Parramatta, Robertson, St. Peters, and Wyalong.

During the year 1896, 2 pillar letter-receivers were removed to different sites, and 72 were withdrawn; 111 small iron letter-receivers were placed, and 3 were withdrawn. One galvanized iron and 2 wooden newspaper-receivers were erected.

On the 31st December the number of letter-receivers erected in the Colony (both large and small) was 1,232, and the number of newspaper-receivers, 28.

The number of licenses for the sale of postage stamps issued in 1896 to persons other than postmasters or receiving-office-keepers was 116, the number transferred 61, and the number cancelled, 65.

On the 31st December, 1896, the number of locked private letter-boxes let at the General Post Office was 1,226, besides 77 allotted to Public Departments, for which no fees are paid.

The system is now in operation at the following offices, viz.:—Adelong, Albury, Armidale, Ashfield, Ballina, Balnain, Balranald, Bathurst, Bega, Berrigan, Bingara, Bombala, Bourke, Bowral, Braidwood, Broken Hill, Burwood, Casino, Cobar, Condobolin, Cooma, Coonamble, Cootamundra, Coraki, Cowra, Deniliquin, Dubbo, East Maitland, Emmaville, Forbes, George-street North, Glen Innes, Goulburn, Grafton, Granville, Grenfell, Gulgong, Gunnedah, Hay, Haymarket, Hillgrove, Hillston, Inverell,

Inverell, Jerilderie, Junee, Kempsey, Kiama, King-street, Lismore, Maclean, Manly, Marrickville, Moree, Moruya, Moss Vale, Mount Victoria, Mudgee, Murwillumbah, Muswellbrook, Narrabri, Narrandera, Newcastle, Newtown, North Sydney, Nymagee, Orange, Pambula, Park-street, Parramatta, Queanbeyan, Rozelle, Scone Silverton, Singleton, Tamworth, Taree, Temora, Tenterfield, Uralla, Urana, Wagga Wagga, Walgett, Wentworth, West Maitland, Wilcannia, Wollongong, West Wyalong, Wyalong, and Young.

Six private posting-boxes have been constructed on private premises for the use and at the expense of the occupants, under the system introduced in August, 1886. The fee charged for the clearance of these boxes varies from £3 to £5 per annum, according to the daily number of clearances effected.

The number of persons employed in connection with the Postal and Electric Telegraph Department for the year 1896 was as follows:—1 Postmaster-General, 1 Deputy Postmaster-General, 1 Chief Clerk, 1 Chief Electrician and Engineer-in-Chief of Telegraphs, 1 Chief Accountant and Controller, Money Order Office and Government Savings Bank.

Ministerial Division.—1 inland mail clerk, 1 appointment clerk, 1 inspector for irregularity and missing and dead letter branch, 1 correspondence clerk, 1 record clerk, 1 clerk in charge of stores, 46 clerks, 1 chief messenger, 8 indoor messengers, 4 storemen, 2 detectives, 3 constables.

Money Order and Government Savings Bank Division.—1 accountant, 1 examiner, 1 teller, 74 clerks, 5 indoor messengers.

Account and Cash Division.—1 accountant, 1 distributor of stamps, 1 cashier, 18 clerks.

Mail Division.—1 chief inspector and superintendent, 1 assistant superintendent, 1 senior inspector, 7 inspectors, 46 clerks, 1 shipping clerk, 1 assistant shipping clerk, 1 clerk and translator, 2 relieving officers, 1 medical officer, 1 Chinese interpreter, 17 mail guards, 123 sorters, 17 stampers, 1 overseer of letter-carriers, 78 letter-carriers, 17 junior letter-carriers, 60 mail-boys, 17 assistants, parcel post branch, 2 custodians of mails, 1 custodian of mail-bags, 1 assistant in bag-room, 2 bag turners, 1 bag-maker, 1 letter-carriers' timekeeper, 1 mechanic, 1 carpenter, 1 caretaker, 1 assistant caretaker, 1 officekeeper, 1 tower attendant, 6 cleaners, 15 female servants, 1 manager of stables, 1 farrier, 1 striker and assistant, 8 grooms, 1 foreman of mail-cart drivers, 12 mail-cart drivers, 3 lift attendants.

Telegraph Division.—1 station manager, 2 assistant station managers, 1 check clerk, 1 electrician, 1 assistant electrician, 2 testing officers, 1 receiving clerk, 34 clerks, 27 booking clerks, 2 cadets (electrician's branch), 174 operators, 5 junior operators, 4 messengers' overseers, 11 monitors (despatch branch), 153 messengers, 4 cadets, 1 mechanic, 5 fitters, 1 probationer (mechanical branch), 1 inspector of lines (city and suburbs), 1 assistant line repairer, 8 batterymen.

Telephone Branch.—1 manager, 1 mechanic, 20 fitters, 1 exchange foreman, 1 line foreman, 6 monitors, 1 matron, 69 switch attendants (55 male and 14 female), 1 junior assistant, 1 cleaner and messenger.

Electric Light Branch.—1 chief engineer, 4 engineers, 12 assistant engineers.

Branch, Suburban, and Country Offices.—1,503 postmasters (435 official, 1,068 non-official), 8 telegraph station masters, 107 postal assistants, 94 junior postal assistants, 52 temporary postal assistants, 265 operators, 56 junior operators, 25 non-official station masters and telephone operators, 16 mail-guards, 2 assistant guards, 1 sorter, 171 letter-carriers, 187 junior letter-carriers, 46 mail-boys, 381 telegraph messengers, 9 cadets, 53 switch attendants, 2 telephone fitters, 3 batterymen, 45 line-repairers, 4 construction overseers, 4 carpenters, 50 temporary line-repairers, 35 labourers, 503 receiving office keepers.

Total, Head Office	1,192
„ Branch, Suburban, and Country Offices ...	3,622
„ Number of Mail Contractors	830
„ „ Porters	101
Total number of persons employed,	5,745

These may be subdivided into—

Persons whose whole time is occupied in the service;	{	Principal officers	36
		Clerks	250
		Post and telegraph masters	443
		Assistants at Post Offices	228
		Operators	500
		Subordinate officials	1,709
and			3,166
Persons whose time is only partially em- ployed in the service.	{	Sub or non-official postmasters, telephone operators, and Receiving Office-keepers	1,596
		Assistants to non-official postmasters and other sub- ordinate officials	52
		Mail contractors and mail porters	931
			2,579
		Total	5,745

The removals from the Service numbered twelve. One of these—a letter-carrier—received a sentence of eighteen months' imprisonment for stealing letters; another—a postal-assistant—was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for removing the postmark from a stamp and uttering the same; and a third—a telegraph messenger—was fined £1, with an alternative of imprisonment, for embezzling portion of a savings bank deposit. The remainder were dismissed for the following offences:—A post and telegraph master for irregularities resulting from drink; another post and telegraph master for a deficiency in his accounts; two mail-boys, a telegraph messenger, and a cleaner, for drunkenness; and two letter-carriers and a telegraph messenger, for unsatisfactory conduct.

Twenty-one deaths occurred, viz.:—C. H. Lawson, clerk, mail division; Miss M. J. Davies, post and telegraph mistress, Hunter's Hill; A. J. Flanders, post and telegraph master, Ulmarra; F. Boland, post and telegraph master, Cannonbar; P. E. M'Guinness, postal assistant, Walgett; Miss C. E. Davies, junior assistant, Hunter's Hill; H. Corbett and W. Buchanan, operators, Head Office; S. W. Moseley, operator, Deniliquin; R. Dennis, junior operator, Parkes; E. St. A. Kingsford, telephone operator, Port Macquarie Heads; C. J. H. Burgis, sorter; W. J. Mason, letter-carriers' overseer; W. Smith, letter-carrier, Woollahra; T. J. Wilshire, letter-carrier, Yass; G. E. Wilton, letter-carrier, Goulburn; W. Timbrell, letter-carrier, Newcastle; H. Nicholls, junior letter-carrier, Dubbo; W. Neilan, telegraph messenger; J. Norquay, line-repairer, Milton; and W. J. Cracknell, indoor messenger.

Ninety-six resignations took place. The services of eight officials no longer required were dispensed with, and an operator forfeited his office owing to bankruptcy.

Seven officers retired from the Service, viz.:—W. J. H. Hayes, operator, Cowra; Miss H. J. North, post and telegraph mistress, Edgecliff; W. G. Ledsam, post and telegraph master, Junee; E. Doust, post and telegraph master, Paterson; and J. F. Tyter, post and telegraph master, Kiama, who were allowed pensions under the Civil Service Act, 1884; T. W. Harris, post and telegraph master, Raymond Terrace, who received a gratuity under the Public Service Act of 1895; and W. H. Ore, line-repairer at Mudgee, who has since been reappointed to the Service in another capacity.

Independently of the retirements referred to above, the services of 193 officers were dispensed with in connection with the grading of the Department by the Public Service Board. These consisted of:—1 superintendent, mail branch, 30 clerks, 15 post and telegraph masters, 7 postal assistants, 20 junior postal assistants, 3 parcels and store assistants, 45 temporary postal assistants (postmasters' wives), 23 operators, 19 junior operators, 1 overseer of sorters, 5 letter-sorters, 2 mail guards, 11 stampers and sorters, and 11 letter-carriers.

Several of these being over 60 years of age, and contributors to the Superannuation Fund, were allowed the pensions to which they were entitled under the Civil Service Act, 1884; others received the gratuities provided for in the Public Service Act of 1895; while the larger proportion of the remainder have been reappointed to fill vacancies which have occurred since the Department was graded.

The

The Postal Inspectors in 1896 travelled a distance of 58,396 miles, and inspected the postal route appertaining thereto, visiting 720 offices, 219 of which were visited more than once during the year.

An important alteration took effect from the 1st December in the Northern Railway time-table, necessitating considerable changes in the mail arrangements in the Northern districts of the Colony. Previously the mails from Brisbane (Queensland) and intermediate places reached Sydney at 11 p.m. daily (Sundays excepted), but from the date named they arrived at 11 a.m. daily (Sundays excepted). The hours of the second and third deliveries by letter-carrier in the city were changed from 11.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. to 11 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. respectively, and a regular delivery was afforded on Saturdays at 1.30 p.m., instead of, as formerly, only when the English mail arrived on that day. These changes involved a slight alteration in the hours of clearance of the city letter-receivers.

The rates of postage on letters transmitted to and from Post and Receiving Offices within the respective districts mentioned hereunder was fixed at 1d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., or fraction thereof, from the dates named :—

Within a radius of 13 miles of Parramatta	...	...	from the 15th February.
"	"	"	Katoomba " 1st March.
"	"	"	Moss Vale " 15th March.
"	"	"	Hay " 16th May.
"	"	"	Deniliquin " 15th August.

In August the regulations providing for the transmission of notices of meetings at the rate of 1d. per 2 oz., or fraction thereof, were amended, so as to allow of the objects of such meetings being inserted in writing in the case of notices posted within the Colony for delivery therein.

Amended regulations have been introduced in connection with the receipt and delivery of parcels, hours of attendance of Officials at Post and Telegraph Offices, "Late Fee" letters, &c.

FOREIGN SERVICE.

As was mentioned in my report for 1895, the contracts with the Peninsular and Oriental, and Orient Steam Navigation Companies for the Federal Mail Service to Europe, *via* Suez, were extended to the 31st January, 1898, and that with Mr. James Huddart for a monthly steam service between Sydney and Vancouver, British Columbia, was renewed for a further term of 3 years, expiring 25th May, 1899.

The arrangement made with the New Zealand Government in 1892 for the conveyance of mails, once every four weeks, to and from Sydney and San Francisco, *via* Auckland, by contract packets of the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, for the sum of £4,000 per annum, has been renewed for a further period, expiring in November, 1897.

The Mail Service performed by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company during the year 1896 was as follows :—

Received.

Name of Steamer.	Date of departure of Mails from England.	Date of arrival of Mails at Sydney.	No. of days occupied in transit of Mails between London and Sydney.	Name of Steamer.	Date of departure of Mails from England.	Date of arrival of Mails at Sydney.	No. of days occupied in transit of Mails between London and Sydney.
	1895.	1896.			1896.	1896.	
Massilia.....	13 December ..	17 January ...	35	Australia.....	12 June	15 July	33
Arcadia.....	27 "	29 "	33	Rome	26 "	29 "	33
	1896.			Himalaya	10 July	12 August.....	33
Ballaarat	10 January ...	14 February ...	35	Oceana	24 "	26 "	32
Rome.....	24 "	28 "	35	Valetta	7 August.....	11 September..	35
Valetta	7 February ..	14 March	36	Parramatta...	21 "	25 "	36
Himalaya	21 "	24 "	32	Massilia	4 September..	8 October ...	34
Oceana	6 March	8 April	33	Arcadia	18 "	21 "	33
Victoria.....	20 "	22 "	33	Ballaarat.....	2 October ..	8 November..	37
Britannia	3 April	6 May	33	Australia.....	16 "	17 "	32
Parramatta ..	17 "	22 "	35	Rome.....	30 "	4 December ..	35
Massilia	1 May	5 June	35	Himalaya ..	13 November..	15 "	32
Arcadia	15 "	17 "	33	Oceana	27 "	30 "	33
Ballaarat	29 "	4 July	36				

Despatched.

Name of Steamer.	Date of despatch of Mails from Sydney.	Date of arrival of Mails in England.	No. of days occupied in transit of Mails between Sydney and London.	Name of Steamer.	Date of despatch of Mails from Sydney.	Date of arrival of Mails in England.	No. of days occupied in transit of Mails between Sydney and London.
	1896.	1896.			1896.	1896.	
Parramatta	13 January	17 February ..	35	Ballaarat.....	27 July	31 August	35
Australia	27 "	29 "	33	Australia.....	10 August.....	12 September..	33
Massilia.....	10 February ..	15 March	34	Rome	24 "	27 "	34
Arcadia	24 "	29 "	34	Himalaya	7 September..	10 October	33
Ballaarat	9 March	13 April	36	Oceana	21 "	25 "	34
Rome	23 "	26 "	34	Valotta	5 October	9 November	35
Valotta	6 April	11 May	35	Parramatta	19 "	22 "	34
Himalaya	20 "	24 "	34	Massilia	2 November..	7 December..	36
Oceana	4 May	6 June	33	Arcadia	16 "	20 "	34
Victoria.....	18 "	21 "	34			1897.	
Britannia	1 June	7 July	36	Ballaarat.....	30 "	3 January	34
Parramatta	15 "	20 "	35	Australia.....	14 December..	17 "	34
Massilia.....	29 "	4 August	36	Rome	28 "	31 "	34
Arcadia	13 July	18 "	36				

Average time occupied in the conveyance of mails to and from Sydney and London :—
 London to Sydney 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ days.
 Sydney to London 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

The following are the returns of the Mail Services performed by the Orient Steam Navigation Company during the year 1896 :—

Received.

Name of Steamer.	Date of departure of Mails from England.	Date of arrival of Mails at Sydney.	No. of days occupied in transit of Mails between London and Sydney.	Name of Steamer.	Date of departure of Mails from England.	Date of arrival of Mails at Sydney.	No. of days occupied in transit of Mails between London and Sydney.
	1895.	1896.			1896.	1896.	
Ormuz	6 December..	9 January	34	Austral.....	5 June	9 July	34
Orotava	20 "	24 "	35	Ophir	19 "	23 "	34
	1896.						
Oruba	3 January	6 February	34	Orizaba.....	3 July	6 August	34
Cuzco	17 "	20 "	34	Oroya	17 "	19 "	33
Austral	31 "	5 March	34	Orient	31 "	4 September..	35
Ophir	14 February ..	20 "	35	Lusitania	14 August.....	21 "	38
Orizaba	28 "	3 April	35	Orotava	28 "	1 October	34
Oroya	13 March.....	17 "	35	Oruba	11 September	15 "	34
Orient	27 "	1 May	35	Ormuz	25 "	29 "	34
Ormuz	10 April	14 "	34	Austral	9 October	12 November..	34
Orotava	24 "	27 "	33	Ophir	23 "	26 "	34
Oruba	8 May	10 June	33	Orizaba	6 November..	11 December..	35
Cuzco	22 "	25 "	34	Oroya	20 "	24 "	34

Despatched.

Name of Steamer.	Date of despatch of Mails from Sydney.	Date of arrival of Mails in England.	No. of days occupied in transit of Mails between Sydney and London.	Name of Steamer.	Date of despatch of Mails from Sydney.	Date of arrival of Mails in England.	No. of days occupied in transit of Mails between Sydney and London.
	1896.	1896.			1896.	1896.	
Oroya	6 January	8 February	33	Cuzco	20 July.....	23 August.....	34
Orient	20 "	24 "	35	Austral	3 August	6 September..	34
Ormuz	3 February ..	7 March	33	Ophir	17 "	20 "	34
Orotava	17 "	21 "	33	Orizaba.....	31 "	4 October	34
Oruba	2 March	3 April	32	Oroya	14 September	17 "	33
Cuzco	16 "	19 "	34	Orient	28 "	3 November ..	36
Austral	30 "	2 May	33	Lusitania	12 October	17 "	36
Ophir	13 April	16 "	33	Orotava	26 "	27 "	32
Orizaba	27 "	31 "	34	Oruba	9 November ..	12 December ..	33
Oroya	11 May	13 June	33	Ormuz	23 "	26 "	33
Orient	25 "	5 July	31			1897.	
Ormuz	8 June	12 "	34	Austral	7 December..	9 January	33
Orotava	22 "	26 "	34	Ophir	21 "	24 "	34
Oruba	6 July	10 August.....	35				

Average time occupied in the conveyance of mails to and from Sydney and London :—

London to Sydney 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ days.
 Sydney to London 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

The following returns show the dates of arrival and departure at and from Sydney and London of the mails per Union Steamship Company's steamers, *via* San Francisco, during the year 1896 :—

Received.

Name of Steamer.	Date of departure of Mails from England.	Date of arrival of Mails at Sydney.	No. of days occupied in transit of Mails between London and Sydney.	Name of Steamer.	Date of departure of Mails from England.	Date of arrival of Mails at Sydney.	No. of days occupied in transit of Mails between London and Sydney.
	1895.	1896.			1896.	1896.	
Monowai	30 November...	8 January ...	39	Monowai	16 May.....	24 June.....	39
Alameda	28 December...	5 February ...	39	Alameda	13 June	23 July	40
	1896.			Mariposa	11 July	19 August	39
Mariposa	25 January ...	3 March	38	Monowai	8 August ...	16 September..	39
Monowai	22 February ...	2 April	40	Alameda	5 September..	12 October ...	37
Alameda	21 March	29 "	39	Mariposa	3 October ...	9 November ..	37
Mariposa	18 April	25 May	37	Monowai	31 "	9 December ..	39

Despatched.

Name of Steamer.	Date of departure of Mails from Sydney.	Date of arrival of Mails in England.	No. of days occupied in transit of Mails between Sydney and London.	Name of Steamer.	Date of departure of Mails from Sydney.	Date of arrival of Mails in England.	No. of days occupied in transit of Mails between Sydney and London.
	1896.	1896.			1896.	1896.	
Monowai	20 January	29 February ...	40	Alameda	3 August	9 September..	37
Alameda.....	17 February ...	25 March	37	Mariposa	31 "	7 October ...	37
Mariposa	16 March	22 April	37	Monowai	28 September..	5 November ...	38
Monowai	13 April	21 May	38	Alameda	26 October ...	2 December...	37
Alameda	11 May	17 June.....	37	Mariposa	23 November..	30 "	37
Mariposa	8 June.....	15 July	37			1897.	
Monowai	6 July	13 August.....	38	Monowai	21 December...	28 January ...	38

Average time occupied in the conveyance of mails to and from Sydney and London, *via* San Francisco :—

London to Sydney	38½ days.
Sydney to London	37½ "

The following are the returns of the Mail Service performed by the Canadian-Australian Steamship Line, *via* Vancouver, during the year 1896 :—

Received.

Name of Steamer.	Date of departure of Mails from England.	Date of arrival of Mails at Sydney.	Name of Steamer.	Date of departure of Mails from England.	Date of arrival of Mails at Sydney.
		1896.			1896.
Miowera	Mails are not des-	20 January.	Miowera	Mails are not des-	3 August.
Warrimoo ...	patched from	10 February.	Warrimoo ...	patched from	1 September.
Miowera	London for con-	29 March.	Miowera	London for con-	2 October.
Warrimoo ...	voyance by Van-	22 April.	Warrimoo ...	voyance by Van-	31 " ..
Miowera	couver Service.	29 May.	Miowera	couver Service.	4 December.
Warrimoo ...	.....	23 June.			

Despatched.

Name of Steamer.	Date of departure of Mails from Sydney.	Date of arrival of Mails in England.	No. of days occupied in transit of Mails between Sydney and London.	Name of Steamer.	Date of departure of Mails from Sydney.	Date of arrival of Mails in England.	No. of days occupied in transit of Mails between Sydney and London.
	1896.	1896.			1896.	1896.	
Miowera	1 February ...	14 March	42	Miowera	10 August.....	16 September..	37
Warrimoo ...	29 "	8 April	39	Warrimoo ...	10 September..	17 October ...	37
Miowera	8 April	16 May	38	Miowera	14 October ...	21 November..	38
Warrimoo ...	1 May	7 June	37	Warrimoo ...	10 November..	19 December...	39
Miowera	10 June.....	21 July	41			1897.	
Warrimoo ...	10 July	15 August....	36	Miowera	12 December...	23 January ...	42

Average time occupied in the conveyance of mails :—

Sydney to London	38½ days.
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The

The subsidy paid for the year 1896 to the Peninsular and Oriental and Orient Steam Navigation Companies for the Federal Ocean Mail Service *via* Suez was £170,000. The contribution of the United Kingdom was £95,000.

The amount paid by each contributing colony, on the basis of population, was as follows:—

New South Wales	...	...	...	...	...	£27,075	5	0
Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	25,078	10	0
Queensland	...	...	...	...	...	9,747	3	4
South Australia	...	...	...	...	...	7,577	1	8
Tasmania	...	...	...	...	...	3,407	16	8
Western Australia	...	...	...	...	...	2,114	3	4
Total	...	...	...	...	...	£75,000	0	0

The following return shows the number of letters, packets, and newspapers despatched and received by the various ocean mail routes during the year 1896, as compared with similar information for the year 1895:—

Year.	Route.	Despatched.						Received.				
		Intercolonial.			International.			Intercolonial.			International.	
		Letters.	Packets.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Packets.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Packets.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Packets and Newspapers.
1895	Per Peninsular and Oriental S. N. Co.'s packets, <i>via</i> Brindisi	72,710	38,026	133,035	423,805	81,076	269,729	49,278	9,459	26,076	664,110	613,786
1896		146,710	23,760	173,094	439,905	80,004	241,439	128,587	15,169	66,307	634,633	596,814
1895	Per Orient Steam Navigation Co.'s packets, <i>via</i> Naples	65,332	22,180	115,374	412,440	79,054	264,809	53,572	9,541	29,965	615,775	579,462
1896		133,205	57,390	107,957	441,136	74,922	265,082	136,516	24,095	70,427	627,450	608,581
1895	Per Union Steamship Co.'s packets, <i>via</i> San Francisco	25,235	73,326	44,704	60,612	11,248	49,291	18,540	2,593	11,516	97,508	107,260
1896		21,930	110,349	41,007	64,414	11,010	48,486	17,250	2,491	10,500	110,937	110,867
1895	Per Queensland Royal Mail Co.'s packets, <i>via</i> Torres Straits	....	....	....	2,501	376	3,175	....	....	....	74	25
1896		....	....	....	2,247	457	2,250	....	....	....	105	14
1895	Per Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes' packets, <i>via</i> Marseilles	184	3	4	7,626	1,151	3,202	608	46	202	8,993	6,578
1896		139	3	39	5,955	390	2,359	....	....	....	10,201	9,257
1895	Per Nord-Deutscher Lloyd's packets, <i>via</i> Brindisi	193	1	1	364	10	1	....	....	....	11,248	7,389
1896		136	4	1	1,419	93	342	10	....	....	14,451	7,878
1895	Per Canadian-Australian packets, <i>via</i> Vancouver	....	....	....	32,159	7,540	30,770	....	....	....	25,286	75,051
1896		....	....	....	46,301	7,700	44,564	....	....	....	51,643	67,719

The following statements for the year 1896 show the approximate net cost to the Colony of the Suez, San Francisco, and Vancouver Mail Services.

Statement showing the approximate net cost to New South Wales, for the year 1896, of the mail service, *via* Suez, per the vessels of the Orient and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Companies:—

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To New South Wales proportion of Colonial share of subsidy for carriage of mails	27,075	5	0			
Transit of mail-matter through European Countries, &c.	3,563	9	2			
Overland transit of mail-matter through Australian colonies; cost of advising arrival of mails in London, exchange on remittances, &c.	1,556	12	7			
				32,295	6	9
<i>Cr.</i>						
By Estimated share of contributions from non-contracting colonies, &c.	1,210	0	0			
Estimated share of transit rates on mail-matter from European Countries, &c.	575	0	0			
Estimated postages collected in the Colony	20,000	0	0			
				21,785	0	0
Estimated net cost to the Colony				£10,510	6	9
The estimated net cost for 1895 was				£12,438	6	2

Statement

Statement showing the approximate net cost to New South Wales, for the year 1896, of the San Francisco Mail Service, per the vessels of the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand (Limited) :—

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Payment to New Zealand for carriage of mails ...	4,000	0	0			
Cost of land and sea transit of mail-matter for places beyond the United States of America, and of advising arrival of mails in London		25	0	6		
				4,025	0	6
<i>Cr.</i>						
By Estimated postages collected in the Colony, &c.				2,380	0	0
Estimated net cost to the Colony				£1,645	0	6
The estimated net cost for 1895 was				£2,122	18	9

Statement showing the approximate net cost to New South Wales, for the year 1896, of the Sydney-Vancouver Mail Service, per vessels of Mr. James Huddart :—

<i>Dr.</i>	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Payment to Mr. James Huddart for the carriage of mails	9,106	13	4			
Cost of land and sea transit of mail-matter to places beyond Canada		80	0	0		
				9,186	13	4
<i>Cr.</i>						
By Contributions from non-contracting colonies, &c.	689	16	8			
Estimated postages collected in the Colony		780	0	0		
				1,469	16	8
Estimated net cost to the Colony				£7,716	16	8
The estimated net cost for 1895 was				£9,040	12	11

PARCEL POST.

A direct exchange of parcels between this Colony and Malta was established on the 1st January, 1896, at the rate of 1s. 6d. for the first 2 lb., or fraction, and 9d. for each additional lb.; and in June arrangements were completed for a similar exchange with Hawaii, at the rate of 1s. per lb.

Through the medium of the United Kingdom, parcels may now be sent to Venezuela (Caracas, Carupano, Ciudad, Bolivar, Cumana, La Guaira, La Vela de Coro, Maracaibo, and Puerto Caballo), Paraguay, Cape Verde Islands (St. Vincent and Santiago), Portuguese West Africa (Ambriz, Benguela, Cabenda, Loanda, Mossamedes, and St. Thomas'), and Bolama in Guinea.

From the 1st October the rates of postage on parcels for the United Kingdom were reduced from 1s. 6d. for the first 2 lb. to 1s. for the first lb., and from 9d. to 6d. for each additional lb.; and consequent on this change a corresponding reduction was made in the rates on parcels forwarded to other countries through the medium of the United Kingdom.

Revised rates were also introduced in connection with parcels transmitted to Hong Kong, China, Corea, Macao, Siam, Japan, Ceylon, and Mauritius (*via* Ceylon).

Under an arrangement concluded in 1892 for a direct exchange of parcels between this Colony and India by the steamers of the Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., the postage rate of 1s. per lb. was apportioned equally between New South Wales, India, and the company performing the service; but as one of the provisions of the extended contract for the Federal mail service was that parcels to and from Australia and the United Kingdom and intermediate places should be conveyed by contract packets free of special charge, a reapportionment of the postage was agreed to, and took effect from the 1st February, 1896, the Colonial and Indian inland share being each increased to 4½d. per lb., while 1d. per lb. was allowed to India for sea-transit by non-contract vessels, the remaining 2d. per lb. being credited to the British Post Office on parcels *from* India and to New South Wales on parcels *to* India, in consideration of the sea-transit provided by the Federal mail service maintained by Great Britain and the Australian Colonies.

Letters,

Letters, Letter Cards, Post Cards, Packets, Newspapers, and Parcels posted and received in the Colony during 1896 as compared with 1895.

Posted.

Service	Year.	ARTICLES SUBJECT TO POSTAGE.								ARTICLES EXEMPT FROM POSTAGE.*				PARCELS.				TOTAL ARTICLES.
		Letters.		Letter Cards.	Post Cards.		Packets.		Newspapers.	Letters.	Packets.	Registered Articles.	Newspapers.	Number.	Weight.	Postage.	Declared Value.	
		Ordinary.	Re-registered.		Single.	With reply paid.	Ordinary.	Re-registered.										
Inland	1895	55,528,900	575,822	297,100	815,500	9,500	6,997,690	55,281	1,519,270	...	...	...	34,147,840	362,442	1,264,071	20,035 14 11	.....	100,309,345
	1896	55,772,230	654,116	358,000	870,000	1,500	9,231,130	66,454	1,291,220	...	...	...	34,943,040	426,345	1,535,274	23,852 18 3	.....	103,614,035
Intercolonial	1895	4,803,780	215,183	22,900	73,950	1,050	2,950,390	8,638	4,914,370	...	...	...	.....	20,873	66,790	1,905 18 10	27,114 13 0	13,016,734
	1896	4,754,750	214,999	22,000	70,000	1,000	5,094,440	5,787	4,739,330	...	...	...	.....	28,689	92,043	2,650 11 0	44,734 4 8	14,930,095
International	1895	1,063,900	27,617	.....	5,700	300	802,538	4,838	613,584	...	...	...	.....	6,098	17,722	824 18 0	19,083 10 8	2,029,605
	1896	1,258,500	27,325	.....	6,800	320	311,910	4,200	833,750	...	...	...	.....	6,930	19,256	863 11 3	26,293 16 3	2,449,825
Totals	1895	61,406,580	818,652	320,000	805,150	10,850	10,250,618	68,757	7,047,824	...	...	...	34,147,840	389,413	1,348,583	22,766 11 9	46,198 3 8	115,855,684
	1896	61,785,450	895,540	380,000	946,800	2,820	14,637,480	76,531	6,864,300	...	...	...	34,943,040	461,964	1,646,573	27,375 16 0	71,028 0 11	120,693,955

Received.

Intercolonial	1895	4,404,750	58,305	17,200	38,930	1,770	540,486	5,054	2,061,954	...	...	...	.....	18,848	49,290	1,525 7 2	16,839 13 2	7,747,387
	1896	4,717,000	79,240	13,080	50,600	2,300	594,470	7,408	2,639,800	...	...	...	.....	26,775	69,772	2,236 13 4	30,806 17 4	8,130,673
International	1895	1,365,240	25,491	.....	10,240	470	386,233	8,056	1,045,240	...	...	...	.....	14,516	51,216	2,253 13 7	40,755 15 11	2,853,501
	1896	1,392,170	25,885	.....	10,400	470	279,070	8,680	1,111,200	...	...	...	.....	17,372	64,303	2,567 11 6	95,928 7 9	2,845,337
Totals	1895	5,769,990	83,796	17,200	49,170	2,240	926,724	13,120	3,707,194	...	...	...	.....	33,364	100,506	3,779 0 9	56,595 9 1	10,602,888
	1896	6,109,170	105,125	13,080	61,000	2,770	873,540	16,088	3,751,000	...	...	...	.....	44,147	134,075	4,804 4 10	126,735 5 1	10,976,010
Totals posted and received	1895	67,176,570	902,448	337,290	944,320	13,090	11,177,342	81,877	10,755,018	...	...	...	34,147,840	422,757	1,440,089	26,545 12 6	102,793 12 9	125,959,572
	1896	67,894,650	1,000,665	393,080	1,007,890	5,590	15,511,020	92,619	10,615,300	...	...	...	34,943,040	506,111	1,780,648	32,180 0 10	197,763 6 0	131,969,965

* The number of articles, other than newspapers, exempt from postage, being comparatively small, a separate account has not been kept of them, and they are, therefore, included under the head of articles subject to postage.
 NOTE.--The numbers of ordinary letters and packets, and newspapers, are calculated on the basis of returns furnished by Postmasters during two months of the year, and therefore must be accepted as approximate only. For all other items, the actual numbers dealt with during the year are given.

DEAD LETTER BRANCH.

The following return shows the number of Letters, Post Cards, Packets, and Circulars dealt with in this Branch, either by the return to writers, discovery of persons addressed, or otherwise, during the year 1896 :—

	Letters.	Post Cards.	Packets.	Circulars.
INLAND.				
Returned to senders.....	196,293	2,028	125,365	134,830
Destroyed in accordance with Section 32 of 31 Vic. No. 4.....	28,164	588	16,395	40,606
INTERCOLONIAL.				
Originally addressed to other colonies :—				
Returned to senders, or otherwise disposed of.....	19,216	306	3,600	1,854
Destroyed in accordance with Section 32 of 31 Vic. No. 4.....	4,187	90	321	1,074
Returned to other colonies as unclaimed.....	19,764	470	953	2,436
FOREIGN.				
Originally addressed to other countries :—				
Returned to senders, or otherwise disposed of.....	5,430	74	900	164
Destroyed in accordance with Section 32 of 31 Vic. No. 4.....	1,357	26	79	20
Returned to other countries as unclaimed.....	8,496	276	4,048	826
Total number dealt with.....	282,907	3,858	151,661	181,870

Included in the above return were 2,908 registered letters, all of which had been posted originally within the Colony. A considerable number of these bore the names and addresses of the senders on the envelopes, and were returned intact accordingly. The others were opened to obtain the required information. They were found to contain, besides correspondence and valuable articles of jewellery, such as watches, rings, brooches, and chains, the sum of £2,391 14s. 5d. in coin, notes, cheques, money orders, and stamps. In 1,210 unregistered letters were found valuable enclosures, representing £3,575 13s. 3d.

922 registered letters, originating in places beyond the Colony, were returned unopened, as follows :—128 to London, 578 to other countries, and 216 to the other colonies.

Of 339 packets, containing merchandise, jewellery, &c., received, owing to the addressees having declined to pay the surcharges, or as a result of the directions having become detached or mutilated irreparably in transit, 47 only were applied for and delivered. The articles not otherwise disposed of are sold by public auction, in conformity with the Postage Act, and the proceeds paid into the Consolidated Revenue.

1,254 letters were posted unaddressed, 894 of which (including 16 containing valuable enclosures amounting to £143 13s. 3d.) were returned to the writers. The remainder afforded no adequate indication as to the whereabouts of the senders.

Out of 12,042 letters and packets passed on to the Dead Letter Office during the course of the year with insufficient directions, the addresses of a large proportion were rectified and the articles forwarded accordingly. The residue were returned to the senders or were otherwise dealt with, as required by law. 7,854 letters were refused by the addressees, chiefly on account of surcharges.

1,126 Chinese letters imperfectly addressed were dispatched to their intended destinations through the assistance of the Chinese interpreter. In addition to these, 752 addressed to members of this nationality were returned as unclaimed by the same instrumentality.

A sum of £204 0s. 10d., contained in registered letters, which had been received during the year 1895 and had remained unclaimed for twelve months, was remitted to the proper authorities.

It is estimated that 180,000 newspapers were forwarded to the Branch during the year. These were disposed of in accordance with the regulations.

About 451 per cent. of the total number of letters posted in the Colony during 1896 were unclaimed.

DELIVERY BY LETTER-CARRIERS.

The number of letters, &c., delivered by the Letter-carriers attached to the head office during the years 1895 and 1896 was as follows:—

	1895.	1896.
Unregistered letters	8,783,948	9,810,440
Registered letters	77,349	84,724
Books, &c.	166,312	239,871
Newspapers	1,482,604	1,420,662

REGISTRATION BRANCH.

The number of Registered Letters which passed through the General Post Office in 1896 was 737,772, against 683,898 in 1895, the increase in number being 53,874.

MAILS RECEIVED AND DESPATCHED.

The following return shows the number of Mails received at and despatched from the General Post Office during the years 1895 and 1896.

Year.	Received.		Despatched.		Total number of Mails which passed through the office.
	Inland.	Foreign.	Inland.	Foreign.	
1895	229,759	9,127	216,952	10,930	466,768
1896	242,467	10,786	219,776	11,186	484,215
Increase	12,708	1,659	2,824	256	17,447

RECORD BRANCH.

The number of written communications received from the public during 1896, intimating changes of address, or requesting letters, &c., to be forwarded, was 27,000, against 26,463 in 1895.

The number of communications addressed to the Department relating to the extension and improvement of the service, to irregularities connected with the performance of mail contracts, and to the transmission of letters, telegrams, &c., and recorded in the year 1896, was 47,772, against 47,704 in 1895.

POSTAGE

POSTAGE STAMPS, STAMPED ENVELOPES, &c.

The following return shows the number, description, and value of Postage Stamps, &c., issued at the General Post Office during the years 1895 and 1896:—

Number.		Description.	Value.		Increase in issue for 1896.		Decrease in issue for 1896.	
1895.	1896.		1895.	1896.	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
7,035,400	7,654,000	Halfpenny	£ 14,657 1 8	£ 15,777 1 8	619,500	1,120 0 0		
120,926	81,900	Halfpenny impressed on envelopes, &c., received from the public.	251 18 7	170 12 6			30,026	81 6 1
39,512,022	41,139,324	Penny	£ 160,466 15 2	£ 171,413 17 0	2,627,202	10,047 1 10		
160,170	200,017	Penny impressed on envelopes, &c., received from the public.	667 8 3	833 8 1	39,538	165 10 10		
27,236,860	28,441,800	Two-penny	£ 226,973 16 8	£ 237,015 0 0	1,204,940	10,041 3 4		
208,990	164,780	Two-penny impressed on envelopes received from the public	1,741 11 8	1,373 5 0			44,200	368 6 8
842,328	867,330	Twopence-halfpenny	3,774 5 0	0,034 15 0	25,008	260 10 0		
258,200	263,000	Three-penny	3,227 10 0	3,287 10 0	4,800	80 0 0		
393,480	420,120	Four-penny	0,553 0 0	7,002 0 0	26,640	444 0 0		
114,588	124,416	Five-penny	2,387 5 0	2,692 0 0	9,528	304 15 0		
063,540	064,040	Six-penny	24,083 10 0	24,123 10 0	1,400	35 0 0		
5,909	7,368	Sevenpence-halfpenny	184 13 14	230 5 0	1,450	45 11 104		
67,155	113,640	Eight penny	3,238 10 0	3,788 0 0	16,485	549 10 0		
3,723	5,040	Nine-penny	139 12 3	189 0 0	1,317	40 7 9		
5,616	8,748	Ten-penny	246 10 0	364 10 0	2,832	118 0 0		
1,365,170	1,513,440	One shilling	63,258 10 0	75,672 0 0	148,270	7,413 10 0		
4,243	5,170	Twelvepence-halfpenny	220 19 94	260 5 5	927	48 5 74		
9,496	10,855	Five-shilling	2,374 0 0	2,713 15 0	1,359	339 15 0		
2,501	2,647	Ten-shilling	1,250 10 0	1,323 10 0	146	73 0 0		
294	121	Sets of "postage due" stamps at 10s. per set.	147 0 0	62 0 0			170	85 0 0
5,255	6,616	Twenty-shilling	5,255 0 0	6,016 0 0	761	761 0 0		
59	14	Sets of specimen and reprint postage stamps at 20s. per set.	59 0 0	14 0 0			45	45 0 0
101,760	236,640	Newspaper wrappers—halfpenny	212 0 0	403 0 0	134,880	281 0 0		
14,480	18,480	Newspaper wrappers—penny	77 0 0	77 0 0				
903,600	939,000	Post-cards—one-penny	3,765 0 0	3,012 10 0	35,400	147 10 0		
5,760	0,800	Post-cards—three-halfpence	36 0 0	42 10 0	1,040	6 10 0		
2,460	2,160	Reply post-cards at twopence	20 10 0	18 0 0			300	2 10 0
240	320	Reply post-cards at threepence	3 0 0	4 0 0	80	1 0 0		
50,920	60,200	Registered envelopes at threepence	749 0 0	752 10 0	280	3 10 0		
95,500	91,250	Envelopes—one-penny	429 15 0	410 12 6			4,260	19 2 6
10,125	13,875	Envelopes—two-penny	87 15 0	120 5 0	3,750	32 10 0		
321,200	338,240	Letter Cards	2,007 10 0	2,426 10 0	67,040	419 0 0		
43,120	38,140	Telegram Forms—six-penny	1,078 0 0	953 10 0			4,980	124 10 0
171,480	164,540	Do. one-shilling	8,574 0 0	8,242 0 0			6,640	332 0 0
136	22	Sets of O.S. stamps, &c., £2	272 0 0	44 0 0			114	228 0 0
			£548,470 17 2	£580,761 12 2		£33,567 10 3		1,285 15 3

The estimated number and value of Postage Stamps and Postage Prepayment Forms sold for Postal and Telegraph purposes during 1896, were as follows:— Number, 81,075,400; value, £556,600.

The following return shows the number, description, and value of Postage Stamps purchased from the public for cash, less the usual discount, during the year 1896:—

Number.	Description.	Value.	
		£	s. d.
3,887	Halfpenny	8	1 11½
88,616	One-penny	369	4 8
136,362	Two-penny	1,136	7 0
801	Twopence-halfpenny	8	6 10½
153	Three-penny	1	18 3
252	Four-penny	4	4 0
26	Five-penny	0	10 10
669	Six-penny	16	14 6
8	Sevenpence-halfpenny	0	5 0
93	Nine-penny	3	9 9
12	Ten-penny	0	10 0
509	One-shilling	25	9 0
24	Twelvepence-halfpenny	1	5 0
1	Five-shilling	0	5 0
2	Ten-shilling	1	0 0
	Total	£1,577	11 10
	Less 5 per cent....	78	17 7
		£1,498	14 3
72	spoiled but unused 0½d. envelopes,	£0	3 0
2,538	" " 1d. " "	11	8 5
5,690	" " 2d. " "	49	6 4
1,695	" " 1d. post-cards	7	1 3
6	" " 2d. " "	0	1 0
		£68	0 0
	Less 10 per cent.	6	16 0
		£61	4 0

In

In February, an improved 1½d. post-card was introduced, the change of design consisting in the removal of the waratah from the face of the card, and the substitution of an emblematic waratah and leaves, for the words "One hundred years," in the stamp denoting the value.

In August, a similar alteration of design was made in the 1d. post-card, the size of which was reduced to the limits provided for by the regulations of the Universal Postal Union.

In May, arrangements were made for the transmission within the Colony and to the Australasian Colonies, of private post-cards, impressed with a 1d. stamp.

In October, an amended form of letter-card was introduced, differing from the former pattern by the omission from the stamp of the words "One hundred years," and by the alteration of the inscription relative to the places to which the card may be transmitted, so as to read as follows:—

"This card may pass through the post to any place within New South Wales, to the Australasian Colonies, and Fiji."

The sale of sets of obliterated "O.S." postage stamps at £2 per set, was discontinued from the 18th March.

INLAND MAIL CONVEYANCE.

In the year 1896 the average cost per mile of the Inland Mail Conveyance was about 3½d., against 4½d., the price per mile paid during the previous year.

The number of contracts in existence on the 31st December, 1896, for the conveyance of inland mails was 958, and the number of mail services in respect of which no formal contracts were executed, 306.

MONEY ORDERS.

Money Order Offices were established during the year 1896 at the following places, viz., Barber's Creek, Koorawatha, Mullumbimby, Neville, Shooter's Hill, Walla Walla.

The offices at Brunswick, Cannonbar, Harris-street, and Kunopia were abolished, and the name of the office at Bungwall Flat was changed to Bungwahl.

The number of Money Order Offices in the Colony on 31st December, 1896, was 626.

The number of money orders issued was 402,677 (exclusive of 4,326 certificates of transfer used by Postmasters in connection with transmitting fees for private letter-boxes, &c., &c.), and the value £1,313,594, against 406,235 of the value of £1,269,200, the difference showing a decrease of 3,558 in the number, and an increase of £44,394 in the amount, as compared with 1895.

The number of money orders paid was 407,716, and the value £1,427,520, against 380,292 of the value of £1,247,235 in 1895, being an increase of 27,424 in the number and £180,285 in the amount.

The amount of revenue received as commission on money orders issued was £15,288 15s. 3d., being £425 14s. 9d. more than the amount collected in 1895.

Appendix D.

A comparative return showing the various countries where the money orders issued in New South Wales were made payable, and also the money order issues of other countries payable in New South Wales, will be found in the Appendix.

Appendix A.

In the information contained in Appendix A will be found a detailed statement of the business transacted and revenue collected at each office in the Colony.

From the 1st March, the regulation prohibiting the transmission of money orders by telephone was repealed, and provision was made for telegraphic money orders being issued and paid at money order offices connected by telephone with the telegraph system, subject to stringent conditions to prevent abuse.

POSTAL

POSTAL NOTES.

During the year 1896, 891,291 postal notes, of the value of £322,653 18s., were supplied to Postmasters for sale to the public; of these, 835,011 were issued and paid in New South Wales, having a value (with stamps affixed) of £304,234 11s. 4d.; 40,134 notes, value £16,363 11s. 6d., of other colonies were also paid, making a grand total of 875,145, of the value of £320,598 2s. 10d., paid in New South Wales.

The number of notes issued in this Colony and paid in other Colonies was 52,206, of the value of £20,411 13s. (including postage stamps to the value of £158 3s. affixed thereto).

The amount of revenue collected as poundage was £7,838 17s. 4d., an increase of £1,522 5s. as compared with 1895.

The following table contains particulars of the postal notes paid in New South Wales during the year 1896:—

Issuing Colony.	Denomination of Notes.														Total Number	Value of Stamps affixed.		Total value of Notes and Stamps.			
	1/-	1/6	2/-	2/6	3/-	3/6	4/-	4/6	5/-	7/6	10/-	10/6	15/-	20/-		£	s. d.	£	s. d.		
New South Wales..	No. 43,549	No. 26,766	No. 37,080	No. 69,260	No. 82,245	No. 93,198	No. 93,198	No. 155,083	No. 52,357	No. 131,683	No. 269	No. 570	No. 2,336	No. 14,971	835,011	2,986	8	10	304,234	11	4
Queensland	930	425	939	1,238	1,398	732	1,007	534	2,089	550	2,024	269	570	2,336	14,971	66	2	1	5,688	14	1
South Australia	216	150	365	348	368	244	314	201	582	198	680	159	205	547	4,477	27	17	3½	1,669	16	3½
Tasmania	79	53	88	125	151	78	119	58	178	49	183	33	39	100	1,428	7	2	0	506	1	9
Victoria	723	450	960	1,316	1,377	767	1,303	845	2,483	782	2,933	369	848	4,192	19,258	61	16	10½	8,468	10	4½
Totals	45,497	27,844	39,942	72,287	85,449	1,821	95,941	1,658	160,415	53,938	137,508	830	66,724	95,293	875,145	3,152	2	10	320,598	2	10

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

The following branches were opened during the year 1896, viz.:—Capertee, Dapto, Mandurama, Rous Mill, Tarana, Wallabadah, and Walla Walla.

Four branches were closed, viz.:—Brunswick, Cannonbar, Harris-street and Kunopia.

During the year 43,255 new accounts were opened and 34,572 accounts were closed. The number of accounts remaining open at the close of the year was 140,386.

The number of deposits received was 307,689, and the amount £2,110,579 0s. 3d., being an increase of 11,333 in the number and £83,554 15s. 7d. decrease in the amount on the business of the previous year. The interest added to depositors' accounts was £128,629 11s. 4d.

The number of withdrawals was 197,374, and the amount £1,987,943 6s. 3d., being an increase of 6,768 in the number and of £152,943 6s. 7d. in the amount on the business of the previous year.

The balance at the credit of depositors at the close of the year was £4,372,965 4s. 10d., being an increase of £251,265 5s. 4d. on the previous year.

The average amount of each deposit was £6 17s. 2½d., and of each withdrawal £10 1s. 5¼d.

The average balance at the credit of each depositor at the close of the year was £31 2s. 11¾d.

The following return will show the annual progress of the Government Savings Bank system from 1st January, 1887, to 31st December, 1896:—

Year.	Number of Deposits.	Interest added to Depositors' Accounts	Amount of Deposits.	Number of Withdrawals.	Amount of Withdrawals.	Balance at Credit of Depositors.
1887.....	172,823	£ 50,717 4 10	£ 1,026,269 15 7	84,110	998,838 13 8	£ 1,501,453 14 3
1888.....	196,120	58,483 7 9	1,219,000 12 5	89,961	1,041,233 19 11	1,737,703 14 6
1889.....	208,174	61,871 13 0	1,115,863 4 1	104,522	1,185,547 16 3	1,729,890 15 4
1890.....	223,428	63,225 7 9	1,198,293 17 6	109,940	1,115,505 6 0	1,875,904 14 7
1891.....	265,659	72,280 10 4	1,509,376 16 3	125,298	1,304,099 0 3	2,153,463 0 11
1892.....	278,578	81,781 0 3	1,630,197 16 9	156,157	1,511,355 16 5	2,354,086 1 6
1893.....	296,977	99,566 0 3	2,816,084 13 9	182,003	2,038,561 3 4	3,233,288 16 10
1894.....	294,393	120,880 8 6	2,160,610 9 0	183,909	1,880,854 11 9	3,633,925 2 7
1895.....	296,356	128,640 10 9	2,194,133 15 10	190,606	1,834,999 19 8	4,121,699 19 6
1896.....	307,689	128,629 11 4	2,110,579 0 3	197,374	1,987,943 6 3	4,372,965 4 10

The following return will show the business of the Government Savings Bank for the year 1896, compared with the transactions of the year 1895:—

Year.	Savings Banks open at the close of the year.	New accounts opened during the year.	Accounts closed during the year.	Accounts remaining open at the close of the year.	Total deposits, including interest.			Average amount of deposits.	Total withdrawals.		Average amount of withdrawals.	Balance at the credit of depositors at the close of the year.	Average balance at the credit of depositors.	
					Number.	Amount.			Number.	Amount.				
						Deposits.	Interest.							Total.
1895	499	42,276	33,368	131,763	296,350	£ s. d. 2,194,133 15 10	£ s. d. 123,640 10 9	£ s. d. 2,322,774 6 7	£ s. d. 7 8 03	199,606	£ s. d. 1,334,999 19 8	£ s. d. 9 12 03	£ s. d. 4,121,699 19 0	£ s. d. 31 5 102
1896	502	43,256	34,572	140,386	307,639	£ s. d. 2,110,579 0 3	£ s. d. 128,620 11 4	£ s. d. 2,239,208 11 7	£ s. d. 6 17 21	197,374	£ s. d. 1,987,943 6 3	£ s. d. 10 1 51	£ s. d. 4,372,965 4 10	£ s. d. 31 2 112

Appendix A.

In the information contained in Appendix A is given a detailed statement showing the business transacted at each branch in the Colony. A statement of the Liabilities and Assets, with the Auditor-General's certificate thereon, will be found in the Appendix.

Appendix E.

The rate of interest on all deposits in the Government Savings Bank was fixed at 3 per cent. per annum from the 1st July, the rate previously allowed being 4 per cent. on moneys remaining at the credit of depositors for the full period of twelve months from the 1st January in each year, and 3 per cent. in all other cases.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHS.

The following return shows the lines of Electric Telegraph constructed and the cost of construction, also the lines dismantled, during the year 1896:—

	Dismantled Line.	Constructed.		Cost of Construction.
		Line.	Additional Wire.	
	m. chs.	m. chs.	m. chs.	£ s. d.
East Ralcligh to Main Line	0 20	.....	.....	5 5 0
Wyndham to Rocky Hill	10 0	.....	.....	157 5 0
Fernmount to Bellingen .....	.....	3 40	.....	19 11 0
Culcairn to Walla Walla	9 76	0 41	.....	256 0 5
Cullen Bullen to Piper's Flat	2 1	5 38	.....	72 14 10
Hargraves to Windeyer .....	.....	7 0	.....	59 3 1
Albury to Thurgoona	0 23	7 40	.....	57 2 7
Germanton to Woomargama .....	.....	10 20	.....	70 19 7
Coolamon to Ganmain .....	.....	9 40	.....	130 11 0
Narrabri to Moree	80 40	62 42	67 42	1,529 10 10
Gloucester-Copeland Line to Barrington	0 20	.....	.....	8 5 0
Bangalow to Byron Bay-Granville Line	3 70	3 70	.....	128 6 10
Wellington to Daviesville	7 40	1 0	.....	184 19 10
Woolabrar to Millie	17 0	17 0	.....	473 1 8
Uralgura to Bellbrook	0 17	4 20	.....	21 16 7
City and other extensions—Telegraph and Telephone	69 3	1,781 44	.....	45,920 12 9
Line dismantled	80 40	.....	.....	.....
Line erected .....	.....	182 72	.....	.....
Additional wire erected .....	.....	.....	1,918 75	.....
Additional Line (wire) erected .....	.....	.....	182 72	.....
Total extent of wire erected during year .....	.....	.....	2,101 67	.....
Less wire dismantled .....	.....	.....	80 40	.....
Actual increase .....	.....	.....	2,021 27	.....
			£	49,095 6 0

The total cost of the whole extent of Telegraphic communication in the Colony on 31st December, 1896—30,820 miles 62 chains—was £889,475 11s. 10d.

Telegraph Offices were opened at Woonona (in lieu of the Telephone Office previously existing there) and Lue (Railway Station). The offices at Cannonbar, Emu Plains (Railway Station), and Kinchela Creek were converted into Telephone Offices.

The names of the public Telephone Offices opened and closed are given under the heading of Telephone Branch.

The

The following Return shows the extent of line and wire in use, and the number of offices in existence on the 31st December, 1896; also the number and value of telegrams which passed over the lines during the year:—

LENGTH OF LINE AND WIRE.

Miles of line	12,418
Miles of wire	30,820
Number of Offices*	856

* Includes 169 Public Telephone Offices and 221 Railway Telegraph and Telephone Offices.

MESSAGES.

		Number.	Value.
Inland		1,843,102	£107,036 8 6
Intercolonial	Received	391,133	47,696 3 7
	Despatched	383,144	43,696 12 0
	In Transit	111,483	26,113 9 10
International	Received	18,355	54,061 0 3
	Despatched	24,578	71,051 11 2
	In Transit	24,981	82,106 0 1
Total	2,796,776	£431,761 5 5	

The number and value of telegrams despatched from each office in the Appendix A. Colony will be found in Appendix A. A statement showing the total amount of business transacted within the Colony, and with the several Australasian Colonies and other countries, and also the net revenue due to New South Wales on each class of business during the year 1896, is given hereunder:—

Received.			Despatched.			Net Revenue due to New South Wales.	
	Number of Messages.	Value.		Number of Messages.	Value.		
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Inland	1,843,102	107,036 8 6	Inland	1,843,102	107,036 8 6	107,036 8 6	
From New Zealand	20,429	4,755 9 11	To New Zealand	20,301	4,237 8 6	1,748 10 4	
From Queensland	88,600	12,543 5 4	To Queensland	77,803	9,881 18 8	11,189 16 10	
From South Australia	61,221	7,953 18 3	To South Australia	58,612	7,366 15 1	7,592 16 4	
From Tasmania	11,638	1,726 7 5	To Tasmania	12,152	1,924 10 0	815 11 2	
From Victoria	178,226	14,585 8 3	To Victoria	191,452	16,068 1 8	15,231 15 9	
From New Caledonia	1,256	707 10 1	To New Caledonia	1,347	879 1 5	181 16 0	
From other Countries	17,099	53,353 10 2	To other Countries	23,231	70,172 9 9	4,229 4 3	
From Western Australia	31,019	6,131 14 5	To Western Australia	22,824	4,217 18 1	3,449 14 2	
Total	2,252,590	208,793 12 4	Total	2,250,824	221,784 11 8	151,475 13 4	
			Messages which passed over N.S.W. lines from and to places outside the Colony	136,464	108,219 9 11	8,265 13 11	
				2,387,288	330,004 1 7	159,741 7 3	

The following return shows the amounts paid by each of the Colonies in connection with cable subsidies and guarantees:—

Colony.	Population on 5 April, 1891.	Contribution to—			Total Contribution.
		Duplicate Cable Subsidy Between Port Darwin and Banjowangie. (Year 1896.)	Tasmanian Cable Subsidy. (Year 1896.)	New Zealand Guarantee. (Year ended 30 April, 1897.)	
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Victoria	1,140,405	13,245 13 11	1,717 0 8	859 18 8	15,822 13 3
New South Wales	1,132,234	13,150 15 10	1,704 14 8	853 15 5	15,709 5 11
New Zealand	620,030			467 10 9	467 10 9
South Australia	320,431	3,721 15 6	482 9 1	241 12 6	4,445 17 1
Tasmania	146,667	1,703 10 6	220 16 6	110 11 11	2,034 18 11
Western Australia	49,782	578 4 3	74 19 1	37 10 9	690 14 1
Totals	3,409,549	32,400 0 0	4,200 0 0	2,571 0 0	39,171 0 0

The receipts by the Cable Company and by the South Australian Government in respect of the Australasian traffic being in excess of the amounts guaranteed (£227,000 and £37,552 respectively), in connection with the reduced rates the Colonies were not called upon to contribute anything towards these guarantees for the twelve months ended 30th April, 1897.

In

In March an amendment was made in the regulations for the transmission and delivery of telegrams so as to provide for messages being forwarded to and from certain stations at a prescribed hour on Sundays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday, at double the usual rates for ordinary telegrams.

In May, Texas (Q.), and in October, Parragundy, (N.S.W.), were added to the list of "Border" stations, between which and all stations in the neighbouring colony telegrams may be transmitted at the inland rate of 1s. for the first ten words, and 1d. for each additional word.

The charge for telegrams to and from Hillgrove and Hillgrove West was fixed at 6d. for the first ten words, and 1d. for each additional word, from the 1st June.

The following Statement shows the Australasian Telegraph business transacted with Europe and the East during the year 1896:—

Colony.	Forwarded.		Received.		Total.	
	Messages	Value.	Messages	Value.	Messages	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
South Australia.....	9,430	29,652 11 8	10,100	32,441 6 6	19,530	62,093 18 2
Victoria.....	18,229	72,586 12 0	16,923	60,490 15 3	35,152	133,077 7 3
Tasmania.....	620	1,497 10 9	572	1,463 19 0	1,192	2,961 9 9
New South Wales.....	19,826	68,039 14 11	17,099	53,353 10 2	36,925	121,393 5 1
New Zealand.....	9,808	42,135 12 4	8,760	33,323 15 1	18,568	75,459 7 5
Queensland.....	992	3,020 4 0	905	3,539 3 0	1,897	6,559 7 0
Western Australia.....	20,663	89,032 2 3	17,279	72,211 1 10	37,942	161,273 4 1
Total.....	79,568	305,964 7 11	71,638	256,853 10 10	151,206	562,817 18 9

TELEPHONE BRANCH.

During the year a general reduction of fees and other charges in connection with the different services of the Telephone system was made.

The charge for connection with the Central Telephone Exchange, which formerly was the same for private residences as for business establishments, namely, £12 per annum where the line did not exceed one mile in length, was reduced to £9 for business places and £5 for private residences. The extra charge for lines exceeding one mile in length was fixed at £1 per half-mile, in lieu of £1 per quarter-mile. For joint use by several persons of the same number at the Exchange the fee (in addition to the one ordinary subscription) for each extra set of instruments was reduced from £3 10s. to £3. The fee for extension lines connecting with the Exchange lines was fixed at £3, instead of £5, for distances not exceeding one mile, and for each additional half-mile up to three miles at £1, in lieu of £1 per quarter-mile; while the charge for extension bell and switch, or other apparatus used, was reduced from £1 to 10s.

In the case of Suburban Telephone Exchanges the fee—£2 for the first four miles and 10s. for each additional mile—for the use of the trunk wire connecting with the Central Exchange was abolished, the charge for business establishments, namely, £10, otherwise remaining unaltered, except where the line exceeded one mile in length, in which case the charge was reduced from £1 for each additional quarter-mile to £1 per half-mile up to three miles. These reductions also apply to private residences, the primary charge for which was likewise reduced, namely, from £6 to £5.

For connections with Country Exchanges the fee was reduced from £10 to £8 for business establishments, and from £6 to £5 for private residences, where the line was not over one mile in length, and for each additional quarter-mile from £1 to 10s.

An uniform charge (irrespective of distance) of 6d. for the first three minutes, and an equal amount for every additional three minutes, was levied for the use of Public Telephones (Bureaux) within the city and suburbs, the rate formerly charged being double this amount for the use of lines over three miles in length.

The rent for private telephones supplied by the Department to replace instruments the property of subscribers was reduced from £2 to £1 10s., and for each set of magneto telephones from £2 10s to £2 per annum.

As

As regards private telephone lines, it was formerly the practice to charge a license fee of £1 per annum for the first four miles and 10s. per annum for every additional mile up to a maximum of £7. Under the regulation as altered payment of a license fee is not required unless the line crosses the boundary of the licensee's own land, or runs along or across a railway, public road, or track, when a fee of £1 per annum (payable in advance) is charged, irrespective of the length of the line.

The fees in connection with private telephone lines were also reduced in other respects.

The foregoing reductions for the most part came into operation on the 1st May, 1896, and from the returns given below it will be seen that they have been followed by a considerable expansion of the Telephone system.

During the year ended 31st December, 1896, there were added to the number of subscribers :—

To the Central Exchange	...	...	...	...	...	522
„ Branch Suburban Exchanges	...	...	...	...	...	549
„ Country Exchanges	...	...	...	...	...	132
Total	...	...	...	...	...	1,203

The following return shows the number of lines connected with the Telephone system at the close of the year :—

<i>Exchanges.</i>	No. of Lines.
Central, Sydney	2,432
Branch, Suburban	1,179
Country	363
Telephone Bureaux	17
Extension Lines—City and Suburbs	642
„ „ Country	36
Private Lines—City and Suburbs	280
„ „ Country	156
Total	5,105
Total number of Telephones in use	5,459

The length of lines opened during the year was 68 miles and 72 chains, and additional wires erected 1,771 miles and 36 chains, the cost of construction being £16,052 18s. 9d.

In addition to the Central Exchange at the General Post Office, Exchanges are now open in the following Suburbs:—Ashfield, Balmain, Burwood, Edgecliff, Hunter's Hill, Kogarah, Manly, Newtown, North Sydney, Parramatta, Petersham, Randwick, Rookwood, and Waverley; and at Bathurst, Broken Hill, Cobar, Goulburn, Newcastle, Wagga Wagga, and West Maitland in the country.

Telephone Bureaux for the use of the Public, on payment of a small fee, are now open at the General Post Office, Sydney, Ashfield, Balmain, Burwood, Cobar, Edgecliff, Hunter's Hill, Kogarah, Manly, Newtown, North Sydney, Parramatta, Petersham, Randwick, Redfern Railway Station, Rookwood, Rozelle, and Waverley.

Public Telephone Offices were opened during the year at Cannonbar, Emu Plains (Railway Station), and Kinchela Creek (in lieu of the Telegraph Offices previously existing at these places), Bangalow, Barrington, Cullen Bullen, Daviesville, East Raleigh, Ganmain, Leura, Parragundy, Rocky Hall, Thurgoona, Tomakin, Uralgurra, Wagonga, Windeyer, Woolgoolga Jetty, and Woomargama; and at Chatswood, Manildra, St. Leonards, Summervale, and Walla Walla Railway Stations.

The Telephone Office at Woonona was converted into a Telegraph Office.

Arrangements have been made for utilising the facilities of the Telephone system in conjunction with the Electric Telegraph, in the case of messages forwarded to and from subscribers to Telephone Exchanges, who in consideration of the payment of the prescribed fees, may forward and receive telegrams by telephone, through the Exchange with which they are connected.

CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNELS IN THE CITY OF SYDNEY.

This work has been continued, by the construction of a tunnel, from the corner of Moore-street and Castlereagh-street along Castlereagh-street to the corner of King-street; thence to the north-east corner of St. James' Church, where it terminates.

On the western side of George-street a tunnel has been constructed from the corner of Clarence-street and Barrack-street, along Clarence-street to King-street, down King-street to Kent-street, and along the latter street to Liverpool-street, where it terminates.

ELECTRIC LIGHT.

General Post Office.

The electric light has been extended to a number of the principal rooms and the colonnade.

Electric motors have been fitted to drive the Telephone Exchange magneto generators.

Some considerable alterations have been effected in the engine-room, increasing it in size, while extra driving power has been provided.

Jenolan Caves.

The electric light has had necessary alterations effected which enable the three series of caves, the Right, the Left, and the Lucas, to be simultaneously illuminated, affording great satisfaction to the visitors who thus have every opportunity of getting an excellent view of these caves.

Circular Quay.

Additional arc and series incandescent lamps have, during the year, been erected on the eastern side of the quay and in the naval drill sheds.

On the western side a number of poles and lamps were taken down and re-erected in other positions to suit the extensive wharfage improvements recently made in that quarter.

Cowper's Wharf.

An improvement in the lighting at this station has been effected by the erection of three (3) additional arc lamps (Brookie-Pell) of 2,000 candle-power each.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

JOSEPH COOK,

Postmaster-General.

Postal and Electric Telegraph Department,

General Post Office, Sydney, 31st July, 1897.

APPENDIX A.

RETURN showing names of Post and Telegraph Offices, number of Letters posted, Telegrams transmitted, Postal Notes paid, Money Orders issued and paid, Savings Bank Deposits and Withdrawals, Revenue received from each Office, Salaries and Allowances paid, and arrangements regarding premises during the year 1896.

Name of Office.	Business transacted.							Revenue.				Expenditure.											Arrangements as regards Premises.				
	No. of Letters posted.	No. of Telegrams transmitted.	No. of Money Orders issued.	No. of Money Orders paid.	No. of Postal Notes paid.	No. of Savings Bank deposits.	No. of Savings Bank withdrawals.	Postal.	Tele-graphic.	Money Order and Postal Note.	Total.	Salaries.								Allow-ances.	Rent of Office.	Total.					
												Officers in Charge		Assist-ants.	Opera-tors.	Letter Carriers	Mail Boys.	Messen-gers	Line Re-pairers.					Other Em-ployes.	Gross Salary.	Deduc-tion for Rent.	
Abattoirs	3,320	694	£ 122	£ 25	...	£ 147	£ 100	...							£	£	£	£				£
Aberdeen	42,360	2,573	977	147	156	497	184	489	300	45	843	180	30	...	78	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38/10-	52	370/10/-	Rented
<i>Aberdeen Railway Station.</i>	At Rail'y Stn.
Acacia Creek	3,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	...	...	36	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	Govt. building
Adamilly	25,230	1,142	660	97	118	66	35	255	69	33	357	160	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3/10/-	...	143/10/-	do	
Adamstown	37,390	498	212	909	256	336	237	195	24	14	233	140	20	25	...	78	...	...	...	...	...	39/10/-	...	262/10/-	do	
<i>Adamstown Rail-way Station.</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	At Rail'y Stn.
Adelong	77,150	3,086	1,632	338	318	623	233	658	182	71	911	220	30	52	...	...	...	52	...	...	...	4	...	208	Govt. building	
Adelong Crossing Place.	4,510	178	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	7	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	do
Allison Park	50,560	1,195	416	88	322	259	113	316	65	29	410	120	20	...	...	...	52	...	...	...	25	...	...	177	Govt. building	
Albury	512,700	17,859	2,289	1,701	4,001	2,212	1,095	3,924	1,131	146	5,201	330	40	200	180	180	144	78	52	140	75	213/14/-	...	3,096/14/-	do		
<i>Albury Railway-Station.</i>	...	1,034	52	...	52	At Rail'y Stn.
Alectown	13,290	420	211	52	62	31	41	67	25	9	101	120	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	32/10/-	135/10/-	Rented	
Alexandria	43,830	1,809	502	774	2,308	2,604	1,298	585	75	24	684	180	30	...	78	2 at 144	...	...	...	...	...	164/5/-	91	1,418/5/-	do	
Alison	1,630	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	...	...	27	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	At Pub. School
Allandale	5,470	91	13	49	150	...	...	36	4	2	42	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	At Rail'y Stn.
Allynbrook	5,990	...	43	6	18	...	...	33	...	2	35	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	do
Alstonville	9,400	860	214	52	56	88	37	94	45	13	152	120	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	26	128	Rented	
Angledool .....	...	361	...	...	...	...	...	26	21	...	47	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	do
Annandale	53,560	2,962	293	923	1,380	2,204	873	583	123	20	1,036	210	40	...	39	91	...	52	...	...	49/10/-	...	...	557/10/-	Govt. building	
Appin	5,180	98	106	43	72	...	...	50	5	5	60	59	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59	do
Araukoon	11,730	1,073	387	36	44	128	16	13	87	19	119	120	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	52	155	Rented	
Araluen	20,710	848	531	176	166	106	91	246	44	27	317	160	20	78	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	220	Govt. building	
Arcadia ¹	3,670	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	...	...	22	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	do
Ardglen	3,170	72	...	...	...	...	...	51	4	...	55	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	At Rail'y Stn.
Arding	860	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	At Pub. School
Argent's Hill	910	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	16	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	do
Argoon	2,710	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	...	...	24	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	do
Arkstone	1,140	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	do
Armidale	443,590	14,179	2,751	1,972	5,454	1,935	893	2,645	1,071	154	3,870	350	50	150	200	120	...	52	140	...	169/13/9	...	...	1,709/13/9	Govt. building	
<i>Armidale Rail. Stn.</i>	...	992	51	...	51	At Rail'y Stn.

NOTE.—Offices printed in Italics are Telegraph Offices only, and unless otherwise shown, the Telegraph returns are included in those of the nearest public office. For other references see page 61.

Name of Office.	Business transacted.							Revenue.				Expenditure.											Arrangements as regards Premises.			
	No of Letters posted.	No. of Telegrams transmitted.	No. of Money Orders issued.	No. of Money Orders paid.	No. of Postal Notes paid.	No. of Savings Bank deposits.	No. of Savings Bank withdrawals.	Postal	Tele-graphic.	Money Order and Postal Note.	Total.	Salaries.								Allow-ances.	Rent of Office.	Total.				
												Officers in Charge.		Assist-ants.	Opera-tors.	Letter Carriers.	Mail Boys.	Messen-gers.	Line Re-pairers.					Other Em-ployés.		
Gross Salary.	Deduction for Rent.																									
Arncliffe.....	55,860	1,273	181	280	405	522	333	£ 219	£ 43	£ 11	£ 273	£ 120	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..	£ 78	£ 52	£ 39	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..	£ 73	£ 13	£ 375	Rented	
Arthurville	720	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	10	10/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10/10/-	Govt. building
Ashfield	267,220	5,633	803	1,227	2,967	2,258	1,015	1,570	237	54	1,861	240	40	.....	130	120	52	52	.....	65	.....	89	.....	1,278	Govt. building
Ashford	5,400	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19	.....	1	20	19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19	.....
Ash Island	1,300	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	42	.....	.....	42	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	.....
Attunga	8,540	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24	.....	.....	24	24/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24/10/-	.....
Attunga Springs...	2,660	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	10	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....
Auburn	67,090	2,158	461	653	1,359	853	450	443	91	24	558	150	.....	52	.....	120	.....	52	.....	.....	.....	75/10/-	.....	527/10/-	Govt. building
Audley	1,250	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	.....	.....	15	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	.....
Austimmer	2,130	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32	.....	.....	32	17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17	.....
Austral	1,550	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	16	.....
"Australia Hotel"	.....	10,189	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	938	.....	938	78	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	78	.....
Avisford	2,420	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	.....	.....	14	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	.....
Avoca	2,920	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	37	.....	.....	37	21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	.....
Awaba	2,810	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36	.....	.....	36	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	At Rail'y Stn.
Baan Baa	8,280	278	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	16	6	23	19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19	do
Badgery's Creek ² ..	2,350	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25	.....	3	28	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....
Baerami	7,320	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	69	.....	3	72	25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25	.....
Baker's Swamp	1,990	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	10	10/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10/10/-	.....
Balala ²	810	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	.....	.....	11	16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24	.....
Balderodgery	2,930	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	3	13	10/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	.....	10/10/-	.....
Bald Nob	1,130	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	.....	.....	15	15/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15/10/-	.....
Balgowlah	870	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	10	10/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10/10/-	.....
Balgownie	6,760	104	165	26	91	84	50	54	6	7	67	42/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	42/10/-	.....
Ballalaba	3,220	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23	.....	.....	23	21/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21/10/-	.....
Ballimore ⁴	550	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....
Ballina	125,950	7,746	1,601	379	795	636	221	479	577	71	1,127	240	40	.....	100	78	.....	52	.....	.....	.....	80	.....	601	Govt. building
Balmain	352,480	5,505	1,217	3,072	3,298	4,373	1,761	1,523	243	77	1,848	240	40	160	150	91	78	do
Balmoral	4,960	40	66	52	65	60	2	6	68	17	10	27	At Rail'y Stn.
Balranald	60,990	4,344	608	203	303	375	116	989	298	39	1,326	240	40	110	150	Govt. building
Bandon Grove	2,250	20	20	22/10/-	23
Bangalow ³	6,610	52	60	3	4	67	23	50
Bankstown	8,510	294	73	77	71	64	35	81	11	3	95	50	14
Bannaby	1,420	7	7	14	14
Baradine	9,200	672	174	16	32	135	42	11	188	140	20	175	Rented.
Barber's Creek ⁵ ..	9,130	50	16	920	28	2	30	17/10/-	17/10/-	At Rail'y Stn.
Bargo	1,820	20	20	12	12
Barham	8,470	54	1	55	13	13
Barmedman	21,450	2,759	608	101	164	50	31	246	183	27	456	140	20	.....	78	.....	.....	52	.....	.....	.....	4	52	306	Rented.
Barraba	84,100	2,310	653	157	164	148	96	561	144	35	740	210	30	100	284	Govt. building
Barragan	1,990	10	10	10/10/-	10/10/-
Barranjoey	1,450	192	11	12	23	54	55	At Pilot Stn.
Barrengary	19,740	117	117	25	25
Barrington ⁷	6,260	8	27	1	4	32	35	35

Barrington	14,900	2,187	375	38	49	74	50	116	140	21	277	150	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	52/10/6	60	242/10/6	Rented.
Barry	2,780	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	...	...	18	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	11
Barwang	980	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	161	Govt. building
Batemans Bay	11,710	1,890	533	313	76	111	67	184	105	22	311	150	20	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	161	do
Bathurst	614,900	15,944	4,340	6,600	11,558	2,783	1,598	5,154	1,374	231	6,759	400	50	200	200	115	39	52	140	78	52	218/10/-	3,361/10/-	
												350	50	180	2 at 150	105	26	52	...	...	52	...	...
														2 at 120	78	2 at 100	78	...	...	...	...	...	...
														52	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bathurst Rail. Stn.	1,104	80	...	80	At Rail'y Stn.
Batlow	10,230	338	166	40	52	44	18	133	20	8	161	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Baulkham Hills	5,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	...	...	49	36/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36/10/-
Bayview	6,640	344	...	...	...	...	...	1	85	...	86	47/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47/10/-
Beachport	1,150	468	86	12	12	25	...	1	26	3	30	65/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	66/10/-
Bear Hill	780	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	15	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Beaufort	1,760	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	14	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Bective	990	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-
Bedgerebong	2,070	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	16	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Beechwood	4,220	254	...	...	...	...	...	5	15	1	21	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Beecroft	8,830	444	...	...	...	...	...	58	14	...	72	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Bega	145,200	7,137	1,558	633	1,829	746	346	982	509	83	1,574	260	40	65	180	...	...	52	140	26	87/2/6	900/2/6	Govt. building
															130	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Belarbigill	1,070	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Belford	2,820	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	...	...	29	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	25
Belgravia	930	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	12	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-
Bell	3,670	143	...	...	...	...	...	48	8	3	59	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Bellaubi	24,930	...	231	21	78	...	...	129	...	11	140	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Bellbrook	3,510	458	...	...	...	...	...	39	32	2	73	210	30	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	40/10/-	34	264/10/-
Bellingen	25,730	2,116	358	213	279	57	24	213	159	19	391	100	...	...	...	...	26	...	...	...	26	152	At Rail'y Stn.
Bellinger Heads	15,280	992	...	...	...	...	...	61	...	...	61	19	...	...	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	do
Bell's Creek	3,690	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	16	16/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16/10/-
Belltrees	750	...	...	...	...	...	...	47	...	...	47	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Belmont	9,450	399	74	72	110	37	18	78	21	3	102	91	...	...	...	...	39	...	...	...	3	20/16/-	153/16/-
Bemboka	45,570	921	227	66	170	27	13	148	58	13	219	130	20	91	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	20	226
Ben Bullen	8,440	...	...	...	...	...	...	75	...	...	75	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Bendemeer	10,630	243	255	19	43	...	...	98	15	10	123	110	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	26	118
Bendolba	2,410	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29/10/-
Ben Lomond Rail-way Station	5,990	132	139	19	24	...	...	64	8	7	79	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Bergalia	2,830	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	...	...	29	14/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14/10/-
Bermagui	8,910	287	197	101	81	...	...	133	16	8	157	50/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	58/10/-
Bermagui South	599	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	...	32	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Berrellan	2,400	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	...	...	22	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Berremangra	690	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Berridale	17,550	515	215	35	63	36	23	169	29	14	212	140	20	...	...	...	26	...	...	...	2/10/-	36	184/10/-
Berrigan	32,220	5,176	937	108	170	...	...	461	329	43	833	150	20	26	...	...	39	...	...	...	3	48	246
Berrima	22,030	928	399	120	178	134	58	100	84	18	202	150	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	134
Berry	147,180	2,937	728	204	413	300	173	569	168	40	777	220	30	91	...	...	91	...	...	...	18	...	390
Bethungra	12,340	409	355	58	65	54	24	158	24	17	199	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Bevendale	830	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-
Bexhill	3,760	126	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	7	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Bexley	8,990	...	...	...	...	...	...	48	...	...	48	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	25
Bibbultuke	11,680	470	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	1	31	49/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	54/10/-
Bigga	5,480	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	...	1	27	26/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26/10/-
Big Hill	2,430	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	...	...	32	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Billeroy	2,690	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-
Billmudgel	5,390	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	4	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Bimbi	2,680	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Binalong	20,050	644	626	69	145	52	38	231	38	25	294	64	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Binda	13,500	344	316	55	101	...	...	128	19	12	159	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Bingara	96,560	3,914	1,059	250	335	250	144	696	276	47	1,019	210	30	78	...	...	78	...	52	...	44/10/-	432/10/-	Govt. building
Bunnaway	5,270	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	...	2	24	22/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22/10/-
Biame Creek	1,070	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	13	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

NOTE.—For references see page 61.

Name of Office.	Business transacted.							Revenue.				Expenditure.											Arrangements as regards Promises.						
	No. of Letters posted.	No. of Telegrams transmitted.	No. of Money Orders issued.	No. of Money Orders Paid.	No. of Postal Notes paid.	No. of Savings Bank deposits.	No. of Savings Bank withdrawals.	Postal.	Tele-graphic.	Money Order and Postal Note.	Total.	Salaries.								Allow-ances.	Rent of Office.	Total.							
												Officers in Charge.		Assist-ants.	Opera-tors.	Letter Carriers.	Mail Boys.	Messen-gers.	Line Re-pairers.					Other Em-ployés.					
Gross Salary.		Deduct-ion for Rent.																											
Bugilbone.....	1,200	870	...	...	...	...	...	£ 28	£ 58	...	£ 86	£ 55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 55	
Bukkulla.....	1,480	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 15	...	...	£ 15	15/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15/10/-	
Bulahdelah.....	12,240	1,123	538	218	119	54	20	£ 133	£ 75	£ 21	£ 229	£ 120	£ 20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 149	Rented
Bulga.....	4,180	215	...	...	...	...	...	£ 48	£ 12	...	£ 60	36/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 10	
Bullagreen.....	5,690	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 10	...	...	£ 10	10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 21	
Bullarah.....	6,770	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 23	...	...	£ 23	21/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 10	
Bullenbong.....	3,850	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 13	...	...	£ 13	10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 10	
Bulli.....	19,590	873	263	180	186	148	61	£ 155	£ 49	£ 13	£ 217	£ 89	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 89	
Bulli Railway Station.	31,750	2,493	355	93	250	379	172	£ 211	£ 129	£ 23	£ 363	£ 190	£ 30	100	2 at 78	...	£ 52	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 79	£ 547	At Rail'y Stn.
Bull Plain.....	4,370	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 34	...	...	£ 34	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 10/10/-	
Bumberry.....	2,850	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 20	...	...	£ 20	20/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 20/10/-	
Bundanoon.....	24,800	438	290	147	209	86	49	£ 171	£ 23	£ 18	£ 212	£ 48	...	...	...	...	£ 15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 10	£ 73	Telegraph Office at Rail'y Stn.
Bundarra.....	17,120	1,544	352	74	44	49	26	£ 203	£ 98	£ 15	£ 316	£ 140	£ 20	...	26	£ 4	£ 150	Govt. building
Bundella.....	4,000	468	...	...	...	...	...	£ 80	£ 29	...	£ 109	47/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 47/10/-	
Bungawalbin.....	1,450	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 58	...	...	£ 58	17/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 17	
Bungendore.....	81,540	1,608	407	273	626	145	60	£ 550	£ 95	£ 32	£ 677	£ 190	£ 30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29/8/-	£ 267/8/-	Govt. building
Bungonia.....	6,260	...	58	29	28	...	...	£ 50	...	£ 3	£ 53	41/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 41/10/-	
Bungowannah.....	1,260	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 14	...	...	£ 14	14/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 14/10/-	
Bungwahl.....	6,760	706	188	23	48	37	12	£ 59	£ 53	£ 9	£ 121	£ 120	£ 20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 2	£ 16	Rented
Bunnan.....	6,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 12	...	£ 1	£ 13	12/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 12	
Burns, Philp, & Co.	...	4,811	£ 1,506	...	£ 1,506	120/-	£ 120	
Burradoo.....	30,350	590	...	...	...	...	...	£ 142	£ 36	...	£ 178	54/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 106/10/-	
Burraga.....	15,690	864	070	160	114	112	41	£ 140	£ 43	£ 25	£ 208	£ 140	£ 20	£ 3	£ 26	Rented
Burragate ¹	1,350	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 14	...	£ 1	£ 15	10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 10	
Burragorang.....	5,900	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 51	...	...	£ 51	25/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 25	
Burrawang.....	16,190	345	217	45	74	96	25	£ 98	£ 21	£ 8	£ 127	£ 120	£ 20	£ 4	£ 36	Rented
Burrendong.....	4,810	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 17	...	...	£ 17	14/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 14	
Burrier.....	1,790	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 18	...	...	£ 18	12/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 12	
Burringbar.....	3,820	227	...	...	...	...	...	£ 14	...	...	£ 14	39/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 39	
Burrowa.....	76,250	1,797	523	258	454	157	95	£ 669	£ 117	£ 43	£ 829	£ 220	£ 30	91	...	78	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39/10/-	£ 598/10/-	Govt. building
Burrumbuttock.....	4,650	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 14	...	...	£ 14	12/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 12/10/-	
Burwood.....	299,770	5,502	732	1,070	2,514	2,505	999	£ 1,673	£ 224	£ 54	£ 1,951	£ 240	£ 40	180	100	8 at 125	...	£ 52	£ 292	£ 32/10/-	Govt. building
Buxton.....	1,880	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 35	...	...	£ 35	10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 10	
Bylong.....	2,390	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 23	...	...	£ 23	14/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 14	
Byng.....	3,340	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 16	...	...	£ 16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 16	
Byrock.....	37,130	2,954	746	201	151	153	83	£ 329	£ 176	£ 37	£ 542	£ 190	£ 30	100	£ 17	£ 277	Govt. building
Byrock Railway Station.	£ 277	At Rail'y Stn.
Byron Bay.....	24,400	2,333	448	140	180	84	57	£ 356	£ 143	£ 19	£ 518	£ 150	£ 20	£ 52	£ 2	£ 39	Rented
Bywong.....	5,230	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 21	...	...	£ 21	10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 10	
Cable's Siding.....	2,850	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 5	...	£ 1	£ 6	10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 10	At Rail'y Stn.
Cabramatta.....	6,700	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 45	...	...	£ 45	14/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 14	
Cadia.....	3,550	...	40	46	21	...	...	£ 36	...	£ 2	£ 38	16/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 16/10/-	
Cal Lal.....	1,470	314	...	...	...	...	...	£ 34	£ 21	...	£ 55	65/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 77	Rented
Caloola.....	1,470	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 33	...	...	£ 33	16/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 16/10/-	
Camberwell.....	3,440	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 30	...	...	£ 30	11/2/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 11/2/-	
Cambewarra.....	14,440	260	234	28	53	48	12	£ 132	£ 14	£ 8	£ 154	£ 84/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 111	Rented
Camden.....	100,840	2,672	816	451	875	530	295	£ 636	£ 143	£ 36	£ 815	£ 220	£ 30	...	100	110	...	£ 26	1/10/-	£ 25	Govt. building	

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Name of Office.	Business transacted.							Revenue.				Expenditure.											Arrangements as regards Promises.								
	No. of Letters posted.	No. of Telegrams transmitted.	No. of Money Orders issued.	No. of Money Orders paid.	No. of Postal Notes paid.	No. of Savings Bank deposits.	No. of Savings Bank withdrawals.	Postal.	Tele-graphic.	Money Order and Postal Note.	Total.	Salaries.							Allow-ances.	Rent of Office.	Total.										
												Officers in Charge.		Assist-ants.	Opera-tors.	Letter Carriers.	Mail Boys.	Messen-gers.				Line Re-pairers.		Other Em-ployés.							
Gross Salary.	Deduct-ion for Rent.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£						£	£	£		£		£	£	£				
Cobbadah	13,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	120	£	£	120	34/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28	£	62/10/-						
Cobbitty	3,080	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	58	.....	.....	58	18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18	Rented					
Cobbora	15,430	872	430	65	57	103	33	199	52	17	268	120	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	20	143	Rented					
Colham Lake	5,580	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	.....	.....	13	13/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	At Rail'y Stn.				
Cockle Creek	3,510	689	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	95	51	.....	146	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	At Rail'y Stn.			
Cocumbark	1,130	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	.....	.....	11	14/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16				
Codrington	2,710	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16			
Coff's Harbour	8,110	1,344	390	89	94	55	31	159	85	19	263	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	30	132	Rented					
Coff's Harbour Jetty.	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	6	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12			
Colane	880	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	10	10/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10/10/-		
Coldstream	1,180	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	10	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10		
Colinton	6,310	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	92	.....	.....	92	11/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	37/10/-		
Collarenebri	21,660	4,299	782	84	57	135	47	422	290	31	743	180	30	78	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	52	283	Rented					
Collector	12,470	.....	189	46	119	.....	.....	113	.....	8	121	32/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32/10/-		
Collie	6,770	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26	.....	.....	26	21/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21/10/-		
Colly Blue	1,660	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	.....	3	25	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11		
Colo Creek	1,320	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22		
Colo Vale	4,140	119	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52	7	2	61	17	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	At Rail'y Stn.	
Colyton	2,270	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	.....	.....	15	10/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10/10/-	
Comara ¹⁷	1,610	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	.....	.....	7	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	
Come-by-Chance	11,390	1,444	387	19	28	76	6	170	95	17	282	120	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	45	149	Rented					
Comerong	1,170	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	10	10/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10/10/-	
Comeroy Road	5,650	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	63	.....	.....	63	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	
Como	1,570	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	20	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	At Rail'y Stn.
Comobella	880	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	10	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	
Conargo	15,400	1,033	144	16	29	77	21	110	67	9	186	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	25	127	Rented					
Concord	35,970	800	148	198	223	375	210	205	36	10	251	150	20	.....	.....	2 at 78	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	73	45/10/-	430/10/-	do					
Condobolin	107,720	5,091	908	240	537	284	147	991	327	54	1,372	250	40	.....	.....	130	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	598	Govt. building	
Congewai ¹⁸	530	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	.....	.....	15	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	
Conjola	7,590	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	41	.....	.....	41	35	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35	
Coogee	4,340	960	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	103	38	1	142	110	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	46/16/-	192/16/-	Rented					
Cookamidgera ¹⁹	1,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	31	.....	.....	31	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	
Cookardina	6,660	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43	.....	1	44	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	
Coolabah	13,860	955	640	55	59	85	51	177	58	23	258	29	.....	.....	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	79	At Rail'y Stn.
Coolac	12,090	566	246	21	30	.....	.....	175	35	14	224	33	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	33	do
Coolah	22,380	1,573	268	65	80	96	52	270	108	23	401	140	20	91	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	216	Govt. building	
Coolamon	33,550	2,395	1,247	174	311	182	103	757	138	54	949	150	.....	.....	.....	.....	52	.....	.....	.....	.....	2/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	204/10/-	do
Coolangatta	10,940	.....	182	17	53	11	14	83	.....	6	89	19/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19/10/-	
Coolongook	2,670	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	107	.....	.....	107	13/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13/10/-	
Cooma	186,570	6,422	1,138	673	1,721	409	215	1,268	438	71	1,777	260	40	160	.....	105	.....	2 at 26	140	.....	.....	79	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	860	Govt. building
Cooma Railway Station.	2 at 52	At Rail'y Stn.
Coonabarabran	52,070	3,132	798	189	387	246	97	563	213	41	817	210	30	.....	140	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	349	Govt. building
Coonamble	161,400	9,215	2,006	440	503	390	213	1,249	608	82	1,939	300	40	91	130	78	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	641	do
Coopersnook	18,460	841	391	65	104	94	31	134	56	17	207	87/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	26	116/10/-	Rented					
Coorabell Creek	4,670	45	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	3	.....	9	41	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	41	
Coorabong	16,000	308	304	99	197	42	35	111	20	14	145	120	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2/8/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	102/8/-	Govt. building
Cootamundra	181,330	8,717	1,547	1,014	1,945	747	508	1,478	566	106	2,150	320	40	150	140	65	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	104/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,187/10/-	do
Cooyal	8,260	11	11	11/10/-	11/10/-	
Copeland North	7,580	657	361	107	170	19	28	91	42	20	153	120	20	128	Govt. building

Copmanhurst	3,520	212	...	...	...	...	...	27	12	...	39	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Coraki, Richmond River.	33,030	3,499	616	147	298	149	52	243	226	23	492	150	20	...	91	...	...	...	...	5	278
Coramba	6,840	...	...	...	...	...	...	69	...	3	72	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Cordeaux	940	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	20	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Corindi—Clarence.	1,350	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Cornulale ²⁰	570	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Corowa	227,190	7,078	1,322	391	701	396	194	1,350	456	71	1,877	260	40	91	100	144	...	...	...	52	674/10/-
Corrimal	9,480	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	2	44	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Corrowong	5,020	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	16	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Corunna	3,900	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	...	1	39	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Courabyra	1,770	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	14	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Coutt's Crossing	2,930	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-
Cow Flat	3,040	...	51	5	1	...	3	16	...	1	17	33/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33/10/-
Cowlong	710	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-
Cowra	130,340	5,959	1,559	572	1,090	601	351	1,267	388	94	1,749	260	40	110	140	105	...	...	...	52	671/10/-
Cowra Creek	2,990	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	...	1	39	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Cowra Railway Station.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cox's River	1,450	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	...	19	11/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11/10/-
Crabbe's Creek ²¹	1,900	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	15
Craigie	7,740	214	165	11	21	...	...	52	14	9	75	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	50
Cranbury	1,620	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	12	12/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12/10/-
Crookhaven Heads	...	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Crookwell	46,730	1,886	831	238	481	290	126	601	112	40	753	210	30	...	100	...	...	...	...	3	283
Croome	1,350	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	14	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-
Cross Roads	3,630	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	...	...	18	12/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12/10/-
Crowdy Head	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Crow Mountain ²²	3,190	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	11	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Croydon	109,200	2,116	300	479	940	630	447	538	80	19	637	150	...	91	...	2 at 110	...	2 at 52	...	70	644
Crudine	1,750	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	...	19	19/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19/10/-
Cudal	22,320	1,127	463	108	153	111	77	191	64	24	279	160	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	3
Cuddell Siding	2,340	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Cudjebegong Creek	680	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	...	...	25	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	25/10/-
Cudjebegong	6,100	...	90	11	19	...	...	61	...	4	65	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Cudgen	15,310	1,034	386	47	18	134	101	101	65	21	187	120	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	102
Cugong ²³	1,730	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	11	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Culcairn	33,980	1,140	198	43	73	51	28	223	70	14	307	70	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Cullenbone	2,140	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	13	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cullen Bullen ²⁴	9,570	...	165	13	20	...	...	108	...	8	116	58/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58/10/-
Callinga	3,169	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	...	...	38	15/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15/10/-
Cumnock	19,460	615	370	45	97	90	34	160	36	14	210	31	...	26	...	...	...	...	...	1	58
Cumdetown	16,650	740	358	104	169	99	43	157	43	16	216	120	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	134/10/-
Cunningham	9,280	...	...	...	...	...	...	62	...	3	65	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Carban ²⁵	1,620	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	...	...	25	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Curlewis	10,330	411	187	16	16	25	18	99	23	10	132	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Currabubula	38,640	455	280	42	113	...	...	165	25	15	205	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Currawang	2,230	...	85	33	21	...	...	29	...	3	32	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Curraweela	2,390	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	9	15/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15/10/-
Cuttabri	2,110	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	...	...	27	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dalmorton	5,820	378	135	37	66	18	11	54	24	7	85	140	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	40
Dalton	14,600	227	197	51	103	70	55	125	13	8	146	120	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	1/10/-	13
Dalwood	1,040	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	11	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dandaloo	23,000	1,694	264	51	36	107	29	328	108	18	454	130	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	2	40
Dapto ²³	37,290	1,731	1,149	261	435	88	32	334	101	55	490	91	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Dapto Railway Station.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darby's Falls	1,120	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	11	11/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11/10/-
Dargan's Creek ²⁷	4,420	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	...	5	49	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Darlington	244,590	2,287	401	815	1,492	1,805	1,009	432	97	24	553	180	30	...	100	...	...	...	...	2 at 52	98
Darlington Point.	23,129	683	256	42	60	...	...	241	42	16	299	140	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2/10/-

NOTE.—For references see page 61.

Name of Office.	Business transacted.							Revenue.				Expenditure.											Arrangements as regards Premises.		
	No. of Letters posted.	No. of Telegrams transmitted.	No. of Money Orders issued.	No. of Money Orders paid.	No. of Postal Notes paid.	No. of Savings Bank deposits.	No. of Savings Bank withdrawals.	Postal.	Tele-graphic.	Money Order and Postal Note.	Total.	Salaries.								Allow-ances.	Rent of Office.	Total.			
												Officers in charge		Assist-ants.	Opera-tors.	Letter Carriers.	Mail Boys.	Messen-gers.	Line Re-pairers.					Other Em-ployés.	Gross Salary.	Deduc-tion for Rent.
Darlington Rail-way Station.	2,170	159	£ 5	£ 9	...	£ 14	£ 24		
Davies' Creek	1,290	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	5	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	
Daviesville	21,110	4	564	78	68	294	74	186	...	28	214	54	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54	
Davis Town	6,800	...	...	...	...	...	...	56	...	...	56	11/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11/10/-	
Day Dream	620	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	...	...	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	
Daysdale	10,000	733	...	...	...	...	...	59	53	2	114	26	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	Free by guarantors
Deepwater	45,710	944	411	104	209	54	30	172	59	21	252	120	20	...	...	...	52	...	...	4	26	182	Rented	
Deepwater Railway Station.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	At Rail'y St'n.
Delegate	19,950	1,968	546	129	143	62	19	270	110	22	411	150	...	91	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	14	238	Rented
Demondrille	750	21	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	...	7	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	At Pub. School
Deniliquin	239,530	13,095	1,691	697	1,372	1,080	450	2,400	943	123	3,466	350	50	150	200	91	78	52	140	...	111/7/6	...	2,457/7/6	Govt. building	
Denman	20,080	1,146	258	71	96	67	38	279	74	13	366	140	20	...	...	...	26	...	...	...	4	30	180	Rented
Devlin's Siding	9,330	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	5	15/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15/10/-	
Dignam's Creek ²⁸	400	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	6	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	
Dora Creek	4,970	...	129	456	130	18	10	51	...	6	57	27/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27/10/-	
Dorrigo	1,810	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	11	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	
Double Peak ²⁹	2,920	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	3	13	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	
Douglas	4,980	159	...	...	...	...	...	18	8	2	28	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	At Rail'y St'n.
Douglas Gap	900	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	5	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	
Downside	700	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	At Pub. School
Drake	38,840	1,528	623	163	187	128	60	331	98	33	462	160	20	...	...	...	26	...	...	7	39	212	Rented	
Dripstone	3,210	72	142	12	34	...	...	133	4	7	144	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33	At Rail'y St'n.
Drummoyne	30,910	1,126	103	210	234	365	169	280	37	7	324	140	20	...	100	...	52	...	...	36/10/-	39	347/10/-	Rented	
Dry Plain	1,220	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	3	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	...	28/10/-	
Dubbo	363,038	13,454	3,280	2,209	3,788	1,448	989	2,688	863	162	3,713	330	40	150	150	135	...	52	140	...	167/15/-	...	1,626/15/-	Govt. building	
Dubbo Railway Station.	...	310	16	...	16	At Rail'y St'n.
Duckmaloi	830	16	16	10/10/-	10/10/-	
Dudauman	1,150	22	22	11	11	
Dudley	3,910	42	...	1	43	13/10/-	13/10/-	
Dulwich Hill	63,500	2,275	273	401	922	1,087	642	440	92	17	549	170	30	...	100	105	...	52	...	73	78	548	Rented		
Dumaresq	5,280	96	96	13	11	13	7	46	7	4	57	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	At Rail'y St'n.
Dunbar's Creek	900	10	10	10/10/-	10/10/-	
Dunbible Creek	1,200	38	2	...	2	27	27	
Dundas	8,590	75	75	27	27	
Dundee	5,990	...	100	16	26	54	...	5	59	22	22	
Dundee Railway Station.	2,930	49	21	3	...	24	13	13	At Rail'y St'n.
Dungog	96,520	3,095	719	230	421	148	58	657	218	38	913	190	30	91	...	91	...	140	26, endet	49/10/-	...	557/10/-	Govt. building		
Dungowan	6,370	94	94	23	23	
Dunkeld	960	12	12	12/10/-	12/10/-	
Dunmore	3,810	23	23	10	10	At Rail'y St'n.
Dunoon	2,360	10	10	10/10/-	10/10/-	
Dural	9,190	503	60	55	30	20	21	72	28	3	103	120	20	...	...	...	52	...	...	1/10/-	45	198/10/-	Rented	
Duramana	350	3	3	10/10/-	10/10/-	At Pub. School
Duri	1,010	8	8	10/10/-	10/10/-	

East Balmain	19,500	1,774	286	144	797	519	250	231	69	14	314	160	20	78	...	...	...	39	...	...	75	332	Rented	
East Carlingford	17,420	431	...	...	...	...	...	61	15	...	76	34	...	...	...	25	...	...	...	...	26	86	...	
Eastern Creek	2,230	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	14/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14/10/-	10	...
East Greta	2,370	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	12	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	10	...
East Kangaloon	3,260	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	...	...	50	19/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31/10/-	3	...
East Kempsey	5,490	...	74	2	26	...	...	51	...	3	54	28/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	3	330/10/-	Govt. building
East Maitland	259,150	3,700	892	517	996	380	265	929	227	45	1,201	240	40	140	...	115	...	52	...	10	148/10/-	...	...	...
East Maitland Railway Station	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Receiver clearer	...	...	At Rail'y Stn.
East Raleigh ²⁰	1,840	280	...	...	...	...	...	7	17	...	24	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	17	...
East Wardell	870	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	17	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	At Rail'y Stn.	
Eastwood	7,920	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	...	...	32	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	10	...
Eatonsville	1,320	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	5	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	283	Rented	
Eauabalong	10,860	855	195	37	59	39	34	114	54	12	180	160	20	Nil.	100	...	...	...	...	...	3	40	15	...
Ebenezer	2,610	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	...	...	38	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	19	...
Eccleston	2,380	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	...	19	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	3	Govt. building
Eckersley	440	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	273	1,759	...
Eden	18,480	2,011	543	244	299	130	55	183	126	30	339	160	20	...	78	144	65	52	...	78	152	...	...	...
Edgecliff	128,180	5,670	592	270	1,052	1,036	413	1,099	280	43	1,422	240	40	91	150	78	...	52	...	78	78	...	...	...
Eglinton	2,470	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	14	14/10/-	...	...	...	2 at 78	...	...	...	...	...	14/10/-	...	At Pub. School
Elderslie	850	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13/10/-	...	...
Elizabeth-street South	46,400	3,719	749	431	1,212	1,740	892	714	224	65	1,003	170	30	...	100	...	...	52	...	...	90	408	Rented	
Ellalong	5,010	...	...	...	...	...	...	52	...	1	53	15/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15/10/-	20	...
Ellenborough	2,800	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	20	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15/10/-	10	At Rail'y Stn.
Elsmore	3,920	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	...	...	50	15/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...
Eltham ²¹	1,230	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	3	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	...	...
Emerald Hill	1,670	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	17	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	239	Govt. building	
Emmaville	38,530	1,510	515	332	438	292	118	445	92	38	575	210	30	...	...	...	52	...	...	...	7	37	...	...
Emu	4,400	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	...	...	18	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	At Rail'y Stn.	
Emu Plains ²²	9,300	251	103	267	280	13	5	18	40	...	10	135/10/-	65	550/10/-	Rented
Enfield	63,520	1,096	145	286	374	300	172	216	47	9	272	140	20	...	...	100	78	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enmore	77,470	5,773	809	831	2,463	2,670	1,267	1,169	229	45	1,443	240	40	65	...	...	...	52	...	...	9/2/6	...	352/2/6	Govt. building
Enngonia	11,500	1,479	137	33	18	37	21	149	101	10	260	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	103	do	...
Ennis	2,480	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	...	...	21	21/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21/10/-	...	...
Erina	2,120	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	...	...
Ermington	10,050	327	...	...	...	...	...	62	11	...	73	58/10/-	...	...	...	78	...	...	...	...	30/10/-	178	...	...
Erskineville	59,730	1,292	384	485	829	1,669	676	287	43	18	348	150	20	...	...	...	39	...	...	...	61	230	Rented	
Eskbank	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	At Rail'y Stn.
Eskdale	700	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	12	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	64	...
Esrom	12,270	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...
Essington	1,720	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	3	11/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11/10/-	...	...
Engowra	14,140	718	385	81	150	57	25	176	41	19	236	150	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3/10/-	...	133/10/-	Govt. building
Eulowrie	2,130	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	15	15/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15/10/-	...	...
Eureka	1,490	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	...	...
Euriowie	35,226	1,043	...	...	...	...	...	...	68	...	68	110	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	20/16/-	133/16/-	Rented
Eurobodalla	4,870	302	122	22	13	...	...	29	19	4	52	59	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59	...	...
Eurongilly	8,520	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	20	19/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19/10/-	...	...
Eurunderee	2,960	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	...	...	21	18/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18/10/-	...	...
Euston	14,840	1,708	473	49	50	29	22	118	113	21	252	160	20	...	150	...	...	...	...	...	67/17/6	...	357/17/6	Govt. building
Evans' Plains	2,960	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	13	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...
Exeter	10,860	248	184	66	156	19	12	79	15	9	103	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	At Rail'y Stn.
Failford	4,540	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	2	44	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...
Fairfield	37,110	390	...	...	...	...	...	77	...	...	98	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	...	do

NOTE.—For references see page 61.

Name of Office.	Business transacted.							Revenue.				Expenditure.										Arrangements as regards Premises.																
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												Officers in Charge.		Assist-ants.	Opera-tors.	Letter Carriers.	Mail Boys.	Messen-gers.	Line Re-pairers.					Other Em-ployés.														
							£	£	£	£	£	£	£							£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£	£									
Huskisson	1,310							23			23	11												11														
Idaville	800							14			14	10/10/-													10/10/-													
Ilford	9,160		303	47	93			80		13	93	53/10/-													53/10/-	At Rail'y Stn.												
Ilabo	4,740	177	157	20	25			69	9	7	85	30													30	At Rail'y Stn.												
Iluka	3,990							24			24	22													22	At Rail'y Stn.												
Ingleburn	29,630	136						93	7	2	102	22													22	Govt. building												
Inverell	189,230	9,616	1,812	711	1,206	710	365	2,020	683	100	2,803	290	40	150	160	100									52	915/10/-												
Invergowrie	850							2			2	10														10												
Irvington	1,460	220							14		14	26														10												
Islington	21,600							180			180	25															25											
Ivanhoe	17,980	1,346	141	19	12	63	10	236	98	7	391	160	20												3/10/-	25	168/10/-	Rented										
Jamberoo	34,470	787	286	73	152	91	73	241	43	13	297	91													1		92											
Jamison Town	1,170							11			11	10/10/-																10/10/-										
Jasper's Brush	5,940							14			14	10/10/-														12/10/-		23										
Jair	4,860							33		1	34	20																20										
Jembaicumbene	2,320							10			10	14																14										
Jennings		58							10		10																											
Jenolan Caves	6,190	573	271	20	66	132	23	62	33	14	109	100													1	13		114	Rented									
Jorangle	2,160							14			14	10/10/-																	10/10/-									
Jorilderie	81,340	5,719	907	182	321	234	130	919	360	34	1,322	270	40	91	130	52										44		517	Govt. building									
Jerrara	1,110							5			5	10/10/-																	10/10/-	At Pub. School								
Jerrawa	4,100	29						45	2	4	51	21																	21	At Rail'y Stn.								
Jerrong	1,150							23		1	24	11/10/-																	11/10/-									
Jerry's Plains	27,860	751	131	47	69	35	15	123	42	8	173	130														4		166	Govt. building									
Jorseyville	6,790	679						57	43	4	104	37																	37									
Jervis Bay		414							23		23	91																		91	At Lighthouse							
Jiggi	330							10			10	10/10/-																	10/10/-									
Jimnubuan	2,440							66			66	11/10/-																	11/10/-									
Jindabyne	14,480	511	110	30	55			159	33	6	198	62																	52									
Jindalee	1,860							7			7	10																	10	At Pub. School								
Jindera	4,920	245	136	26	26	65	27	74	17	5	96	57																	57									
Jingellie	2,540	319						62	20		82	20																		20								
Joadja Creek	6,960		201	114	76	107	50	78		0	87	40																		65								
Jones's Island	13,260	1,091	260	145	107	76	16	98	54	10	162	120	20																	39	142/10/-	Rented						
Judd's Creek	3,640							44			44	16																		16								
Jugiong	4,271	380	238	29	25			58	29	6	93	33/10/-																		33/10/-								
Junee	164,700	5,626	1,759	508	1,107	992	427	1,383	314	108	1,805	240	40	100	150	78														52	62/10/-	Govt. building						
Junee Railway Station		1,005							59		59																											
Kangaloon	6,890		132	12	14			37		6	43	22																			22							
Kangaroo Creek	1,630							20			20	16																			16							
Kangaroo Valley	28,125	996	467	82	169	193	55	218	60	22	299	130	20																		1	26	168/4/-	Rented				
Kar's Springs	1,750							20			20	10/10/-																				10/10/-						
Karuah	4,880							31			31	14/10/-																				14/10/-						
Katoomba	103,320	5,448	1,260	747	1,144	609	293	1,317	325	100	1,742	240	40		100	100																2 at 52	56	100	660	Rented		
Katoomba Railway Station																																						
Kayuga	1,410							11			11	11/10/-																						11/10/-				
Keepit	2,950							13			13	13/10/-																							13/10/-			
Keiraville	2,500							12			12	10																							10			
Kelly's Plains	2,720							12			12	12/10/-																							12/10/-	At Pub. School		
Kellyville	5,230							43			43	13/10/-																							13/10/-			
Kelso	34,230	619	293	130	335	237	79	180	37	13	235	160	20		40																				2	40	222	Rented

Name of Office.	Business transacted.							Revenue.				Expenditure.											Arrangements as regards Premises						
	No. of Letters posted.	No. of Telegrams transmitted.	No. of Money Orders issued.	No. of Money Orders paid.	No. of Postal Notes paid.	No. of Savings Bank deposits.	No. of Savings Bank withdrawals.	Postal.	Tele-graphic.	Money Order and Postal Note.	Total.	Salaries.						Allow-ances.	Rent of Office.	Total.									
												Officers in Charge.		Assist-ants.	Opera-tors.	Letter Carriers.	Mail Boys.				Messen-gers.	Line Re-pairers.		Other Em-ployés.					
												Gross Salary.	Deduct- ion for Rent.																
Leura ²⁷	4,750	167	...	...	...	...	...	£ 12	£ 9	£ 2	£ 23	£ 22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22		
Lewis Ponds	5,200	211	61	45	68	19	8	37	16	4	57	52	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52		
Liddell	1,840	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	13	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	17/10/-		
Lidsdale	3,540	...	51	25	26	21	20	30	...	2	32	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34		
Lilyfield	6,580	155	...	...	...	...	...	94	5	...	99	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26		
Linburner's Creek	3,050	...	...	...	...	...	...	41	...	...	41	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26		
Linckilns	1,430	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	12	11/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11/10/-		
Limestone	1,030	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10		
Linburn	2,690	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	15	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	At Pub. School	
Lincoln	1,310	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	14	14/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14/10/-		
Linden .....	...	152	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	At Rail'y. Stn. do
Lindfield	10,110	211	...	...	...	...	...	73	6	...	79	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30		
Lionsville	3,400	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	...	...	27	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20		
Lismore	192,750	13,887	1,902	1,188	2,015	898	470	1,421	950	104	2,475	290	40	140	140	91	...	52	140	...	...	...	130	...	1,247	Govt. building		
Lithgow	134,960	4,245	1,576	1,194	2,495	1,642	597	1,141	252	116	1,500	280	40	78	2 at 100	65	...	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	692/10/-	do	
Lithgow Rly. Stn. ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	At Rail'y. Stn.
Little Billabong	4,790	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	
Little Hartley	4,740	...	52	28	38	...	...	48	...	9	57	29/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29/10/-	
Little Plain	2,630	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	16	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16		
Liverpool	92,260	2,228	697	1,230	2,015	938	579	579	129	35	743	220	30	...	100	78	78	...	...	...	...	5	109/10/-	...	625/10/-	Govt. building		
Llandilo	720	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	
Llangothlin	9,810	...	...	...	...	...	...	85	...	...	85	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	
Lochinvar	13,220	474	130	151	171	64	40	103	27	7	137	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	27/10/-	30	157/10/-	Rented At Rail. Stat
Lochinvar Railway Station.	
Locksley	8,620	205	...	...	...	...	...	76	12	...	88	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	do
Loftus	do	
Long Creek	3,790	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	...	...	35	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	
Long Flat	2,580	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	
Long Reach	2,970	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	...	...	21	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	
Longueville	13,870	431	...	...	...	...	...	84	15	1	100	52	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62/4/-	114/4/-		
Lord Howe Island	580	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	4	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	16/10/-		
Lostock	2,910	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	
Louth	24,330	1,728	364	45	57	97	29	234	121	19	374	160	20	...	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67/17/6	447/17/6	Govt. building	
Lower Botany	20,570	1,029	276	142	313	431	231	172	36	13	221	160	20	...	100	...	78	52	...	...	...	...	...	...	36/10/-	60	466/10/-	Rented
Lower Bucca ²⁸ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	
Lower Hawkesbury	1,090	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	14	11/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11/10/-	
Lower Mangrove	2,960	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	...	3	23	12/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12/10/-	
Lower Portland	2,890	...	147	12	17	...	...	36	...	4	40	17/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17/10/-	
Lower Southgate	1,680	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	15	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	
Lower Tarcutta	1,980	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	17	14/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14/10/-	
Lower Yammattree	1,330	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	14	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	
Lowesdale	2,160	214	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	13	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	
Lowther	2,250	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	14	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	At Pub. school Provided free of rent.
Lucknow	39,950	1,643	947	179	212	635	283	361	203	56	620	120	...	52	...	...	...	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	39/10/-	250/10/-		
Luddenham	4,770	...	114	48	37	...	...	37	...	6	43	25/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25/10/-	
Lue ²⁹	11,450	282	189	25	65	...	...	110	17	9	136	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	At Rail. Stat.
Lynnhurst	20,980	387	216	44	83	...	...	111	18	12	141	49	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	do
Macdonaldtown	6,950	...	51	102	227	379	153	137	...	2	139	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	

At

Macksville	12,213	950	457	38	111	86	46	108	62	18	188	100	20	...	78	...	...	...	...	...	3	30	191	Rented	
Maclean	62,740	4,304	1,032	323	639	409	133	627	275	47	849	190	30	78	140	105	...	...	...	...	21	...	504	Govt. building	
Mahonga	1,358	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	12	12/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	12/10/-	122	Govt. building
Major's Creek	11,940	452	387	92	184	154	105	155	26	10	200	120	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	
Maleho	1,680	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	
Mallan ⁴⁰	510	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	7	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	
Manar	3,730	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	...	...	44	11/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11/10/-	10	
Mandalong	670	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	16	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	20/10/-	10	
Mandurama ⁴¹	39,370	1,075	405	40	101	43	22	366	65	20	451	91	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	111	Rented	
Mandurama Rail- way Station.	111	At Rail'y Stn.
Mangrove Creek	2,690	...	...	...	...	...	...	61	...	...	61	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	28		
Manildra	11,370	371	259	67	113	34	53	124	21	14	159	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	47		
Manilla	53,970	1,525	384	84	114	217	79	461	100	19	580	190	30	78	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	60	302	Rented	
Manly	152,810	6,331	397	938	1,496	869	495	1,034	258	29	1,321	240	40	...	150	110	52	52	...	39	114/10/-	...	1,042/10/-	Govt. building		
															91	2 at 78	26	26	...	2 at 26	switch board attendants.	...	...	...
March	800	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	9	11/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11/10/-	103	Govt. building
Marengo	9,390	342	173	31	40	22	45	101	21	6	128	120	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	103	Govt. building	
Marlee	1,930	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	17	11/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11/10/-	11	At Pub. school
Marlow	1,460	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	1	12	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	10	
Marrana Creek ⁴²	1,190	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	7	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	11	At Rail'y Stn.
Marrangaroo	1,330	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	...	42	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	11	At Rail'y Stn.
Marrickville	455,800	4,439	757	2,032	2,944	2,625	1,517	1,090	174	44	1,308	240	40	...	130	135	78	52	...	...	335	...	1,847		
															130	120	78	52	
															110	115	39	39	
															3 at 91	
Marsden Park	2,640	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	20	15/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7/10/-	1	24	Rented
Marsden's	37,750	1,996	205	56	52	38	18	155	127	9	291	130	20	...	...	...	52	...	...	...	5	40	207	Rented	
Marshall M'Mahon Reef.	7,210	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	...	...	23	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	
Marshall Mount	1,590	...	...	...	...	...	...	33	...	...	33	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	193	Govt. building
Martinsville	2,940	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	...	2	26	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	16	
Marulan	45,410	594	323	190	412	120	87	254	35	21	310	150	20	...	...	...	39	...	...	...	24	...	16	16	Govt. building
Maryland	3,052	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	...	...	21	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	22	At Rail'y Stn.
Maryvale	6,040	252	142	26	23	57	24	60	14	7	81	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	23	At Rail'y Stn.
Matheson	4,210	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	...	...	37	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	23	At Rail'y Stn.
Mathoura	14,210	972	631	16	50	...	...	157	57	25	239	60/10/-	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80/10/-	56	At Rail'y Stn.
Maude	3,280	494	...	...	...	...	...	104	31	...	135	56	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56	56	
Mayfield	1,690	14	14	10/10/-	10/10/-	10	10	
May's Hill	1,400	21	21	10/10/-	10/10/-	10	10	At Rail'y Stn.
Meadow Bank	10,420	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	11	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	At Rail'y Stn.
Meadow Flat	4,710	87	87	30/10/-	30/10/-	11	11	
Medlow ⁴³	3,000	306	...	...	...	...	...	11	17	...	28	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	11	
Megalong	2,290	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	11	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	15	
Menangle	14,720	234	94	27	42	...	...	121	13	8	142	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	45	At Rail'y Stn.
Merindie	42,680	3,449	288	94	79	54	16	460	280	22	762	220	30	...	130	...	26	140	...	...	69/17/6	...	555/17/6	Govt. building	
Meranburn	2,520	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	1	13	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	
Merewether	31,340	812	462	2,233	706	660	438	455	49	25	529	150	20	78	...	...	110	...	...	...	39/10/-	35	470/10/-	Rented	
															78	
Merigal	6,240	...	...	...	...	...	...	79	...	...	79	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	14	Rented
Merimbula	6,200	742	109	41	45	119	21	63	39	5	107	120	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	30	132	132	Rented
Merindee	2,210	14	14	14/10/-	14/10/-	16/10/-	16/10/-	
Merrilla	1,880	19	19	16/10/-	16/10/-	241/10/-	241/10/-	Govt. building
Merriwa	47,640	2,056	503	81	258	82	65	442	138	27	607	190	30	52	29/10/-	...	27/10/-	27/10/-	
Merrygoen	6,130	87	87	27/10/-	27/10/-	86/10/-	86/10/-	At Rail'y Stn.
Merrylands	11,532	390	...	...	...	...	...	61	15	...	76	11	...	...	...	39	...	...	...	...	36/10/-	...	20	168	Rented
Metz	14,550	457	682	98	62	314	105	130	62	30	222	120	...	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	20	168	168	Rented
Michelago	14,486	407	393	38	46	9	17	146	22	16	184	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	40	At Rail'y Stn.

NOTE.—For references see page 61.

Morpeth Railway Station.																				At Rail'y Stn.										
Mortdale	2,900							121			121	11/10/-							39	50/10/-										
Mortlake	9,320	324						10			10	30								30										
Morundah	10,140	1,121						108	69		177	34								34										
Moruya	64,470	3,093	1,219	484	742	218	116	536	184	50	790	220	30	91	100	78			127/12/6	726/12/6	Govt. building									
Moruya Heads		143							8		8	52								52										
Morven	6,769							60			60	17/10/-								17/10/-										
Mosman	87,770	2,029	235	250	316	496	236	277	75	16	368	130							109/10/-	40	Rented									
Mossgiel	26,020	1,807	232	31	52	87	21	320	134	16	470	220	30	40					3/10/-	52	do									
Moss Vale	201,130	5,888	1,112	728	2,013	589	273	1,033	332	70	1,485	240	40	160	100	91			86	285/10/-	Govt. building									
Moulamein	32,860	1,670	402	40	69	97	37	262	109	19	390	160	20	91					67/17/6	298/17/6	do									
Mount Adrah	590							5			5	10								10										
Mount Costigan	4,780							11			11	11/10/-									11/10/-									
Mount Druitt	3,060	166							10		10	10								10	At Rail'y Stn.									
Mount Drysdale	16,540		579	54	72	115	40	161		19	180	109								50	Rented.									
Mount Elliott	2,260							15			15	15/10/-									15/10/-									
Mount Harris	13,030							26			26	26								26										
Mount Hope	7,770	1,751	358	50	72	52	46	114	123	17	254	120	20						26	3	52	181	Rented							
Mount Hunter	1,740							18			18	12										12		At pub. school						
Mount Ila	2,950							69			69	15										15								
Mount Keira	2,610											15										15								
Mount Kembla	9,650	1,012	104	22	17	23	17	36	63	5	104	33			9							42								
Mount M'Donald	15,170	928	528	76	59			196	127	22	345	100								3	24	127		Rented						
Mount Mitchell	1,470							35			35	11/10/-																		
Mount Victoria	41,870	2,350	490	198	418	254	106	383	120	34	537	260	40		100					52	140	41/10/-		Govt. building						
Mount Victoria Railway Station.																									At Rail'y Stn.					
Mount Vincent	3,800		142	33	46			60		5	65	19											19							
Mount Wilson	2,120							26			26	10											10							
Mudgee	273,330	8,759	2,474	1,892	3,226	945	492	2,533	572	140	3,245	330	40	140	150	125				52	140	155/10/-		1,363/10/-	Govt. building					
Mudgee Rail'y Stn.																									At Rail'y Stn.					
Mulgoa	11,980	413	164	70	103	58	26	83	24	7	114	120	20	20							3			123	Govt. building					
Mulgrave	3,150	38						16	2		18	21												21		At Rail'y Stn.				
Mullaley	6,000	689							44		44	48												48						
Mullengandra	7,510											21												21						
Mullengudgery	6,120							20			20	17/10/-												17/10/-						
Mullion Creek	5,800	113						3	6		9	11												11		At Rail'y Stn.				
Mulloon	780							12			12	12/10/-												12/10/-						
Mullumbimby	7,250	275	43	8	11			17	2		19	27											12		39					
Mulwala	22,110	1,522	559	70	100	169	62	234	95	21	350	160	20								3			143	Govt. building					
Mumbil	5,270	113							6	4	10	11												11		At Rail'y Stn.				
Mummell	2,730							7			7	14/10/-													14/10/-					
Mundooran	12,210	664	322	53	33	18	15	206	40	15	261	150	20										2	45	177	Rented				
Mungindi	24,750	3,991	631	85	49	107	56	235	287	36	538	190	30		78							6	35	270	do					
Mungunyah	1,190							13			13	13/10/-													13/10/-					
Murga	3,390							24			24	24													24					
Murrayville		296							60		60	26													26					
Murrumbateman	3,990							5		1	6	20													20					
Murrumbidgee	4,640	227	230	44	49			77	13	10	100	21													21	At Rail'y Stn.				
Murrumbarrah	75,860	2,722	918	353	689	375	198	745	173	48	966	220	30		78						39			26/10/-		333/10/-	Govt. building			
Murrungundy	3,240											12														12				
Murrurundi	35,780	1,264	604	311	734	527	212	315	86	35	436	220	30	130							26			6		352	Govt. building			
Murrurundi Railway Station.		1,036							54		54	26														26	At Rail'y Stn.			
Murwillumbah	125,840	4,370	1,191	310	465	267	154	820	118	62	1,000	240	40		150										52	140	41/10/-	20	681/10/-	
Muscle Creek	2,240							11			11	10/10/-														10/10/-				
Muswellbrook	242,730	7,313	1,254	629	1,179	405	253	1,447	494	79	2,020	280	40	130	100	91									52		41/10/-		780/10/-	Govt. building

NOTE.—For references see page 61.

Name of Office.	Business transacted.							Revenue.				Expenditure.											Arrangements as regards Premises.			
	No. of Letters posted.	No. of Telegrams Transmitted.	No. of Money Orders issued.	No. of Money Orders paid.	No. of Postal Notes paid.	No. of Savings Bank deposits.	No. of Savings Bank withdrawals.	Posta	Tele-graphic	Money Order and Postal Note.	Total.	Salaries.								Allow-ances.	Rent of Office.	Total.				
												Officers in charge.		Assist-ants.	Opera-tors.	Letter Carriers	Mail Boys.	Messen-gers.	Line Re-pairers					Other Em-ployés		
												Gross Salary.	Deduct-ions for R-tnt.													
Muswellbrook Rail-way Station.	...	...	...	...	...	...	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	At Rail'y Stn.	
Muttama.	4,230	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	27/10/-	...	
Myra Vale	16,230	...	102	33	65	...	50	...	5	55	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	Free by guarantors	
Myrtle Creek	3,890	284	43	5	7	...	32	16	2	50	91	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	92	Free by guarantors	
Myrtleville	2,450	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	12	15/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15/10/-	...
Nabiac	6,890	...	185	14	38	...	55	...	7	62	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	...
Nadjingomar	1,840	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	...	19	11/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11/10/-	...
Nambucca Heads.	7,020	1,718	258	103	79	82	48	110	13	171	140	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2/10/-	20	...	142/10/-	Rented	
Nambucca Heads Pilot Station.	...	167	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	10	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	At Pilot Stn.
Nana Glen	5,770	...	...	...	...	...	48	...	...	48	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...
Narara	2,590	...	...	...	...	...	36	...	...	36	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	15/10/-	...	
Narellan	15,790	260	...	...	...	...	168	14	...	182	65/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65/10/-	...
Narooma	7,560	395	159	53	78	...	34	23	6	63	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	...
Narrabri	242,330	17,346	2,174	1,001	1,379	1,198	1,890	1,224	109	3,223	320	40	...	160	135	...	140	26	142/15/-	...	...	1,183/15/-	Govt. building		
Narrabri Railway Station.	At Rail'y Stn.
Narrabri West	72,000	5,174	733	225	336	262	417	297	33	747	150	...	...	120	...	...	52	26	38/10/-	15	...	401/10/-	Rented		
Narramine	65,450	3,346	710	190	218	164	611	199	36	846	180	78	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6/10/-	267/10/-	do		
Narramine Rail-way Station.	At Rail'y Stn.
Narrandera	371,370	11,984	2,268	1,124	2,070	688	358	2,295	764	110	3,169	290	40	180	150	115	2 at 52	...	26	97	...	1,142	Govt. building			
Narrara	5,860	...	...	...	...	...	88	...	1	89	15/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15/10/-	...
Narrow Plains	2,310	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	5	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...
Nelligen	14,980	667	413	97	131	45	41	131	36	19	186	120	20	...	...	...	52	...	...	2	26	180	Rented		
Nelson's Bay	6,000	718	152	385	511	47	8	71	37	7	115	120	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	109	Govt. building		
Nelson's Plains	2,780	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	12	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	At Pub. School
Nerriga	6,620	...	94	27	62	...	52	...	4	56	23/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23/10/-	...
Nerrigundah	6,140	...	140	39	42	...	92	...	8	100	22/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22/10/-	...
Neurea	4,390	...	...	...	...	...	26	...	...	26	20/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20/10/-	...
Neutral Bay	33,330	995	113	150	236	270	155	143	37	6	156	120	20	...	...	...	52	...	...	3/4/-	65	...	222/4/-	Rented	
Never Never	2,200	...	...	...	...	...	21	...	...	21	12/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12/10/-	...
Nevetire	39,030	3,377	1,166	144	150	116	69	362	197	41	600	150	...	...	...	...	26	...	...	3	20	199	Rented		
Nevetire Railway Station.	2	2	At Rail'y Stn.
Neville	8,230	278	...	...	...	...	121	15	...	136	34/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34/10/-	...
New Angledool	13,770	2,182	518	56	25	66	28	156	149	26	331	160	20	...	100	...	...	...	...	4	40	284	Rented		
Newbridge	17,520	786	322	133	184	140	51	206	42	17	265	120	20	26	...	...	...	...	...	14	26	166	do		
Newbridge Rail-way Station	At Rail'y Stn.
Newcastle	1,157,130	44,457	4,110	7,655	10,691	4,532	1,984	7,594	5,270	286	13,150	400	50	200	4 at 180	144	65	6 at 52	140	200	269/10/-	...	4,762/10/-	Govt. building		
												300	...	180	3 at 180	120	65	26	140	Telephone Attender	78	65	26	...	...
													...	150	...	115	
													...	130	...	110	
													...	130	...	100	
													91	
Newcastle Railway Station.	...	1,610	99	...	99	At Rail'y Stn.

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Newcastle West	110,760	5,020	1,232	703	2,683	1,154	548	853	314	68	1,235	240	40	...	100	52	90	442	Rented	
New Italy	1,220	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	...
New Lambton	11,740	229	149	497	243	200	124	86	12	6	104	120	20	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	115	Govt. building
Newport	8,390	290	...	...	...	...	...	29	16	1	46	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	131	Rented
Newrybar	3,960	...	...	...	...	...	...	43	...	...	43	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...
Newton Boyd	124	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	7	180	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	187/10/-	Govt. building
Newtown	1,849,370	10,081	2,441	5,224	14,702	11,987	5,736	4,195	431	134	4,760	370	50	190	180	4 at 144	78	2 at 52	2 at 78	37/10/-	150/14/-	3,296/14/-	do	
														100	150	2 at 65	2 at 26	2 at 78	39	Switch attendants.				
																3 at 115								
																3 at 91								
Niangala	7,000	...	57	8	9	...	...	24	...	4	28	19/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19/10/-	...
Nimbin	270	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	...
Nimtybelle	17,510	953	489	86	136	50	52	207	55	22	284	120	20	...	...	...	...	39	...	...	4	143	Govt. building
Nine-mile	4,180	142	...	...	...	...	...	33	9	1	43	45/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45/10/-	...
North Berry Jerry	4,600	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	...	...	36	22/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22/10/-	At Pub. School
North Botany	47,420	766	335	283	392	794	314	143	27	16	186	140	20	...	...	...	125	78	52	...	39/2/-	52	Rented.
North Gobarra long	850	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	...
North Parramatta	47,168	1,506	348	48	355	282	193	517	61	18	596	140	30	78	...	...	...	78	...	...	...	266	Govt. building
North Pinlico	2,670	...	...	...	...	...	...	48	...	...	48	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	...
North Richmond	8,830	308	...	...	...	...	...	49	21	2	72	56/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56/10/-	...
North Ryde	11,708	163	...	...	...	...	...	83	6	...	89	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	117	...
North Springwood	2,650	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	...	40	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46	...
North Sydney	650,470	7,222	1,063	2,398	4,146	4,108	1,889	2,797	355	67	3,219	330	40	140	150	144	78	4 at 52	3 at 78	488/10/-	36/8/-	3,373/18/-	Govt. building	
														110	91	135	2 at 52	39	26	3 at 78	switch board attendants.	stabling.		
																115								
																110								
																100								
																2 at 91								
																6 at 78								
North Tumbulgum	3,030	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	...	...	28	19/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19/10/-	...
Nowendoc	2,260	...	...	...	...	...	...	39	...	...	39	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...
Nowra	110,120	4,497	1,465	627	1,419	654	363	1,066	252	72	1,390	240	40	...	2 at 100	91	...	52	...	...	43	536	Govt. building
Nulba	4,050	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	At Rail'y Stn.
Nullamanna	1,800	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	...	...	22	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	At Pub. School
Numba	1,950	74	10	26	26	21	21	45	...	3	48	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	...
Number One	1,163	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	11	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	...
Nunbugga ⁵⁰	1,310	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	11	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...
Numeralla	2,330	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	...	...	24	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	...
Nundle	31,920	1,121	397	206	137	106	77	187	74	20	281	160	20	10	5	52	207	Rented.
Nunnagoys	850	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	17	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	...
Nymagee	41,650	3,544	1,197	181	216	213	130	453	218	57	728	190	30	...	130	...	...	52	...	...	3	345	Govt. building
Nymboida	2,470	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	...
Nyngan	144,320	7,245	2,030	852	1,120	612	373	1,241	447	92	1,780	240	40	...	160	91	...	52	...	...	41/10/-	664/10/-	Govt. building
															120									
Nyngan Railway Station.	1,668	104	...	104	At Rail'y Stn.
Oaklands	3,650	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	1	43	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	...
Oakwood	2,854	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	13	13/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13/10/-	...
Oatley's	8	8	At Rail'y Stn.
Oban	1,280	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	1	15	13/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13/10/-	...
Oberon	24,990	901	604	196	321	218	107	345	45	31	421	140	20	...	...	...	...	39	...	...	4	163	Govt. building
Obley	8,560	498	141	19	39	62	9	78	31	7	116	100	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	127	Rented.
O'Connell	11,970	292	522	59	128	...	...	119	16	19	154	64/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64/10/-	...
Old Junee	19,950	314	232	26	37	17	22	152	18	10	180	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	At Rail'y Stn.
Olinda	3,960	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	...	1	39	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...
Omega	1,470	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	At Pub. School
One Tree	3,420	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...
Ophir	580	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	...

Name of Office.	Business transacted.							Revenue.				Expenditure.										Arrangements as regards Premises.								
	No. of Letters posted.	No. of Telegrams transmitted.	No. of Money Orders issued.	No. of Money Orders paid.	No. of Postal Notes paid.	No. of Savings Bank deposits.	No. of Savings bank withdrawals.	Postal.	Tele-graphic.	Money Order and Postal Note.	Total.	Salaries								Allow-ances.	Rent of Office.		Total.							
												Officers in charge		Assist-ants.	Opera-tors.	Letter Carriers	Mail Boys.	Messen-gers.	Line Re-pairs.					Other Em-ployés.						
Gross Salary	Deduct-ion for Rent.																													
Orange	713,950	13,458	2,708	2,569	6,384	1,815	1,070	£ 3,001	£ 874	£ 175	£ 4,050	£ 350	£ 50	£ 120	2 at 180 150 130	£ 130	£ 91	£ 78	£ 52	£ 52	£ 25	£ 140	...	£ 139/10/-	£	£ 1,768/10/-	Govt. building			
Orange Rail'y Stn.		714	..	..	..	..	..	..	55	..	55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	At Rail'y Stn.
Orton Park	1,940	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	9	10/10/-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10/10/-	At Rail'y Stn.
Orundumbi	780	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	10/10/-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10/10/-	At Rail'y Stn.
Otford	2,620	42	..	..	..	..	..	41	2	..	43	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	do
Ourimbah	6,680	223	..	..	..	..	..	89	12	5	106	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	do
Overton	2,620	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	..	..	32	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	do
"Oxford Hotel" .....	..	12,718	..	..	..	..	..	..	701	..	701	120	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	120	Rented
Oxford-street	691,810	16,422	2,212	4,131	30,247	8,244	4,607	2,558	743	143	3,444	290	40	180	2 at 190 150	..	..	6 at 52	..	..	..	..	..	5	260	..	1,507	Rented
Oxley	14,430	1,002	159	23	53	47	28	181	70	10	261	160	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	45	188	do	
Oxley Island	1,760	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	..	..	15	13/10/-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13/10/-	do
Paddington	176,360	10,530	1,342	3,473	4,747	4,545	2,394	1,702	516	76	2,294	290	40	..	150	100	..	4 at 52	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	713	Govt. building
Pallamallawa	5,170	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	..	1	29	15/10/-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15/10/-	Rented
Palmer's Island	9,880	945	406	207	90	50	37	88	37	18	143	120	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3/10/-	15	118/10/-	Rented	
Palmer's Oakey	1,730	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	..	11	11/10/-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11/10/-	do
Pambula	38,200	3,070	695	183	500	178	88	356	177	33	596	190	30	40	78	..	..	52	..	..	..	..	..	29/10/-	52	411/10/-	do	
Pamoolah	1,700	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	..	..	13	13/10/-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13/10/-	do
Parkes	258,404	10,481	2,843	999	1,360	940	581	1,754	641	130	2,525	290	40	..	180	105	..	52	..	..	..	..	..	41/10/-	..	858/16/-	Govt. building	
Parkes Railway Station. ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	At Rail'y Stn.
Park-street	792,350	22,312	2,910	1,195	12,532	4,191	2,458	3,096	1,155	174	4,425	260	..	180	100	..	..	2 at 52	..	..	..	..	..	15	400	1,059	Rented	
Parkville	4,859	76	76	19/10/-	20	39/10/-	Govt. building	
Parliament House.	48,960	2,300	77	2	32	262	104	5	371	190	78	2 at 52	372	Govt. building	
Parragundy ⁶¹	78	5	..	5	do	
Parramatta	1,038,180	10,613	1,719	3,196	7,957	2,974	1,745	2,449	455	113	3,017	330	40	190	150	2 at 144 130 2 at 120 105 2 at 91 65	78	3 at 52	..	..	..	52	52	39	192	..	2,613	do
Paterson	26,210	971	223	96	137	92	54	220	55	13	288	120	20	91	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4/10/-	..	195/10/-	Govt. building
Peak Hill	34,930	2,780	978	264	262	344	301	437	169	33	639	190	30	52	5	269	Rented	
Peakhurst	4,540	2	2	13	55	do	
Pearce's Creek	1,210	10	10	10/10/-	10/10/-	do	
Peel	11,220	41	41	do	
Peelwood	3,630	..	163	39	21	36	..	6	42	25	25	do	
Pujar	1,460	16	16	13/10/-	13/10/-	do	
Pelican Island	1,560	11	11	10/10/-	10/10/-	do	
Pennant Hills	3,740	219	9	8	..	17	20	32	do	
Penrith	120,710	3,260	1,476	873	2,684	1,154	501	1,175	192	68	1,435	240	40	..	150	78	..	52	..	..	..	..	..	36/10/-	..	616/10/-	Govt. building	
Penrith Railway Stn.	805	38	..	38	At Rail'y Stn.	
Periceo	2,960	1	1	11	36	do
Perricoota	2,400	12	12	12/10/-	12/10/-	do
Perth	13,990	350	128	17	..	145	32	32	At Rail'y Stn.	

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Petersham	594,200	5,609	696	1,772	2,867	2,033	1,034	1,555	218	41	1,814	240	160	144	65	4 at 52	234/12/-	...	2,288/12/-	Govt. building
Pictou	119,810	2,253	945	503	1,078	521	270	600	128	48	776	220	30	...	100	135	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pictou Lakes	860	54	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	6	10	...	...	...	130	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pictou Railway Stn.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	125	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pilliga	24,060	1,971	355	55	50	95	34	261	140	15	416	180	30	...	78	120	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pine Ridge	5,220	511	...	...	...	...	...	61	34	...	95	91	...	...	...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pinnacles	1,510	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	...	...	...	2 at 100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pipeclay Creek ⁵²	1,950	504	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	1	33	36	...	...	...	2 at 78	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Piper's Flat	1,880	92	...	...	...	...	...	15	6	...	21	21	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pitt Town	7,780	...	...	...	...	...	...	54	...	1	55	24/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pitt Town Co-operative Settlement	1,360	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pleasant Hills	3,600	...	...	...	...	...	...	48	...	...	48	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plumpton	6,650	...	113	124	195	72	22	64	...	5	69	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pokolbin	5,130	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	...	...	34	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ponto	2,660	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	12	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pooncarie	12,790	1,093	125	14	25	...	...	193	91	8	292	210	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Portland	6,150	...	...	...	...	...	...	92	...	4	96	13/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Port Macquarie	58,930	4,726	774	287	555	220	85	511	299	42	852	220	30	...	130	78	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Port Macquarie Heads	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Port Stephens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Preston's	1,210	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Prospect	3,890	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	9	18/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Prospect Reservoir	4,330	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	8	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Purnanoota	1,050	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Putty	1,880	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	...	...	27	11/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pymble	15,340	589	...	...	...	...	...	76	18	...	94	10	...	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pyree	5,640	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	...	...	25	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pymont	218,210	5,441	799	1,084	3,424	2,251	1,112	1,182	292	46	1,520	210	30	...	78	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Quaama	6,800	151	114	4	18	...	...	67	8	4	79	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Quambone	16,760	...	...	...	...	...	...	225	...	...	225	32/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Queanbeyan	79,960	2,595	1,127	543	1,274	358	220	888	166	70	1,124	240	40	...	130	91	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Quipolly	940	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	8	20/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Quipolly Creek	2,350	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	17/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Quirindi	134,680	5,541	1,215	699	1,250	508	281	1,205	347	72	1,624	240	40	...	120	78	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Quirindi Railway Station	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Raglan	3,570	25	...	...	...	...	...	17	1	...	18	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rainbow Reach	430	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	11	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ramorne	3,600	687	...	...	...	...	...	67	...	...	67	10/10/-	...	...	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Randwick	193,600	6,153	537	950	2,101	1,088	549	963	283	35	1,286	240	40	...	100	110	65	52	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rankin's Springs	3,290	...	...	...	...	...	...	46	...	...	46	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ravensworth	5,640	161	66	27	38	12	12	57	0	4	70	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rawden Vale	3,320	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	11	11/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rawdon Island	2,810	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	1	11	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Raymond Terrace	44,060	2,253	485	304	510	230	92	445	120	25	590	150	20	...	91	91	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Razorback	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Reddestone	1,920	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	...	...	30	12/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

NOTE.—For references see page 61.

Name of Office.	Business transacted.							Revenue.				Expenditure.											Arrangements as regards Premises.			
	No. of Letters posted.	No. of Telegrams Transmitted.	No. of Money Orders issued.	No. of Money Orders paid.	No. of Postal Notes paid.	No. of Savings Bank deposits.	No. of Savings Bank withdrawals.	Postal.	Tele-graphic.	Money Order and Postal Note.	Total.	Salaries.								Allow-ances.	Rent of Office.	Total.				
												Officers in charge.		Assist-ants.	Opera-tors.	Letter Carriers.	Mail Boys.	Messen-gers.	Line Re-pairers.					Other Em-ployés.	Gross Salary.	Deduction for Rent.
Redfern	480,050	6,818	2,724	4,456	5,454	6,395	3,498	£ 2,620	£ 315	£ 144	£ 3,079	£ 260	£ 40							£ 140	£ 130	£ 135	£ 78				£ 52	£ ...	£ ...	£ 156	£ .....	£ 2,407	Govt. building
<i>Redfern Railway Stn.</i>		23,800	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,241	...	1,241	...	...	65	...	...	...	52	...	...	...	...	...	117	Govt. building
Red Range.....	2,150	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	...	...	37	16/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16/10/-	At Pub. School
Reefton	6,650	...	181	37	55	...	...	86	...	8	94	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	...	36	...	...
Reidsdale	2,290	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	12	12/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12/10/-	...
Reid's Flat	3,480	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	...	2	33	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...
Richmond	173,840	4,473	614	568	1,501	575	288	900	285	45	1,230	240	40	...	100	104	...	52	...	...	71/2/-	...	618/2/-	Govt. building	
<i>Richmond Railway Station.</i> .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	At Rail'y Stn.
Riley's Hill	3,780	...	...	...	...	...	...	97	...	3	100	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	30	...	
Riverstone	30,330	1,020	404	387	533	440	154	248	62	30	340	130	...	78	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	211	At Rail'y Stn.	
<i>Riverstone Railway Station.</i> .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	do
Rix's Creek	470	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	...
Robertson	26,110	901	308	66	157	75	51	219	49	15	283	150	20	...	...	...	...	39	...	...	4	...	173	Govt. building	
Rob Roy	1,520	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	13	14/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14/10/-	...
Rockdale	102,050	2,366	426	780	1,233	1,421	676	517	84	24	625	180	30	...	...	91	...	26	...	...	77/10/-	...	500/10/-	Govt. building	
Rock Flat	4,780	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	13	13	...	...	...	2 at 78	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...
Rockley	41,940	1,233	566	205	203	110	81	255	68	24	347	150	20	...	...	...	...	26	...	...	4	...	160	Govt. building	
Rockwell	1,550	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	...
Rocky Glen	3,790	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	6	23/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23/10/-	...
Rocky Hall ⁵²	4,920	137	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	6	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	...
Rocky Plain	1,140	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	...
Rocky River	3,650	...	...	...	...	...	...	74	...	...	74	20/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20/10/-	...
Rolland's Plains	4,290	175	96	16	21	...	...	46	11	4	61	59/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59/10/-	...
Rookwood	55,720	1,303	215	568	832	640	302	287	47	16	350	130	...	...	...	78	...	52	...	...	52	36/10/-	26	374/10/-	Rented
<i>Switch board Attendant.</i>
Rooty Hill	20,590	737	162	161	243	...	...	125	42	9	176	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	At Rail'y Stn.
Rose Bank	870	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	10	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	...
Rosedale	2,850	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	...	...	37	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	...
Rose Valley.....	1,090	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	At Pub. School
Rosewood.....	4,430	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	1	20	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	...
Rothbury	2,200	...	...	...	...	...	...	39	...	...	39	13/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13/10/-	...
Rouchell Brook	4,250	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12/10/-	...
Round Hill	1,640	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	15	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...
Rous	3,470	...	...	...	...	...	...	51	...	...	51	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	...
Rouse Hill	8,750	...	...	...	...	...	...	69	...	1	70	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	...
Rous Mill ⁶⁴	11,650	563	288	50	45	129	15	107	37	20	164	63	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	76	Rented
<i>"Royal Hotel"</i>		4,790	285	...	285	120	120	...
Rozelle	471,220	3,483	880	1,211	1,771	4,178	1,645	899	149	51	1,099	190	40	91	100	8 at 144	...	3 at 52	...	...	146	...	...	1,153	Govt. building
Rydal	23,200	279	220	128	143	42	29	95	15	13	123	75	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	85	At Rail'y St'n
Rydalmerc	11,290	250	...	...	...	...	...	87	8	...	95	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	...	...	65	...
Ryde	114,010	1,833	201	403	849	444	208	352	80	13	445	130	...	...	...	135	...	52	...	...	109/10/-	25	529/10/-	Rented	

Name of Office.	Business transacted.							Revenue.				Expenditure.											Arrangements as regards Premises.				
	No. of Letters Posted.	No. of Telegrams transmitted.	No. of Money Orders issued.	No. of Money Orders paid.	No. of Postal Notes paid.	No. of Savings Bank deposits.	No. of Savings Bank withdrawals.	Postal.	Telegraphic.	Money Order and Postal Note.	Total.	Salaries.								Allowances.	Rent of Office.	Total.					
												Officers in charge.		Assistants.	Operators.	Letter Carriers.	Mail Boys.	Messengers.	Line Repairers.					Other employes.	Gross Salary.	Deduction for Rent.	
Timbery Range	4,930	58	58	18
Yimbilica	860	.....	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	13	13/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13/10/-			
Timbriehungie	2,440	.....	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	16	16/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16/10/-			
Timor	3,680	.....	...	...	...	...	55	...	...	55	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14			
Tingha	26,270	851	433	242	237	98	207	51	26	234	140	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	...	5	20	171	Rented	
Tinonec	17,130	620	213	42	114	38	159	41	9	209	120	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	...	3/10/-	...	129/10/-	Govt. building	
Tintalra (Victoria)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	.....	.....	.....
Tintenbar	4,730	459	283	27	32	...	59	26	11	96	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1/10/-	.....	101/10/-	Provided by Postmaster	
Tintin Hull	1,060	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	10	10/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10/10/-	.....	.....
Tocumwal	43,450	3,567	705	120	186	162	431	202	35	668	210	30	...	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	52	336	Rented	
Tomago	3,810	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29	.....	.....	29	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	.....	33	.....	.....
Tomakin ⁵¹	.....	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tomerong	4,660	136	133	119	84	12	58	7	4	69	61/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	61/10/-	.....	.....
Tomingley	13,870	1,097	327	40	35	92	152	63	18	233	78	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	10	89	Rented	
Tomooroma ⁵²	990	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	.....	6	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....
Tongarra	1,534	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	.....	.....	22	10/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10/10/-	.....	.....
Toogong	7,020	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24	.....	.....	24	24	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24	.....	.....
Toooloom	3,650	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	20	18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18	.....	.....
Tooma	6,670	508	.....	.....	.....	.....	33	.....	.....	33	38	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	38	.....	.....
Toongabbie	2,970	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	.....	.....	22	10/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10/10/-	.....	.....
Tooraweenah ⁵³	5,640	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	115	.....	.....	117	25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25	.....	.....
Torington	2,710	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27	.....	4	31	19/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19/10/-	.....	.....
Toronto	8,160	466	121	204	215	40	71	26	8	105	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	63	Rented	
Torrowangee	11,660	2,868	725	47	57	502	168	183	32	383	110	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52	.....	3	39	204	do	.....	
Towamba	7,210	417	108	39	48	.....	59	26	4	89	41/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	41/10/-	.....	.....
Towrang	8,180	101	.....	.....	.....	.....	31	6	1	38	21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	.....	At Rail'y Stn.
Trangie	70,100	2,863	1,212	145	224	156	504	174	53	731	170	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52	.....	4	20	246	.....	.....	Rented
Trangie Railway Station.	At Rail'y Stn.
Trevallyn	5,040	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	39	.....	.....	39	21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	.....	.....
Trundle	25,610	1,669	381	41	66	54	327	105	20	452	100	.....	26	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2/10/-	30	158/10/-	Rented
Trunkey Creek	25,250	1,039	388	89	155	53	175	78	20	273	120	20	65	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	167	Govt. building
Tucna	9,840	758	438	75	57	44	168	44	19	231	120	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3/10/-	30	133/10/-	Rented
Tuggerah Lakes	2,050	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24	.....	.....	24	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....
Tumberumba	43,130	2,566	793	203	207	159	574	166	39	779	180	30	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52	.....	4	.....	4	206	.....	Govt. building
Tumbulgum	6,510	587	409	34	37	137	105	33	23	161	120	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	39	143	.....	Rented
Tumut	92,916	5,104	1,119	354	642	377	1,085	316	73	1,474	240	40	.....	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	52	.....	41/10/-	.....	.....	471/10/-	.....	Govt. building
Tuncurry	5,890	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	95	.....	6	101	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21/6/-	.....	.....
Turill ⁵⁴	430	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	4	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....
Turlinjah	2,780	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32	.....	.....	32	16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16	.....	.....
Turrumurra	24,312	593	.....	.....	.....	.....	70	20	.....	90	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	.....	At Rail'y Stn.
Tweed Heads	25,380	1,785	435	76	73	121	108	120	20	248	140	20	3/10/-	31/4/-	154/14/-	Rented
Tweed Heads Signal Station.	At Signal Stn.
Two-mile Flat	2,130	13	13	13/10/-	13/10/-
Tyndale	1,120	15	15	12/10/-	16	23/10/-
Tyringham	1,760	12	12
Uarbry	2,220	11	11	11/10/-	11/10/-
Ulan	2,550	10/10/-	10/10/-
Ulladulla	7,570	521	158	195	106	48	59	27	8	94	85	18	103	At Pilot Stn.
Ulmarra	23,660	1,628	380	112	146	131	198	85	18	301	130	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52	.....	3/10/-	.....	.....	165/10/-	.....	Govt. building
Ultimo	41,090	2,410	327	633	945	1,951	470	109	18	597	180	30	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52	.....	.....	.....	78	380	.....	Rented

Name of Office.	Business transacted.							Revenue.				Expenditure.										Arrangements as regards Premises.				
	No. of Letters posted.	No. of Telegrams transmitted.	No. of Money Orders issued.	No. of Money Orders paid.	No. of Postal Notes paid.	No. of Savings Bank deposits.	No. of Savings Bank withdrawals.	Postal.	Tele-graphic.	Money Order and Postal Note.	Total.	Salaries.								Allow-ances.	Rent of Office.		Total.			
												Officers in charge.		Assist-ants.	Opera-tors.	Letter-carriers.	Mail-boys.	Messen-gers.	Line Ro-pairers.					Other Em-ployés.	Gross Salary.	Deduct-ions for Rent.
Wandandian	2,440	14	14	14/10/-			
Wandella	1,360	10	10	10/10/-	10/10/-	...
Wandsworth	8,780	183	14	19	...	74	...	8	82	27	27	...	
Wanganella	10,870	82	...	1	83	36	36	...	
Wangat	1,840	24	24	11	11	...	
Waratah	63,060	1,162	253	428	594	318	182	657	58	17	732	180	30	...	100	144	78	73	545	Govt. building	
Waratah Railway Station.	At Rail'y Stn.
Wardell	11,460	988	345	89	115	102	72	209	51	14	274	130	20	26	3/10/-	19/10/-	...	159	Rented		
Warden's Head Lighthouse.	At Lighthouse
Warge Rock	2,560	6	6	10/10/-	10/10/-	...	
Warialda	74,900	3,527	522	171	459	193	77	604	268	28	900	220	30	...	100	...	26	140	...	51/12/6	.....	507/12/6	Govt. building		
Warkton	2,840	17	17	12/10/-	12/10/-	...		
Warkworth	6,640	155	...	...	...	...	47	9	...	56	30	...	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	15/12/-	...	71/12/-	Rented
Warmatta	1,640	12	12	10/10/-	10/10/-	...		
Warne	8,790	369	376	70	126	64	24	224	21	19	264	39	39	At Rail'y Stn.		
Warne-ton	1,560	4	4	15/10/-	15/10/-	...		
Waroo	7,570	1,713	...	...	...	...	156	107	3	266	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	101	Free, by guarantors
Warrah Ridge	770	10	10	10/10/-	10/10/-	...		
Warren	129,670	7,037	1,742	307	495	500	174	1,334	456	75	1,865	260	40	91	130	65	39	...	20	...	565	Govt. building				
Waterfall	490	59	.....	...	...	...	3	.....	3	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	At Rail'y Stn.
Waterloo	73,100	1,458	111	621	597	631	416	375	63	9	447	120	...	...	...	2 at 52	...	52	...	52	276	Rented	
Watson's Bay	16,580	1,263	161	75	118	176	84	120	43	7	170	120	20	...	110	...	52	...	48	36/8/-	345/8/-	do				
Wattamolla	1,460	.....	...	...	...	...	20	.....	20	10/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10/10/-	.....		
Wattle Flat	16,680	785	295	197	183	65	85	151	47	14	212	130	20	...	...	26	...	2	20	158	Rented			
Wauchope	16,560	1,213	394	138	115	163	50	225	75	19	319	130	20	...	...	52	...	1	36	199	do			
Waverley	245,930	6,558	826	1,781	2,599	2,814	1,344	1,688	307	46	2,041	240	40	91	130	135	78	2 at 52	78	206/12/-	1,617/12/-	Govt. building				
Wedderburn ²	1,310	.....	...	...	...	...	20	.....	20	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	At Pub. School
Weddin	2,100	.....	...	...	...	...	53	.....	53	16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16	At Pub. School
Wee Jasper	890	.....	...	...	...	...	13	.....	13	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	At Pub. School
Wee Waa	40,770	3,476	442	78	103	126	40	477	230	23	730	210	30	91	...	...	...	...	5	276	Govt. building		
Weismantel's	3,520	.....	...	...	...	...	69	.....	69	21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	At Pub. School
Welcome Reefs	1,210	.....	...	...	...	...	11	.....	11	10/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10/10/-	.....		
Wellingrove	2,730	.....	...	...	...	...	21	.....	21	21/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21/10/-	.....		
Wellington	186,350	5,033	2,383	828	1,373	846	424	1,333	321	122	1,826	280	40	78	160	78	52	...	78	686	Govt. building					
Wellington Railway Station.	390	22	22	At Rail'y Stn.	
Wentworth	99,040	6,062	527	248	355	204	102	741	407	35	1,183	280	40	150	150	...	52	140	78/12/6	.....	995/12/6	Govt. building			
Wentworth Falls	27,180	1,012	223	67	139	48	33	213	64	15	292	19	...	78	5	...	...	...	31/4/-	.....	183/4/-	At Rail'y Stn.	
Wentworthville	5,530	74	.....	...	...	...	18	4	.....	22	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	do
Werombi	1,930	.....	...	...	...	...	40	.....	40	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	At Pub. School
Werrington	870	.....	...	...	...	...	10	.....	10	10/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10/10/-	.....		
Werris Creek	30,190	3,151	695	71	137	295	94	260	191	34	485	100	...	78	...	...	...	...	1	179	At Rail'y Stn.		
Werris Creek Railway Station.	At Rail'y Stn.	
Westbrook	1,570	.....	...	...	...	...	13	.....	13	13/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13/10/-	.....		
West Cambewarra	770	.....	...	...	...	...	3	.....	3	10/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10/10/-	.....		

West Kempsey	28,510	3,116	460	112	283	158	68	210	295	21	526	130	20	...	...	...	26	...	...	4	...	140	Govt. building
West Maitland	1,128,780	14,656	2,315	3,840	9,134	2,310	1,123	4,407	1,155	144	5,706	330	40	190	160	2 at 144	2 at 52	140	100	214	...	3,322	do	
												330	40	140	2 at 150	3 at 78	39	26	Battery- man 26 Switch- board attendant					
														91	100	52								
															78									
West Maitland, High- street Railway Stn.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	At Rail'y Stn.
West Maitland Railway Stn.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	do
West Mitchell	3,190	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	48	.....	.....	48	19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19	
West Tamworth	4,660	359	181	63	107	53	36	48	19	6	73	26	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26	At Rail'y Stn.
West Wallsend	11,850	711	335	263	184	191	112	127	42	17	186	100	.....	.....	26	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	126		
West Wyalong	106,670	9,148	2,193	524	905	588	441	876	591	102	1,569	240	40	110	100	.....	39	.....	.....	41/10/-	555/10/-	Govt. building	
														65										
Wetherill Park	5,150	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	57	.....	.....	57	10/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25	35/10/-	
Whealbah	1,990	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28	.....	.....	28	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	
Wheeo	2,940	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	.....	.....	15	30/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30/10/-	
Wherrol Flat	1,300	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	.....	1	15	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	
Whinstone Valley	2,230	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	.....	.....	13	13/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13/10/-	
White Cliffs	21,060	.....	550	33	83	.....	.....	367	.....	27	394	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26	126	Rented.
Whiteman Creek	750	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	
White Rock	1,170	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26	.....	.....	26	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	
Whittingham	9,650	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	77	.....	.....	77	35/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35/10/-	
Whitton	69,980	2,166	665	123	216	127	83	735	127	33	898	180	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2/10/-	282/10/-	At Rail'y Stn.
Wickham	115,184	968	522	924	833	884	530	423	50	31	504	150	20	.....	100	105	52	.....	.....	81	568	Govt. building	
Wilberforce	10,230	226	127	91	128	.....	.....	81	12	5	98	53	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	53	
Wilcannia	133,480	11,189	1,377	360	497	462	192	1,607	934	70	2,611	330	40	150	140	78	39	140	.....	80/17/6	1,143/17/6	Govt. building	
William-street	145,174	15,576	1,813	1,749	4,346	3,917	2,322	2,582	868	114	3,564	290	40	140	2 at 100	.....	4 at 52	.....	.....	5	.....	1,059	Govt. building
															91	2 at 150	.....	39	26	.....	.....	.....	.....
William Town	1,680	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	34	.....	.....	34	25/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25/10/-	At Pub. School
Willoughby	68,800	816	165	135	328	358	181	187	40	9	236	120	20	13	.....	125	65	39	.....	184/10/-	65	792/10/-	Rented.
Willow-tree	24,090	650	231	21	52	.....	.....	188	37	12	237	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	At Rail'y Stn.
Willson's Downfall	11,230	.....	362	16	24	.....	.....	5	.....	10	15	28	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28	
Wilson	2,430	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	10	10/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10/10/-	
Wilton	4,340	.....	146	38	70	.....	.....	50	.....	4	54	26	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26	
Wimbledon	4,600	107	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	.....	7	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	At Rail'y Stn.
Windellama	5,150	.....	51	22	30	.....	.....	55	.....	3	58	23/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23/10/-	
Windeyer	8,280	131	122	30	40	.....	.....	26	8	5	39	36/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36/10/-	
Windsor	178,470	3,131	832	760	1,828	451	234	872	169	50	1,091	240	40	.....	140	130	52	.....	.....	72/10/-	764/10/-	Govt. building	
															100	70								
Windsor Railway Station.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	At Rail'y Stn.
Wingello	7,290	178	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	92	8	3	103	18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18	do
Wingen	5,040	223	163	16	24	.....	.....	91	13	5	109	25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25	do
Wingham	40,880	1,334	503	112	248	84	45	433	78	24	535	150	20	.....	78	52	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	264	Govt. building
Winton	1,380	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	34	.....	.....	34	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	
Wiseman's Creek	1,790	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19	.....	.....	19	10/10/-	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	
Wiseman's Ferry	10,960	630	490	98	127	59	36	101	36	22	159	220	30	39	48/10/-	30	10/10/-	Rented.
Wollar	10,350	.....	183	12	25	.....	.....	66	.....	6	72	30	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	
Wollombi	15,200	769	338	140	118	88	36	130	54	18	202	220	30	.....	78	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	39/10/-	307/10/-	Govt. building
Wollomombi	13,570	311	93	12	19	.....	.....	78	18	3	99	32	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32	
Wollongbar	3,140	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16	.....	.....	16	25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25	
Wollongong	213,860	7,747	1,752	1,539	2,830	1,527	713	1,591	443	108	2,142	240	40	.....	150	110	52	.....	.....	114/10/-	892/10/-	Govt. building	
															110	2 at 78								

Note—For references see page 61.

Name of Office.	Business transacted.							Revenue.				Expenditure.											Arrangements as regards Premises.		
	No. of Letters posted.	No. of Telegrams transmitted.	No. of Money Orders issued.	No. of Money Orders paid.	No. of Postal Notes paid.	No. of Savings Bank deposits.	No. of Savings Bank withdrawals.	Postal.	Tele-graphic.	Money Order and Postal Note.	Total.	Salaries.								Allow-ances.	Rent of Office.	Total.			
												Officers in Charge		Assist-ants.	Oper-ators.	Letter-carriers.	Mail-boys.	Messen-gers.	Line Re-pairers.					Other Em-ployés.	
Gross Salary.	Deau-ction for Rent.																								
Woomla	18,220	595	195	92	103	41	19	£ 113	£ 34	£ 8	£ 155	£ 120	£ 20	£ 13	...	...	...	...	...	...	2/10/-	£ 35	£ 150/10/-	Rented.
Wombat	3,870	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	20	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	Rented.
Woodburn	11,722	580	392	60	35	63	31	70	30	16	125	100	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	30	113	Rented.
Woodfordleigh	4,860	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	...	...	29	22/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	26/10/-	Rented.
Woodhill	1,240	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	6	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	Rented.
Woodhouselee	5,940	...	...	...	...	...	...	43	...	...	43	24/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24/10/-	Rented.
Woodlands	1,990	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	17	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-	Rented.
Woodside	2,850	120	...	...	...	...	...	38	7	...	45	40/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40/10/-	Rented.
Wood's Reef	2,370	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	11	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	Rented.
Woodstock	14,280	554	285	65	177	...	...	190	32	13	235	56	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82	At Rail'y Stn.
Woodville	5,870	178	...	...	...	...	...	39	7	1	47	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	Rented.
Woolbrook	5,215	71	86	17	45	...	...	62	5	5	72	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	At Rail'y Stn.
Woolgoolga	10,770	1,354	342	109	68	24	34	53	85	16	154	109	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	30	132	Rented.
Woolgoolga Jetty ⁷⁴	Rented.
Woollahra	81,700	4,056	701	1,391	4,549	2,193	1,238	1,076	212	43	1,331	240	40	...	130	144	...	4 at 52	...	...	42/10/-	176	£ 1,481/10/-	Rented.
Woolomin	2,330	...	...	...	...	...	...	48	...	...	48	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	Rented.
Woolwich	18,510	624	66	34	86	8	6	139	21	4	164	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	82	Rented.
Woomargama ⁷⁵	10,400	68	...	...	...	...	...	29	4	...	33	33/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33/10/-	Rented.
Woonona	26,110	592	640	328	544	528	267	217	36	37	290	120	20	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	2	48	163	Rented.
Woore	1,260	14/10/-	14/10/-	Rented.
Woy Woy	7,330	585	...	...	...	...	...	23	31	...	54	10	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	At Rail'y Stn.
Wyalong	46,120	5,023	764	504	501	278	222	418	280	43	741	150	78	52	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	311	Govt. building
Wybong	1,520	18	18	14/10/-	14/10/-	Rented.
Wyce	5,150	97	...	...	...	...	...	89	5	...	94	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	At Rail'y Stn.
Wyndham	11,080	1,179	366	55	150	64	29	146	73	13	232	120	2/10/-	26	148/10/-	Rented.
Wyong	29,050	1,207	519	808	907	84	63	228	70	26	321	140	20	...	...	...	...	52	...	...	1/10/-	...	173/10/-	Govt. building
Wyong Railway Station.	At Rail'y Stn.
Wyong Creek	5,680	13	13	15/10/-	24	...	39/10/-	Rented.
Wyrallah	7,890	500	238	34	34	63	30	76	28	28	132	120	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	25	127	Rented.
Yalgogrin North	3,830	10	10	Rented.
Yalpunga	1,300	8	8	10/10/-	10/10/-	Rented.
Yalwal	5,530	385	47	23	64	50	23	5	78	47/10/-	47/10/-	Rented.
Yamba	17,100	1,982	420	344	124	196	54	74	104	21	199	120	...	...	...	...	...	26	...	...	3/10/-	26	175/10/-	Rented.
Yanko	3,410	278	16	...	16	12	12	At Rail'y Stn.
Yantabulla ⁷⁶	3,756	58	...	1	57	17	17	Rented.
Yarra	10,850	36	36	22	22	Rented.
Yarramalong	2,480	10	10	10/10/-	10/10/-	Rented.

Yarraman	2,980	880	...	...	...	...	...	73	49	...	122	14,10/-	...	...	26	...	...	...	...	40/10/-	
Yarrangobilly Caves .....	...	110	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Yarrara	1,340	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	1	11	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Yarras	2,970	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	...	...	38	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/10/-
Yarrowyck	1,320	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	...	...	24	10/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	960
Yass	128,110	4,735	1,075	759	1,901	517	254	1,326	301	66	1,693	260	40	65	150	125	...	26	140	...	104	
Yass Junction	6,790	160	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	8	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Yatheyatah	6,260	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	...	...	31	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Yellow Rock	1,830	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	...	...	21	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Yeoval	3,860	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Yerong Creek	29,170	752	298	33	80	51	30	283	44	20	347	110	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	112
Yetholme	1,300	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	20	20/10/-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20/10/-
Yetman	11,800	765	95	16	22	...	...	90	52	5	147	180	30	...	...	...	52	...	38/10/-	50	200/10/-
Young	238,540	8,135	2,082	1,181	2,036	1,148	658	2,085	613	115	2,813	320	40	150	150	144	...	52	140	...	36/10/-	1,225/10/-
Young Railway Station	91	180	52
Young Wallsend	1,110	11	11	11	11
Yurrunga	2,430	26	26	21	21
Zig Zag	25	2	...	2

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO APPENDIX A.

¹ Post Office established, 6th April. ² Post Office established, 16th April. ³ Post Office established, 20th April. ⁴ Post Office established, 1st October. ⁵ Telephone Office opened, 2nd December. ⁶ Money Order Office established, 3rd August. ⁷ Telephone Office opened, 25th November. ⁸ Post Office established, 1st February. ⁹ Post Office established, 15th December. ¹⁰ Post Office established, 1st October. ¹¹ Post Office established, 14th September. ¹² Post Office established, 1st June. ¹³ Post Office established, 1st May. ¹⁴ Telephone (in lieu of Telegraph) Office opened, 25th February. ¹⁵ Government Savings Bank established, 1st July. ¹⁶ Telephone Office opened, 21st February. ¹⁷ Post Office established, 1st March. ¹⁸ Post Office established, 1st August. ¹⁹ Post Office established, 1st July. ²⁰ Post Office established, 16th February. ²¹ Post Office established, 16th May. ²² Post Office established, 16th March. ²³ Post Office established, 15th June. ²⁴ Telephone Office opened, 21st May. ²⁵ Post Office established, 16th July. ²⁶ Government Savings Bank established, 1st August. ²⁷ Post Office established, 20th August. ²⁸ Post Office established, 1st September. ²⁹ Post Office established, 1st February. ³⁰ Telephone Office opened, 27th February. ³¹ Post Office established, 1st June. ³² Telephone (in lieu of Telegraph) Office opened, 1st August. ³³ Telephone Office opened, 13th July. ³⁴ Telephone (in lieu of Telegraph) Office opened, 1st January. ³⁵ Money Order Office established, 10th August. ³⁶ Post Office established, 1st March. ³⁷ Post Office established, 1st February; Telephone Office opened, 18th April. ³⁸ Post Office established, 16th November. ³⁹ Telegraph Office opened, 23rd January; Money Order Office established, 1st February. ⁴⁰ Post Office established, 16th January. ⁴¹ Government Savings Bank established, 1st August. ⁴² Post Office established, 1st March. ⁴³ Telegraph Office re-opened, 5th October. ⁴⁴ Post Office established, 1st October. ⁴⁵ Money Order Office established, 14th December. ⁴⁶ Post Office established, 20th November. ⁴⁷ Post Office established, 16th July. ⁴⁸ Money Order Office established, 1st September. ⁴⁹ Money Order Office established, 21st December. ⁵⁰ Post Office closed, 30th June; re-opened, 10th August. ⁵¹ Telephone Office opened, 9th September. ⁵² Post Office established, 15th May. ⁵³ Telephone Office opened, 9th April. ⁵⁴ Government Savings Bank established, 1st June. ⁵⁵ Telephone Office opened, 13th July. ⁵⁶ Money Order Office established, 9th March. ⁵⁷ Government Savings Bank established, 1st July. ⁵⁸ Post Office established, 1st May. ⁵⁹ Post Office established, 1st March. ⁶⁰ Telephone Office opened, 20th June. ⁶¹ Telephone Office re-opened, 1st July. ⁶² Post Office established, 15th May. ⁶³ Post Office established, 10th February. ⁶⁴ Post Office established, 1st September. ⁶⁵ Post Office established, 15th November. ⁶⁶ Telephone Office opened, 1st July. ⁶⁷ Post Office established, 16th July; Telephone Office re-opened, 20th July. ⁶⁸ Post Office established, 15th October. ⁶⁹ Government Savings Bank established, 1st July. ⁷⁰ Money Order Office established, 15th June; Government Savings Bank established, 1st July. ⁷¹ Post Office established, 1st August. ⁷² Post Office established, 16th March. ⁷³ Telephone Office opened, 18th April. ⁷⁴ Post Office established, 23rd March. ⁷⁵ Telephone Office opened, 1st July. ⁷⁶ Post Office established, 1st May.

APPENDIX B.

LIST of Receiving Offices on 31st December, 1896.

Aberglasslyn	Cattia Creek	Greghamstown	Moorebank
Agnes Banks	Cave Creek	Gregra	Moparrabah
Alfred Town	Cawdor	Greig's Flat	Morago
Altcar	Cell's Field	Gulf Creek	Morrisset
Amaroo	Central Raleigh	Gullen Flat	Mororo
Angledale	Central Tilba	Gumble	Morton
Anna Bay	Central Wattagan	Gunnary Creek	Mosquito Island
Annangrove	Chanticleer	Gurrundah	Mountain Home
Apple Tree Flat	Chectam's Flats	Gwyune	Mount Allen
Arable	Cherry-tree Hill	Hadley	Mount Aubrey
Argalong	Chilcott's Grass	Half-way Creek	Mount Kenway
Armatree	Chinderah	Halton	Mount Pleasant
Armidale Gully	Clare	Harold's Cross	Mount View
Avencl	Clareval	Hazelbrook	Mount Wayo
Avery's Creek	Cloverley	Hellmann's Tank	Mount Werong
Back Creek	Cochran Creek	Hillas Creek	Mowabla Tank
Backwater	Cocomingla	Hillerman's	Mulbring
Barooga	Collinroobie	Hopefield	Mullenderree
Baryulgil	Collerina	Hughstonia	Mundarlo
Bawden Bridge	Collingullie	Huon	Mundawaddera
Belgrave	Collingwood	Ingebyra	Muumurra
Bellawongarah	Comborah	Ingleadow	Munyabla
Belle Vue	Conley's	Inglewood	Murrangang
Belooth	Cooba	Inveralochy	Murrah
Bena	Coolalie	Ironbong	Murrayville
Benandarah	Coolamon Plains	Isabella	Murrulebale
Bendick Murrell	Cooradigbee	Jackson's Water Holes	Muskgrove
Beni Creek	Corona	Jaunter	Myalla
Bennett's Flat	Countegany	Jilliby	Myall Creek
Bereen	Cowan's	John's River	Myall Plains
Bermagui South	Cowper	Junction Point	Nana Creek
Bielsdown	Craig Lea	Kamandra	Nanama
Bilambil	Cranebrook	Kangaroo Camp	Nanangroe
Billy's Look Out	Cronulla Beach	Karangi	Nangus
Bindogandra	Cullerin	Karcela	Naranghi
Bingleburra	Cullumbung	Katoomba South	Narrabeen
Binneguy	Culparlin	Kelly's Creek	Neimer
Birriwa	Cumbalum	Killabakh Creek	Nemingha
Black Swamp	Cundle Flat	Kilrush	New Cryan
Blanket Flat	Cundumbul	King's Plains	Newlands
Bobeyan	Curracabark	Kingsvale	New Mollyan
Bobin	Curra Creek	Kinross	New Park
Bo Bo	Dapper	Kundibakh	Nirrim
Bocoble	Darke's Forest	Lallarook	Noorong
Bocconoc	Daroobalgie	Lamb's Creek	Noraville
Bogan Gate	Deep Gully	Langwell	North Araluen
Boggy Camp	Diemunga	Lankey's Creek	North Bourke
Bolaro	Dilga	Larbert	Norton
Bolton Vale	Dingo Creek	Laurel Hill	Norway
Boney's Rocks	Dinoga	Lavadia	Numulgi
Bongongo	Dondingalong	Leconfield	Oakey Creek
Boona Tank	Dorrroughby	Ledgerton	Obley Vale
Boonoo Boonoo	Doyle's Creek	Limestone Creek	Ollera
Booroolong	Duck Flat	Linden	Ournie
Boorooma	Duranbah	Linton	Owen's Gap
Borambil	Durren Durren	Little Bombay	Page's Creek
Boree Creek	East Hills	Lobb's Hole	Parkesbourne
Bossley Park	East Seaham	Lockwood	Payne's Crossing
Bournewood	Edith	Long Swamp	Pcakview
Bow	Eganton	Looby's	Pee Dee
Boyd	Elcombe	Lorne	Pera Bore
Braemar	Enwyllong	Lower Belford	Pheasant Ground
Breclong	Eurimbla	Lower Botobolar	Pine Mount
Brenda	Everett	Lower Corowa	Pine Vale
Brierfield	Farrington	Lower Forest	Piney Range
Brimbramalla	Federal	Lower Hickey's	Platina
Brockley	Five Islands	Lower Mookerawa	Pleasant Valley
Broken Dam	Fladbury	Lower Taylor's Arm	Porter's Retreat
Bronti	Flyer's Creek	Maclaurin	Port Hacking
Brook's Creek	Forrester	Mahratta Station	Pretty Gully
Brookvale	French Park	Mandemar	Pretty Pine
Brucedale	Galore Park	Maracket	Puddledock
Brunkerville	Garland	Markdale	Pudman Creek
Bucca Bucca	Genanagie	Markwell	Quinburra
Buddabuddah	Giant's Creek	Marrar	Quinn's
Budgong	Gidginbung	Maybole	Quorrobolong
Bungarby	Gil Gil	Medowie	Reddcliff's
Bungulla	Gill	Meermaul	Redlands
Burnt Yards	Gillenbine	Meragle	Reedy Creek
Burra	Girvan	Meringlo	Reeves
Burramundra	Glendhu	Merool Creek	Rhine Falls
Burratine	Glenfield	Meryla	Rivertree
Byangum	Glengarry	Mowburn	Rockton
Caloola Creek	Gleniffer	Middle Adelong	Rockvale
Camboon	Good Hope	Milburn Creek	Rosebrook
Canimbla	Goonellabah	Mimosa	Rosemount
Carabost	Gordonville	Minore	Roslyn
Carba	Gorton's Yard	Miranda	Rossi
Carlisle	Gowrie	Missabotti	Rossmore
Carrabolla	Grass Hut	Moona Plains	Round Swamp
Carrawobity	Grattai	Moonbi	St. George's Basin
Castle Doyle	Greenwich Park	Moongulla	St. Leonards

List of Receiving Offices on 31st December, 1896—*continued.*

Salisbury	Tartna Point	Upper Bingara	White Swamp
Sally's Flat	Tathra Road	Upper Chichester	Widden
Sandon	Telegerry	Upper Dungowan	Willanthry
Sassafras	Tenterden	Upper Gilmore	Williams' Crossing
Sawyer's Gully	Teridgerie	Upper Gloucester	Williamsdale
Shannon Vale	Teven Creek	Upper Horton	Willow Forest
Shark Creek	Thalaba	Upper Lstock	Willy Wally
Snowball	The Esk	Upper Meroo	Winchendon Vale
Somersby	The Peak	Upper Myall	Winduella
South Clifton	The Risk	Upper North Creek	Wollun
South Gundurimba	The Tamarinds	Upper Shark Creek	Wombeyan Caves
South Mount Hope	The Vineyard	Upper Tooloom	Womboo (Rogers')
South Rivertree	Thornford	Verona	Womboota (Edwards')
Spring Creek	Thornton	Wagragobilly	Woodford
Spring Dale	Thyra	Wakool Crossing	Woodhall
Spring Ridge	Tia	Wallandool	Woodlawn
Spring Vale	Tilbuster	Wallon	Woola Woola
Stanmore Railway Station	Tinda Tank	Walmer	Wright's
Stanwell Park	Tingiringi	Wang Wauk	Wrightville
Steve King's Plain	Tomakin	Wanstead	Wuuluman
Store Creek	Tomanbil	Wantiool	Wyndella
Stott's Creek	Tomboy	Wapengo	Yagobie
Summervale	Tomki School	Ward's River	Yalbraith
Suntop	Towac	Wargeila	Yallaroi
Swan Creek	Triangle Flat	Warner's Bay	Yaouk
Sweetbriar	Trickett	Warrell Creek	Yarralumla
Tallawudjah	Tubbamurra	Warrumbungle	Yarrangobilly
Tallegang	Tubbul	Wattamadara	Yarrowitch
Talmalmo	Tucklan	Waugoola	Yathella
Taloumbi	Tullamore	Webb's Creek	Yellowin
Taradale	Turee Vale	Weetangerra	Yeo Yeo
Tarban	Turrawan	West Blowering	Yowaka
Tarrabandra	Twelve Mile	West Temora	Yowric
	Unkya Creek	Whipstick	Yuelba

APPENDIX C.

AMENDED Articles in the Agreement respecting the exchange of Parcels between New South Wales and Ceylon.

Article 1.

There shall be a regular exchange of parcels between the Post Office of New South Wales and the Post Office of Ceylon, by means of the usual mail service performed by the steamers of the Peninsular and Oriental and the Orient Steam Navigation Companies.

Article 3.

Prepayment of parcels postage shall be compulsory, at the rate of 10d. or the equivalent thereof per lb., each country to retain the postage collected by it, and to defray any charge for the "sea" transit of its parcels despatched.

Article 16.

By each country retaining its own postage collections the necessity for the preparation of accounts is obviated.

Article 17.

(Omitted.)

Article 16.

(Re-numbered 17.)

In ordinary correspondence affecting the preparation, transmission, or correction of invoices, &c., or relating to the disposal of parcels, the offices of exchange shall be the mediums, but in matters involving questions other than detail, the offices of correspondence shall be the offices of the Postmaster-General, Sydney, and the Postmaster-General, Colombo.

Article 19.

(Re-numbered 18.)

APPENDIX D.

APPENDIX D.

COMPARATIVE RETURN showing the Number and Amount of Money Order Transactions in New South Wales with various countries for the year 1896, compared with the year 1895.

Year.	UNITED KINGDOM (AND COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THOSE HEREINAFTER NAMED).				NEW ZEALAND.				QUEENSLAND.				SOUTH AUSTRALIA.				TASMANIA.				VICTORIA.			
	Issued in N.S.W.		Drawn on N.S.W.		Issued in N.S.W.		Drawn on N.S.W.		Issued in N.S.W.		Drawn on N.S.W.		Issued in N.S.W.		Drawn on N.S.W.		Issued in N.S.W.		Drawn on N.S.W.		Issued in N.S.W.		Drawn on N.S.W.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
1896	22,393	£ 63,933	12,941	£ 40,068	4,196	£ 12,534	10,576	£ 28,622	7,121	£ 25,816	18,129	£ 63,416	9,768	£ 30,006	4,692	£ 15,432	17,547	£ 23,367	3,560	£ 9,388	30,568	£ 94,183	16,623	£ 56,387
1895	23,549	£ 67,198	12,733	£ 40,974	4,591	£ 14,596	10,815	£ 29,132	27,357	£ 43,885	16,643	£ 56,704	8,530	£ 26,000	4,635	£ 14,242	2,517	£ 8,064	3,405	£ 8,803	30,554	£ 90,016	17,167	£ 55,421
Increase..	.....	.....	208	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,486	£ 6,712	1,238	£ 4,006	57	£ 1,190	15,030	£ 15,303	155	£ 585	14	£ 4,167	.....	£ 966
Decrease..	1,156	£ 3,365	.....	£ 906	395	£ 2,062	239	£ 510	20,236	£ 18,069	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	514	.....

Year.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.				HONG KONG.				INDIA.				UNITED STATES.				CANADA.				CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.				GERMANY.			
	Issued in N.S.W.		Drawn on N.S.W.		Issued in N.S.W.		Drawn on N.S.W.		Issued in N.S.W.		Drawn on N.S.W.		Issued in N.S.W.		Drawn on N.S.W.		Issued in N.S.W.		Drawn on N.S.W.		Issued in N.S.W.		Drawn on N.S.W.		Issued in N.S.W.		Drawn on N.S.W.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
1896	2,734	£ 19,417	35,308	£ 176,780	854	£ 4,161	67	£ 135	1,089	£ 8,012	230	£ 799	1,787	£ 5,165	1,019	£ 4,875	157	£ 777	208	£ 1,003	127	£ 661	2,129	£ 14,333	1,038	£ 3,078	275	£ 1,798
1895	1,488	£ 11,550	9,278	£ 42,071	690	£ 3,157	46	£ 160	938	£ 6,845	219	£ 819	1,708	£ 5,059	925	£ 4,512	146	£ 625	253	£ 1,002	109	£ 520	1,034	£ 6,787	811	£ 2,913	293	£ 1,753
Increase..	1,246	£ 7,867	26,030	£ 134,709	164	£ 1,004	21	.....	181	£ 1,167	11	.....	79	£ 106	94	£ 363	11	£ 152	.....	£ 1	18	£ 141	1,095	£ 7,546	227	£ 165	.....	£ 45
Decrease..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18	.....

Year.	ITALY.				CEYLON.				STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.				MAURITIUS.				TOTAL FOREIGN MONEY ORDER TRANSACTIONS.				N.S.W. INLAND ISSUES.		GRAND TOTAL OF N.S.W. ISSUES.	
	Issued in N.S.W.		Drawn on N.S.W.		Issued in N.S.W.		Drawn on N.S.W.		Issued in N.S.W.		Drawn on N.S.W.		Issued in N.S.W.		Drawn on N.S.W.		Issued in N.S.W. on other countries		Issued in other countries on N.S.W.		No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
1896	363	£ 2,293	12	£ 79	188	£ 632	59	£ 131	6	£ 20	45	£ 105	38	£ 83	25	£ 129	99,904	£ 294,039	105,899	£ 413,480	302,773	£ 1,019,556	402,677	£ 1,313,594
1895	370	£ 2,416	17	£ 130	136	£ 474	54	£ 130	12	£ 39	38	£ 77	38	£ 72	10	£ 9	103,544	£ 283,429	77,565	£ 262,726	302,691	£ 985,771	406,235	£ 1,269,200
Increase..	.....	.....	.....	£ 2	158	5	1	.....	.....	8	28	.....	11	15	120	.....	10,610	23,334	150,754	£ 2	33,785	.....	.....	44,394
Decrease..	7	£ 123	5	£ 61	.....	.....	.....	6	£ 19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,640	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,553	.....

The following is a Statement of the total Number and Amount of Money Orders issued and paid during the year 1896:—

	Issued.		Paid.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
Inland	302,773	£ 1,019,556	301,817	£ 1,014,040
Intercolonial	71,934	£ 205,323	88,888	£ 350,025
International	27,970	£ 88,715	17,011	£ 63,455
Totals	402,677	£ 1,313,594	407,716	£ 1,427,520

APPENDIX E.
GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.
STATEMENT of Accounts for the year 1896.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward from 1895.....	4,121,699	19	6	By Amount of Repayments to Depositors during 1896	1,987,943	6	3
Cash received from Depositors during 1896	2,110,579	0	3				
Interest added to Depositors' Accounts for 1896	123,629	11	4	Balance	4,372,965	4	10
	£ 6,360,908	11	1		£ 6,360,908	11	1

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance due to all Depositors at the close of 1896	4,372,965	4	10	By New South Wales Government Debentures	103,200	0	0
				New South Wales Funded Stock, 56 Vic. No. 1	1,000,000	0	0
				New South Wales Funded Stock, 36 Vic. No. 21	296,466	13	11
				New South Wales Treasury Bills, 53 Vic. No. 9	809,000	0	0
				New South Wales 1924 Stock, 58 Vic. No. 14	20,000	0	0
				New South Wales Treasury Bills, 59 Vic. No. 22	1,024,700	0	0
				New South Wales 1925 Stock and Funded Stock, 59 Vic. No. 6	530,000	0	0
				Cash at Credit of Trust Account.....	491,922	16	6
				Cash in hands of Controller	27,203	6	7
Balance (excess of assets)	1,250	12	11	Interest due on investments and on uninvested funds at 3%	66,723	0	9
	£ 4,374,215	17	9		£ 4,374,215	17	9

PROFIT AND LOSS.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Departmental Expenses for 1896	8,000	0	0	By Interest received on investments	71,590	18	6
Interest added to Depositors' Accounts	123,629	11	4	Interest accrued and due on uninvested	66,723	0	9
Premium paid on investments	433	15	0	Balance in Treasury			
Balance	1,250	12	11				
	£ 133,313	19	3		£ 133,313	19	3

A. J. DOAK, Controller.
Sydney, 3rd March, 1897.

JOSEPH COOK,
Postmaster-General.

I CERTIFY that the foregoing statement of all deposits received and paid from 1st January to 31st December, 1896, has been examined and found to correspond with the Books and Accounts of the Government Savings Bank.

E. A. RENNIE,
Auditor-General.

22nd March, 1897.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC CONFERENCE,
1896.

REPORT OF THE DELEGATES

TO THE

INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE,

HELD AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, SYDNEY,

IN NOVEMBER, 1896.

Printed under No. 2 Report from Printing Committee, 6 May, 1897.



SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPLIGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1897.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC CONFERENCE, 1896.

Report of the Delegates to the Intercolonial Conference,

HELD AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, SYDNEY,
IN NOVEMBER, 1896.

President :—The Honorable Joseph Cook, M.P., Postmaster-General of New South Wales.

All the Colonies of Australasia were represented except New Zealand.

The Conference opened its session on Saturday, the 14th, and concluded its business on the 19th November, 1896 :—

The Conference was mainly convened for the purpose of considering two matters, viz. :—

1. The business connected with the tenders for the Federal Mail Service, copies of which tenders had been forwarded to the Governments of the respective Australian Colonies by the Imperial Government.
2. The question of representation at the Universal Postal Union Congress to be held at Washington in May, 1897.

But it was determined to take advantage of the meeting for the consideration of other matters deemed to be of sufficient Intercolonial urgency and importance.

The result of the deliberation of the Conference is shown by the following proceedings and resolutions, viz. :—

FEDERAL MAIL SERVICE.

In regard to this matter it was decided to despatch the following cablegram to the Right Honorable the Postmaster-General, London, viz. :—

FEDERAL MAIL TENDERS.—In view of your cables on the subject, and our desire to secure continuance of Federal Mail Service, there appears no alternative but to consent acceptance tender P. & O. as well as Orient Company, as suggested by Imperial Government. Conference in consenting urges negotiations to secure following modifications :—

1. Term of contracts—five years.
2. Duration of voyage—672 hours for both Companies between Naples, Brindisi, and Adelaide.
3. Time of departure from Adelaide—Saturday, 2.30 p.m.
4. Steamers to enter Princess Royal Harbour, Albany, until Freemantle Harbour approved by Admiralty Surveyors, after which steamers to enter latter harbour.

JOSEPH COOK,
President of Intercolonial Conference,
Sydney, 19/11/96.

PROPOSED UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION CONGRESS AT WASHINGTON IN MAY, 1897.

It was resolved as follows :—“That a Minister controlling an Australasian Post Office—accompanied by Mr. James Smibert, Deputy Postmaster-General of Victoria, as postal expert—attend the Washington Congress as Representative of Australasia”; and in regard to the Report of the Permanent Heads as to certain of the subjects that are likely to be discussed at the Congress in question, the following resolution was arrived at, viz. : “That the Report be adopted, subject to such addition and amendments as may be forwarded by the Colonies previous to the departure of the Australasian Delegate for Washington.”

The

The Conference concurred in the Report submitted (after revision at the request of the Conference) by the Permanent Heads on certain matters of Inter-colonial urgency and importance, which will be found detailed in the annexed Report of the Proceedings. In two matters, viz.:—The proposed exclusion of Articles of Merchandise, other than samples, from transmission by packet post; and the intention to levy certain charges on Intercolonial newspapers forwarded to Queensland, the Government of that Colony (through the Honorable A. J. Thynne) has been asked to reconsider its determination.

Appended to this Report will be found:—

Minutes of Proceedings of the Conference.

Transcript of notes of the Proceedings by the Shorthand-writer.

Signed on behalf of New South Wales,

JOSEPH COOK.

Signed on behalf of Victoria and Tasmania,

JOHN GAVAN DUFFY.

Signed on behalf of South Australia,

JOHN A. COCKBURN.

Signed on behalf of Queensland,

A. J. THYNNE.

Signed on behalf of West Australia,

E. H. WITTENOOM.

Sydney, 20th November, 1896.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC CONFERENCE.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY, 14 NOVEMBER, 1896.

THE Conference was opened at the General Post Office, Sydney, at 10.15 a.m., when the undermentioned gentlemen, representing the Colonies, were present, viz. :—

Queensland :	{ Hon. A. J. THYNNE, M.L.C., Postmaster-General, Queensland. JOHN McDONNELL, Esq., Under Secretary and Superintendent of Telegraphs.
South Australia :	{ Hon. J. A. COCKBURN, M.D. (Lond.), M.P., Minister for Education and Agriculture, South Australia. Sir CHARLES TODD, K.C.M.G., Postmaster-General, South Australia.
Victoria :	{ Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY, M.P., Postmaster-General, Victoria.
Tasmania :	
New South Wales :	{ Hon. JOSEPH COOK, M.P., Postmaster-General, New South Wales. S. H. LAMPTON, Esq., J.P., Deputy Postmaster-General, New South Wales.
Western Australia :	Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM, M.L.C., Minister for Mines, West Australia.

Moved by the Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY, and seconded by the Hon. Dr. COCKBURN,—“That the Hon. Joseph Cook, M.P., be President of this Conference.” Carried.

Moved by the Hon. Mr. DUFFY, M.P., and seconded by the Hon. Mr. THYNNE,—“That Mr. James Dalgarno perform the duties of Secretary to this Conference.” Carried.

It was determined, without formal motion, that the Conference being of a confidential character, it was not expedient that the Press should be present, at all events so far as the Federal Mail Service is concerned.

The Hon. Mr. COOK laid before the Conference the following telegram, dated 6th November, 1896, that had been received from the Hon. the Premier of New Zealand, viz. :—

“Postal Conference. As general elections take place beginning of next month, exceedingly regret it will not be possible for any Minister to attend. I note that only Federal Mail Service tenders and Washington Congress representation and subjects will be dealt with, and I presume that another conference for general business will be held about usual time next year. I have not formed any definite opinion *re* Washington representation, but think that one representative, or perhaps two, should suffice. I shall be pleased to learn your own views, and what proposals likely to be made by other Colonies. Subjects for consideration by Washington Congress have already been discussed with your office, but I will send full list by post. Regret my absence from Wellington prevented my replying earlier.

R. J. SEDDON, Postmaster-General.”

The following telegram, dated 11th November, 1896, from the Hon. Sir P. O. Fysh, K.C.M.G., Treasurer and Postmaster-General, Tasmania, was also read :—

“Regret that continued sitting of Parliament and irregularity of steamer sailings both prevent my being present on Saturday.”

The Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY intimated that he had been requested by the Tasmanian Government to act as the representative for that Colony.

The PRESIDENT delivered his opening address, thanking the Conference for his election, and indicating that in following out the intention when summoning the Conference the business would consist—

- (1) Of the matter of the Federal Mail Service.
- (2) Of the question of representation at the Universal Postal Union Congress at Washington.

A letter from the Berne Bureau dated 5th October, 1896, relating to the business for the proposed Washington Congress, which letter had only just reached the Colony, was read.

The PRESIDENT laid upon the Table lists of subjects (Appendix A) that would be likely to engage attention at the Washington Congress, and also of some matters considered urgent affecting intercolonial postal and telegraphic interests; whereupon it was moved by the Hon. Dr. COCKBURN, seconded by the Hon. Mr. DUFFY, and carried,—“That the lists of subjects to be dealt with by the Conference, read by the President, be referred to the Permanent Heads, who are requested to add to the list any other matters of sufficient importance and urgency, to be included in the list, and as soon as the list has been prepared that a copy of the subjects for discussion should be sent round to each delegate.”

It was determined without formal motion that the Ministerial delegates should at once proceed to consider, in Committee, the matter of the Federal Mail Service.† The whole of the other gentlemen (including the shorthand-writer) withdrew.

Later on it was decided to adjourn the Conference until Thursday, at 10 a.m.

J. DALGARNO,
Secretary.

JOSEPH COOK,
President.

THURSDAY,

THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER, 1896.

THE Conference was opened at the General Post Office, Sydney, at 2:50 p.m., when the undermentioned gentlemen, representing the Colonies, were present, viz.:—

Queensland :	{ Hon. A. J. THYNNE, M.L.C., Postmaster-General, Queensland. JOHN McDONNELL, Esq., Under Secretary and Superintendent of Telegraphs.
South Australia :	{ Hon. J. A. COCKBURN, M.D. (Lond.), M.P., Minister for Education and Agriculture, South Australia. Sir CHARLES TODD, K.C.M.G., Postmaster-General, South Australia.
Victoria :	{ Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY, M.P., Postmaster-General, Victoria.
Tasmania :	
New South Wales :	{ Hon. JOSEPH COOK, M.P., Postmaster-General, New South Wales. S. H. LAMBTON, Esq., J.P., Deputy Postmaster-General, New South Wales.
Western Australia :	Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM, M.L.C., Minister for Mines, West Australia.

Minutes of the proceedings of the 14th instant were read and confirmed.

Mr. LAMBTON brought up Reports of the Permanent Heads relating to (1) the Federal Mail Service; (2) Universal Postal Union Congress; and (3) to other urgent and important matters selected by them for consideration of the Conference. [*Appendices C, D, E.*]

The Conference then proceeded to consider in detail (2) Report as to the Universal Postal Union Congress.

After debate it was moved by the Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM, and seconded by the Hon. A. J. THYNNE:—"That the report be adopted subject to such addition and amendments as may be forwarded by the Colonies previous to the departure of the Australasian delegate for Washington."

(3) Report of the Permanent Heads as to matters of importance and urgency was then read by Mr. Lambton, and discussed.

After revision of the Report (with consent of the three Permanent Heads who signed it), it was moved by Hon. A. J. THYNNE, and seconded by the Hon. J. A. COCKBURN,—"That the Report, as revised, be adopted." Carried.

The Conference next dealt with that portion of the Report signed only by Sir Charles Todd and Mr. Lambton, relating to certain action proposed to be taken by the Queensland Postal Department. After discussion, it was moved by Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY, and seconded by Hon. J. A. COCKBURN,—"That the Queensland Government be asked to reconsider proposal to rescind, so far as that Colony is concerned, so much of article 12 of the Australasian Convention as relates to the admission of merchandise to the packet post, and the charges intended to be levied by Queensland on intercolonial newspapers." Carried. Hon. Mr. Thynne not voting.

The PRESIDENT then conveyed to Hon. Mr. Thynne the resolution so passed.

The question of representation at the Universal Postal Union Congress was then introduced by the President, and after some discussion it was resolved, on the motion of the Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY, seconded by Hon. J. A. COCKBURN,—"That a Minister controlling an Australasian Post Office—accompanied by Mr. James Smibert, Deputy-Postmaster-General of Victoria, as postal expert—attend the Washington Congress as Representative of Australasia."

It was resolved, on the motion of Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM, seconded by Hon. A. J. THYNNE,—"That the thanks of the Conference be tendered to the Hon. Joseph Cook for his services as President and for his hospitality during the stay of the Delegates in the Colony."

On the motion of Hon. J. A. COCKBURN, seconded by Hon. J. GAVAN DUFFY, Mr. Dalgarno was thanked for his services as Secretary to the Conference.

The PRESIDENT handed the following draft of a cablegram to the Postmaster-General, London, as the result of the Ministerial consideration of the Federal Mail Service matter, and directed that it be at once transmitted to London, which instruction was immediately carried out.

COPY OF CABLEGRAM SENT TO POSTMASTER-GENERAL, LONDON.

"*Federal Mail Tenders.*—In view of your cables on the subject, and our desire to secure continuance of Federal Mail Service, there appears no alternative but to consent acceptance tender P. and O. as well as Orient Company, as suggested by Imperial Government. Conference, in consenting, urges negotiations to secure following modifications:—

- "1. Term of contracts, five years.
- "2. Duration of voyage, 672 hours for both Companies between Naples, Brindisi, and Adelaide.
- "3. Time of departure from Adelaide, Saturday, 2:30 p.m.
- "4. Steamers to enter Princess Royal Harbour, until Freemantle Harbour approved by Admiralty Surveyors, after which steamers to enter latter Harbour.

"Sydney, 19/11/96.

"JOSEPH COOK,
"President of Intercolonial Conference."

The meeting then adjourned *sine die*.

Confirmed—

J. DALGARNO,
Secretary.

JOSEPH COOK,
President.

Précis re Federal Mail Service, showing action taken from 1st April, 1896, to 12th November, 1896.

At the Conference held in Sydney in January, 1896, it was agreed to sanction the calling of tenders by the London Post Office.

On the 7th July, 1896, the London Post Office received tenders.

On the 24th July, 1896, the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies forwarded to the Colonies copies of the tenders received, and intimated that by the time they reached Australia a cablegram would be sent indicating the views entertained by Her Majesty's Government of these tenders.

The following are main features of the offers received as compared with present contracts:—

Orient Steam Navigation Company.

	Time allowed for transit of mails from Naples to Adelaide and <i>vice versa</i> .		Time allowed for transit of mails right through from London to Adelaide and <i>vice versa</i> .		Amount of subsidy.
	In days.	In hours.	In days.	In hours.	
Present contract	32½	730	34½	835	£85,000
Proposed contract	30	720	32½	775	85,000

Twenty-four hours additional allowed on the homeward trips during the prevalence of the S.W. monsoon.

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.

	Time allowed for transit of mails from Brindisi to Adelaide and <i>vice versa</i> .		Time for transit of mails right through from London to Adelaide and <i>vice versa</i> .		Time allowed for transit of mails from Marseilles to Adelaide and <i>vice versa</i> .		Time for transit of mails right through from London to Adelaide and <i>vice versa</i> .		Amount of subsidy.
	In days.	In hours.	In days.	In hours.	In days.	In hours.	In days.	In hours.	
Present contract	32½	780	31½	830	34½	826	35½	854	£85,000
Proposed contract	28½	686	30½	736	30½	732	31½	760	*

Twenty-four hours additional allowed on the homeward trips during the prevalence of the S.W. monsoon.

On the 12th September, 1896, His Excellency the Governor received the following cablegram, dated 10th September, from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, namely:—

"Most confidential. Postal arrangements which Her Majesty's Government propose. To accept tenders Orient and P. and O., *via* Brindisi, as providing only means of obtaining whole of service required. P. and O. *via* Marseilles nearly one day longer would not be satisfactory to public in this Country or Colonies. Answer as soon as possible whether your Ministers agree to proposals of Her Majesty's Government. Hope it possible by negotiation to obtain something, cannot make further concession with respect to length of time on voyage. Her Majesty's Government before accepting tender propose to cause inquiry to be made as to this point, consequently it is of the utmost importance that everything relating to postal arrangements should be kept secret until arrangements concluded."

Some confidential telegraphic communication then transpired between the Colonies concerned and an informal Conference was held in October, at Melbourne, between the Postmasters-General New South Wales and Victoria (The Honorables J. Cook and J. Gavan Duffy), which resulted in the despatch of a cablegram from His Excellency the Governor of South Australia, to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies as follows:—

"Ocean mails. Employment of black labour by one of the tenderers causing great difficulty. Hope to be able to give definite reply by the middle of November."

On the 28th October, 1896, His Excellency the Governor of South Australia forwarded to His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales the following cablegram from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, namely:—

"Postal arrangements. Should be recollected that President of Intercolonial Conference, Sydney, informed Imperial Post Office last March that Colonies accept conditions as to employment of coloured labour, and in reply was informed tenders would be called at once. Difficulties not understood. Tenders have been before Colonies more than six weeks, and as already explained my telegram of 10th September practically there is no alternative measure if federal service is to be maintained. Immediate decision therefore urgently required."

On the 12th November, 1896, His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales received the following cablegram from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, namely:—

"Your Ministers should clearly understand Her Majesty's Government cannot undertake, under any circumstances, to be parties to contract from which any class of British subjects is specifically excluded."

APPENDIX

* Note.—No price is given for the Australian portion of the service, it being included in the sums of £310,000 and £330,000 asked for the services by the respective routes *via* Marseilles and *via* Brindisi.

APPENDIX A.

PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL POSTAL UNION CONGRESS TO BE HELD AT WASHINGTON IN 1897.

New South Wales Proposals.

That provision be made in Article 16 of the Vienna Principal Convention for preventing the circulation of indecent or obscene matter through the post.

To amend Article 11 of the Convention, so as to enable official correspondence for Union countries to be transmitted without postage stamps, provided such correspondence bears an indication thereon that the postage has been paid, such as an impression "Postage paid."

Further consideration of proposal of Hobart (1892) Conference to amend clause 34 of the detailed Regulations, so that the statistics required under that clause be less voluminous than at present.

That in lieu of subsection 2° §3 of Article 4 of the Vienna Principal Convention, the following be substituted, viz.:—

For sea transits.	Letters or Post-cards.	Other articles.	
Not exceeding 2,500 miles	3 francs	20 centimes	} Per kilogramme.
Between 2,500 and 5,000 miles	6 "	40 "	
" 5,000 and 7,500 miles	9 "	60 "	
" 7,500 and 10,000 miles... ..	12 "	80 "	
Over 10,000 miles	15 "	1 franc	

That subsection 2° of §4, Article 4, be suppressed.

That the necessary amendments be made in Article 5, §2, subsection 1°; Article 17, §4 and §5; and §4 of detailed Regulations 24 and 25 respectively, in order to bring same into conformity with the changes proposed.

Question of introducing uniformity of practice amongst Union Administrations in connection with the demonetisation of stamps.

To add to Union Regulation 15, so that the name and address of sender be furnished in connection with inquiries for missing registered articles.

To reduce territorial transit rates chargeable under sub-section 1°, paragraph 3, Article 4, of Vienna Principal Convention.

New Zealand Proposals.

That practically autonomous Colonies, forming units of voting groups, be formally described in the regulations as separate administrations of the Union for all purposes except voting.

That the former practice of making out acknowledgments of delivery at offices of posting, and attaching them to registered letters, be reverted to. [*See Regulation 9, of Vienna Convention.*]

That travellers' cards be defined in Article 18 of the detailed Regulations, separately from prices current.

That names of ships be allowed to be inserted in shipping advices.

That complimentary and seasonable inscriptions on Christmas, birthday, Easter, and such like cards be allowed under printed paper regulation (No. 18).

That provision be made whereby the United States of America territorial rates on Australasian mail matter may be reduced to at least the ordinary Postal Union charges.

Western Australian Proposals.

Indemnity for the loss of a registered article. Article 8 of the Convention, clause 1, should be amended to read "is entitled to an indemnity not exceeding 50 francs."

The scope of detailed Regulation 19 might be enlarged to include small packets of merchandise other than "valueless" samples, as is the practice with British Possessions and Intercolonially.

Queensland Proposals.

Omission of subsection 1, paragraph 2, Article 5, so as to allow all correspondence to be dealt with under paragraph 1 of the same article.

Amendment of clause 2, Article 26 of the Convention and detailed Regulation 39, so as to allow more time for the careful consideration of important proposals to amend the Convention and Regulations.

Victorian Proposals.

Re non-payment of postage on French official correspondence posted in the Colonies. [*Vide Article 5, of Vienna Convention, re unpaid letters, page 6.*]

Re union sea transit rates. [*Vide Article 4, of Vienna Convention, page 4.*]

Re revision of Article 27, of Postal Union Convention (page 17), through accession of Cape Colony to the Postal Union.

MATTERS LIKELY TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD BY OTHER UNION COUNTRIES.

By British Post Office.

Re admission of private postcards for circulation within the Union.

Respecting the transmission of papier-mache moulds (casts) serving as stereotypes for the printing of a newspaper, through the post at the rates of postage applicable to "printed papers." [*See Union Regulation 18, paragraph 1.*]

By Luxemburg and United States of America.

Re introduction of a universal postage stamp.

By Egypt and R. G. Raveli.

Re introduction of a reply-paid envelope.

By Berne Bureau.

Re vote of British South Africa. (Article 27 of Vienna Convention to be modified.)

NEW SOUTH WALES' LIST OF INTERCOLONIAL SUBJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION AT CONFERENCE.

Proposed reduction of territorial transit rates charged by one Australian Colony to the other.

Queensland's proposal for a reapportionment of postage on parcels exchanged between that Colony and New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

New South Wales regulations amended, so as to permit of objects of meetings being inserted in notices thereof.

Queensland's intention to transfer to the parcel post, packets containing merchandise.

Re Colonial share of postage on single-rate parcels from Foreign Countries, *via* the United Kingdom.

Proposed reduction of Intercolonial Telegraph Rates.

(a) Proposed reduction of Colonial charges for commission on Money Orders to the United Kingdom.

(b) Question of allowing the use of postage stamps for small remittances to and from United Kingdom and Australia, and the reduction of charges on British and Intercolonial stamps.

Respecting apportionment of expenses of future Conferences.

APPENDIX B.

LIST OF MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY SELECTED BY PERMANENT HEADS FOR CONSIDERATION AT CONFERENCE:—

1. Letter Bills, proposed form of.
2. Books, Catalogues, &c., being allowed to contain anything beyond address.
3. Australian Convention, Revise of.
4. Postal Guides, Uniformity of.
5. Commission on Money Orders to England, &c.
6. Postal Union Congress.
7. Telegraph Code, Alteration of.
8. Code Addresses.
9. Reply-paid Telegrams.
10. Expenses of future Conferences.
11. Austro-German proposal for uniform rates of Postage on Parcels up to 11 lb.
12. Reduction and apportionment of Postage on Parcels between Great Britain and Australasia.
13. As to whether the addition in writing of the "Objects of the Meeting" should be permitted in the case of Notices of Meeting transmitted by post at packet rate.
14. Reduction of Intercolonial Telegram Rates.
15. Money Order Telegrams.
16. Parcel Post Convention with France.
17. Proposal of Queensland to rescind, so far as that Colony is concerned, so much of Article 12 of the Australasian Convention as relates to the admission of merchandise to the Packet Post.
18. Consideration of Mr. Jules Renard's letter respecting telephonic communication between the capitals of Australia.
19. Universal Reply Letter-cards.
20. Re-arrangement of the division of Postage on Intercolonial Parcels.
21. Intercolonial Newspapers (charge on).

APPENDIX C.

No. 1.—OCEAN MAIL SERVICE.

HAVING been instructed by Honorable Ministers assembled in Conference to report generally upon the tenders now before them, submitted by the British Post Office, for the Federal Mail Service, and also as to the possibilities of providing an alternate service in the event of it being considered undesirable to agree to the acceptance of the P. and O. Company's tender, we have the honor, respectfully, to report as follows:—

I. PRESENT SERVICE.

The present contracts provide a weekly service by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and the Orient Company, each on alternate weeks.

The subsidy to each company is £85,000 per annum, or £170,000 in all, of which the British Post Office pays £95,000, and the Australian Colonies, £75,000. The former collects and retains the sea transit charges at Postal Union rates, viz. :—

On letters, 15 francs per kilogramme (5s. 6d. per lb.).

On other articles, 1 franc per kilogramme (4½d. per lb.).

on correspondence forwarded to the Colonies by other countries making use of the service.

The Colonies, in like manner, collect and retain the charges for sea conveyance on the homeward correspondence of New Zealand and other places not parties to the Federal Service.

New Zealand is charged—

On letters, 12s. per lb.

On packets, 1s. per lb.

On newspapers, 6d. per lb.

12s. per lb. on letters is equivalent to nearly 3d. (2·9) per single-rate letter.

The subsidy paid by the contracting Colonies (£75,000) is apportioned on the basis of population

In addition to the Australian service, the Peninsular and Oriental Company have the contracts for the India and China mails, weekly to Bombay and fortnightly to China, for which they are paid £265,000 per annum.

Under existing arrangements the Indian mails every alternate week are carried by the Australian steamers between Brindisi and Aden, where they are transhipped to or from the Bombay boat.

The China and Singapore mails are also carried in the Australian (Peninsular and Oriental) steamers to and from Colombo and Italy.

Contract time between—

Brindisi and Adelaide (P. and O. steamers) 780 hours.

Naples and Adelaide (Orient steamers) 780 „

The original time allowed to the Orient Company was 768 hours, but on the extension of the contract, or from May, 1895 (since which the steamers have called at Colombo both ways), the time was extended to 780 hours.

II. TENDERS FOR NEW SERVICE.

The only tenderers are the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and the Orient Company, the present contractors.

The former provide, as at present, for the India, China, and Australian service, viz., weekly mail to Bombay, and fortnightly to both Australia and China (Shanghai). They submit alternative tenders for mails *via* Marseilles and Brindisi.

The Orient Company's tender provides, as now, for a through service between Naples and Australia (Adelaide), calling at Colombo both ways.

Both tenders are for a seven years' contract.

The following is a summary of the tenders:—

Peninsular and Oriental Tender No. 1, £310,000.

	From Marseilles, hours	From London, hours
Marseilles to Bombay (weekly)	342	370
Marseilles to Shanghai (fortnightly)	782	810
Marseilles to Adelaide (fortnightly)	732	760

Peninsular and Oriental Tender No. 2, £330,000.

	From Brindisi, hours	From London, hours
Brindisi to Bombay (weekly)	302	352
Brindisi to Shanghai (fortnightly)	736	786
Brindisi to Adelaide (fortnightly)	696	736

Present Cost of P. and O. Services.

India and China	£265,000
Australia	85,000
	£350,000
Carriage of parcels to and from Thames	3,550
	£353,550
Saving in cost of present contracts <i>via</i> Brindisi	£23,550
Saving in cost <i>via</i> Marseilles	43,550
and Italian transit charges (say)	30,000
Total saving on present cost <i>via</i> Marseilles... ..	£73,550

Present

Present Contract Time—

Brindisi to Adelaide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	780 hours
Time as per tender No. 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	686 "
Saving in time <i>via</i> Brindisi								94 hours

It will be seen that a saving of £50,000 a year (£20,000 difference in tender, and £30,000 the estimated payments for Italian transit) might be effected by adopting the Marseilles route for the P. and O. Company's service. This, however, would involve twenty-four hours loss of time, which the Imperial Post Office thinks would not be acceptable to the public in the United Kingdom, India, and the Colonies. It is therefore proposed that the higher tender for the Brindisi route shall be accepted. In this we quite concur.

Orient Company's Tender—

The Orient Company's tender (£85,000) is the same as present contract, but there will be 60 hours' saving of time, viz. :—

Present contract—Naples to Adelaide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	780 hours
Specified in tender, "	"	"	...	...	...	...	...	720 "
Saving								60 hours

While the time specified by the P. and O. Company between Brindisi and Adelaide is 686 hours (28 days 14 hours), the Orient Company require 720 hours between Naples and Adelaide. The time, in our opinion, should be reduced to 672 hours, or 28 days by both routes. There can be no doubt the P. and O. Company, with their new boats, could easily accomplish this.

POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES.

We take it for granted that there is no question as to the acceptance of the Orient Company's tender, and that the only thing desired is to ascertain whether there would be any means of arranging a satisfactory service other than the P. and O., to alternate with the Orient Company.

Table A.

We attach a statement, in which particulars are given of every other steam service now running which could possibly be made available for the conveyance of mails to Great Britain, and from Great Britain to the Colonies.

Assuming that the Orient Company's day of departure from Sydney is altered, as it no doubt will be under the proposed accelerated rate of speed, and that such day will be Wednesday from Sydney and Friday from Adelaide, the first question is whether any other service can be utilised for the despatch of mails on the alternate week and on the same day of the week, as it is obvious that any satisfactory weekly service should provide for each mail leaving Adelaide, and being due in London on the same day of the week.

Unfortunately, none of the other lines would give a fortnightly service, all being either four-weekly, calendar monthly, or at irregular intervals, so that, even if it were possible to provide a service to alternate weekly with the Orient, it would be necessary to utilise two of the other lines of steamers for the purpose of maintaining the weekly service.

Dealing first with the Suez route, we will suppose that the Orient's day of departure from Adelaide be Friday, the 13th instant, the following will show how the steamers would leave Adelaide :—

Messageries Maritimes on Monday, 9th.
 Orient on Friday, 13th.
 North German Lloyds on Saturday, 14th.
 The following week there would be no mail steamers.
 The third week the Orient would leave on the 27th.
 The fourth week there would be no mail steamers.
 The fifth week the Messageries Maritimes on Monday (December 7th).
 Orient on Friday, 11th.
 North German Lloyds on Saturday, 12th (December).
 The only other steamers, in addition to the above, would be an occasional one by Lund's Line.

A mail will leave Sydney, *via* San Francisco, on Monday, November 23rd, the dates for closing mails being :—

Adelaide, Thursday, 19th.
 Melbourne, Friday, 20th.

This service would, of course, be useless to Western Australia.

Further, the San Francisco Service as at present carried out would not alternate with the Orient even on its four-weekly date (Orient, say, Friday, 13th November, 'Frisco, Monday, 23rd November). Moreover, the time occupied from the Colonies would be longer even in the case of New South Wales and Queensland than by the Suez line, and still longer in the case of Victoria and the western colonies.

With regard to the Vancouver line. If that were made four-weekly and to alternate fortnightly with the 'Frisco and Orient, a fairly good alternate service might be arranged; but it is hardly necessary to point out that the Vancouver service, as now carried on—whatever its future may be—is not sufficiently satisfactory to rely upon as an important link in the regular weekly service with Great Britain.

Supposing that the Colonies should succeed in making satisfactory arrangements for a service alternating with the Orient Company, the London Post Office will have to make provision for the alternate weeks outwards. This they would probably do by agreement with the P. & O. Company, in which case that Company's steamers, which would be utilised as now for carrying the Indian and China mails between Aden and Brindisi, would leave Adelaide on the return voyage on the alternate mail day, and there is no doubt that the bulk of the correspondence for England would be marked by the public to be forwarded by those steamers, and the Colonies would be compelled to so forward the correspondence and

and pay the British Post Office transit rates to be mutually agreed upon—probably the Postal Union rates, namely, 5s. 6d. per lb. for letters and postcards and 4½d. per lb. for other articles, besides a special rate on parcels, possibly 2d. per lb., which, under the new contracts, will be included as ordinary mail matter. The Colonies would, therefore, still *pro tanto* be paying a line of steamers employing coloured labour.

It will thus be seen that out of all the steamers plying between here and Great Britain, which could possibly be made available for conveyance of mails, the services *via* 'Frisco and the Messageries Maritimes are the only ones that could be made to fairly alternate with the Orient, and the question occurs to us in this connection, whether it would be politic to make use of foreign steamers for the conveyance of mails, and whether it is not likely that as much objection would be taken to our mails being sent by foreign steamers as is now taken to sending them by British ships which employ coloured labour.

The Messageries steamers really afford the quickest transit of any on the list, and are even quicker than the P. & O. and Orient under the latter's present contracts, but according to existing time-tables they run almost side by side with the Orient, and even if the time-tables of one or other were changed so as to alternate fortnightly there would still be the double objection, namely, that of sending mails by foreign steamers and by foreign steamers which employ—as the Messageries do—coloured labour.

Having now dealt with what appear to be possible lines that *could* be made available for an alternate service with Great Britain, we propose offering a few observations on the other lines enumerated in the list, given in table A, taking them in numerical order.

- (1.) *Queensland Royal Mail Line*.—It will be seen that this would only provide a forty-seven days homewards and fifty-two days outwards service to and from Sydney, and on that ground alone would be unsatisfactory. It is, moreover, only four-weekly, and is only used, even by Queensland, for European mails to and from her extreme Northern ports.
- (2.) *Canadian-Australian Line*.—Calendar monthly. Already dealt with.
- (3.) *Union Company's Line, via San Francisco*.—Four-weekly. Already dealt with.
- (4.) *Messageries Maritimes Line*.—Four-weekly. Already dealt with.
- (5.) *North German Lloyd's Line*.—Four-weekly. Already dealt with.
- (6.) *Lund's Blue Anchor Line* seems altogether out of the question, the intervals and dates being too uncertain, and evidently, without a very much larger payment than the poundage upon letters, would not be likely to bind themselves to either a fixed day fortnightly or four-weekly, especially during the wool seasons. They are, moreover, principally cargo boats, and although they give their time as about forty days from Sydney or Melbourne, we are inclined to think that their actual time must be very much longer. Another objection is that it is uncertain whether they call regularly at Melbourne or Adelaide, and they do not call at any European port *en route*; and in any case if it were decided to utilise their services as mail-carriers, some contract or agreement would have to be made binding them to regular intervals, to a very much shorter service—which the present steamers could not perform—and, of course, to calling regularly at Melbourne and Adelaide.
7. *Aberdeen White Star Line, via Albany and the Cape*.—This only gives a calendar monthly service, and therefore could not possibly alternate with a four-weekly one, unless their time-tables were wholly rearranged; moreover, the time occupied—some forty-nine days home and forty-four out—would be quite unsuitable for present requirements. Of course, they do not touch at any European port.
8. *The Gulf Line* appears so uncertain, and the time occupied so long—about forty-nine days home and fifty-five out—that nothing more need be said in reference thereto, and the same remarks apply to the
9. *Port Line*; also to the
10. *Transaal Line*, no fixed dates of departure being observed in the case of the latter, and the time occupied being about sixty days.
11. *Shaw-Savill and Albion Company's Line*, of which line the "Gothic" is the principal steamer.—This line, as far as mainland Colonies are concerned, would not be sufficiently expeditious, even if it were possible to alternate their four-weekly trips with any other, which, of course, could not be done. Moreover, they only run eleven trips a year (see table), and call at a colonial port (Hobart) outwards only, returning to England by Cape Horn.
12. *New Zealand Shipping Company's Line*.—This is a forty-eight and forty-five days' service, which, as in other cases, would alone preclude its use as a mail line. They also call at Hobart one way only, returning to England by the Horn.

Of course we assume that the payments, either at Union rates or at any other rates, that would be offered, would not be sufficient to induce any of these steamers to leave at suitable fixed dates, or to go out of their course to land the mails at an Italian or other European port.

Should it be determined to accept the tenders of both Companies as proposed by the London Office, we concur, as already stated, in the opinion of that office that the European port for the P. and O. Company should be Brindisi, as the acceleration provided for thereby will, in our opinion, fully warrant the extra cost of calling at that port.

Table B

We append a Table (marked B .), showing what would be the effect in regard to the arrivals and departures at England and Australia under the accelerated time-table, supposing the day from Adelaide were made Friday. This would, in our opinion, be on the whole the most convenient day, although possibly Saturday from Adelaide, which it is understood Western Australia desires, might do nearly as well. It is, however, intimated in the English despatches that an attempt is to be made to obtain a still further acceleration in speed, and of course until the precise number of days and hours to be allowed for the sea voyage is fixed it will not be possible to advise definitely as to what should be the day of the arrival and departure at either end.

We

We conclude our Report by submitting the following statement, which shows what would be the probable financial result of accepting the Orient tender, and paying poundage rates, namely, 12s. per lb. of letters, 1s. per lb. of books and packets, 6d. per lb. of newspapers, and 2d. per lb. of parcels, on mails forwarded by the P. & O. or other steamers.

Dr.			
To Colonial share of subsidy to Orient Company		£37,500	
„ Estimated payments to P. & O., or other Company, at above rates ...		28,000	
„ Transit of mails of Contracting Colonies through European Countries, &c.		11,000	
„ Overland transit of mail matter through Australian Colonies ...		3,000	
		£79,500	
Cr.			
By Estimated postages that would be collected in the Colonies		£52,000	
„ Estimated amount of Australian land transit rates on mails from Europe, &c.		2,500	
„ Estimated receipts from non-contracting Colonies, &c.		1,500	
		£56,000	
Approximate net cost per annum to contracting Colonies			23,500
The present net cost per annum is about			£31,500
Approximate saving... ..			£8,000

The poundage rates mentioned above are, in the case of letters, in excess of the postage being, with European transit rates added, equal to about 3½d. per single-rate letter, and although the present saving would be, approximately, as stated, the loss would increase with the growth of correspondence, whereas the reverse would be the result in the case of fixed subsidies.

S. H. LAMBTON.
C. TODD.
JOHN M'DONNELL.

General Post Office, Sydney, 17th November, 1896.

A.

TABLE showing possibilities of mail communication between Australia and the United Kingdom by the several lines of steamers now running—other than the two lines at present subsidised, namely, the Peninsular and Oriental and the Orient—and giving an illustrative return trip in each case.

1.—QUEENSLAND ROYAL MAIL LINE—4-Weekly.

Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.	Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.
Adelaide ...	Tue., Nov. 3...	London	Tue., Dec. 22...	49	London	Fri., Dec. 25 ...	Brisbane...	Sat., Feb. 13...	50
Melbourne...	Wed., „ 4...	„ ...	„ 22...	48	„ ...	„ 25 ...	Sydney ...	Mon., „ 15...	52
Sydney ...	Thu., „ 5...	„ ...	„ 22...	47	„ ...	„ 25 ...	Melbourne	Wed., „ 17...	54
Brisbane ...	Sat., „ 7...	„ ...	„ 22...	45	„ ...	„ 25 ...	Adelaide...	Thu., „ 18...	55

Mails shipped and landed at Brisbane.

2.—CANADIAN-AUSTRALIAN LINE—Monthly.

Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.	Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.
Brisbane ...	Sun., Nov. 8 ...	London	Thu., Dec. 17...	39	London	Fri., Dec. 25 ...	Sydney ...	Mon., Feb. 1 ...	38
Adelaide ...	Fri., „ 6 ...	„ ...	„ 17 ...	41	„ ...	„ 25 ...	Melbourne	Tue., „ 2 ...	39
Melbourne...	Mon., „ 9 ...	„ ...	„ 17 ...	38	„ ...	„ 25 ...	Adelaide...	Wed., „ 3 ...	40
Sydney ...	Tue., „ 10 ...	„ ...	„ 17 ...	37	„ ...	„ 25 ...	Brisbane...	Tue., „ 2 ...	39

Mails shipped and landed at Sydney.

3.—UNION COMPANY'S LINE, VIA SAN FRANCISCO—4-Weekly.

Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.	Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.
Brisbane ...	Fri., Nov. 20...	London	Wed., Dec. 30	40	London	Sat., Jan. 23...	Sydney ...	Tue., Mar. 2...	38
Adelaide ...	Thu., „ 19...	„ ...	„ 30	41	„ ...	„ 23...	Melbourne	Wed., „ 3...	39
Melbourne...	Sat., „ 21...	„ ...	„ 30	39	„ ...	„ 23...	Adelaide...	Thu., „ 4...	40
Sydney ...	Mon., „ 23...	„ ...	„ 30	37	„ ...	„ 23...	Brisbane ..	Wed., „ 3...	39

Mails shipped and landed at Sydney.

4.—MESSAGERIES MARITIMES LINE—Four-weekly.

Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.	Leave—		Arrive.		No. of Days.
Brisbane ...	Wed., Nov. 4...	London	Wed., Dec. 9...	35	London	Sat., Jan. 2...	Adelaide...	Mon., Feb. 1...	30
Sydney ...	Fri., " 6...	"	" " 9...	33	"	" " 2...	Melbourne.	Tue., " 2...	31
Melbourne	Sat., " 7...	"	" " 9...	32	"	" " 2...	Sydney ...	Wed., " 3...	32
Adelaide ...	Mon., " 9...	"	" " 9...	31	"	" " 2...	Brisbane.	Thu., " 4...	33

Mails shipped and landed at Adelaide.

5.—NORD-DEUTSCHER LLOYD'S LINE—Four-weekly.

Leave—		Arrive -		No. of Days.	Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.
Brisbane ...	Tue., Nov. 10...	London	Sun., Dec. 20...	40	London	Mon., Dec. 28...	Adelaide ..	Wed., Feb. 3...	37
Sydney ...	Thu., " 12...	"	" " 20...	38	"	" " 28 ..	Melbourne	Thu., " 4...	38
Melbourne	Fri., " 13...	"	" " 20...	37	"	" " 28...	Sydney ..	Fri., " 5...	39
Adelaide ...	Sat., " 14...	"	" " 20...	36	"	" " 28 ..	Brisbane...	Sat., " 6...	40

Mails shipped and landed at Adelaide.

6.—LUND'S "BLUE ANCHOR" LINE.

About Fortnightly (at times Weekly) during Wool Season—September to end of January.
About Monthly during the remainder of the year.

Leave—		Arrive--		No. of Days.	Leave--		Arrive—		No. of Days.
Brisbane ...	2 days before despatch from Sydney.	London ..	About 42 or 43.		London ...	No fixed dates; the despatch depending on loading.			
Sydney ...	No fixed dates; the despatch depending on loading.	"	About 40 from		"	Calling depends on whether there is any loading for either part.	Adelaide ..	About 40 to Melbourne or Sydney.	
Melbourne.	Calling uncertain, and depending upon whether further loading is required.	"	Sydney or		"	.....	Melbourne.		
Adelaide ...		"	Melbourne		"	.....	Sydney ...	About 41 or 42.	
<i>Via Suez Canal.</i>					<i>Via Cape Town.</i>				

7.—ABERDEEN "WHITE STAR" LINE—Monthly.

Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.	Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.
Brisbane ...	3 days } before the despatch	London ...	About 51		London ...	No fixed dates, the despatch depending on the loading.	Melbourne	About 43	
Sydney ...	1 day } from Melbourne.	"	" 49		"	.....	Sydney ...	" 44	
Melbourne	No fixed dates, the despatch depending on the loading.	"	" 48		"	.....	Brisbane ..	" 45	
<i>Via Albany and Cape Town.</i>					<i>Via Cape Town.</i>				

8.—GULF LINE—As loading is obtainable.

Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.	Leave—		Arrive—		No. of Days.
Brisbane ...	3 days } before the despatch	*London...	About 51		London †	No fixed dates, the despatch depending on the loading.	Melbourne	About 54 to Melbourne.	
Sydney ...	1 day } from Melbourne.	"	" 49		Liverpool	.....	Sydney ...	About 55	
Melbourne	No fixed dates, the despatch depending on loading.	"	" 48 from Melbourne		"	.....	Brisbane ..	" 56	
Adelaide ...	Call only when loading is required to fill up.	"	"						
* Steamer occasionally goes to Liverpool instead of London, and occasionally calls at Albany.					† Steamer occasionally starts from London, but in most cases from Liverpool.				

9.—PORT LINE—As loading is obtainable.

Leave—	Arrive—	No. of Days.	Leave—	Arrive—	No. of Days
Brisbane... 2 days before despatch from Sydney.	London ...	About 62	London ... No fixed dates, the despatch depending on the loading.	Adelaide... Melbourne Sydney ... Brisbane...	About 91 or 61
Sydney ... No fixed dates, the despatch depending on loading.	" ...	About 60 from Sydney.	Calling at these ports is very uncertain.		
Melbourne. } Calling at these ports is	" ...	.....		
Adelaide ... } very uncertain.	" ...	.....		
<i>Via Suez Canal.</i>			<i>Via Cape Town.</i>		

10.—NEW LINE—"TRANSVAAL," "KAFFIR," &c.

About 3-weekly during the wool season (September to end of January) only.

Leave—	Arrive—	No. of Days.	Leave—	Arrive—	No. of Days.
Brisbane ... 2 days before despatch from Sydney.	London ...	About 62	London ... No fixed dates, the despatch depending on the loading. These steamers load at Port Pirie, and then come on direct to Sydney.	Sydney ...	About 60 to Sydney.
Sydney No fixed dates, the despatch depending on the loading.	" ...	About 60 from Sydney.	" ...	Brisbane...	About 61.
Melbourne } Calling at these ports is	" ...	.....		
Adelaide ... } very uncertain.	" ...	.....		
<i>Via Suez Canal.</i>			<i>Via Cape Town.</i>		

11.—SHAW-SAVILL AND ALBION COMPANY'S LINE.

4-weekly—except that two trips are dropped at three different periods of the year.

Leave—	Arrive—	No. of Days.	Leave—	Arrive—	No. of Days.
Brisbane ... Wed., Nov. 4 .	London	Tue., Dec. 22... 48	London	Sat., Dec. 26... 39	Hobart ... Wed., Feb. 3... 39
Adelaide ... Wed., " 4 .	" ...	" " 22... 48	" ...	" " 26... 41	Melbourne Fri., " 5... 41
Melbourne Thu., " 5...	" ...	" " 22... 47	" ...	" " 26... 42	Adelaide Sat., " 6... 42
Sydney Fri., " 6...	" ...	" " 22... 46	" ...	" " 26... 42	Sydney ... Sat., " 6... 42
Wellington Thu., " 12...	" ...	" " 22... 40	" ...	" " 26... 43	Brisbane Mon., " 8... 43
Mails shipped at Wellington.			Mails landed at Hobart.		

12.—NEW ZEALAND SHIPPING COMPANY'S LINE—4-weekly.

Leave—	Arrive—	No. of Days.	Leave—	Arrive—	No. of Days.
Brisbane ... Wed., Oct. 21	London	Thur., Dec. 10 50	London	Sat., Dec. 12 ... 40	Hobart ... Thu., Jan. 21... 40
Adelaide ... " " 21	" ...	" " 10 50	" ...	" " " ... 42	Melbourne Sat., " 23... 42
Melbourne Thu., " 22	" ...	" " 10 49	" ...	" " " ... 45	Adelaide... Tue., " 26... 45
Sydney ... Fri., " 23	" ...	" " 10 48	" ...	" " " ... 45	Sydney ... " " 26... 45
Wellington Thu., " 29	" ...	" " 10 42	" ...	" " " ... 46	Brisbane... Wed., " 27... 46
Mails shipped at Wellington.			Mails landed at Hobart.		

B.

SUGGESTED Time-tables in the event of the Tenders of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, *via* Brindisi, and the Orient Company, *via* Naples, to and from London and Adelaide, being accepted at their Tender times.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL—*VIA* BRINDISI.

Leave Brisbane.	Leave Sydney.	Leave Melbourne.	Leave Adelaide.	Leave Albany.	Arrive London.	Leave London.	Arrive Albany.	Arrive Adelaide.	Arrive Melbourne.	Arrive Sydney.	Arrive Brisbane.
Tues., Jan. 12	Wed., Jan. 13	Thur., Jan. 14	Fri., Jan. 15	Mon., Jan. 18	Mon., Feb. 15	* Fri., Feb. 19	Fri., Mar. 19	Mon., Mar. 22	Tues., Mar. 23	Wed., Mar. 24	Thur. Mar. 25
" " 26	" " 27	" " 28	" " 29	" Feb. 1	" Mar. 1	" Mar. 5	" April 2	" April 5	" April 6	" April 7	" April 8
" Feb. 9	" Feb. 10	" Feb. 11	" Feb. 12	" " 15	" " 15	" " 19	" " 16	" " 19	" " 20	" " 21	" " 22
Brisbane to London 34 days.						London to Albany 28 days.					
Sydney " 38 "						" Adelaide 30 " 16 hours.					
Melbourne " 32 "						" Melbourne 32 "					
Adelaide " 30 " 16 hours.						" Sydney 33 "					
Albany " 23 "						" Brisbane 34 "					

ORIENT—*VIA* NAPLES.

Leave Brisbane.	Leave Sydney.	Leave Melbourne.	Leave Adelaide.	Leave Albany.	Arrive London.	Leave London.	Arrive Albany.	Arrive Adelaide.	Arrive Melbourne.	Arrive Sydney.	Arrive Brisbane.
Tues., Jan. 19	Wed., Jan. 20	Thu., Jan. 21	Fri., Jan. 22	Mon., Jan. 25	Tues., Feb. 23	* Fri., Feb. 26	Sat., Mar. 27	Tues., Mar. 30	Wed., Mar. 31	Thu., Apl. 1	Fri., Apl. 2
" Feb. 2	" Feb. 3	" Feb. 4	" Feb. 5	" Feb. 8	" Mar. 9	" Mar. 12	" Apl. 10	" Apl. 13	" Apl. 14	" " 15	" " 16
" " 16	" " 17	" " 18	" " 19	" " 22	" " 23	" " 26	" " 24	" " 27	" " 28	" " 20	" " 30
Brisbane to London 35 days.						London to Albany 20 days.					
Sydney " 34 "						" Adelaide 32 "					
Melbourne " 33 "						" Melbourne 33 "					
Adelaide " 32 "						" Sydney 34 "					
Albany " 29 "						" Brisbane 35 "					

* Present day from London— From past experience it is known to be the best and the only day London would be likely to agree to

APPENDIX D.

No. 2.—UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION CONGRESS.

WE submit the following Report and recommendations in reference to the Universal Postal Union Congress to be held at Washington in May, 1897 :—

The Australasian Colonies, on joining the Universal Postal Union (1st October, 1891), became entitled to representation at its Congresses and Conferences—that is to say, the whole of the Australasian Colonies are considered as one “country,” they may send one or several delegates if desired, all of whom may join in the debates, but have collectively only one vote at the Congress.

Briefly stated, the conditions under which the Colonies joined the Union were that Australasia should have one joint vote, and that, pending the next quinquennial meeting, no alteration in the maritime transit rates or reduction in postal charges should be made.

At the Postal and Telegraphic Conference held in Brisbane, in March, 1893, the following resolution was carried, viz. :—That, in the opinion of this Conference, one representative should be sent from Australasia on behalf of all the Colonies to represent them at the Postal Union Congress.”

At the New Zealand Postal and Telegraphic Conference, in March, 1894, the question of the appointment of a delegate to attend the Postal Union Congress at its next meeting was discussed, but a decision was postponed. And at the Hobart Conference, in February, 1895, a motion was carried that the question of electing a delegate to the Postal Union Congress be deferred until next Conference.

In May last a circular letter was received from the Berne Bureau, requesting, by the 30th June, particulars of the subjects which the Australasian Colonies desired to submit to the forthcoming Congress.

As Australasia is only one territory in the Postal Union, it follows that the Colonies must be unanimous, and with that object a list of subjects which it is proposed to bring forward was prepared and the views of the different Colonies invited. The replies received showed that there was little chance of arriving at unanimity by correspondence, and it was decided to postpone the matter until the next Inter-colonial Conference. At the same time the Bureau was informed that it was not possible to forward a list of proposals such as asked for until the Colonies had met in conference and endeavoured to come into agreement on the subjects which they proposed to bring forward. It was stated that the Conference would probably take place about September or October (but for various reasons it could not be convened until the present month); and a hope was expressed that it would not then be too late to include the Australasian subjects in the list, which it was understood was being prepared by the Berne Bureau. In reply, the Bureau points out that the date mentioned for our proposals will be too late to include them in the principal book, but suggests that they be collected and form a supplement, and forwarded to the Union Administrations, or distributed to the delegates at the time of the opening Session of the Congress.

We respectfully recommend that in view of the many important questions affecting the Colonies that will be discussed at the Washington Congress in May next, the Colonies should be represented thereat, and that the delegate should be accompanied by at least one postal expert, and be instructed on the following subjects :—

1. *Reduction of territorial transit rates chargeable under sub-section 1°, paragraph 3, Article 4, of Vienna Principal Convention.*

We consider that the following rates, namely, 2 francs per kilogramme (8½d. per lb.) for letters and post-cards, and 25 centimes per kilogramme (1½d. per lb.) for other articles, for the territorial transit through each intermediate country, is much too high, and we suggest that these rates be reduced to—

1 franc per kilo. (4½d. per lb.), and
10 centimes per kilo. (¾d. per lb.), respectively,

which would even then be somewhat higher in the case of letters and post-cards than is now charged by Australian Colonies on forward mails.

2. *Reduction of sea transit rates.*

That in lieu of sub-section 2° §3 of Article 4 of the Vienna Principal Convention, the following be substituted, namely :—

For sea transits:	Letters or Post Cards.	Other Articles.
Not exceeding 2,500 miles ...	3 francs ...	20 centimes
Between 2,500 and 5,000 miles ...	6 francs ...	40 centimes
Between 5,000 and 7,500 miles ...	9 francs ...	60 centimes
Between 7,500 and 10,000 miles ...	12 francs ...	80 centimes
Over 10,000 miles ...	15 francs ...	1 franc

} Per kilogramme.

That sub-section 2° of §4 of Article 4 be suppressed.

That the necessary amendments be made in Article 5 §2, sub-section 1°; Article 17, §4 and §5; and §4 of Detailed Regulations 24 and 25, respectively, in order to bring the same into conformity with the changes proposed.

3. *Question of alteration of surcharges provided for in Article 5.*

We recommend the omission of the following words in sub-section 1 of paragraph 2, “25 centimes per single rate for letters,” as there is no country in the Union now availing itself of the right to make this charge on letters for Union countries, although the surcharge provided for in this Article is made on other articles.

4. *Re indemnity for the loss of registered articles, Article 8 of the Convention, clause 1.*

We think it desirable that in the interests of the countries where the system of indemnity is recognised, the Article should be amended by the insertion of the words “Not exceeding” after the word “indemnity,” and before “50 francs.” At the same time we may call attention to the fact that the Australasian Colonies have, in almost all cases, declined to accept responsibility in regard to registered articles.

5. *Prepayment of postage on official correspondence.*

We recommend that Article XI of the Convention be amended so as to enable official correspondence for Union countries to be transmitted without postage stamps, provided such correspondence bears an indication thereon that the postage has been paid, and name of country, such as an impression, "Postage paid, New South Wales."

6. *Circulation of indecent or obscene matter by post.*

We recommend that provision be made in Article XVI of the Vienna Principal Convention for preventing the circulation of indecent or obscene matter through the post.

7. *Proposed amendment of Clause 2, Article 26 of the Convention, and Detailed Regulation 39 so as to allow more time for the careful consideration of important proposals to amend the Convention Regulations.*

The time allowed under the Convention no doubt meets all the requirements of European countries to consider and reply to any propositions, but is insufficient in the case of Australasian Colonies, which have to consult each other before coming to any conclusion, and before replying to Berne.

We, therefore, suggest that longer time should be allowed than that provided for in Article 26, and we further suggest that only proposals of an urgent character should be submitted for consideration between two consecutive meetings of Congress.

8. *Question of reduction of United States territorial transit rates on Australasian mail-matter.*

The United States Post Office at present charges for the transmission of closed mails between San Francisco and New York—

- 6 francs per kilogramme for letters (2s. 2d. per lb.).
- 2 francs per kilogramme on other articles (8½d. per lb.).

The ordinary Union territorial transit rates are—

- 2 francs per kilo. on letters (8½d. per lb.).
- 25 centimes per kilo. on other articles (1½d. per lb.).

Reductions were urged at the Brisbane (1893) and Wellington (1894) Conferences, and communications were addressed to the Postmaster-General at Washington, who stated in reply that the present special charges do not cover actual cost of transit, and in a later letter, that no reduction could be made pending further legislation. In view, however, of the fact that these rates are almost prohibitory (being the highest levied by any Union country), and tend to discourage the transmission of mails by the San Francisco route, we recommend that the representative at Washington should bring this matter before the Postal Union Congress, and urge that the rates be reduced.

Notwithstanding that substantial reductions have been made in French and Italian territorial rates, those of United States of America remain unaltered.

9. *Regulation IX—Acknowledgment of Delivery.*

1. "Articles for which the sender requires an acknowledgment of delivery must be marked very clearly with the inscription 'Avis de reception,' or be stamped with the letters A.R.
2. Acknowledgments of delivery must be prepared by the offices of destination on a form in accordance with, or analogous to, the pattern A annexed, and sent by those offices to the offices of origin, whose duty it is to deliver the acknowledgments to the senders of the articles to which they relate. Acknowledgments of delivery must be drawn up in French, or must bear a sublineary translation in that language."

Under Detailed Regulation 9 to the Lisbon Convention (1885) forms of acknowledgment of receipt of registered articles were prepared by the offices of origin, but for some reason not known here the practice has been altered in the Vienna Convention so that the offices of delivery of registered articles are required to prepare such forms. (See Regulation 9.)

In 1893 Bulgaria made a proposal to amend Regulation 9 so as to revert to the former practice, but on being submitted to the vote of Union offices the proposal was rejected.

We suggest that the former practice of making out acknowledgments of delivery at offices of posting and attaching them to registered letters be reverted to.

10. *Question of adding to Union Regulation 15, so that the name and address of sender be furnished in connection with inquiries for missing registered articles.*

We are of opinion that no instruction on this subject is necessary to the delegate.

11. *Travellers' Cards—Article 18.*

After the words "address cards" in paragraph 1, Article 18, Detailed Regulations, we recommend that the words "travellers' cards" be inserted, so as to agree with sub-paragraph H, of paragraph 4, which introduces travellers' cards.

12. *Question of complimentary and seasonable inscriptions being allowed on Christmas, Easter, Birthday, and such like cards.*

In 1893, at the instance of the British Post Office, the question whether "words added by hand on so-called 'Christmas' or 'New Year's' cards, such as 'For John, with Aunt Mary's love,' 'To dear Mary from Cousin Jane,' &c.," may be considered as dedications in the sense of letter "1" of paragraph 4 of Article 18 of the Detailed Regulations to the Principal Convention was submitted to an interpretative vote of Postal Union Offices. The question was resolved in the negative—nineteen offices out of thirty offices which voted declaring against the proposal.

Cards of the class referred to are exchanged between the Australasian Colonies and the United Kingdom, and it has been arranged that they shall also be exchanged between the colonies and such other Union Administrations as may so agree with the London Office.

We advise that the question be again considered at the forthcoming Congress with a view to these inscriptions being allowed.

13. *Question of enlarging the scope of Detailed Regulation 19 so as to include small packets of merchandise.*

We recommend that paragraph 1 of these Regulations be amended so as to admit small packets of merchandise, not exceeding 1 lb. (not necessarily samples), being allowed to pass at printed paper rates, as is the practice in British possessions and in the Colonies.

14. *Detailed Regulation 32.*

We advise that Regulation 32, paragraph 5, be amended by inserting after the words "British Colonies of Australasia" the following words:—" (New South Wales, Victoria, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia, and Fiji)."

15. *Question of amending Clause 34 of the Detailed Regulations, so that the statistics required under the clause be less voluminous.*

The statistics required under clause 34 of the Detailed Regulations of the Union are, in our opinion, of an unnecessarily voluminous character, and entail a large amount of clerical labour; and we suggest that the Australasian delegate be instructed to press for an amendment in the direction of simplicity.

16. *Question of introducing uniformity of practice amongst Union Administrations in connection with the demonetization of stamps.*

We recommend that a copy of the statement laid before the New Zealand Conference in 1894 be forwarded to the delegate, with an intimation that Australasia favours such a system as would provide for all stamps which have been sold to the public being accepted in payment of correspondence irrespective of the date of issue.

17. *Question of names of ships being allowed to be inserted in shipping advices.*

This question has been raised by the New Zealand Post Office, and we bring it forward accordingly.

Sub-section (1), paragraph 3, detailed regulation 18, permits the indication in manuscript, in advices of the departures of ships of the dates of those departures, and we consider that this necessarily allows the insertion in such advices of the names of the ships; but should there be any doubt in the matter we advise that the question be brought forward for decision at the Washington Congress.

18. *Question of French Consular correspondence posted in Australia addressed to the French Government being forwarded unstamped.*

This question has been the subject of considerable correspondence. Whilst it may be argued that the Consular officers are strictly within their rights in claiming the transmission of their letters unpaid, seeing that the Union Convention permits of unpaid letters being forwarded through the post subject to a charge of double the deficient postage on delivery, we consider that the spirit of the Convention is overridden, and the practice operates to the detriment of the Colonies, which have to pay for the carriage of the correspondence by sea and land, and are, therefore, entitled to the postage.

The object of the provision in the Union Regulations in allowing unpaid letters to be sent is to avoid public inconvenience and to meet urgent necessities, but is discouraged by a charge of double the deficient postage to be collected from the addressee. This deterrent does not, however, apply in the case of correspondence of the nature referred to where the charges marked by the office of posting are waived on delivery.

As pointed out by the London Office in a letter dated 4th October, 1895, the practice complained of is "one which it is considered difficult to defend, and which is contrary to the views and practices of this country, and indeed of almost all countries of the civilised world."

As an illustration of how this provision operates, it would be possible for the French Consul at Melbourne to post for transmission by the Messageries Maritime steamers a quantity of correspondence weighing 1 kilo. unpaid—not only would Victoria be deprived of the postage, but she would have to pay the French Government 15 fr., or 12s., for the sea transit to Marseilles.

We strongly urge that the Australasian delegate be instructed to represent the unfairness of the practice complained of.

Whilst advising, as we have done, the reduction of the Union territorial and sea rates, we strongly advise that no reduction of the postage rates be agreed to as affecting the Australasian Colonies. It must be borne in mind that these Colonies have to pay large subsidies for their mail services to ensure speed and regularity, which subsidies are not nearly covered by the postages at present rates.

In conclusion, we have to report that the first Book of Proposals to be submitted to the Washington Postal Congress only came to hand whilst the Conference was sitting. The proposals are in French, and very voluminous, and we have not had time to consider them. Further proposals have yet to arrive, and so soon as they reach us, and have been translated, it will probably be necessary to hold another meeting to enable us to confer and report to Ministers what other instructions may be required for the Australasian delegate in regard to the whole of the proposals, many of which will, no doubt, be of an important character, requiring careful consideration.

General Post Office, Sydney,
17th November, 1896.

S. H. LAMBTON.
C. TODD.
JOHN McDONNELL.

APPENDIX B.

No. 3.—INTERCOLONIAL MATTERS.

WE have the honor to submit the following report on intercolonial matters remitted to us by Ministers :—

1. *Proposed new form of intercolonial letter-bill.*

Appendix.

We submit for adoption new forms of letter-bill 1 and 2 for use intercolonially.

2. *Question of allowing on the face of covers of books, catalogues, &c., anything beyond the name, occupation, and address of senders and addressees.*

We recommend that no objection be raised to any printed matter being allowed on the covers of articles entitled to pass at book rate, provided that a clear and conspicuous space be left for the address of the article.

3. *Question of revising the Australasian Postal Convention.*

We do not think it would lead to any good result if a revision were attempted at this sitting.

We recommend that the matter be allowed to stand over until another opportunity offers for giving attention thereto.

4. *Question of having Postal Guides on uniform lines.*

In compliance with the request contained in a resolution of the Hobart Conference of 1895, the Postmaster-General of South Australia has submitted a specimen of a proposed uniform Postal Guide. We advise that copies be sent to the Postal Departments of the other Colonies for consideration and report.

5. *Question of reducing the commission on Money Orders to the United Kingdom.*

We consider that the commission on Money Orders to the United Kingdom should be reduced and made uniform throughout the Australasian Colonies, and recommend for the consideration of the other Postal Administrations the following rates, namely :—

	s.	d.
Not exceeding £1	0	6
Between £1 and £2	1	0
" £2 " £4	1	6
" £4 " £6	2	0
" £6 " £8	3	0
" £8 " £10	4	0

We further advise that the above rates be extended to Cape Colony, which country has intimated its desire for a reduction in the present charges.

6. *Postal Union Congress.*

This matter has been dealt with in special report relating to the Washington Congress.

10. *Question of apportioning between the Australasian Colonies the cost of future Conferences.*

Whilst we consider this to be a question more for Ministers than ourselves to deal with, we respectfully venture to express the opinion that the practice of the colony in which the Conference is held bearing the expense is the more desirable one. The first departure from the above practice was in the case of the Hobart Conference of 1895; but the circumstances were exceptional.

As it has been decided that these Intercolonial Conferences are to be held every year, the expenses need not, in our judgment, be necessarily very great.

11. *Question of the Colonies adopting a single sum, in lieu of existing rates, as their share of postage on parcels received via the United Kingdom, from European countries.*

The present Colonial share of postage on parcels from certain foreign countries via the United Kingdom is,—

	s.	d.
Not exceeding 2 lb	0	9
Between 2 lb. and 7 lb.	2	3
Between 7 lb. and 11 lb.	3	9

We recommend that, in lieu of these rates, the Colonies accept a sum of 2s. 6d. per parcel, light or heavy, up to 11 lb. in weight, as their share of postage on parcels received from countries which may adopt the principle of a uniform postage per parcel.

12. *Respecting the reduction and apportionment of postage on parcels exchanged between the United Kingdom and Australasia.*

This matter has recently been settled by correspondence. The rates of postage have been reduced to 1s. for the first lb., and 6d. for each additional lb. to 11 lb., the Colonial share thereof being 7d. and 3d. respectively.

13. *Question of allowing the "Objects of the Meeting" to be stated in writing in Notices of Meetings transmitted by post at packet rate.*

We recommend that this be allowed intercolonially.

15. *Money Order Telegrams.*

We recommend that the proposal of New Zealand to introduce the Telegraph Money Order System between that Colony and Australia and Tasmania be agreed to. Our experience of the system which is now in force between the Australian Colonies and Tasmania does not lead us to anticipate that any serious risk would be incurred by extending it to New Zealand.

We advise that the usual money order commissions be charged, plus the cost of a ten word telegraph message to the paying office, and another to the payee.

16. *Parcels Post Convention with France.*

In 1894 the London Office forwarded to the several Colonial Offices copies of a draft Convention and detailed regulations, prepared by France, for an exchange of parcels with Australia.

The proposed Convention and regulations relating thereto were considered at the Hobart (1895) Conference, and the Permanent Heads made the following report and recommendations, viz :—

“31. Parcel Post Convention with France.

“In July last the London Post Office informed the Colonies that the French Post Office desired a direct exchange of parcels between France and Australia by the French Mail Steamers (Messageries Maritimes), and, the proposal having been approved of by the Home Authorities, forwarded a draft Convention and regulations for the consideration of the Colonies.

“We have considered the draft submitted, and recommend that its provisions be agreed to, but that the following suggestions be made :—

“Article 6. That no fee for portorage and for the execution of Customs formalities be collected in the Colonies from the addressees of parcels from France.

“Article 14. That the introduction of the system of acknowledgment of delivery of parcels remain in abeyance until the system be adopted generally.

“Regulation 2. That the postage progress pound by pound, instead of in steps of 2 lb., 7 lb., 11 lb., as more consistent with the Colonial and English practice.

“Regulation 6.—3. That the Customs declaration forms be drawn up in the English language, and bear a sublineary translation in French, as is done with Postal Union forms.

“Regulation 8.—3. That the provision that mails ‘be landed, as far as possible, at the Custom House’ be omitted as unnecessary, as Customs work is done at the Post Offices.

“That it be provided that the cost of receptacles be shared equally between the countries of exchange.

“Regulation 12. That in lieu of this a simple regulation providing for the preparation of a quarterly account, and for the payment of the balance due as early as possible after the same has been ascertained be substituted.”

And at a meeting held in Adelaide, in July, 1895, of representatives from the Postal Departments of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, the matter received further attention, and was reported on as follows :—

“The London Office, in a letter dated 22nd April, 1895, submits a proposal from the French Office suggesting an addition to Article 1, as follows :—

“2. The Post Offices of the two countries shall later on be at liberty, if their regulations allow, to mutually fix rates and conditions for insured and ‘collection’ parcels.

“We see no objection to this addition, as it is purely permissive, and does not impose new conditions.

“Article 10.—We advise that this Article, which provides for indemnity up to 15 or 25 francs in the case of loss of, or damage to, parcels, be expunged. We find that in the Report of Permanent Heads submitted to the Hobart Conference, a recommendation to the above effect was omitted, although the Australasian Offices were unanimously in favour of omitting the clause in question.”

The recommendations of the Hobart Conference were communicated to the London Office, and a reply was received from that Office, stating that the principal suggestions of such Conference had been communicated to the French Post Office, and intimating :—

Articles 6 and 14.—That as these Articles are purely permissive, no alteration of the Convention is necessary.

Regulation 2.—That the French Post Office has no objection to the postage rates on parcels from Australia progressing pound by pound, and pointing out that if the postage on parcels exchanged between the United Kingdom and Australia be reduced (as has since been done), a similar reduction will, under Article 3 of the draft Convention, have to be made in the postage on parcels exchanged between France and Australia.

Regulations 6 and 8.—That in view of the explanations furnished, these regulations might stand as printed.

Regulation 12.—This regulation has been amended to meet the views of the Colonies.

Cost of Receptacles.—An assurance is given that there will be no difficulty in making satisfactory arrangements on this subject.

These proposals met with the concurrence of the Sydney and Adelaide Offices. The latter Office communicated with the other Colonies on the subject, and it was ultimately decided that the matter be considered at this Conference.

We recommend that the draft Convention as amended be agreed to, and that the Colonial share of postage on parcels from France be fixed at 2s. 1d. (2 francs 50 centimes) up to 3 kilogrammes (7 lb.), and 3s. 1d. (3 francs 70 centimes) between 3 and 5 kilogrammes (11 lb.); and the postage on parcels from Australia to France, Algeria, and Corsica might be :—

	To France.		To Algeria and Corsica.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Not exceeding 1 lb.	3	6	3	8½
Between 1 lb. and 2 lb.	3	0	3	11½
Between 2 lb. and 3 lb.	4	0	4	2½
Between 3 lb. and 4 lb.	4	3	4	5½
Between 4 lb. and 5 lb.	4	6	4	8½
Between 5 lb. and 6 lb.	4	9	4	11½
Between 6 lb. and 7 lb.	5	0	5	2½
Between 7 lb. and 8 lb.	5	3	5	5½
Between 8 lb. and 9 lb.	5	6	5	8½
Between 9 lb. and 10 lb.	5	9	5	11½
Between 10 lb. and 11 lb.	6	0	6	2½

19. *Universal Reply Letter-cards.*

The sale of reply post-cards in the Australasian Colonies is very limited, and it is evident that the great body of the public prefer to transact their correspondence by means of ordinary sealed letters (employing their own material for the purpose), which permits them to communicate at greater length than would be possible by means of letter-cards.

It is probable that a larger number of reply letter-cards would be received from Union countries than would be despatched hence, which would entail loss of revenue on the Colonies; but even were the number of reply letter-cards in both directions to be equal, the general or an extensive use of reply letter-cards by the public of the Colonies would cause a diminution of postal receipts.

For these reasons we are not favourable to the exchange of reply letter-cards with Postal Union countries.

Letter-card System.

We are not favourably impressed with the letter-card system, unless the postage can be made equal to letter rate. The revenue suffers by conveying them at a lower rate, and the postal departments are put to the expense of manufacturing the cards. Moreover the rates in the Colonies are not uniform being as follows:—

New South Wales and New Zealand	1½d. each
Victoria and Queensland	2d. „

The system is not in operation in South Australia, Tasmania, or Western Australia.

20. *Re-arrangement of the division of postage on intercolonial parcels.*

Queensland proposes that, as regards parcels exchanged between New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia, the postage of 8d. for the first pound, and 6d. for each additional pound should be equally divided, namely:—Despatching Office, 4d. for first pound, 3d. each additional pound; Receiving Office, 4d. for first pound, 3d. each additional pound; but that the division of postage on parcels exchanged between the above-named Colonies and New Zealand, Tasmania, and Western Australia should remain as at present, “because in their case a sea rate has to be paid, and the number of parcels exchanged is small in both directions.”

It is the practice, in exchanges of parcels between British Colonies, to allow each office of despatch a sufficient sum to cover cost of transmission to destination, and to equally divide the balance of postage between the two offices of exchange. This is the principle at present in operation between the Australasian Colonies, the postage on parcels exchanged being divided as follows, namely:—

Despatching office, 5d. for first lb.; 4d. each additional lb.

Receiving office, 3d. for first lb.; 2d. each additional lb.; the additional 2d. per lb. allowed to the office of despatch being intended to cover cost of transmission by sea or rail to destination.

The Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide offices have been in correspondence on the subject, and we would point out that one of the objects of the Australasian Colonies for some years past has been to secure uniformity between themselves in postal matters, but the adoption of the Queensland proposal would disturb the uniformity in division of postage at present existing between the Colonies, and establish two entirely different modes of apportioning such postage. After considering the matter we advise that a decision be deferred.

TELEGRAPH MATTERS.

7. *Telegraph Code, Alteration of.*

The use by New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Queensland of a code which differs from that in use in New Zealand, Western Australia, and the rest of the world (America only excepted) is undesirable.

The adoption of the uniform code, as fixed by the International Telegraphic Bureau, is preferable. The Colonies are further bound by their membership with that bureau to adopt this code.

The only objection to the alteration is the risk of error on the first introduction of a new code. It is considered that the change can be made with a minimum of inconvenience by dating it from the first of July next.

We therefore recommend its adoption from that date.

8. *Code Addresses.*

We recommend,—(1) That code addresses be not adopted intercolonially, except in the case of Tasmania and New Zealand, which for this purpose are international.

(2) That in connection with international messages code surnames be not accepted.

9. *Reply-paid Telegrams.*

No report to make.

11. *Reduction of Intercolonial Telegraph Rates.*

We refrain from making any recommendation. We would, however, suggest for the consideration of Ministers that in the event of an alteration of the rates being made, it should be on the basis of the International principle of counting addresses and signatures, as recommended at the Conferences held in Adelaide and Sydney, in 1890 and 1891, respectively.

18. *Consideration of Mr. Jules Renard's letter respecting Telephonic Communication between the capitals of Australia.*

This is a matter that requires careful consideration. The first cost would be more than double Mr. Renard's estimate for connecting Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, and the charge that would have to be made for conversation would be so large as to be almost prohibitory. The population of the Colonies is not sufficiently developed to enable an expensive work of this nature to be carried out so as to be remunerative at a reasonable charge to the public.

The line from Brisbane to Sydney alone would cost £41,750, or presuming that the existing poles could be used (which is impracticable) the estimate might be reduced to £24,250.

Even making no allowance for maintenance of the line or for working expenses, the interest and sinking fund on a 15 years' purchase is 10 per cent. of the capital cost (really £9 12s. 8d. per cent.) Therefore, for the line to be justifiable, a revenue of £4,175 will require to be guaranteed on the Brisbane and Sydney line alone. It must also be borne in mind that telephonic communication between the capital cities of Australia would materially interfere with the telegraph revenue.

We are, therefore, not prepared to recommend Mr. Renard's proposal for favourable consideration.

S. H. LAMBTON.
C. TODD.
JOHN McDONNELL.

General Post Office,
Sydney, 19 November, 1896.

REPORT BY PERMANENT HEADS OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA ONLY.

17. *Intention of Queensland to rescind, so far as that Colony is concerned, so much of Article 12 of the Australasian Postal Convention as relates to the admission of merchandise to the packet post; and*

21. *Charges intended to be levied by Queensland on Intercolonial newspapers.*

These two subjects are brought forward, as Queensland has notified its intention of withdrawing from those provisions of the Australasian Convention which refer to the transmission, intercolonially, of small packets up to 1 lb. in weight, and of requiring all such packets containing merchandise, other than samples, to be sent by parcel post only. The great objection we see to this is that it restricts the sending of small packets to those offices only to which the parcel post system extends, and besides this, whilst small packets can now be sent at 1d. per 2 oz., the public would have to pay a minimum postage of 8d., however small the value and weight of the packet. The reasons assigned by Queensland for this action are; that "there are obvious objections to the exchange of merchandise intercolonially as packets." "In most instances," it is stated, "the enclosures in such packets are dutiable, and as the declaration of value is not compulsory, it is often difficult to correctly assess the value of the goods enclosed, for Custom's purposes. It is also considered that dutiable articles can be more readily dealt with if confined to one channel, and the use of the packet post limited, as in the case of the Universal Postal Union, to *bonâ fide* samples and patterns having no value beyond their mere use as trade samples or patterns. There is also a serious objection to the transmission of articles of value by packet post because such packets cannot be traced."

The present practice of permitting articles of value to be exchanged by packet post between the Australasian Colonies has been in operation for many years past, and to deprive the public of a privilege which they have so long been permitted to enjoy, and in its place to substitute a system which (to them) will, in most instances, be more troublesome and costly, will no doubt be looked upon as a hardship and give cause for complaint. Moreover, the policy of the times seems to be to grant increased postal facilities to the public where practicable instead of curtailing those already existing.

The maximum weight of an Intercolonial packet is 1 lb., the postage being at the rate of 1d. per 2 oz., whereas the minimum postage on an Intercolonial parcel is 8d. It will thus be seen that the Queensland proposal is of a very restrictive character, as packets containing articles of trifling value, often sent as presents, on which no Customs duty would perhaps be payable, and which can now be forwarded for 1d. or 2d., will, in future, if the Brisbane office adheres to its determination, be subject to a postage of 8d., which seems unreasonable.

Moreover, it is thought that the Australasian Postal administrations will be put to considerable trouble in examining the contents of packets addressed to Queensland for the purpose of ascertaining whether merchandise is enclosed therein, and in taking the necessary action where such is enclosed to transfer such articles to the parcel post. Further, the uniformity in postal matters for which the Colonies have so long been labouring will again be retarded.

With regard to subject No. 21, Queensland intimates its intention to charge $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 2 oz. in lieu of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 10 oz. (as at present fixed by the Australasian Convention) on newspapers for other Colonies, and to surcharge at double the deficient postage those addressed to Queensland which are not prepaid at the higher rate; also to exclude from transmission at the rate of 1d. per lb. bulk parcels of newspapers.

We regret that the Queensland Post Office has seen fit to withdraw from the Convention in respect of these matters, as we consider the existing rates are fairly reasonable. It is well known that nearly all of the daily and all the weekly newspapers considerably exceed 2 oz. in weight, and we think it would be unwise to impose so high a rate upon them.

We therefore advise that Queensland be asked to reconsider these questions.

We also take this opportunity of bringing under Ministers' notice the fact that the Queensland Post Office has further notified that from the 1st January, 1897, newspapers received from other Colonies will not be delivered if they contain any advertisements relating to sweeps, consultations, or indecent advertisements.

S. H. LAMBTON.
C. TODD.

General Post Office,
Sydney, 19 November, 1896.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY, 14 NOVEMBER, 1896.

The Conference met at 10.15 a.m.

The Hon. Mr. COOK was elected President, and Mr. DALGAENO Secretary.

It was agreed, without formal motion, that the Press should not be admitted, at least while the mail tenders were being considered.

The Hon. Mr. COOK, in returning thanks for his election as President, gave a hearty welcome to the Delegates, and said the questions they had to decide were of particular importance. First, there was the question of the acceptance of tenders for the conveyance of mails to and from England; and the other matter was the very important question of whether they should be represented at the Washington Congress or not. He confessed that on looking into this last matter it had assumed more importance in his mind than it did before. However, before they finished they would decide whether they would be represented, and, if so, how many ought to go. To his mind, the main question was that of the mail tenders—that was by far the most important matter to settle. The question was whether the Colonies should submit to the terms and conditions offered in the tenders or not, and perhaps it would be as well to at once consider it. He was exceedingly glad to see the Delegates present, and hoped to try and make their stay as pleasant as possible.

THE WASHINGTON CONGRESS.

The Hon. Mr. COOK read and laid upon the Table lists of subjects it was proposed to bring before the Congress at Washington. [*See Appendices A and B.*]

Sir CHARLES TODD: There will be a further list from Berne.

The Hon. Dr. COCKBURN: Is it too late now to make suggestions?

Mr. LAMBTON explained that all suggestions should have been sent in in time to reach Berne by 1st October; but it having been pointed out that this could not possibly be done, a reply was received from Berne, stating that the suggestions from Australasia would be placed in the form of a supplementary agenda paper and circulated amongst the Delegates.

The Hon. Dr. COCKBURN: Do we send in our separate proposals?

Mr. LAMBTON: Oh no; it is for the Ministers here to decide what are to be the subjects for consideration, and how the representative is to vote on them.

The Hon. Mr. COOK: I was going to suggest that perhaps we might refer these matters to the permanent heads for report, to consider this special list of eight proposals, and such others as they can find they can deal with in the absence of the permanent heads of other Colonies.

The Hon. Dr. COCKBURN: Those of urgency.

The Hon. Mr. COOK: Any question they find they can deal with.

Mr. LAMBTON produced the agenda paper of the Washington Conference (just received) and explained it had not yet been translated.

The SECRETARY read a letter from Berne, dated 5th October, forwarding a portion of the agenda paper.

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM said he would like to see included the question of the adoption, inter-colonially, of a uniform telegraphic code.

Mr. LAMBTON: I have it here.

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM: We have the international system in West Australia.

The Hon. Mr. COOK: The matter is referred to here, "Telegraph Code, alteration of."

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM: Each Delegate should be placed in possession of a copy of the subjects we are asked to consider.

The Hon. Mr. COOK: That will be done when the permanent heads bring in their report.

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM: And in the meantime we can ascertain the views of our Governments, where the questions are not ones of mere detail.

The Hon. Dr. COCKBURN: Mr. Wittenoom means to have beforehand, as soon as possible, some idea of the subjects to be reported upon by the permanent heads, and asks that, as soon as they have decided, you send round to each of us a list of the matters that will be discussed, and if any of us wish to communicate with our Governments we can do so.

The Hon. Mr. COOK: Yes, that is right.

The Hon. Dr. COCKBURN then moved,—“That the list of subjects to be dealt with by the Conference read by the President be referred to the permanent heads, who are requested to add to the list any other matters of sufficient importance and urgency to be included in the list, and as soon as the list has been prepared that a copy of the subjects for discussion be sent round to each Delegate.”

The Hon. Mr. DUFFY seconded the motion, which was carried.

It was decided, without formal motion, that the Ministerial Delegates should go into committee to consider the question of the mail tenders; and the other members of the Conference and shorthand-writer withdrew.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM, seconded by the Hon. Mr. DUFFY, the Conference then adjourned till Thursday at 10 a.m.

THURSDAY,

THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER, 1896.

The Conference resumed at 2:50 p.m.

The minutes of the previous sitting were read and confirmed.

The Hon. Mr. Cook: We had better proceed first to have the report of the permanent heads.

Mr. Lambton, upon being called on by the Chairman, submitted the reports from the permanent heads on the questions of the ocean mail service, the Washington Congress, and the list of matters of importance and urgency selected by them for the consideration of the Conference, as per Appendix B.

The Hon. Mr. Cook: We had better deal with the Washington proposals first, I think. Shall we take the proposals *seriatim* or not?

The Hon. Mr. DUFFY: *Seriatim*.

Mr. Lambton then proceeded to read the report on representation at the Washington Postal Union Congress in May, 1897.

On section 2, "Reduction of Sea Transit Rates," being read,—

The Hon. Mr. DUFFY asked: What would the effect be as regards Australia?

Sir CHARLES TODD: It will be to our advantage.

The Hon. Dr. COCKBURN: Our sea transit rates are for mostly over 3,500 miles, and those remain at the maximum rate.

Sir CHARLES TODD: We would still gain. It is all in our favour.

The Hon. Dr. COCKBURN: It is practically raising the rates.

Sir CHARLES TODD: No; it will reduce the rates for the shorter distances.

On section 4, "Re indemnity for the loss of registered articles," being read,—

The Hon. Mr. DUFFY said: That does not affect us.

Mr. LAMBTON: It affects Queensland.

The Hon. Mr. Cook: This clause limits the amount payable.

The Hon. Dr. COCKBURN: It commits us up to that limitation. Why should we bother about this?

Sir CHARLES TODD: Some countries admit the principle, and we may all be forced into it ultimately, and compelled to recognise it.

The Hon. Dr. COCKBURN: Is not the time when they seek to enforce this the time to make the stipulation? It could be construed into a precedent.

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM: Does not this proposal come from West Australia?

Mr. LAMBTON: And Queensland and New Zealand, too.

On section 5, "Use of stamp,—Postage paid," being reached,—

The Hon. Dr. COCKBURN remarked: We insist on stamps in all cases.

Sir CHARLES TODD: Some Colonies do not.

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM: You do not collect anything on them in your colony?

Sir CHARLES TODD: Oh, yes, we do! We send in our accounts, but in some Colonies payment is made by a lump sum.

After the reading of the recommendations of the permanent heads of departments had been concluded,—

The Hon. Mr. Cook asked: Is there anything to take exception to in that Report?

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM moved,—"That the Report be adopted, subject to such additions and amendments as may be forwarded by the Colonies previous to the departure of the Australasian Delegate for Washington."

Seconded by the Hon. Mr. THYNNE, and carried.

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM asked whether any letter had been received from the Postmaster-General of Western Australia, embodying any suggestions he had to make to this Conference.

Mr. LAMBTON: Yes; and they have been included and provided for.

The Hon. Mr. DUFFY: Have you dealt with the Victorian suggestions?

Mr. LAMBTON: Yes.

Mr. LAMBTON then read a further report from the permanent heads on matters of importance and urgency for consideration by the Conference. (*See Appendix.*)

Section 16, "Parcel Post Convention with France,"

The Hon. Mr. DUFFY: What would be the effect of this monetarily?

Mr. LAMBTON: We have no Convention now.

The Hon. Mr. DUFFY: Is there any prospect of anything being done under it?

Mr. LAMBTON: Yes.

The Hon. Mr. Cook: I understand Mr. Duffy wants to know, has France agreed to the proposal?

Mr. LAMBTON: Yes, practically.

Section 7, "Alteration of Telegraph Code"

The Hon. Mr. Cook: I understand there are only eleven letters different in the International code and the code we use.

Sir CHARLES TODD: Eleven, and figures as well. New Zealand, Tasmania, West Australia, and the Cable Co. use the International code.

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM: Could not the change be made on the 1st of March?

The Hon. Dr. COCKBURN: Let it stand at the 1st July.

Section 22, "Electric Light and Power Regulations."

The Hon. Mr. DUFFY: We want an Act first. We cannot have regulations before an Act is passed.

The Hon. Mr. Cook: Victoria already has an Act dealing with the matter. The best plan seems to me for each colony to get its Act first, and then try and frame regulations.

The Hon. Mr. DUFFY: We could not well alter our regulations in any material particular just as we are starting the thing.

Sir CHARLES TODD: We should have uniform regulations.

The Hon. Mr. DUFFY: I do not see you can do anything till you have passed your Acts.

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM: No harm can come from suggesting draft regulations.

The Hon. Mr. THYNNE: If the electrical men here draft regulations they could submit them to Mr. Cook.

The Hon. Dr. COCKBURN: Leave out the request for uniformity.

The Hon. Mr. DUFFY: Our electrical man is not represented at all. It is intended to submit the matter to those present.

The

The Hon. Mr. THYNNE: We hope to have our Act through this Session, and regulations ready to put in force; but we want to have a standard set, with the help of the other colonies. If this be done, it will greatly assist those colonies which have no Acts yet.

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM: If the electrical experts draft a set of regulations, we can submit them to our electrical representatives.

The Hon. Mr. THYNNE: They could be sent to each Government.

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM: It seems to me a very reasonable proposal. Let it stand.

The Hon. Mr. COOK: The object to be gained is uniformity of action. Mr. Duffy objects.

The Hon. Mr. DUFFY: We have our Act, and are not on the same plane.

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM: The draft regulations would be only permissive. We are not bound to accept them.

The Hon. Dr. COCKBURN: Let the experts go on with it.

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM: It seems to me we would get a basis to go on.

Mr. LAMBTON read a report, signed by himself and Sir Charles Todd, Mr. McDonnell dissenting, on the subject of the proposal of Queensland to rescind, so far as that Colony is concerned, so much of Article 12 of the Australasian Convention as relates to the admission of merchandise to the packet post, and proposed charge on intercolonial newspapers.

The Hon. Dr. COCKBURN: I would like to see the provision about prohibiting newspapers with advertisements relating to sweeps carried out everywhere.

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM: It seems a pity to break away from the uniformity.

The Hon. Mr. DUFFY: I do not know what the Queensland representative has to say in support of the clause about newspapers.

The Hon. Mr. COOK: What about packets?

The Hon. Mr. DUFFY: It is intercolonial newspapers I am thinking of more. I do not see any excuse for the proposal.

The Hon. Mr. THYNNE: It makes a considerable difference to us. The Australasian Postal Convention was accepted by different Colonies with varying conditions. Victoria, as a result, treats magazines as newspapers.

The Hon. Mr. DUFFY: You are trying to shut out the *Town and Country*, *Australasian*, and *Leader*.

The Hon. Mr. THYNNE: We are forced to take this action to protect ourselves. Victoria is not bound by the Convention of 1894, and that Colony treats magazines and catalogues as newspapers. The other Colonies are flooding us with these books at newspaper rates.

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM: Is your Government going to insist on this?

The Hon. Mr. THYNNE: I understand so.

The Hon. Mr. COOK did not think it would make much difference to Queensland to yield on the points in question. The distinction sought to be made in regard to small packets was most invidious, and the reasons assigned for it were, in his opinion, most inadequate. When they were trying to establish better relations between the Colonies, a small amount of money should not be allowed to enter into their considerations. He strongly urged that Queensland should reconsider these matters.

The Hon. Mr. DUFFY moved,—“That the Queensland Government be asked to reconsider the proposal to rescind, as far as that Colony is concerned, so much of Article 12 of the Australasian Convention as relates to the admission of merchandise to the Packet Post, and also the charges intended to be levied by Queensland on intercolonial newspapers.”

Seconded by the Hon. Dr. COCKBURN and carried.

The Hon. Mr. COOK: I convey the resolution to you, Mr. Thynne, with the greatest heartiness.

The Hon. Mr. THYNNE: Undoubtedly I will bring the matter under the consideration of my colleagues; but still I would like to see the other Colonies give an example of better federal spirit.

The report of the permanent heads on the matters of urgency and importance to be considered by the Conference, after discussion and with consent, was, as revised, adopted.

The Hon. Mr. DUFFY moved,—“That a Minister of the Crown, controlling a post office if possible, to be accompanied by Mr. James Smibert, Deputy Postmaster-General of Victoria, as postal expert, attend the Washington Congress as representative of Australasia.” Mr. Smibert was retiring at the end of the year, and having done a great deal of good work in regard to postal matters not only for Victoria, but for the whole of Australasia, it would be a graceful wind-up to his career.

Seconded by the Hon. Dr. COCKBURN and carried.

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM: What about the election of delegate?

The Hon. Dr. COCKBURN: That will be arranged by the different Governments.

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM: I suppose the initiatory steps will be taken by the New South Wales Government?

The Hon. Dr. COCKBURN: Yes.

The Hon. Mr. WITTENOOM said: As the youngest and newest delegate to the Postal Conference he found the privilege had fallen to him to propose a vote of thanks to the President, who had so well conducted the business of the Conference. Important issues had been raised, which would have effects in after times in the Colonies connected with them, and their deliberations had been carried on in such a manner that those issues would be creditable to the different Colonies. The utmost good feeling had prevailed, and he was gratified to find the amicable manner in which the various matters had been approached. They had to express their thanks for the hospitable and generous manner in which the Government of this Colony, through Mr. Cook, had treated them. They had been enabled to combine business with pleasure, and they would all remember with pleasure their visit to Sydney, which was well known for its hospitality. He trusted Mr. Cook would be long spared to continue in his present position and to preside over many another Conference. He moved,—“That the thanks of the Conference be accorded to Mr. Cook.”

Seconded by the Hon. Mr. THYNNE and carried.

On the motion of the Hon. Dr. COCKBURN, seconded by the Hon. Mr. DUFFY, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Dalgarno for his services as Secretary, and those Ministers hurriedly left to catch the Express for Melbourne.

The Honorable Mr. COOK then intimated to the Secretary that the Ministers had drafted a cablegram to The Right Honorable the Postmaster-General, London, *re* Federal Mail Service, and desired its immediate transmission.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MAIL CONTRACTS FOR THE YEARS 1897 AND 1898,
(RETURN RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 22 Report from Printing Committee, 18 November, 1897.

Question.

1. MR. AFFLECK *asked* THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL, -

- (1.) What was the total amount for mail contracts, as accepted last month for 1898, per annum, for the Southern, Northern, and Western Districts?
- (2.) How much of that total amount is paid to the Railway Commissioners for the said mails on the railway?
- (3.) The same information with regard to the above Questions for the year 1897?

Answer.

	£	s.	d.
(1.) Western Districts	8,712	10	7
Southern „	13,311	5	3
Northern „	11,163	15	7
Suburban „	361	0	0
Total	33,548	11	5

(2.) The answer to the question of how much of the above sum is paid to Railway Department is "none," but the total amount paid to that Department for the carriage of all mails is about £68,000 per annum.

	£	s.	d.
(3.) Western Districts	6,433	4	0
Southern „	6,122	18	0
Northern „	7,161	7	9
Suburban „	208	0	0
Total	19,925	9	9

In addition to the contracts recently arranged, the amounts of which are given in reply to question No. 1, there are a number of contracts (entered into last year) which have a currency of one or two years, from the 1st January next; and, similarly, the contracts entered into last year (the amounts of which are given in reply to question No. 3) form only a portion of those in existence on the 1st January, 1897. If the Honorable Member desires information as to the total annual amounts of mail contracts for the years 1897 and 1898, I will be glad to supply it so soon as the particulars are available for the latter year.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

AUSTRALIAN MAIL SERVICE.

(CONTRACTS WITH THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL AND ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANIES.)

Printed under No. 19 Report from Printing Committee, 14 October, 1897.

Minute for Executive Council.

Postal and Electric Telegraph Department,
General Post Office, Sydney, 17 September, 1897.

I TRANSMIT herewith copies of the agreements recently entered into between Her Majesty's Postmaster-General and the Peninsular and Oriental and Orient Steam Navigation Companies, for the conveyance of the East India, China, and Australian mails, for a period of seven years, from the 1st February, 1898, and request authority, in accordance with the provisions of the 42nd section of the Postage Act of 1867, to assent to the terms and conditions of the contracts, so far as they are applicable to the Australian mails.

The principal features of these contracts are:—The total subsidy under the Peninsular and Oriental contract is £330,000 per annum, the proportion payable in respect of the Australian mails being assessed at £85,000 per annum, and the subsidy payable to the Orient Company is likewise £85,000, making a total of £170,000 per annum, of which it is proposed that the Imperial Government shall pay £95,000 and the Australian Governments £75,000 per annum, apportioned amongst them on the basis of population, the sea transit rates collected from either countries and colonies making use of the service, together with any fines that may be inflicted, being credited in similar proportions to the Imperial and Colonial Governments, namely, 19-34ths to the former, and 15-34ths to the latter.

The contracts provide for a fortnightly service by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's vessels between Brindisi and Adelaide, 686 hours being allowed for the voyage in each direction, and for an alternate fortnightly (together making a weekly) service by the Orient Company's vessels between Naples and Adelaide, for which 696 hours are to be allowed in each direction; allowance of extra time being made in each case during period of monsoon.

Power is reserved to Her Majesty's Postmaster-General to require the vessels employed in the service to call at Fremantle, instead of Albany, Western Australia, also to substitute for Brindisi or Naples another Continental port, or a port in the United Kingdom, and (in the case of the Peninsular and Oriental Company's contract) to modify the service by increasing or decreasing the frequency of the communication, or extending or curtailing the route, in any of which cases the period of transit, and the subsidy may be increased or diminished, as may be determined.

The Companies are responsible for the loss or damage of any parcel or any registered postal packet, to the extent of £1 and £2 respectively.

The contracts, although determinable on the 31st January, 1905, by either party giving two years' previous notice to the other, may be continued after that date until the expiration of a notice of like duration given by either party at any time.

JOSEPH COOK.

The Executive Council advise that the approval of the Government be given to the contracts entered into with the Peninsular and Oriental and Orient Steam Navigation Companies, as herein specified.—
ALEX. C. BUDGE, Clerk of Council. Min. 97-45, 21/9/97. Confirmed, 28/9/97. Approved.—
HAMPDEN, 21/9/97.

[Enclosures.]

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY AND HER MAJESTY'S
POSTMASTER-GENERAL.—EAST INDIA, CHINA, AND AUSTRALIA MAILS.

CONTRACT.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT under seal made and entered into this Twenty-fifth day of May One thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven between the Most Noble Henry Duke of Norfolk Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England K.G. Her Majesty's Postmaster-General (hereinafter called the "Postmaster-General" in which term his successors in the office of Her Majesty's Postmaster-General for the time being shall be included) on behalf of Her Majesty of the one part and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company whose office is situate at 122 Leadenhall-street in the City of London (hereinafter called "the Company" in which term their successors and permitted assigns shall be deemed to be included) of the other part.

These

*337—A

These presents witness that in consideration of the matters hereinafter appearing it is hereby agreed and declared between and by the parties hereto and the Postmaster-General (as to the covenants agreements and stipulations hereinafter contained on his part) doth hereby covenant and agree with the Company and the Company (as to the covenants agreements and stipulations hereinafter contained on their part) do hereby covenant and agree with the Postmaster-General in manner following (that is to say) :—

INTERPRETATION OF TERMS.

Interpretation of terms.

1. For all the purposes of this Agreement—

The term "Mails" means and includes all bags boxes baskets or other packages of letters and other postal packets including parcels (each parcel not exceeding the maximum weight of 11 lb.) without regard either to the country or place to which such packages may be addressed or to the country or place in which they may have originated and also all empty bags boxes baskets or other receptacles and all stores and other articles used or to be used in carrying on the Post Office service.

The term "postal packet" means any article for the time being transmissible by post and includes a parcel.

The term "parcel" means a parcel within the meaning of the Post Office (Parcels) Act 1882.

The term "mail-ship" means a vessel provided for the conveyance of mails under this Agreement.

The term "Adelaide" means the signalling station (known as "Adelaide Semaphore") at or off the port of the City of Adelaide in South Australia.

The term "the Admiralty" means the Commissioners for the time being for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom.

SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED

Company to convey mails on Mail Routes.

2.—(1.) Subject to the provisions of this Agreement the Company shall during the continuance of this Agreement at their own costs and charges in all respects convey by means of mail-ships all mails which the Postmaster-General or any of his officers or agents shall from time to time and at any time or times require to be conveyed—

(a) between Brindisi and Bombay and

(b) between Brindisi and Shanghai and

(c) between Brindisi and Adelaide and

(d) between all other ports from which the mail-ships shall start or at which they shall call or arrive under the provisions of this Agreement or for the purposes of the Company.

(2.) All such mails shall be conveyed at the respective intervals of time and on the three several routes specified in the First Schedule hereto (which routes are hereinafter referred to as "Mail Routes").

(3.) For the purpose of this Clause of this Agreement the postal authorities of the several Possessions or Colonies of India Ceylon Western Australia South Australia Victoria New South Wales the Straits Settlements and Hong Kong and their respective officers and agents shall unless and until the Postmaster-General shall give notice to the Company to the contrary be deemed the agents of the Postmaster-General.

Mode of conveyance.

3.—(1.) Subject to the provisions of this Agreement one of the mail-ships shall at such intervals as are specified in the First Schedule hereto in the case of each Mail Route put to sea from the port or place of departure on each of the said Routes at such day and hour as the Postmaster-General shall from time to time appoint or so soon after such day and hour as the mails are embarked on board such mail-ship and the mails conveyed by such mail-ship shall be delivered at the several ports or places of call and at the port or place of destination on the said Route in the order indicated in the said Route and shall be delivered at the port or place of destination on the said Route at such day and hour as the Postmaster-General may from time to time appoint.

(2.) The days hours and times of departure and arrival in this Clause referred to may be appointed by the Postmaster-General either by a time-table or time-tables to be from time to time approved by him or in such other manner as he shall think fit.

(3.) With respect to Mail Route No. 3—

(a.) The Company shall use the Princess Royal Harbour at the Port of Albany whenever the use of such harbour is practicable.

(b.) The Company shall (if requested by the Postmaster-General so to do) substitute the port of Fremantle in Western Australia for the port of Albany as a port of call under this Agreement as soon as the mail-ships can use the port of Fremantle with safety and cargo-work and coaling can be carried on at such port in all states of the weather Provided that whenever the mail-ships call at Fremantle such an additional number of hours shall be added to the period of transit applicable to Mail Route No. 3 as hereinafter provided as shall be agreed upon between the Postmaster-General and the Company or failing agreement to be settled by arbitration.

Mail-ships on Mail Route No. 3 to ply between the United Kingdom and Brindisi and between Adelaide Melbourne and Sydney.

4.—(1.) Subject to the provisions of this Agreement each of the mail-ships employed on Mail Route No. 3 shall on every outward voyage start from a port in the United Kingdom and after the due delivery at Adelaide of the mails intended to be delivered at that port continue her voyage to Melbourne and thence to Sydney and (subject as aforesaid) each of such mail-ships shall on every homeward voyage commence her voyage at Sydney (calling at Melbourne on the route to Adelaide) and after due delivery of the mails at Brindisi (either by the same mail-ship or by some other mail-ship to which such mails shall have been transferred) continue her voyage to a port in the United Kingdom whether any mails may or may not be required to be conveyed in any such mail-ship from or to the United Kingdom or to or from Melbourne or Sydney on any such voyage.

(2.) The times at which the mail-ships shall start from or arrive at the port of departure or arrival in the United Kingdom Melbourne and Sydney and the rate of speed of the mail-ships between the United Kingdom and Brindisi and between Adelaide Melbourne and Sydney shall be fixed by the Company at their discretion but not so as to affect the period of transit between Brindisi and Adelaide hereinafter referred to.

Period of transit on Mail Route No. 3.

5.—(1.) Subject to the provisions of this Agreement all mails to be conveyed under the provisions of this Agreement upon Mail Route No. 1 shall be conveyed in either direction between Brindisi and Bombay within a period of 302 hours (hereinafter referred to as the "period of transit").

(2.) The period of transit shall include 3 hours allowed for a stoppage at Aden and there shall be a stoppage at Aden on both the outward and homeward voyages for that time and no less.

(3.) During the prevalence of the south-west monsoon the period of transit from Bombay to Brindisi shall be extended by 24 hours.

Period of transit on Mail Route No. 2.

6.—(1.) Subject to the provisions of this Agreement all mails to be conveyed under this Agreement on Mail Route No. 2 shall be conveyed—

From Brindisi to Shanghai within a period of 736 hours and from Shanghai to Brindisi within a period of 742 hours (each of which periods is hereinafter referred to as the "period of transit").

(2.) The periods of transit shall respectively include the following times allowed respectively for a stoppage at each of the following ports (that is to say) :—

At Aden 3 hours.

At Colombo 24 hours.

At Penang 6 hours.

At Singapore 24 hours.

At Hong Kong (on outward voyage) 24 hours.

At Hong Kong (on homeward voyage) 30 hours.

(3.) During the prevalence of the north-east monsoon the period of transit from Brindisi to Shanghai shall be extended by 48 hours and during the prevalence of the south-west monsoon the period of transit from Shanghai to Brindisi shall be extended by 24 hours.

Period of transit on Mail Route No. 3.

7.—(1.) Subject to the provisions of this Agreement all mails to be conveyed under this Agreement on Mail Route No. 3 shall be conveyed in either direction between Brindisi and Adelaide within a period of 636 hours (hereinafter referred to as the "period of transit").

(2.)

(2.) The period of transit shall include the time allowed for all stoppages of the mail-ships at the intermediate ports and the mail-ships shall stop on both the outward and homeward voyages at Albany (or Fremantle) for 6 hours and no less and at Colombo for such period as may be necessary for the purpose of delivering receiving transferring transshipping or exchanging mails and in no case less than the period (not exceeding 24 hours) appointed by the Postmaster-General in that behalf.

(3.) During the prevalence of the south-west monsoon the period of transit from Adelaide to Brindisi shall be extended by 24 hours.

8.—(1.) Each period of transit shall be deemed to commence so soon after the time appointed by the Postmaster-General for the departure of the mail-ship from the port or place of departure or after the completion of the embarkation of the mails intended to be thereby conveyed (whichever shall last happen) as having regard to practical considerations the anchor of such mail-ship can be weighed or the mail-ship can be loosed from her moorings and each such period of transit shall be deemed to have been completed when the mail-ship has arrived and been anchored or moored in some position at the port or place of destination from which the mails can be conveniently disembarked.

Calculation of periods of transit.

(2.) In any case in which any outward or homeward voyage may be performed by more than one mail-ship the period of transit shall be reckoned from the commencement of the voyage of the mail-ship by which the first part of the conveyance shall be performed to the completion of the voyage of the mail-ship by which the last part of the conveyance shall be performed.

(3.) As regards Mail Route No. 1 the period of transit from Bombay to Brindisi shall be deemed to commence when the small steamships hereinafter mentioned with the mails on board arrive alongside the mail-ship by which the voyage is intended to be performed and the period of transit from Brindisi to Bombay shall be deemed to be completed when the said small steamships arrive alongside the mail-ship by which the voyage has been performed.

(4.) The times of commencement and completion of each period of transit shall be ascertained and recorded and all calculations in connection therewith shall be made by officers of the Postmaster-General in pursuance of arrangements to be from time to time made by him for the purpose and the decision of the Postmaster-General as to all questions relating to periods of transit shall be final and conclusive.

9. Should it be deemed by the Postmaster-General his officer or agents requisite for the public service that any mail-ship should at any time or times delay her departure from any port from which the mails are to be conveyed under this Agreement beyond the time appointed for her departure therefrom the Postmaster-General or any of his officers or agents shall have power to order such delay (not however exceeding 24 hours) by letter addressed to the master of any such mail-ship or any person acting as such and such letter shall be deemed a sufficient authority for such detention and in any such case such addition shall be made to the period of transit during which such detention shall take place as the Company may prove to be equal to the delay caused by such detention.

Power to delay departure of mail-ships.

10.—(1.) The Company shall be at liberty to convey on any Mail Route all or any of the mails hereby agreed to be conveyed in one and the same mail-ship or by branch mail-ships over any part of the Mail Routes on any outward or homeward voyage and the time-table on the Mail Routes shall be so arranged that the services shall be in correspondence both on the outward and homeward voyages.

Power to Company to convey mails in the same mail-ship or in branch mail ships. Time-tables on the mail routes to correspond.

(2.) Notwithstanding anything in the last preceding sub-clause the mails shall be conveyed on Mail Route No. 2 by one and the same ship in both directions between Colombo and Hong Kong and such ship shall call at the several ports or places between Colombo and Hong Kong mentioned in the First Schedule hereto in relation to the said Route.

(3.) Provided nevertheless that the provisions hereinbefore contained as to the conveyance of mails upon each of the Mail Routes and in particular as to the periods of transit shall not in any case be in anywise altered or affected by or in consequence of the exercise by or on the part of the Company of any power contained in this Clause or otherwise by the operation of this Clause.

CHARACTER OF MAIL-SHIPS AND CONDITIONS OF MAIL SERVICE.

11. Every mail-ship shall be a good substantial and efficient steamship of adequate power and speed and supplied with first-rate appropriate steam-engines and shall be in all respects suited to the performance of the services herein agreed to be performed within the respective times herein stipulated and shall be provided and kept by the Company seaworthy and in complete repair and readiness to the satisfaction of the Postmaster-General.

Character of mail-ships.

12. Every mail-ship shall be always properly and sufficiently equipped in all respects so as to render her constantly efficient for the said services and safe for the conveyance of mails and shall be manned with legally qualified and competent officers with appropriate certificates granted pursuant to the Act or Acts in force for the time being relative to the granting of certificates to officers in the merchant service and also with competent engineers and a sufficient crew of able seamen and other men and with a competent and registered surgeon.

Equipment and manning of mail-ships.

13. Every mail-ship and the equipment officers engineers and crew thereof shall be subject at all times to the inspection of the Postmaster-General or of such person or persons as he shall at any time or times authorise to make such inspection.

Inspection of mail-ships and their equipment officers &c.

14.—(1.) If the Postmaster-General shall at any time consider any mail-ship unfit for service under this Agreement he may require the Company to show cause why such mail-ship should not be withdrawn from the service and unless the Company shall forthwith show cause to the contrary to the satisfaction of the Postmaster-General he may declare such mail-ship to be unfit for service under this Agreement and after such declaration shall have been made the Company shall not employ such ship in the performance of this Agreement.

Power to declare mail-ship unfit.

(2.) In order to determine whether the Postmaster-General shall be justified in declaring any mail-ship unfit for service or whether the Company shall be able to show cause to the contrary a special examination may be made of the hull and machinery of any such mail-ship by such person or persons as may be appointed for that purpose by the Postmaster-General.

15.—(1.) The Company shall at their own cost and to the satisfaction of the Postmaster-General provide the following accommodation for the mail service (that is to say) :—

Mail and sorting rooms.

- (a.) They shall provide on each of the mail-ships a separate room or rooms for the convenient and secure deposit of the mails under lock and key.
- (b.) Until the Postmaster-General gives notice to the contrary they shall provide between Port Said and Bombay on each of the mail-ships employed on Mail Route No. 1 the following accommodation for the purpose of sorting and making up the mails namely on the uppermost deck a separate and convenient room of such dimensions as the Postmaster-General may from time to time reasonably require and in the fore part of the main-deck such additional space to be well ventilated and lighted as may be required.
- (c.) Until the Postmaster-General gives notice to the contrary they shall provide between Penang and Hong Kong on the uppermost deck of each of the mail-ships employed on Mail Route No. 2 a separate and convenient room of such dimensions as the Postmaster-General may from time to time reasonably require for the purpose of sorting and making up the mails.

(2.) Every such room shall be provided by the Company with all such furniture lamps fittings and other conveniences as shall be necessary or convenient for the purpose of sorting and making up the mails and all such furniture lamps fittings and other conveniences shall be from time to time cleansed and kept in repair and the oil for the lamps shall be supplied by the servants and at the cost of the Company.

(3.) The services of the crew of every mail-ship shall from time to time be given in the conveyance of the mails between the mail-room and the sorting room or rooms.

16.—(1.) The Company shall receive and allow to remain on board each of the mail-ships on her voyage between Port Said and Bombay and also while stopping at Aden and whether such mail-ship shall be with or without mails on board an officer of the Indian Post Office to take charge of and sort and make up the mails.

Mail-ship to convey officer of Post Office between Port Said and Bombay and Penang Singapore and Hong Kong

(2.) The Company shall receive and allow to remain on board each of the mail-ships on her voyage between Penang and Singapore and between Singapore and Hong Kong an officer of the Post Office to take charge of and sort and make up the mails.

(3.) A suitable first-class cabin with appropriate bed bedding and furniture shall at the cost of the Company be provided and appropriated by them for the exclusive use and accommodation of every such officer as in this Clause mentioned and every such officer shall be victualled by the Company as a chief cabin passenger without any charge either for his passage or victualling.

Mail-ship to convey sorting officers between Port Said and Bombay.

17. The Company shall also receive and allow to remain on board each of the mail-ships on her voyage between Port Said and Bombay and also while stopping at Aden and whether such mail-ship shall be with or without mails on board in addition to any officer in charge of the mails such number (not exceeding thirty) of officers of the Post Office as shall be reasonably required for the purpose of sorting and making up the mails and shall without any charge provide suitable accommodation and victualling for such additional officers either as chief cabin passengers or as fore cabin passengers at the option of the Postmaster-General.

Mail officers to be conveyed on shore.

18. At each port or place where the mails are to be delivered and embarked the officer having charge of mails shall whenever and as often as by him shall be deemed necessary for the public service be conveyed on shore and also from the shore to the mail-ship either with or (if such officer shall consider it necessary for the purposes of this Agreement) without the mails in a suitable and seaworthy boat of not less than four oars to be furnished with effectual covering for the mails and properly provided manned and equipped by the Company.

Landing and embarkation of mails.

19.—(1.) The Company shall at their own cost land deliver and embark the mails at all ports or places at which the mails are to be landed delivered and embarked and shall accordingly at their own costs provide suitable means and proper assistance for and shall be responsible for the due landing delivery and embarkation of the mails.

(2.) The Company and all commanding and other officers of the mail-ships and all agents seamen and servants of the Company shall at all times punctually attend to the orders and directions of the Postmaster-General his officers or agents as to the mode time and place of landing delivering and embarking the mails and shall at all times protect the mails to the utmost of their power.

(3.) The Company shall provide at Aden and at Bombay such small steamships as may be required for landing embarking and transshipping the mails with due despatch at each of the said places and such steamships respectively shall be so constructed as to be able at all states of the tide to land and embark the mails at Aden and at Bombay and the Company shall at all times keep such steamships in complete repair and ready for landing and embarking the mails accordingly at such places respectively.

Masters of mail-ships to take charge of mails when required.

20.—(1.) The master or commander of each of the mail-ships shall whenever required by the Postmaster-General his officers or agents so to do without any remuneration other than the subsidy payable to the Company under this Agreement take charge of the mails conveyed or intended to be conveyed by such mail-ship and shall adopt all necessary measures and precautions for the safety of the mails to the satisfaction of the Postmaster-General his officers and agents.

(2.) Each of such masters or commanders shall make the usual declaration or declarations required or which may hereafter be required by the Postmaster-General in such and similar cases and furnish such journals returns and information to and perform such services as the Postmaster-General his officers or agents may require.

(3.) Every such master or commander or officer duly authorised by him having charge of mails shall himself immediately on the arrival of the mail ship at any port or place deliver all mails for such port or place into the hands of the Postmaster of such port or place or of such other person at such port or place as the Postmaster-General shall authorise to receive the same and shall in like manner receive all the return or other mails to be forwarded in due course.

Additional conveyance of mails by Company.

21.—(1.) The Company shall during the continuance of this Agreement (in addition to the services hereinbefore contracted to be performed by them and without any payment other than the subsidy hereinafter specified) convey by any steamship of the Company performing any service undertaken by the Company for their own purposes all mails which the Postmaster-General or any of his officers or agents shall from time to time require to be conveyed.

(2.) The mails shall be conveyed by any such steamship as in this clause mentioned to and be delivered at any port or place to which such steamship shall sail and for which such mails are intended.

(3.) Provided that (except as regards the payment for the services to be rendered by the Company under this Clause) nothing contained in this Agreement shall impose on the Company with respect to the embarking delivering and conveyance of any mails which are to be conveyed by the Company under this Clause any obligations in excess of those now imposed by the law of England on the master of a vessel with respect to the embarking delivering and conveyance of letters received by him on board his vessel.

Company to undertake sanitary and quarantine arrangements.

22. The Company shall undertake and make all necessary and proper arrangements in connection with any statutory regulations of the Local Government Board relative to public health or in connection with quarantine which may be required in respect of the mail-ships or any other steamships of the Company carrying mails under this Agreement and no deduction shall be made from the subsidy payable under this Agreement nor shall the Company be otherwise liable for or by reason of any delay in the landing embarkation delivery or conveyance of any mails arising from the observance of any such regulations or the imposition of quarantine.

Explosives.

23.—(1.) Nothing in this Agreement shall exempt the Company or any mail-ship or other steamship of the Company from the operation of any Act of Parliament Order in Council bye-law or other provision of the law in relation to explosives.

(2.) The Company shall not convey in any mail-ship any article which in the opinion of the Postmaster-General is likely to endanger the mails.

Company to be responsible for loss or damage of parcels or registered postal packets.

24. The Company shall be responsible for the loss or damage of any parcel or of any registered postal packet of any kind conveyed or tendered for conveyance under this Agreement (unless such loss or damage be caused or occasioned by act of God the Queen's enemies pirates restraints of princes rulers or people jettison barratry fire collision or perils or accidents of the seas rivers and steam navigation) and in the event of any such loss or damage (except as aforesaid) the Company shall be liable to pay to the Postmaster-General in respect of each parcel or registered postal packet so lost or damaged (subject to the proviso hereinafter contained) such sum of money as shall be equal to the amount which may have been awarded and paid by the Postmaster-General at his sole option and discretion (and though not under any legal obligation) to the sender or addressee of such parcel or registered postal packet as compensation for the loss or damage thereof. Provided that such sum shall not in any case exceed £1 per parcel or £2 per registered postal packet.

Company not to convey letters other than the mails.

25. The Company shall not nor shall any master or commander of any mail-ship receive or permit to be received on board any mail-ship for conveyance thereby any letters other than those which are required or expressly permitted to be carried under this Agreement and any such letters as are not required by law to pass through the Post Office nor shall the Company or any such master or commander receive or permit to be received on board any mail-ship for conveyance thereby any mails on behalf of any colony or foreign country without the consent of the Postmaster-General and the entire postage of all mails conveyed by any mail-ship under this Agreement shall in all cases (as between the Postmaster-General and the Company) belong to the Postmaster-General and shall be absolutely free from all claims or demands whatever of or by the Company under or by virtue of this Agreement or otherwise.

MODIFICATION OF SERVICES.

Power to Postmaster-General to alter times of departure and arrival.

26. If at any time or times the Postmaster-General shall for any reason whatever desire to alter the particular days times or hours of departure from and arrival at the terminal ports of departure and destination respectively on each of the Mail Routes he shall (subject and without prejudice to the provisions of Clause 10 hereof) give to the Company three calendar months' notice in writing of such desire.

Power to Postmaster-General to substitute another European port or a port in United Kingdom for Brindisi.

27.—(1.) If at any time the Postmaster-General shall deem it necessary or expedient in the public interest to substitute for Brindisi as the port or place for the commencement and termination of the respective outward and homeward services under this Agreement another port on the Continent of Europe or in the United Kingdom the Company shall on receiving reasonable notice from the Postmaster-General to that effect convey the mails to and from such other port or place in substitution for Brindisi and this Agreement shall in respect of the services to be rendered by the Company be read and construed as if the name of such other port or place on the Continent of Europe or in the United Kingdom appeared throughout the same in lieu of the word Brindisi.

(2.) In the event of such substitution as hereinbefore mentioned the several periods of transit shall be respectively liable to be increased or diminished to such an extent as shall be agreed upon between the Postmaster-General and the Company or failing such agreement as shall be determined by arbitration and the subsidy payable hereunder shall be liable to be increased or diminished in such manner as (having regard to all the circumstances of the case and particularly to any expense or loss incurred or to any risk run by or any advantage accruing to the Company in consequence of such substitution) shall be agreed upon between the Postmaster-General and the Company or failing agreement shall be determined by arbitration.

28.—(1.) If at any time or times the Postmaster-General shall deem it necessary or expedient in the public interest that all the mails to be conveyed upon all the Mail Routes shall be conveyed from the United Kingdom by way of the Cape of Good Hope or Cape Horn instead of by way of the Suez Canal the Company on receiving reasonable notice from the Postmaster-General to that effect shall in lieu of the services hereinafter contracted to be performed convey the mails by means of mail-ships by way of the Cape of Good Hope or Cape Horn from and to such port in the United Kingdom as may be agreed upon between the Postmaster-General and the Company or in default of agreement be determined by arbitration to and from the terminal ports or places upon each of the outward Mail Routes serving as far as practicable the several places or ports of call on each Mail Route.

Power to Postmaster-General to substitute Cape route for route via Suez Canal.

(2.) In such case the mails shall be conveyed at such rates of speed and on such other conditions as may be agreed upon between the Postmaster-General and the Company and in default of agreement may be determined by arbitration.

(3.) All the provisions of this Agreement with reference to the services to be performed by the Company shall (so far as the same are applicable) apply to the embarking conveying landing and delivery of the mails under the provisions of this Clause.

(4.) The Postmaster-General shall not in respect of the substituted service in this Clause mentioned make any additional payment to the Company unless by reason of the performance of such substituted service and on no other account the Company shall sustain a loss of general revenue or incur expenses exceeding the expenses incurred in the conveyance of the mails to and from Brindisi under the provisions of this Agreement.

(5.) Should any such loss or additional expenses as last aforesaid be incurred or sustained by the Company the Postmaster-General shall pay to the Company in addition to the said subsidy such sum of money as may be agreed upon between him and them or failing such agreement as shall be determined by arbitration and upon such arbitration due regard shall be had to the respective interests of the Company and the Postmaster-General in the performance of the voyage or voyages of any mail-ship by which the mails shall have been conveyed under the provisions of this Clause.

29. The powers conferred upon the Postmaster-General by the last two preceding Clauses may be exercised in relation to a temporary or a permanent change of route or of port (as the case may be) and in the case of a temporary change may be exercised as often as the Postmaster-General deems it expedient and the Postmaster-General may in his notice requiring the change specify the period during which such change shall take effect or require such change to be made until further notice and at the expiration of the time limited by the Postmaster-General or upon receiving reasonable notice from the Postmaster-General to that effect (as the case may be) the Company shall revert to the original route or port (as the case may be).

Mode of exercise of powers under the last two preceding Clauses

30.—(1.) If at any time or times the Postmaster-General shall desire to modify (otherwise than as aforesaid) the services hereby agreed to be performed (as for example to increase or decrease the frequency of the conveyance of the mails between any of the ports or places to or from which the mails are to be conveyed under this Agreement or to extend the conveyance of the mails to any other ports or places not specified in this Agreement or to discontinue the conveyance of such mails to or from any port or place specified in this Agreement) he shall be at liberty so to do on giving reasonable notice to the Company and from and after the expiration of any such notice the modified services thereby required to be performed shall be accordingly performed by the Company in lieu of the services hereby agreed to be performed and in any and every such case if such notice cause an increase of the services hereby agreed to be performed the Postmaster-General shall in respect of such increase pay to the Company in addition to the subsidy hereinafter specified such sum of money as may be agreed upon between the Postmaster-General and the Company or failing such agreement as shall be determined by arbitration or if such notice cause a decrease of the services hereby agreed to be performed the Postmaster-General shall in respect of such decrease deduct from the said subsidy such sum of money as may be agreed on as aforesaid or failing such agreement as shall be determined by arbitration.

Power to modify services.

(2.) The particular days times and hours of departure from and arrival at any ports or places or of other services (if any) which may be appointed under this Clause shall for the time being be deemed to be the days times and hours of departure and arrival of the mail-ships and of other services under this agreement and shall be observed and kept by the Company accordingly.

ADMIRALTY CLAUSES.

31. During the continuance of this Agreement the several stipulations and agreements specified in the Second Schedule hereto shall be binding on the Company as regards the mail-ships plying on Mail Routes 1 and 2.

Clauses in Second Schedule to bind Company.

32.—(1.) Subject to the provisions of the Subvention Agreement between the Admiralty and the Company dated 3rd April 1894 or of any subsequent Subvention Agreement the Admiralty shall at any time during the continuance of this Agreement if they shall consider it necessary for the public interest so to do have power and be at liberty to purchase all or any of the mail-ships at a valuation or to charter exclusively for Her Majesty's service at a rate of hire to be mutually fixed and agreed on by them and the Company or in case of difference to be determined by arbitration and every or any difference as to the amount of valuation or hire or rate of hire so to be paid shall be determined by arbitration.

Power to Admiralty to purchase or charter the mail-ships

(2.) In the case of such purchase or hire the services hereby contracted to be performed shall be performed by other steamships of the Company of a similar description to the mail-ships purchased or hired if the Company can in due and proper time furnish such steamships.

(3.) In the event of the Company being allowed by the Postmaster-General to continue to perform only a portion of such services there shall be paid to the Company such annual sum of money as shall be agreed upon between the Postmaster-General and the Company and in case of their differing as to the amount the difference shall be determined by arbitration.

SUBSIDY AND DEDUCTIONS.

33. In consideration of the covenants and agreements herein contained and on the part of the Company to be observed and performed and of the due and faithful performance by the Company of all the services under this Agreement there shall be payable to the Company during the continuance of this Agreement (out of such aids or supplies as may from time to time be appropriated by Parliament for that purpose) a yearly subsidy or sum after the rate of £330,000 per annum or (in the event of any such default or failure or other event as hereinafter mentioned) so much of the said subsidy or sum as shall remain payable in respect of any year after making such deductions therefrom (if any) as hereinafter in that behalf mentioned in respect of any such default or failure or other event.

Subsidy.

34. There shall be forfeited and paid by the Company to the Postmaster-General the following sums in the following events that is to say—

Payments or deductions.

(1.) If the Company shall fail to commence the performance of the services hereby agreed to be performed on the 1st February 1898 or on such subsequent day as the Postmaster-General may appoint the Company shall forfeit and pay the sum of £100 for every complete period of 24 hours which shall elapse before the Company shall commence the performance of such services.

Provided that—

- (a) the amount which shall become payable by the Company in respect of such default as aforesaid so far as the same shall relate to any one of the Mail Routes shall not in the aggregate exceed the sum of £20,000; and
- (b) the payment by the Company of the aforesaid amount shall not prejudice the right of the Postmaster-General to insist on any payment or deduction to which he may be entitled in respect of the same default under the provisions hereinafter contained.

(2.) On each occasion when the Company shall fail to provide a mail-ship in accordance with this Agreement at Brindisi Bombay Shanghai or Adelaide ready to put to sea at the appointed time or if any mail-ship provided by the Company as aforesaid shall not in fact put to sea and proceed on her voyage at the appointed time the Company shall forfeit and pay—

- (a) the sum of £500 in case such default occurs at Brindisi Bombay or Shanghai and the sum of £250 in case such default occurs at Adelaide; and
- (b) a further sum of £100 in case such default occurs at Brindisi Bombay or Shanghai and a further sum of £50 in case such default occurs at Adelaide for every successive complete period of 24 hours which shall elapse before such mail-ship shall actually put to sea and proceed on her voyage in pursuance of this Agreement.

(3.)

(3.) On each occasion when the mails shall not be conveyed in either direction between Brindisi and Bombay Brindisi and Shanghai and Brindisi and Adelaide within the respective periods of transit hereinbefore specified the Company shall forfeit and pay the sum of £100 for every complete period of 12 hours (in the case of voyages between Brindisi and Bombay and Brindisi and Shanghai) or of 24 hours (in the case of voyages between Brindisi and Adelaide) by which the said respective periods of transit hereinbefore provided shall be exceeded.

Provided that no such payment as in this sub-clause mentioned shall be made if the Company shall prove to the satisfaction of the Postmaster-General that such default arose wholly or in part from any cause or causes altogether beyond the control of the Company.

Provided also that if by reason of any law or regulation against Sunday labour in any port or place from or at which a mail-ship shall start or call under this Agreement any mail-ship employed or about to be employed in any service under this Agreement shall be delayed then and in every such case no such payment as in this sub-clause mentioned shall be made in respect of any default in the conveyance of any mails under this Agreement caused by such delay.

(4.) The aggregate amount of the sums payable under sub-clause (2) and under sub-clause (3) of this Clause respectively in relation to any one voyage shall in the case of payments under sub-clause (2) never exceed by more than £1,000 and in the case of payments under sub-clause (3) never exceed by any amount that part of the subsidy for the current year which shall be applicable to the voyage.

(5.) Each and all of the said several sums of money hereinbefore stipulated to be paid by the Company to the Postmaster-General in the event of failure or default of the Company as aforesaid shall be due and payable as stipulated ascertained or liquidated damages and not by way of penalty and (except as aforesaid) from whatever cause or causes such failure or default may have arisen and although no loss shall be or may have been sustained by reason or in consequence of such failure or default and every such sum shall at the option and discretion of the Postmaster-General be either deducted by him from any moneys then payable or which may thereafter become payable to the Company under this Agreement or be recovered as a debt to Her Majesty with full costs of suit.

(6.) The payment of or liability to pay any sum hereinbefore mentioned shall in no way prejudice the right of the Postmaster-General to treat as a breach of this Agreement the failure in respect of which such sum shall become payable by the Company as aforesaid.

35. If and whenever the Postmaster-General gives notice to the Company that he no longer requires them to provide accommodation for the sorting and making up of the mails on Mail Routes No. 1 and No. 2 and to receive and convey Officers of the Post Office for the same purpose there shall be deducted from the said subsidy—

(a) If and so far as such notice relates to Mail Route No. 1 the sum of £7,500.

(b) If and so far as such notice relates to Mail Route No. 2 the sum of £1,000.

36. All accounts between the Postmaster-General and the Company in relation to the said subsidy and any deductions therefrom as hereinbefore provided shall be made out and settled quarterly up to and as soon as conveniently may be after the 31st day of March the 30th day of June the 30th day of September and the 31st day of December in each year and the amount of balance (if any) which shall be due to the Company on each such quarterly account shall be paid by the Postmaster-General at the General Post Office London out of such aids or supplies as aforesaid upon the settlement of each such account and for the purposes of such accounts the said subsidy shall be deemed to accrue from day to day subject to the liability of the same to the several deductions aforesaid.

TERM OF AGREEMENT AND INCIDENTAL PROVISIONS.

37. This Agreement shall come into operation on the 1st day of February 1898 and shall continue in force until the 31st day of January 1905 inclusive and shall then determine if notice in writing to that effect shall have been given twenty-four calendar months previously to the said last-mentioned date either to the Company by the Postmaster-General or to the Postmaster-General by the Company and if not so determined this Agreement shall continue in force after such last-mentioned date until the expiration of a notice of a like duration given by either party at any time.

38.—(1.) If on the determination of this Agreement any mail-ship shall or ought to have started or shall start on any voyage in conformity with this Agreement or any other steamship of the Company shall have started on a voyage with mails on board such voyage shall be continued and performed and the mails be delivered and embarked during and at the completion of the same and all the provisions of this Agreement be observed as if this Agreement had remained in force with regard to any such ship and services and with respect to such ship and services this Agreement shall be considered as having terminated when such ship shall have reached her port or place of destination and such services shall have been performed.

(2.) In respect of any such voyage as in this Clause mentioned the Company shall not be entitled to receive any payment or compensation over and above the subsidy payable under this Agreement on the day when this Agreement (otherwise than as to any such voyage) determines.

SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS.

39. It shall be lawful for the Postmaster-General at any time and from time to time to delegate any of the powers vested in him by virtue of these presents to such person or persons as he shall think fit.

40. The Company shall not assign underlet or dispose of this Agreement or any part thereof without the consent of the Postmaster-General signified by an instrument in writing.

41. In case this Agreement or any part thereof is assigned underlet or otherwise disposed of and in case of any great or habitual breach on the part of the Company their officers agents or servants of this agreement or of any covenant matter or thing herein contained it shall be lawful for the Postmaster-General if he shall think fit and notwithstanding there may or may not have been any former breach of this Agreement by an instrument in writing to determine this Agreement without any previous notice to the Company and the Company shall not be entitled to any compensation in respect of any such determination, and such determination shall not deprive the Postmaster-General of any right or remedy to which he would otherwise be entitled by reason of such breach or any prior breach of this Agreement. Provided that in case within seven days after service as aforesaid on the Company of a notice determining this Agreement the Company give notice in writing to the Postmaster-General that they dispute the sufficiency of such breach to justify the Postmaster-General in determining this Agreement such dispute shall be referred to arbitration and in such case this Agreement shall notwithstanding such notice of determination continue in force unless and until an award shall be made to the effect that such breach or breaches was or were sufficient to justify the Postmaster-General in giving such notice of determination as aforesaid.

42. The Postmaster-General will use his good offices with the Governments of the Australian Colonies with a view to secure that the Company shall not be compelled to pay in respect of any mail-ship calling at any port or place in any of the said Colonies any port or light dues or other charges of a public nature other than or in excess of the dues or charges for the time being payable at the like port or place in respect of any other vessel of a like character whether employed in the conveyance of mails or not.

43. The Schedules to this Agreement shall be deemed to be part of this Agreement in all respects as if the same had been incorporated therein.

44.—(1.) Any notice to terminate this Agreement if given by the Postmaster-General shall be served by being left at or forwarded by post to the Company at their office or last known place of business in London and any such notice if given by the Company and any other notices given by the Company shall be served by being sent by post to the Secretary of the Post Office at the General Post Office London.

(2.) All notices or directions (other than any notice to terminate this Agreement) which the Postmaster-General his officers or agents are hereby authorised to give to the Company their officers servants or agents may at the option of the Postmaster-General his officers or agents either be delivered or sent by post to the master of any mail-ship or to any other officer or agent of the Company in charge or management of any mail-ship or be left for or forwarded by post to the Company at any office or place of business of the Company and any notices or directions so given left or sent by post shall be binding on the Company.

Deduction in case sorting accommodation and conveyance of Sorting Officers not required.

Accounts.

Commencement and duration of Agreement.

Voyages commenced when Agreement determines to be completed.

Postmaster-General may delegate his powers. Company not to assign &c. Agreement. Power to Postmaster-General to determine Agreement summarily on breach.

Postmaster-General to use his good offices with the Australian Colonies in respect to port dues. Schedule to be part of Agreement. Notices.

45. In pursuance of the provisions contained in an Act of Parliament passed in the 22nd year of the reign of King George the III intituled "An Act for restraining any person concerned in any contract commission or agreement made for the public service from being elected or sitting and voting as a Member of the House of Commons" no Member of the House of Commons shall be admitted to any share or part of this Agreement or to any benefit to arise therefrom contrary to the true intent and meaning of the said Act. No Member of Parliament to benefit by Agreement.

46. This Agreement shall not be binding until it has been approved by a resolution of the House of Commons. Agreement to be approved by House of Commons.

BOND.

47. And lastly for the due and faithful performance of all and singular the covenants conditions provisocs clauses articles and agreements hereinbefore contained which on the part and behalf of the Company are or ought to be observed performed fulfilled and kept the Company do hereby bind themselves and their successors unto our Sovereign Lady the Queen in the sum of £60,000 of lawful money of the United Kingdom to be paid to our said Lady the Queen her heirs and successors by way of stipulated or ascertained damages hereby agreed upon between the Postmaster-General and the Company in case of the failure on the part of the Company in the due execution of this Agreement or any part thereof. Bond clause.

In witness whereof the Postmaster-General hath hereunto set his hand and seal and the Company have hereunto affixed their Common Seal the day and year first before mentioned.

The Schedules hereinbefore referred to :—

THE FIRST SCHEDULE.

MAIL ROUTES.

ROUTE No. 1.

Once a Week.

From Brindisi to Bombay (via the Suez Canal) calling at Aden and from Bombay to Brindisi (via the Suez Canal) calling at Aden.

ROUTE No. 2.

Once in every Two Weeks.

From Brindisi to Shanghai calling at Aden Colombo Penang Singapore and Hong Kong and from Shanghai to Brindisi calling at Hong Kong Singapore Penang Colombo and Aden.

ROUTE No. 3.

Once in every Two Weeks.

From Brindisi to Adelaide calling at Aden Colombo and Albany (or Fremantle) and from Adelaide to Brindisi calling at Albany (or Fremantle) Colombo and Aden.

THE SECOND SCHEDULE.

1. The Company shall and will when and so often as they or the masters of the mail-ships shall be required in writing so to do by the Admiralty the Secretary of State for India or the Secretary of State for the Colonies or by any officers or agents acting under their authority (such writing to specify the rank or description of the person or persons to be conveyed and the accommodation to be provided for him or them) receive provide for victual and convey to from and between any of the ports or places to from and between which any of the mail-ships are to proceed in the performance of this Agreement (in addition to any officers of the Post Office employed in connection with the mails conveyed or to be conveyed under this Agreement) Government passengers.

- (a) Any number of naval military or civil officers in the service of Her Majesty not exceeding eight in any one ship with or without their wives and children as chief cabin or first-class saloon passengers (together with their servants male and female who are to have the same accommodation as that provided for the servants of other passengers or of officers of the Company)
- (b) Any number of non-commissioned and warrant officers not exceeding four in any one ship with or without their wives and children as fore cabin or second-class passengers and
- (c) Any number of seamen marines soldiers or artificers in Her Majesty's service not exceeding ten in any one ship with or without their wives and children as third-class passengers to be always provided with effectual protection from rain sun and bad weather and not exposed on deck without such competent protection and to have hammocks or bunks (subject to the approval of the Admiralty) placed between decks.

2.—(1.) The passengers who shall be conveyed in pursuance of the last preceding clause (who are hereinafter designated "Government passengers") with their families shall be treated in no respect whether as regards food cabin or other accommodation or aught else in a way inferior to that in which ordinary passengers of the same class are treated or to that required by the regulations of Her Majesty's Transport Service. The messing of the second-class and the victualling of the third-class naval adult passengers shall include in each day one half gill of spirits. Their accommodation.

(2.) The several classes of passengers shall mess in separate places and medical attendance medicine and medical comforts mess utensils and fittings cooking utensils articles for table use and mess places' fuel lights, requisite articles of bedding and all other necessaries shall be provided for them in like manner as for ordinary passengers of the like classes respectively.

3. The passage money for Government passengers and their families and servants respectively shall unless otherwise agree between the Admiralty and the Company be the same as that charged by the Company for ordinary passengers of the same class and shall include all the particulars mentioned in the last preceding Clause and if and whenever any alteration of rates for ordinary passengers shall be made by the Company the Admiralty shall be immediately apprised of such alteration. Passage money.

4. Returns of the embarkation and disembarkation of all Government passengers shall be furnished to the Director of Transports immediately after the departure and arrival of each mail-ship. Returns to be furnished.

5. Payments for passage money for Government passengers shall be applied for by invoices according to a form to be obtained from the office of the Director of Transports and shall be made only upon such applications and upon the production of the orders for the passage together with a certificate under the hand of the commanding officer specifying the number of third-class passengers (men women and children) conveyed with the ages and sexes of the latter and stating the periods during which they have been respectively regularly supplied with provisions while on board and also a certificate under the hand of each first and second class passenger of his or her having being landed at the place of destination and of his or her having been properly accommodated and messaged during the voyage and specifying the dates from and to which they were messaged computed from the first to the last dinner meal. Payments how made.

6. The Company shall convey for every Government passenger free of charge the quantity of baggage (whether such quantity shall be estimated or ascertained by bulk or weight) to which he is entitled under the Government Regulations for the time being in force and freight shall be payable for any extra baggage of a Government passenger after the same rate as the freight payable according to the regulations of the Company for the time being for extra baggage of an ordinary passenger of the same class but the same must be paid by the passengers themselves. Baggage.

7. The passage money for the wives families and servants of commissioned and civil officers when not ordered to be conveyed at the public expense shall be paid to the Company by the officers themselves. Wives and families.

8. In all cases where an officer in the naval military or civil service of Her Majesty who may not be entitled to a passage at the public expense shall require a passage on board any of the mail-ships the Company shall be bound to provide when they have room in such mail-ship a passage for such officer in preference to any non-official passenger not already booked and shall charge no higher rate for such passage than is chargeable for an ordinary passenger. Officers in Her Majesty's service to have preference to other passengers.

9.—(1.) The Company shall receive on board each of the mail-ships and shall convey on behalf of the Admiralty—

- (a) Any small packages which may be ordered for conveyance and also
- (b) (On receiving from the British naval officer in command of any naval station two days' previous notice) any naval or other stores not exceeding at any one time in any one mail-ship 10 tons weight or 15 tons of 40 cubic feet each in measurement. Admiralty packages to be conveyed. (2.)

(2.) The Company shall convey and deliver such small packages and stores at the lowest rates of freight charged by the Company for private goods of a similar character or description and shall give immediate notice to the Admiralty of any alteration of such rates of freight and shall in all cases be responsible for the custody and safe and speedy delivery of such packages and stores.

Signed sealed and delivered by the above-named Henry Duke }
of Norfolk Her Majesty's Postmaster-General in the } NORFOLK E.M.
presence of } [L.S.]

ANDREW M. OGILVIE Private Secretary to the Postmaster-General.

The Common Seal of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation }
Company was hereunto affixed in the presence of } [L.S.]

THOS. SUTHERLAND }
LEVEN AND MELVILLE } Directors.
F. D. BARNES }
H. H. JOSEPH Secretary.

HER MAJESTY'S POSTMASTER-GENERAL AND THE ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.—
AUSTRALIAN MAILS.

CONTRACT.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT under Seal made and entered into this 25th day of May 1897 between the Most Noble Henry Duke of Norfolk Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England K.G. Her Majesty's Postmaster-General (hereinafter called the "Postmaster-General" in which term his successors in the office of Her Majesty's Postmaster-General for the time being shall be deemed to be included) on behalf of Her Majesty of the first part the Orient Steam Navigation Company Limited whose registered office is at No. 13 Fenchurch-avenue in the City of London (hereinafter called "the Company" in which term their successors and permitted assigns shall be deemed to be included) of the second part and the Law Guarantee and Trust Society Limited whose registered office is situate at 49 Chancery-lane in the county of London of the third part.

These presents witness that in consideration of the matters hereinafter appearing it is hereby agreed and declared between and by the parties hereto and the Postmaster-General (as to the covenants agreements and stipulations hereinafter contained on his part) doth hereby covenant and agree with the Company and the Company (as to the covenants agreements and stipulations hereinafter contained on their part) do hereby covenant and agree with the Postmaster-General in manner following that is to say:—

INTERPRETATION OF TERMS.

Interpretation
of terms.

1. For all the purposes of this Agreement—

The term "mails" means and includes all bags boxes baskets or other packages of letters and other postal packets including parcels (each parcel not exceeding the maximum weight of 11 lb.) without regard either to the country or place to which such packages may be addressed or to the country or place in which they may have originated and also all empty bags boxes baskets or other receptacles and all stores and other articles used or to be used in carrying on the Post Office service.

The term "postal packet" means any article for the time being transmissible by post and includes a parcel.

The term "parcel" means a parcel within the meaning of the Post Office (Parcels) Act 1882.

The term "mail-ship" means a vessel provided for the conveyance of mails under this Agreement.

The term "Adelaide" means the signalling station (known as "Adelaide Semaphore") at or off the port of the City of Adelaide in South Australia.

SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED.

Company to
convey mails
once a fortnight
each way
between Naples
and Australia.

2.—(1.) Subject to the provisions of this Agreement the Company shall once in every fortnight during the continuance of this Agreement at their own costs and charges in all respects convey *via* the Suez Canal and by means of mail-ships in each direction between Naples and Adelaide and between all other ports from which the mail-ships shall start or at which they shall call or arrive under the provisions of this Agreement or for the purposes of the Company all mails which the Postmaster-General or any of his officers or agents shall from time to time and at any time or times require to be conveyed.

(2.) For the purposes of this clause of this Agreement the postal authorities of the several Possessions or Colonies of Ceylon Western Australia South Australia Victoria and New South Wales and their respective officers and agents shall unless and until the Postmaster-General shall give notice to the Company to the contrary be deemed the agents of the Postmaster-General.

Mode of
conveyance.

3.—(1.) Subject to the provisions of this Agreement one of the mail-ships shall once in every fortnight upon such days at regular intervals and at such hours respectively as the Postmaster-General shall from time to time appoint (either by a time-table or time-tables to be from time to time approved by him or otherwise as he shall think fit) and immediately after the mails are embarked put to sea from Naples and proceed (*via* the Suez Canal) to Adelaide and one of the mail-ships shall at like periods and times and in like manner put to sea from Adelaide and proceed (*via* the Suez Canal) to Naples and each of such mail-ships shall on each outward and homeward voyage respectively proceed to call at and start from the following intermediate ports or places namely Colombo and Albany (or Fremantle).

(2.) The Company shall use the Princess Royal Harbour at the Port of Albany whenever the use of such harbour is practicable.

(3.) The Company shall (if requested by the Postmaster-General so to do and upon reasonable notice) substitute the Port of Fremantle in Western Australia for the Port of Albany as a port of call under this Agreement as soon as the mail-ships can use the Port of Fremantle with safety and cargo-work and coaling can be carried on at such port in all states of the weather Provided that whenever the mail-ships call at Fremantle such an additional number of hours shall be added to the period of transit hereinafter referred to as shall be agreed upon between the Postmaster-General and the Company or failing agreement be settled by arbitration.

Outward mail-
ships to start
from the United
Kingdom and
proceed to
Melbourne and
Sydney and
homeward mail-
ships to start
from Sydney
call at Melbourne
and proceed to
United
Kingdom.

4.—(1.) Each of the mail-ships shall on every outward voyage from Naples to Adelaide as aforesaid start from a port in the United Kingdom and after the due delivery at Adelaide of the mails intended to be delivered at that port continue her voyage to Melbourne and thence to Sydney and each of the mail-ships shall on every homeward voyage commence her voyage to Naples at Sydney (calling at Melbourne on the route to Adelaide) and after the due delivery of the mails at Naples continue her voyage to a port in the United Kingdom whether any mails may or may not be required to be conveyed in any such mail-ship from or to the United Kingdom or to and from Melbourne or Sydney on any such voyage.

(2.) The times at which the mail-ships shall start from or arrive at the port of departure or arrival in the United Kingdom Melbourne and Sydney and the rate of speed of the mail-ships between the United Kingdom and Naples and between Adelaide Melbourne and Sydney shall be fixed by the Company at their discretion but not so as to affect the period of transit between Naples and Adelaide hereinafter referred to.

(3.) The Company shall be at liberty at their option to continue the outward voyage of any mail-ship beyond and after calling at Sydney to Newcastle (New South Wales) and to commence the homeward voyage of the said mail-ship from Newcastle aforesaid provided she calls at Sydney.

(4.) In the event of any accident or delay which would if any voyage of any mail-ship were continued beyond Adelaide or Melbourne respectively prevent such mail-ship from starting on her return homeward voyage from Adelaide at the time appointed for that purpose in pursuance of the provisions of this Agreement the Company shall be at liberty to terminate the outward voyage of such mail-ship at Adelaide or Melbourne (as the case may be) and forthwith to commence the homeward voyage of such mail-ship at the same place as the circumstances of the case may require.

(5.) In any such case as is mentioned in the last sub-clause the Company shall bear the cost of conveying to Sydney or to Melbourne and Sydney (as the case may be) all parcels on board the mail-ship intended for those places and also the cost of the necessary conveyance from Sydney or Melbourne to Adelaide of any parcels from Sydney or Melbourne intended to be conveyed by the mail-ship on her homeward voyage.

5.—(1.) Each entire voyage of each of the mail-ships in either direction between Naples and Adelaide shall be completed within a period of 696 hours (hereinafter called "the period of transit"). Period of transit.

(2.) The period of transit shall include the time allowed for all stoppages of the mail-ships at the intermediate ports and the mail-ships shall stop on both the outward and homeward voyages at Albany (or Fremantle) for six hours and no less and at Colombo for such period as may be necessary for the purpose of delivering receiving or exchanging mails and in no case less than the period (not exceeding 24 hours) appointed by the Postmaster-General in that behalf.

(3.) During the prevalence of the south-west monsoon the period of transit from Adelaide to Naples shall be extended by 36 hours.

6.—(1.) Each period of transit shall be deemed to commence so soon after the time appointed by the Postmaster-General for the departure of the mail-ship from Naples and Adelaide respectively or after the completion of the embarkation of the mails intended to be thereby conveyed (whichever shall last happen) as (having regard to practical considerations) the anchor of such mail-ship can be weighed or the mail-ship can be loosed from her moorings and each such period of transit shall be deemed to be completed when the mail-ship has arrived and been anchored or moored in some position at the port or place of destination from which the mails can conveniently be disembarked. Calculation of periods of transit.

(2.) In any case in which any outward or homeward voyage between Naples and Adelaide may by reason of accident or other necessity be performed by more than one mail-ship the period of transit shall be reckoned from the commencement of the voyage of the mail-ship by which the first part of the conveyance shall be performed to the completion of the voyage of the mail-ship by which the last part of the conveyance shall be performed.

(3.) The times of commencement and completion of each period of transit shall be ascertained and recorded and all calculations in connection therewith shall be made by officers of the Postmaster-General in pursuance of arrangements to be from time to time made by him for such purpose and the decision of the Postmaster-General on all such questions shall be final and conclusive.

7. Should it be deemed by the Postmaster-General his officers or agents requisite for the public service that any mail-ship should at any time or times delay her departure from any port from which the mails are to be conveyed under this Agreement beyond the time appointed for her departure therefrom the Postmaster-General or any of his officers or agents shall have power to order such delay (not however exceeding 24 hours) by letter addressed to the master of any such mail-ship or any person acting as such and such letter shall be deemed a sufficient authority for such detention and in any such case an equivalent addition shall be made to the period of transit during which such detention shall take place. Power to delay departure of mail-ships.

CHARACTER OF MAIL-SHIPS AND CONDITIONS OF MAIL SERVICE.

8. Every mail-ship shall be a good substantial and efficient steamship of adequate power and speed and supplied with first-rate appropriate steam-engines and shall be in all respects suited to the performance of the services herein agreed to be performed within the respective times herein stipulated and shall be provided and kept by the Company seaworthy and in complete repair and readiness to the satisfaction of the Postmaster-General. Character of mail-ships.

9. Every mail-ship shall be always properly and sufficiently equipped in all respects so as to render her constantly efficient for the said services and safe for the conveyance of mails and shall be manned with legally qualified and competent officers with appropriate certificates granted pursuant to the Act or Acts in force for the time being relative to the granting of certificates to officers in the Merchant Service and also with competent engineers and a sufficient crew of able seaman and other men and with a competent and registered surgeon. Equipment and manning of mail-ships.

10. Every mail-ship and the equipment officers engineers and crew thereof shall be subject at all times to the inspection of the Postmaster-General or of such person or persons as he shall at any time or times authorise to make such inspection. Mail-ships and their equipment &c. to be subject to inspection.

11.—(1.) If the Postmaster-General shall at any time consider any mail-ship unfit for service under this Agreement he may require the Company to show cause why such mail-ship should not be withdrawn from the service and unless the Company shall forthwith show cause to the contrary to the satisfaction of the Postmaster-General he may declare such mail-ship to be unfit for service under this Agreement and after such declaration shall have been made the Company shall not employ such ship in the performance of this Agreement. Power to declare mail-ship unfit for service.

(2.) In order to determine whether the Postmaster-General shall be justified in declaring any mail-ship unfit for service or whether the Company shall be able to show cause to the contrary a special examination may be made of the hull and machinery of any such mail-ship by such person or persons as may be appointed for that purpose by the Postmaster-General.

12. The Company shall at their own cost and to the satisfaction of the Postmaster-General provide on each mail-ship a separate room or rooms for the convenient and secure deposit of the mails under lock and key and the services of the crew of every such mail-ship shall from time to time be given in the conveyance of the mails to and from such mail room or rooms. Room for deposit of mails to be provided in each mail-ship.

13.—(1.) The Company shall at their own cost land deliver and embark the mails at all ports or places at which the mails are to be landed delivered and embarked and shall accordingly at their own cost provide suitable means and proper assistance for and shall be responsible for the due landing delivery and embarkation of the mails. Landing and embarkation of mails.

(2.) The Company and all commanding and other officers of the mail-ships and all agents seamen and servants of the Company shall at all times punctually attend to the orders and directions of the Postmaster-General his officers or agents as to the mode time and place of landing delivering and embarking the mails and shall at all times protect the mails to the utmost of their power.

14.—(1.) The master or commander of each of the mail-ships shall whenever required by the Postmaster-General his officers or agents so to do (without any remuneration other than the subsidy payable to the Company under this Agreement) take charge of the mails conveyed or intended to be conveyed by such mail-ship and shall adopt all necessary measures and precautions for the safety of the mails to the satisfaction of the Postmaster-General his officers and agents. Masters of mail-ships to take charge of mails when required.

(2.) Each of such masters or commanders shall make the usual declaration or declarations required or which may hereafter be required by the Postmaster-General in such and similar cases and furnish such journals returns and information to and perform such services as the Postmaster-General his officers or agents may require.

(3.) Every such master or commander or officer duly authorised by him having charge of mails shall himself immediately on the arrival of the mail-ship at any port or place deliver all mails for such port or place into the hands of the Postmaster of such port or place or of such other person at such port or place as the Postmaster-General shall authorise to receive the same and shall in like manner receive all the return or other mails to be forwarded in due course.

15. The Company shall undertake and make all necessary and proper arrangements in connection with any statutory regulations of the Local Government Board relative to public health or in connection with quarantine which may be required in respect of the mail-ships and no deductions shall be made from the subsidy payable under this Agreement nor shall the Company be otherwise liable for or by reason of any delay in the landing embarkation delivery or conveyance of any mails arising from the observance of any such regulations or the imposition of quarantine. Company to undertake sanitary and quarantine arrangements.

16.—(1.) Nothing in this Agreement shall exempt the Company or any mail-ship from the operation of any Act of Parliament Order in Council by-law or other provisions of the law in relation to explosives. Explosives.

(2.) The Company shall not convey in any mail-ship any article which in the opinion of the Postmaster-General is likely to endanger the mails.

17. The Company shall be responsible for the loss or damage of any parcel or of any registered postal packet of any kind conveyed or tendered for conveyance under this Agreement (unless such loss or damage be caused or occasioned by act of God the Queen's enemies pirates restraints of princes rulers or people jettison barratry fire collision or perils or accidents of the seas rivers and steam navigation) and in the event of any such loss or damage (except as aforesaid) the Company shall be liable to pay to the Postmaster-General in respect of each parcel or registered postal packet so lost or damaged (subject to the proviso hereinafter contained) such sum of money as shall be equal to the amount which may have been awarded and paid by the Postmaster-General at his sole option and discretion (and although not under any legal obligation) to the sender or addressee of such parcel or registered postal packet as compensation for the loss or damage thereof Provided that such sum shall not in any case exceed one pound per parcel or two pounds per registered postal packet. Company to be responsible for loss or damage of parcels or registered postal packets.

Company not to convey mails except pursuant to Agreement.

18. The Company shall not nor shall any master or commander of any mail-ship receive or permit to be received on board any mail-ship for conveyance thereby any letters other than those which they are required or expressly permitted to carry under this Agreement and any such letters as are not required by law to pass through the Post Office nor shall the Company or any such master or commander receive or permit to be received on board any mail-ship for conveyance thereby any mails on behalf of any colony or foreign country without the consent of the Postmaster-General and the entire postage of all mail conveyed by any mail-ship under this Agreement shall in all cases (as between the Postmaster-General and the Company) belong to the Postmaster-General and shall be absolutely free from all claims or demands whatever of or by the Company under or by virtue of this Agreement or otherwise.

MODIFICATION OF SERVICES.

Power to alter times of departure and arrival.

19. If at any time or times the Postmaster-General shall for any reason whatever desire to alter the particular days times or hours appointed for the departure from and arrival at Naples and Adelaide respectively of the mail-ships he shall give to the Company three calendar months' notice in writing of such desire.

Power to Postmaster-General to substitute Cape route for route via Suez Canal.

20.—(1.) If at any time or times the Postmaster-General shall deem it necessary or expedient in the public interest that the mails shall be conveyed between the United Kingdom and Adelaide Melbourne or Sydney by way of the Cape of Good Hope or Cape Horn instead of by way of the Suez Canal the Company as soon as reasonably practicable after receiving notice from the Postmaster-General to that effect shall in lieu of the services hereinbefore contracted to be performed convey the mails by means of the mail-ships by way of the Cape of Good Hope or Cape Horn (at the discretion of the Company) between Plymouth or such other convenient port or place in the United Kingdom as may be agreed upon between the Company and the Postmaster-General and Adelaide Melbourne or Sydney calling at Albany (or Fremantle).

(2.) In such case the mails shall be conveyed between the United Kingdom and Adelaide Melbourne or Sydney at such rates of speed (and on such other conditions) as may be agreed between the Postmaster-General and the Company or in default of agreement may be determined by arbitration.

(3.) Subject to the provisions of this clause all the provisions of this Agreement with reference to the services to be performed by the Company shall (so far as the same are applicable) apply to the embarking conveying landing and delivery of the mails under the provisions of this Clause.

(4.) The Postmaster-General shall not in respect of the substituted service in this Clause mentioned make any additional payment to the Company unless by reason of the performance of such substituted service and on no other account the Company shall sustain a loss of general revenue or incur expenses exceeding the expenses ordinarily incurred in the conveyance of the mails to and from Naples under the provisions of this Agreement.

(5.) Should any such loss or additional expenses as last aforesaid be sustained or incurred by the Company the Postmaster-General shall pay to the Company in addition to the subsidy hereinafter mentioned such sum of money as may be agreed upon between him and them or failing such agreement as shall be determined by arbitration and upon such arbitration due regard shall be had to the respective interests of the Company and the Postmaster-General in the performance of the voyage or voyages of any mail-ship by which the mails shall have been conveyed under the provisions of this Clause.

Power to Postmaster-General to substitute another Continental port or a port in United Kingdom for Naples.

21.—(1.) If at any time the Postmaster-General shall deem it necessary or expedient in the public interest to substitute for Naples as the port or place for the commencement and termination of the respective outward and homeward services under this Agreement another port on the Continent of Europe or in the United Kingdom the Company shall on receiving reasonable notice from the Postmaster-General to that effect convey the mails to and from such other port or place in substitution for Naples and this Agreement shall in respect of the services to be rendered by the Company be read and construed as if the name of such other port or place on the Continent of Europe or in the United Kingdom appeared throughout the same in lieu of the word Naples.

(2.) In the event of such substitution as hereinbefore mentioned the period of transit between Naples and Adelaide shall be liable to be increased or diminished to such an extent as shall be agreed upon between the Postmaster-General and the Company or failing agreement as shall be determined by arbitration and the subsidy payable hereunder shall be liable to be increased or diminished in such manner as (having regard to all the circumstances of the case and particularly to any expense or loss incurred or to any risk run by or any advantage accruing to the Company in consequence of such substitution) shall be agreed upon between the Postmaster-General and the Company or failing agreement shall be determined by arbitration.

Mode of exercise of powers under the two last preceding Clauses.

22. The powers conferred upon the Postmaster-General by the two last preceding Clauses may be exercised in relation to a temporary or a permanent change of route or of port (as the case may be) and in the case of a temporary change may be exercised as often as the Postmaster-General deems it expedient and the Postmaster-General may in his notice requiring the change specify the period during which such change shall take effect or require such change to be made until further notice and at the expiration of the time limited by the Postmaster-General or upon receiving reasonable notice from the Postmaster-General to that effect (as the case may be) the Company shall revert to the original route or port (as the case may be).

Power to Company to substitute Brindisi for Naples.

23. The Company may at any time on giving three calendar months' previous notice in writing of their desire so to do substitute Brindisi for Naples as the port or place for the commencement and determination of the outward and homeward voyages of the mail-ships and from and after the expiration of such notice the Port of Brindisi shall for all the purposes of this Agreement be substituted for the Port of Naples and the several provisions of this Agreement shall be read and construed as if the word "Brindisi" appeared throughout the same in lieu of the word "Naples."

SUBSIDY AND DEDUCTIONS.

Subsidy.

24. In consideration of the covenants and agreements herein contained and on the part of the Company to be observed and performed and of the due and faithful performance by the Company of all the services under this Agreement there shall be payable to the Company during the continuance of this Agreement (out of such aids or supplies as may from time to time be appropriated by Parliament for that purpose) a yearly subsidy or sum after the rate of £85,000 per annum or (in the event of any such default or failure as hereinafter mentioned) so much of the said subsidy or sum as shall remain payable in respect of any year after making such deductions therefrom (if any) as hereinafter in that behalf mentioned in respect of any such default or failure.

Payments or deductions.

25. There shall be forfeited and paid by the Company to the Postmaster-General the following sums in the following events (that is to say):—

(1.) If the Company shall fail to commence the performance of the services hereby agreed to be performed on the 1st day of February 1898 or on such subsequent day as the Postmaster-General may appoint the Company shall forfeit and pay the sum of £100 for every complete period of 24 hours which shall elapse before the Company shall commence the performance of such services.

Provided that the amount which shall become payable by the Company in respect of such default as aforesaid shall not in the aggregate exceed the sum of £20,000.

(2.) On each occasion when after the Company have commenced the performance of the services hereby agreed to be performed the Company shall fail to provide a mail-ship at Naples or Adelaide ready to put to sea in accordance with this Agreement at the appointed time or any mail-ship provided by the Company as aforesaid shall not in fact put to sea and proceed on her voyage at the appointed time the Company shall forfeit and pay the sum of £250 and also the further sum of £50 for every successive 24 hours which shall elapse until such mail-ship shall actually put to sea and proceed on her voyage in pursuance of this Agreement.

Provided that the aggregate amount of the sums payable as last aforesaid shall not exceed by more than £1,000 that part of the said subsidy for the current year which shall be applicable to the voyage in respect of which default shall have been made and provided further that the provisions of this sub-clause shall not apply to such services as may be required under Clause 20.

(3.) On each occasion when the mails shall not be conveyed from Naples to Adelaide or from Adelaide to Naples within the period of transit hereinbefore specified the Company shall forfeit and pay a sum of £100 for every complete 24 hours by which the time actually occupied in the conveyance of such mails from Naples to Adelaide or from Adelaide to Naples (as the case may be) shall have exceeded the period of transit hereinbefore prescribed in that behalf

Provided

Provided that—

- (a) the aggregate amount of the sums payable in respect of any such default or failure as in this sub-clause mentioned shall not exceed that part of the said subsidy for the current year which shall be applicable to the voyage which has been performed or which ought to have been performed in the conveyance of such mails; and
- (b) no such payment as in this sub-clause mentioned shall be made if the Company shall prove to the satisfaction of the Postmaster-General that such default arose wholly or in part from any cause or causes altogether beyond the control of the Company.

(4.) Each and all of the said several sums of money hereinbefore stipulated to be paid by the Company to the Postmaster-General in the event of failure or default of the Company as aforesaid shall be due and payable as stipulated ascertained or liquidated damages and not by way of penalty and (except as aforesaid) from whatever cause or causes such failure or default shall have arisen and although such failure or default may have arisen wholly or in part from any cause or causes beyond the control of the Company and although no loss shall be or may have been sustained by reason or in consequence of such failure or default and every such sum shall at the option and discretion of the Postmaster-General be either deducted by him from any moneys then payable or thereafter to become payable to the Company under this Agreement or be recovered as a debt to Her Majesty with full costs of suit.

(5.) The payment of or liability to pay any sum hereinbefore mentioned shall in no way prejudice the right of the Postmaster-General to treat as a breach of this Agreement the failure in respect of which such sum shall become payable by the Company as aforesaid.

26. All accounts between the Postmaster-General and the Company in relation to the said subsidy and any deductions therefrom as hereinbefore provided shall be made out and settled quarterly up to and on or as soon as conveniently may be after the 31st day of March the 30th day of June the 30th day of September and the 31st day of December in each year and the amount or balance (if any) which shall be due to the Company on each such quarterly account shall be paid by the Postmaster-General at the General Post Office London out of such aids or supplies as aforesaid upon the settlement of each such account and for the purposes of such accounts the said subsidy shall be deemed to accrue from day to day subject to the liability of the same to the several deductions aforesaid and all such payments shall be received by the Company in full satisfaction and discharge of all claims and demands by them for or on account of the services hereby contracted to be performed and for or on account of all and every other the covenants and agreements herein contained and on the part of the Company to be kept observed and performed or any damages losses or expenses which may be sustained by the Company in respect thereof. Accounts.

TERM OF AGREEMENT AND INCIDENTAL PROVISIONS.

27. This Agreement shall come into operation on the 1st day of February 1898 and shall continue in force until the 31st day of January 1905 inclusive and shall then determine if notice in writing to that effect shall have been given twenty-four calendar months previously to the said last-mentioned date either to the Company by the Postmaster-General or to the Postmaster-General by the Company and if not so determined this Agreement shall continue in force after such last-mentioned date until the expiration of a notice of a like duration given by either party at any time. Commencement and duration of Agreement.

28.—(1.) If on the determination of this Agreement any mail-ship shall or ought to have started or shall start on any voyage with the mails on board in conformity with this Agreement such voyage shall be continued and performed and the mails be delivered and embarked during and at the completion of the same and all the provisions of this Agreement be observed as if this Agreement had remained in force with regard to such mail-ship and services and with respect to such mail-ship and services this Agreement shall be considered as having terminated when such mail-ship shall have reached her port or place of destination and such services shall have been performed. Voyages commenced when Agreement determined to be completed

(2.) In respect of any such voyage as in this clause mentioned the Company shall not be entitled to receive any payment or compensation for the same over and above the subsidy payable under this Agreement on the day when this Agreement (otherwise than as to any such voyage) determines.

SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS.

29. It shall be lawful for the Postmaster-General at any time and from time to time to delegate any of the powers vested in him by virtue of these presents to such person or persons as he shall think fit. Postmaster-General may delegate his powers.

30. The Company shall not assign underlet or dispose of this Agreement or any part thereof without the consent of the Postmaster-General signified by an instrument in writing. Company not to assign Agreement.

31. In case this Agreement or any part thereof is assigned underlet or otherwise disposed of and in case of any great or habitual breach on the part of the Company their officers agents or servants of this Agreement or of any covenant matter or thing herein contained it shall be lawful for the Postmaster-General if he shall think fit and notwithstanding there may or may not have been any former breach of this Agreement by an instrument in writing to determine this Agreement without any previous notice to the Company and the Company shall not be entitled to any compensation in respect of such determination and such determination shall not deprive the Postmaster-General of any right or remedy to which he would otherwise be entitled by reason of such breach or of any prior breach of this Agreement. Provided always that in case within seven days after service as aforesaid on the Company of a notice determining this Agreement the Company give a notice in writing to the Postmaster-General that they dispute the sufficiency of such breach to justify the Postmaster-General in determining this Agreement such dispute shall be referred to arbitration and in such case this Agreement shall notwithstanding such notice of determination continue in force unless and until an award shall be made to the effect that such breach or breaches was or were sufficient to justify the Postmaster-General in giving such notice of determination as aforesaid. Power to Postmaster-General to determine Agreement summarily on breach.

32. The Postmaster-General will use his good offices with the Governments of the several Australian Colonies with a view to secure that the Company shall not be compelled to pay in respect of any mail-ship calling at any port or place in any of the said Colonies any port or light dues or other charges of a public nature other than or in excess of the dues or charges for the time being payable at the like port or place in respect of any other vessel of a like character whether employed in the conveyance of mails or not. Postmaster-General to use his good offices with the Australian Colonies in respect to port dues.

33.—(1.) Any notice to terminate this Agreement if given by the Postmaster-General shall be served by being left at or forwarded by post to the Company at their registered office and any such notice if given by the Company and any other notice given by the Company shall be served by being sent by post to the Secretary of the Post Office at the General Post Office London. Notices.

(2.) All notices or directions (other than any notice to terminate this Agreement) which the Postmaster-General his officers or agents are hereby authorised to give to the Company their officers servants or agents may at the option of the Postmaster-General his officers or agents either be delivered or sent by post to the master of any mail-ship or to any other officer or agent of the Company in the charge or management of any mail-ship or be left for or forwarded by post to the Company at any office or place of business of the Company and any notices or directions so given left or sent by post shall be binding on the Company.

34. In pursuance of the provisions contained in an Act of Parliament passed in the 22nd year of the reign of King George the Third intitled "An Act for restraining any person concerned in any contract commission or agreement made for the Public Service from being elected or sitting and voting as a Member of the House of Commons" no Member of the House of Commons shall be admitted to any share or part of this Agreement or to any benefit to arise therefrom contrary to the true intent and meaning of the said Act. No Member of Parliament to benefit by Agreement.

35. This Agreement shall not be binding until it has been approved by a Resolution of the House of Commons. Agreement subject to approval of House of Commons.

BOND.

BOND.

Bond.

36. And lastly for the due and faithful performance of all and singular the covenants conditions provisoes clauses articles and agreements hereinbefore contained which on the part and behalf of the Company are or ought to be observed performed fulfilled and kept the Company do hereby bind themselves and their successors and the said Law Guarantee and Trust Society (Limited) do hereby bind themselves and their successors jointly and severally unto our Sovereign Lady the Queen in the sum of £20,000 of lawful money of the United Kingdom to be paid to our said Lady the Queen Her heirs and successors by way of stipulated or ascertained damages hereby agreed upon between the Postmaster-General and the Company in case of the failure on the part of the Company in the due execution of this Agreement or any part thereof.

In witness whereof the Postmaster-General hath hereunto set his hand and seal and the Company and the Law Guarantee and Trust Society (Limited) have hereunto affixed their respective common seals the day and year first before written.

Signed sealed and delivered by the abovenamed Henry Duke }
of Norfolk Her Majesty's Postmaster-General in the } NORFOLK E. M.
presence of } [L.S.]
ANDREW M. OGILVIE Private Secretary to the Postmaster-General.

The Common Seal of the Orient Steam Navigation Company }
(Limited) was hereunto affixed in the presence of } [L.S.]
JOHN BELL }
J. G. S. ANDERSON } Two of the Managers.

The Common Seal of the Law Guarantee and Trust Society }
(Limited) was hereunto affixed in the presence of— } [L.S.]
NOEL F. TERRY 49 Chancery Lane London W.C. Clerk to the said Society.

Signed for and on behalf of the Law Guarantee and Trust Society (Limited)
HENRY ROSCOE } Directors.
THO. RAWLE }
TH. R. RONALD General Manager and Secretary.

1897

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

AUSTRALIAN MAIL SERVICE.

(FURTHER PAPERS RESPECTING THE RENEWAL OF CONTRACTS FOR THE.)

Printed under No. 2 Report from Printing Committee, 6 May, 1897.

The Agent-General of New South Wales to The Honorable the Premier and
Colonial Treasurer, Sydney.

Sir,

5 February, 1897.

I have the honor to enclose herein, for your information, a copy of a letter which I have received from the Colonial Office, transmitting a copy of a letter from the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, reporting the acceptance of tenders for the Australian Mail Service.

You will observe that it is stated that Mr. Secretary Chamberlain has communicated this information by telegraph to the Governors of the Australian Colonies.

I have, &c.,

SAUL SAMUEL.

[Enclosures.]

Sir,

Downing-street, 2 February, 1897.

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, reporting the acceptance of tenders for the Australian Mail Service.

2. Mr. Chamberlain has communicated this information by telegraph to the Governors of the Australian Colonies.

I am, &c.

JOHN BRAMSTON.

The Agent-General for New South Wales.

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, 28 January, 1897.

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State, in continuation of previous correspondence, on the subject of the Eastern and Australian Mail Service, that the Postmaster-General has now accepted tender No. 2 of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for a seven years' contract by the Brindisi route, and also the tender of the Orient Company for the same period, the European port of departure in their case being Naples.

The total subsidy under the Peninsular and Oriental contract will be £330,000 per annum, and under the Orient Company's contract £85,000 per annum.

The Postmaster-General will have the right, without additional payment, to send mails by all the Peninsular and Oriental Company's services during the term of the contract, whether such services are specifically referred to or not.

The Indian Post Office will have the right to commence the sorting work between Port Said and Aden, if the development of the service should require it; but the number of additional men to be carried gratuitously is limited to five sorters and five packers.

The Directors of the Company undertake to employ more than one steam-launch when necessary both at Aden and Bombay.

They will interpret as favourably as possible to the wishes of the Colonies the qualification which they have felt obliged to introduce into the condition relating to the substitution of Freemantle for Albany as the port of call in Western Australia, and to the entrance of Princess Royal Harbour so long as the steamers call at Albany.

The Orient Company will also be ready to enter the inner harbour whenever practicable, and to substitute Freemantle for Albany as the port of call as soon as they can be satisfied that Freemantle Harbour is safe.

This Company has further agreed to reduce the time of transit between Naples and Adelaide to 696 hours, and will endeavour in practice to give an earlier arrival at Adelaide and Naples than is prescribed by the contract.

The dates of departure from Bombay and Adelaide are not yet arranged; but will form the subject of further negotiation between the Postmaster-General and the two Companies.

I am, &c.,

E. W. HAMILTON.

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

1897.

—
 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
 NEW SOUTH WALES.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS,

BEING FOR THE YEAR

1896.

Printed under No. 17 Report from Printing Committee, 26 August, 1897.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPLIGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1897.

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1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS.

(SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.)

Printed under No. 17 Report from Printing Committee, 26 August, 1897.

To The Hon. J. H. Carruthers, Esq., M.P., Secretary for Lands.

Sir, Department of Lands, Sydney, 2 August, 1897.

I have the honor to submit for your information the seventeenth Annual Report of the business of the Department for the year 1896.

In the report for last year an explanation was made of the salient provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, but the opportunity had not presented itself of referring very fully to transactions under it, inasmuch as the Act had only been in operation a few months. As, however, the present report deals with a period twelve months later it is possible to speak somewhat definitely as to the operations of the measure; and it is, perhaps, sufficient to say that its various provisions have met with the fullest appreciation from the several classes of persons whose interests and requirements were kept constantly in view during its framing.

The several transactions are shown elsewhere in chapters specially devoted to them, and are illustrated by schedules containing full details, but it is convenient to refer here to such of the matters as suggest themselves as being of special interest.

From the time the Act of 1895 passed until the close of 1896 2,692 homestead selections were advertised, containing an aggregate area of 614,798 acres, and of these 1,338 blocks, containing 409,176 acres, were applied for. During the same period 653 settlement leases, representing an area of 2,243,012 acres, were thrown open, and of these 337 were applied for, containing an area of 960,511 acres. The demand for land under these tenures was most spirited, as the following illustration will show:—

For 43 blocks, Land District of Corowa,	20,338 applications were made.
60 " " Urana,	11,584 " "
85 " " Wagga Wagga,	5,181 " "
8 " " Walgett,	1,892 " "
20 " " Warren,	1,388 " "
36 " " Deniliquin,	1,262 " "
25 " " Narrabri,	1,095 " "
54 " " Moree,	916 " "

And in the following Land Districts practically every block thrown open was taken up:—Albury, Balranald, Barmedman, Bombala, Brewarrina, Condobolin, Coonamble, Cootamundra, Corowa, Deniliquin, Forbes, Glen Innes, Grenfell, Moree, Mudgee, Narrandera, Urana, Wagga Wagga, and Walgett.

Conditional purchases and conditional leases show a conspicuous decline, a fact no doubt traceable in a large measure to the new condition of residence to which additional conditional purchasers are now subject, the Act of 1895 having enjoined that where the original conditional purchase had been transferred, the transferee may add to his holding only on condition that he resides on the land for a specified term.

A special feature in connection with conditional purchases was the reappraisal of such as had been selected within special areas, at a price of, and over, 30s. per acre. A large number of applications for reappraisal were made, with the result that, as in the valuation, the present depreciated value of the land was taken into account, and not the original value only, the prices were considerably reduced. The same result followed the reappraisal of the Western Division pastoral and homestead leases and occupation licenses.

The improvement lease is one of the new tenures introduced by the Act of 1895, and 166 leases of this character were disposed of, containing nearly 2,000,000 acres. In connection with these should be mentioned the proposals which the Minister submitted to Parliament to allow holders of expiring pastoral leases in the West Bogan country to convert their leases into scrub leases, thus insuring the Crown estate against a most serious deterioration, while at the same time affording the pastoral occupants an opportunity of recovering from the disadvantageous position in which they had come to find themselves.

In pursuance of the Minister's policy endeavours have been (and are being) made to make land available for settlement, in furtherance of which the Act of 1895 gives very necessary powers of withdrawing land from pastoral lease. The area actually withdrawn in 1896, taken with the area in connection with which a preliminary notice of intention to withdraw was issued during that year, amounted to about 300,000 acres. Associated with these—having regard to the object of having available for settlement continuous, as opposed to isolated, blocks of country—are the exchanges which the Crown makes of its lands for the lands held by private persons in fee-simple or under conditional purchase. Such exchanges have been found to be mutually very beneficial, inasmuch as both the Crown and the landowners are enabled to collect into large blocks scattered portions, which individually may be too small or too inconveniently situated to be of advantage either to the *bonâ fide* settler or to the landowners themselves.

With regard to Legislation, two Acts of large importance were passed during 1896—the Crown Lands (Homestead Selections and Settlement Leases) Act, 59 Victoria No. 26, and the Conditional Purchasers Relief Act, 60 Victoria No. 2.

The former gave an applicant for a homestead selection or settlement lease the privilege of entering into occupation of the land applied for during the interval between the date of application and its confirmation by the Local Land Board, after which latter date the title would, of course, in any circumstances be assured.

The object of the Conditional Purchasers Relief Act is explained by its title. Under this Act conditional purchasers, all of whom started with an obligation to pay off their balance of purchase money and interest by annual instalments of 1s. per acre, may obtain a reduction to 9d. or to 6d. per acre, according as the state of the account may admit of a reduction to an annual amount which would liquidate the debt within at least sixty-six years from the date the first instalment was due. These concessions are, however, limited (except in very special cases) to holders actually in residence on their lands, it being beyond the scope of the Act to render financial assistance to large proprietors.

The same Act, by a few words, cured an anomaly which had been existing since 1885 in connection with conditional purchases made under the Act of 1875, or made earlier and brought under its provisions. Under that Act, although the instalment payable was 1s. per acre, interest was charged at the rate of 5 per cent., while in connection with conditional purchases made since 1885 the Crown Lands Act of 1884 required interest at only 4 per cent. The latter Act provided that holders of the earlier conditional purchases might bring them under the provisions of the Act of 1884, but, except in a proportion of cases, this was not done, it being evident that the larger and poorer class of selectors were not aware what the law offered them, as it is inconceivable how a reduction from 5 to 4 per cent. was not sought when it could be had for the mere asking.

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The Conditional Purchasers Relief Act also liberalised the provisions under which conditional purchases might be converted into homestead selections, making it possible for conversion to take place notwithstanding that payments due to the Crown in connection with the conditional purchase were in arrear, and provided, further, that any money paid as principal on the conditional purchase should form a fund out of which the homestead selection rent would be taken until the fund was exhausted.

It may be mentioned that the administration of the Acts relating to the Church and School land was transferred to this Department from the Department of Public Instruction, and that the Land Board District of Cooma was amalgamated with that of Goulburn, with the latter town as the centre. The Land District of Milton, formerly included in the Board District of Cooma, was at the same time transferred to the Metropolitan Board District.

Judicial Decisions.

During the year the Supreme Court decided several matters affecting the administration of the Crown Lands Acts; an abridged report of the various decisions is given hereunder:—

The Land Appeal Court has no power under the Rabbit Act of 1890 at the request of a party to state a special case for the opinion of the Supreme Court.

Hill, Clark, & Co. (Dalgety & Co., respondents).—In this case the point was whether, in a case arising under the Rabbit Act of 1890, and coming before the Land Appeal Court on appeal, that Court had the same power under that Act as it had under the Crown Lands Acts to refer, at the request of one of the parties to the case, a question of law for the decision of the Supreme Court. It was contended that the Court had not jurisdiction, even if it had the power to state a case on its own motion, and this view was upheld by the Supreme Court. (N.S.W.L.R., XVII, 282.)

Procedure prior to notification of forfeiture of a conditional purchase.

Attorney-General v. Walters.—This case is important from a Departmental point of view, the main question being whether the proper steps had been taken preliminary to the declaration of forfeiture of a certain conditional purchase; but as the Crown has taken steps to appeal to the Privy Council from the decision of the Supreme Court any further reference to the case will be postponed until the Privy Council has delivered judgment. (N.S.W.L.R., XVII, p. 105.)

Assessment of value of land applied for under Section 63, Crown Lands Act of 1884.

Henry Deane and the Crown Lands Acts.—In this case Henry Deane applied under section 63 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884 to have a reservation of 100 feet from high-water mark within his property rescinded, and to be allowed to purchase the land. The section referred to speaks of the "fair value" of the land. The Metropolitan Land Board assessed this value at £400, but the Minister for Lands, thinking it too low, referred the matter to the Land Appeal Court by whom it was referred back to the Land Board. At the re-hearing the Land Board found the fair value to be £900. Against this decision Deane appealed to the Land Appeal Court, but that Court upheld the Board's decision. Thereupon, Deane appealed to the Supreme Court, the question submitted to that Court being whether the Land Appeal Court was right in holding that in estimating the value of the land its value to the adjoining owner (by reason of such ownership) was a proper basis upon which to ascertain such fair value. The Court held that the assessment had been made on an erroneous basis and upheld the appeal. The Chief Justice said, "If the Land Appeal Court is right, it comes to this: that if a person has a block of land subject to a reservation of 100 feet, and if there are expensive improvements on his own land, and he asks to put the provisions of section 63 in force, the Crown can say to him 'If this 100 feet of land is fenced off and sold it will not fetch much; but inasmuch as you have access to it through your land, and it is of considerable value to you, you must pay the value it is to you'—that is to say, he has to pay the additional value which is given to the land by reason of its having an access through his own land, and he has to pay for the betterment which his own land gives to this land. It seems to me that you cannot get the fair value in that way. We lay down no
general

general rule, but one way the fair value could be ascertained would be by supposing that the land were fenced off, and then considering what would be the fair market value of the strip of land fenced off. But I do not mean to say that would be the only proper way, nor am I to be taken as laying down any general rule." (N.S.W. L.R., Vol. XVII, p. 287.)

Land reserved from sale and lease under section 101, Crown Lands Act of 1884, within a Leasehold Area, on revocation reverts to the Leasehold, and is not available for Conditional Purchase.

Millicent M. Harvey and Crown Lands Acts (Minister for Lands respondent).—This was an appeal against a decision of the Land Appeal Court in upholding the disallowance of the appellant's conditional purchase application. In November, 1889, two forfeited conditional purchases on the Eenaweona leasehold area were reserved from sale and lease of any kind pending legislation. This reservation was revoked in March, 1890, and in March, 1895, Millicent M. Harvey applied for a conditional purchase of one of the portions. The Land Board disallowed the application, holding that the land reverted to the leasehold area and was not available. The Land Appeal Court confirmed the decision of the Land Board, and applicant then appealed to the Supreme Court which held that sufficient reason, within the meaning of section 13, Crown Lands Act of 1889, had been shown for the disallowance of the application. (N.S.W.L.R., Vol. XVII, p. 264.)

The holder of the maximum area of land that may be Conditionally Purchased, acquired before the Crown Lands Act of 1895 came into force, is disqualified from making application for an Original Conditional Purchase.

W. H. Hunt and the Crown Lands Acts.—In August, 1895, W. H. Hunt, whilst holding a conditional purchase of 640 acres and a conditional lease of 1,920 acres, acquired before the Crown Lands Act of 1895 came into force, applied for an original conditional purchase of $441\frac{1}{4}$ acres. The Land Board disallowed this application, on the ground that at date of application Hunt owned a total area of 2,560 acres, and was, therefore, prohibited from making the original conditional purchase applied for. On appeal to the Land Court this decision was upheld. Hunt, thereupon, appealed to the Supreme Court, which tribunal decided that the holder of the maximum area of land that may be conditionally purchased is disqualified from making an original conditional purchase. (N.S.W.L.R., Vol. XVII, p. 271.)

Question whether land covered by an application to convert a pre-lease into a conditional lease under section 52, Crown Lands Act of 1884, reverted to a leasehold area on withdrawal of application to convert.

William Nott, Senior.—On the date the Crown Lands Act of 1884 came into operation, W. Nott held a pre-emptive lease of 1,920 acres on what became, on the 11th July, 1885, the leasehold area of Youie pastoral holding, and within ninety days after the commencement of the said Act he applied, under section 52 thereof, to convert this pre-emptive lease into a conditional lease. The Local Land Board, when dealing with the application (in November, 1885, *i.e.*, after the leasehold area came into existence) recommended a modification in the form of the lease, which Nott refused to accept, and his application was subsequently withdrawn. In the year 1890, Nott applied for a conditional purchase and conditional lease on the resumed area of Youie pastoral holding, and his applications were, in due course, confirmed. In 1894, he converted part of the conditional lease into an additional conditional purchase, and, by virtue of this new conditional purchase, applied for a conditional lease of part of the land formerly held by him as pre-emptive lease, and within the leasehold area of Youie pastoral holding. The Local Land Board disallowed this application for a conditional lease, on the ground that the land applied for was not available, forming, as it did part of a leasehold area. Nott, having unsuccessfully appealed to the Land Appeal Court, took his case to the Supreme Court, contending that the land applied for forming part of a pre-emptive lease which he had applied for under section 52, Crown Lands Act, 1884, and did not form part of the leasehold area, as the division of the holding was not notified till the 11th July, 1885, at which date Nott's application under section 52 of the Act of 1884 was pending. The Court held that the land referred to did form part of the leasehold area, and, consequently, was not available for conditional lease. (N.S.W.L.R., Vol. XVII, p. 255.)

Decision of the Land Appeal Court on a technical point does not estop the Minister from intervening as a party to the case.

James Nott.—In this case James Nott applied for a conditional purchase and conditional lease of land within a leasehold area, and when the cases came before the Local Land Board Messrs. Kilgour and Ralfe, the pastoral lessees, applied to be heard in opposition. This request was refused on the ground that they had not lodged a caveat. Subsequently Nott's applications were confirmed by the Land Board, and Messrs. Kilgour and Ralfe appealed to the Land Appeal Court against the confirmation. On this appeal the Minister was represented. The Land Appeal Court held that Messrs. Kilgour and Ralfe had no *locus standi* and dismissed their appeal. Subsequently the Minister, under the provisions of section 59 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, referred the case to the Land Appeal Court. That Court, however, upheld an objection by Nott that the Minister was estopped from again litigating what had already been adjudicated upon. The Minister thereupon brought the matter before the Supreme Court, which held that as the Land Court had merely dealt with a technical objection the matter was not *res judicata*. (N.S.W.L.R., Vol. XVII, p. 276.)

The holder of a maximum area of conditionally purchased and conditionally leased land is not debarred in all cases from holding a settlement lease.

Robert Maguire and the Crown Lands Acts.—This was a special case stated by the Land Appeal Court, the question for decision being whether R. Maguire, the holder of 2,560 acres under conditional purchase and conditional lease, could hold in addition a settlement lease of 4,317 acres, which he had applied for on the 19th December, 1895. The reference involved an interpretation of the disqualification provisions of section 41 as viewed in connection with subsection 1 of section 24 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895.

The matter was referred by the Coonamble Land Board to the Land Appeal Court, which decided that the maximum area permitted by law to be applied for as a settlement lease for grazing was the maximum area prescribed for settlement for grazing by section 24, subsection 1, of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, and not the area proposed in the particular farm applied for; also that he was not disqualified by section 41 of the Act of 1895 from making the application. The question for the decision of the Supreme Court was—was the Land Appeal Court right in deciding that the maximum area permitted by law to be applied for as a settlement lease for grazing was the maximum area prescribed for settlement lease for grazing by section 24, subsection 1, of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, and not the area of the particular farm applied for? The Court held that Maguire was not disqualified from applying for the settlement lease in question, and that he was entitled to hold this land in addition to the area already held by him.

Land formerly within a reserve from sale is not available for conditional purchase until after the expiration of sixty days from the date of revocation.

William Bolton and the Crown Lands Acts.—This was also a special case stated by the Land Appeal Court for the consideration of the Supreme Court. William Bolton applied on the 17th October, 1895, for a conditional purchase of 277 acres. Of this area 217 acres were comprised within a reserve from sale which had been notified on the 22nd December, 1865, and revoked on the 14th December, 1895. The Local Land Board disallowed the application in respect of the 217 acres on the ground that, as the application was made before the expiration of sixty days from the date of the revocation of the reserve the land was not available for conditional purchase. Against this decision Bolton appealed to the Land Appeal Court, which sustained the appeal. The case was then stated for the Supreme Court and it was decided that the application was invalid.

Where an inferior Court of Record, after entering upon an inquiry, merely rejects evidence improperly, a mandamus will not lie to compel it to receive the evidence.

Ex parte the Minister for Lands, the Rosehill Racecourse Company (Limited).—On the 3rd January, 1890, a special lease, under Section 90 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, was, by notice in the *Gazette*, granted to G. B. Rowley of land at Kensington (now known as the Kensington Racecourse), the object of the lease being described in the *Gazette* as "recreation." In August, 1894, the lease was transferred to the Rosehill Racecourse Company. Representations having
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been made that the land was being used for pony racing, and not for recreation in the wider sense of the term, the Minister referred the case to the Land Board to inquire whether the land was being put to the purposes for which the lease had been granted. The finding of the Land Board was that, in their opinion, the conditions of the lease had been fulfilled, and that the purposes for which it was used were strictly within the term "recreation." The Minister then referred the Land Board's decision to the Land Appeal Court, by whom the case was returned to the Land Board to take further evidence, but subsequently the Land Appeal Court, on the case coming before it again, decided to take the evidence itself. At the time of making a formal application for the lease, and prior to the lease being granted, Rowley had written to the Under Secretary for Lands letters, in which he urged the granting of the lease, stating that "he was prepared to spend some thousands of pounds in turning a desert into a park to form a cricket, archery, and bowling grounds, pleasure gardens, and places of amusement for the people, and in every way give the residents of the surrounding locality a beautiful pleasure ground, second to none in Sydney"; that his proposal was "to level and clear the land, planting and beautifying same, also to form cricket, archery, football, and lawn tennis grounds, tea gardens, pavilions, &c."

When the case was before the Appeal Court the Crown endeavoured to have these letters put in as evidence to show what the agreement was between Rowley and the Crown, but the Court ruled that the documents were inadmissible. The Minister then obtained a *rule nisi* calling upon the Land Appeal Court to show cause why a mandamus should not issue to compel that Court to admit the documents in evidence; but the Supreme Court discharged the rule, their decision being that a mandamus does not lie to compel an inferior Court of Record to receive evidence which that Court may (even improperly) have rejected, the rejection of evidence in the case in question not being a refusal to exercise jurisdiction.

Information Bureau.

This branch, the inauguration of which was mentioned in the Report for 1895, still continues to afford good evidence of its usefulness.

It has now developed into a recognised distributing centre from which Crown Lands offices and District Survey offices, in addition to the general public, are supplied with lithographs, pamphlets, and all other information relating to Crown lands that are made available for selection under the various forms of tenure created by the Crown Lands Acts.

Leaflets have been prepared and printed during the year giving in a concise form the salient characteristics of the three main systems of alienation, namely, conditional purchases, homestead selection, and settlement lease. These have been found to be of great assistance and the requests for copies, (which are issued free of charge) have been very numerous.

The institution of the *Lands Department Weekly Gazette* has also proved both popular and useful. For Departmental purposes alone the advantages of possessing a *Gazette* which deals solely with notifications issued in connection with the Department are considerable, whilst the general public who subscribe to this issue, in preference to the ordinary *Gazette*, experience much the same advantages in avoiding matter in which they may not happen to be particularly interested.

Two editions of a pamphlet containing full descriptive particulars of the various lands that have been thrown open throughout the Colony for homestead selection and settlement lease were prepared and issued during the year. A good demand exists for these publications and it is intended to continue the publication of two editions each year.

The preparation of monthly sheets and pamphlets has also been continued. These publications which are descriptive of areas that have been notified in the *Gazette* during each month as about to be thrown open in the near future, are exhibited at all the more prominent railway stations, Land Agent's offices, post offices, District Survey offices, and afford a good medium for keeping the general public well acquainted with the latest movements in connection with Crown lands.

Advertisements

Advertisements have also been prepared every week for the Press in connection with lands intended to be set apart for homestead selection and settlement lease, and paragraphs have also been furnished giving such particulars as would prove interesting to the general public of the applications received each Lands Office Day, and of the progress of land settlement. 1,976 letters were written during the year in answer to inquiries, and although no attempt is made to answer questions of a legal nature, every effort is used to advise people, both clearly and fully. Personal inquiries to the number of about 5,000 were made at the Bureau during the year.

Inquiry Branch.—This branch which was established in July, 1887, mainly to act as a medium through which the public might ascertain particulars as to the progress of matters in which they were interested, has now been incorporated with the Information Bureau. Solicitors, Banks, private land agents, and financial companies avail themselves largely of the advantages which this branch affords, more particularly in connection with searches against conditional purchases and leases. This information is required as a preliminary to the transfer of these purchases or leases so that the parties interested may be assured that no forfeiture is impending, or that no other defects exist which might in any way jeopardise the title. A small fee is charged for particulars of this kind, which produced last year a revenue of £326 12s. 3d., involving about 13,000 searches. In addition to these about 2,500 inquiries on general matters were lodged and duly replied to, and a large number of personal inquiries were answered verbally.

The Map Sales Branch. This branch has also been brought under the same management as the Information Bureau and the Inquiry Branch.

The work of the staff consists in receiving lithographs of the various maps published by the Department, such as those of counties, towns, parishes, &c., and in distributing the necessary supplies to Crown Land Agents, District Survey offices, and other Departments. During 1896, 44,739 lithographs were received into stock and 37,314 distributed. Another part of the work consists in the sale of maps to the public, and during the year 3,449 lithographs were sold producing a revenue of £265 6s. 6d.

Rabbit Branch.

The negotiations that had been entered into with the Queensland Government during the preceding year for the erection of an additional barrier fence, extending from Mungindi to the Namoi River, near Narrabri, upon the understanding that half the cost of the undertaking should be borne by the sister colony and the remaining half by the Government of New South Wales and the landowners who would be benefited by its erection, were brought to a satisfactory issue early in the year under review.

It had originally been intended that the fence should take a south-easterly course from Mungindi and terminate at the Namoi River, in the vicinity of Narrabri; but as it was found that a considerable portion of the projected line of route would traverse country liable to frequent inundations, it was subsequently decided to take advantage of higher ground that would be met by following a more westerly course, so that the fence now runs almost due south from Mungindi to the Namoi River.

Tenders were at once invited for the netting required, with the result that the offer of Messrs. Lysaght Brothers and Company (Limited) to supply 105 miles of galvanised wire-netting 42 inches wide, 1½ inch mesh, 16 gauge, at £30 10s. per mile was accepted. Deviations applied for by the owners of certain holdings during the progress of the work, had the effect of adding considerably to the length of the fence, necessitating the purchase of an additional 10 miles of netting.

With a view to accelerate the progress of erection, the line was divided into three sections. The first and second of which have already been completed, and the third should be finished during the first month of the ensuing year.

By the connection of this barrier fence with that which has been erected by the Queensland Government for a considerable distance along the northern boundary of this Colony, the encroachments of the pest on our neighbour's territory will receive a further check, while a large area of country in this Colony, east of the new line, will reap the benefit of the protection that it affords.

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The total length of barrier fences erected by the Crown will, on the completion of this line, exceed 1,150 miles, while the aggregate length of wire-netting fencing that has been erected by the State and by private individuals amounts to no less than 16,760 miles.

The reports that have been received from time to time from the rabbit-infested area regarding the prevalence of the pest have been of a somewhat spasmodic character. Districts that at one part of the year have been described as only lightly infested have, at a subsequent period, been stated to be badly infested.

It must unfortunately be admitted that, in spite of all obstacles, the wave of rabbits still continues to flow towards the east, and country which formerly was regarded as likely to enjoy a permanent immunity from their depredations is beginning to show indications of these pests.

Phosphorised pollard during any season, and poisoned water during dry seasons, are apparently the most efficacious means of extermination; while the pit-trap, when placed at frequent intervals along lines of netting fences, has probably been the most effective appliance for capturing rabbits alive.

Although the offer of a reward for an effective scheme for the extermination of the rabbit pest has long since been withdrawn, no less than fifty-two schemes have been submitted during the past year. The prospect of the discovery of some method that will ensure finality in the work of rabbit extermination would still however appear to be as remote as ever.

Advantage has been taken in several instances during the year of the provisions of subsection (ii) of the 20th section of the Rabbit Act, to apply for contributions towards the cost of rabbit-proof fences that have been erected on boundaries common to public and private lands.

The requisite authority from the Minister, under the 41st section of the Act, to keep live rabbits in their possession was granted to the undermentioned persons, viz:—A. Symmons, at places in Sydney, not yet decided upon; Hon. Rupert Carrington, at Mornaling Station; Thompson, Manning, and Jeremy, at Quarantine Ground, Randwick; J. H. Patterson, at Gol Gol Station, Balranald; Charles Martin, at the University, Sydney; J. McGarvie Smith, at Denison-street, Woollahra; and Frank Tidswell, at Nugal Lodge, Randwick.

In response to representations made on behalf of the landowners interested, advantage has been taken of the provisions of the 31st section of the Act to proclaim the iguana* a natural enemy of the rabbit, and to prohibit the capture, killing, or disposal of that animal in the Land District of Boorowa.

Last year, in accordance with the desire of a majority of the landowners concerned, the simultaneous and continued destruction of rabbits was made compulsory over a limited area in the counties of Urana and Denison. This has not been without beneficial results, and a desire has been expressed that similar experiments may be made in other localities.

Steps, therefore, are now being taken to extend the operation of the compulsory clauses of the Act to a more extensive area, and the results will be watched with interest as being calculated to furnish data for arriving at a settlement of the question as to whether the principle of compulsory destruction should become the policy of the State.

With the exception of a small strip of country situated in the Land Districts of Condobolin and Hillston, no addition has been made to the area of the proclaimed rabbit-infested districts.

During the past year applications have been made for bringing other districts within the scope of the 12th section of the Act; but owing principally to these proposals not meeting with the support of the smaller class of settlers who might be called upon to contribute to the cost of making fences erected in such districts rabbit-proof, the approval of the Department has been withheld.

As the outcome of the Conference convened by the Minister in April last for the purpose of obtaining a specific expression of opinion regarding the best means to be adopted for the checking and suppression of the rabbit-pest, a Rabbit Bill was drafted, based upon the resolutions submitted by the Delegates as the result of their deliberations.

Animals

* The Lace Lizard (*Crotalus Toxicus*, Shaw).

Animals Infectious Diseases Act.

The provisions of the Animals Infectious Diseases Act of 1888 have been more extensively called into operation during the past year than in any similar period since the measure was introduced, no less than 15 licenses, to introduce and propagate microbes and inoculate animals therewith, under the 6th and 7th sections of the Act, having been issued, as against 7 only for 1895; and this is accounted for by the increased activity in the work of inoculating sheep against anthrax.

Labour Settlements.

Pitt Town.—The labour settlement at Pitt Town became defunct on the 17th of June last, on which date the dissolution of the Board of Control and the revocation of the settlement area and its conversion into a casual labour farm were notified in the *Government Gazette*.

A Select Committee, which was appointed to inquire into the causes of the abandonment of the Pitt Town settlement, has not yet completed its investigations; so that further comment on a question which, perhaps, may be regarded as being still *sub judice* would be inexpedient at the present time.

Wilberforce.—An announcement was recently made by the Chairman to the effect that the funds at the disposal of the Board are exhausted; but in the absence of any information respecting the settlement, it may, perhaps, be assumed that matters are generally progressing favourably, and that the settlers have reached that stage where further aid from the State is no longer essential.

It has been decided that the question of the issue of leases to the Boards of Control, and of sub-leases to the settlers, in accordance with the provisions of the "Labour Settlements Act," remain in abeyance "until such time as steps have been taken to amend the law, with the object of securing homestead titles at a fair rent to settlers of this description."

Bega.—The progress made by this settlement continues to be satisfactory, so far as can be gathered from the reports of the two local members of the Board and other communications; and if the general acceptance, without protest, of recent reductions in the weekly allowances for maintenance to little more than a nominal amount may be regarded as a criterion, the settlement should shortly be in a position to support itself.

The whole of the settlement area has been surrounded with a substantial post-and-wire fence, and wire netting attached thereto.

The community consists of twenty families, but their number will shortly be augmented by the enrolment of additional settlers with their families, for whose introduction provision has been made by the subdivision of that portion of the area which has so far been used for the agistment of stock.

The settlers have each been supplied with a sufficient number of fruit-trees to plant an acre of ground, and supplies of seed for their kitchen gardens have also been distributed, the planting and sowing of which have been carried out under the direction and supervision of experienced officers, whose services had been courteously placed at the disposal of the Board of Control by the Secretary for Mines and Agriculture; and it is not unreasonable to anticipate a successful issue to this experiment under the conditions that now obtain.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure for all services in 1896 amounts to £341,049 6s. 11d., made up as follows:—For services paid from Consolidated Revenue Votes, &c., £326,848 6s. 7d.; for services paid from Loan Votes, £13,873 11s. 4d.; and for the Church and School Lands Branch, transferred from the Public Instruction Department, £327 9s.

The total expenditure in 1895 was £320,308 7s. 9d.; so that the expenditure in 1896 shows an increase of £20,740 19s. 2d. Taking, however, the expenses of the Department, purely in connection with the administration of the Land Laws, the

total for 1895 was £300,086 12s. 8d., as against £298,524 0s. 4d. for 1896, showing a decrease of £1,562 12s. 4d. The large increase above referred to will be seen on reference to Schedule III to be occasioned mainly by an excess of expenditure in 1896 over 1895 in connection with the following, viz. :—Special services, £8,652 11s. 2d. ; and payments from Loan Votes, £13,323 11s. 4d. ; for the improvement of and the acquisition of sites for public cemeteries and public parks and recreation reserves, the increase of £10,306 3s. 11d. is accounted for by the fact that the financial year was altered in 1895, estimates having been voted for six months to the end of June, and thereafter from the 1st July to the 30th June following.

As to the Loan Expenditure, the statement (Schedule III) speaks for itself, scrub clearing, erection of buildings, and Hay irrigation works being responsible for the increased expenditure in this direction.

It will be seen that the decrease on account of salaries, exclusive of the Land Appeal Court and Church and School Lands Branch, was £14,302 10s. 3d., representing mainly the transfers, retirements, and reductions in the salaries of officers graded by the Public Service Board as from the 1st July, which amounted to £24,743 per annum. The decreased expenditure on account of salaries alone being £14,302 10s. 3d., and the decrease on all services, including salaries, in connection with the administration of the Land Laws being only £1,562 12s. 4d., shows that expenditure for contingencies has increased by £12,739 17s. 11d. The various items making up this sum will be seen on reference to the comparative statement. The largest increases are £5,882 5s. 8d. for appraisement and inspection fees ; £2,338 0s. 8d., for travelling expenses, including equipment and forage allowances ; and £2,095 0s. 7d., for fees for attendance at Local Land Courts. These, however, can be more than accounted for—firstly, by the employment of special experts to carry out the inspection and appraisement of pastoral and homestead leases, and resumed areas held under occupation licenses in the Western Division, made under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, and for the appraisement of value of conditional purchases within special areas, in connection with applications under section 36 of that Act ; secondly, by the additional expenses in connection with the foregoing for fees to members of Local Land Boards, for their travelling expenses, and those of chairmen, deposition clerks, district surveyors, witnesses, and others ; and thirdly, by the payment of an annual travelling allowance to thirteen forest inspectors, transferred from the Department of Mines and Agriculture on the 1st July. It is pointed out that the rates of travelling allowances in the majority of cases were less than they were in 1895, and had it not been for the employment of the inspectors and special appraisers referred to, and the transfer of the foresters, travelling expenses would have shown a decrease instead of an increase.

Referring to the salaries of Crown Land Agents and assistants, 64 officers were graded by the Public Service Board under the Department of Justice, and their salaries are being paid by that Department.

The number of accounts registered during the year was 9,840, and the separate payments made on account of them by cheques drawn in the Account Branch numbered 18,315.

Schedules I to VII and XCVI show respectively the revenue and receipts ; expenditure for all services ; comparative statement of expenditure in 1895 and 1896, respectively ; salaries paid in the year ; the strength of the staff and the annual rate of salaries as on the 31st December, 1895 and 1896, respectively ; travelling expenses and fees in connection with Local Land Board meetings ; revenue and expenditure for the years 1886 to 1896, inclusively, showing the percentage of the latter to revenue ; and cost of measuring classified areas by licensed surveyors.

The Land Appeal Court.

During the year 1896 the Court heard and disposed of 642 cases, comprising 435 appeals and 207 references. Of these cases, 369 were dealt with in Sydney and 273 at the various sittings in the country. The Court held sittings in Sydney on 14 different occasions, and in the country as follows :—Albury, 1 ; Deniliquin, 1 ; Dubbo, 3 ; Hay, 1 ; Tamworth, 2 ; Wagga Wagga, 3 ; Young, 1.

At

At the close of the year 1895 four (4) cases were under reference to the Supreme Court, viz. :—

No. 3,545,	<i>in re</i>	Wm. Nott.
„ 3,683	„	Jas. Nott.
„ 3,696	„	M. Harvey.
„ 3,592	„	Goldsbrough, Mort, & Co. v. Pratt.

All of these have since been disposed of. The decision of the Land Appeal Court was sustained in Nos. 3,545 and 3,696, and overruled in No. 3,683 and 3,592.

During 1896 the Land Appeal Court was asked to state special cases for the decision of the Supreme Court in eleven instances, two of which, however, were not proceeded with. The remaining nine were duly stated and forwarded to the Prothonotary.

The following are the nine cases referred to :—

No. 3,768,	Dalgety & Co. ;	Hill, Clark, & Co.
„ 3,781,	<i>in re</i>	W. H. Hunt.
„ 3,853,	„	Hy. Deane.
„ 3,880,	„	Wm. Bolton.
„ 3,884,	„	Robt. Maguire.
„ 3,926,	„	Gardiner.
Nos. 4,135 and 4,136,	<i>in re</i>	H. E. Colless.
„ 4,137 and 4,138,	„	I. E. Colless.
No. 4,182	„	J. Dennis.

In Case 3,768, which is a case under the Rabbit Act, the Supreme Court held that it had no jurisdiction to hear the case. In Cases Nos. 3,781, 3,884, and 4,182, the Land Appeal Court's decision was confirmed, and in Cases Nos. 3,853, 3,880, 3,926, and 4,135 to 4,138, it was reversed. These last four cases are practically one, and leave has since been obtained to appeal to Her Majesty's Privy Council against the ruling of the Full Court.

Auction Sales.

Town Lands.—During the year 1,447 lots, comprising an area of 601 acres 1 rood 25½ perches, were offered for sale, of which 488 lots, containing 188 acres 3 roods 1½ perches, were sold, realising the sum of £5,739 11s., or an average of £30 8s. 1¾d. per acre.

Suburban Lands.—719 lots, containing an area of 2,863 acres 1 rood 29¾ perches, were offered for sale, of which 244 lots, comprising 688 acres 2 roods 5 perches, were sold, realising £3,702 19s. 6d., or an average price of £5 7s. 6¾d. per acre.

Country Lands.—The lots offered in connection with these lands amounted to 971, representing an area of 29,084 acres 2 roods 1¼ perches. 325 lots containing 11,214 acres 3 roods 6 perches were sold, realising £25,751 8s. 10d., or an average of £2 5s. 11d. per acre.

It will thus be seen that the total area of all classes offered for sale during 1896 amounted to 32,549 acres 1 rood, 16½ perches, comprised within 3,137 lots, and that the total area sold was 12,092 acres 0 roods, 12½ perches, embracing 1,057 lots, the amount realised being £35,193 19s. 4d.

A comparison of the transactions under this class of sales for the years 1895 and 1896, is supplied in the following Schedule :—

	Year.	No. of lots offered.	Area offered.			No. of lots sold.	Area sold.			Amount realised.			Average price per acre.		
			a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Town ...	1895	2,564	1,017	0	21½	745	289	0	36¼	9,926	17	0	34	6	5
	1896	1,447	601	1	25½	488	188	3	1½	5,739	11	0	30	8	1¾
Suburban ...	1895	1,149	5,114	3	26¾	261	868	2	25¾	4,863	9	0	5	12	0
	1896	719	2,863	1	29¾	244	688	2	5	3,702	19	6	5	7	6¾
Country ...	1895	1,403	57,342	2	1	485	19,989	3	25½	42,217	9	4	2	2	3
	1896	971	29,084	2	1¼	325	11,214	3	6	25,751	8	10	2	5	11

From this Schedule it will be observed that the total area offered only amounted to about 50 per cent. of the quantity offered in 1895. Though large decreases appear both in the area offered, and the area sold, as compared with the previous year, yet the average price per acre has been well maintained. It will also be seen that about 31 per cent. of town lands, 24 per cent. of suburban lands, and 39 per cent. of country lands, offered, were sold, as compared with 28 per cent., 17 per cent., and 35 per cent. respectively, in 1895.

It may further be remarked that the revenue derived from these sales during 1896 is the lowest for many years past. In the years 1887, 1888, 1892, and 1893, the revenue derived from this source was £235,098, £273,612, £310,716, and £223,375, respectively. Further details will be found in Schedule XXXII.

After Auction Sales.

During the year 586 applications were received, 95 of which were refused, while 537, comprising 627 lots were granted.

An area of 1,867 acres 0 roods 11½ perches was thus sold, the amount realised in connection therewith being £9,604 1s. 5d. The average prices obtained per acre were as follows:—For town lands, £20 15s. 4½d.; for suburban lands, £4 19s. 10¾d.; and for country lands within population areas, £2 15s. 5¼d. Further details will be found in Schedule XXXIII.

Forfeiture of Auction Purchases.

For non-payment of the balance of the purchase money within the specified time 225 lots were forfeited during the year, representing an area of 194 acres 2 roods 22 perches, and the deposits paid in connection therewith, amounting to £1,934 1s. 3d., were accordingly forfeited to the Crown. Further particulars will be found in Schedule XXXIV.

In cases where purchasers of Crown land are entitled to the improvements existing thereon the value of the improvements is added to the upset price of the land, and, subsequently, remitted. In this way a sum of £929 18s. 3d. was refunded and other payments which had been made in excess, to the amount of £179 12s. 6d., were also refunded during the year.

Homestead Selections.

As the setting apart of areas for homestead selection under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1895 did not commence till late in 1895, the year under review may be looked upon, practically, as the first during which land could be acquired under this tenure, and the year's transactions show a very satisfactory result.

From Schedule XXIII it will be seen that no less than 1,187 blocks, comprising an area of 362,874 acres 1 rood 24 perches, were applied for during the year.

Including the applications outstanding at the close of the year 1895, the Local Land Boards dealt with 1,299. Of these 1,037, for an area of 300,217 acres 3 roods 17 perches, were confirmed, whilst 262 were either disallowed or withdrawn. The number of applications outstanding at the end of the year was 250.

From Schedule XXIV it will be seen that the number of homestead selections current on the 31st December, 1896, was 1,100, comprising an area of 324,842 acres 2 roods 22 perches.

From Schedule LXXXI it will be observed that 1,335 blocks, containing an area of 347,639 acres 15 perches, were notified during the year as set apart for homestead selection.

During the year twenty-two applications were made to convert conditional purchases into homestead selections. These applications included 44 conditional purchases, the area represented being 5,547 acres 2 roods 20 perches. The total number of conditional purchases, so converted, since the Crown Lands Act of 1895 came into operation, to the 31st December, 1896, is 47, the area comprised being 6,874 acres 2 roods 20 perches. For further details see Schedule XXV.

Conditional

Conditional Purchases.

As predicted in the Report for the year 1895, the transactions in regard to this class of holding have been on a much more limited scale than in former years. This restriction in the amount of business is largely due to the extension of the term of residence in connection with conditional purchases, and to the fact that intending settlers of limited means have availed themselves of the more favourable terms for acquiring homesteads afforded by the Crown Lands Act of 1895.

The area applied for during 1896 was 199,449 acres 3 roods 37 perches under 1,279 applications, whilst in the preceding year the area was 253,431 acres, and the number of applications 1,751.

From Schedules VIII and IX and the subjoined Summary it will be seen that of the applications received, 765 were for original conditional purchases, 492 for additional, and 22 for non-residential conditional purchases. The distribution of these applications in the various divisions into which the Colony is divided was as follows:—Eastern Division, 848 applications for 85,283 acres 2 roods 14 perches; Central Division, 430 applications for 113,506 acres 3 roods 23 perches; and Western Division, 1 application for 659½ acres.

Particulars relating to the number of applications received during the year for land within special areas, and for ordinary lands, also respecting the number and area of conditional purchases applied for from 1862 up to the present time, are furnished in Schedule X.

Year.	Section 26. (O.C.P.)			Section 42. (A.C.P.)			Section 47. (N.R.O.P.)			Special Areas.			Total.												
	No.	Area.	Deposit.	No.	Area.	Deposit.	No.	Area.	Deposit.	No.	Area.	Deposit.	No.	Area.	Deposit.										
	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.							
1885	2430	772,718	3 0	77,272	17 0	20339	344,053	3 20	34,405	10 4	302	47,806	3 0	9,251	1 0	0	742	0 0	140	8 0	5377	1,105,351	1 20	121,000	16 4
1886	2660	570,539	2 28	57,854	0 1	2087	330,279	3 2	33,028	0 4	355	43,636	2 37	8,850	5 0	78	9,690	2 0	2,121	17 0	6080	963,106	2 27	101,794	2 11
1887	2300	529,028	2 14	52,962	17 5	2185	231,912	2 5	23,191	5 3	186	20,073	3 12	4,014	16 0	98	11,359	1 0	2,501	12 3	4709	793,004	0 31	82,670	10 11
1888	2474	560,109	3 23	56,010	10 11	2334	247,639	0 10	24,763	18 4	233	26,139	0 22	5,227	17 0	273	31,311	0 17	7,155	9 0	5364	563,109	0 38	98,168	4 3
1889	2722	533,218	0 0	53,321	8 0	2634	283,216	0 20	28,320	15 3	271	26,060	3 0	5,532	3 0	628	60,070	2 29	12,680	5 0	6205	903,159	2 9	99,854	6 3
1890	3252	879,058	3 3	87,907	18 8	4061	600,839	2 16	60,119	2 2	230	28,163	1 33	5,635	10 0	930	205,515	1 25	40,316	1 4	8526	1,713,577	1 0	193,978	12 8
1891	2243	686,570	1 30	58,056	19 5	2541	430,009	3 23	43,007	11 5	127	12,887	0 13	2,571	9 11	1243	273,836	3 1	54,948	17 9	6154	1,303,414	1 2	150,184	13 6
1892	1535	314,020	1 24	31,402	2 0	1823	323,557	0 26	32,356	10 1	105	9,284	1 3	1,922	3 8	928	168,637	2 0	32,087	15 3	4306	816,339	1 19	97,857	11 0
1893	1156	197,092	2 15	19,709	7 2	1101	174,163	1 32	17,416	11 7	57	4,536	2 0	912	2 0	1079	158,012	3 37	31,320	2 10	3203	533,805	2 4	69,358	3 7
1894	830	132,238	3 30	13,223	18 4	858	170,392	0 24	17,050	4 4	49	3,424	0 0	684	16 0	880	107,889	3 36	21,450	3 4	2817	414,355	0 10	52,480	2 0
1895	631	102,365	0 0	10,230	10 0	643	94,218	3 0	9,421	13 0	19	1,233	2 0	250	14 0	453	55,593	3 12	10,322	19 9	1751	253,431	0 12	30,231	19 6
1896	526	71,747	0 0	7,174	14 0	403	83,474	2 20	8,403	11 0	10	1,079	3 0	215	19 0	331	43,113	2 1	8,134	12 0	1270	190,449	3 37	23,028	16 0

Of the applications made during the year, 546 were confirmed, for an area of 79,839 acres 2 roods 19 perches, and 239 were disallowed. Including the applications that were outstanding on the 1st January, 1896, the total number confirmed during the year was 1,059, for an area of 151,935 acres 1 rood 9 perches, and 355 were disallowed. (For further details, see Schedule XI.)

The incomplete conditional purchases current at the end of the year numbered 147,742, and embraced an area of 20,212,812 acres 1 rood 31½ perches, and the number of conditional purchases for which deeds of grant had been issued numbered 23,387, the total area so alienated being 2,773,065 acres 0 roods 15 perches. (See Schedule XXII.)

Four hundred and forty-three conditional purchases, representing an area of 54,689 acres 0 roods 12 perches, were forfeited during the year, as against 513, containing 63,532 acres 3 roods 35 perches, for the preceding year. From the subjoined statement, extracted from Schedules XVIII and XIX, it will be observed that of the total forfeitures only 72 were due to non-payment of balance, interest, or instalment of purchase money.

No.	Area.	Reasons of Forfeiture.
72	a. r. p. 7,296 2 20	Non-payment of balance, interest, or instalment of purchase money.
371	47,392 1 32	Non-fulfilment of conditions.
443	54,689 0 12	

Under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act Amendment Act of 1891, forfeiture was conditionally waived in 250 instances, and absolutely waived in 505.

Extensions of time for payment of instalments were granted to the holders of 4,214 conditional purchases, the total area represented being 530,695 acres.

The provisions of Section 28, Crown Lands Act of 1895, by virtue of which resident conditional purchasers are enabled to obtain suspension of payment of instalments for a period of twelve months, have been largely availed of during the year. Applications were complied with in respect of 2,027 conditional purchases containing 348,217 acres, and 353 applications were refused.

As the Conditional Purchases Relief Act only came into operation on the 14th July, 1896, the transactions thereunder were necessarily small. Up to the end of the year, relief was granted in connection with 344 applications, representing 887 conditional purchases, the difference between the original amount of annual instalments payable and the reduced amount being £2,658 16s. 9d. (For details, see Schedule XIV.)

	Number of Applications.	Number of Conditional Purchases.	Original Amount of Annual Instalment.	Reduced Amount of Annual Instalment.	Difference between Original and Reduced Amount.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ordinary Conditional Purchase ...	298	832	6,679 14 6½	4,299 2 8	2,380 11 10½
Special Area Conditional Purchase...	46	55	1 084 0 4½	805 15 6	278 4 10½
Totals	344	887	7,763 14 11	5,104 18 2	2,658 16 9

From Schedule XV it will be seen that 639 certificates of conformity were issued in connection with conditional purchases under the repealed Acts.

Schedules XVI and XVII furnish details in reference to transfers received and dealt with during the year. 9,039 transfers were received, and 8,620 were dealt with. The conditional purchases so transferred numbered 16,509; but it will be observed that a large proportion of these must have been transferred more than once, as the number of conditional purchases actually affected was only 11,264.

Stamp duty to the amount of £5,761 8s. was paid in connection with 3,165 transfers.

Under the provisions of the 44th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, 12 conditional purchases, containing 2,172½ acres, and 4 conditional leases, containing 1,870 acres, were validated during the year. (*Vide* Schedule XX.)

Particulars of instructions issued to, and reports received from, conditional purchase inspectors will be found in Schedule XC.

The total number of instructions issued during the year was 14,507, and the number of reports received was 11,644.

It was not found necessary during 1896 to resume any land from conditional purchases or conditional leases on account of its being auriferous.

Special Areas.

One hundred and twenty special areas, embracing an area of 32,811 acres 2 roods 39 perches, were proclaimed during the year, as compared with 212, containing an area of 62,294 acres, proclaimed in 1895; 82 of these special areas included 30,199 acres 2 roods 20 perches of country lands, and the remainder, 38, containing 2,612 acres 0 roods 19 perches, comprised lands within population or suburban areas. (For further particulars, see Schedule LXXX.)

The

The decrease in the number of special areas proclaimed is primarily due to the fact that since the Crown Lands Act of 1895 came into operation, lands of more than ordinary value can be disposed of either as special areas or as homestead selections.

From Schedule XII it will be observed that of a total available area of 160,567 acres 2 roods 10½ perches of suburban or population area lands, 109,942 acres 1 rood 32 perches have been selected, and that of an area of 989,903 acres 1 rood 2 perches of country lands, no less than 799,278 acres 1 rood 38 perches have been selected. The area still available for selection on the 31st December, 1896, was 241,249 acres 3 roods 22½ perches.

The transactions in each of the Land Board Districts is set forth in the appended summary, taken from Schedule XII:—

Land Board District.	Class of Land.	Quantity of Land Available.			Area selected.			Area unselected.		
		a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.
Armidale	Country	35,553	3	0	24,092	2	0	11,461	1	0
	Suburban or Population...	3,455	3	17	2,047	1	18	1,408	1	39
Bourke	Country	14,040	2	0	2,309	3	0	11,730	3	0
	Suburban or Population...	120	0	0	80	0	0	40	0	0
Dubbo	Country	18,698	1	0	16,574	2	0	2,123	3	0
	Suburban or Population...	5,971	0	29	4,792	2	39	1,178	1	30
Forbes	Country	124,385	0	28	120,509	3	28	3,875	1	0
	Suburban or Population...	18,409	1	0	16,381	0	35	2,028	0	14
Goulburn	Country	91,214	2	28	73,056	0	38	18,158	1	30
	Suburban or Population...	71,370	3	25½	50,863	1	24	20,507	2	1½
Grafton	Country	45,511	0	20	36,824	3	20	8,716	1	0
	Suburban or Population...	2,076	3	30	750	3	17	1,326	0	13
Hay	Country	150,548	1	0	122,106	1	0	28,442	0	0
	Suburban or Population...	10,193	1	0	8,407	1	0	1,786	0	0
Maitland	Country	15,711	0	18	10,805	0	18	4,906	0	0
	Suburban or Population...	9,662	0	22	6,594	2	38	3,067	1	24
Moree	Country	35,939	0	13	5,178	1	20	30,760	2	33
	Suburban or Population...	57,876	0	30	49,859	2	30	8,016	2	0
Orange	Country	13,934	3	31	9,418	0	3	4,516	3	28
	Suburban or Population...	10,700	0	0	5,961	3	0	4,738	1	0
Sydney	Country	6,631	2	3	1,966	2	30	4,664	3	13
	Suburban or Population...	102,105	0	14	77,366	3	25	24,738	0	29
Tamworth	Country	16,210	2	13	7,354	3	26	8,855	2	27
	Suburban or Population...	287,590	0	11	254,632	2	19	32,957	1	32
Wagga Wagga	Country	2,530	3	31	1,235	1	2	1,245	2	29
	Suburban or Population...									
Total	Country	989,903	1	2	799,278	1	38	190,624	3	4
	Suburban or Population...	160,567	2	10½	109,942	1	32	50,625	0	18½
Grand Total ... ..	.....	1,150,470	3	12½	909,220	3	30	241,249	3	22½

Schedule XIII supplies details relating to appraisements under the provisions of the 36th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1895 of the value of special area conditional purchases. In view of the large number of applications for appraisement made it was found impossible to dispose of them all during the year; but of 2,723 applications lodged, the Local Land Boards had dealt with 2,703 on the 31st December, 1896.

The total area covered by the applications to appraise was 597,011 acres 2 roods 17½ perches, and the values have been finally determined in respect of 520,515 acres 0 roods 14 perches. The capital value of the latter area prior to appraisement was £1,044,763 2s. 10½d., but as determined by appraisement is only £745,660 15s. 0½d., thus showing a reduction in capital value of £299,102 7s. 10d., which necessarily carries with it a proportionate diminution in the amount of the annual instalments payable. It may be stated that prior to the appraisement the annual instalments payable in respect of the 520,515 acres 0 roods 14 perches referred to amounted to £52,269 12s. 2d., whereas under the recently appraised values they will only amount to £37,283 0s. 11½d., thus showing an annual loss of £14,986 11s. 2½d. It is anticipated that the appraisement of the balance of the area covered by the applications will also result in a reduction in the capital value.

The

The appended summary will serve to show the transactions in each of the Land Board Districts:—

SUMMARY.

Land Board District.	Total Number of Applications Received.	Area.			Total Number of Applications dealt with by L.A.B. to 31st December, 1896.	Area.			Cases in which Values have been Finally Determined.															
		a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.	Number of Conditional Purchases.	Area.	Amount of Purchase Money Represented at Original Price.	Amount of Purchase Money Represented after Appraisalment.	Amount of Annual Instalments Represented at Original Rate.	Amount of Annual Instalments Represented after Appraisalment.										
		a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Armidale	111	18,171	1	0	110	18,051	1	0	113	17,413	1	0	33,780	12	7½	24,593	7	9	1,030	0	7	1,229	13	4
Bourke	5	1,202	1	0	5	1,202	1	0	5	1,202	1	0	2,229	7	6	2,118	17	6	111	9	4	105	18	10
Dubbo	46	11,299	0	0	46	11,299	0	0	40	10,726	0	0	19,724	7	9	15,361	3	9	936	4	5	783	1	2
Forbes	341	96,787	2	19	341	96,787	2	19	359	93,982	3	10	169,473	12	2	112,880	11	11	8,605	2	7	5,644	0	7
Goulburn	369	53,059	2	0	369	53,059	2	0	366	52,617	1	33	124,157	17	5	95,426	9	2	6,207	17	10	4,771	0	6
Grafton	191	20,530	0	20	191	20,530	0	20	220	20,530	0	20	46,510	0	8	31,733	7	7	2,325	10	0	1,586	18	4
Hay	272	102,632	0	0	272	102,632	0	0	246	98,232	0	0	174,869	15	3	125,262	7	5	3,743	9	9	6,263	2	4
Maitland	67	8,666	0	0	67	8,666	0	0	70	7,319	1	30	15,480	5	8	14,519	4	4	774	0	3	725	19	3
Moree	60	16,180	3	0	60	16,180	3	0	59	15,095	1	0	24,509	15	0	22,332	11	8	1,225	9	0	1,116	12	7
Orange	204	40,754	1	30	204	40,754	1	30	218	37,447	1	14	71,405	18	3	61,541	4	0½	3,570	5	11	3,077	1	3½
Sydney	36	2,912	1	30	36	2,912	1	30	36	2,912	1	30	6,604	2	6	4,207	5	9	330	4	2	210	7	3
Tamworth	168	27,356	0	30	166	27,356	0	30	160	26,596	0	19	58,395	3	9	51,904	11	7	2,919	15	2	2,585	4	7
Wagga Wagga	855	197,460	0	8½	836	193,555	2	8½	644	136,430	3	18	297,622	4	4	183,274	12	7	14,831	2	5	9,163	13	11
Totals	2,723	597,011	2	17½	2,703	592,937	0	17½	2,536	520,515	0	14	1,044,763	2	10½	745,660	15	0½	52,260	12	2	37,283	0	11½

Improvement Purchases.

The area of land within proclaimed gold-fields applied for to purchase, in virtue of improvements, under section 46 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, shows a very slight advance on the previous year. The number of applications received during 1896 was 152, the number approved was 102, whilst 22 were refused, and 12 allowed to lapse. The area alienated amounted to 32 acres 3 roods 23¼ perches, comprised within 85 lots, the price realised being £1,047 14s.

Two applications under section 2 of the Land Act Amendment Act of 1875 for country lands, embracing 433½ acres, were also approved, the price paid being £569 12s. 6d. Further particulars will be found in Schedule XXXV.

Special Purchases.

The transactions in connection with this class of alienations include applications for rescission of water frontage reservations (section 12, Act of 1861, and section 63, Act of 1884), for permission to reclaim and purchase land (section 64, Act of 1884), for the purchase of small, isolated areas, &c. (section 66, Act of 1884), for permission to close and purchase unnecessary roads (section 67, Act of 1884), and also for the granting of Crown lands in lieu of land resumed for roads (section 42, Act of 1889).

The number of applications received during the year was 106, of which 3 were under section 63, Act of 1884; 29 under section 64, Act of 1884; 24 under section 66, Act of 1884; and 50 under section 67, Act of 1884.

The area alienated amounted to 262 acres 0 roods 4 perches, the purchase money received being £4,032 15s. The area disposed of in the year 1895 under those sections was 538 acres 0 roods 28¼ perches, the sum realised being £4,720 12s. 7d.

Under the 42nd section, Act of 1889, 21 cases were completed during the year, the area granted being 55 acres 0 roods 5 perches.

Further details will be found in Schedule XXXVI; but the Summary hereunder presents the year's transactions in a condensed form for reference:—

Section 12, Act 1861...	Area sold.			Purchase money.		
	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
..	0	0	23	56	9	0
.. 63, " 1884...	1	2	26½	118	16	3
.. 64, " " ..	1	1	30¼	1,507	18	9
.. 66, " " ..	173	3	25¼	1,833	16	10
.. 67, " " ..	8½	3	19	515	14	2
.. 42, " 1889...	55	0	5	.....	.....	.....
	317	0	9	4,032	15	0

Surrenders and Exchanges.

That the provisions of section 47, Act of 1895 (which permit the holders of purchased lands exchanging the same for Crown land with a view to consolidating their estates) are in active operation, will be seen on reference to Schedule XXXVII, no less than 177 applications having been received, or 46 in excess of the previous year. The number of applications refused or withdrawn was 56, and the cases outstanding at the close of the year amounted to 315. In explanation of the large number of applications outstanding, it may be stated that in many of these cases, owing to the magnitude of the transactions and the important interests involved, protracted negotiations are necessary, and several counter proposals have often to be submitted to the applicants before a proper basis of exchange can be agreed upon for reference to the Local Land Board.

During the year 45 cases, representing an area of 213,900 acres, were finally completed, and the surrenders accepted by the Governor-in-Council. (*See* Schedule XXXVII.)

Deeds of Grant.

The number of deeds of grant prepared during the year was 2,168, representing an area of 296,438 acres 1 rood 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ perches. These figures show a decrease when compared with 1895, during which year the deeds prepared reached a total of 2,634, representing an area of 299,788 acres 1 rood 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ perches. The work involved in some of the large exchanges made has, however, been of a very complicated and difficult nature. (For further details, *see* Schedule XXXVIII.)

Volunteer Order Applications.

During the year, 12 of these applications were received, 8 being for land within the Albury Land District, 1 for land in the Gunnedah District, 1 for land in the Gundagai District, and 2 for land in the Murrurundi District. Two applications were refused, and 4, representing an area of 200 acres, were granted.

The number of these applications received in the year 1895 was 4.

Settlement Leases.

From Schedule LXXXII it will be seen that the settlement-lease areas notified during the year 1896 contained 481 farms, embracing an area of 1,719,391 acres 1 rood 10 perches.

The number of leases applied for during the year was 314, the area embraced being 1,012,389 acres, representing an annual rental of £10,937 13s. 5d. Applications for 259 farms, containing 717,798 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, were confirmed, and applications for 112 farms were outstanding at the close of the year. (For further particulars, *see* Schedule LVII.)

After confirmation of an application, a lease is executed and issued. From Schedule LVIII it will be observed that the number of leases so executed and issued since the Crown Lands Act of 1895 (the Act that created this form of lease) came into operation, to the 31st December, 1896, is 198, covering an area of 542,778 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and producing a revenue of £6,760 12s. 9d., or within a fraction of an average rate of 3d. per acre.

The popularity of this class of holding is evidenced by the fact that of 653 farms notified for settlement since the Act of 1895 operated, no less than 384, or nearly 60 per cent., have been applied for, although some of the areas notified towards the close of the year did not become available till 1897.

Annual Leases.

The area held under annual lease at the close of the year 1896 was 5,873,263 acres 0 roods 7 perches, comprised within 9,588 leases, producing an annual revenue of £40,753 15s. 7d.

Nine hundred and nineteen leases lapsed during the year, the area being 715,082 acres, and the rental £4,485 3s. 10d. The cancellations numbered 117, the area covered being 63,917 acres 3 roods 32 perches, to which a rental of £460 16s. 6d. was attached (Schedule LXX).

The following table shows the number, area, and rental of the leases in existence in each Division of the Colony at the end of 1896:—

Division.	Number.	Area.		Rent.		
		a.	r. p.	£	s.	d.
Eastern	8,410	4,987,079	0 17	32,579	2	7
Central	1,073	819,882	3 30	7,651	13	6
Western	75	86,301	0 0	522	19	6
	9,588	5,873,263	0 7	40,753	15	7

It may be mentioned that the leases in existence at the close of the year 1895 showed an increase, both in respect of the number of leases and the area leased, when compared with the year 1894, and the past year shows a further advance on the year 1895, the leases current at the end of that year being 8,924, covering an area of 5,564,303 acres 1 rood 27 perches, and producing an annual revenue of £39,510 14s. 6d. Schedule LXXI supplies further details of current leases.

The number of applications disposed of during the year amounted to 2,275, of which 1,799 were granted, and 476 either disallowed or withdrawn. Some of these applications were lodged prior to 1896. The area leased in satisfaction of the applications granted was 1,179,593 acres 1 rood 20 perches, the rental derived therefrom being £7,019 6s. 11d. (*Vide* Schedule LXVIII.)

The area offered for lease by auction during 1896 was 65,102 acres 1 rood 37 perches, of which 8,689½ acres were sold, the annual rent realised being £254 10s. (Schedule LXIX.)

The following table gives particulars of the applications made, the area applied for, and the area leased by auction during the past five years. Further details will be found in Schedules LXVIII and LXIX:—

Year.	Applications made.	Area applied for.		Area leased by auction.		
		a.	r. p.	a.	r.	p.
1892	2,578	1,768,807	0 0	3,357	2	0
1893	2,130	1,390,212	1 13	10,709	0	0
1894	1,779	1,018,615	0 0	11,042	0	0
1895	2,444	1,458,627	2 0	6,929	3	0
1896	1,928	1,072,830	0 35½	8,689	2	0

Though the number of applications and the area applied for during the year show a considerable decrease when compared with the year 1895, yet the revenue derived from the leases granted shows a substantial increase, the amount being £7,019 6s. 11d. as against £6,459 14s. 5d.

Conditional Leases.

The number of applications received in 1896 was 736, for an area of 335,101 acres 1 rood 30 perches. This, when compared with previous years' transactions, is significant. Evidently the residence condition imposed by the Crown Lands Act of 1895, and the more popular forms of tenure introduced by that Act are, in a great measure, responsible for the diminution in the number of applications made.

Full

Full details regarding the applications received during 1896 will be found in Schedule XXVI; and a summary of those received annually since 1885, the year in which this class of holding was introduced, is shown hereunder.

Year.	Number.	Area.			Deposits.		
		a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
1885	3,816*	2,517,045	0	15*	21,225	7	6
1886	2,500	1,207,953	0	8	10,066	5	6
1887	2,228	1,242,380	0	0	10,353	3	4
1888	2,623	1,424,753	1	25	11,872	18	11
1889	3,470	1,569,949	3	30	13,082	18	4
1890	5,466	3,056,774	2	26	25,489	7	2
1891	3,952	2,177,810	0	15	18,140	17	10
1892	2,692	1,171,971	1	18	9,769	5	1
1893	1,800	715,611	0	34	5,943	8	4
1894	1,338	528,612	2	30	4,409	9	10
1895	1,120	478,301	3	20	3,985	1	8
1896	736	335,101	1	30	2,783	7	5

* This includes 1,994 applications, made under 54th section of the Act of 1884, representing an area of 1,198,617 acres 0 roods 30 perches.

During the year 859 applications were dealt with, 604 being confirmed, for an area of 211,236 acres, and 255 disallowed. Of the applications confirmed, 196 were made during 1896, and embraced an area of 63,121½ acres; and of the applications disallowed, 163 were lodged during that year. Further particulars will be found in Schedule XXVII.

Three thousand and ten transfers were passed during 1896, the number of leases affected being 2,043, representing an area of 1,500,295 acres 2 roods 10 perches. (*See* Schedule XXVIII.)

Under the provisions of section 25 of the Act of 1889, there were 227 conversions of conditional leases into additional conditional purchases. In 92 instances the whole of the leases were converted, whilst in 135 cases only partial conversions were effected. The total area so converted amounted to 49,464½ acres, to which a rental of £657 3s. 7d. had been attached. (*See* Schedule XXX.)

The rents fixed by the Local Land Boards in 812 cases were approved by the Minister, and no references to the Land Appeal Court were considered necessary.

Extension of time for the payment of rent was granted in 256 cases, the amount thus deferred being £2,800. In 205 cases forfeiture was provisionally, and in 396 cases absolutely, waived during the year.

During the year, 812 leases, containing 298,087 acres 3 roods 20 perches, were gazetted as approved, the rental attached thereto being £3,034 13s. 10d. The total number of gazetted leases in existence at the end of the year was 21,992, containing 12,486,321 acres 2 roods 34 perches, producing an annual revenue of £150,361 9s. 3d. By the addition of the applications in hand on the 31st December, 1896, on which, however, action had not been completed, the number of leases would be increased to 23,407, the area to 13,260,052 acres 0 roods 17 perches, and the annual rental to £156,809 2s. 8d. Further details will be found in Schedule XXXI.

Two hundred and eighty-eight leases were gazetted as forfeited during the year. These embrace an area of 102,320½ acres, and the rental attached thereto was £1,204 6s. 5d. (*Schedule* XXIX.)

Since December, 1885, an area of 9,988 acres 0 roods 57 perches has been cancelled, out of 19 leases, on account of the land being auriferous.

Pastoral Leases.

The pastoral leases current on 31st December, 1896, were 784 in number, containing a total area of 52,706,670 acres, and returning an annual rental of £319,259 17s. 8d. Of these leases, 476 were situated in the Central and 308 in the Western Division. The appended Schedule gives the area leased in each Division and the rental obtained. (For further details, *see* Schedule XXXIX.)

No. of Leases.	Division of Colony.	Area.	Rent.		
		acres.	£	s.	d.
476	Central	14,060,891	152,767	2	8
308	Western	38,645,789	166,492	15	0
784		52,706,670	319,259	17	8

No forfeitures occurred during the year. (Schedule XLVI.)

An area of 100,250 acres was withdrawn from pastoral lease for public purposes during the year. This area was distributed over 95 leaseholds, and the sum of £3,395 14s. 2d. was refunded to the lessees on account of rent paid in advance upon the area so withdrawn. (Schedule XL.)

Seventy-one pastoral leases were transferred during the year; of these, 39 were situated in the Central and 32 in the Western Division. (Schedule XLI.)

As pointed out in the Report for the year 1895, the number of accepted applications for reappraisal of pastoral leases in the Western Division under section 9 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895 was 263. In 146 instances the reappraisements have been completed and new rates determined, and action is well advanced in respect of the remainder. The completed cases cover an area of 20,454,431 acres, which formerly produced a rental of £79,803 1s. 3d. per annum; the rental, as determined by the reappraisements, amounts to £55,551 13s. 2d., thus showing a reduction of £24,251 8s. 1d., or at the rate of 30 per cent. The average rate per acre, according to the original rental, was 93d., whilst under the recently appraised rental the average rate is 65d. (*See* Schedule XLIV.)

At the close of the year 1895, 18 applications, under section 8 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, for the attachment of resumed areas to their respective leasehold areas were outstanding, and during the year under review 15 applications, covering an area of 1,945,945 acres, were lodged, thus making a total of 33 requiring action. Five applications, embracing a total area of 897,617 acres, were approved, and 3 for an area of 368,082 acres were refused. (For further details, *see* Schedule XLII.)

The names and numbers of the pastoral leases that expired during 1896 will be found in Schedule XLVIII, and details of those which will expire in 1897 will be found in Schedule XLVII.

One pastoral lease, containing 54,200 acres, and situated in the Western Division, was sold by auction during the year.

In order to meet the demand for land for closer settlement it has been found necessary to take advantage of the provisions contained in sections 3 and 6 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895 for withdrawing land from pastoral lease in the Central and Western Divisions, and the various Local Land Boards have been asked to inquire and report on the expediency of withdrawing from certain of these pastoral leases such lands as are suitable for settlement in smaller areas. The number of cases referred to the Boards during the year was 67, the approximate area that could be withdrawn being estimated at 1,151,007 acres.

The area actually gazetted as withdrawn during the year 1896 was 176,200 acres, and the preliminary notification of the intention to withdraw was gazetted in respect of five other holdings, the approximate area that could be withdrawn therefrom under the law being estimated at 121,484 acres. Particulars of the holdings affected by these proposals will be found in Schedule XLIX.

The

The subjoined Schedule gives the names of certain pastoral leases situated in the Central Division which have been declared scrub land under the 35th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1889, and brought under the West Bogan agreement:—

No. of Pastoral Leases.	Name of Pastoral Leases.
41	Balgay.
205	Woodlands.
226	Orange Plains.
385	Thorndale.
437	Canonbar (part of.)
471	West Bogan No. 7.
698	Budgery.

Occupation Licenses.

The licenses in force during 1896 numbered 1,693, covering an area of 40,210,241 acres, and returning an annual rental of £113,409 17s. 8d. (Schedule XXXIX.)

It will be observed from the Table appended that the licenses current during the year show an increase when compared with those held in 1895, but the acreage and rental both show decreases.

Current on 31st December, 1895.				Current on 31st December, 1896.			
Division.	No.	Area.	Rent.	Division.	No.	Area.	Rent.
		acres.	£ s. d.			acres.	£ s. d.
Eastern	315	3,671,019	10,567 2 1	Eastern	307	4,785,594	11,842 1 9
Eastern (preferential)...	313	3,580,773	18,673 11 8	Eastern (preferential)	314	3,674,573	17,482 6 0
Central	568	6,399,972	33,539 6 8	Central	547	5,832,800	30,805 8 5
Central (preferential) ...	218	3,738,899	18,850 15 6	Central (preferential).	224	3,638,441	26,923 15 0
Western	212	23,426,621	42,097 12 9	Western	211	22,278,833	26,356 6 0
Total	1,626	40,817,284	123,728 8 8	Total	1,693	40,210,241	113,409 17 8

The sales of occupation licenses show a marked improvement on previous years. Of 205 licenses, containing 2,968,315 acres, which were offered for sale by auction or tender, 104, embracing an area of 1,478,202 acres, were disposed of. The number and area of those sold in 1895 was 26, containing 361,773 acres. (For further details, see Schedule XLIII.)

Seventeen preferential occupation licenses were not renewed for 1896. Of these, 9 were situated in the Eastern and 8 in the Central Division; whilst of ordinary occupation licenses, 36 were not renewed, 11 of which were within the Eastern, 21 within the Central, and 4 within the Western Division. (See Schedule XLVI for further details.)

Thirty-six preferential and 75 ordinary occupation licenses were transferred during the year. (See Schedule XLI.)

An area of 1,280,690 acres was withdrawn from 392 occupation licenses during the year for purposes of alienation, reservation, &c.; and as the rent is paid in advance, the withdrawal of this area necessitated the refund to licensees of the sum of £6,245 15s. (See Schedule XL.)

Under the provisions of section 81 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, the license fees in respect of 26 resumed areas were reappraised and gazetted during the year. The names of the areas affected and other details in connection with such reappraisements will be found in Schedule XLV.

The applications received for the attachment of resumed areas to leasehold areas have been referred to when dealing with the subject of pastoral leases, and all details are shown in Schedule XLII.

In connection with the reappraisements under section 9 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895 of occupation licenses in the Western Division, it is pointed out that of 144 applications received, action has been completed and new rates determined in respect of 93. The completed cases represent an area of 12,985,099 acres, which formerly produced a revenue of £26,538 3s. 5d. per annum; the rental, as determined by the reappraisements, amounts to £15,838 1s. 4d., thus showing a reduction on the former

former rental of £10,700 2s. 1d, being a decrease of 40 per cent. The average rate per acre, according to the original rental, was 49d., whilst under the recently appraised rental the rate is 29d. (For details, *see* Schedule XLIV.)

The appraisements under section 4 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895 of the preferential occupation licenses, embracing the leaseholds in the Central Division which expired during the year 1895, were carried out during the year under review. (For details respecting the areas and rentals, *see* Schedule L.)

Homestead Leases.

The number of homestead leases in existence on the 31st December, 1896, was 1,246, containing an area of 10,429,261 acres, and producing a rental of £68,685 12s. 1d.

As pointed out in previous Reports, these leases are only granted in the Western Division, and are situated within the Land Board Districts of Bourke, Hay, and Moree. The Bourke District is credited with 809 leases, embracing 6,876,422 acres, yielding a rental of £44,981 8s. 9d., the average rate per acre being 1.56d.; Hay, with 314 leases, containing 2,534,564 acres, yielding a rental of £14,949 18s. 8d., the average rate per acre being 1.41d.; and Moree, with 123 leases, containing 1,018,275 acres, producing a rental of £8,754 4s. 8d., the average rate per acre being 2d. (Further details will be found in Schedule LVI.)

The number of applications lodged during the year was 89, as against 106 in the year 1895.

In view of the large area held under this form of tenure, the remoteness from settlement of that now available, and the limited extent of land which, in its natural state, would attract small settlers, a decrease in the number of applications must be looked for, although there is still a very large extent of country available for homestead lease.

The details furnished in the subjoined Schedule will afford a means of comparing the number of applications, area applied for, &c., during the last twelve years. (For full particulars, *see* Schedule LI.)

Year.	No. of Applications.	Area applied for.	Deposits lodged.
		acres.	£ s. d.
1885	391	3,823,235	15,880 2 11
1886	121	1,141,963	4,758 3 7
1887	128	1,198,286	4,992 17 2
1888	141	1,332,691	5,511 15 7
1889	238	2,187,837	9,113 19 9
1890	310	2,620,959	10,920 13 3
1891	191	1,515,629	6,278 2 1
1892	176	1,214,447	5,648 16 6
1893	135	870,044	3,582 10 4
1894	110	692,515	2,885 9 7
1895	106	613,723	2,557 3 7
1896	89	605,146	2,521 8 10

The number of homestead leases granted during the year was 79, representing an area of 459,453 acres and a rental of £1,383 4s. 3d., as against 76, containing 515,821 acres, and returning a revenue of £2,340 15s. 3d., granted in 1895. The average rental per acre of the area leased in 1896 was 7d., as against 1.08d. obtained from the leases granted in 1895.

Twenty-five applications were either refused or permitted to be withdrawn, and 78 were outstanding at the close of the year. (For fuller details, *see* Schedule LII.)

Forty-two leases, embracing an area of 314,331 acres, and representing a rental of £1,374 9s. 8d., were forfeited during the year. (Further particulars will be found in Schedule LIII.)

In connection with the reappraisements of the rentals of homestead leases, under section 9 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, referred to in the Report for the year 1895, it may be mentioned that action was completed during the year in 260 cases only; consequently it cannot be definitely stated at present to what extent the revenue derived from these leases will be affected. From Schedule LV it will be observed

observed that the area reappraised during 1895 was 2,404,623 acres, the rental being determined at £12,837 12s. 1d., as against £16,889 19s. 2d. under the original appraisal, thus showing a reduction of nearly 25 per cent. The average rental per acre, as reappraised, so far as this area is concerned, is 1.28d., whilst the original average rental was 1.68d. per acre.

From Schedule LIV it will be seen that 197 transfers were completed during the year, and 52 were outstanding.

Special Leases.

The applications received for special leases show a very slight increase on the year 1895, being 275 as against 269. As 270 applications were pending on the 31st December, 1895, the total number requiring action during the year was 545. Of these, 275 were dealt with, 108 being declined, withdrawn, &c., and 167 granted. The granted leases represent an area of 5,540 acres 3 roods 38 perches, the annual rental produced being £1,992 5s. 6d. The applications pending at the close of the year numbered 286. (Further details will be found in Schedule LX.)

Forfeitures of these leases were not so numerous as in the previous year, the number forfeited during 1896 being only 12, embracing an area of 491 acres 3 roods 12 perches, with an annual rental of £184 10s., as against 33, containing 872 acres 1 rood 31 perches, and producing a revenue of £489 12s. 8d., in the year 1895. (For full details, see Schedule LXI.)

Including the leases which terminated by effluxion of time on the 31st December, 1896, the number of leases current on that date was 675, comprising an area of 19,026 acres 3 roods 39 $\frac{3}{4}$ perches, and producing an annual rental of £15,085 12s. 2d. Fifty-four leases, covering an area of 607 acres 0 roods 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ perches, expired by effluxion of time during the year. (For further details, see Schedules LXII and LXIII.)

These leases are granted under the provisions of sections 89, 90, and 92, of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and section 46 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, for the various purposes specified hereunder:—

Under section 89—

Floating docks, jetties, piers, and wharfs below high-water mark.

Under section 90—

Accommodation house.	Gravel (to obtain).	Ships (building or repairing).
Accommodation paddock.	Grazing.	Skindrying and packing.
Agriculture.	Guano (to obtain).	Slaughter-houses.
Bakery.	Inn.	Smelting-works.
Ballast (to obtain).	Irrigation.	Smithy.
Bathing places.	Landing-places.	Stables and accommodation
Bee and Poultry Farm.	Lime-kilns.	paddocks.
Boats (building and repairing).	Limestone (to obtain).	Store.
Boiling-down works.	Loam (to obtain).	Sugar-cane growing.
Brick earth (to obtain).	Machinery (erection of).	Storage purposes.
Brick-kiln.	Mail stations in sparsely-populated	Tanks.
Bridges.	districts.	Tanneries.
Dams.	Pipe-line.	Tobacco growing.
Drainage.	Punt-houses.	Vegetable garden.
Eucalyptus (cultivation of).	Quarries.	Village settlement.
Explosives (sites for storage of).	Railway station and depôt.	Wattle growing.
Factory.	Recreation.	Well.
Ferries.	Saw-mills.	Wharfs (above high-water mark).
Fisheries.	Sericulture.	Wool-washing establishments.
Freezing works.	Shells (to obtain).	Working mineral springs.

Under section 92—

Irrigation works and tramway purposes.

Under section 46, Crown Lands Act of 1895—

Business purposes.
Erection of buildings.

Artesian Well Leases.

During the year two artesian well leases were gazetted as approved, representing an area of 20,480 acres, with a rental of £56 per annum. The total number of these leases current at the close of the year 1896 was 35, comprising an area of 357,923 acres, with an annual rental of £996 10s. 4d.

Improvement

Improvement Leases.

This class of holding was created by the Crown Lands Act of 1895, the object sought to be accomplished being the occupation and improvement of large tracts of vacant Crown land and abandoned holdings that could not be profitably occupied under the ordinary forms of tenure provided by the Principal Act, owing to their being of inferior quality or covered with scrub or heavy timber, or subject to some natural or other disadvantage.

These leases are disposed of either by tender or by auction, the inducement offered being long tenure and nominal rentals. Stringent improvement conditions are however imposed; consequently, on the expiration of the leases, the land will have improved in value and be better adapted for closer settlement.

The results so far are encouraging. From Schedule LIX it will be seen that during the year 124 leases, aggregating 1,230,207 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres, were sold by auction, the annual rental realised being £1,488 18s. 4d.; and tenders were accepted of 42 others, containing an area of 631,715 acres, and representing an annual rental of £913 2s. 7d. As no leases were disposed of in 1895, the number of improvement leases in existence on the 31st December, 1896, was 166, embracing an area of 1,861,922 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, producing a revenue of £2,402 0s. 11d., or an average of $\frac{3\frac{1}{2}}{100}$ of a penny per acre.

Scrub Leases.

The number of applications received during the year 1896 was 19, for an area of 537,428 acres, and in addition to these there were 10 applications, covering an area of 37,040 acres, outstanding at the close of 1895, making a total of 29 requiring action during the year. Of these, 8 were disallowed or withdrawn, and 7 were granted, embracing an area of 20,241 acres, the rental derived being £30 11s. 11d. per annum.

The only feature deserving of notice in connection with these leases is the large area covered by the applications as compared with previous years. The area applied for in 1895 was only 54,702 acres, and the total area held under this tenure on the 31st December, 1896, was 215,455 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres. The increase in area is due to the fact that applications have been made to convert certain of the pastoral leases, situated to the west of the Bogan River, into scrub leases under the terms of the "West Bogan Agreement."

The terms of the "West Bogan Agreement" are briefly as follows:—A pastoral lease within the country affected by scrub may be converted into a scrub lease with a term of twenty-eight years; the minimum annual rental not to be less than 10s., nor the maximum more than £1 per section of 640 acres. The land is to be thoroughly cleared of all scrub and noxious undergrowth, and kept so cleared until it be resumed. Within the first four years of the lease, 2s. 6d. per acre is to be expended in clearing, 1s. per acre being expended within the first year, the right to resume one-third of the land on the expiration of twelve years from date of commencement of the lease, and another third on the expiration of twenty years, is reserved to the Crown in the event of the land being required for closer settlement. Authority is given to inspect and hold inquiries as to fulfilment of conditions and to insist on compliance with the terms of the agreement. The lessee is not to have tenant right or ownership in the improvements effected under the agreement, but is to have tenant right in other improvements if of a permanent, fixed, and substantial character, and necessary for the profitable occupation of the land.

No forfeitures occurred during the year, nor did any leases expire; but 9 which expired in 1895 were extended for a further term under the provisions of section 26 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895.

The number of leases current at the end of the year was 37, containing an area of 215,455 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres and returning an annual rental of £333 6s. 9d.

Full details will be found in Schedule LXIV.

Leases of Inferior Lands.

Two leases, representing an area of 23,000 acres, and producing a rental of £23 19s. 2d., were granted during the year, whilst 8 leases were declared forfeited, the area and rental being respectively 147,139 acres and £184 13s. 11d.

The number of leases current at the close of the year was 35, containing an area of 364,336 acres, and returning a rental of £261 2s. 1d. per annum. (Schedule LXV.)

Residential Leases.

The transactions in connection with these leases show a slight decrease when compared with the year 1895. The applications received during the year numbered 56, and these, added to 53 outstanding at the close of 1895, gave a total of 109 under action during 1896. In the year 1895 the number of applications received were 68. Thirteen applications were either disallowed or withdrawn, and 17 were granted for an area of 216½ acres, at a rental of £22.

The forfeitures for the year numbered 10, representing an area and rental of 93 acres and £16 10s. respectively.

The number of leases current at the close of the year was 176, covering an area of 1,706 acres 3 roods 12½ perches, and producing an annual revenue of £261 13s. 5d. (For further particulars, see Schedule LXVI.)

Snow Leases.

Eight of these leases, embracing an area of 35,620 acres, were granted during the year, at a rental of £181 1s. 1d., and one of 5,930 acres, which returned a rental of £24 14s. 2d., was forfeited.

The leases current on the 31st December, 1896, were 25 in number, containing an area of 112,670 acres and producing an annual rental of £774 8s. 4d. (Schedule LXVII.)

Dedications—Reserves—Resumptions.

The number of reserves from sale notified during the year was 1,275, embracing an area of 4,001,315 acres, and the reserves from sale revoked numbered 1,794, representing an area of 3,853,460 acres. (Schedules LXXV and LXXVI.)

Reserves from lease and license, annual lease, &c., notified in 1896 were 299 in number, comprising 1,142,438 acres. The revocations of similar reserves during the year reached a total of 376, the area contained therein being 381,644 acres. (Schedules LXXVII and LXXVIII.)

The dedications for religious and public purposes during the year were 184 in number, representing an area of 3,185 acres 3 roods 23½ perches. Particulars as to the respective purposes for which these lands were dedicated will be found in Schedule LXXIX.

During the year 1896 the area resumed under the provisions of the 105th section of the Act of 1884, and of the 41st section of the Act of 1889, was 5,178 acres 2 roods 35½ perches. Full particulars of the land so resumed may be found in Schedule LXXIV.

Newcastle Pasturage Reserve.

There are 598 holdings under the Newcastle Pasturage Reserve Act on which the payment of purchase money is still proceeding. During the year the balances on 62 purchases were paid, making the total number of holdings fully paid up 302, representing a capital value of £19,216 19s. Further particulars are contained in Schedule LXXIII.

Cases of Trespass on Crown Land.

Five hundred and twenty-four cases of trespass on Crown lands were reported during the year; and as 441 cases had not been dealt with at the end of 1895, the total number requiring action during the year was 965. From Schedule LXXXIII it will be observed that 644 cases were dealt with in various ways, leaving a balance of 321 on which action had not been completed at the close of the year.

Applications for permission to Ringbark.

During the year, 175 applications were received, covering an area of 1,134,214 acres, the fees lodged in connection therewith amounting to £489. Of the applications received prior to 1896, 57 were granted, also 85 of those received during the year, making a total of 142, representing an area of 1,025,226½ acres. During the year 11 applications were disallowed, and at the close thereof 86 were outstanding. (For further details respecting these transactions, see Schedule XCI.)

Permissive Occupancies.

Permissive occupancies are so designated inasmuch as the tenure is merely permissive, and terminable at the pleasure of the Minister. They are issued for a variety of purposes, principally for the occupation of small areas of Crown lands on which to erect structures of a temporary nature, such as jetties for small boats, boat-sheds, buildings, &c. Rentals are paid on specified dates, and the occupation carries no right of purchase.

On the 31st December, 1896, 518 permissive occupancies were in existence, the area included being 4,394 acres 1 rood 11 perches, and the rental derived £1,233 14s 9d. (For further details, see Schedule LXXII.)

Cases dealt with by Local Land Boards.

During the year under review, 22,067 cases were considered by the Local Land Boards, of which 2,308 were adjourned. A comparative statement for the past five years is appended, and further details will be found in Schedule LXXXIX.

1892	35,316 cases considered ;	2,567 cases adjourned ;	1,731 days occupied.
1893	30,910	2,830	1,449½
1894	25,988	2,055	1,438
1895	21,436	1,970	1,236½
1896	22,067	2,308	1,697

Correspondence.

The number of documents received and registered in the Head Office during the year was 125,038, representing an increase of 6,812 as compared with 1895. (Schedule XCII.)

During the year, 161,161 printed and manuscript letters, schedules, parcels, &c., were despatched, in addition to which 2,976 telegrams were sent and 163 circulars were issued. (See Schedule XCIII.)

115,690 letters were received at the various Local Land Board offices during the year, as against 120,362 received in 1895; 114,038 manuscript and printed letters, parcels, &c., were despatched. Further particulars will be found in Schedule XCIV.

Church and School Lands.

By proclamation dated 28th August, 1896, the administration of the Church and School Lands Dedication Act was transferred to the Secretary for Lands, and on the 2nd September the staff of officers dealing with these lands, and all records, &c., were removed to the Lands Department.

These lands can only be disposed of by leasing, and are dealt with under the provisions of the Church and School Lands Dedication Act of 1880, and the Church and School Lands Mining Acts of 1888 and 1889. The leases granted are principally for agricultural, pastoral, and mining purposes.

From

From Part A of Schedule LXXXIV it will be seen that the number of pastoral leases granted under the Church and School Lands Dedication Act of 1880, current on the 31st December, 1896, was 329, comprising an area of 244,071 acres 1 rood 7 perches, and returning a rental of £5,835 11s. 7d. per annum.

From Part B of Schedule LXXXIV it will be observed that the agricultural leases current on that date numbered 328, containing an area of 10,453 acres 3 roods 32 perches, the revenue derived being £1,738 1s. per annum.

In view of the contemplated legislation in regard to these lands, the ordinary transactions relating to pastoral and agricultural leases have been on a very restricted scale. From Schedule LXXXVII it will be seen that no leases were offered at auction, and that only 15 leases were let by tender, 14 being agricultural leases, containing an area of 40 acres 0 roods 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ perches, and 1 being a pastoral lease of 76 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres, the total rental derived being £13.

The applications lodged during the year for mineral leases numbered 16, covering an area of 970 acres. Of these 1 was declined, leaving 15 in course of action; 1 lease of 40 acres was granted for a rental of £10 per annum. The number of these leases current on the 31st December, 1896, was 6; the area included 284 acres 0 roods 1 perch; and the rental derived, £82 18s. 8d. (See Part A of Schedule LXXXV.)

For gold leases, 25 applications were received. Including the applications outstanding at the close of the year 1895, the number requiring action was 66. Of these 4 were declined or withdrawn, and 45 were granted, leaving 17 on which action had not been completed. The 45 leases that were granted comprised an area of 238 acres 2 roods, the rental obtained being £239. The leases cancelled during the year numbered 14, containing 81 acres, and 2 leases comprising 7 acres expired.

The gold leases current on the 31st December, 1896, numbered 106, the area included being 619 acres 3 roods 29 perches, and the rental obtained £678 16s. (For further details, see Part B of Schedule LXXXV.)

The leases current on the 31st December, 1896, which were granted for building and similar purposes, for specified periods, numbered 44, representing an area of 27 acres 2 roods 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ perches, the rental derived being £554 15s. (See Schedule LXXXVI.)

Three leases of a miscellaneous character, containing 28 acres 1 rood 28 perches, and returning a rental of £10 15s., were also current at the close of the year. (Schedule LXXXVIII.)

Cost of Survey.

Particulars as to cost of the various classes of measurements effected during the year 1896 by licensed surveyors paid on fees will be found in Schedule XCVI.

Chief Surveyor.

The Report of the Chief Surveyor and Director of Trigonometrical Survey is appended hereto.

WM. HOUSTON,
Under Secretary for Lands.

SCHEDULE I.
REVENUE and Receipts for 1896.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sales—						
Auction Sales (including payments on account of sales in previous years)	50,468	0	0			
Newcastle Pasturage Reserve Sales	1,916	0	0			
Improvement Purchases, &c.	1,795	0	0			
Deposits, &c., on Conditional Purchases.....	28,154	0	0			
Instalments (including interest) on Conditional Purchases.....	878,336	0	0			
Balances on Conditional Purchases	63,617	0	0			
Homestead Selections (Improvements)	31	0	0			
Miscellaneous Purchases	4,093	0	0			
Total, Land Sales						1,028,410 0 0
Interest on Land Conditionally Purchased.....						80,152 0 0
Pastoral Occupation—						
Pastoral Leases (Runs).....	318,813	0	0			
Conditional Leases	149,941	0	0			
Annual Leases.....	40,484	0	0			
Occupation Licenses	122,446	0	0			
Homestead Leases	69,420	0	0			
Snow Leases	713	0	0			
Inferior Leases	374	0	0			
Scrub Leases	386	0	0			
Improvement Leases (Rents)	1,650	0	0			
Homestead Selections (Rents)	5,841	0	0			
Settlement Leases	9,912	0	0			
Quit Rents	497	0	0			
Total, Pastoral Occupation						720,477 0 0
Miscellaneous—						
Fees on Transfer of Runs, &c.	861	0	0			
Fees on Preparation and Enrolment of Title Deeds	2,004	0	0			
Survey Fees under Land Act of 1889.....	25,079	0	0			
Special Leases.....	17,942	0	0			
All other Receipts	7,932	0	0			
Total, Miscellaneous						53,818 0 0
Total.....						£1,882,857 0 0

SCHEDULE II.
EXPENDITURE for all Services during 1896.

Heads of Services, &c.	1890 Services.		1890 Services.		1901 Services.		1892 Services.		1893 Services.		1894 Services.		1895 Services.		1896 Services.		Total.					
	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.				
SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND LAWS.																						
Salaries—Permanent Staff													88	3	9	154,047	10	4	164,135	14	1	
Do Emergency Staff, to 31st July, 1890													24	3	4	6,831	8	2	6,905	11	6	
Do Temporary Employees, from 1st August, 1896																415	11	6	415	11	6	
Travelling Expenses (including Equipment and Forage Allowances)	1	11	0	3	5	0	3	16	10	12	14	2	8	4	6	2	7	0	3,032	11	8	
General Expenses	1	0	0	1	1	8	0	18	4	1	0	10	22	2	6	1,055	8	4	4,671	19	6	
Appraisal and Inspection Fees													703	8	0	5,887	8	9	6,611	16	9	
Fees for attendance at Local Land Courts							7	7	0				451	19	0	6,437	8	1	6,896	9	1	
Rent													857	15	8	1,111	3	0	1,989	18	8	
Legal Expenses and special inquiries under Crown Lands Acts													98	3	8	7,880	4	5	7,987	8	1	
Compensation Claims (excluding payments for Parks, Cemeteries, and Minor Roads)																338	3	11	338	3	11	
Minor Roads—Compensation for land taken, and cost of fencing																Cr. 01	8	4	3,721	7	5	
Gratuities to Officers, &c.																5	0	0	5	0	0	
Preparation of Deeds													58	0	0	680	11	2	738	11	2	
Postage and Stamp Duties																4,236	6	0	4,236	6	0	
Advertising							1	10	0				450	11	0	1,394	4	11	1,848	9	5	
Abatement on Pensions																378	11	0	378	11	0	
Wages and Provisions for Surveyors' Labourers													1,258	6	2	12,747	2	0	14,005	8	2	
Plans and Tracings													242	9	5	3,406	13	8	3,649	3	1	
Lithography													620	8	10	949	16	6	1,670	5	4	
Instruments, Materials, and Books													28	6	5	309	16	9	338	3	2	
Survey Fees							Cr. 2	5	9				19	17	0	0,574	8	4	30,883	4	0	
Photo-lithography (performed at Government Printing Office)													500	0	0	500	0	0	1,000	0	0	
Land Appeal Court—Salaries and Contingencies													27	15	6	6,511	16	6	6,538	12	0	
Allowances for extra cost of living (in remote districts)																102	13	5	102	13	5	
Expenses of removal of Officers (under reorganisation by Public Service Board)																			1,007	0	7	
Total Services in connection with the Administration of the Land Laws ..	2	11	0	4	6	8	4	15	2	20	12	3	9	17	10	16,015	10	9	282,389	2	8	
SPECIAL SERVICES.																						
Public Cemeteries—Fencing, clearing, and acquisition of sites for																Cr. 0	7	0	3,329	4	5	
Public Parks and Recreation Reserves—For acquisition of sites for, and improvements, &c.													266	17	11	21,380	13	9	21,676	11	8	
Rabbit-proof Fencing																3,347	13	1	3,347	13	1	
Labour Settlements													98	2	11	Cr. 126	19	10	Cr. 28	16	11	
Total, Special Services													384	13	10	27,938	12	5	28,324	6	3	
Total Expenditure from Consolidated Revenue Votes, &c.	2	11	0	4	6	8	4	15	2	20	12	3	9	17	10	16,400	4	7	310,338	15	1	

† Includes £10,721 4s 6d. met from Consolidated Revenue Votes, other than those of this Department.

SCHEDULE II—continued.

Heads of Services, &c.	1889 Services.	1890 Services.	1891 Services.	1892 Services.	1893 Services.	1894 Services.	1895 Services.	1896 Services.	Totals.
OTHER SERVICES PAID FOR FROM LOAN VOTES.									
Cooma Land Board Office building—Repairs	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Dubbo do do Erection of	1,110 0 0	2,611 9 1	3,219 9 1
Hay do do do	2,611 9 6	2,611 9 6
Maitland do do do	3,615 15 0	3,615 15 0
Scrub clearing—West Bogan Scrub	*1,834 4 9	1,834 4 9
Do Jerilderie to Tocumwal Stock Route	2,136 17 4	2,136 17 4
Hay Irrigation Works	86 10 8	86 10 8
Total paid from Loan Votes	1,110 0 0	12,793 11 4	13,873 11 4
Church and School Lands—Chargeable to Public Instruction Endowment Account	327 9 0	327 9 0
Grand Total	£ 2 11 9	4 6 8	4 15 2	20 12 3	9 17 10	67 4 0	17,510 4	7,323,429 15 5	341,049 6 11

* Includes £771 adjusted with the Auditor-General by the Department of Labour and Industry, to 31st December, 1896, out of £9,000 advanced to that Department.

SCHEDULE III.

COMPARATIVE Statement of the Expenditure in 1895 and 1896 respectively.

Head of Service.	1895.	1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND LAWS.				
Salaries (less charges to other Departments for work done)	£ 175,759 7 4	£ 161,456 17 1	.....	£ 14,302 10 3
Travelling Expenses, Equipment and Forage Allowances	30,116 15 7	32,454 16 3	2,338 0 8	.....
General Expenses	5,803 3 10	5,755 4 6	.....	47 19 4
Appraisalment and Inspection Fees	729 11 1	6,611 16 9	5,882 5 8	.....
Fees for Attendance at Local Land Courts	3,801 8 6	5,896 9 1	2,095 0 7	.....
Rent	1,811 1 1	1,968 18 8	157 17 7	.....
Legal Expenses and special inquiries under Crown Lands Acts	722 15 10	7,987 8 1	7,264 12 3	.....
Compensation Claims (excluding payments for Public Parks, Recreation Reserves, Cemeteries, and Minor Roads)	1 365 3 1	333 8 11	.....	1,031 19 2
Minor Roads—Compensation for land and for fencing, &c.	2,997 9 0	3,659 19 1	662 9 7	.....
Gratuities to Officers, &c.	766 10 0	5 0 0	.....	761 10 0
Preparation of Deeds	854 0 1	738 11 2	.....	115 8 11
Postage and Stamp Duties	3,965 11 6	4,236 6 0	270 14 6	.....
Advertising	*1,018 17 0	1,848 9 5	*829 12 5	.....
Abatement on Pensions	.....	378 11 0	378 11 0	.....
Wages and Provisions for Surveyors' Labourers	14,696 4 6	14,005 8 2	.....	690 16 4
Plans and Tracings by Contract	3,319 0 9	3,649 8 1	330 2 4	.....
Lithography and Photo-zincography	924 5 11	1,570 5 4	645 19 5	.....
Instruments, Materials, and Books	627 19 7	338 3 2	.....	289 16 5
Survey Fees	42,863 12 1	36,980 3 7	.....	5,883 8 6
Photo-lithography (performed at Government Printing Office)	479 15 0	1,000 0 0	520 5 0	.....
Land Appeal Court (including Salaries, Travelling Expenses, &c.)	6,575 10 1	6,539 12 0	.....	35 18 1
Fees for Reports on Improvements, Leasehold Areas	15 0 0	.....	.....	15 0 0
Information Bureau—Expenses of (not including salaries)	873 10 4	.....	.....	873 10 4
Allowances for extra Cost of Living (in remote districts)	.....	102 13 5	102 13 5	.....
Expenses of removal of Officers (under reorganisation by Public Service Board)	.....	1,007 0 7	1,007 0 7	.....
Total Services in connection with the Administration of the Land Laws	£ 300,086 12 8	£ 298,524 0 4	22,485 5 0	24,047 17 4
SPECIAL SERVICES.				
Public Cemeteries—Fencing, clearing, and acquisition of sites for	948 10 2	3,328 17 5	2,380 7 3	.....
Public Parks and Recreation Reserves—For acquisition of sites for, and improvements, &c.	13,750 15 0	21,676 11 8	7,925 16 8	.....
Rabbit-proof Fencing	276 8 3	3,347 13 1	3,071 4 10	.....
Labour Settlements	4,696 1 8	Cr. 28 15 11	.....	4,724 17 7
Total, Special Services	£ 19,671 15 1	£ 29,324 6 3	13,377 8 9	4,724 17 7
Total Expenditure from Consolidated Revenue Votes, &c.	£ 319,758 7 9	£ 326,848 6 7	35,862 13 9	28,772 14 11
OTHER SERVICES PAID FOR FROM LOAN VOTES.				
Cooma Land Board Office Building—Repairs	200 0 0	369 5 0	169 5 0	.....
Dubbo do do Erection of	350 0 0	3,219 9 1	2,869 9 1	.....
Hay do do do	.....	2,611 9 6	2,611 9 6	.....
Maitland do do do	.....	3,615 15 0	3,615 15 0	.....
Scrub-clearing—West Bogan Scrub	.....	1,834 4 9	1,834 4 9	.....
Do Jerilderie to Tocumwal Stock Route	.....	2,136 17 4	2,136 17 4	.....
Hay Irrigation Works	.....	86 10 8	86 10 8	.....
Total Expenditure from Loan Votes	£ 550 0 0	£ 18,873 11 4	13,323 11 4	.....
Church and School Lands (chargeable to Public Instruction Endowment Account)	.....	327 9 0	327 9 0	.....
Totals	£ 320,308 7 9	£ 341,019 6 11	49,513 14 1	28,772 14 11
			Deduct Decrease	28,772 14 11
			Net Increase	£ 20,740 19 2

* Amount paid by this Department in 1895 for advertisements up to 31st March. The amount paid by the Government Printer for the remainder of the year is £715 14s. 7d.; total, £1,734 11s. 7d.; so that the actual increase, instead of being £329 12s. 5d., is £113 17s. 10d.

SCHEDULE IV.

SALARIES paid in the year 1896.

	Permanent.			Emergency (to 31st July).			Temporary (from 1st August).			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCH.												
Head Office Staff	33,296	10	3	374	4	5	33	0	0	33,703	14	8
Local Land Boards	20,840	8	6	796	6	10	32	19	10	21,669	15	2
Land Agents and Assistants	6,837	1	4	50	0	0	.....	.....	.....	6,887	1	4
Inspectors of Conditional Purchases	7,135	2	4	1,875	16	8	12	15	1	9,023	14	1
Messengers and others	3,654	10	2	50	0	0	.....	.....	.....	3,704	10	2
	71,763	12	7	3,146	7	11	78	14	11	74,938	15	5
SURVEY BRANCH.												
Head Office Staff	30,449	18	6	1,118	15	1	152	19	5	31,721	13	0
District Survey Offices	34,470	13	8	592	3	9	30	0	0	35,092	17	5
Salaried Surveyors	10,953	0	11	721	14	6	153	17	2	11,828	12	6
Assistant Surveyors	1,452	5	11	455	0	0	.....	.....	.....	1,907	5	11
Field Assistants	250	0	0	356	8	0	.....	.....	.....	606	8	0
Messengers and others	319	1	8	90	12	4	.....	.....	.....	409	14	0
	77,895	0	8	3,334	13	7	336	16	7	81,566	10	10
TRIGONOMETRICAL SURVEY BRANCH.												
Field Staff	1,085	0	0	100	0	0	.....	.....	.....	1,185	0	0
Office Staff	917	10	0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	917	10	0
	2,002	10	0	100	0	0	.....	.....	.....	2,102	10	0
DETAIL SURVEY BRANCH.—(to 31 July.)												
Field Staff	1,306	5	0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,306	5	0
Office Staff	1,168	5	10	324	10	0	.....	.....	.....	1,492	15	10
	2,474	10	10	324	10	0	.....	.....	.....	2,799	0	10
Total.....	154,135	14	1	6,905	11	6	415	11	6	161,456	17	1
LAND APPEAL COURT.												
President and Commissioners	4,000	0	0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,000	0	0
Registrar, Clerks, and Messenger	1,019	0	0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,019	0	0
	5,019	0	0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,019	0	0
CHURCH AND SCHOOL LANDS BRANCH.												
Clerks	325	0	0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	325	0	0
Grand Total	159,479	14	1	6,905	11	6	415	11	6	166,800	17	1

SCHEDULE V.

STATEMENT showing the Strength of the Staff and Annual Rate of Salaries as on the 31st December, 1895 and 1896 respectively.

Branches, &c.	Numbers.		Salaries.	
	31st Dec., 1895.	31st Dec., 1896.	31st Dec., 1895.	31st Dec., 1896.
Administrative Branch (Head Office)	171	167	£ 35,942	£ 32,922
Survey Branch (Head Office)	153	131	32,654	29,094
Trigonometrical Branch	7	8	1,880	2,275
Detail Survey Branch	*22	.....	*5,744	.....
Local Land Boards	135	133	34,053	31,877
District Survey Offices	192	187	51,139	48,568
Land Agents and Assistants	†71	6	†12,280	1,612
Land Appeal Court	7	7	‡5,019	5,019
Church and School Lands .....	.....	§3	.....	750
Totals.....	758	642	178,711	152,117

* Ten officers transferred to Public Works Department, 10 to General Establishment, and 2 retired. † Includes 64 officers who have been transferred to the Department of Justice, as also their salaries. ‡ Not including allowance to counsel. § Previously under Department of Public Instruction. Salaries paid from Public Instruction Endowment Account.

SCHEDULE VI.

STATEMENT of Travelling Expenses and Fees paid in connection with Local Land Board Meetings during the year 1896.

Board District.	Particulars.	Amount.	Total.
Armidale	Chairman's and clerk's travelling expenses	£ s. d. 445 19 5	£ s. d. 1,175 14 11
	Members' travelling expenses	186 12 4	
	Members' fees	439 19 0	
	Fees and travelling expenses of surveyors, inspectors, witnesses, and others...	103 4 2	
Bourke	Chairman's and clerk's travelling expenses	417 6 0	1,791 9 1
	Members' travelling expenses	170 6 3	
	Members' fees	845 5 0	
	Fees and travelling expenses of surveyors, inspectors, witnesses, and others...	358 11 10	
Cooma (to 30th June, 1896).	Chairman's and clerk's travelling expenses	206 17 3	521 8 9
	Members' travelling expenses	61 17 6	
	Members' fees	191 2 0	
	Fees and travelling expenses of surveyors, inspectors, witnesses, and others...	61 12 0	
Dubbo.....	Chairman's and clerk's travelling expenses	252 7 10	781 1 10
	Members' travelling expenses	67 9 0	
	Members' fees	266 3 6	
	Fees and travelling expenses of surveyors, inspectors, witnesses, and others...	195 1 6	
Forbes	Chairman's and clerk's travelling expenses	352 19 9	864 11 5
	Members' travelling expenses	29 1 6	
	Members' fees	407 8 0	
	Fees and travelling expenses of surveyors, inspectors, witnesses, and others...	75 2 2	
Goulburn	Chairman's and clerk's travelling expenses	482 19 9	1,066 0 3
	Members' travelling expenses	191 18 9	
	Members' fees	312 18 0	
	Fees and travelling expenses of surveyors, inspectors, witnesses, and others...	78 3 9	
Grafton	Chairman's and clerk's travelling expenses	403 5 11	822 13 2
	Members' travelling expenses	71 17 0	
	Members' fees	286 13 0	
	Fees and travelling expenses of surveyors, inspectors, witnesses, and others...	60 17 3	
Hay	Chairman's and clerk's travelling expenses	398 8 11	1,133 15 8
	Members' travelling expenses	60 4 9	
	Members' fees	556 10 0	
	Fees and travelling expenses of surveyors, inspectors, witnesses, and others..	118 12 0	
Maitland.....	Chairman's and clerk's travelling expenses	319 19 10	706 10 10
	Members' travelling expenses	110 5 10	
	Members' fees	191 2 0	
	Fees and travelling expenses of surveyors, inspectors, witnesses, and others...	85 3 2	
Moree	Chairman's and clerk's travelling expenses	269 7 10	686 18 11
	Members' travelling expenses	73 5 6	
	Members' fees	231 0 0	
	Fees and travelling expenses of surveyors, inspectors, witnesses, and others...	113 5 7	
Orange	Chairman's and clerk's travelling expenses	353 7 10	1,011 10 10
	Members' travelling expenses	173 17 9	
	Members' fees	416 6 6	
	Fees and travelling expenses of surveyors, inspectors, witnesses, and others...	67 18 9	
Sydney	Chairman's and clerk's travelling expenses	64 9 1	241 4 4
	Members' travelling expenses	13 15 9	
	Members' fees	130 4 0	
	Fees and travelling expenses of surveyors, inspectors, witnesses, and others...	32 15 6	
Tamworth	Chairman's and clerk's travelling expenses	230 10 8	1,026 11 5*
	Members' travelling expenses	152 4 0	
	Members' fees	354 18 0	
	Fees and travelling expenses of surveyors, inspectors, witnesses, and others...	288 18 9	
Wagga Wagga	Chairman's and clerk's travelling expenses	413 2 0	1,644 16 0
	Members' travelling expenses	198 2 0	
	Members' fees	741 6 0	
	Fees and travelling expenses of surveyors, inspectors, witnesses, and others...	292 6 0	
Grand Total			£13,474 7 5

SUMMARY.

Chairmen's and clerks' travelling expenses	£ s. d. 4,611 2 1
Members' travelling expenses	1,560 17 11
Members' fees	5,370 15 0
Fees and travelling expenses of surveyors, inspectors, witnesses, and others	1,931 12 5
	<u>£13,474 7 5</u>

* Not including expenses in the "Mercedool" case.

SCHEDULE VII.

STATEMENT of Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1886 to 1896 inclusive, showing the percentage of the latter to Revenue.

Year.	Total Expenditure.		*Extraordinary Expenses deducted		Net Expenditure.		Decrease as compared with 1886.		Revenue.	Percentage of Net Expenditure to Revenue.
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		
1886	555,873	5 10			555,873	5 10			1,599,714	34.00
1887	684,312	1 7	175,269	13 8	509,042	7 11	46,830	17 11	2,323,681	21.00
1888	472,336	8 2	96,355	14 4	375,980	13 10	179,892	12 0	2,154,409	17.00
1889	399,754	10 4	41,407	19 1	358,346	11 3	197,526	14 7	2,067,885	17.00
1890	421,242	14 9	33,719	17 5	387,522	17 4	168,350	8 6	2,165,528	17.00
1891	435,156	2 9	26,778	1 6	408,378	1 3	147,495	4 7	2,197,090	18.00
1892	410,842	0 8	43,023	17 5	367,818	3 3	183,055	2 7	2,154,717	17.00
1893	379,531	10 11	57,346	2 0	322,185	8 11	233,687	16 11	2,147,144	15.00
1894	336,835	19 2	34,866	19 11	301,968	19 3	253,904	6 7	2,075,885	14.54
1895	320,308	7 9	30,397	8 4	289,910	19 5	265,962	6 8	1,960,605	14.78
1896	341,049	6 11	56,388	1 1	284,661	5 10	271,212	0 0	1,882,857	15.11
	£ 4,757,242	8 10	595,553	14 9	4,161,688	14 1			22,729,015	

* Includes expenditure mainly in connection with the administration of the Forest Branch since 1886, the Rabbit Branch, Minor Roads, Public Parks and Recreation Reserves, Labour Settlements, and Land Appeal Court, &c., not incurred in 1886.

SCHEDULE VIII.

RETURN showing the Number and Area of Conditional Purchases applied for during 1896, with the amount of Deposits and Survey Fees received.

Local Land Board District and Land District.	Class of Land.	Section 26.				Section 42.				Section 47.			
		No.	Area.	Deposit.	Survey Fee.	No.	Area.	Deposit.	Survey Fee.	No.	Area.	Deposit.	Survey Fee.
Armidale—													
Armidale	Ordinary lands	25	3,496 0 0	343 12 0	140 0 0	16	1,816 0 0	181 12 0	50 18 6				
	Special areas	6	202 3 0	45 0 9	19 15 0	4	179 2 0	26 18 6	12 7 6				
Glen Innes	Ordinary lands	11	530 0 0	58 0 0	46 0 0	3	486 0 0	46 12 0	13 0 8				
	Special areas	4	232 0 0	38 10 9	17 17 6	2	110 0 0	16 10 0	6 11 3				
Inverell	Ordinary lands	13	1,615 1 0	181 10 6	70 0 0	12	846 0 0	84 12 0	39 13 10				
	Special areas	7	637 0 0	102 13 6	34 7 6								
Teuterfield	Ordinary lands	14	1,031 3 0	103 3 6	65 17 6	9	681 0 0	68 2 0	31 11 11				
	Special areas	2	99 1 30	14 18 4	8 0 0	5	89 1 10	17 2 3	10 11 6				
Walcha	Ordinary lands	1	130 0 0	13 0 0	5 12 6	5	571 0 0	57 2 0	13 0 8				
	Special areas	1	173 2 0	26 0 6	6 5 0								
	Total	85	8,097 2 30	901 13 10	413 15 0	56	5,058 3 10	528 19 9	177 13 0				
Bourke—													
Bourke	Ordinary lands					1	659 2 0	65 19 0	8 3 2				
Brewarrina East	Ordinary lands	1	111 0 0	11 2 0	5 10 0								
	Total	1	111 0 0	11 2 0	5 10 0	1	659 2 0	65 19 0	8 3 2				
Dubbo—													
Coonamble	Ordinary lands	15	2,704 0 0	270 8 0	93 7 6	21	4,930 0 0	493 0 0	166 14 2				
	Special areas					1	272 0 0	40 10 0	5 12 6				
Dubbo	Ordinary lands	6	1,420 0 0	142 0 0	40 5 0	17	6,765 0 0	676 10 0	88 10 5				
	Special areas	2	50 0 0	9 10 0	6 0 0								
Nyngan	Ordinary lands	6	2,934 3 0	293 9 6	56 0 0								
Warren	Ordinary lands	15	3,716 2 0	371 13 0	104 5 0	22	8,076 3 0	807 14 0	133 10 3				
	Special areas	2	270 0 0	59 15 0	11 10 0								
	Total	46	11,104 1 0	1,146 15 6	311 7 6	61	20,643 3 0	2,078 0 0	334 13 4				
Forbes—													
Barmeldman	Ordinary lands					2	800 0 0	80 0 0	11 16 3				
	Special areas	4	1,448 1 0	217 4 9	32 12 6	3	509 0 0	45 0 0	11 16 3				
Barmeldman East	Ordinary lands					3	257 0 0	25 14 0	11 5 0				
Condobolin	Ordinary lands	3	956 0 0	90 12 0	22 17 6	7	4,634 1 0	462 10 0	36 9 0			24 0 0	5 10 0
	Special areas	4	356 0 0	35 12 0	20 5 0	6	1,311 2 0	131 3 0	29 10 0				
Forbes	Ordinary lands	3	218 3 0	37 6 6	11 17 6	5	1,506 0 0	229 5 0	28 2 7	1	320 0 0	96 0 0	8 0 0
	Special areas					2	404 0 0	40 8 0	9 16 11				
Grenfell	Ordinary lands	6	652 3 0	65 5 6	31 17 6	8	4,761 2 0	476 3 0	51 18 10				
Parkes	Ordinary lands	9	634 0 22	111 17 5	35 9 10	4	268 1 0	46 16 9	11 15 0				
	Special areas												
	Total	29	4,275 3 22	557 13 2	154 19 10	40	14,232 2 0	1,527 19 9	202 11 1	2	440 0 0	129 0 0	13 10 0
Goulburn—													
Bega	Ordinary lands	10	624 1 0	62 8 6	44 15 0	4	220 0 0	22 0 0	13 17 6	2	80 0 0	16 0 0	8 0 0
	Special areas	3	272 0 0	138 8 0	15 2 6								
Bombala	Ordinary lands	10	554 0 0	55 8 0	43 7 6	7	346 0 0	34 10 0	21 0 6				
	Special areas	2	93 1 0	21 12 0	8 7 6								
Boorowa	Ordinary lands	6	439 0 0	43 12 0	27 12 6	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	3 0 0				
	Special areas	5	407 3 0	99 19 6	24 10 0	1	110 2 0	16 11 0	4 2 6				
Braidwood	Ordinary lands	13	523 0 0	52 16 0	58 19 0	8	482 1 0	46 4 0	24 11 4	1	50 0 0	10 0 0	8 3 9
Cooma	Ordinary lands	9	765 2 6	76 11 0	43 7 6	4	344 1 0	34 8 0	11 8 9				
	Special areas	5	123 0 32	27 6 3	12 2 6	1	155 0 0	23 5 0	4 10 0				
Eden	Ordinary lands	7	510 0 0	51 0 0	22 0 0	2	141 2 0	14 3 0	7 0 8				
	Special areas	1	29 0 0	7 19 6	3 9 0	1	18 1 0	5 5 0	2 3 5				
Goulburn	Ordinary lands	13	681 0 0	68 2 0	55 7 6	4	250 0 0	25 0 0	14 1 3				
	Special areas	6	255 0 0	35 10 0	26 15 0	2	146 0 0	14 0 0	6 18 9				
Gunning	Ordinary lands	2	80 0 0	16 0 0	8 0 0	1	40 0 0	6 0 0	3 0 0				
	Special areas	8	468 0 0	46 12 0	35 5 0	3	143 0 0	14 6 0	9 9 5				
Moruya	Ordinary lands	1	75 0 0	11 5 0	4 17 6	2	136 0 0	20 8 0	7 0 8				
	Special areas	12	1,150 0 0	115 0 0	54 15 0	4	230 0 0	23 0 0	13 17 6	1	45 0 0	9 0 0	4 2 6
Moss Vale	Ordinary lands	13	1,112 0 0	111 4 0	64 0 0	4	599 2 0	59 19 0	17 5 1				
	Special areas					1	10 0 0	3 0 0	1 10 0				
Yass	Ordinary lands	6	1,719 0 0	171 13 0	44 5 0	1	49 2 0	4 19 0	3 3 9	2	93 3 0	19 15 0	8 10 0
	Special areas	2	360 0 0	70 0 0	12 0 0								
Young	Ordinary lands	5	666 2 0	66 13 0	23 12 6	4	735 2 0	72 11 0	10 2 6				
	Special areas	8	678 3 23	146 18 11	32 12 8	2	187 2 0	32 16 8	7 15 8				
	Total	147	11,980 1 15	1,515 9 8	679 14 2	57	4,427 3 0	484 6 9	185 19 4	6	273 3 0	54 15 0	23 16 3

SCHEDULE VIII—continued.

Local Land Board District and Land District.	Class of Land.	Section 26.				Section 42.				Section 47.			
		No.	Area.	Deposit.	Survey Fee	No.	Area.	Deposit.	Survey Fee.	No.	Area.	Deposit.	Survey Fee.
Grafton—	Ordinary lands	10	a. r. p.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	3	a. r. p.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bellingen	Special areas ..	3	526 0 0	52 12 0	43 5 0	1	128 0 0	12 16 0	9 3 9				
Casino	Ordinary lands	11	1,645 3 0	164 11 6	61 0 0	5	1,400 0 0	140 0 0	7 10 0				
Grafton	Special areas ..	5	82 1 30	65 19 0	12 18 0	2	141 0 0	14 2 0	3 0 0				
Kempsey	Ordinary lands	1	341 0 0	33 2 0	20 7 6	2	107 0 0	10 14 0	6 11 3				
Lismore	Special areas ..	2	74 0 0	11 2 0	4 17 6	1	100 0 0	10 0 0	3 18 9				
Murwillumbah ..	Ordinary lands	3	180 0 0	18 0 0	13 10 0	1	446 3 0	90 1 0	18 18 10				
Port Macquarie ..	Special areas ..	22	2,110 2 30	417 12 5	107 7 6	5	45 0 0	4 10 0	3 1 10 1/2				
	Ordinary lands	1	62 0 0	9 6 0	4 12 6								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Ordinary lands	1	40 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0								
	Special areas ..	1	40 0 0	4 0 0									

SCHEDULE IX.

CONDITIONAL PURCHASES (Ordinary and within Special Areas) applied for in each Division, Land Board and Land District, during the year 1896.

Local Land Board District.	Land District.	Section 26. (O.C.P.)		Section 42. (A.C.P.)		Section 47. (N.R.C.P.)		Total No. of Applications.	Total Area applied for.								
		No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.		a.	r.	p.						
EASTERN DIVISION.																	
			a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.				
Armidale	Armidale	32	3,638	3	0	20	1,905	2	0	...	52	5,634	1	0			
	Glen Innes	15	762	0	0	5	576	0	0	...	20	1,338	0	0			
	Inverell	20	2,252	1	0	12	816	0	0	...	32	3,068	1	0			
	Tenterfield	16	1,131	0	30	14	770	1	10	...	30	1,901	2	0			
	Walcha	2	303	2	0	5	871	0	0	...	7	1,174	2	0			
Goulburn	Bega	13	896	1	0	4	220	0	0	2	19	1,106	1	0			
	Bombala	12	653	1	0	7	345	0	0	...	19	998	1	0			
	Braidwood	13	828	0	0	8	462	1	0	1	22	1,340	1	0			
	Burrowa	11	846	3	0	2	150	2	0	...	13	997	1	0			
	Cooma	14	893	2	32	5	499	1	0	...	19	1,392	3	32			
	Eden	8	539	0	0	3	159	3	0	...	11	698	3	0			
	Goulburn	13	661	0	0	4	280	0	0	...	17	941	0	0			
	Gunning	8	435	0	0	3	180	0	0	...	11	615	0	0			
	Moruya	9	541	0	0	5	279	0	0	...	14	820	0	0			
	Mossvale	12	1,150	0	0	4	280	0	0	1	17	1,475	0	0			
	Queanbeyan	13	1,112	0	0	5	609	2	0	...	18	1,721	2	0			
	Yass	8	2,079	0	0	1	49	2	0	2	11	2,227	1	0			
	Young	13	1,345	1	23	6	913	0	0	...	19	2,258	1	23			
Grafton	Bellingen	13	687	0	0	4	190	0	0	...	17	877	0	0			
	Casino	16	1,728	0	30	5	1,400	0	0	...	21	3,128	0	30			
	Grafton	8	405	0	0	2	141	0	0	...	10	546	0	0			
	Kempsey	2	90	0	0	2	107	0	0	...	4	197	0	0			
	Lismore	25	2,290	2	30	6	546	3	0	...	31	2,837	1	30			
	Murwillumbah	3	162	0	0	1	45	0	0	...	4	207	0	0			
	Port Macquarie	1	40	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	1	40	0	0
Maitland	Cassilis	9	1,265	0	0	5	1,005	2	0	...	14	2,270	2	0			
	Dungog .....	...	...	...	...	1	60	0	0	1	2	130	0	0
	Gosford	9	594	0	14	3	120	0	0	1	13	754	0	14			
	Maitland	2	61	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	2	61	0	0
	Muswellbrook	4	240	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	4	240	0	0
	Newcastle	1	40	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	1	40	0	0
	Raymond Terrace	1	40	0	0	2	40	0	20	...	3	80	0	20			
	Scone	5	1,360	0	0	1	60	0	0	1	7	1,456	0	0			
	Singleton	3	188	2	0	1	40	0	0	...	4	228	2	0			
	Stroud	3	200	0	0	3	191	0	0	...	6	391	0	0			
	Taree	7	408	3	0	5	478	3	0	...	12	887	2	0			
	Wollombi	1	40	0	0	1	40	0	0	...	2	80	0	0			
Orange	Bathurst	4	460	0	0	5	727	0	0	...	9	1,187	0	0			
	Carcoar	9	470	0	0	2	128	2	0	...	11	598	2	0			
	Cowra	12	1,672	0	16	11	1,702	1	0	...	23	3,374	1	16			
	Lithgow	8	320	0	0	3	120	0	0	...	11	440	0	0			
	Molong	28	3,537	3	30	16	1,710	0	9	1	45	5,347	3	39			
	Mudgee	10	850	2	0	15	1,609	3	0	...	25	2,460	1	0			
	Orange .....	...	...	...	...	1	80	0	0	...	1	80	0	0
	Rylstone	15	1,557	0	0	5	340	0	0	1	21	1,981	3	0			
	Wellington	37	7,495	0	0	19	4,314	3	0	3	59	11,989	3	0			
Sydney	Campbelltown .....	...	...	...	...	2	210	0	0	...	2	210	0	0
	Milton .....	...	...	...	...	1	75	0	0	...	1	75	0	0
	Nowra	3	359	0	0	1	40	0	0	...	4	399	3	0			
	Parramatta .....	...	...	...	...	1	15	0	20	...	1	15	0	20
	Penrith .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	100	0	0
	Picton	4	171	2	0	1	40	0	0	...	5	211	2	0			
	Windsor	16	762	2	0	5	450	0	0	3	24	1,352	2	0			
Tamworth	Murrurundi	5	677	1	5	1	355	1	0	...	6	1,032	2	5			
	Tamworth	34	4,135	1	0	18	1,229	2	0	...	47	5,364	3	0			
Wagga Wagga	Aibury	6	550	0	0	3	379	2	0	...	9	929	2	0			
	Cootamundra	5	479	3	0	7	648	0	0	...	12	1,145	3	0			
	Gundagai	4	587	0	0	5	1,086	3	0	...	9	1,673	3	0			
	Tumbarumba	1	50	0	0	1	40	0	0	...	2	90	0	0			
	Tunnot	6	647	3	25	1	40	0	0	...	7	687	3	25			
Forbes	Barmedman East .....	...	...	...	...	3	257	0	0	...	3	257	0	0
TOTAL EASTERN		552	54,708	3	35	277	29,530	0	19	19	1,044	2	0	848	85,283	2	14

SCHEDULE IX—continued.

Local Land Board District.	Land District.	Section 26. (O.C.P.)			Section 42. (A.C.P.)			Section 47. (N.R.C.P.)			Total No. of Applications.	Total Area applied for.					
		No.	Area.		No.	Area.		No.	Area.			a.	r.	p.			
CENTRAL DIVISION.																	
			a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.				
Bourke.....	Brewarrina East	1	111	0	0	...	.....	...	.....	1	111	0	0
Dubbo.....	Dubbo	8	1,470	0	0	17	6,765	0	0	25	8,235	0	0				
	Coonamble.....	15	2,704	0	0	22	5,202	0	0	37	7,906	0	0				
	Nyngan.....	6	2,934	3	0	...	.....	...	.....	6	2,934	3	0
	Warren.....	17	3,995	2	0	22	8,676	3	0	39	12,672	1	0				
Forbes	Barmedman	4	1,448	1	0	5	1,100	0	0	9	2,548	1	0				
	Condobolin	3	906	0	0	7	4,624	1	0	11	5,650	1	0				
	Forbes	7	574	3	0	11	2,817	2	0	19	3,712	1	0				
	Grenfell .....	...	.....	...	.....	2	404	0	0	2	404	0	0
	Parkes.....	15	1,286	3	22	12	5,029	3	0	27	6,316	2	22				
Hay.....	Deniliquin	1	590	0	0	3	758	1	0	4	1,348	1	0				
	Balranald South	9	3,768	0	0	3	811	3	0	13	4,579	3	0				
	Hay	2	1,040	0	0	1	102	0	0	3	1,142	0	0				
	Hillston	1	200	0	0	3	169	0	0	4	369	0	0				
Morice	Bingara	11	2,335	0	0	4	845	0	0	15	3,180	0	0				
	Morice	9	3,507	0	0	10	5,081	0	0	19	8,588	0	0				
	Walgett.....	5	2,660	0	0	4	1,138	3	0	9	3,798	3	0				
	Warialda.....	8	2,461	0	0	13	1,381	0	0	21	3,842	0	0				
Tamworth	Coonabarabran	11	1,059	2	0	25	3,087	2	0	36	4,147	0	0				
	Gunnedah.....	14	1,546	3	13	7	2,238	2	0	21	3,785	1	13				
	Narrabri.....	23	3,521	2	32	14	3,027	1	0	37	6,548	3	32				
Wagga Wagga ...	Cootamundra Central .....	...	.....	...	.....	1	100	0	0	1	100	0	0
	Corowa	15	4,084	0	0	5	1,119	1	36	20	5,203	1	36				
	Narrandera	11	3,144	0	0	6	2,630	3	0	17	5,774	3	0				
	Timbarumba North	1	212	0	0	...	.....	...	.....	1	212	0	0
	Urana	7	2,820	1	0	6	3,796	3	0	13	6,617	0	0				
	Wagga Wagga.....	9	1,687	2	0	11	1,928	3	0	21	3,780	1	0				
TOTAL CENTRAL.....		213	49,967	3	27	214	62,834	3	36	3	704	0	0	430	113,506	3	23
WESTERN DIVISION.																	
Bourke	Bourke .....	...	.....	...	.....	1	659	2	0	1	659	2	0
TOTAL WESTERN.....		...	.....	...	.....	1	659	2	0	1	659	2	0
SUMMARY.																	
Eastern Division		552	54,708	3	35	277	29,530	0	19	19	1,044	2	0	848	85,283	2	14
Central Division		213	49,967	3	27	214	62,834	3	36	3	704	0	0	430	113,506	3	23
Western Division	1	659	2	0	1	659	2	0		
TOTAL.....		765	104,676	3	22	492	93,024	2	15	22	1,748	2	0	1,279	199,449	3	37

SCHEDULE X.

RETURN showing the Number and Area of Conditional Purchases applied for during 1896, and the amount of Deposits received.

Ordinary Conditional Purchases.				Special Area Conditional Purchases.			
No.	Area.	Deposit.	Section.	No.	Area.	Deposit.	Section.
526	a. r. p. 71,747 0 0	£ s. d. 7,174 14 0	26	239	a. r. p. 32,929 3 22	£ s. d. 6,320 8 11	26
403	83,474 2 36	8,403 11 9	42	89	9,549 3 19	1,600 6 7	42
19	1,079 3 0	215 19 0	47	3	665 3 0	213 16 6	47
948	156,301 1 36	15,794 4 9		331	43,148 2 1	8,134 12 0	

SCHEDULE X—continued.

SUMMARY of Number and Area of Conditional Purchases applied for from the year 1862 to 1896 inclusive.

Years.	Applied for.			Years.	Applied for.		
	No.	Area.			No.	Area.	
1862 to 1869	27,994	a.	r. p.	1884	10,657	a.	r. p.
1870	4,471	2,161,390	2 2	1885	5,377	1,453,937	0 33
1871	4,751	320,318	1 2	1886	6,080	1,165,351	1 20
1872	8,281	358,682	2 8	1887	4,769	963,196	2 27
1873	13,417	749,556	3 0	1888	5,364	793,004	0 31
1874	14,510	1,391,719	0 0	1889	6,205	865,199	0 38
1875	14,517	1,586,282	0 0	1890	8,526	903,159	2 9
1876	12,654	1,756,678	0 0	1891	6,153	1,713,577	1 0
1877	12,009	1,984,212	0 0	1892	4,396	816,399	1 19
1878	12,602	1,609,816	0 0	1893	3,393	533,805	2 4
1879	7,540	1,588,247	3 18	1894	2,617	414,355	0 10½
1880	8,583	924,136	1 0	1895	1,751	253,431	0 12
1881	14,220	1,147,001	2 39	1896	1,279	199,449	3 37
1882	14,606	2,329,202	0 15				
1883	10,674	2,392,217	2 35				
		1,617,712	0 7	Total	247,396	33,394,163	1 18½

SCHEDULE XI.

RETURN showing the Number and Area of Conditional Purchase Applications Confirmed or Disallowed during 1896.

Local Land Board and Land District.	Class of Application.	Applications made during 1896.				Applications made prior to 1st January, 1896.				Total.			
		Confirmed.		Disallowed.		Confirmed.		Disallowed.		Confirmed.		Disallowed.	
ARMIDALE.		No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.
Armidale	Ordinary land	7	482 1 0	6	830 0 0	8	811 2 0	1	50 0 0	15	1,293 3 0	7	880 0 0
Do	Special area	4	102 3 0	..	..	2	80 0 0	..	..	6	182 3 0	..	..
Glen Innes	Ordinary land	3	120 0 0	1	70 0 0	2	81 2 0	..	..	5	201 2 0	1	70 0 0
Do	Special area	2	124 2 0	1	60 0 0	1	49 3 0	..	..	3	174 1 0	1	60 0 0
Inverel	Ordinary land	6	340 1 0	4	715 0 0	11	1,098 0 0	5	660 0 0	16	1,488 1 0	9	1,375 0 0
Do	Special area	5	310 0 0	2	140 0 0	19	1,783 0 0	2	130 0 0	24	2,093 0 0	4	270 0 0
Tenterfield	Ordinary land	8	452 0 0	2	100 0 0	3	414 0 0	..	..	7	911 0 0	2	100 0 0
Do	Special area	5	255 0 0	1	60 0 0	10	522 0 0	3	210 0 0	18	1,274 0 0	3	210 0 0
Walcha	Ordinary land	1	140 0 0	..	..	4	297 0 0	1	77 3 0	5	437 0 0	1	77 3 0
Do	Special area	1	46 0 0	..	..	2	270 0 0	..	..	3	316 0 0	..	..
		1	173 2 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	173 2 0	..	..
	SUMMARY.												
	Ordinary land	24	1,534 2 0	11	1,615 0 0	35	3,110 0 0	10	997 3 0	50	4,644 2 0	21	2,612 3 0
	Special area	18	1,225 0 0	3	200 0 0	52	5,678 2 0	4	241 2 0	70	6,063 2 0	7	441 2 0
	Total	42	2,759 2 0	14	1,815 0 0	87	8,788 2 0	14	1,239 1 0	120	11,548 0 0	28	3,054 1 0
	Special area	13	997 0 30	3	160 0 0	6	548 3 0	..	..	19	1,540 3 30	3	160 0 0
	Total	6	196 2 20	..	..	2	344 1 0	..	..	8	540 3 20	..	..
	Grand Total—Ordinary land and Special area	61	3,953 1 10	17	1,975 0 0	95	9,676 2 0	14	1,239 1 0	150	13,629 3 10	31	3,214 1 0
BOURKE.													
Brewarrina East	Ordinary land	..	..	..	..	2	760 0 0	..	..	2	760 0 0	..	..
Bourke	Ordinary land	1	628 3 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	628 3 0	..	..
	Grand Total—Ordinary land	1	628 3 0	..	..	2	760 0 0	..	..	3	1,388 3 0	..	..
DUBBO.													
Coonamble	Ordinary land	3	821 3 0	5	1,043 0 0	3	950 0 0	2	800 0 0	6	1,771 3 0	7	1,843 0 0
Dubbo	Ordinary land	4	1,258 0 0	9	2,112 0 0	8	1,421 3 0	12	3,243 0 0	12	2,679 3 0	21	5,365 0 0
Do	Special area	3	405 0 0	2	360 0 0	9	3,395 0 0	2	246 0 0	12	3,800 0 0	4	606 0 0
Nyngan	Ordinary land	8	5,146 2 0	2	760 0 0	6	1,421 2 0	1	500 0 0	14	6,563 0 0	3	1,260 0 0
Warren	Ordinary land	1	10 0 0	..	..	1	30 0 0	..	..	2	40 0 0	..	..
Do	Special area	2	810 0 0	1	485 0 0	..	..	5	2,201 0 0	2	570 0 0	6	2,686 0 0
	Ordinary land	2	678 0 0	6	1,616 2 0	7	340 0 0	1	170 0 0	1	340 0 0	10	170 0 0
	Special area	4	2,408 3 0	8	3,653 0 0	2	2,035 3 0	4	656 0 0	9	2,708 3 0	10	2,272 2 0
	Grand Total	2	177 2 0	..	..	2	646 0 0	8	2,888 0 0	6	3,054 3 0	16	6,441 0 0
	Special area	..	..	..	..	1	40 0 0	..	..	1	40 0 0	..	..
	SUMMARY.												
	Ordinary land	10	2,709 3 0	14	3,504 2 0	10	6,380 3 0	13	3,903 0 0	20	9,000 2 0	27	7,407 2 0
	Special area	16	8,813 1 0	10	6,425 0 0	17	8,329 1 0	22	6,501 0 0	33	12,042 2 0	41	13,220 0 0
	Total	26	11,523 0 0	33	9,929 2 0	36	10,210 0 0	35	10,704 0 0	62	21,733 0 0	68	20,633 2 0
	Special area	3	187 2 0	..	..	1	30 0 0	..	..	4	217 2 0	..	..
	Total	3	187 2 0	..	..	2	70 0 0	..	..	5	257 2 0	..	..
	Grand Total	20	11,710 2 0	33	9,929 2 0	38	10,280 0 0	35	10,704 0 0	67	21,990 2 0	68	20,633 2 0

SCHEDULE XI—continued.

Local Land Board and Land District.	Class of Application.	Applications made during 1896.				Applications made prior to 1st January, 1896.				Total.				
		Confirmed.		Disallowed.		Confirmed.		Disallowed.		Confirmed.		Disallowed.		
		No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	
FORBES.														
Barnedman	Ordinary land	Original				3	600 0 0			3	600 0 0			
		Additional	1	750 0 0						1	750 0 0			
Do	Special area	Original	4	1,434 3 0			4	930 3 0		8	2,374 2 0			
		Additional	3	297 0 0			5	738 2 0		8	1,025 2 0			
Barnedman East.	Ordinary land	Original				4	484 3 0	1	156 3 0	4	424 3 0	1	156 3 0	
		Additional	3	257 0 0			1	40 0 0		4	297 0 0			
Condobolin	Ordinary land	Original				1	450 0 0					1	450 0 0	
		Additional	2	1,109 2 0	1	240 0 0				2	1,109 2 0	1	240 0 0	
Forbes	Ordinary land	Original	1	109 1 0	1	99 0 0				1	109 1 0	1	99 0 0	
		Additional	2	347 0 0			4	1,034 0 0	4	1,069 0 0	6	1,431 0 0	4	1,069 0 0
Do	Special area	Original	3	217 1 0						6	342 2 0			
		Additional	4	866 0 0	1	640 0 0	3	262 2 0	1	640 0 0	7	1,128 2 0	2	1,280 0 0
		Non-residential	1	320 0 0						1	320 0 0			
Grenfell	Ordinary land	Original				1	50 0 0			1	50 0 0			
Do	Special area	Original				1	739 2 0			1	739 2 0			
Parke	Ordinary land	Original	2	282 3 0	2	210 0 0	2	323 3 0	2	282 3 0	4	606 2 0	4	492 3 0
		Additional	2	2,236 0 0	5	2,403 1 0	1	40 0 0		3	2,276 0 0	5	2,403 1 0	
Do	Special area	Original	7	691 0 0	2	43 0 22	3	744 0 0		10	1,335 0 0	2	43 0 22	
		Additional	3	248 1 0	1	20 0 0				3	248 1 0	1	20 0 0	
SUMMARY.														
	Ordinary land	Original	3	302 0 0	4	759 0 0	9	1,348 2 0	3	439 2 0	12	1,740 2 0	7	1,108 2 0
		Additional	10	4,099 2 0	6	2,043 1 0	7	1,214 0 0	4	1,069 0 0	17	5,913 2 0	10	3,712 1 0
	Total		13	5,081 2 0	10	3,402 1 0	16	2,562 2 0	7	1,508 2 0	29	7,654 0 0	17	4,910 3 0
	Special area	Original	14	2,243 0 0	2	43 0 22	10	2,548 2 0			24	4,791 2 0	2	43 0 22
		Additional	10	1,411 1 0	2	680 0 0	8	991 0 0	1	640 0 0	18	2,402 1 0	3	1,300 0 0
		Non-residential	1	320 0 0						1	320 0 0			
	Total		25	3,974 1 0	4	703 0 22	18	3,539 2 0	1	640 0 0	43	7,513 3 0	5	1,343 0 22
	Grand Total		38	9,055 3 0	14	4,105 1 22	34	6,102 0 0	8	2,148 2 0	72	15,167 3 0	22	6,253 3 22
GOULBURN.														
Rega	Ordinary land	Original	4	314 1 0	2	100 0 0	1	99 0 0			5	413 1 0	2	100 0 0
		Additional	1	50 0 0	1	50 0 0	2	141 2 0			3	191 2 0	1	50 0 0
Do	Special area	Original	1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0	3	180 0 0	1	40 0 0	4	220 0 0	2	80 0 0
		Additional	1	130 0 0			1	52 0 0			2	182 0 0		
Bombala	Ordinary land	Original	4	220 0 0			7	861 2 0			11	1,081 2 0		
		Additional	5	255 1 0	1	50 0 0	3	170 0 0			8	425 1 0	1	50 0 0
Do	Special area	Original					3	327 0 0	1	25 0 0	3	327 0 0	1	25 0 0
		Additional					2	338 0 0			2	338 0 0		
Boorowa	Ordinary land	Original	2	269 0 0	1	100 0 0	2	90 0 0	1	40 0 0	4	290 0 0	2	140 0 0
		Additional					2	50 0 0			2	80 0 0		
Do	Special area	Original	3	274 3 0			3	192 3 0			6	467 2 0		
		Additional	5	326 0 0	1	40 0 0	7	536 0 0			12	861 0 0	1	40 0 0
Braidwood	Ordinary land	Original	3	190 1 0	4	232 0 0	3	133 0 0			6	323 1 0	4	232 0 0
		Additional												
		Non-residential	7	469 2 0	1	50 0 0	5	530 0 0			12	999 2 0	2	149 0 0
Cooma	Ordinary land	Original	3	294 1 0			12	1,073 0 0	1	100 0 0	15	1,367 1 0		
		Additional	5	128 0 32						5	128 0 32			
Do	Special area	Original	1	155 0 0			2	320 0 0			3	475 0 0		
		Additional	3	180 0 0	2	190 0 0			1	40 0 0	3	190 0 0	2	190 0 0
Edeu	Ordinary land	Original	2	141 2 0							2	141 2 0	1	40 0 0
		Additional												
Do	Special area	Original	1	39 0 0			1	69 1 0			2	98 1 0		
		Additional	5	283 0 0			1	50 0 0			6	333 0 0		
Goulburn	Ordinary land	Original	1	100 0 0							1	100 0 0		
		Additional	2	145 0 0	2	120 0 0	2	80 0 0			4	225 0 0	2	120 0 0
Do	Special area	Original	1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0					1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0
		Additional	1	40 0 0							1	40 0 0		
Moriya	Ordinary land	Original	1	66 0 0	2	80 0 0	12	605 0 0			13	671 0 0	2	80 0 0
		Additional					5	200 0 0	1	40 0 0	5	200 0 0	1	40 0 0
Do	Special area	Original	1	75 0 0			2	80 2 0			3	161 2 0		
		Additional					1	50 0 0			1	50 0 0	1	50 0 0
Moss Vale	Ordinary land	Original	2	531 2 0	4	463 0 0	1	88 0 0	1	320 0 0	6	611 2 0	5	730 0 0
		Additional	1	40 0 0			1	50 0 0			2	90 0 0		
		Non-residential	1	45 0 0							1	45 0 0		
Queanbeyan	Ordinary land	Original	9	808 0 0	2	214 0 0	2	80 0 0			11	888 0 0	2	214 0 0
		Additional	2	450 0 0	2	140 0 0	5	426 0 0			7	885 2 0	2	140 0 0
		Non-residential					1	150 2 0			1	150 2 0		
Do	Special area	Original	1	100 0 0	1	10 0 0					1	10 0 0		
		Additional	1	40 2 0	1	320 0 0	3	420 0 30			4	520 0 30	1	320 0 0
Yass	Ordinary land	Original	1	40 2 0							1	40 2 0		
		Additional												
Do	Special area	Original	1	320 0 0	1	81 3 0			1	320 0 0	1	320 0 0	1	81 3 0
		Additional	3	265 2 0	1	81 0 0					3	265 2 0	1	81 0 0
Young	Ordinary land	Original	2	139 0 0	2	586 2 0					2	139 0 0	2	586 2 0
		Additional	4	299 3 36			3	66 1 30			7	466 1 26		
Do	Special area	Original			1	87 2 0	1	7 1 18			1	7 1 18	1	87 2 0
		Additional												
SUMMARY.														
	Ordinary land	Original	51	3,867 3 0	19	1,764 0 0	43	3,430 2 30	3	460 0 0	94	7,295 1 30	22	2,214 0 0
		Additional	21	1,719 1 0	10	1,058 2 0	34	2,373 2 0	2	80 0 0	55	4,092 3 0	12	1,133 2 0
		Non-residential	2	85 0 0	3	148 3 0	4	330 2 0	1	40 0 0	6	415 2 0	4	183 3 0
	Total		74	5,672 0 0	32	2,901 1 0	81	6,134 2 30	6	580 0 0	155	11,806 2 30	38	3,541 1 0
	Special area	Original	17	1,206 3 28	1	40 0 0	13	793 3 30	2	345 0 0	30	2,090 3 18	3	385 0 0
		Additional	2	196 0 0	3	147 2 0	6	715 1 18			8	910 1 18	3	147 2 0
	Total		19	1,401 3 28	4	187 2 0	19	1,509 1 8	2	345 0 0	38	3,001 0 36	6	532 2 0
	Grand Total		93	7,103 3 28	36	3,148 3 0	100	7,643 3 38	8	925 0 0	193	14,807 3 26	44	4,073 3 0

* Includes 12½ acres ordinary land.

SCHEDULE XI—continued.

Local Land Board and Land District.	Class of Application.	Applications made during 1896.				Applications made prior to 1st January, 1896.				Total.			
		Confirmed.		Disallowed.		Confirmed.		Disallowed.		Confirmed.		Disallowed.	
		No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.
GRAFTON.													
Bellingen	Ordinary land	4	233 0 0	2	80 0 0	2	152 0 0	2	20 0 0	6	385 0 0	4	180 0 0
Do	Special area	3	161 0 0	1	40 0 0	..	..	..	..	3	161 0 0	1	40 0 0
Casino	Ordinary land	4	1,280 1 0	2	80 0 0	1	50 0 0	..	..	7	1,330 1 0	2	80 0 0
Do	Special area	4	1,136 0 0	..	..	..	..	1	120 0 0	4	1,136 0 0	1	120 0 0
Grafton	Ordinary land	5	82 1 30	..	..	5	82 2 10	..	..	10	165 0 9	..	..
Do	Special area	4	211 0 0	..	..	4	240 0 0	..	..	8	451 0 0	..	..
Kempsey	Ordinary land	2	141 0 0	..	..	1	40 0 0	..	..	3	181 0 0	..	..
Lismore	Ordinary land	2	107 0 0	..	..	..	..	1	108 0 0	2	107 0 0	1	108 0 0
Do	Special area	2	140 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	140 0 0	..	..
Murwillumbah	Ordinary land	19	1,837 1 30	2	114 3 0	1	15 1 20	..	..	20	1,852 3 16	2	114 3 0
Do	Special area	4	346 3 0	1	100 0 0	..	..	..	..	4	346 3 0	1	100 0 0
Port Macquarie	Ordinary land	1	50 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	50 0 0	..	..
Do	Special area	1	62 0 0	..	..	1	62 0 0	1	40 0 0	1	62 0 0	1	40 0 0
Do	Ordinary land	1	62 0 0	..	..	1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0
Do	Special area	1	62 0 0	..	..	1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0
SUMMARY.													
Ordinary land		17	1,914 1 0	4	160 0 0	8	504 0 0	3	140 0 0	25	2,418 1 0	7	300 0 0
Special area		8	1,354 0 0	1	40 0 0	2	80 0 0	2	148 0 0	10	1,464 0 0	3	188 0 0
Non-residential		..	..	..	..	1	40 0 0	1	120 0 0	1	40 0 0	1	120 0 0
Total		25	3,268 1 0	5	200 0 0	11	624 0 0	6	408 0 0	36	3,922 1 0	11	608 0 0
Special area		28	2,142 3 20	2	114 3 0	6	98 0 5	..	..	34	2,240 3 25	2	114 3 0
Additional		4	346 3 0	1	100 0 0	..	..	..	..	4	346 3 0	1	100 0 0
Total		32	2,489 2 20	3	214 3 0	6	98 0 5	..	..	38	2,587 2 25	3	214 3 0
Grand Total		57	5,757 3 20	8	414 3 0	17	722 0 5	6	408 0 0	74	6,509 3 25	14	822 3 0
HAY.													
Balranald, south.	Ordinary land	2	1,280 0 0	..	..	2	800 0 0	..	..	4	2,080 0 0	..	..
Do	Special area	3	811 3 0	..	..	1	317 0 0	..	..	4	1,128 3 0	..	..
Deniliquin	Ordinary land	5	2,208 0 0	..	..	1	634 0 0	..	..	6	2,842 0 0	..	..
Do	Special area	2	476 1 0	..	..	1	89 0 0	5	3,200 0 0	2	476 1 0	5	3,200 0 0
Hay	Ordinary land	..	..	1	284 0 0	2	467 2 0	..	..	2	467 2 0	1	284 0 0
Hillston	Ordinary land	1	40 0 0	2	129 0 0	..	..	..	..	1	40 0 0	2	129 0 0
SUMMARY.													
Ordinary land		2	1,280 0 0	..	..	2	800 0 0	..	..	4	2,080 0 0	..	..
Special area		6	1,328 0 0	2	129 0 0	3	784 2 0	..	..	9	2,112 2 0	2	129 0 0
Total		8	2,608 0 0	2	129 0 0	5	1,584 2 0	..	..	13	4,192 2 0	2	129 0 0
Special area		5	2,208 0 0	..	..	2	723 0 0	5	3,200 0 0	7	2,901 0 0	5	3,200 0 0
Additional		..	..	1	284 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	284 0 0
Total		5	2,208 0 0	1	284 0 0	2	723 0 0	5	3,200 0 0	7	2,901 0 0	6	3,484 0 0
Grand Total		13	4,876 0 0	3	413 0 0	7	2,307 2 0	5	3,200 0 0	20	7,183 2 0	8	3,613 0 0
MAITLAND.													
Cassilis	Ordinary land	4	500 1 0	1	320 0 0	1	80 0 0	..	..	5	670 1 0	1	320 0 0
Do	Special area	2	285 3 0	1	133 1 0	2	105 0 0	..	..	4	390 3 0	1	133 1 0
Dungog	Ordinary land	1	50 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	50 0 0	..	..
Do	Special area	1	80 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	80 0 0	..	..
Gosford	Ordinary land	7	509 0 0	..	..	1	40 0 0	..	..	8	609 0 0	..	..
Do	Special area	3	120 0 0	1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0	..	..	4	160 0 0	1	40 0 0
Maitland	Ordinary land	2	25 0 14	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	25 0 14	..	..
Do	Special area	2	61 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	61 0 0	..	..
Muswellbrook	Ordinary land	2	80 0 0	..	..	1	40 0 0	..	..	3	120 0 0	..	..
Do	Special area	2	80 0 0	..	..	1	80 0 0	2	120 0 0	1	80 0 0	2	120 0 0
Newcastle	Ordinary land	1	40 0 0	..	..	..	..	1	50 0 0	1	40 0 0	1	50 0 0
Raymond Terrace	Ordinary land	1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0	..	..	..	..	1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0
Do	Special area	2	40 0 20	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	40 0 20	..	..
Seone	Ordinary land	1	80 0 0	..	..	4	667 2 0	..	..	5	747 2 0	..	..
Do	Special area	3	470 0 0	..	..	3	470 0 0	..	..	3	470 0 0	..	..
Singleton	Ordinary land	2	100 0 0	1	46 0 0	1	100 0 0	..	..	1	100 0 0	1	46 0 0
Do	Special area	2	100 0 0	..	..	2	100 0 0	..	..	2	100 0 0	1	88 2 0
Stroud	Ordinary land	1	40 0 0	..	..	1	40 0 0	..	..	2	80 0 0	..	..
Do	Special area	3	200 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	200 0 0	..	..
Taree	Ordinary land	4	291 3 0	1	100 0 0	2	90 0 0	..	..	6	291 3 0	1	100 0 0
Do	Special area	3	360 2 0	..	..	1	57 2 0	..	..	3	360 2 0	..	..
Wollombi	Ordinary land	2	119 1 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	57 2 0	..	..
Do	Special area	1	40 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	119 1 0	..	..
Do	Ordinary land	1	40 0 0	..	..	1	50 0 0	..	..	1	40 0 0	..	..
Do	Special area	1	40 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	90 0 0	..	..
SUMMARY.													
Ordinary land		25	1,901 0 0	4	548 2 0	9	917 2 0	1	50 0 0	34	2,818 2 0	5	598 2 0
Special area		11	896 1 0	1	133 1 0	9	785 0 0	2	120 0 0	20	1,681 1 0	3	253 1 0
Non-residential		..	..	..	..	1	100 0 0	..	..	1	100 0 0	..	..
Total		36	2,797 1 0	5	681 3 0	19	1,802 2 0	3	170 0 0	55	4,599 3 0	8	851 3 0
Special area		6	246 0 14	..	..	1	57 2 0	..	..	7	303 2 14	..	..
Additional		4	159 1 20	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	159 1 20	..	..
Non-residential		..	..	3	166 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	166 0 0
Total		10	405 1 34	3	166 0 0	1	57 2 0	..	..	11	462 3 34	3	166 0 0
Grand Total		46	3,202 2 34	8	847 3 0	20	1,860 0 0	3	170 0 0	66	5,062 2 34	11	1,017 3 0

SCHEDULE XI—continued.

Local Land Board and Land District.	Class of Application.	Applications made during 1896.				Applications made prior to 1st January, 1896.				Total.			
		Confirmed.		Disallowed.		Confirmed.		Disallowed.		Confirmed.		Disallowed.	
		No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.
MOREE.													
Bingara	Ordinary land	Original	5 1,260 0 0	1 860 0 0	2 442 3 0	1 290 0 0	7 1,702 3 0	2 540 0 0					
		Additional	1 65 0 0		1 240 0 0	1 60 0 0	2 314 0 0	1 60 0 0					
Moree	Ordinary land	Original	4 1,730 0 0	1 640 0 0	3 642 0 0	1 416 0 0	7 2,422 0 0	2 1,056 0 0					
		Additional	4 3,600 0 0	3 620 0 0	6 1,444 0 0		10 5,044 0 0	3 620 0 0					
Do	Special area	Original			1 268 0 0		1 268 0 0						
Walgett	Ordinary land	Original	1 640 0 0	1 100 0 0	2 420 0 0		3 1,060 0 0	1 100 0 0					
		Additional		1 315 0 0	1 78 0 0		1 75 0 0	1 315 0 0					
Wyallda	Ordinary land	Original	4 1,574 0 0	3 581 0 0	4 610 0 0	3 610 0 0	5 2,184 0 0	6 1,191 0 0					
		Additional	7 300 0 0	2 133 0 0	19 3,203 3 0	1 200 0 0	26 3,563 3 0	3 333 0 0					
SUMMARY.													
	Ordinary land	Original	14 5,254 0 0	6 1,681 0 0	11 2,714 3 0	5 1,226 0 0	25 7,368 3 0	11 2,907 0 0					
		Additional	12 4,025 0 0	6 1,068 0 0	27 4,969 3 0	2 200 0 0	30 8,994 3 0	8 1,328 0 0					
	Total		26 9,279 0 0	12 2,749 0 0	38 7,684 2 0	7 1,426 0 0	64 16,363 2 0	19 4,235 0 0					
	Special area	Original			1 268 0 0		1 268 0 0						
	Total				1 268 0 0		1 268 0 0						
	Grand Total		26 9,279 0 0	12 2,749 0 0	39 7,952 2 0	7 1,426 0 0	65 16,631 2 0	19 4,235 0 0					
ORANGE.													
Bathurst	Ordinary land	Original			1 40 0 0		1 40 0 0						
		Additional	3 547 0 0	1 40 0 0	1 79 2 0		3 626 2 0	1 40 0 0					
Carcoar	Ordinary land	Original	2 80 0 0		5 830 0 0	3 400 0 0	7 960 0 0	3 400 0 0					
		Additional			3 281 2 0	1 320 0 0	3 281 2 0	1 320 0 0					
Do	Special area	Original	1 55 0 0	1 80 0 0			1 55 0 0	1 80 0 0					
		Additional	1 78 2 0				1 78 2 0						
Cowra	Special area	Original	9 1,471 1 0	1 121 0 0	4 233 0 0	1 63 0 0	13 1,704 1 0	2 184 0 0					
		Additional	4 646 0 0	4 851 0 0	1 20 1 27		5 660 1 27	4 851 0 0					
Lithgow	Ordinary land	Original	3 123 1 0	1 40 0 0	3 279 0 0		6 402 1 0	1 40 0 0					
		Additional	2 80 0 0		2 154 0 0		4 234 0 0						
Molong	Ordinary land	Original	3 206 0 0	3 639 2 0	2 290 0 0	1 138 0 0	5 406 0 0	6 777 2 0					
		Additional	2 237 0 0	3 342 0 0	7 1,325 1 0		9 1,562 1 0	3 342 0 0					
	Special area	Original	6 665 0 10	1 85 0 0	3 200 3 0		9 874 1 10	1 85 0 0					
		Additional	2 285 0 0	1 60 0 0			2 285 0 0	1 60 0 0					
Mudgee	Ordinary land	Original	2 80 0 0	1 40 0 0	10 896 0 0	1 40 0 0	12 1,076 0 0	2 80 0 0					
		Additional	4 510 0 0	7 756 3 0	9 794 2 0		13 1,304 2 0	7 756 3 0					
Do	Special area	Original	4 550 2 0	1 100 0 0	4 464 3 0	1 40 0 0	8 1,015 1 0	2 140 0 0					
		Additional			1 47 2 0		1 47 2 0						
Ryestone	Ordinary land	Original	5 550 0 0	4 380 0 0	1 40 0 0	2 120 0 0	6 590 0 0	6 500 0 0					
		Additional	2 100 0 0				2 100 0 0						
Do	Special area	Original	3 402 0 0				3 402 0 0						
		Non-residential	1 84 3 0				1 84 3 0						
Wellington	Ordinary land	Original	4 340 0 0	13 3,070 0 0	1 50 0 0	1 100 0 0	5 390 0 0	14 3,170 0 0					
		Additional	5 948 0 0	2 866 0 0	2 131 1 0		7 1,679 1 0	2 866 0 0					
	Special area	Original		1 80 0 0				1 80 0 0					
		Additional	2 390 3 0	1 40 0 0	1 320 0 0		3 710 2 0	1 40 0 0					
SUMMARY.													
	Ordinary land	Original	19 1,379 1 0	24 4,169 2 0	23 2,485 0 0	8 793 0 0	42 3,864 1 0	32 4,067 2 0					
		Additional	17 2,482 0 0	13 2,904 3 0	24 2,706 0 0	1 320 0 0	41 5,248 0 0	14 2,324 3 0					
	Total		36 3,861 1 0	37 7,073 5 0	47 5,191 0 0	9 1,113 0 0	83 9,112 1 0	46 6,391 5 0					
	Special area	Original	25 3,534 1 10	4 385 0 0	12 1,227 2 0	3 103 0 0	37 4,761 3 10	6 489 0 0					
		Additional	7 1,009 2 0	6 941 0 0	2 67 3 27		9 1,977 1 27	6 941 0 0					
		Non-residential	1 84 3 0				1 84 3 0						
	Total		33 4,628 2 10	10 1,327 0 0	14 1,295 1 27	2 103 0 0	47 6,823 3 37	12 1,430 0 0					
	Grand Total		69 8,490 3 10	47 7,681 1 0	61 6,486 1 27	11 1,221 0 0	130 15,036 0 37	60 8,002 1 0					
SYDNEY.													
Campbelltown	Ordinary land	Additional	2 210 0 0				2 210 0 0						
Milton	Ordinary land	Original			1 40 0 0		1 40 0 0						
Do	Special area	Additional	1 75 0 0				1 75 0 0						
Nowra	Ordinary land	Original	2 269 0 0		1 40 0 0		3 309 0 0						
		Additional		1 40 0 0				1 40 0 0					
Parramatta	Ordinary land	Non-residential			2 118 3 0		2 118 3 0						
Do	Special area	Additional	1 15 0 20				1 15 0 20						
Penrith	Ordinary land	Non-residential	2 100 0 0				2 100 0 0						
Picton	Ordinary land	Original	2 80 6 0		3 570 0 0		6 650 0 0						
		Additional	1 40 0 0		1 100 0 0		2 140 0 0						
Do	Special area	Original	1 51 2 0				1 51 2 0						
		Additional	4 200 0 0	2 140 0 0		1 40 0 0	4 200 0 0	3 180 0 0					
Windsor	Ordinary land	Original		2 10 0 0				2 10 0 0					
		Non-residential	1 53 0 0	1 40 0 0			1 53 0 0	1 40 0 0					
Do	Special area	Original	3 117 3 0				3 117 3 0						
SUMMARY.													
	Ordinary land	Original	8 549 0 0	2 140 0 0	5 650 0 0	1 40 0 0	13 1,190 0 0	3 180 0 0					
		Additional	3 250 0 0	3 50 0 0	1 100 0 0		4 350 0 0	3 250 0 0					
		Non-residential	3 153 0 0	1 40 0 0	2 118 3 0		5 271 3 0	1 40 0 0					
	Totals		14 952 0 0	6 430 0 0	8 868 3 0	1 40 0 0	22 1,820 3 0	7 470 0 0					
	Special area	Original	4 169 1 0				4 169 1 0						
		Additional	2 90 0 20				2 90 0 20						
	Totals		6 259 1 20				6 259 1 20						
	GRAND TOTALS		20 1,211 1 20	6 430 0 0	8 868 3 0	1 40 0 0	23 2,680 0 20	7 470 0 0					

SCHEDULE XI—continued.

Local Land Board and Land District.	Class of Application.	Applications made during 1896				Applications made prior to 1st January, 1896.				Total.			
		Confirmed.		Disallowed.		Confirmed.		Disallowed.		Confirmed.		Disallowed.	
		No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.
TAMWORTH.													
Coonabarrabran	Ordinary land	Original	3 350 0 0	5 319 2 0	2 690 0 0	1 40 0 0	5 1,040 0 0	6 359 2 0					
		Additional	5 420 3 0	8 912 2 0	9 1,741 3 0	14 2,171 2 0	8 912 2 0						
Gunnedah	Ordinary land	Original	2 447 1 0	3 889 2 0	4 545 0 0	1 500 0 0	4 545 0 0	4 1,380 2 0					
Do	Special area	Original	3 75 3 0	3 257 2 0	2 211 0 0	1 100 0 0	5 280 3 0	4 357 2 0					
		Additional	2 175 0 0	.....	.....	1 135 0 0	2 175 0 0	1 135 0 0					
Murrurundi	Ordinary land	Original	1 95 0 0	.....	.....	2 1,164 0 0	1 95 0 0	2 1,154 0 0					
		Additional	1 355 1 0	.....	.....	1 60 0 0	3 850 0 0	1 60 0 0					
Do	Special area	Original	3 546 1 0	.....	.....	3 546 1 0	.....	.....			
Narrabri	Ordinary land	Original	2 142 1 0	4 490 0 0	6 1,400 0 0	1 74 0 0	8 1,542 1 0	5 564 0 0					
		Additional	2 265 1 0	2 455 3 0	2 1,331 0 0	1 320 0 0	2 1,331 0 0	3 890 0 0					
Do	Special area	Original	9 1,865 3 32	2 499 2 0	2 1,230 0 0	.....	11 3,145 3 32	2 499 2 0					
		Additional	2 265 1 0	2 455 3 0	.....	.....	2 265 1 0	2 455 3 0					
Tamworth	Ordinary land	Original	7 825 1 0	1 320 0 0	12 1,045 0 0	3 215 0 0	19 2,770 1 0	4 455 3 0					
		Additional	4 282 0 0	.....	.....	.....	12 1,030 1 0	.....				
Do	Special area	Original	12 685 3 0	1 90 0 0	2 42 0 0	1 320 0 0	14 728 3 0	2 380 0 0					
		Additional	3 353 3 0	1 150 0 0	4 358 1 0	.....	7 712 0 0	1 150 0 0					
SUMMARY.													
Ordinary land	Original	25	1,559 3 0	10	1,129 2 0	24	4,327 0 0	7	1,483 0 0	30	6,189 3 0	17	2,612 2 0
	Additional	10	1,067 0 0	13	2,372 0 0	25	4,809 3 0	3	880 0 0	35	5,036 3 0	16	3,252 0 0
Total		25	2,626 3 0	23	3,501 2 0	49	9,136 3 0	10	2,363 0 0	74	12,125 2 0	33	5,864 2 0
Special area	Original	27	3,174 2 32	6	517 0 0	6	1,533 0 0	2	420 0 0	31	4,707 2 32	8	1,237 0 0
	Additional	7	794 0 0	3	605 3 0	4	358 1 0	1	135 0 0	11	1,152 1 0	4	740 3 0
Total		34	3,968 0 0	9	1,422 3 0	10	1,891 1 0	3	555 0 0	44	5,859 3 32	12	1,977 3 0
Grand Total		59	6,895 1 32	32	4,924 1 0	59	11,028 0 0	13	2,918 0 0	118	17,983 1 32	45	7,842 1 0
WAGGA WAGGA.													
Albury	Ordinary land	Additional	.....	1 184 2 0	.....	.....	.....	1 184 2 0					
Do	Special area	Original	1 34 0 0	.....	.....	.....	1 34 0 0	.....				
		Additional	.....	1 117 3 0	1 40 0 0	.....	1 40 0 0	1 117 3 0					
Coolamundra	Ordinary land	Original	1 200 0 0	.....	1 300 0 0	.....	2 300 0 0	.....				
		Additional	3 790 0 0	.....	1 160 0 0	.....	4 520 0 0	.....				
Do	Special area	Original	2 150 0 0	.....	.....	.....	2 150 0 0	.....				
		Additional	1 157 0 0	.....	.....	.....	1 157 0 0	.....				
Corowa	Ordinary land	Original	.....	2 427 2 16	2 361 1 0	.....	2 361 1 0	2 427 2 16					
		Additional	5 1,026 1 0	5 1,976 0 0	5 1,567 3 0	2 483 3 0	10 2,594 0 0	7 2,469 3 0					
Do	Special area	Original	.....	.....	1 640 0 0	.....	1 640 0 0	.....				
		Additional	1 157 2 0	.....	1 81 3 0	.....	2 239 1 0	.....				
Gundagai	Ordinary land	Original	.....	1 210 2 0	2 472 3 0	.....	2 472 3 0	1 210 2 0					
		Additional	.....	.....	2 144 2 0	1 46 0 0	2 144 2 0	.....				
Do	Special area	Original	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 2,210 0 0	.....				
		Additional	3 2,219 0 0	1 60 0 0	.....	.....	2 569 0 0	1 60 0 0					
Narrandera	Ordinary land	Original	.....	1 201 3 0	.....	.....	1 50 0 0	1 201 3 0					
		Additional	1 50 0 0	.....	.....	.....	1 180 0 0	.....				
Tumbarumba	Ordinary land	Original	.....	.....	1 320 0 0	.....	1 320 0 0	.....				
Do	Special area	Original	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 120 0 0	.....				
		Additional	.....	2 160 0 0	.....	.....	2 231 1 0	.....				
Tumbarumba North	Ordinary land	Original	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 231 1 0	.....				
Tumbarumba	Special area	Original	1 22 1 25	.....	.....	.....	1 22 1 25	.....				
Tunnot	Ordinary land	Original	.....	3 2,314 0 0	.....	.....	3 2,314 0 0	.....				
Do	Special area	Original	3 1,023 1 0	1 320 0 0	2 798 0 0	1 640 0 0	5 1,821 1 0	2 960 0 0					
		Additional	1 20 0 0	1 78 3 0	.....	.....	1 20 0 0	1 78 3 0					
Urana	Ordinary land	Original	2 130 3 0	.....	2 468 1 0	1 82 0 0	4 608 0 0	.....				
Do	Special area	Original	1 59 3 0	2 560 0 0	.....	.....	1 59 3 0	2 560 0 0					
		Additional	4 1,063 1 0	.....	2 760 0 0	.....	6 1,823 1 0	.....				
Wagga Wagga	Ordinary land	Original	1 60 0 0	.....	4 392 2 0	.....	5 452 2 0	.....				
		Additional	1 264 0 0	.....	.....	.....	1 264 0 0	.....				
Do	Special area	Original	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		Non-residential	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
SUMMARY.													
Ordinary land	Original	3	296 3 0	3	277 3 0	9	1,092 3 0	1	82 0 0	12	1,299 2 0	4	359 3 0
	Additional	6	2,636 1 0	8	3,486 0 16	7	1,094 1 0	.....	18	3,789 2 0	8	3,486 0 16	
Total		9	2,933 0 0	11	3,763 3 16	16	2,097 0 0	1	82 0 0	25	5,088 0 0	12	3,845 3 16
Special area	Original	19	4,093 0 25	8	2,566 2 0	12	3,758 2 0	3	1,133 3 0	31	7,556 2 25	11	3,760 1 0
	Additional	5	280 0 0	2	239 2 0	5	1,032 2 0	1	46 0 0	10	1,312 2 0	3	326 2 0
	Non-residential	1	264 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	264 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Total		25	4,642 0 25	10	2,847 0 0	17	4,791 0 0	4	1,179 3 0	42	8,433 0 25	14	4,026 3 0
Grand Total		34	7,575 0 25	21	6,610 3 16	33	6,888 0 0	5	1,261 3 0	67	14,448 0 25	26	7,872 2 16
SUMMARY.													
Ordinary land	Original	192	23,566 3 0	101	15,738 3 0	199	27,830 3 30	55	9,619 1 0	391	51,307 2 30	150	25,358 0 0
	Additional	138	30,525 2 0	85	19,809 3 16	298	28,544 2 0	42	9,919 2 0	346	59,070 0 0	127	20,729 1 16
	Non-residential	5	238 0 0	6	398 3 0	8	689 1 0	2	160 0 0	8	827 1 0	8	528 3 0
Total for the whole Colony		335	54,330 1 0	192	35,917 1 16	415	56,964 2 30	99	19,698 3 0	750	111,294 3 30	291	56,614 0 16
Special area	Original	181	20,337 3 39	26	4,127 1 22	70	11,531 2 35	14	5,201 3 0	231	31,939 2 34	40	9,329 0 22
	Additional	47	4,432 2 20	18	3,013 3 0	28	3,549 1 5	3	821 0 0	75	8,031 3 25	21	3,839 3 0
	Non-residential	3	668 3 0	3	166 0 0	.....	.....	.....	3	668 3 0	3	166 0 0	
Total for the whole Colony		211	25,509 1 19	47	7,312 0 22	98	15,131 0 0	17	6,022 3 0	309	40,640 1 19	64	13,334 3 22
Grand Total for the whole Colony		546	79,839 2 19	239	43,229 1 38	513	72,096 2 30	116	25,721 2 0	1,059	151,935 1 0	355	88,950 3 38

SCHEDULE XII.

SPECIAL AREAS.

RETURN giving particulars as to proclamation and disposal of Special Areas from 1st January, 1883, to 31st December, 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District	Class of Land.	Total Acreage in Special Areas when proclaimed.	Area thereof since included in Reserves and otherwise rendered unavailable for Conditional Purchase.	Area available for Selection.	Area Selected.	Area Unselected on 31 December, 1896.	Percentage of Area Selected to Area available for Selection.	
			a r p	a r p	a r p	a r p	a r p	Per cent.	
Armidale	Armidale	Suburban	794 1 9	60 0 0	734 1 9	252 0 0	482 1 9	34	
		Population	680 0 0	35 0 0	615 0 0	241 2 20	373 1 20	59	
	Glen Innes	Country	13,166 0 10	6,294 0 10	11,872 0 0	7,801 3 0	4,070 1 0	65½	
		Population	150 0 0	150 0 0					
	Inverell	Country	14,292 1 0	4,246 1 0	10,046 0 0	5,520 2 0	4,465 2 0	55	
		Population	659 1 30	411 3 0	247 2 30	247 2 30		100	
	Tenterfield	Country	9,013 2 0	1,039 2 0	7,403 0 0	5,617 1 0	1,755 3 0	76	
		Population	1,470 0 16	63 0 33	1,412 3 18	560 0 3	562 3 10	60	
	Walcha	Country	2,507 1 0	1,516 1 0	991 0 0	595 0 0	486 0 0	50	
		Population	3,799 3 0	3,353 3 0	446 0 0	446 0 0		100	
	Totals	Suburban or Population	7,529 2 15	4,073 2 33	3,455 3 17	2,047 1 18	1,408 1 39	69	
		Country	50,932 2 10	15,378 3 10	35,553 3 0	24,092 2 0	11,461 1 0	67	
Grand Totals			58,462 0 25	19,452 2 3	39,009 2 17	26,139 3 18	12,869 2 39	68	
Bourke	Bourke	Suburban or Population	40 0 0		40 0 0		40 0 0		
		Country	10,767 1 0	1,573 3 0	9,193 2 0	1,509 3 0	7,683 3 0	16	
	Cobar	Suburban or Population	2,060 2 0	1,920 2 0	30 0 0	80 0 0		100	
		Country	5,188 1 0	2,303 1 0	2,880 0 0		2,880 0 0		
	Brewarrina	Country	1,967 0 0		1,967 0 0	800 0 0	1,167 0 0	40	
		Population							
Totals			2,100 2 0	1,920 2 0	120 0 0	80 0 0	40 0 0	66	
Grand Totals			17,922 2 0	3,892 0 0	14,040 2 0	2,369 3 0	11,730 3 0	16	
Dubbo	Coonamble	Suburban or Population	170 2 19		170 2 19	170 2 19			
		Country	4,887 3 0	3,546 3 0	1,341 0 0	1,014 0 0	327 0 0	79.3	
	Dubbo	Suburban or Population	1,534 3 0	454 3 0	1,080 0 0	595 1 10	484 2 30	65	
		Country	6,896 1 0	2,661 0 0	3,945 1 0	3,728 1 0	217 0 0	94	
	Nyngon	Suburban or Population	1,053 3 10	786 2 0	267 1 10	267 1 10		100	
		Country	695 0 0	65 0 0	640 0 0		640 0 0		
	Warren	Suburban or Population	5,318 1 0	865 0 0	4,453 1 0	3,759 2 0	693 3 0	84	
		Country	30,770 3 0	17,993 3 0	12,772 0 0	11,832 1 0	939 3 0	92	
	Totals			8,077 1 29	2,106 1 0	5,971 0 29	4,792 2 39	1,178 1 50	80
	Grand Totals			42,959 3 0	24,261 2 0	18,698 1 0	16,574 2 0	2,123 3 0	83
	Forbes	Barnedman	Suburban or Population	339 2 0		339 2 0		339 2 0	
			Country	31,557 0 0	9,929 1 0	21,628 3 0	21,446 1 0	183 2 0	99
Barnedman East		Country	32,433 0 0	14,045 2 0	18,387 2 0	18,127 1 0	260 1 0	98½	
		Population	1,029 2 36	209 0 0	811 2 36	638 0 36	173 2 0	78	
Condobolin		Country	15,954 2 0	4,478 1 0	10,576 1 0	10,576 1 0		100	
		Population	2,140 1 25	151 1 31	8,988 3 34	8,747 1 8	241 2 26	97	
Forbes		Country	34,837 3 28	6,951 1 0	27,886 2 28	27,412 0 28	474 2 0	97	
		Population	5,406 1 37	1,069 0 32	4,348 1 5	4,043 3 5	304 2 0	93	
Grenfell		Country	12,760 3 0	1,320 3 0	12,440 0 0	11,923 0 0	517 0 0	96	
		Population	4,065 2 10	144 2 36	3,920 3 14	2,951 3 20	968 3 28	75	
Parkes		Country	36,435 2 0	3,020 2 0	33,465 0 0	31,025 0 0	2,440 0 0	93	
		Population							
Totals			19,972 2 28	1,563 1 19	18,409 1 0	16,331 0 35	2,028 0 14	99	
Grand Totals			164,130 2 28	39,745 2 0	124,385 0 28	120,569 8 28	3,875 1 0	97	
Goulburn	Bega	Suburban or Population	1,951 2 17		1,951 2 17	1,951 2 17		100	
		Country	1,156 3 0		1,156 3 0	1,010 0 0	145 3 0	88	
	Bombala	Suburban or Population	2,344 3 0	625 0 0	2,219 3 0	1,539 1 0	680 2 0	69	
		Country	6,786 1 0	988 3 0	5,797 2 0	5,277 3 0	519 3 0	91	
	Boorowa	Suburban or Population	14,475 3 30	909 2 0	13,566 1 30	11,030 3 30	2,485 2 0	82	
		Country	14,969 3 39	1,039 3 0	13,870 0 30	11,842 2 30	2,027 2 10	85	
	Braidwood	Country	743 3 0	331 1 0	412 2 0	205 0 0	207 2 0	50	
		Population	5,542 1 10	2,719 2 33	2,822 3 12	1,371 2 19	1,450 3 33	49	
	Cooma	Country	17,781 1 20	2,017 0 20	15,764 1 0	12,273 0 0	3,491 1 0	78	
		Population	1,012 2 30	479 2 10	533 0 20	443 2 30	89 1 30	83	
	Eden	Country	1,342 1 0	979 0 0	363 1 0	363 1 0		100	
		Population	1,233 0 10		1,233 0 10	1,136 2 0	96 2 10	92	
Goulburn	Country	987 1 0	765 0 0	222 1 0	222 1 0		100		
	Population	5,432 1 20	514 2 0	4,917 3 20	1,558 2 0	3,349 1 20	32		
Gunning	Country	3,998 3 0	1,920 0 0	2,078 3 0	1,068 0 0	1,010 3 0	51		
	Population	756 2 25		756 2 25	123 3 0	632 3 25	16		
Moruya	Country	2,455 3 30	215 3 0	2,240 0 30	1,770 3 0	469 1 30	79		
	Population	1,143 3 0		1,143 3 0	942 0 0	201 3 0	21		
Queanbeyan	Suburban or Population	2,003 0 10	1,538 3 4	1,300 1 6	1,180 2 8	188 2 33	86		
	Country	2,221 2 40	88 1 0	2,203 1 0	1,682 1 0	521 0 0	76		
Yass	Suburban or Population	2,793 0 0	1,053 1 0	2,709 3 0	1,375 3 0	1,334 0 0	51		
	Country	2,499 2 0	259 0 20	2,240 1 20	2,134 2 0	105 3 29	95		
Young	Suburban or Population	40,756 3 27½	1,468 0 22	39,290 3 5½	29,091 1 0	10,199 2 5½			
	Country	52,359 1 10	9,135 2 22	43,722 2 28	34,969 3 18	8,752 3 10	60		
Totals			80,702 1 19½	9,331 1 34	71,370 3 25½	50,461 1 24	20,507 2 1½	71	
Grand Totals			109,005 1 10	17,780 2 22	91,214 2 28	73,056 6 38	18,158 1 30	80	
Grand Totals			189,797 2 29½	27,124 0 16	162,585 2 13½	123,019 2 22	33,666 0 2	77	

SCHEDULE XII—continued.

Land Board District.	Land District.	Class of Land	Total Acreage in Special Areas when proclaimed.	Area thereof since included in Reserves and otherwise rendered unavailable for Conditional Purchase.		Area available for Selection.	Area Selected.	Area Unselected on 31 December, 1896.	Percentage of Area Selected to Area available for Selection.
				a. r. p.	a. r. p.				
Grafton	Bellingen	Country	32,201 0 0	20,477 0 0	11,814 0 0	8,986 0 0	2,828 0 0	76	
		Suburban or Population	593 3 0	599 3 0	84 0 0	84 0 0	.....	100
	Casino	Country	6,134 2 0	4,460 0 0	1,665 2 0	1,665 2 0	.....	100
		Suburban or Population	505 3 30	.....	505 3 30	165 0 0	340 3 21	82
	Grafton	Country	6,153 0 0	2,721 0 0	3,432 0 0	2,043 0 0	789 0 0	77	
		Suburban or Population	276 0 13	.....	276 0 13	229 1 13	46 3 0	83
	Kempsey	Country	7,083 3 0	2,053 2 0	5,030 1 0	4,814 1 0	221 0 0	96	
		Suburban or Population	57,259 2 0	41,608 3 0	15,750 3 0	13,714 2 0	1,036 1 0	97	
	Lismore	Country	1,233 0 23	22 1 6	1,210 3 22	272 1 30	933 1 32	23	
		Suburban or Population	16,009 2 20	8,021 0 0	7,478 2 20	3,896 2 20	3,582 0 0	52	
	Port Macquarie	Country	380 0 0	.....	380 0 0	100 0 0	280 0 0	28
		Suburban or Population	2,008 3 30	532 0 6	2,076 3 30	750 3 17	1,326 0 13	36	
Totals	Country	125,301 1 20	79,850 1 0	45,541 0 20	38,824 3 20	8,716 1 0	81		
	Suburban or Population	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grand Totals		.....	80,382 1 6	47,618 0 10	37,576 2 37	10,042 1 13	79	
Hay	Balranald (South)	Suburban or Population	3,045 2 0	.....	3,045 2 0	2,662 1 0	383 1 0	87
		Country	31,257 1 0	2,084 1 0	29,173 0 0	19,153 3 0	9,419 1 0	67	
	Deniliquin	Suburban or Population	5,703 1 0	.....	5,703 1 0	4,755 1 0	1,008 0 0	82
		Country	105,681 0 0	16,911 1 0	88,769 3 0	79,162 2 0	9,607 1 0	89	
	Hay	Country	74,204 0 0	45,154 1 0	29,049 3 0	22,353 0 0	6,696 2 0	77	
		Suburban or Population	1,384 2 0	.....	1,384 2 0	989 3 0	394 3 0	71
	Hillston	Country	4,155 3 0	.....	4,155 3 0	1,436 3 0	2,719 0 0	31
		Suburban or Population	10,193 1 0	.....	10,193 1 0	8,407 1 0	1,786 0 0	82
	Totals	Country	215,298 0 0	64,749 3 0	150,548 1 0	122,108 1 0	28,442 0 0	81	
		Suburban or Population	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Grand Totals		.....	64,749 3 0	100,741 2 0	130,513 2 0	30,228 0 0	81
	Maitland	Cassilis	Country	2,943 3 0	295 2 0	2,648 1 0	2,060 1 0	592 0 0	78
Country			2,819 0 0	773 2 0	2,046 2 0	1,675 3 0	363 3 0	80	
Dungog		Country	906 0 20	191 2 0	714 2 20	714 2 20	.....	100
		Population	161 3 10	10 0 0	151 3 10	67 3 0	84 0 10	44	
Gostford		Suburban or Population	363 1 32	.....	363 1 32	154 0 33	214 0 34	41
		Country	2,177 3 0	1,448 3 0	729 0 0	360 2 0	368 2 0	49	
Maitland		Population	1,900 3 20	216 1 30	1,774 1 30	1,210 0 20	564 1 10	63	
		Country	1,295 3 0	1,016 0 0	279 3 0	230 0 0	49 3 0	82	
Muswellbrook		Population	4,135 3 0	25 3 0	4,160 0 0	3,067 3 0	1,092 1 0	73	
		Country	5,660 3 0	5,277 1 0	383 2 0	3 3 2 0	.....	100
Paterson		Country	977 1 0	125 0 0	852 1 0	852 1 0	.....	100
		Country	150 0 0	.....	150 0 0	.....	150 0 0	.....
Raymond Terrace		Population	273 3 10	.....	273 3 10	107 3 0	166 0 10	39
		Country	984 2 33	.....	984 2 33	984 2 33	.....	100
Scone		Country	1,109 0 0	140 0 0	969 0 0	969 0 0	.....	100
		Population	1,306 3 0	.....	1,306 3 0	1,306 3 0	.....	100
Stroud		Country	7,903 3 0	2,107 2 0	4,901 1 0	1,806 3 0	3,094 2 0	37	
		Country	852 3 0	.....	852 3 0	826 3 0	100 0 0	80
Tarce		Population	1,671 0 20	44 1 0	1,626 2 20	1,380 1 20	246 2 0	41	
		Country	202 2 0	.....	202 2 0	81 0 0	121 2 0	40
Totals		Suburban or Population	9,358 2 12	296 1 30	9,062 0 22	6,704 2 38	3,067 1 24	69½	
		Country	27,092 0 13	11,331 0 0	15,761 0 13	10,305 0 18	4,906 0 0	69½	
Grand Totals		.....	11,627 1 30	25,823 1 0	17,309 3 16	7,973 1 24	68½	
Moree		Bingara	Country	1,833 3 0	483 0 0	1,350 3 0	204 1 0	1,056 2 0	21
			Country	28,341 1 0	11,019 3 0	17,322 2 0	2,445 0 0	14,876 2 0	19
		Warialda	Country	13,873 3 13	2,246 0 0	11,627 3 13	1,439 0 20	10,193 2 33	12
			Country	6,351 0 0	1,217 0 0	5,134 0 0	5,134 0 0
		Totals	Totals	50,904 3 13	14,965 3 0	35,939 0 13	5,178 1 20	30,760 2 33	14
	
Orange	Bathurst	Suburban or Population	837 2 10	.....	837 2 10	80 0 0	757 2 10	9
		Country	2,185 3 0	.....	2,185 3 0	1,544 2 0	641 1 0	70
	Carecar	Suburban or Population	76 0 31	.....	76 0 31	.....	76 0 31	.....
		Country	1,371 2 30	.....	1,371 2 30	234 0 30	1,137 2 0	17
	Cowra	Suburban or Population	1,890 2 33	27 1 5	1,863 1 33	1,511 1 4	352 0 29	81	
		Country	27,340 0 0	1,205 1 0	26,134 3 0	24,437 1 0	1,697 2 0	94	
	Lithgow	Country	4,476 2 0	400 3 0	4,075 3 0	986 3 0	3,089 0 0	24	
		Suburban or Population	4,697 1 29	0 0 32	4,697 0 37	3,113 3 39	1,483 0 33	68	
	Molong	Country	23,700 2 0	4,855 3 0	18,844 3 0	18,258 3 0	586 0 0	97	
		Suburban or Population	2,199 0 0	.....	2,199 0 0	1,280 0 0	919 0 0	60
	Mudgee	Country	3,668 3 0	113 0 0	3,555 3 0	2,694 2 0	861 1 0	76	
		Country	463 2 0	.....	463 2 0	463 2 0	.....	100
	Orange	Suburban or Population	1,688 2 0	.....	1,688 2 0	1,097 1 0	591 1 0	65
		Country	486 3 0	.....	486 3 0	486 3 0	.....	100
	Rylstone	Suburban or Population	2,673 1 0	5 1 0	2,673 0 0	2,335 2 0	337 2 0	87	
		Country	569 3 0	57 1 0	512 2 0	768 2 0	44 0 0	94	
	Totals	Suburban or Population	13,067 2 28	32 2 37	13,034 3 31	9,418 0 3	4,616 3 28	67	
		Country	64,508 0 30	6,032 0 0	57,576 0 30	49,859 2 30	8,016 2 0	87	
	Grand Totals		.....	6,064 2 37	71,811 0 21	59,277 2 33	12,533 1 28	82½

SCHEDULE XII—continued.

Land Board District.	Land District.	Class of Land.	Total Acreage in Special Areas when proclaimed.			Area thereof since included in Reserves and otherwise rendered unavailable for Conditional Purchase.			Area available for Selection.			Area Selected.			Area Unselected on 31 December, 1896.			Percentage of Area Selected to Area available for Selection.	
			a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.		Per cent.
Sydney	Campbelltown	Country	9,371	0	0	2,877	3	0	6,493	1	0	2,417	3	0	4,075	2	0	37	
	Liverpool	Country	96	2	0				95	2	0	95	2	0				100	
	Nowra	Country	423	0	0	59	0	0	364	0	0	298	0	0	66	0	0	82	
	Parramatta	Suburban or Population	552	3	32				552	3	32	63	2	20	489	1	12	12	
		Country	262	0	0	122	0	0	140	0	0	100	0	0	40	0	0	71	
	Penrith	Suburban or Population	1,210	1	20	1,091	2	20	118	3	0	118	3	0				100	
		Country	899	0	0	259	2	0	639	2	0	600	0	0	39	2	0	95	
	Picton	Suburban or Population	274	0	13	125	2	33	148	1	20	63	1	20	85	0	0	43	
		Country	2,525	1	0	585	0	0	1,940	1	0	1,414	0	0	526	1	0	73	
	Windsor	Suburban or Population	4,632	3	10				4,632	3	10	1,720	3	30	2,911	3	20	37	
		Country	61	2	0				61	2	0	61	2	0				100	
	Milton	Suburban or Population	1,178	2	21				1,178	2	21				1,178	2	21	Nil.	
		Country	2,695	0	0	1,739	0	0	956	0	0	956	0	0				100	
	Totals		Suburban or Population	7,843	3	16	1,217	1	13	6,631	2	3	1,996	2	30	4,664	3	13	30
	Totals		Country	16,833	1	0	5,631	1	0	16,700	0	0	5,961	3	0	4,738	1	0	56
Grand Totals			24,182	0	16	6,860	2	13	17,331	2	3	7,928	1	30	9,403	0	13	46	
Tamworth	Coonabarrabran	Suburban or Population	264	0	0				264	0	0			264	0	0	Nil.		
		Country	2,489	0	0	1,577	0	0	932	0	0	160	0	0	772	0	0	17	
	Gunnedah	Suburban or Population	4,556	3	16	332	0	22	4,224	2	24	3,933	0	10	291	2	14	93	
		Country	13,889	1	0	2,792	0	0	11,097	1	0	8,529	2	36	2,567	2	4	77	
	Murrurundi	Suburban or Population	697	3	11				697	3	11	129	3	5	568	0	6	19	
		Country	17,785	0	0	3,477	3	10	14,307	0	30	10,740	0	20	3,567	2	10	75	
	Narrabri	Suburban or Population	45	0	20				45	0	20	35	0	24	0	3	36	78	
		Country	40,076	0	6	20,319	1	0	19,756	3	0	14,076	0	0	4,780	0	0	76	
	Tamworth	Suburban or Population	11,357	1	38	378	2	0	10,978	3	38	3,256	3	27	7,722	0	11	80	
		Country	61,616	3	4	5,664	3	20	56,011	3	24	42,951	2	9	13,060	1	15	77	
	Totals		Suburban or Population	16,921	1	5	710	2	32	16,210	2	13	7,354	3	26	8,856	2	27	45
	Totals		Country	136,836	0	4	33,789	3	30	102,165	0	14	77,366	3	25	24,733	0	29	75
	Grand Totals			162,757	1	9	34,441	2	22	118,315	2	27	84,721	3	11	33,563	3	16	72
	Wagga Wagga	Albury	Suburban	630	0	0				630	0	0	175	2	30	454	1	10	23
			Country	24,254	1	3	4,997	1	10	19,299	3	33	16,721	1	33	2,575	2	0	87
Cootamundry		Population	1,032	1	17				1,032	1	17	560	0	9	466	1	8	90	
		Country	66,995	3	10	9,163	1	10	56,827	2	0	51,981	0	20	4,843	1	20		
Cootamundry Central			2,454	1	0				2,454	1	0	1,842	1	0	612	0	0	75	
Corowa			40,686	1	10	10,770	2	0	29,915	3	10	27,301	3	36	2,713	2	14	90	
Gundagai			17,990	2	0	849	1	0	17,141	1	0	16,944	2	0	196	3	0	98	
Narrandera			44,467	1	0	15,712	2	0	28,747	3	0	18,761	2	0	9,986	1	0	65	
Tumbarumba			13,684	2	10	1,929	0	0	11,755	2	10	9,164	0	30	2,691	1	20	77	
Tumut		Suburban	307	1	34				307	1	34	20	0	0	287	1	34	85	
		Country	226	2	10				226	2	10	189	3	33	37	2	17		
Urama		Population	7,451	3	0	4,848	1	0	2,903	2	0	2,743	2	0	160	0	0	88	
		Country	991	2	10	660	0	0	334	2	10	314	2	10	20	0	0		
Wagga Wagga		Population	60,704	2	23	19,012	3	0	47,691	3	28	42,167	3	0	5,524	0	23	94	
		Country	80,521	3	10	9,666	1	0	70,855	2	10	67,161	1	20	3,754	0	30		
Totals		Suburban or Population	3,190	3	31	660	0	0	2,530	3	31	1,285	1	2	1,245	2	29	50	
Totals		Country	364,211	0	31	76,621	0	20	287,590	0	11	254,632	2	19	32,957	1	32	83	
Grand Totals			367,402	0	22	77,281	0	20	290,121	0	2	255,917	3	21	34,203	0	21	68	
SUMMARY.																			
Totals		Suburban or Population	183,072	0	19½	22,504	2	9	160,567	2	10½	139,912	1	32	50,625	0	18½	68	
Totals		Country	1,384,625	3	4	394,622	2	2	989,903	1	2	799,278	1	38	190,624	3		80	
Grand totals for the Colony			1,667,597	3	28½	417,127	0	11	1,150,470	3	12½	900,220	3	30	241,249	3	22½	79	

SCHEDULE XIII.

RETURN giving particulars relating to Applications for Appraisement of Conditional Purchases in Special Areas under Section 36, C. L. Act of 1895, received and dealt with to 31st December, 1896.

Land Board District and Land District.	Total number of applications received.	Area.		Cases in which values have been finally determined.																					
		a.	r. p.	Number of Conditional Purchases.	Area.	Amount of purchase money represented at original price.	Amount of purchase money represented after appraisement.	Amount of annual instalments represented at original rate.	Amount of annual instalments represented after appraisement.																
Armidale—																									
Armidale	28	4,280	2	10	28	4,280	2	10	28	4,280	3	10	7,905	0	10½	6,309	7	11½	395	5	4	318	3	4	
Glen Innes	27	4,313	3	0	27	4,313	3	0	26	3,901	3	0	7,542	3	9	4,670	19	6	377	2	2	254	0	0	
Inverell	25	3,870	2	0	24	3,750	2	0	24	3,625	1	0	7,637	0	0	5,895	16	0	481	17	0	294	15	10	
Tenterfield	12	1,263	2	30	12	1,263	2	30	14	1,262	2	30	2,344	15	0	3,560	11	4	117	4	9	73	0	7	
Walcha	19	4,432	3	0	19	4,432	3	0	19	4,272	3	0	8,351	7	0	6,693	12	11½	417	11	4	304	13	8	
Total	111	18,371	1	0	110	18,051	1	0	113	17,413	1	0	33,780	12	7½	24,593	7	9	1,450	0	7	1,229	13	4	
Bourke—																									
Bourke	5	1,202	1	0	5	1,202	1	0	5	1,202	1	0	2,229	7	6	2,118	17	6	111	9	4	105	18	10	
Dubbo—																									
Coonamble	1	296	0	0	1	296	0	0	4	963	0	0	1,976	0	0	1,587	10	0	98	16	0	79	7	6	
Dubbo	6	1,111	0	0	6	1,111	0	0	36	9,763	0	0	17,748	7	9	14,273	13	9	887	8	5	713	13	8	
Warren	39	9,892	0	0	39	9,892	0	0	36																
Total	46	11,299	0	0	46	11,299	0	0	40	10,726	0	0	19,724	7	9	16,861	3	9	986	4	5	793	1	2	

SCHEDULE XIV.

RETURN giving particulars of applications made by holders of Conditional Purchases for reduction of amount of Annual Instalment.

Land District.	No. of Conditional Purchases.	No. Applications.	Reduction in amount of Annual Instalments.	Land District.	No. of Conditional Purchases.	No. of Applications.	Reduction in amount of Annual Instalments.
			£ s. d.				£ s. d.
Albury	1	1	4 0 0	Molong	4	4	33 4 4
Armidale	79	24	179 2 10	Moree	2	2	13 0 0
Bathurst	60	11	84 14 3	Milton	5	1	5 16 10
Balranald	3	3	32 12 0	Moruya	1	1	16 0 0
Barmedman	19	10	87 3 1	Murwillumbah	2	1	4 5 0
Bega	8	2	11 0 0	Muswellbrook	3	2	6 0 0
Bellingen	8	5	10 15 8	Narrandera	8	4	61 7 10
Boorowa	7	3	14 16 7	Nowra	3	2	3 18 9
Braidwood	3	1	5 15 0	Orange	8	2	16 3 1
Carcoar	3	1	5 15 0	Parkes	6	5	42 11 11
Cassilis	1	1	2 0 0	Port Macquarie	10	3	10 19 6
Condobolin	8	5	32 13 0	Queanbeyan	13	5	29 6 4
Cowra	17	12	56 7 3½	Raymond Terrace	1	1	1 5 0
Cooma	91	42	243 8 9	Singleton	19	2	30 19 8
Coonabarabran	9	4	12 4 9	Stroud	1	1	4 10 0
Cootamundra	12	6	51 19 1	Tamworth	2	2	8 0 0
Deniliquin	21	8	155 16 9½	Tenterfield	54	16	115 4 1
Dubbo	34	17	174 15 11	Tumbarumba	2	2	6 17 9
Glen Innes	73	20	165 16 11	Walcha	16	7	57 10 0
Goulburn	30	6	27 7 0	Wagga Wagga	25	2	36 12 3
Grafton	30	11	63 2 4	Walgett	7	7	62 10 0
Grenfell	4	1	30 0 0	Warialda	15	7	78 10 1
Gunning	17	3	19 19 0	Wellington	3	1	8 14 0
Gunnedah	2	1	4 14 6	Windsor	2	1	1 15 0
Hay	24	12	207 9 0	Yass	2	2	5 15 0
Hillston	26	13	162 6 0	Young	22	13	69 1 6
Inverell	26	11	47 11 0				
Kempsey	6	3	5 7 0				
Lithgow	15	5	16 15 0				
Lismore	8	6	23 11 1				
				Totals.....	887	344	2,658 16 9

SCHEDULE XV.

RETURN showing the number of Certificates issued during the year 1896 (in connection with Conditional Purchases under the Repealed Acts) with the number of Amended Certificates issued on account of alterations.

Number of Certificates	636
Number of Amended Certificates	3
Total	639

SCHEDULE XVI.

RETURN showing number of Transfers of Conditional Purchases received from 1st January to 31st December, 1896, and the number dealt with, inclusive of those on hand, during that period.

Number of Transfers received	9,039
„ „ intimated to Treasury	8,618
„ Conditional Purchases thereby transferred	16,509*
„ „ „ actually transferred	11,264
„ Transfers upon which stamp duty was paid	3,165
Amount of stamp duty paid thereon—	
Paid through Lands Department	£4,280 19 0
Paid prior to lodgment	£1,480 9 0
	} £5,761 8 0
Number of Transfers registered in Registrar-General's office	8,620
„ „ in Registrar-General's office awaiting registration	Nil
„ Crown Solicitor's certificates received	427
„ Notices despatched, informing parties, Crown Land Agents, and Chairmen of Local Land Boards of registration of transfers.....	14,214

* Includes Conditional Purchases transferred more than once during the year

SCHEDULE XVII.

RETURN showing the Number of Transfers intimated to the Treasury, the Number of C.P's. included therein, and the actual Number of C.P's. and area thereof transferred during the year ending the 31st December, 1896.

Land District and Land Board District.	No. of Transfers.	No. of C.P's.	Area actually transferred.			No. of C.P's actually transferred.	Land District and Land Board District.	No. of Transfers.	No. of C.P's.	Area actually transferred.			No. of C.P's. actually transferred.
			a.	r.	p.				a.	r.	p.		
Armidale—							Maitland—						
Armidale	359	752	72,606	2	4	473	Cassilis	103	193	22,375	2	20	164
Glen Innes	49	111	8,681	0	15	77	Dungog	16	38	1,850	0	24	31
Inverell	176	315	44,186	2	16	261	Gosford	11	18	760	3	30	16
Tenterfield	29	75	4,875	2	0	57	Maitland	17	28	1,824	1	15	25
Walcha	91	180	20,838	2	8	112	Muswellbrook	49	106	4,541	2	17	83
Total	704	1,433	151,189	1	3	930	Newcastle	6	7	378	2	0	7
Bourke—							Paterson	18	33	2,302	1	0	28
Bourke	6	9	1,865	1	0	9	Raymond Terrace ..	8	17	1,541	0	0	13
Brewarrina	16	26	7,367	3	0	20	Scone	108	304	17,289	8	0	197
Cobar	7	17	1,474	0	0	13	Singleton	71	183	9,185	2	9	128
Wilcannia	6	12	1,605	0	0	10	Stroud	18	28	2,531	3	0	27
Willyama	3	3	120	0	0	3	Taree	70	121	7,001	1	0	101
Total	38	67	12,432	0	0	55	Wollombi	20	29	852	0	0	20
Dubbo—							Total	515	1,105	72,436	2	35	810
Coonamble	232	332	88,122	0	0	224	Moree—						
Dubbo	224	352	52,131	0	26	229	Bingara	88	67	11,221	3	0	61
Nyngan	62	71	25,407	1	14	53	Moree	209	340	97,861	1	25	245
Warren	124	186	41,688	0	32	117	Walgett	47	57	19,994	2	0	37
Total	642	941	207,348	2	32	623	Wariata	86	153	22,330	2	0	93
Forbes—							Total	380	617	151,408	0	25	442
Barmedman	68	102	23,868	2	0	82	Orange—						
Barmedman East	5	6	1,360	0	0	5	Bathurst	65	124	7,864	0	17	90
Condobolin	101	149	35,192	0	0	93	Carcoar	132	286	18,011	2	36	214
Forbes	137	228	27,199	2	31	160	Cowra	154	410	26,062	2	37	241
Grenfell	127	231	25,047	1	30	136	Lithgow	32	39	4,006	0	23	33
Parkes	116	156	38,449	2	10	114	Molong	160	354	28,049	0	15	229
Total	554	872	151,117	0	31	590	Mudgee	97	208	9,434	1	11	138
Goulburn—							Orange	64	110	4,869	0	0	74
Bega	115	274	13,442	3	34	199	Rylstone	30	69	3,421	2	35	55
Bombala	46	116	9,732	1	0	90	Wellington	100	243	17,974	8	19	166
Boorowa	229	541	32,586	1	19	326	Total	834	1,843	119,693	2	39	1,230
Braidwood	32	51	3,501	0	0	48	Sydney—						
Cooma	240	628	49,802	1	8	449	Campbelltown	3	4	1,460	0	0	4
Eden	48	105	5,835	2	28	80	Kiama	12	13	604	0	0	9
Goulburn	197	467	23,374	3	6	360	Liverpool .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gunning	77	197	13,743	1	20	168	Metropolitan	1	1	320	0	0	1
Moruya	49	112	5,771	1	21	81	Milton	19	30	1,696	1	0	21
Moss Vale	97	157	9,139	2	28	136	Nowra	43	70	2,994	1	18	54
Queanbeyan	118	327	18,732	2	11	282	Parramatta	6	6	409	0	0	6
Yass	99	222	12,409	0	4	153	Penrith	4	5	184	3	0	4
Young	183	391	31,651	1	2	252	Pitton	33	46	2,507	1	0	33
Total	1,530	3,587	229,722	2	21	2,621	Windsor	26	27	1,328	3	0	21
Grafton—							Wollongong	6	12	352	0	0	7
Bellingen	49	58	4,124	1	14	43	Total	158	214	11,956	1	18	160
Casino	133	228	29,997	2	15	151	Tamworth—						
Grafton	87	130	8,992	0	17	94	Coonabarabran	36	65	9,017	2	0	53
Kempsey	40	80	5,605	0	5	63	Gunnedah	103	193	28,709	3	0	113
Lismore	245	369	21,613	0	30	248	Murrurundi	233	590	37,038	1	19	313
Merwillumbah	60	102	9,442	3	28	74	Narrabri	157	245	47,362	2	0	141
Port Macquarie	30	54	2,747	2	25	38	Tamworth	337	772	57,156	1	15	464
Total	653	1,021	82,522	3	14	716	Total	866	1,865	179,284	1	34	1,094
Hay—							Wagga Wagga—						
Bairnald	15	18	4,260	3	0	13	Albury	247	431	38,267	0	20	287
Deniliquin	155	238	45,552	2	39	123	Cootamundra	124	284	25,945	0	26	197
Hay	165	200	60,648	1	31	137	Cootamundra Central	28	109	16,986	1	20	166
Hillston	30	30	8,118	3	0	25	Corowa	106	158	19,391	2	39	101
Wentworth	3	4	877	3	0	4	Gundagai	123	282	18,309	1	26	194
Total	368	490	119,458	1	30	302	Narrandera	129	157	31,790	2	22	96
							Tumbarumba	123	247	24,541	1	0	142
							Tumut	68	124	9,975	2	0	93
							Urana	150	203	38,313	3	30	114
							Wagga Wagga	289	459	65,792	3	12	288
							Total	1,376	2,454	289,313	3	35	1,618
							Grand Total	8,618	16,509	1,777,783	1	37	11,264

SCHEDULE XVIII.

RETURN showing Number and Area of Conditional Purchases declared forfeited during the year 1896 for non-fulfilment of the required conditions.

Land Board District and Land District.	Ordinary Lands.						Special Areas.						Total.	
	Original.		Additional.		Non-residential.		Original.		Additional.		Non-residential.			
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
Armidale—		a. r.		a. r. p.		a. r.		a. r. p.		a. r. p.		a. r.		a. r. p.
Armidale	6	1,339 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	6	1,339 0 0
Glen Innes	2	183 0	...	.....	1	69 0	3	140 0 0	...	.....	...	6	383 0 0
Inverell	2	100 0	1	220 0 0	...	.....	1	160 0 0	...	.....	...	4	480 0 0
Tenterfield	4	398 2	3	190 0 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	7	588 2 0
Walcha	5	1,050 0	3	500 0 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	8	1,550 0 0
Total	19	3,070 2	7	910 0 0	1	60 0	4	300 0 0	...	.....	...	31	4,340 2 0
Bourke—														
Bourke .....	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	1	107 2 0	...	.....	...	1	107 2 0
Dubbo—														
Coonamble	3	1,027 3	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	3	1,027 3 0
Dubbo	3	1,320 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	3	1,320 0 0
Nyngan	1	640 0	...	.....	1	187 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	2	827 0 0
Warren	1	363 0	...	.....	1	320 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	2	683 0 0
Total	8	3,350 3	...	.....	2	507 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	10	3,857 3 0
Forbes—														
Barnedman	2	210 0	1	40 0 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	3	250 0 0
Condobolin	5	1,525 0	...	.....	...	.....	1	5 0 0	...	.....	...	6	1,530 0 0
Forbes	1	40 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	1	40 0 0
Parkes .....	...	.....	1	100 0 0	...	.....	2	8 0 0	1	4 0 0	...	4	112 0 0
Total	8	1,775 0	2	140 0 0	...	.....	3	13 0 0	1	4 0 0	...	14	1,932 0 0
Goulburn—														
Bega .....	...	.....	...	.....	2	80 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	2	80 0 0
Bombala	5	1,038 2	1	100 0 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	6	1,138 2 0
Boorowa .....	...	.....	2	160 0 0	...	.....	...	.....	1	141 2 0	...	3	301 2 0
Braidwood	1	43 0	1	40 0 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	2	83 0 0
Cooma	9	411 0	8	620 0 0	...	.....	3	198 3 3	1	40 0 0	...	21	1,289 3 3
Eden .....	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	1	18 1 0	...	.....	...	1	18 1 0
Goulburn	3	163 0	4	250 0 0	1	40 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	8	453 0 0
Gunning	1	270 0	1	50 0 0	...	.....	1	140 2 0	...	.....	...	3	460 2 0
Moss Vale	3	245 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	3	245 0 0
Queanbeyan	4	467 3	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	4	467 3 0
Yass .....	...	.....	2	130 0 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	2	130 0 0
Young	2	390 2	...	.....	1	248 1	3	77 2 13	1	10 1 10	...	7	726 2 23
Total	28	3,048 3	19	1,350 0 0	4	368 1	8	435 0 16	3	191 3 10	...	62	5,393 3 26	
Grafton—														
Bellingen	7	460 0	2	769 0 0	2	108 1	11	1,337 1 0
Casino	7	1,933 2	3	484 0 0	1	169 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	11	2,586 2 0
Grafton	5	532 0	1	180 0 9	7	475 1	...	.....	...	.....	...	13	1,187 1 0
Kempsey	4	465 0	2	125 0 0	...	.....	2	525 0 0	...	.....	...	8	1,115 0 0
Lismore	1	40 0	1	60 0 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	2	100 0 0
Murwillumbah	7	830 0	...	.....	2	112 0	3	253 3 0	...	.....	...	12	1,195 3 0
Port Macquarie	4	342 0	3	377 0 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	7	719 0 0
Total	35	4,602 2	12	1,995 0 0	10	756 1	5	778 3 0	2	108 1	64	8,240 3 0
Hay—														
Bilmerai, South	1	300 0	...	.....	...	.....	1	316 0 0	...	.....	...	2	616 0 0
Deniliquin .....	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	1	610 0 0	2	204 0 0	...	3	844 0 0
Hay	1	160 0	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	1	160 0 0
Hillston	1	188 2	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	.....	...	1	188 2 0
Total	3	648 2	...	.....	...	.....	2	926 0 0	2	204 0 0	...	7	1,808 2 0

SCHEDULE XVIII—continued.

Land Board District and Land District.	Ordinary Lands.						Spec Areas.						Total.	
	Original.		Additional.		Non-residential.		Original.		Additional.		Non-residential.			
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
Maitland—		a. r.		a. r. p.		a. r.		a. r. p.		a. r. p.		a. r.		a. r. p.
Cassilis	1	80 0	2	189 1 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	260 1 0
Gosford	3	166 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	166 3 0
Newcastle .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	40 1 0	...	...	...	1	40 1 0
Raymond Terrace	1	40 0	...	...	1	119 3	...	...	...	...	...	2	159 3 0
Scone	6	1,302 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1,302 0 0
Singleton	1	40 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	40 0 0
Stroud	1	40 0	1	40 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	80 0 0
Taree	7	381 0	2	88 3 0	1	70 1	...	...	...	...	...	10	640 0 0
Wollombi	2	143 2	...	...	1	50 0	...	...	...	...	...	3	193 2 0
Total	22	2,193 1	5	318 0 0	3	240 0	1	40 1 0	..	.....	...	31	2,791 2 0
Moree—														
Bingera	4	780 0	1	40 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	820 0 0
Moree	1	640 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	640 0 0
Warialda	4	980 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	980 0 0
Total	9	2,400 0	1	40 0 0	...	...	...	...	..	.....	...	10	2,440 0 0
Orange—														
Bathurst	2	90 0	1	90 0 0	...	...	...	1	80 0 0	...	...	4	260 0 0
Carcoar	8	620 0	4	255 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	875 0 0
Cowra	1	100 0	...	...	2	435 0	1	10 0 0	...	...	...	4	545 0 0
Lithgow	6	440 0	4	268 1 0	2	400 0	...	...	...	...	...	12	1,108 1 0
Molong	12	2,387 2	2	110 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	2,497 2 0
Mudgee	4	220 0	3	303 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	523 0 0
Rylstone	1	40 0	1	213 3 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	253 3 0
Wellington	1	77 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	77 0 0
Total	35	3,974 2	15	1,240 0 0	4	835 0	1	10 0 0	1	80 0 0	...	56	6,139 2 0	
Sydney—														
Campbelltown	1	50 0	...	...	...	...	2	80 0 0	...	...	...	3	130 0 0
Nowra	5	407 1	...	...	1	60 0	...	...	...	...	...	6	467 1 0
Parramatta .....	...	...	...	...	5	343 0	...	...	...	...	...	5	343 0 0
Pictou	9	968 0	1	80 0 0	2	155 0	...	...	...	2	165 2	14	1,368 2 0
Sydney .....	...	...	...	...	1	40 0	...	...	...	...	...	1	40 0 0
Windsor	3	120 0	...	...	8	584 1	4	136 2 20	...	...	...	15	840 3 20
Total	18	1,545 1	1	80 0 0	17	1,182 1	6	216 2 20	2	165 2	44	3,189 2 20
Tamworth—														
Gunnedah	1	65 0	2	390 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	455 0 0
Murrurundi	1	160 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	160 0 0
Narrabri	3	189 1	...	...	...	...	1	5 2 32	...	...	...	4	194 3 32
Tamworth	2	140 0	1	210 0 0	...	...	4	136 1 20	...	...	...	7	486 1 20
Total	7	554 1	3	600 0 0	..	.....	5	142 0 12	...	.....	...	15	1,296 1 12
Wagga Wagga—														
Albury .....	...	...	1	120 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	120 0 0
Coolamundry	4	566 2	1	279 3 14	...	...	2	451 3 0	...	...	...	7	1,298 0 14
Corowa .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	240 0 0	...	...	...	2	240 0 0
Gundagai	1	320 0	1	150 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	470 0 0
Narrandera .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	62 0 0	2	640 0 0	...	3	702 0 0
Tumbarumba	1	50 0	...	...	...	...	...	1	54 2 0	...	...	2	104 2 0
Tumut	3	693 3	1	400 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1,093 3 0
Urana	1	640 0	...	...	...	...	2	960 0 0	...	...	...	3	1,600 0 0
Wagga Wagga .....	...	...	1	166 1 0	...	...	1	60 0 0	...	...	...	2	226 1 0
Total	10	2,270 1	5	1,116 0 14	...	.....	8	1,773 3 0	3	694 2 0	...	26	5,854 2 14
Total	202	29,433 2	70	7,789 0 14	41	3,948 3	44	4,773 0 8	10	1,174 1 10	4	273 3	371	47,392 1 32

SCHEDULE XIX.

RETURN showing Number and Area of Conditional Purchases declared forfeited during the year 1896 for non-payment of balance, interest, or instalment of purchase money.

Land Board District and Land District.	Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.								Crown Lands Act of 1884.							
	Section 13.		Section 19.		Section 21.		Total.		Section 26.		Section 42.		Section 47.		Total.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
Armidale— Inverell		a. r. p.		a. r. p.		a. r. p.		a. r. p.	1	300 0 0					1	300 0 0
Bourke— Bourke	1	200 0 0							1	200 0 0						
Forbes— Condobolin													1	320 0 0	1	320 0 0
Goulburn— Bega			1	50 0 0			1	50 0 0	2	120 0 0					2	120 0 0
Bourra									1	40 0 0	2	100 0 0	1	40 0 0	4	270 0 0
Braidwood											1	75 0 0			1	75 0 0
Coonambidge											1	270 0 0			1	270 0 0
Eden									6	1,257 0 0	4	368 1 0			10	1,625 1 0
Goulburn									1	80 0 0	3	180 0 0			4	260 0 0
Gunning											2	150 0 0			2	150 0 0
Moruya									2	300 0 0	1	50 0 0			3	350 0 0
Total			1	50 0 0			1	50 0 0	12	1,827 0 0	14	1,303 1 0	1	40 0 0	27	3,170 1 0
Gratton— Bellinger									2	130 0 0					2	130 0 0
Kempsey	1	61 0 0	1	40 0 0	2	83 0 0	4	184 0 0	1	40 0 0	1	203 3 0			2	243 3 0
Morwillumbah												1	150 0 0	1	150 0 0	
Port Macquarie									1	80 0 0					1	80 0 0
Total	1	61 0 0	1	40 0 0	2	83 0 0	4	184 0 0	4	250 0 0	1	203 3 0	1	150 0 0	6	603 3 0
Maitland— Gosford	1	80 0 0			1	288 0 0	2	318 0 0					1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0
Singleton	1	40 0 0					1	40 0 0								
Taree									1	80 0 0	1	100 0 0			2	180 0 0
Wollombi												1	50 0 0	1	50 0 0	
Total	2	120 0 0			1	288 0 0	3	358 0 0	1	80 0 0	1	100 0 0	2	90 0 0	4	270 0 0
Orange— Lithgow			12	790 0 0			12	790 0 0							1	160 0 0
Molong											1	160 0 0			1	160 0 0
Mudgee											1	64 3 0			1	64 3 0
Bystone											1	40 0 0			1	40 0 0
Wellington	1	40 3 20					1	40 3 20							1	40 3 20
Total	1	40 3 20	12	790 0 0			13	830 3 20			3	264 3 0			3	264 3 0
Sydney— Milton	1	40 0 0					1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0					1	40 0 0
Nowra												1	90 0 0	1	90 0 0	
Total	1	40 0 0					1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0			1	90 0 0	2	130 0 0
Tamworth— Tamworth			1	50 0 0			1	50 0 0			2	330 0 0			2	330 0 0
Wagga Wagga— Corowa					1	110 0 0	1	110 0 0								
Wagga Wagga	1	76 0 0					1	76 0 0								
Total	1	76 0 0			1	110 0 0	2	186 0 0								
TOTAL	7	637 3 20	15	930 0 0	4	431 0 0	26	1,898 3 20	10	2,500 0 0	21	2,201 3 0	6	600 0 0	46	5,397 3 0
GRAND TOTAL			72 Conditional Purchases.				Area								7,296 acres 2 roods 20 perches.	

SCHEDULE XX.

RETURN for the year 1896, showing the number and area of Conditional Purchases and Conditional Leases validated under the 44th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1895.

Conditional Leases.			Conditional Purchases.		
Land District.	Conditional Leases.	Area.	Land District.	Conditional Purchases.	Area.
Braidwood	1	a. r. p. 120 0 0	Armidale	2	a. r. p. 221 2 0
Murrurundi	1	144 0 0	Bingara	1	100 0 0
Tamworth	1	960 0 0	Braidwood	1	40 0 0
Wellington	1	646 0 0	Carcoar	1	50 0 0
Totals	4	1,870 0 0	Dentbiquin	1	454 0 0
			Moruya	1	100 0 0
			Murrurundi	1	48 0 0
			Nowra	1	40 0 0
			Tamworth	1	320 0 0
			Tumut, now Tumbarumba	1	240 0 0
			Wellington	1	559 0 0
			Totals	12	2,172 2 0

SCHEDULE XXI.

RETURN showing Increase and Decrease in Areas of Conditional Purchases during 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District.	The Crown Lands Act of 1884.		The Crown Lands Act of 1861.	
		Increase in Area.	Decrease in Area.	Increase in Area.	Decrease in Area.
		a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.
Armidale	Armidale	153 2 0	.....	1 3 0	102 2 19
	Glen Innes	11 1 0	7 3 0	.....	.....
	Inverell	126 2 0	.....	.....	5 2 0
	Tenterfield	9 2 0	.....	2 3 0	16 1 0
	Walcha	10 0 0	.....	1 3 0	2 1 0
Bourke	Bourke .....	.....	30 0 3	.....	.....
	Wilcannia .....	.....	.....	.....	1 0 0
Dubbo.....	Coonamble	6 3 0	.....	4 0 0	2 3 0
	Dubbo	17 2 0	.....	.....	0 3 0
Forbes	Warren	6 0 0	342 3 0	.....	.....
	Barmedman	0 2 0	17 1 0	.....	.....
	Condobolin .....	.....	.....	.....	58 3 26
	Forbes	9 1 0	1 2 0	.....	.....
Goulburn	Grenfell .....	.....	.....	.....	24 3 0
	Parkes	0 1 0	3 2 0	.....	80 2 26
	Bega	10 0 0	1 0 0	11 3 8	8 2 0
	Bombala	7 2 0	15 3 0	.....	1 1 0
	Boorowa .....	.....	.....	0 1 0	5 0 27
	Braidwood	4 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	1 2 33
	Cooma	3 0 0	17 0 0	16 3 5	15 3 4
	Eden .....	.....	.....	5 0 15	5 0 0
	Goulburn .....	.....	5 0 0	6 0 0	2 3 0
	Gunning	10 0 0	.....	3 1 0	1 2 0
	Moruya	25 2 0	4 3 0	.....	2 1 0
	Moss Vale.....	21 2 0	.....	.....	.....
	Queanbeyan .....	.....	9 2 0	.....	2 0 0
	Yass	0 0 30	.....	.....	2 3 0
Grafton	Young .....	.....	.....	.....	22 2 18½
	Bellingen	0 3 0	2 1 0	0 2 25	10 0 14
	Casino .....	.....	.....	.....	1 0 0
	Grafton .....	.....	1 2 24	0 2 0	14 2 0
	Kempsey	8 2 0	13 1 0	5 1 0	11 1 0
	Lismore .....	.....	0 3 0	4 1 0	14 2 20
	Murwillumbah	6 1 0	21 1 0	.....	3 3 4
	Barramald South .....	.....	3 0 0	.....	.....
Hay.....	Deniliquin	2 0 0	.....	.....	.....
	Hay .....	.....	7 2 0	.....	1 0 0
Maitland	Cassilis	5 1 0	.....	6 0 0	0 1 0
	Dungog .....	.....	5 1 0	.....	2 1 0
	Muswellbrook .....	.....	.....	1 0 0	3 2 22
	Newcastle .....	.....	4 1 0	.....	.....
	Scone.....	.....	.....	2 1 0	2 0 0
	Scone (late Walcha) .....	.....	1 2 0	.....	.....
	Singleton .....	.....	.....	1 0 0	8 3 4
	Stroud (late Walcha) .....	.....	8 2 0	.....	.....
	Stroud .....	.....	.....	.....	4 1 0
	Taree	1 0 0	2 2 0	.....	3 1 0
Moree.....	Bingara	91 3 0	1 0 0	.....	1 2 0
	Moree	211 0 0	43 1 0	.....	16 2 15
	Walgett.....	30 0 0	104 0 0	.....	.....
	Warraldra	21 3 0	295 0 0	.....	1 1 0
Orange	Bathurst	9 2 0	.....	.....	1 2 0
	Carcoar.....	45 2 0	17 0 0	0 1 0	1 2 0
	Cowra .....	.....	.....	.....	2 0 0
	Lithgow	36 1 0	.....	2 3 0	2 0 0
	Molong	295 0 0	26 1 12	.....	2 3 0
	Mudgee.....	123 2 0	35 1 0	.....	2 0 0
	Rylstone .....	.....	.....	.....	1 2 0
	Wellington	31 1 0	14 0 0	.....	.....
	Kiama .....	.....	50 0	.....	0 2 0
	Nowra .....	.....	.....	.....	0 3 0
Sydney	Parramatta	28 3 0	.....	.....	.....
	Pictou .....	.....	.....	4 3 0	3 2 20
	Windsor .....	.....	7 0 0	.....	.....
	Windsor .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Windsor .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tamworth	Coonabarrabran	12 1 0	284 2 0	16 2 0	14 0 0
	Gunnedah	15 0 0	12 3 0	.....	10 0 2
	Murrurundi .....	.....	43 0 0	0 2 0	257 2 0
	Narrabri .....	.....	36 2 0	.....	69 2 3
	Tamworth.....	66 0 0	163 2 0	16 0 0	4 0 0
Wagga Wagga	Albury .....	.....	.....	5 1 0	76 0 36
	Corowa	1 0	.....	.....	62 1 33
	Gundagai	46 0 0	2 1 0	0 3 0	4 0 0
	Narrandera .....	.....	192 0 0	.....	1 1 0
	Tumbarumba .....	.....	.....	.....	0 1 0
	Tumut	31 1 0	.....	.....	0 1 30
	Urana .....	.....	.....	0 0 16	0 2 0
	Wagga Wagga .....	.....	.....	.....	1 2 0

GRAND TOTALS.

Crown Lands Act of 1884.		a. r. p.	Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.		a. r. p.
Increase in Area	1,551	2 30	Increase in Area	126	0 29
Decrease	1,960	2 39	Decrease	376	1 36½
Total Increase in Area .....	.....	.....	.....	1,677	3 19
Total Decrease .....	.....	.....	.....	2,837	0 35½

SCHEDULE XXII.

SUMMARY of particulars relating to the number and area of Conditional Purchases in existence on the 31st December, 1896.

Particulars.	No.	Area.		No.	Area.	
		a.	r. p.		a.	r. p.
Number and area selected up to 31st December, 1895, after deducting number and area cancelled, forfeited, lapsed, disallowed, and for which deeds have issued	143,069	20,266,061	2 13			
Number and area applied for during 1896	1,279	199,449	3 37			
Less net decrease due to disallowances, forfeitures, &c., as below	829	127,963	2 26½	149,318	20,465,511	2 10
„ number and area for which deeds were issued during 1896	777	124,735	1 32	1,606	252,699	0 18½
Number and area in existence on the 31st December, 1896				147,742	20,212,812	1 31½
Number and area of conditional purchases for which deeds have been issued up to 31st December, 1896				23,337	2,773,065	0 15
Disallowed during 1896	355	69,939	3 38			
Declared forfeited during 1896	443	54,689	0 12			
Decrease in area (Schedule XXI)		2,837	0 35½			
Converted into homestead selections	44	5,547	2 20			
Reversals of forfeiture for non-payment—Crown Lands Act, 1861	3	451	3 20	842	132,013	3 25½
Reversals of forfeiture for non-payment—Crown Lands Act, 1894	3	142	0 0			
Reversals of forfeiture for reasons other than non-payment—Crown Lands Act of 1884	7	1,778	2 0			
Increase in area (Schedule XXI)		1,677	3 19	13	4,050	0 39
Net decrease in number and area, due to disallowances, forfeitures, &c.				829	127,963	2 26½

SCHEDULE XXIII.

RETURN giving particulars with reference to Applications received for Homestead Selections during 1896.

Land Board District and Land District.	Blocks applied for during 1896.			Applications confirmed during 1896.			Applications disallowed or withdrawn during 1896.		No. of applications outstanding at end of year
	No.	Area.	Annual rent.	No.	Area.	Annual rent.	No.	Area.	
Armidale—									
Armidale	32	a. r. p. 5,738 0 20	£ s. d. 79 19 6	32	a. r. p. 3,693 3 0	£ s. d. 55 3 11	3	a. r. p. 1,152 1 0	3
Glen Innes	8	618 3 14	19 7 2	8	618 3 14	19 7 2	...	...	...
Inverell	17	5,508 2 0	94 13 6	6	683 3 0	13 19 10	3	1,297 3 0	8
Penterfield	31	5,083 3 10	61 0 8	29	5,001 3 10	53 9 4	2	82 0 0	...
Walcha	16	3,732 1 0	95 17 4	2	412 0 0	10 2 8	4	986 1 0	...
Total	104	20,681 2 4	350 18 2	77	10,360 0 24	157 2 11	12	3,518 1 0	11
Bourke—									
Bourke	1	20 0 0	5 0 0	1	20 0 0	5 0 0	...	...	...
Brewarrina	14	13,442 0 20	122 8 7	14	13,442 0 20	121 19 5	...	...	...
Cobar	9	823 2 24	6 9 2	7	388 2 24	5 13 0	1	534 0 0	2
Total	24	14,385 3 4	133 17 9	22	13,850 3 4	132 12 5	1	534 0 0	2
Dubbo—									
Coonamble	8	300 0 10	9 7 8	8	300 0 10	9 7 8	1	36 3 30	...
Dubbo	78	32,336 2 13	496 14 6	39	4,150 0 27	94 0 5	3	336 2 0	41
Nyngan	27	12,216 3 0	156 15 1	22	10,576 8 0	123 16 10	1	569 2 0	2
Total	113	44,853 1 23	662 17 3	69	15,026 3 37	227 4 11	5	942 3 30	43
Forbes—									
Barmedman	8	3,434 2 0	46 8 11	7	3,172 0 0	42 10 9	...	...	1
Forbes	13	10,908 1 0	165 11 2	10	9,052 1 0	136 11 2	11	9,306 1 0	2
Grenfell	14	7,510 1 37	102 15 11	11	7,193 0 37	97 8 2	...	...	3
Parkes	13	10,696 1 0	133 6 4	9	7,096 1 0	88 16 3	7	6,347 0 0	1
Total	43	32,599 1 37	448 2 4	37	26,515 2 37	365 6 4	18	15,653 1 0	7
Goulburn—									
Bombala	1	50 0 0	1 11 3	1	50 0 0	1 11 3	...	...	...
Boorowa	12	2,154 2 0	46 1 0	12	2,154 3 0	46 1 0	4	586 1 0	3
Cooma	6	576 1 0	14 8 2	4	433 3 0	11 11 11	3	172 2 0	...
Eden	7	500 1 0	5 19 5	9	709 0 0	13 11 7	4	232 3 0	1
Goulburn	6	1,067 3 0	24 16 0	6	1,067 3 0	24 16 0	1	256 0 0	...
Gunning	4	600 1 0	13 5 10	4	600 1 0	13 5 10	2	276 3 0	...
Moruya	4	579 2 0	7 14 11	4	579 2 0	7 14 11	...	...	...
Queanbeyan	3	163 0 0	5 1 11	3	163 0 0	5 1 11	...	...	2
Yass	3	287 1 0	8 19 7	...	...	...	3	287 1 0	1
Young	32	6,603 3 34	174 13 10	24	4,862 2 18	127 12 2	8	1,735 2 30	2
Total	78	12,582 2 34	302 11 11	67	10,620 1 18	251 6 7	25	3,547 0 30	9

SCHEDULE XXIII--continued.

Land Board District and Land District.	Blocks applied for during 1896.			Applications confirmed during 1896.			Applications disallowed or withdrawn during 1896.		No. of applications outstanding at end of year.
	No.	Area.	Annual rent.	No.	Area.	Annual rent.	No.	Area.	
Grafton--		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	
Bellingen	4	565 0 0	7 1 3	2	270 0 0	3 7 6	...	...	2
Grafton	3	939 1 0	10 10 11	3	939 1 0	10 10 11	1	628 0 0	...
Kempsey	3	360 3 0	6 12 6	2	295 3 0	5 0 0	1	65 0 0	...
Lismore	12	2,464 1 0	45 13 4	14	2,568 1 0	51 3 7	1	100 0 0	2
Total	22	4,329 1 0	69 18 0	21	4,073 1 0	70 2 0	3	793 0 0	4
Hay--									
Balranald, South	2	2,084 3 0	22 14 11	1	1,070 3 0	10 0 10	...	...	1
Deniliquin	45	15,283 0 0	367 13 4	51	18,543 3 0	437 9 11	...	...	...
Hay	18	13,884 3 0	210 19 0	17	12,004 3 0	194 9 0	1	1,280 0 0	...
Hillston	6	3,840 0 0	48 0 0	8	5,071 3 0	59 11 0	...	...	14
Total	71	35,092 2 0	649 7 3	77	37,291 0 0	701 10 9	1	1,280 0 0	15
Maitland--									
Cassilis	47	3,707 0 20	77 7 11	40	2,072 3 20	52 14 4	1	40 0 0	6
Dungog	6	701 3 10	14 16 4	6	701 3 10	14 16 4	...	...	...
Gosford	24	2,669 3 0	31 8 8	25	2,626 0 0	31 15 8	4	70 0 0	1
Maitland	13	940 3 20	14 3 1	8	582 2 0	8 9 4	...	...	5
Newcastle	7	424 2 0	5 14 8	6	293 0 0	4 13 10	1	75 1 0	1
Paterson	6	1,155 0 0	11 19 6	4	859 0 0	8 18 2	1	200 0 0	1
Singleton	23	1,980 3 0	38 19 0	23	2,080 3 0	40 12 9	2	160 0 0	2
Total	126	11,579 3 10	194 9 2	112	9,215 3 30	162 0 5	9	545 1 0	16
Moree--									
Walgett	8	6,761 0 0	84 10 3	6	4,841 0 0	60 10 3	1	640 0 0	1
Warialda	5	6,400 0 0	80 0 0	5	6,400 0 0	80 0 0	3	3,840 0 0	...
Total	13	13,161 0 0	164 10 3	11	11,241 0 0	140 10 3	4	4,480 0 0	1
Orange--									
Cowra	4	44 2 12	1 11 1	4	44 2 12	1 11 1	...	...	...
Lithgow	3	579 1 0	10 17 3	3	579 1 0	10 17 3	...	...	...
Molong	12	3,820 0 3	67 0 2	9	2,521 1 0	47 5 5	1	287 0 0	3
Mudgee	45	5,102 1 0	111 8 3	41	4,219 1 0	96 8 9	21	3,166 1 30	1
Total	64	9,546 0 15	190 16 9	57	7,364 1 12	156 2 6	22	3,453 1 30	4
Sydney--									
Campbelltown	36	775 2 12	17 9 7	25	520 0 2	11 18 0	5	105 3 20	5
Liverpool	5	328 2 0	4 12 5	2	246 0 0	3 1 6	...	...	3
Nowra .....	...	...	...	3	100 3 20	2 7 1	1	36 1 20	...
Picton	3	173 3 0	4 9 0	...	...	...	...	...	3
Windsor	37	1,693 1 0	28 18 0	37	1,793 2 30	31 9 2	4	180 3 10	2
Total	81	2,971 0 12	55 9 0	67	2,660 2 12	48 15 9	10	323 0 10	13
Tamworth--									
Gunnedah	58	18,880 3 0	328 9 2	51	17,486 0 0	307 15 2	8	3,264 1 0	5
Murrurundi	15	642 1 0	109 7 5	15	642 2 0	109 7 5	2	80 0 0	...
Narrabri	1	977 1 0	18 6 6	1	977 1 0	18 6 6	2	1,954 2 0	...
Tamworth	7	2,643 2 0	81 16 4	1	319 2 0	11 19 8	...	...	7
Total	81	23,143 3 0	537 19 5	68	19,425 1 0	447 8 9	12	5,298 3 0	12
Wagga Wagga--									
Albury	27	536 0 14	19 9 2	17	484 1 2	18 3 1	2	10 3 12	12
Cootamundra	56	15,450 3 20	353 13 0	57	16,472 2 10	368 5 10	17	4,793 1 30	20
Cootamundra, Central	3	2,104 0 0	31 19 0	6	4,008 2 0	63 14 5	1	267 2 0	...
Corowa	39	12,683 0 31	323 12 6	35	11,570 3 11	297 10 2	9	2,451 3 5	35
Narrandera	64	39,460 0 0	582 10 2	50	27,288 2 0	427 12 4	7	4,966 0 0	31
Urana	77	31,213 3 20	782 0 2	65	29,725 0 20	573 8 6	62	41,751 3 0	6
Wagga Wagga	96	36,500 0 0	904 2 5	122	43,022 3 0	1,064 9 5	42	7,220 1 0	9
Total	362	137,948 0 5	2,997 6 5	352	132,572 2 3	2,813 3 9	140	61,461 2 7	113

SUMMARY.

Armidale	104	20,681 2 4	350 18 2	77	10,360 0 24	157 2 11	12	3,518 1 0	11
Bourke	24	14,385 3 4	133 17 9	22	13,850 3 4	132 12 5	1	534 0 0	2
Dubbo	113	44,853 1 23	662 17 3	69	15,026 3 37	227 4 11	5	942 3 30	43
Forbes	48	32,599 1 37	448 2 4	37	26,515 2 37	365 6 4	18	15,653 1 0	7
Goulburn	78	12,582 2 34	302 11 11	67	10,620 1 18	251 6 7	25	3,547 0 30	9
Grafton	22	4,329 1 0	69 18 0	21	4,073 1 0	70 2 0	3	793 0 0	4
Hay	71	35,092 2 0	649 7 3	77	37,291 0 0	701 10 9	1	1,280 0 0	15
Maitland	126	11,579 3 10	194 9 2	112	9,215 3 30	162 0 5	9	545 1 0	16
Moree	13	13,161 0 0	164 10 3	11	11,241 0 0	140 10 3	4	4,480 0 0	1
Orange	64	9,546 0 15	190 16 9	57	7,364 1 12	156 2 6	22	3,453 1 30	4
Sydney	81	2,971 0 12	55 9 0	67	2,660 2 12	48 15 9	10	323 0 10	13
Tamworth	81	23,143 3 0	537 19 5	68	19,425 1 0	447 8 9	12	5,298 3 0	12
Wagga Wagga	362	137,948 0 5	2,997 6 5	352	132,572 2 3	2,813 3 9	140	61,461 2 7	113
Total	1187	362,874 1 24	6,758 3 8	1037	300,217 3 17	5,673 7 4	262	101,830 2 27	250

SCHEDULE XXIV.

RETURN showing Number and Area of Homestead Selections confirmed to 31st December, 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District.	No.	Area.	Annual Rent.
			a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Armidale	Armidale	32	3,693 3 0	55 3 11
	Glen Innes	8	618 3 14	19 7 2
	Inverell	6	633 3 0	13 19 10
	Tenterfield	29	5,001 3 10	58 9 4
	Walcha	2	412 0 0	10 2 8
	Total	77	10,360 0 24	157 2 11
Bourke	Bourke	11	224 0 20	55 0 0
	Brewarrina	14	13,442 0 20	121 19 5
	Cobar	7	388 2 24	5 13 0
	Total	32	14,054 3 24	182 12 5
Dubbo	Coonamble	8	300 0 10	9 7 8
	Dubbo	40	4,217 9 37	97 1 1
	Nyngan	22	10,576 3 0	123 16 10
	Total	70	15,124 0 7	230 5 7
Forbes	Barmedman	7	3,172 0 0	42 10 9
	Forbes	10	9,052 1 0	136 11 2
	Grenfell	11	7,195 0 37	97 8 2
	Parkes	9	7,096 1 0	83 16 3
	Total	37	26,515 2 37	365 6 4
Goulburn	Bombala	1	50 0 0	1 11 3
	Boorowa	12	2,154 2 0	46 1 0
	Cooma	4	433 3 0	11 11 11
	Eden	9	709 0 0	13 11 7
	Goulburn	10	1,740 0 10	37 8 2
	Gunning	4	600 1 0	13 5 10
	Moruya	4	579 2 0	7 14 11
	Queanbeyan	3	163 0 0	5 1 11
	Young	31	7,302 2 23	182 0 9
	Total	78	13,822 2 33	318 7 4
Grafton	Bellingen	2	270 0 0	3 7 6
	Grafton	3	999 1 0	10 10 11
	Kempsey	8	1,093 3 0	21 18 0
	Lismore	14	2,568 1 0	51 3 7
	Total	27	4,871 1 0	87 0 0
Hay	Balranald South	1	1,070 3 0	10 0 10
	Deniliquin	69	30,943 0 0	717 16 4
	Hay	18	13,169 3 0	203 11 6
	Hillston	11	6,729 0 0	75 1 9
	Total	99	51,912 2 0	1,011 10 5
Maitland	Cassilis	40	2,072 3 20	52 14 4
	Dungog	6	701 3 10	14 16 4
	Gosford	25	2,626 0 0	31 15 8
	Maitland	8	582 2 0	8 9 4
	Newcastle	6	293 0 0	4 18 10
	Paterson	4	859 0 0	8 18 2
	Singleton	23	2,080 3 0	40 12 9
	Total	112	9,215 3 30	162 0 5
Moree	Walgett	6	4,841 0 0	60 10 3
	Wyallda	5	6,400 0 0	80 0 0
	Total	11	11,241 0 0	140 10 3
Orange	Cowra	4	44 2 12	1 11 1
	Lithgow	3	579 1 0	10 17 3
	Molong	9	2,521 1 0	47 5 5
	Mudgee	41	4,219 1 0	96 8 9
	Total	57	7,364 1 12	156 2 6
Sydney	Campbelltown	25	520 0 2	11 18 0
	Liverpool	2	246 0 0	3 1 6
	Nowra	3	190 3 20	2 7 1
	Windsor	37	1,793 2 30	31 9 2
	Total	67	2,660 2 12	48 15 9
Tamworth	Gunnedah	51	17,486 0 0	307 15 2
	Murrurundi	15	612 2 0	109 7 5
	Narrabri	1	977 1 0	18 6 6
	Tamworth	6	2,312 3 0	61 16 4
	Total	73	21,418 2 0	497 5 5

SCHEDULE XXIV—continued.

Land Board District.	Land District.	No.	Area.	Annual Rent.
Wagga Wagga	Albury	17	a. r. p. 484 1 2	£ s. d. 18 3 1
	Cootamundra	59	16,775 2 10	374 8 5
	Cootamundra, Central.....	6	4,008 2 0	63 14 5
	Corowa	37	12,154 2 11	312 2 1
	Narrandera	53	29,785 3 0	474 7 10
	Urana	66	30,049 2 20	581 10 9
	Wagga Wagga.....	122	43,022 3 0	1,064 9 5
	Total	360	136,281 0 3	2,888 16 0
Grand Total	1, 100	324,842 2 22	6,245 15 4	

SCHEDULE XXV.

RETURN showing Number and Area of Conditional Purchases converted into Homestead Selections during the Year 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District.	Number of Applications for Conversion.	Number of C.P.'s included.	Area of C.P.'s.
Armidale	Inverell	1	1	a. r. p. 300 0 0
	Tenterfield	3	4	460 0 0
	Walcha	1	2	135 0 0
Forbes	Condobolin	1	1	111 0 0
Goulburn	Bega	2	2	228 0 20
	Bombala	1	11	1,246 2 0
	Braidwood	1	1	100 0 0
	Goulburn	3	10	730 0 0
	Moss Vale	1	1	50 0 0
	Queanbeyan.....	1	2	100 0 0
	Yass	1	2	320 0 0
Grafton	Bellinger	1	2	200 0 0
	Casino	1	1	640 0 0
	Port Macquarie	1	1	347 0 0
Maitland	Stroud	1	1	180 0 0
Wagga Wagga	Cootamundry	1	1	80 0 0
	Tumbarumba	1	1	320 0 0
	Total	22	44	5,547 2 20
Converted in 1895			3	1,327 0 0
Grand Total			47	6,874 2 20

SCHEDULE XXVI.

RETURN showing the Number and Area of Conditional Leases applied for during 1896, with amount of Deposits and Survey Fees received.

Local Land Board District.	Land District.	No.	Area.	Deposits.	Survey Fee.
Armidale	Armidale	37	a. r. p. 12,888 3 0	£ s. d. 103 4 3	£ s. d. 213 17 5
	Glen Innes	7	920 0 0	7 13 4	29 8 9
	Inverell	23	7,469 0 0	62 4 10	131 5 3
	Tenterfield	30	6,995 0 0	58 5 10	151 19 9
	Walcha	1	390 0 0	3 5 0	6 9 5
	Total	98	28,157 3 0	234 13 3	533 0 7
Bourke	Brewarrina East.....	1	322 0 0	2 13 8	6 1 11
Dubbo	Coonamble	39	23,040 1 0	191 15 7	288 2 5
	Dubbo	21	15,899 0 0	132 9 10	169 17 11
	Nyngan	7	7,912 1 0	65 18 9	67 13 11
	Wurren	41	33,392 1 0	274 7 2	337 10 8
Total	108	80,243 3 0	664 11 4	863 4 11	
Forbes	Barmedman	2	500 0 0	4 3 5	10 3 10
	Barmedman East	5	823 1 0	6 17 3	22 8 2
	Condobolin	5	7,087 2 0	59 1 3	53 18 2
	Forbes	11	5,487 1 0	25 14 8	73 12 1
	Grenfell	1	660 0 0	5 10 0	8 3 2
	Parkes	17	8,252 2 0	68 15 5	117 14 2
	Total	41	22,810 2 0	170 2 0	295 19 7

SCHEDULE XXVI--continued.

Local Land Board District	Land District.	No.	Area.	Deposits.	Survey Fees.
			a. r. p.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Goulburn	Bombala	11	1,932 0 0	16 2 0	46 17 8
	Boorowa	5	902 1 0	7 10 6	22 17 7
	Braidwood	19	2,919 0 0	24 6 6	76 8 4
	Cooma	8	3,012 0 0	25 2 0	48 7 8
	Eden	9	1,720 0 0	14 6 8	42 7 8
	Goulburn	10	1,877 0 0	15 12 10	47 8 11
	Gunning	5	652 3 0	5 12 2	21 7 7
	Moruya	14	2,239 0 0	18 13 2	59 16 3
	Moss Vale	6	1,780 0 0	14 16 8	33 11 11
	Queanbeyan	16	3,974 0 0	33 2 4	83 16 5
	Yass	8	3,754 3 0	31 5 10	67 18 2
	Young	7	2,360 0 0	19 17 1	40 10 1
		Total	118	27,122 3 0	226 7 9	581 8 3
Grafton.....	Bellingen	9	633 0 0	5 5 6	31 10 0
	Casino	2	750 0 0	6 5 0	12 1 11
	Kempsey	2	369 0 0	3 1 6	9 5 8
	Port Macquarie	1	75 0 0	0 12 6	3 13 10
	Total	14	1,827 0 0	15 4 6	56 11 5
Hay	Balranald South.....	13	10,403 0 0	86 14 0	109 15 11
	Deniliquin	5	3,060 0 0	25 10 0	38 5 1
	Hay	3	3,195 3 0	26 12 8	26 10 0
	Hillston	6	4,105 1 0	37 11 11	40 5 8
	Total	27	20,764 0 0	176 8 7	223 16 8
Maitland	Cassilis.....	13	4,208 2 0	35 1 6	74 1 5
	Dungog	2	150 0 0	1 5 0	7 2 6
	Gosford	1	40 0 0	0 6 8	3 0 0
	Scone	7	4,313 2 0	35 18 11	51 15 1
	Singleton.....	1	118 2 0	0 19 8	5 10 0
	Stroud	5	830 0 0	6 18 4	22 15 8
	Taree	2	300 0 0	2 10 0	8 16 4
	Wollombi	2	200 0 0	1 13 4	7 10 0
		Total	33	10,160 2 0	84 13 5	180 11 0
Moree	Bingara	16	7,060 0 0	69 10 0	108 14 5
	Moree	21	22,478 0 0	187 6 7	201 11 8
	Walgett	11	14,229 3 0	118 11 8	113 18 3
	Warralda.....	21	7,209 0 0	61 6 6	120 1 3
	Total	69	51,066 3 0	436 14 9	544 5 7
Orange	Bathurst	5	1,155 0 0	9 12 6	25 10 2
	Carecar	8	1,400 0 0	11 13 4	37 2 7
	Cowra	1	150 0 0	1 5 0	4 8 2
	Lithgow	4	352 1 0	2 18 9	15 5 8
	Molong	19	7,900 0 0	65 16 8	123 17 2
	Mudgee	15	4,888 2 0	40 14 10	87 11 5
	Orange	1	320 0 0	2 13 4	6 0 0
	Rylstone	13	3,495 0 0	29 2 6	70 2 8
	Wellington	53	25,524 2 0	212 14 2	364 16 6
		Total	119	45,185 1 0	376 11 1	734 14 4
Sydney	Milton	2	160 0 0	1 6 8	7 2 6
	Parramatta	1	40 0 0	0 6 8	3 0 0
	Picton	3	339 0 0	2 16 6	13 3 8
	Total	6	539 0 0	4 9 10	23 6 2
Tamworth	Coonabarabran	28	9,761 2 0	81 6 11	164 3 6
	Gunnedah	8	4,201 2 0	35 0 3	54 9 6
	Murrurundi	1	221 0 0	1 16 10	5 3 2
	Narrabri	20	16,307 0 0	136 17 10	165 4 0
	Tamworth	27	11,089 3 0	92 8 4	168 4 11
	Total	84	41,580 3 0	346 10 2	557 4 3
Wagga Wagga	Albury.....	3	765 0 0	6 7 6	16 2 6
	Cootamundra	3	1,056 3 0	8 16 2	17 18 3
	Gundagai.....	1	300 0 0	2 10 0	5 16 3
	Narrandera	2	230 1 30	1 18 6	7 19 5
	Tumbarumba	1	160 0 0	1 6 8	4 10 0
	Tumut	3	1,320 0 0	11 0 0	18 14 6
Wagga Wagga	5	1,489 1 0	12 8 3	27 15 2	
	Total	18	5,321 1 30	44 7 1	98 16 1
	Grand Totals.....	738	335,101 1 30	2,783 7 5	4,689 0 9

SCHEDULE XXVII.

RETURN showing the Number and Area of Conditional Lease Applications confirmed or disallowed during 1896.

Local Land Board District.	Land District.	Applications made during 1896				Applications made prior to 1st January, 1896.				Total.			
		Confirmed.		Disallowed.		Confirmed.		Disallowed.		Confirmed.		Disallowed.	
		No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.	No.	a. r. p.
Armidale	Armidale	12	3,203 0 0	3	2,048 1 0	23	7,553 0 0	3	408 0 0	35	10,846 0 0	6	2,446 1 0
	Glen Innes	3	300 0 0	1	120 0 0	9	2,069 2 0	12	2,369 2 0	1	120 0 0	1	120 0 0
	Inverell	0	1,096 2 0	0	2,540 0 0	34	3,174 3 0	6	2,260 0 0	43	9,871 1 0	12	4,790 0 0
	Tenterfield	13	2,777 0 0	5	1,050 0 0	32	6,815 3 0	2	510 0 0	45	9,592 3 0	7	1,560 0 0
	Walcha	1	410 0 0	..	..	4	1,473 0 0	2	988 1 0	5	1,883 0 0	2	988 1 0
	Total	38	8,476 2 0	15	5,748 1 0	102	26,086 0 0	13	4,156 1 0	140	34,562 2 0	28	9,904 2 0
Bourke	Brewarrina East	..	..	..	..	2	2,279 0 0	..	..	2	2,279 0 0	..	..
Dubbo	Coonamble	1	960 0 0	10	5,766 2 0	11	6,851 1 0	9	8,110 0 0	12	7,011 0 0	19	13,876 2 0
	Dubbo	1	160 0 0	2	760 0 0	5	1,095 2 0	1	123 0 0	6	1,265 2 0	3	883 0 0
	Nyngan	..	..	1	1,455 0 0	1	1,020 0 0	6	5,227 1 0	1	1,020 0 0	7	6,682 1 0
	Warren	2	420 0 0	7	5,800 0 0	3	4,915 1 0	10	10,948 0 0	10	5,835 1 0	17	16,748 0 0
		Total	4	1,540 0 0	20	13,781 2 0	25	13,952 0 0	26	24,408 1 0	29	15,531 3 0	46	38,189 8 0
Forbes	Barnedman	..	..	..	..	4	1,788 3 0	2	700 0 0	4	1,788 3 0	2	700 0 0
	Barnedman East	5	815 2 0	..	..	5	1,314 1 0	2	628 3 0	10	2,129 3 0	2	628 3 0
	Condobolin	1	847 0 0	4	6,300 0 0	..	..	..	..	1	847 0 0	4	6,300 0 0
	Forbes	3	1,468 1 0	2	430 1 0	5	2,784 1 0	6	4,784 0 0	8	4,247 2 0	8	5,214 1 0
	Grenfell	..	..	..	..	1	150 0 0	1	323 3 0	1	150 0 0	1	323 3 0
	Parkes	5	3,291 0 0	7	3,623 2 0	4	2,034 3 0	2	848 0 0	9	5,255 3 0	9	4,471 2 0
	Total	14	6,386 3 0	13	10,353 3 0	19	8,062 0 0	13	7,280 2 0	33	14,448 3 0	26	17,643 1 0
Goulburn	Bombala	6	1,130 0 0	1	40 0 0	11	3,282 3 0	1	144 0 0	17	4,419 3 0	2	184 0 0
	Boorowa	2	512 1 0	1	120 0 0	5	1,247 0 0	..	..	7	1,760 1 0	1	120 0 0
	Braidwood	1	120 0 0	6	395 0 0	9	1,380 0 0	..	..	10	1,469 0 0	6	305 0 0
	Cooma	5	1,915 1 0	2	310 0 0	20	3,992 0 0	1	300 0 0	25	5,907 1 0	3	610 0 0
	Eden	3	390 0 0	1	450 0 0	..	..	..	..	3	390 0 0	1	450 0 0
	Goulburn	3	600 0 0	..	..	1	143 2 0	..	..	4	743 2 0	..	..
	Gunning	1	285 0 0	1	80 0 0	2	184 1 0	1	120 0 0	3	469 1 0	2	200 0 0
	Moruya	4	911 2 0	2	430 0 0	7	972 2 0	1	101 0 0	11	1,884 0 0	3	581 0 0
	Moss Vale	4	620 0 0	1	900 0 0	2	241 0 0	1	900 0 0	6	861 0 0	2	1,920 0 0
	Queanbeyan	10	2,502 0 0	5	1,322 0 0	8	1,534 1 0	..	..	18	4,036 1 0	5	1,322 0 0
	Yass	1	300 0 0	1	900 0 0	1	540 0 0	..	..	2	840 0 0	1	900 0 0
	Young	3	815 3 0	3	581 2 0	..	..	..	..	3	815 3 0	3	581 2 0
		Total	43	10,110 3 0	24	6,168 2 0	66	13,467 1 0	5	1,625 0 0	100	23,578 0 0	29	7,793 2 0
Grafton	Bellingen	4	331 2 0	..	..	1	98 3 0	..	..	5	430 1 0	..	..
	Casino	2	737 1 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	737 1 0	..	..
	Grafton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	45 0 0
	Kempsey	..	..	1	48 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Port Macquarie	..	..	1	75 0 0	2	175 0 0	..	..	2	175 0 0	1	75 0 0
	Total	6	1,068 3 0	2	123 0 0	3	273 3 0	..	..	9	1,342 2 0	2	123 0 0
Hay	Balranald South	6	5,540 1 0	3	2,520 1 0	3	2,720 0 0	..	..	9	8,260 1 0	3	2,520 1 0
	Deniliquin	3	2,185 2 0	2	872 2 0	1	187 0 0	..	..	4	2,372 2 0	2	872 2 0
	Hay	1	75 3 0	..	..	2	1,578 1 0	..	..	3	1,654 0 0	..	..
	Hillston	3	1,985 1 0	2	1,940 0 0	..	..	..	..	3	1,985 1 0	2	1,940 0 0
	Total	13	9,766 3 0	7	5,332 3 0	6	4,485 1 0	..	..	19	14,252 0 0	7	5,332 3 0
Maitland	Cassilis	6	2,340 0 0	3	1,032 0 0	5	700 2 0	..	..	11	3,040 2 0	3	1,032 0 0
	Dungog	2	202 3 0	..	..	1	50 0 0	..	..	3	252 3 0	..	..
	Gosford	1	40 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	40 0 0	..	..
	Muswellbrook	..	..	..	..	3	400 0 0	..	..	3	400 0 0	..	..
	Scone	1	80 0 0	1	284 2 0	5	2,265 0 0	..	..	6	2,345 0 0	1	284 2 0
	Singleton	1	118 2 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	118 2 0	..	..
	Stroud	2	240 0 0	2	260 0 0	..	..	..	..	2	240 0 0	2	260 0 0
	Taree	..	..	..	..	1	80 0 0	..	..	1	80 0 0	..	..
	Wollombi	1	160 0 0	1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0	1	160 0 0	2	200 0 0	2	300 0 0
		Total	14	3,181 1 0	7	1,616 2 0	16	3,335 2 0	1	160 0 0	30	6,716 3 0	8	1,776 2 0
Moree	Bingara	4	3,615 0 0	3	1,120 0 0	4	3,190 3 0	2	330 0 0	8	6,905 3 0	5	1,510 0 0
	Moree	5	3,291 3 0	2	2,048 0 0	12	9,925 1 0	6	6,872 0 0	17	13,117 0 0	8	8,920 0 0
	Walgett	1	1,592 0 0	2	2,220 0 0	3	2,342 0 0	..	..	4	3,834 0 0	2	2,220 0 0
	Warialda	8	1,672 0 0	6	2,642 0 0	23	10,932 1 0	6	2,730 0 0	31	12,664 1 0	12	5,422 0 0
		Total	18	10,170 3 0	13	8,030 0 0	42	26,190 1 0	14	10,442 0 0	60	36,361 0 0	27	18,072 0 0
Orange	Bathurst	..	..	..	..	2	1,180 0 0	..	..	2	1,180 0 0	..	..
	Carcoar	1	120 0 0	..	..	8	2,774 1 0	3	1,620 0 0	9	2,894 1 0	3	1,970 0 0
	Lithgow	4	350 0 0	..	..	5	1,213 3 0	..	..	9	1,663 3 0	..	..
	Molong	3	721 2 0	3	1,388 0 0	13	3,657 3 0	1	414 0 0	16	4,379 1 0	4	1,892 0 0
	Mudgee	5	2,057 1 0	5	1,450 3 0	20	5,887 2 0	..	..	25	7,944 3 0	5	1,450 3 0
	Orange	..	..	..	..	1	240 0 0	..	..	1	240 0 0	..	..
	Rylstone	5	1,250 0 0	5	1,570 0 0	2	193 0 0	..	..	7	1,442 0 0	5	1,570 0 0
	Wellington	7	2,284 2 0	18	10,795 0 0	4	722 0 0	1	300 0 0	11	3,006 2 0	19	11,095 0 0
		Total	25	6,792 1 0	31	15,203 3 0	54	15,728 1 0	6	2,924 0 0	70	22,520 2 0	37	18,127 3 0
Sydney	Milton	..	..	1	120 0 0	..	..	..	..	1	120 0 0	..	..
	Nowra	..	..	..	..	1	60 0 0	..	..	1	60 0 0	..	..
	Parramatta	1	40 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	40 0 0	..	..
	Pirron	3	286 0 0	..	..	4	2,163 0 0	1	40 0 0	7	2,449 0 0	1	40 0 0
	Total	4	326 0 0	1	120 0 0	5	2,223 0 0	1	40 0 0	9	2,549 0 0	2	160 0 0
Tamworth	Coonabarran	3	640 0 0	10	2,068 2 0	11	3,034 1 0	1	100 0 0	14	3,674 1 0	11	2,168 2 0
	Cunnedah	3	946 3 0	2	2,541 2 0	7	3,190 1 0	..	..	10	4,143 0 0	2	2,541 2 0
	Murrumbidgee	..	..	..	..	4	2,061 0 0	..	..	4	2,061 0 0	..	..
	Narrabri	2	738 0 0	13	11,174 0 0	12	6,511 3 0	2	704 0 0	14	7,349 3 0	15	11,878 0 0
	Tamworth	7	2,310 1 0	1	960 0 0	25	9,695 2 0	3	645 0 0	32	12,095 3 0	4	1,695 0 0
		Total	15	4,635 0 0	26	16,744 0 0	30	29,493 3 0	6	1,440 0 0	74	34,133 3 0	32	18,193 0 0
Wagga Wagga	Coofarundra	1	345 2 0	..	..	2	398 0 0	4	901 2 0	3	743 2 0	4	901 2 0
	Narrandera	..	..	1	50 2 30	..	..	..	..	1	50 2 30	..	..
	Tumbarumba	..	..	2	360 0 0	3	400 0 0	2	904 0 0	3	400 0 0	4	1,264 0 0
	Tumut	1	321 1 0	1	750 0 0	3	1,345 3 0	1	230 1 0	4	1,667 0 0	2	988 1 0
		Total	2	666 3 0	4	1,169 2 30	9	2,293 3 0	7	2,044 3 0	11	2,960 2 0	11	3,214 1 30
	Grand Totals	190	63,121 2 0	163	84,391 2 30	408	160,074 3 0	92	540,188 3 0	604	211,280 0 0	255	183,580 1 30

SCHEDULE XXVIII

RETURN showing the Number and Area of Conditional Leases Transferred and the Number of Transfers passed during the year 1896.

Land Board and Land District.	No. of Leases Transferred.	No. of Transfers passed.	Area.			Land Board and Land District.	No. of Leases Transferred.	No. of Transfers passed.	Area.		
			a.	r.	p.				a.	r.	p.
Armidale—						Maitland—					
Armidale.....	110	143	56,275	3	0	Cassilis.....	54	71	20,379	0	0
Glen Innes.....	7	8	3,637	0	0	Dungog.....	8	9	1,296	3	0
Inverell.....	39	52	19,857	3	0	Maitland.....	2	2	319	2	0
Tenterfield.....	26	34	6,909	1	0	Muswellbrook.....	3	3	286	3	0
Walcha.....	33	42	13,269	0	0	Paterson.....	5	5	827	0	0
Total.....	215	279	99,948	3	0	Raymond Terrace.....	2	3	393	3	0
Bourke—						Seonc.....	47	73	23,028	1	0
Bourke.....	4	4	3,942	0	0	Singleton.....	11	12	1,753	1	0
Brewarrina.....	6	6	11,464	2	0	Stroud.....	5	7	2,255	0	0
Cobar.....	1	1	960	0	0	Taree.....	9	12	2,034	0	0
Wilcannia.....	2	2	1,905	0	0	Wollombi.....	1	1	80	0	0
Total.....	13	13	18,271	2	0	Total.....	147	198	53,153	1	0
Cooma—						Moree—					
Cooma.....	60	83	24,020	1	0	Bingara.....	17	26	11,316	0	0
Bega.....	1	1	80	3	0	Moree.....	83	143	98,414	1	0
Bombala.....	18	21	7,000	0	0	Walgett.....	19	29	27,830	0	0
Braidwood.....	6	8	1,231	0	0	Wariakda.....	33	48	19,199	0	0
Eden.....	2	2	400	0	0	Total.....	152	246	156,759	1	0
Moruya.....	5	5	370	0	0	Orange—					
Queanbeyan.....	33	40	10,562	3	0	Bathurst.....	9	11	3,844	0	0
Total.....	125	160	43,664	3	0	Carcoar.....	28	41	9,684	3	0
Dubbo—						Cowra.....	13	21	4,302	2	0
Coonamble.....	135	213	148,860	0	0	Lithgow.....	6	7	1,875	1	0
Dubbo.....	93	148	97,581	0	0	Molong.....	35	51	15,713	1	0
Nyngan.....	33	51	54,758	2	0	Mudgee.....	13	17	5,076	3	0
Warren.....	88	142	106,097	0	0	Orange.....	6	7	1,019	1	0
Total.....	349	554	407,296	2	0	Rylstone.....	9	10	1,720	3	0
Forbes—						Wellington.....	47	61	17,791	1	0
Barmedman.....	29	45	32,973	3	0	Total.....	166	226	61,027	3	0
Do East.....	12	15	5,960	1	0	Sydney—					
Condobolin.....	64	94	85,425	3	0	Campbelltown.....	1	1	240	0	0
Forbes.....	36	55	23,009	1	0	Parramatta.....	1	1	110	0	0
Grenfell.....	26	46	24,452	3	0	Picton.....	2	2	1,880	0	0
Parkes.....	61	93	80,364	1	0	Total.....	4	4	2,230	0	0
Total.....	228	348	252,188	0	0	Tamworth—					
Goulburn—						Coonaharabran.....	19	26	11,266	2	0
Boorowa.....	63	105	18,492	1	0	Gunnedah.....	40	109	32,962	0	0
Goulburn.....	28	36	3,793	0	0	Murrurundi.....	31	50	10,990	3	0
Gunning.....	20	24	4,512	0	20	Narrabri.....	63	100	63,383	3	0
Moss Vale.....	5	6	1,315	0	0	Tamworth.....	88	138	41,272	1	0
Yass.....	8	12	1,336	3	0	Total.....	241	423	159,875	1	0
Young.....	28	34	14,245	3	0	Wagga Wagga—					
Total.....	152	217	43,694	3	20	Albury.....	4	4	1,371	2	0
Grafton—						Cootamundra.....	20	25	7,898	0	30
Bellingen.....	6	7	1,221	0	0	Gundagai.....	10	18	4,627	1	0
Casino.....	27	32	13,354	2	0	Narrandera.....	15	23	13,332	2	0
Grafton.....	5	7	1,077	2	0	Tumbarumba.....	11	13	4,317	2	0
Kempsey.....	12	14	2,919	2	0	Tunnot.....	12	15	3,717	0	0
Murwillumbah.....	2	2	385	0	0	Urana.....	2	5	144	0	0
Port Macquarie.....	5	7	825	0	0	Wagga Wagga.....	8	18	1,573	0	0
Total.....	57	69	19,782	2	0	Total.....	82	121	36,980	3	30
Hay—						Grand Total	2,043	3,010	1,500,295	2	10
Balranald.....	4	6	5,880	0	0						
Do South.....	5	5	3,962	3	0						
Deniliquin.....	7	10	2,197	2	0						
Hay.....	83	114	117,055	3	0						
Hillston.....	13	17	16,326	1	0						
Total.....	112	152	145,422	1	0						

	Total No. of Con. Leases Transferred.	Total No. of Transfers passed	Area.		
			a.	r.	p.
Eastern Division.....	1,054	1,431	403,656	2	10
Central Division.....	972	1,560	1,072,487	2	0
Western Division.....	17	19	24,151	2	0
Total.....	2,043	3,010	1,500,295	2	10

SCHEDULE XXIX.

RETURN showing the Total Number, Area, and Rent of Conditional Leases notified as Forfeited during the year 1896.

Land Board District and Land District.	No.	Area.	Rent.	Land Board District and Land District.	No.	Area.	Rent.
Armidale—		acres.	£ s. d.	Maitland—		acres.	£ s. d.
Armidale	9	4,595½	54 17 9	Cassilis	3	911½	8 15 7
Glen Innes	4	2,382½	34 10 6	Raymond Terrace	2	267½	3 7 0
Inverell	5	1,297	12 19 3	Scone	4	2,238	22 4 5
Tenterfield	8	2,544	29 12 9	Singleton	1	95½	1 3 11
Walcha	12	5,054½	63 11 0	Stroud	5	667½	8 12 3
	38	15,872½	196 11 8	Tarce	6	1,220	12 10 0
Bourke—				Wollombi	1	114½	0 19 2
Wilcannia	1	197	1 12 10		22	5,515	57 12 4
Dubbo—				Moree—			
Coonamble	2	1,197½	13 14 4	Bingara	2	2,070	29 17 6
Dubbo	2	2,040	17 5 0	Moree	2	3,119½	39 2 0
Warren	1	1,089	17 0 4	Warialda	2	1,190	13 7 1
	5	4,326½	47 19 8		6	6,379½	82 6 7
Forbes—				Orange—			
Barmedman	3	2,550	36 8 9	Bathurst	3	1,003½	14 19 0
Condobolin	4	3,306	34 9 3	Carcoar	18	4,083½	46 13 0
Forbes	1	60	0 10 0	Cowra	4	1,530	17 13 9
Parkes	1	300	1 5 0	Lithgow	15	3,884	78 12 8
	9	6,216	72 13 0	Molong	12	4,637	41 1 0
Goulburn—				Mudgee	6	1,278½	14 3 0
Bega	1	475	3 19 2	Orange	1	100	1 2 11
Bombala	4	2,260	24 6 8	Rylstone	3	1,560	15 16 7
Borowra	4	634	5 5 8	Wellington	1	480	8 0 0
Braidwood	4	509	5 16 0		63	18,556½	238 1 11
Cooma	20	3,892½	44 12 11	Sydney—			
Eden	5	1,040	9 0 0	Campbelltown	1	149	3 14 0
Goulburn	16	1,962	19 17 6	Milton	1	120	1 5 0
Gunning	3	1,077	12 12 0	Nowra	1	100	0 16 8
Moruya	3	584	2 17 11	Picton	6	2,133	23 11 2
Moss Vale	2	290	4 0 0		9	2,501	29 6 10
Queanbeyan	7	2,850	27 6 8	Tamworth—			
Yass	1	40	0 13 4	Coonabarabran	2	680	4 15 0
Young	1	780	6 10 0	Gunnedah	1	90	1 2 6
	71	16,393½	166 17 10	Murrurundi	1	480	7 10 0
Grafton—				Narrabri	1	80	0 13 4
Bellingen	3	1,518½	14 2 3	Tamworth	4	1,731	17 14 6
Casino	12	4,308½	63 14 4		9	3,061	31 15 4
Grafton	5	1,415	14 18 4	Wagga Wagga—			
Kempsey	9	2,359½	21 3 6	Albury	3	1,800	28 15 0
Murwillumbah	3	828	14 17 6	Cootamundra	5	4,080	42 18 9
Port Macquarie	1	360	3 15 0	Gundagai	6	2,661	31 6 7
	33	10,789½	137 10 11	Tumbarumba	1	150	1 5 0
Hay—				Tamut	4	2,290½	22 0 1
Balranald	1	900	9 7 6	Wagga Wagga	1	150	1 5 0
Hay	1	480	5 0 0		20	11,134½	127 10 5
	2	1,380	14 7 6	SUMMARY.			
				Eastern Division	260	82,821½	977 11 0
				Central "	26	18,402½	215 15 1
				Western "	2	1,097	11 0 4
				Grand Total	288	102,320½	1,204 6 5

SCHEDULE XXX.

RETURN showing the Total Number of Conditional Leases converted into Additional Conditional Purchases under section 25, Act of 1889, during 1896.

Division.	Wholly converted.	Partly converted.	Total number.	Area converted.	Rent of area converted.
				a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Central	35	58	93	31,091 0 0	415 5 11
Eastern	56	77	133	17,744 3 0	230 17 10
Western	1	...	1	628 3 0	10 19 10
Total	92	135	227	49,464 2 0	657 3 7

SCHEDULE XXXI.

RETURN showing Conditional Leases Gazetted during the year 1896, and the Conditional Leases in existence on the 31st December, 1896.

Division of the Colony.	Conditional Leases Gazetted in 1896.			Gazetted Conditional Leases in existence on the 31st December, 1896.			Conditional Leases in existence on the 31st December, 1896, inclusive of those applied for under the Act of 1889, and not yet dealt with.		
	No.	Area.	Rent.	No.	Area.	Rent.	No.	Area.	Rent.
		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Central	267	159,613 2 0	1,666 13 1	7,606	7,437,970 1 12	59,693 12 10	8,157	7,809,317 2 2	92,788 3 5
Eastern	545	138,474 1 20	1,368 0 9	14,183	4,806,269 2 3	58,148 11 9	15,047	5,208,652 2 36	61,501 14 7
Western .....	...	.....	.....	203	242,081 3 19	2,519 4 8	203	242,081 3 19	2,519 4 8
Total	812	298,087 3 20	3,034 13 10	21,992	12,486,321 2 34	150,361 9 3	23,407	13,260,052 0 17	156,809 2 8

SCHEDULE XXXII.
RETURN of Sales by Auction during the year 1896.

Land Board and Land District.	Town Land.					Suburban Land.					Country Land.				
	Offered.		Sold.		Amount Realised.	Offered.		Sold.		Amount Realised.	Offered.		Sold.		Amount Realised.
	Lots.	Area.	Lots.	Area.		Lots.	Area.	Lots.	Area.		Lots.	Area.	Lots.	Area.	
		a. r. p.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Armidale—															
Armidale						11	6 0 25½				14	1,141 3 20	11	1,079 3 0	1,582 19 1
Glen Innes											3	68 1 0	1	1 0 0	5 0 0
Inverell						10	14 0 16½	6	9 2 10	92 5 0	2	43 0 0	1	3 0 0	6 9 0
Tenterfield											7	253 0 37	5	206 1 9	312 13 6
Walcha											8	1,176 2 0			
Bourke—															
Bourke	14	6 0 13	6	2 3 0	87 15 0	1	18 3 0				1	85 0 0	1	85 0 0	425 13 9
Brewarrina											1	40 0 0			
Dubbo—															
Coomamble	1	0 1 39	1	0 1 39	40 0 0						2	315 3 0	2	315 3 0	538 17 6
Dubbo	176	85 1 36	41	19 0 1½	335 7 6	79	421 0 35	26	60 2 30	265 0 6	2	87 0 0	1	4 0 0	10 0 0
Nyngan						30	190 0 31	4	21 0 26	53 16 0					
Warren	60	24 0 0	36	14 1 24	1,102 8 6						2	675 1 0	2	675 1 0	1,012 17 6
Forbes—															
Barmedman	73	18 0 3½	40	11 1 34	546 0 0	18	137 0 11				3	270 0 0	3	270 0 0	362 10 0
Condoublin											5	790 3 0	1	75 0 0	114 7 6
Forbes	4	0 3 13	4	0 3 13	50 10 0	3	7 0 36	2	5 0 20	22 10 0					
Grenfell						1	0 1 0	1	0 1 0	5 0 0	6	12 0 0	6	12 0 0	36 17 9
Parkes	31	8 0 10	8	1 3 17	103 4 0	20	16 2 26	8	5 1 30	89 17 6	14	217 1 26	8	48 2 38	159 5 6
Goulburn—															
Bega	22	9 1 36	7	3 0 0	37 14 0	3	3 0 22	3	3 0 22	13 0 0	2	31 2 0	1	2 0 0	12 10 0
Bombala											6	505 1 0	6	505 1 0	763 4 0
Boorowa						1	15 0 0				9	397 2 28	2	127 3 0	252 0 0
Braidwood	1	0 1 17½	1	0 1 17½	3 0 0	35	94 1 5½	7	8 2 11½	46 10 0	7	176 0 21	1	5 0 0	15 0 0
Cooma	12	4 3 30									6	445 3 0	1	1 2 0	5 5 0
Eden											1	34 0 20			
Goulburn											25	681 2 30	11	93 0 21	181 13 4
Gunning											3	106 3 0	1	40 0 0	50 0 0
Meruya	22	9 1 30	10	4 1 36	43 5 0						11	48 1 30½	9	37 2 19½	90 0 0
Moss Vale											4	15 3 36	1	4 1 0	114 15 0
Queanbeyan	63	24 3 20½	58	23 2 20½	230 3 0						4	19 3 32	4	19 3 32	59 9 5
Yass	6	1 2 0	3	0 3 0	6 0 0										
Young	8	1 3 38½	8	1 3 35½	106 5 0	69	207 1 21½	19	80 2 3½	487 0 0	36	366 1 20	9	158 2 8	323 10 0

SCHEDULE XXXII—continued.

Land Board and Land District.	Town Land.					Suburban Land.					Country Land.				
	Offered.		Sold.		Amount Realised.	Offered.		Sold.		Amount Realised.	Offered.		Sold.		Amount Realised.
	Lots.	Area.	Lots.	Area.		Lots.	Area.	Lots.	Area.		Lots.	Area.	Lots.	Area.	
	a. r. p.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.	a. r. p.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.	a. r. p.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.			
Grafton—															
Bellingen	16	6 0 33	7	2 0 3	52 0 0	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Casino	8	2 3 0½	7	2 1 0½	57 6 0	...	.....	.....	.....	9	819 0 0	7	659 0 0	828 7 0	
Grafton	82	38 3 20½	6	2 2 0	39 10 0	11	146 0 35	3	38 0 0	95 0 0	15	171 0 5½	6	62 0 7	157 8 9
Kempsey .....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	15	104 1 26	8	43 0 10	153 10 0	1	4 3 27	...	.....	.....
Lismore .....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	1	0 1 18½	1	0 1 18½	5 0 0	...	.....	...	.....	.....
Murwillumbah...	23	8 3 8	3	1 0 32	60 0 0	15	15 0 36	10	11 0 3½	50 10 0	1	49 0 0	...	.....	.....
Port Macquarie...	...	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	1	18 0 0	1	18 0 0	144 0 0
Hay—															
Balranald	102	49 1 9	...	.....	.....	4	10 0 0	...	.....	.....	1	315 0 0	...	.....	.....
Deniliquin .....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	10	1,519 1 0	4	1,010 1 0	2,166 14 3
Hay	10	5 0 0	3	1 2 0	24 0 0	18	9 1 34	4	2 0 17	27 10 0	22	3,868 1 0	6	1,066 0 0	1,341 5 8
Maitland—															
Casillis .....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	16	240 2 7	6	42 0 1	130 7 5
Dungog	46	22 3 34	36	17 3 34	451 5 0	30	66 3 13	11	31 0 21	243 15 0	1	150 0 0	...	.....	.....
Gosford .....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	4	29 1 5	...	.....	.....	22	547 2 32	9	71 2 20	124 0 2
Musclebrook .....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	2	80 0 0	2	80 0 0	100 0 0
Newcastle .....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	2	21 0 10	1	10 0 10	15 1 11
Paterson .....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	3	200 3 0	2	125 0 0	196 1 10
Raymond Terrace	...	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	3	330 0 0	2	80 0 0	110 0 0
Seone .....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	2	5 2 28	2	5 2 28	28 10 0	...	.....	...	.....	.....
Singleton .....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	9	94 3 0	3	41 3 0	71 5 9
Taree .....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	1	89 0 0	...	.....	.....
Wollombi .....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	2	153 0 0	...	.....	.....
Morree—															
Bingara	1	0 1 11½	1	0 1 11½	9 10 0	...	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	...	.....	.....
Morree .....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	5	545 2 0	5	545 2 0	789 11 0
Walgett	60	25 0 0	3	1 2 0	13 0 0	...	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	...	.....	.....
Warialda	6	3 0 0	2	1 0 0	25 2 0	10	10 2 31½	3	3 0 32	30 1 0	1	130 0 0	1	130 0 0	178 15 0
Orange—															
Bathurst	10	3 0 23½	10	3 0 23½	51 18 0	7	9 1 14½	7	9 1 14½	75 0 0	18	146 2 16½	14	124 0 15½	232 4 4
Carcoar	31	12 0 2	20	7 2 20½	77 0 0	22	20 1 12½	22	20 1 12½	88 0 0	4	137 3 20	4	137 3 20	209 9 6
Cowra	10	4 2 28½	2	0 3 24½	106 0 0	23	154 0 18	5	33 1 22	145 0 0	4	368 2 0	1	24 0 0	34 10 0
Molong	3	1 0 6½	...	.....	.....	12	45 1 36	5	21 3 11	118 0 0	4	357 3 16	1	2 0 0	20 0 0
Mudgee	24	8 3 19½	14	5 0 7½	68 15 0	25	145 0 38½	19	117 0 21½	642 3 6	6	27 3 36½	3	22 0 19½	66 8 4
Orange .....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	15	41 0 1	14	30 3 11	151 18 7
Rylstone .....	...	.....	...	.....	.....	6	36 2 17	2	9 0 4	28 0 0	...	.....	...	.....	.....
Wellington	14	5 1 26½	2	0 2 23	7 10 0	3	17 2 12	1	7 2 12	38 0 0	3	101 0 0	3	101 0 0	230 12 0

SCHEDULE XXXIII.

RETURN of After Auction Sales, under Section 56 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, during the year 1896.

Land Board and Land District.	No. of Applications received	No. of Applications refused or withdrawn.	No. of Applications of which approval was Gazetted.	Applications, approval of which was Gazetted during the year 1896.								
				Town.			Suburban.			Country.		
				No. of Lots	Area.	Amount Realised.	No. of Lots	Area.	Amount Realised.	No. of Lots.	Area.	Amount Realised.
				a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.	
Armidale—												
Armidale	7	...	3	2	0 3 3	35 0 0	...	...	1	9 3 15	30 0 0
Glen Innes	10	...	10	9	4 0 38½	168 0 0	1	11 2 0	29 0 0	...	...
Tenterfield	3	...	2	1	0 2 0	8 0 0	...	...	1	8 3 25	23 5 4
Bourke—												
Bourke	1	...	1	1	0 1 0	27 10 0	...	...	...	...	...
Cobar	3	2	1	4	1 0 0	52 10 0	...	...	...	...	...
Dubbo—												
Coonamble	1	3	1	1	0 2 0	6 10 0	...	...	...	...	...
Dubbo	12	1	21	16	4 3 0	46 10 0	10	45 3 1	226 10 0	...	...
Nyngan	15	3	15	12	5 0 0	214 0 0	4	25 0 10	130 10 0	...	...
Warren	22	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Forbes—												
Barnedman	10	...	10	9	2 1 0	103 10 0	1	1 0 0	12 0 0	...	...
Gronfell	13	...	11	2	0 3 25	7 10 0	8	47 2 38	120 10 0	1	6 1 36	
Parkes	8	2	7	...	...	...	5	5 1 0	74 0 0	2	58 2 8
Goulburn—												
Bega	1	...	1	1	0 1 20	4 0 0	...	...	...	...	...
Boorowa	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	5 0 17	13 0 0	...	...
Braidwood	5	...	2	...	...	...	2	6 2 34½	22 0 0	...	...
Cooma	3	...	4	5	2 0 11½	24 10 0	...	...	...	...	...
Eden	5	...	5	4	1 2 34	50 10 0	1	5 1 32	27 0 0	...	...
Goulburn	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	8 0 0	32 0 0	...	...
Gunning	1	...	1	1	0 2 0	15 0 0	...	...	...	...	...
Moruya	3	...	3	...	...	...	3	28 3 14	72 10 0	1	20 2 10
Queanbeyan	6	1	6	5	1 2 0	22 0 0	3	1 1 22½	35 0 0	...	...
Yass	3	...	3	2	0 3 39	7 19 0	1	11 0 39	28 10 0	1	58 3 0	
Young	7	...	8	5	1 0 28	86 10 0	3	21 1 39	98 0 0	...	...
Grafton—												
Bellingen	14	...	22	15	5 1 5½	111 10 0	4	38 3 10	97 10 0	5	35 2 32	
Grafton	5	1	3	...	...	...	3	5 0 2	36 0 0	...	...
Kempsey	25	19	7	...	...	...	6	49 0 16	126 0 0	1	40 0 0
Lismore	5	...	4	...	...	...	4	9 3 13	138 10 0	...	...
Port Macquarie	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hay—												
Bulranald	4	...	4	...	...	...	4	10 0 0	50 0 0	...	...
Deniliquin	1	...	1	2	0 3 34	7 15 0	...	...	...	...	...
Hay North	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hillston	1	...	1	4	1 2 19½	42 10 0	...	...	...	...	...
Maitland—												
Cassilis	6	10	38	32	16 0 0	128 0 0	...	...	6	58 0 6	174 2 4
Dungog	23	1	22	8	4 0 0	82 0 0	14	22 2 25	230 10 0	...	...
Gosford	1	...	1	1	0 1 24	5 0 0	...	...	...	...	...
Muswellbrook	8	6	2	2	1 0 0	8 0 0	...	...	...	...	...
Newcastle	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scone	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	1 1 35	22 0 0	...	...
Taree	10	1	9	6	2 0 39	45 0 0	1	1 1 1	20 0 0	4	159 0 0	
Moree—												
Moree	17	...	19	19	9 2 0	109 0 0	...	...	...	...	...
Walgett	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Warcialda	3	1	3	...	...	...	3	5 2 10	44 10 0	...	...
Orange—												
Bathurst	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcoar	5	...	5	2	0 3 26½	8 10 0	3	15 0 14	39 0 0	...	...
Cowra	16	3	10	1	0 2 0	5 10 0	9	49 1 31	236 5 0	...	...
Molong	4	...	5	1	0 2 0	8 0 0	4	14 3 39	45 15 0	...	...
Mudgee	15	3	13	5	1 3 5½	35 10 0	8	53 0 17	260 10 0	...	...
Orange	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	17 0 30	69 0 0	...	...
Rylstone	1	...	1	1	0 1 39	5 10 0	...	...	...	...	...
Wellington	35	...	39	24	6 2 34½	116 0 0	13	42 0 2	151 6 3	2	21 2 0	
Sydney—												
Campbelltown	9	1	9	11	3 1 4	50 0 0	...	...	...	...	...
Liverpool	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	9 1 32	103 0 0	...	...
Metropolitan	8	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	26 2 39½
Nowra	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	19 0 0
Parramatta	12	1	13	...	...	...	13	110 1 37	848 0 0	1	0 2 0
Penrith	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	29 1 3
Picton	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	33 1 12
Windsor	5	...	5	1	0 1 0	7 10 0	...	...	...	...	67 0 0

SCHEDULE XXXIII—continued.

Land Board and Land District.	No. of Applications received.	No. of Applications refused or withdrawn.	No. of Applications of which approval was Gazetted.	Applications, approval of which was Gazetted during the year 1896.								
				Town.			Suburban.			Country.		
				No. of Lots.	Area.	Amount Realised.	No. of Lots.	Area.	Amount Realised.	No. of Lots.	Area.	Amount Realised.
Tamworth—					a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Coonabarrabran	4	...	4	4	1 3 30	32 0 0	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Gunnedah	22	3	19	19	9 1 15	220 0 0	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Murrurundi	1	...	1	1	0 1 29	10 0 0	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Tamworth	8	1	6	6	2 3 30	129 0 0	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Wagga Wagga—												
Albury	27	...	24	33	8 2 13	157 10 0	...	.....	.....	1	200 0 0	450 0 0
Cootamundra	15	1	14	5	1 3 0	99 6 0	11	11 0 20	44 10 0	8	194 3 4	407 5 0
Corowa	66	...	47	36	15 0 39½	226 10 0	13	36 0 17	124 10 0	...	.....	.....
Gundagai	22	5	24	36	11 2 34	185 10 0	22	36 3 38	202 0 0	...	.....	.....
Narrandera	7	...	15	24	10 0 16	240 10 0	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Tumbarumba	3	...	2	2	0 2 0	9 0 0	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Tumut	5	...	3	1	0 1 0	2 10 0	2	5 0 12	31 10 0	...	.....	.....
Wagga Wagga	11	...	7	2	0 2 32	95 10 0	5	29 1 24	148 10 0	...	.....	.....
Totals.....	586	95	537	384	147 1 29	3,062 0 0	193	798 2 32	3,989 5 3	50	920 3 30½	2,552 15 2

Notes.—Town land—Average price per acre realised £ s. d. 20 15 4½
 Suburban land— " " 4 19 10½
 Country land— " " 2 15 6¼

GRAND TOTAL (Town, Suburban, and Country lands alienated), 627 lots; area, 1,867a. 0r. 11p.; amount realised, £9,604 ls. 5d.

SCHEDULE XXXIV.

RETURN of Deposits and Instalments forfeited during 1896, under the 62nd Section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and 1st Section of the Crown Lands (Auction Sales Balances) Act of 1887, on account of non-payment of balance of purchase money within the required time.*

Land Board District.	Land District.	Town.			Suburban.			Country.		
		No. of Lots.	Area.	Amount Forfeited.	No. of Lots.	Area.	Amount Forfeited.	No. of Lots.	Area.	Amount Forfeited.
Armidale	Armidale .....	...	a. r. p.	£ s. d.	5	5 0 21½	12 10 0	...	a. r. p.	£ s. d.
	Inverell	2	1 0 0	5 10 0	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
	Walcha .....	...	.....	.....	1	1 0 0	5 0 0	...	.....	.....
Bourke	Bourke	9	4 0 0	46 10 0	1	15 2 0	11 11 3	...	.....	.....
Dubbo	Coonamble	2	1 0 0	2 0 6	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
	Dubbo .....	...	.....	.....	2	4 3 32	6 7 6	...	.....	.....
	Nyngan .....	...	.....	.....	2	5 1 6	57 7 6	...	.....	.....
Forbes	Condobolin	3	1 2 0	3 0 0	2	4 2 4	3 17 6	...	.....	.....
	Forbes	3	1 0 0	26 15 0	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
	Grenfell .....	...	.....	.....	2	10 0 17	9 0 0	...	.....	.....
	Parkes	1	0 0 12½	1 12 6	1	2 0 0	6 0 0	1	12 1 20	14 5 0
Goulburn	Boorowa	1	0 2 0	1 5 0	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
	Cooma	2	0 2 0	2 11 3	...	.....	.....	1	2 0 0	4 15 0
	Moruya .....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
	Young	5	2 0 27	9 15 3	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Grafton	Murwillumbah .....	...	.....	.....	2	5 3 36	3 18 0	...	.....	.....
	Port Macquarie	11	2 3 0	5 10 0	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Hay	Wentworth	3	1 2 0	3 0 0	1	1 0 9	3 10 0	...	.....	.....
Maitland	Gosford	3	1 1 15	52 11 3	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
	Newcastle	8	1 3 28	438 15 0	...	.....	.....	1	0 0 30½	24 5 0
Morco	Warialda .....	...	.....	.....	2	2 1 30	6 16 3	...	.....	.....
Orange	Bathurst	1	0 1 27	3 5 0	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
	Cowra	7	1 2 31½	19 19 9	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
	Lithgow	7	3 0 2½	61 0 0	7	28 2 10	95 10 0	...	.....	.....
	Wellington	1	0 2 0	1 15 0	...	.....	.....	2	1 0 0	32 0 0
Sydney	Parramatta .....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	1	11 1 30	27 4 6
	Penrith	6	2 2 20¾	25 8 0	...	.....	.....	3	10 2 20	722 15 3
	Picton	2	1 0 0	8 0 0	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
	Sydney .....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Tamworth	Murrurundi	5	5 2 0	6 14 6	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
	Narrabri	1	0 2 0	1 18 3	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
	Tamworth	1	0 1 19	11 7 6	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Wagga Wagga	Albury	6	2 0 0	7 11 0	...	.....	.....	5	4 2 21	15 5 0
	Cootamundry	7	3 0 20	31 2 6	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
	Corowa	3	1 2 0	6 12 6	1	7 3 26	5 0 0	...	.....	.....
	Gundagai	1	0 2 0	1 15 0	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
	Tumbarumba .....	...	.....	.....	1	2 0 0	2 10 0	...	.....	.....
	Tumut .....	...	.....	.....	6	13 1 26	77 0 0	...	.....	.....
	Wagga Wagga	1	0 2 0	2 8 9	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....
Total		102	42 2 3½	787 13 6	36	109 3 17½	305 18 0	14	42 1 1½	840 9 9

Grand total—Town, Suburban, and Country :—225 lots, 194 ac. 2 rd. 22 per.; amount, £1,934 ls. 3d.
 * The sales annulled, but the annulling of which has been reversed, are not included in this Return.

SCHEDULE XXXV.

RETURN of Improvement Purchase Applications under Section 2 of the Crown Lands Act Amendment Act of 1875 and section 46 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

Land Board District and Land District.	Applications Received prior to the Year 1896.			Applications Received during the Year 1896.				Land Alienated during the Year.												
	Number Refused.	Number Approved.	Number declared as being Lapsed.	Number Received.	Number Refused.	Number Lapsed.	Number Approved.	Town.			Suburban.			Country.						
								Lots.	Area.	Amount realised exclusive of Fines.	Lots.	Area.	Amount realised exclusive of Fines.	Lots.	Area.	Amount realised exclusive of Fines.				
Armidale—																				
Armidale	2	2	...	12	...	...	7	6	a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.				
Inverell .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1 1 9½	69 0 0	3	1 2 0	19 12 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tenterfield ..	...	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	2 0 0	5 10 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bourke—																				
Bourke .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cobar .....	...	4	...	13	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wilcannia	6	...	1	9	...	...	5	...	...	...	3	1 1 29½	35 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Willyama .....	...	6	...	9	1	...	1	2	0 1 36	25 0 0	6	5 2 29½	57 10 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dubbo—																				
Dubbo .....	...	1	...	6	...	...	1	1	0 1 0	10 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Forbes—																				
Barnedman	4	22	2	59	1	...	24	34	8 2 0	498 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Condobolin .....	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Forbes	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	4	1 0 0	47 0 0	1	1 0 0	10 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Greenville .....	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	1	0 1 12	0 18 0	1	1 0 0	8 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Parkes .....	...	5	1	9	...	1	5	4	1 0 0	80 0 0	6	3 2 8	113 4 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goulburn—																				
Braidwood .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0 0 56	5 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Moruya	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Queanbeyan .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grafton—																				
Casino .....	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hay—																				
Hillston .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0 1 0	9 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Maitland—																				
Scone .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mores—																				
Walgett .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	359 2 0	449 7 6	...
Warialda .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	74 0 0	120 5 0	...	...
Orange—																				
Bathurst .....	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcour .....	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	0 1 0	10 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cowra .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mudgee .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wellington .....	...	2	...	5	...	...	2	5	0 3 22½	30 10 0	1	0 1 0	2 10 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tamworth—																				
Tamworth	1	2	...	7	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1 0 0	4 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wagga Wagga—																				
Cootamundra .....	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1 0 0	8 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tumut .....	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	15	51	11	152	7	1	51	60	14 1 35½	784 8 0	25	18 1 27½	263 6 0	2	433 2 0	563 12 6	...	...	...	...

SCHEDULE XXXVI.

RETURN of Applications received and Lands alienated during the year 1896 under the Special Purchase Clauses of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861 and the Crown Lands Acts of 1884 and 1889.

Land Board District.	Land District.	Section 12, Act 1861.			Section 63, Act 1884.			Section 64, Act 1884.			Section 6, Act 1884.			Section 67, Act 1884.			Section 42 of Act 1889.		Total amount received for each Land District.				
		Applications received during the year.	Applications completed during the year.		Purchase Money, exclusive of Fines.	Applications received during the year.	Applications completed during the year.		Purchase Money, exclusive of Fines.	Applications received during the year.	Applications completed during the year.		Purchase Money, exclusive of Fines.	Applications received during the year.	Applications completed during the year.		Purchase Money, exclusive of Fines.	Cases completed during the year.					
			No.	Area.			No.	Area.			No.	Area.			No.	Area.		No.		Area.	No.	Area.	
			a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.				
Armidale	Armidale								1	1	4 0 0	15 1 0	1				2	13 2 0	15 1 0				
	Inverell								1	1	38 1 0	66 0 8	1				2	3 2 0	56 0 3				
Dubbo	Coonamble																						
Forbes	Condobolin																						
	Forbes																						
	Parkes																						
Goulburn	Bega								6	1	18 2 0	70 1 0	1	1	0 0 25	54 0 6	1	9 3 0	54 0 6				
	Cooma																		79 1 0				
	Eden																						
	Goulburn								1								1	2 0 0					
	Gunning								1														
	Moruya																						
	Moss Vale																						
	Young								1	1	8 2 14	35 18 4	1	1	18 0 30	61 0 3	1	0 2 0	96 13 7				
Grafton	Bellingen																						
	Casino																						
	Grafton																						
	Kempsey																						
	Lismore																						
	Murwillumbah								2		0 1 21	221 2 6	1				3	1	3 0 25	95 5 0			
	Deniliquin																						
Hay	Hay								1														
	Dungog																						
Maitland	Gosford																						
	Maitland																						
	Newcastle								1														
	Singleton																						
	Turce								1														
Moroc	Warialda								1		0 0 3	20 11 0											
Orange	Bathurst																						
	Cowra																						
	Lithgow																						
	Mudgee																						
	Orange																						
	Hylstone																						
	Wellington																						
Sydney	Liverpool																						
	Milton																						
	Pictou																						
	Sydney	1	0 0 23	50 9 0	3	1	1 0 24	53 19 6	27	13	1 1 51	1,260 5 3	6	5	5 1 41	1,374 13 6							
Tamworth	Windsor																						
	Narrabri																						
	Tamworth																						
Wagga Wagga	Albury																						
	Cootamundra																						
	Corowa																						
	Gundagai																						
	Timbarumba																						
	Tamut																						
	Urana																						
	Wagga Wagga																						
	Totals	1	0 0 23	50 9 0	3	2	1 2 26	118 16 3	29	15	1 1 34	1,507 18 9	24	17	173 3 25	1,833 16 10	60	11	84 3 19	615 14 2	21	55 0 5	4,032 15 0

SCHEDULE XXXVII.

RETURN showing the number of applications to surrender land in exchange for other land under the provisions of the Crown Lands Acts, received during the year 1896 and previous years, and the number disposed of and outstanding on 31st December, 1896.

Division of Colony.	Land Board District.	Number of Applications outstanding on 31 Dec., 1895.	Number of Applications received during 1896.	Accepted by the Governor-in-Council during 1896.		Number of Applications refused or withdrawn during 1896.	Number of Applications outstanding on 31 Dec., 1896.
				Number.	Area.		
Eastern	Armidale	22	28	.....	a. r. p.	4	46
	Forbes... ..	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
	Goulburn	16	5	.....	.....	5	16
	Grafton	4	2	.....	.....	1	5
	Maitland	4	8	1	1,051 0 0	1	10
	Orange	2	4	.....	.....	2	4
	Sydney	1	1	1	0 1 16½	.....	1
	Tamworth	7	1	.....	.....	.....	8
Central	Wagga	10	10	.....	.....	4	16
	Dubbo	20	18	4	20,521 1 32	5	29
	Forbes.....	25	20	4	4,235 1 0	7	34
	Hay	35	7	11	80,357 1 3	6	25
	Moree	18	20	2	2,476 3 0	7	29
	Tamworth	17	19	5	54,651 1 0	3	28
Western	Wagga	37	27	14	49,725 2 33	9	41
	Bourke	10	4	1	40 0 0	.....	13
	Hay	9	3	2	841 1 0	2	8
	Moree	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Totals		239	177	45	213,900 1 4½	56	315

SCHEDULE XXXVIII.

RETURN showing the number, area, and nature of Deeds of Grant prepared during the year 1896.

No. of Deeds of Grant.	Area.	Nature of Grant.
906	a. r. p. 15,352 2 14½	Sale by Auction, under clause 61 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.
23	95 1 29½	Do do Act 38 Vic. No. 3.
11	5 1 5	Do do clause 5 of the Act 53 Vic No. 1.
2	379 0 12	Purchases in virtue of Improvements under clause 2 of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1875.
72	24 3 29½	Do do do 46 do do 1884.
60	16 1 11½	Do do do 2 of Act 53 Vic No. 1.
4	194 2 0	Do under clause 25 of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.
177	1,130 1 9	Do do 56 do Act of 1895.
561	110,020 3 9	Conditional Purchases under clauses 13, 14, 19, 21, and 22 of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861
89	14,714 2 23	Do do 24, 26, 42, and 47 do Act of 1884.
5	0 3 31½	Purchases under clause 9 of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861.
26	199 1 6½	Do clauses 63, 64, 66, and 67 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.
1	50 0 0	Volunteer Land Order Grant.
27	170 2 35½	Alienations under clause 69 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884 and clause 42 of the Crown Lands Act of 1860.
170	149,103 0 20	Do part 1 of clause 46 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.
5	2,327 2 21	Do clause 47 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895.
17	2,027 0 4	Do part 2 of clause 46 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.
11	115 2 6½	Dedications.
1	10 1 6	Miscellaneous--Court of Claims case.
2,163	296,438 1 33½	Total.

SCHEDULE XXXIX.

RETURN showing the number, area, and rental of Pastoral Leases and Occupation Licenses current during 1896.

Pastoral Leases.				Occupation Licenses.			
Number of Leases.	Division of Colony.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number of Licenses	Division of Colony.	Area.	Annual License Fee.
476	Central	Acres. 14,060,881	£ s. d. 152,767 2 8	397	Eastern	Acres. 4,785,594	£ s. d. 11,842 1 9
308	Western	38,645,789	166,492 15 0	314	Eastern (Preferential) ..	3,674,573	17,482 6 0
				547	Central	5,832,800	30,805 8 5
				224	Central (Preferential)...	3,638,441	26,923 15 0
				211	Western	22,278,833	26,356 6 6
784		52,706,670	319,259 17 8	1,693		40,210,241	113,409 17 8

SCHEDULE XL.

RETURN showing particulars as to Refunds granted during the year 1896 on account of land withdrawn from Pastoral Lease and Occupation License.

Pastoral Leases.				Occupation Licenses.			
Division.	Number of Pastoral Leases.	Area withdrawn.	Amount of refund granted.	Division.	Number of Occupation Licenses.	Area withdrawn.	Amount of refund granted.
		Acres.	£ s. d.			Acres.	£ s. d.
Central	73	68,841	2,666 0 11	Eastern	49	23,964	194 5 0
Western	22	31,409	729 13 3	Eastern (Preferential)..	63	40,036	510 1 2
				Central	135	227,946	1,866 1 1
				Central (Preferential)..	96	418,211	2,299 3 6
				Western	49	570,541	1,376 4 3
Totals	95	100,250	3,395 14 2	Totals	392	1,280,690	6,245 15 0

Grand Totals.

Cases	487
Area withdrawn	1,380,940 acres.
Amount refunded	£9,641 9s. 2d.

SCHEDULE XLI.

RETURN showing the number of transfers of Pastoral Leases, Preferential Occupation Licenses, and Occupation Licenses completed during the year 1896.

Division.	Pastoral Leases.	Preferential Occupation Licenses.	Occupation Licenses.
Eastern .....	.....	21	23
Central	39	15	35
Western	32	.....	17
Totals.....	71	36	75

SCHEDULE XLII.

RETURN showing Applications received during 1896, under Section 8 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, for the attachment of Resumed Areas to Leasehold Areas.

WESTERN DIVISION.

No. and Name of Resumed Area.	Area to be attached to Leasehold.	No. and Name of Resumed Area.	Area to be attached to Leasehold.
	Acres.		Acres.
89. Weinteriga	314,365	210. Corongo Peak	4,831
103. Marra	120,552	223. Onepar	63,300
122. Warraweena	42,869	227. Tintinallogy	68,072
130. Burta	108,980	252. Albermarle and Victoria Lake	347,842
157. Garpung	100,160	262. Whittabranah	52,195
173. Poolamacca	177,300	264. Coolabah	13,079
175. Torrens Creek	33,700		
183. Wanga Mana	69,760	Total	1,945,945
203. Netley	428,940		

Applications approved and action completed.

63. Redan	17,420	252. Albermarle and Victoria Lake	347,842
71. Moira Plains	39,940		
84. Baden Park	63,475	Total	897,617
203. Netley	428,940		

Applications refused.

257. Toorale	322,966	122. Warraweena	42,869
316. Boundary	2,247		
		Total	368,082

SCHEDULE XLIII.

RETURN of Occupation Licenses offered for sale by Auction or by Tender, showing the number and area offered; the number of times offered; and the number and area sold during the year 1896.

By Auction.						By Tender.							
Division.	No. of times offered during 1896.		Total No. offered.	Area offered.	No. sold.	Area sold.	Division.	No. of times offered during 1896.		Total No. offered.	Area offered.	No. sold.	Area sold.
	1	2						1	2				
Eastern	81	5	86	acres.	53	acres.	Eastern	95	12	107	acres.	48	acres.
Western	11	1	12	1,156,870	3	752,380								1,702,530	710,500
Total.....	92	6	98	1,265,785	56	767,702	Total.....	95	12	107	1,702,530	48	710,500

Grand Totals.

Total number offered 205; area 2,968,315 acres.
 ,, ,, sold 104; area 1,478,202 acres.

SCHEDULE XLIV.

RETURN showing particulars of Pastoral Leases and Occupation Licenses in the Western Division reappraised under section 9 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895 during the year 1896.

Pastoral Leases.						Occupation Licenses.										
Land Board District.	No. of Applications received.	Cases in which Reappraisements have been completed and New Rates determined.				Land Board District.	No. of Applications received.	Cases in which Reappraisements have been completed and New Rates determined.								
		No. of Licenses.	Area.	Rental according to Original Rate.	Rental according to New Rate.			No. of Licenses.	Area.	Rental according to Original Rate.	Rental according to New Rate.					
Bourke	200	98	acres.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Bourke	117	85	acres.	£	s.	d.
Hay	50	35	15,801,993	50,381	3	8	36,149	17	5	Hay	19	8	11,926,050	24,567	19	0
Moree	13	13	3,683,039	13,484	11	2	10,613	12	8	Moree	8	8	1,059,049	1,970	4	5
			969,399	9,937	6	5	8,788	3	1		8	...	...	...	...	...
	263	146	20,454,431	79,803	1	3	55,651	13	2		144	93	12,985,099	26,538	3	6
Average rate per acre				10 ¹ / ₁₀ pence			10 ¹ / ₁₀ pence			Average rate per acre				10 ¹ / ₁₀ pence		10 ¹ / ₁₀ pence

SCHEDULE XLV.

RETURN giving particulars of fresh Appraisements of License Fees determined under the 81st section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and gazetted during 1896.

Division of Colony.	Resumed Area.		Previous rate per section.	Rate per section, as determined after appraisalment.	Area.					
	No.	Name.								
Eastern	61	Green Hills	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	acres	Total number reappraised, 6; area, 113,540 acres; annual license fee, £246 8s. 7d.
	155	Cape Flat and Cowradigby	3	0	0	2	13	4	13,226	
	231	Shannon Vale	3	0	0	2	0	0	6,905	
	361	Toooloom and Woodenbong	4	0	0	3	5	0	11,667	
	378	Ganoo	6	13	4	2	14	0	63,638	
	540	Cope's Creek	6	13	4	3	6	8	6,324	
Eastern (Preferential)	1A	Kangaroo Hills	4	13	4	3	10	0	23,135	Total number reappraised, 17; area, 315,698 acres; annual license fee, £1,555 8s.
	31A	Cambalong	3	6	8	2	13	4	8,742	
	40A	Lyndhurst	6	0	0	4	5	0	4,611	
	61A	Green Hills	7	6	8	5	6	8	8,361	
	88A	Bringenbrong	6	13	4	4	0	0	3,819	
	101A	Karoola	4	0	0	3	5	0	9,401	
	136A	Glen Elgin and Morven ...	5	6	8	3	0	0	79,835	
	231A	Shannon Vale	5	6	8	3	0	0	24,488	
	298A	Davy's Plains	12	13	4	9	6	8	2,974	
	309A	Newton Boyd	5	6	8	2	13	4	24,687	
	311A	Cowra Rocks	10	13	4	8	0	0	5,503	
	361A	Toooloom and Woodenbong	5	6	8	2	14	0	60,960	
	436A	Torryburn	6	13	4	4	0	0	11,726	
	449A	Buckinbah	8	0	0	2	0	0	2,515	
	504A	Yullundry	7	6	8	3	4	0	5,197	
540A	Cope's Creek	4	0	0	2	0	0	18,545		
558A	Boonook	4	0	0	2	17	6	21,400		
Central	313	Roona West	2	13	4	1	6	8	9,420	Total number reappraised, 3; area, 84,623 acres; annual license fee, £212 9s. 3d.
	385	Thorndale	2	0	0	1	0	0	33,426	
	701	Lake Cowal	2	13	4	2	5	4	41,677	

SCHEDULE XLVI.

RETURN showing the number of Pastoral Leases forfeited or surrendered during 1896, and also the number of Preferential Occupation Licenses and Occupation Licenses not renewed for that year.

Pastoral Leases.	Preferential Occupation Licenses.	Occupation Licenses.
Nil.	Eastern Division 9 Central Division 8 Total 17	Eastern Division 11 Central " 21 Western " 4 Total 36

SCHEDULE XLVII.

RETURN showing Pastoral Leases in the Central Division extended under the provisions of the 43rd section of the Crown Lands Act of 1889, which will expire during 1897.

No.	Name of Pastoral Lease.	Date of Expiration of Lease.	Term of Extension.	No.	Name of Pastoral Lease.	Date of Expiration of Lease	Term of Extension.
PASTORAL LEASES THAT WILL EXPIRE IN 1897.							
3	Wagingoberemby	10 Jan., 1897	1 year 6 months.	315	Uardry	10 July, 1897	2 years.
12	Kunopia	10 July, "	2 years.	329	Brewarrina	10 Jan., "	1 year 6 months.
30	Oregon	10 April, "	1 year 9 months.	339	Gogeldrie	10 July, "	2 years.
50	Gundare	10 July, "	2 years.	346	O'Brien's Creek	10 " "	2 "
66	Blue Nobby	10 " "	2 "	423	Cambooglecumlong	10 " "	2 "
84	Brogan Plains	10 Nov., "	2 " 4 months.	458	Midkin	10 " "	2 "
95	Garrivilla	10 July, "	2 "	516	Mungiebundie	10 Oct., "	2 " 3 months.
98	Buddabadah	10 " "	2 "	517	Lower Mithul Creek	10 July, "	2 years.
106	Bugilbone	10 " "	2 "	520	Hermitage Plains	10 " "	2 "
154	Colombo Creek	10 " "	2 "		Block M.		
172	Drildool	10 Jan., "	1 " 6 months.	527	The Springs	10 " "	2 "
186	Booloroo	10 July, "	2 "	562	Whalan	30 " "	2 "
197	Werrina	10 April, "	1 year 9 months.	569	Trinkey	30 " "	2 "
233	North Goonambil	10 July, "	2 years.	589	Merriva	30 Jan., "	1 year 6 months.
248	Weemabah	10 " "	2 "	679	Tiigamon	4 May, "	1 " 9 "
251	Oreel	10 Jan., "	1 year 6 months.	681	Gragin and Graman	4 Feb., "	1 " 6 "
271	Gennaren	10 " "	1 " 6 "	714	Eurumbedah	7 Sept., "	2 years.
293	Coolah	10 May, "	1 " 10 "	724	Borambola	13 April, "	1 year 6 months.
294	Murgah	10 July, "	2 years.	752	Tarawinda	10 July, "	2 years.
305	Bunarba	10 April, "	1 year 9 months.				

SCHEDULE XLVIII.

RETURN showing Pastoral Leases in the Central Division extended under the provisions of the 43rd section of the Crown Lands Act of 1889, which expired during the year 1896.

No.	Name of Pastoral Lease.	Area (approximate).	Date of Expiration of Lease.	Remarks.
6	Gurley	Acres. 56,227	10 July, 1896	Preferential Occupation License applied for.
48	Bland	20,065	10 Dec, "	do do
52	Tyreel	32,426	10 April, "	do do
59	Gralgumbone	17,220	10 July, "	do do
241	Sandy Creek and Wagga Wagga	8,909	10 " "	do do
276	Carinda	7,740	10 Jan., "	do do
343	Perricoota	20,450	10 July, "	do do
420	Cowl Cowl	157,265	10 " "	do do
447	Nevertire	46,822	10 " "	do do
601	Mundawaddera	8,589	30 " "	do do
619	Moira	24,137	30 " "	do do
639	Bunarba	19,530	30 " "	do do
674	Tongamba	20,645	4 Aug, "	No Preferential Occupation License applied for.
700	Millie	58,909	4 " "	Preferential Occupation License applied for.

Pastoral Lease in which no extension was granted and which expired during 1896.

730	Tannabar	8,680	5 April, 1896	No Preferential Occupation License applied for.
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* Application for a Preferential Occupation License was lodged during 1896.

SCHEDULE XLIX.

RETURN showing the area withdrawn from Pastoral Leases under Section 3 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, and gazetted during the year 1896.

No. and Name of Pastoral Lease.	Area	Date of gazettal of Withdrawal.
	acre.	
513. Genanagie	32,000	10 June, 1896.
473. Brookong	9,950	18 April, 1896.
37. Upper Wyalong, No. 3	9,750	29 July, 1896.
125. Barmedman	12,200	do
541. Mandamah	10,200	do
498. Barrawang	70,100	28 October, 1896.
467. Burburgate	32,000	18 November, 1896.
Total.....	176,200	

Cases gazetted during 1896 notifying intention to withdraw land from Pastoral Lease.

Leasehold Area.	Land Board District.	Approximate area which could be withdrawn.
		acres.
398. Bartley's Creek	Forbes	6,237
597. Bygaloree	do	30,541
148. Gunningbland	do	20,692
263. Canally	Hay	30,640
102. Tapio.....	do	33,374
	Total	121,484

6th Section Crown Lands Act 1895.

SCHEDULE L.

RETURN showing Appraisements under Section 4 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895 of Preferential Occupation Licenses of late Leasehold Areas, gazetted during 1896.

No.	Name.	Area.	Rental.	No.	Name.	Area.	Rental.
CENTRAL DIVISION.							
		acres.	£ s. d.			acres.	£ s. d.
1A	Urombong	10,360	43 3 4	198A	Carabost	20,550	85 12 6
5A	Binnia	8,002	54 3 7	203A	Gibbican	9,600	12 10 0
8A	Weetaliba	26,144	108 18 8	210A	Jerilderie.....	8,733	218 6 6
	Rent for forfeited improvements		7 6 0	212A	Milkengowrie	5,775	81 4 3
11A	Eurie Eurie	40,182	334 17 0	216A	Gulgo South	4,826	40 4 4
14A	Mulwala and Savernake	9,149	190 8 4	220A	Bygoa	22,363	55 13 2
19A	Coonabarabran	3,710	31 3 4	224A	Colombo Plain	5,501	85 19 1
21A	Wandary	4,340	36 3 4	225A	Balugula	5,697	37 1 0
25A	Campbell's Island	2,440	30 10 0	227A	Hanging Rock	3,281	27 6 10
26A	Narrandera	32,380	269 16 8	237A	Armatree.....	9,353	77 18 10
28A	Cadow	19,459	68 18 4	240A	Warraberry and St. Giles.....	9,920	20 13 4
31A	Boomanoomana	10,541	307 8 11	242A	Barooga	4,406	110 3 0
32A	Bullebong	8,571	241 1 2	244A	Nowley	22,317	255 14 4
35A	Bundulla	4,878	50 16 3	245A	Quilbone	18,363	153 0 6
40A	Telleraga.....	16,771	192 3 5	255A	Mungyer	112,034	1,167 0 5
	Rent for forfeited improvements		25 0 0		Rent for forfeited improvements		16 5 0
42A	Mullengudgery	8,602	117 12 1	259A	Cryon	26,740	222 16 8
45A	Youngee Plain	12,700	37 0 10	262A	Tucklan and Yarrow Creek	17,720	147 13 4
52A	Tyreel	32,595	407 8 9	267A	Yaddra	15,360	70 8 0
53A	Yarragrin	72,098	375 10 3	269A	Wardry	13,283	41 10 3
56A	South Balladoran	8,664	13 10 9	275A	Butherwah	10,580	88 3 4
60A	Bone and Premier	17,565	100 12 8	276A	Carinda	7,740	64 10 0
	Rent for forfeited improvements		7 0 10	280A	Moulmain	18,900	35 8 9
63A	Four-bob Camp	11,900	29 15 0	286A	Upper Darroobalgie	2,197	11 8 10
67A	Belubula	6,581	137 2 1	287A	West Bland Plains	5,915	30 16 2
81A	Wondobar	20,678	129 4 9	290A	Kiambir	13,760	21 10 0
82A	Merool Creek	17,180	35 15 10	292A	Bent's Hill	2,800	35 0 0
89A	Mooloomoon	6,778	74 2 9	296A	Yagaba	18,682	116 15 3
94A	Weelah or Gradgery	9,395	113 15 4		Rent for forfeited improvements		0 5 0
102A	Tootal	2,350	58 15 0	297A	Come-by-Chance & Jimalong Josey	11,798	73 14 9
103A	Merri Merrigal	110,905	161 12 7	299A	Murray Downs	17,112	427 16 0
	Rent for forfeited improvements		2 8 0	302A	Crown Camp	9,980	24 19 0
111A	Wargambegal	12,750	10 12 6	306A	Billeroy	6,883	57 7 2
115A	Milby	17,515	43 15 9	309A	Tourable	13,010	108 8 4
142A	North Yanco	22,120	460 16 8	310A	Burrol or Gunnible	5,457	42 12 3
146A	Minna Minane	6,560	82 0 0	311A	Mickygunnegal	8,200	51 5 0
147A	Junce	2,670	33 7 6	323A	Armitree	6,050	47 5 4
152A	Bull Plain	3,804	110 19 0	334A	Pullanming	20,503	256 5 9
157A	Tregulana East	4,448	27 16 0	336A	Terry-Hie-Hie	126,721	495 0 1
163A	North Yathong	2,011	41 17 11	340A	Wowingragong	3,056	12 14 8
164A	Tarramia	8,004	200 2 0	344A	Collymougool	67,809	565 1 6
168A	Warrowrie	1,918	11 19 9	348A	Bingara	24,860	34 10 7
171A	Toganmain	38,152	794 16 8	349A	Bulgandra	1,684	52 12 6
179A	Merebone	6,258	88 0 1	351A	Murray	5,250	153 2 6
180A	Milbey West	18,200	30 6 8	355A	South Mcrowie	6,425	5 7 1
183A	Yallaroi	54,030	675 7 6		Rent for forfeited improvements		3 0 0
189A	Book Book	3,680	53 13 4	357A	Collindina	4,952	123 16 0
194A	Oakey Creek	4,007	20 17 5	361A	Geramby	825	5 3 2

SCHEDULE L.—continued.

No.	Name.	Area.	Rental.	No.	Name.	Area.	Rental.
CENTRAL DIVISION—continued.							
		acres.	£ s. d.			acres.	£ s. d.
369A	Ringwood	790	29 12 6	547A	Bolero, Block A, North	14,560	91 0 0
370A	Wangen	66,884	209 0 3	554A	Walla Walla	5,108	26 12 1
371A	Warbreccan	3,833	95 16 6	557A	Oura	3,498	43 14 6
372A	Molly	21,724	135 15 6	560A	Tucka Tucka	18,349	76 9 1
376A	Coree	17,183	429 11 6	561A	Mungadal	11,510	143 17 6
377A	Half-moon Plain	1,674	27 18 0	565A	Carnarney	2,463	51 6 3
378A	Medway & Gamber Gamber, West	11,402	95 0 4	569A	Lower Droubalgie	1,849	7 14 1
381A	Buraja	2,925	85 6 3	573A	Bald Ridge	8,600	25 16 8
384A	Back Tenandra	6,360	53 0 0	575A	Cowabee	13,897	231 12 4
389A	New Breelong	17,000	35 8 4	579A	Boranda	5,000	15 12 6
390A	Youendah	48,916	407 12 8	580A	Belar	33,927	141 7 3
392A	Wee Wan South	34,670	260 0 6	582A	Kerarbury	16,506	481 8 6
	Rent for forfeited improvements		10 0 0	584A	Dinby	9,100	18 19 2
396A	Wungagong	3,718	27 2 3	585A	landra	4,585	42 19 8
397A	Bearbong	22,500	70 6 3	603A	Mathoura	6,600	72 3 9
402A	Gamber Gamber, East	4,513	18 16 1	604A	Bundure	7,936	231 9 4
409A	Toole's Creek	1,485	21 13 2	607A	Wallenamine	25,440	79 10 0
411A	Grahweed	43,379	180 14 11	616A	Boonal	18,398	153 6 4
415A	Monagee	19,407	161 14 6	617A	Tycannah	8,105	118 4 0
416A	Bulbodney	31,490	71 16 8		Rent for forfeited improvements		21 3 4
417A	Cocopara	8,587	17 17 10	621A	Wathegar	3,031	34 14 8
419A	Houlaghan's Creek North	6,461	80 15 3	624A	Humula	25,150	130 19 10
421A	Yanko	6,030	175 17 6	629A	Myall Downs	12,266	25 11 1
425A	Tooloon	18,912	177 6 0	632A	Back Daroualgie	9,300	31 0 0
428A	Quonmoona or Geanmoney	7,658	47 16 11	633A	Milton Vale	4,199	62 9 9
429A	Lalaltee, South	814	11 17 5	635A	Nangunia and Warmatta	1,161	19 7 0
431A	Kulki	2,120	66 5 0	640A	Breeza	38,387	239 18 5
434A	Cathundrill, No. 2	16,110	102 11 3	641A	Triangular Plain	482	14 1 2
436A	Lower Ningear	9,520	79 6 8	642A	West Breelong	3,640	7 11 8
438A	Umutee and Toonga	12,083	184 0 6	644A	Houlaghan's Creek, South	10,092	84 2 0
439A	Back Run	15,269	30 11 8	645A	Illunurgalia, East	5,080	25 15 11
441A	Bullerawa	132,730	496 1 0	646A	Bengalla	48,767	101 12 0
	Rent for forfeited improvements		10 0 0		Rent for forfeited improvements		3 15 0
442A	Yerra Yerra	1,907	9 18 8	647A	Bandon	1,834	6 2 4
443A	Greenbar Creek	19,206	60 0 5	653A	Tomanbil	7,168	44 16 0
451A	Warregal	10,549	54 18 11	654A	Wooyeo	154,319	241 2 6
452A	Kentucky	1,825	53 4 7	666A	Merewula	2,490	15 11 3
453A	North East Mangoplah	3,237	26 19 6	671A	Big River	26,689	37 1 5
454A	Gorce	7,913	239 0 9	673A	Nowcronie	18,167	492 0 6
455A	Willurah	19,057	238 4 3	682A	South Mahonga Forest	713	20 15 11
	Rent for forfeited improvements		35 0 0	686A	Merah	98,909	716 16 9
456A	Kyeamba	5,358	33 9 9		Rent for forfeited improvements		15 0 0
457A	Tin-pot Alley	16,069	66 19 1	688A	Warwilah	8,895	103 15 6
461A	Honeybugle	24,500	25 10 5	690A	Willeroon	69,737	217 18 7
462A	Mangoplah	1,739	21 14 9	693A	Goolhi	35,083	109 12 8
463A	Gunambil	13,288	166 2 0	699A	Kindra Creek	3,751	31 5 2
476A	Upper Bugaldi	6,200	16 2 11	707A	Oberne	28,347	147 13 8
482A	Bundidgery	4,570	114 5 0	708A	Keera	78,072	162 13 0
483A	Micabil	17,208	71 14 0	709A	Obella	26,046	108 10 6
495A	Gregadoo	1,100	22 18 4	715A	Elong Elong	1,880	15 13 4
497A	West Bogan, No. 1	25,335	19 15 10	718A	Back Creek and Nobby's Lagoon	22,285	78 18 7
503A	Sandy Creek	18,760	78 3 4	721A	Borah	39,200	91 17 6
506A	Slaughter-house Plains	7,810	16 5 5	723A	West Bogan, No. 6	24,252	101 1 0
	Rent for forfeited improvements		14 0 0	725A	Dundoo Hills	32,800	82 0 0
507A	Coreen	6,259	156 9 6	726A	Nelungaleo	5,166	21 9 8
514A	Bimble	25,400	52 18 4	727A	Pinnacle	17,513	72 19 5
521A	Black Yanma	7,961	16 11 9	731A	Bungebar	6,960	21 15 0
524A	Ulumbie	17,080	106 15 0	738A	Brundah	3,525	36 14 5
531A	New Wyregall	11,000	34 7 6	746A	Croongul	6,400	80 0 0
535A	Gobhgombalin and Tooyal	24,270	353 18 9	747A	Wyvern	4,800	80 0 0
537A	Carroll	6,077	53 16 2	748A	Bringaroo	9,880	123 10 0
542A	Moonbi, or Brigandillon	37,592	172 5 11	750A	Dunwerian	12,400	36 3 4
545A	Trowell Creek Station	28,033	29 4 0				

SCHEDULE LI.

RETURN showing the Number and Area embraced in Applications for Homestead Leases made in 1896, and the action thereon.

Land Board District.	Land District.	No. of Applications received and the area embraced by such Applications.		Deposits lodged with Applications for Homestead Leases.	Survey Fee lodged with Applications for Homestead Leases.	1896 Applications		
		No.	Area.			No. granted.	No. refused.	No. outstanding.
			acres.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			
Bourke	Bourke	11	85,027	354 5 7	110 0 0	.....	2	9
	Cobar	2	6,132	25 11 0	20 0 0	.....	1	1
	Wilcannia	15	129,374	539 1 2	150 0 0	4	1	10
Hay	Willyama	23	152,465	635 5 5	230 0 0	14	.....	9
	Balranald	8	50,527	210 10 7	80 0 0	.....	1	7
	Hillston, North	3	10,800	45 0 0	30 0 0	1	.....	2
Moree	Wentworth	23	150,906	666 13 10	230 0 0	.....	3	20
	Walgett, North	4	10,815	45 1 3	40 0 0	1	.....	3
		89	605,146	2,521 8 10	890 0 0	20	8	61

SCHEDULE LII.

RETURN showing the Number and Area of Applications for Homestead Leases granted, refused, and permitted to be withdrawn during 1896, and also number outstanding at the end of that year.

Land Board District.	Land District.	No. granted.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Number refused and permitted to be withdrawn.	Number outstanding at the end of 1896.
Bourke	Bourke	2	acres. 15,240	£ s. d. 38 12 6	2	12
	Brewarrina					1
	Cobar	2	10,886	32 7 10	1	1
	Wilcannia	37	227,225	738 9 2	4	10
Hay	Willyama	27	148,550	330 1 2	3	9
	Balranald	2	18,093	91 0 10	5	8
	Hillston, North	1	640	2 13 4	2	2
Moree	Wentworth	3	19,583	28 7 5	6	30
	Walgett, North	5	19,236	121 12 0	2	5
		79	459,453	1,383 4 3	25	78

SCHEDULE LIII.

RETURN showing the Number, Area, and Rent of Homestead Leases forfeited during 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District.	Forfeited.		
		No. of Leases.	Area embraced in such Leases.	Annual Rental.
Bourke	Bourke	13	acres. 113,760	£ s. d. 545 14 6
	Brewarrina	4	38,185	174 2 4
	Cobar	5	40,734	172 11 9
	Wilcannia	9	51,180	187 18 11
Hay	Willyama	5	43,133	147 10 4
	Hillston, North	3	9,983	52 15 11
Moree	Wentworth	1	4,556	6 6 7
	Walgett, North	2	12,800	87 9 4
		42	314,331	1,374 9 8

SCHEDULE LIV.

RETURN showing the Number of Transfers of Homestead Leases completed during the year 1896, and number outstanding at the end of that year.

Number completed 197 Number outstanding..... 52

SCHEDULE LV.

RETURN showing particulars of Homestead Leases reappraised under Section 9 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895 during the year 1896.

Land Board District.	No of Applications received.	Cases in which reappraisements have been completed and new rate determined.			
		No of Leases.	Area.	Rental according to Original rate.	Rental according to New rate.
Bourke.....	528	87	acres. 838,859	£ s. d. 5,002 15 8	£ s. d. 3,374 6 4
Hay	141	120	1,079,603	7,657 7 10	5,676 11 0
Moree	60	53	486,161	4,229 15 8	3,786 14 9
Total	729	260	2,404,623	16,889 19 2	12,837 12 1
	Average rate per acre			1 15 0 d.	1 15 0 d.

SCHEDULE LVI.

RETURN showing the Number, Area, and Rent of Homestead Leases in existence at the end of 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District.	No. of Leases.	Area embraced in such Leases.	Rent determined.
Bourke	Bourke	367	acres. 3,353,954	£ s. d. 20,660 6 2
	Brewarrina	155	1,410,909	14,693 16 10
	Cobar	50	432,674	2,126 5 11
	Wilcannia	121	941,755	4,982 4 0
Hay	Willyama	116	737,130	2,513 15 10
	Balranald	91	754,054	4,108 11 0
	Hay, North	61	570,555	4,712 3 4
Moree	Hillston, North	78	597,097	3,608 10 2
	Wentworth	84	612,858	2,490 14 2
	Walgett, North	123	1,018,275	8,754 4 8
		1,246	10,429,261	68,685 12 1

SCHEDULE LVII.

RETURN giving particulars with reference to Applications received for Settlement Leases during 1896.

Land Board District and Land District.	Farms applied for during 1896.			Applications confirmed during 1896.			Applications disallowed, withdrawn, &c., during 1896.			No of Applications outstanding at close of year.
	No.	Area.	Annual Rent.	No.	Area.	Annual Rent.	No.	Area.		
Armidale—										
Armidale	2	10,900 0 0	90 16 8	1	5,500 0 0	45 16 8	1	5,400 0 0	...	
Bourke—										
Bourke	1	10,240 0 0	42 13 4	1	10,240 0 0	42 13 4	...	...	...
Brewarrina	2	15,906 0 0	132 11 0	1	7,953 0 0	66 5 6	1	7,953 0 0	...	
Brewarrina, East	16	61,129 0 0	764 2 2	13	47,196 0 0	593 14 0	4	15,895 0 0	3	
Cobar	2	6,952 0 0	36 2 3	2	6,952 0 0	36 2 3	...	...	...
Total	21	94,227 0 0	975 8 9	17	72,641 0 0	738 15 1	5	23,848 0 0	3	
Dubbo—										
Coonamble	26	74,268 0 0	1,041 2 9	18	49,750 0 0	645 19 8	26	75,265 0 0	10	
Dubbo	5	10,723 0 0	136 14 0	1	1,562 0 0	19 10 6	4	9,534 0 0	...	
Nyngan	14	37,004 0 0	233 9 4	15	42,124 0 0	334 0 0	1	4,476 0 0	...	
Warren	29	84,335 0 0	1,227 9 5	10	23,050 0 0	393 3 6	21	71,451 0 0	9	
Total	74	206,300 0 0	2,688 15 6	44	121,486 0 0	1,397 13 8	52	160,726 0 0	19	
Forbes—										
Barmedman	6	15,873 3 0	187 14 5	8	24,263 0 0	250 7 6	1	2,748 0 0	...	
Condobolin	19	64,565 0 0	580 4 4	17	55,622 1 0	536 15 4	12	32,798 0 0	3	
Forbes	4	7,089 1 0	87 0 2	3	6,295 1 0	53 11 8	2	3,748 0 0	...	
Grenfell	12	27,930 1 0	287 16 2	8	17,322 1 0	189 15 11	3	7,712 1 0	4	
Total	41	115,458 1 0	1,142 15 1	36	102,502 3 0	1,030 10 5	18	47,006 1 0	7	
Hay—										
Hay	5	17,373 2 0	285 15 2	5	17,373 2 0	285 15 2	...	...	4	
Hillston	5	12,056 0 0	68 10 4	3	7,308 0 0	46 5 2	2	4,748 0 0	33	
Total	10	29,429 2 0	354 5 6	8	24,681 2 0	332 0 4	2	4,748 0 0	52	
Moree—										
Bingara	5	12,388 0 0	135 11 9	5	12,388 0 0	135 11 9	...	...	...
Moree	46	120,668 0 0	1,562 2 8	43	113,434 3 0	1,456 3 7	36	93,491 2 0	8	
Walgett	30	83,662 0 0	1,089 9 10	29	80,706 0 0	1,100 0 2	20	52,118 2 0	8	
Warialda	10	24,918 3 0	375 7 9	10	24,918 3 0	375 7 9	...	...	1	
Total	91	351,636 3 0	3,161 12 0	87	231,447 2 0	3,067 3 3	56	145,610 0 0	17	
Tamworth—										
Coonabarrabran	24	81,796 0 0	780 12 0	12	39,836 0 0	375 19 11	8	18,718 0 0	11	
Gunnedah	12	17,182 0 0	308 5 1	12	17,182 0 0	308 5 1	8	10,754 1 0	1	
Murrurundi .....	...	...	...	1	640 0 0	24 0 0	...	...	...
Narrabri	29	77,880 0 0	1,172 2 5	32	83,120 0 0	1,348 9 11	38	97,680 0 0	...	
Tamworth	1	2,112 0 0	26 8 0	2	2,706 2 0	34 19 2	...	...	...
Total	66	178,970 0 0	2,287 7 6	59	143,574 2 0	2,091 14 1	54	127,161 1 0	12	
Wagga Wagga—										
Narrandera	3	14,800 0 0	68 9 0	1	6,545 0 0	36 16 4	2	8,435 0 0	...	
Urana	6	10,487 2 0	168 3 5	6	9,420 1 0	149 10 1	9	7,428 0 0	2	
Total	9	25,467 2 0	236 12 5	7	15,965 1 0	186 6 5	11	15,863 0 0	2	

SUMMARY.

Armidale	2	10,900 0 0	90 16 8	1	5,500 0 0	45 16 8	1	5,400 0 0	...
Bourke	21	94,227 0 0	975 8 9	17	72,641 0 0	738 15 1	5	23,848 0 0	3
Dubbo	74	206,300 0 0	2,688 15 6	44	121,486 0 0	1,397 13 8	52	160,726 0 0	19
Forbes	41	115,458 1 0	1,142 15 1	36	102,502 3 0	1,030 10 5	18	47,006 1 0	7
Hay	10	29,429 2 0	354 5 6	8	24,681 2 0	332 0 4	2	4,748 0 0	52
Moree	91	351,636 3 0	3,161 12 0	87	231,447 2 0	3,067 3 3	56	145,610 0 0	17
Tamworth	66	178,970 0 0	2,287 7 6	59	143,574 2 0	2,091 14 1	54	127,161 1 0	12
Wagga Wagga	9	25,467 2 0	236 12 5	7	15,965 1 0	186 6 5	11	15,863 0 0	2
Grand Totals	314	1,012,389 0 0	10,937 13 5	259	717,793 2 0	8,889 19 11	199	530,362 2 0	112

SCHEDULE LVIII.

RETURN showing Number, Area, and Rent of Settlement Leases issued up to 31st December, 1896.

Land Board District and Land District.	No. of Leases.	Area.	Annual Rent.	Land Board District and Land District.	No. of Leases.	Area.	Annual Rent.
Armidale—				Hay—			
Armidale	1	5,500	45 16 8	Deniliquin	3	4,037½	79 10 3
Bourke—				Hay	6	23,246½	337 1 0
Bourke	1	10,240	42 13 4	Moree—			
Brewarrina	3	14,024	142 3 3	Bingara	3	7,629	87 10 9
Brewarrina, East	13	46,866	593 14 0	Moree	39	98,539½	1,282 2 10
Cobar	3	10,770	57 1 11	Walgett	7	18,747	246 10 7
Dubbo—				Warialda	9	23,824½	354 17 6
Coonamble	9	23,055	300 12 2	Tamworth—			
Dubbo	2	4,667	58 0 9	Coonabarrabran	6	19,011	144 7 10
Nyngan	15	42,124	347 5 0	Gunnedah	7	9,817½	162 11 4
Warren	8	21,658	305 14 5	Murrurundi	1	640	24 0 0
Forbes—				Narrabri	26	61,839	1,111 1 10
Barmedman	8	24,263½	250 7 6	Tamworth	3	3,436½	45 12 6
Condobolin	17	55,270½	601 9 6	Wagga Wagga—			
Forbes	3	5,295½	53 11 8	Urana	2	1,153	19 14 4
Grenfell	3	7,124	67 1 10	Totals	198	542,778½	6,760 12 9

SCHEDULE LIX.

RETURN giving particulars of Improvement Leases sold by Auction and Let by Tender during the year 1896.

Leases Sold by Auction.					Leases Let by Tender				
Division and Land District.	No. of Leases.	Area.	Rental Realised.	Average Rate per Acre.	Division and Land District.	No. of Leases.	Area.	Rental Realised.	Average Rate per Acre.
Eastern--		acres.	£ s. d.	pence.	Eastern--		acres.	£ s. d.	pence.
Bega	1	200	2 10 0	3	Bombala	2	1,690	15 17 0	2 ² / ₁₀₀
Bombala	9	19,820	61 3 0	1 ¹ / ₁₀₀	Queanbeyan.....	5	59,600	72 3 7	1 ² / ₁₀₀
Grafton	2	20,000	10 0 0	1 ² / ₁₀₀	Scone	1	594	5 0 0	2 ² / ₁₀₀
Molong	2	11,290	3 10 0	1 ¹ / ₁₀₀		8	61,884	93 0 7	1 ³ / ₁₀₀
Queanbeyan	2	14,460	30 2 6	1 ¹ / ₁₀₀	Central--				
Scone	2	310	4 0 0	3 ¹ / ₁₀₀	Hillston	2	22,500	54 11 0	1 ² / ₁₀₀
Singleton	1	81 ³ / ₄	1 0 0	2 ² / ₁₀₀	Moree	1	9,050	5 0 0	1 ² / ₁₀₀
	19	66,071 ³ / ₄	112 5 6	1 ⁷ / ₁₀₀	Nyngan	4	70,338	305 3 0	1 ¹ / ₁₀₀
Central--					Warialda	5	34,860	42 5 6	1 ² / ₁₀₀
Bingara	6	46,520	37 16 7	1 ² / ₁₀₀		12	136,798	406 19 6	1 ¹ / ₁₀₀
Condobolin	15	116,821	103 10 3	1 ¹ / ₁₀₀	Western--				
Coonabarrabran	6	52,150	53 0 0	1 ² / ₁₀₀	Bourke	4	81,920	190 13 4	1 ³ / ₁₀₀
Grenfell	3	5,980	12 9 2	1 ¹ / ₁₀₀	Brewarrina	2	40,393	105 6 8	1 ² / ₁₀₀
Hillston	2	29,180	78 6 5	1 ² / ₁₀₀	Cobar	4	81,920	36 0 0	1 ¹ / ₁₀₀
Moree	4	16,090	98 4 3	1 ² / ₁₀₀	Willyama	12	228,800	81 2 6	1 ¹ / ₁₀₀
Parkes.....	13	80,852 ¹ / ₂	56 3 1	1 ¹ / ₁₀₀		22	433,033	413 2 6	1 ² / ₁₀₀
Warialda	20	125,962	328 16 8	1 ² / ₁₀₀		42	631,715	913 2 7	1 ¹ / ₁₀₀
	69	473,555 ¹ / ₂	768 6 5	1 ¹ / ₁₀₀	Total.....				
Western--					GRAND TOTAL	166*	1,861,922 ¹ / ₂	2,402 0 11	1 ¹ / ₁₀₀
Bourke	4	65,700	20 10 6	1 ¹ / ₁₀₀					
Cobar	5	87,440	27 10 0	1 ¹ / ₁₀₀					
Willyama	27	537,440	560 5 11	1 ² / ₁₀₀					
	36	690,580	608 6 5	1 ¹ / ₁₀₀					
Total	124	1,230,207 ¹ / ₂	1,488 18 4	1 ² / ₁₀₀					

* As no leases were granted in 1895, this number represents the total number of improvement leases in existence on the 31st December, 1896.

SCHEDULE LX.

RETURN of Applications for Special Leases, and action taken thereon during the year 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District	Number of Applications.			Applications granted.			Declined, lapsed, &c.		Pending.	
		Outstanding in 1895.	Made during 1896.	Total.	Number.	Area.	Rent.	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.
Armidale	Armidale .....	...	3	3	...	a r. p.	£ s. d.	...	a. r. p.	3	a. r. p.
	Glen Innes	1	1	2	1	25 0 0	10 0 0	...	...	1	4 0 0
	Inverell.....	3	4	7	1	80 0 0	10 5 0	...	...	6	794 0 0
	Tenterfield	1	...	1	1	60 1 0	1 5 0	...	...	...	...
Bourke	Bourke	14	8	22	11	1,795 2 13	126 17 6	9	2,205 3 0	3	269 0 0
	Brewarrina	1	1	2	2	3 1 21	12 0 0	...	...	...	...
	Cobar .....	...	2	2	...	...	...	1	40 0 0	1	60 0 0
	Willyama	3	3	6	2	23 3 20	9 0 0	1	6 0 0	3	21 0 0
	Wilcannia.....	1	8	9	...	...	...	...	...	9	673 0 0
Dubbo	Dubbo	5	2	7	...	...	...	5	846 0 0	2	330 0 0
	Nyngan	4	...	4	2	97 3 0	5 0 0	2	55 0 0	...	...
	Warren	11	3	14	1	6 0 0	10 0 0	11	3,288 2 0	2	58 1 0
Forbes	Barmedman, East ..	1	1	2	...	...	...	1	40 0 0	1	100 0 0
	Condobolin	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	320 0 0	...	...
	Forbes	1	2	3	1	168 3 0	16 18 0	1	20 0 0	1	9 0 0
	Parkes	1	...	1	1	5 0 0	6 0 0	...	...	...	...
Goulburn	Bega .....	...	2	2	...	...	...	1	5 0 0	1	3 3 25
	Bombala	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	76 1 20	...	...
	Cooma	1	8	9	7	88 0 25	30 10 0	...	...	3	32 1 30
	Rden .....	...	3	3	1	17 0 0	2 11 0	2	180 0 0	...	...
	Goulburn	2	...	2	...	...	...	1	7 0 0	1	7 0 0
	Milton .....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	Small area.
	Moss Vale.....	1	1	2	...	...	...	1	8 1 32	1	68 0 0
	Queanbeyan.....	...	...	...	1	10 2 20	6 10 0	...	...	...	...

Land Board District.	Land District.	Number of Applications.			Applications granted.			Declined, lapsed, &c		Pending.	
		Outstanding in 1895.	Made during 1896.	Total.	Number.	Area.	Rent.	Number.	Area.	Number.	Area.
Grafton.....	Bellingen	4	1	5	2	n. r. p. 10 2 0	£ s. d. 13 0 0	2	n. r. p. 8 1 0	1	n. r. p. Small area.
	Casino	1	7	8	1	88 0 0	4 8 0	2	321 2 0	5	534 3 0
	Grafton	11	13	24	10	22 0 17	95 10 0	6	500 3 19	8	886 0 32
	Kempsey .....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2 0 0
	Lismore	7	11	18	5	56 1 8	50 0 0	4	420 0 14	10	420 0 0
	Murwillumbah	7	4	11	4	184 0 0	8 13 0	2	103 0 0	5	222 2 0
	Port Macquarie	2	1	3	1	6 0 0	14 0 0	1	4 0 0	1	0 0 19
Hay	Balranald	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	10 0 0	
	Deniliquin	8	5	13	4	150 1 0	40 12 0	2	420 0 0	7	451 0 0
	Hay	4	2	6	1	10 0 0	5 0 0	...	...	5	887 1 17
Maitland	Hillston	2	...	2	1	2 0 0	5 0 0	...	...	1	10 0 0
	Casilis .....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	3 0 0
	Gosford	1	2	3	1	150 0 0	7 10 0	1	40 0 0	1	40 0 0
	Muswellbrook	1	...	1	1	0 3 0	10 0 0	...	...	...	...
	Newcastle	10	8	18	11	100 0 12	137 10 0	2	0 1 12	7	34 3 11
	Paterson	1	1	2	1	2 3 32	4 0 0	...	...	1	Not stated.
	Raymond Terrace	1	...	1	1	0 0 10	15 0 0	...	...	...	...
	Scone .....	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	960 0 0
	Singleton .....	...	1	1	1	4 2 0	1 10 0	...	...	1	20 0 0
	Stroud	6	2	8	4	226 0 0	57 10 0	1	2 0 0	3	2 5 2 0
Moree	Taree	2	3	5	3	18 3 35	52 0 0	...	...	2	7 1 0
	Moree	20	7	27	6	572 1 16	36 15 0	14	4,200 0 0	10	1,348 2 0
	Walgett	1	2	3	...	...	...	1	1 2 4	2	109 0 0
	Walgett, North	3	3	6	3	505 0 0	22 10 0	...	...	3	556 0 0
Orange	Walralda	3	2	5	1	85 0 0	10 0 0	2	95 0 0	2	2 2 34
	Bathurst	1	1	2	...	...	...	1	0 2 0	1	12 0 0
	Carcoar .....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	10 0 0
	Lithgow	6	2	8	2	23 3 20	20 0 0	1	0 3 1	5	240 2 0
	Molong .....	...	...	...	3	104 0 0	8 6 0	...	...	...	...
	Mudgee	2	3	5	...	...	...	2	22 0 0	3	85 2 0
	Orange .....	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	64 0 30
	Rylstone	2	5	7	...	...	...	1	24 2 36	6	145 0 0
	Wellington .....	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	301 0 0
	Sydney	Campbelltown	2	...	2	2	280 0 0	40 10 0	1	113 0 0
Liverpool .....		...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	0 0 5
Metropolitan		51	40	91	40	8 1 22	935 10 0	7	10 1 20	45	62 0 21
Nowra		1	4	5	3	242 3 5	28 0 0	...	...	2	193 0 0
Parramatta		13	13	26	9	2 0 38	38 0 0	6	Not stated.	11	0 1 34
Penrith		2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	78 0 0
Picton		7	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	7	50 0 0
Windsor		7	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	8	181 0 0
Tamworth.....	Gunnedah	5	2	7	1	25 2 30	10 0 0	5	50 2 30	2	20 0 0
	Murrumbidgee	1	1	2	...	...	...	1	13 0 0	1	60 0 0
	Narrabri	4	1	5	3	70 0 0	14 0 0	...	...	2	360 0 0
	Tamworth	5	2	7	2	30 0 0	8 0 0	3	565 0 0	2	560 0 0
Wagga Wagga	Albury	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2 0 0
	Corowa	3	3	6	2	6 3 0	12 0 0	...	...	4	110 2 0
	Cootamundry	2	4	6	2	105 0 0	22 10 0	...	...	4	50 0 0
	Gundagai	3	27	30	3	65 0 5	8 5 0	2	49 0 0	25	730 2 26
	Narrandera	2	13	15	1	2 0 0	10 0 0	1	2 0 0	13	1,575 3 26
	Tumut .....	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	43 0 0
	Tumbarumba	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	30 0 0
	Tumbarumba, North .....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	20 0 0
	Urana .....	...	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	5	15 1 0
	Wagga Wagga .....	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	4 0 0
Totals		270	275	545	167	5,540 3 38	1,992 5 6	108	13,912 2 28	286	14,840 1 30

NOTE.—Eleven leases granted were by purchase at auction. No preliminary applications. Five applications which stood lapsed were subsequently granted.

SCHEDULE LXI.

RETURN showing Number, Area, and Rental of Special Leases forfeited during 1896.

Land Board District and Land District.	No. of Leases.	Area.	Rent.	Land Board District and Land District.	No. of Leases.	Area.	Rent.
Armidale—		a. r. p.	£ s. d.	Maitland—		a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Tenterfield	1	3 2 0	10 0 0	Newcastle	1	34 0 23	10 0 0
Bourke—				Paterson	1	0 0 24½	20 0 0
Bourke	2	158 0 0	50 0 0	Moree—			
Willyama	2	58 2 0	39 0 0	Walgett North.....	1	1 2 0	10 0 0
Wilcannia	1	4 0 0	10 0 0	Orange—			
Cooma—				Lithgow	1	2 0 0	1 0 0
Moruya	1	0 0 4½	15 0 0	Totals	12	491 3 12	184 10 0
Hay—							
Deniliquin	1	200 0 0	19 10 0				

SCHEDULE LXII.

NUMBER, Area, and Rent of Special Leases which terminated during 1896.

Land Board District and Land District.	No. of Leases.	Area.	Rent.	Land Board District and Land District.	No. of Leases.	Area.	Rent.
Bourke—		a. r. p.	£ s. d.	Maitland—		a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Bourke.....	1	3 0 0	12 0 0	Newcastle.....	2	1 2 1	10 0 0
Cooma—				Singleton.....	1	20 0 0	12 0 0
Eden.....	1	0 0 8½	25 0 0	Taree.....	3	55 2 25½	32 10 0
Milton.....	1	2 0 0	12 0 0	Moree—			
Moruya.....	2	185 0 0	25 0 0	Moree.....	1	0 2 0	10 0 0
Dubbo—				Orange—			
Dubbo.....	2	35 0 10	20 0 0	Lithgow.....	2	52 0 20	30 0 0
Goulburn—				Sydney—			
Young.....	1	6 1 0	15 0 0	Liverpool.....	1	0 0 1½	1 0 0
Grafton—				Metropolitan.....	19	6 0 2½	642 0 0
Bellingen.....	1	15 0 0	10 0 0	Nowra.....	1	.....	2 0 0
Grafton.....	1	0 0 3½	10 0 0	Parramatta.....	8	3 0 38½	43 0 0
Lismore.....	1	0 1 2	15 0 0	Wagga Wagga—			
Port Macquarie.....	1	11 0 0	10 0 0	Urana.....	1	5 0 0	10 0 0
Hay—				Totals.....			
Deniliquin.....	1	3 0 32	10 0 0		54	607 0 6½	981 10 0
Hay.....	1	200 0 0	15 0 0				
Wentworth.....	1	2 0 0	10 0 0				

SCHEDULE LXIII.

RETURN of Special Leases current on 31st December, 1896, inclusive of Special Leases which terminated on 31st December, 1896.

Land Board District and Land District.	No. of Leases.	Area.	Rent.	Land Board District and Land District.	No. of Leases.	Area.	Rent.
Armidale—		a. r. p.	£ s. d.	Maitland—continued.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Armidale.....	2	337 0 0	30 0 0	Newcastle.....	33	112 1 11½	416 10 0
Glen Innes.....	1	25 0 0	10 0 0	Paterson.....	1	2 3 32	4 0 0
Inverell.....	4	472 0 0	42 5 0	Raymond Terrace.....	5	40 0 22½	52 10 0
Tenterfield.....	2	80 1 0	11 5 0	Scone.....	1	10 0 0	10 0 0
Bourke—				Singleton.....	5	237 3 0	48 10 0
Bourke.....	35	3,710 2 25	422 17 6	Stroud.....	8	271 0 0	103 0 0
Brewarrina.....	10	440 1 1	112 0 0	Taree.....	14	107 0 8½	210 15 0
Cobar.....	5	944 0 0	57 10 0	Moree—			
Wilcannia.....	7	434 2 16	92 0 0	Bingera.....	1	10 0 0	10 0 0
Willyama.....	24	1,873 1 38	281 0 0	Moree.....	14	934 1 31	160 0 0
Dubbo—				Walgett.....	2	3 0 0	20 0 0
Coonamble.....	1	8 2 2	10 0 0	Walgett, North.....	6	549 0 0	67 10 0
Dubbo.....	5	240 3 10	53 0 0	Warialda.....	1	85 0 0	10 0 0
Nyngan.....	3	102 1 0	15 0 0	Orange—			
Warren.....	3	76 0 0	40 0 0	Carcoar.....	1	20 0 0	10 0 0
Forbes—				Cowra.....	2	67 1 0	15 0 0
Forbes.....	3	191 2 0	36 18 0	Lithgow.....	12	121 1 36	167 10 0
Parke.....	5	45 0 0	52 0 0	Molong.....	4	108 3 28	18 6 0
Goulburn—				Mudgee.....	1	20 0 0	10 0 0
Bega.....	2	5 0 0	15 0 0	Rylstone.....	2	27 0 0	20 0 0
Burrowa.....	1	80 0 0	11 0 0	Wellington.....	2	18 2 0	29 0 0
Cooma.....	8	98 1 15	40 10 0	Sydney—			
Eden.....	6	152 1 13½	73 16 0	Campbelltown.....	7	507 2 24	108 5 0
Goulburn.....	2	10 0 0	21 5 0	Kiama.....	4	0 1 13	32 0 0
Milton.....	6	21 0 6	72 0 0	Liverpool.....	4	0 1 4	22 0 0
Moruya.....	3	185 0 0	35 0 0	Metropolitan.....	200	99 3 9½	9,684 10 0
Queanbeyan.....	1	10 2 20	6 10 0	Nowra.....	4	242 3 5	30 0 0
Young.....	1	226 0 0	11 6 0	Parramatta.....	37	21 0 29	238 0 0
Grafton—				Wollongong.....	3	1 0 33½	37 0 0
Bellingen.....	6	40 3 11	53 0 0	Tamworth—			
Casino.....	5	188 0 2	79 8 0	Coonabarabran.....	2	52 0 0	22 0 0
Grafton.....	25	235 0 25½	346 12 8	Gunnedah.....	5	87 3 32	44 0 0
Kempsey.....	2	20 1 20	25 0 0	Narrabri.....	14	1,535 2 0	140 0 0
Lismore.....	19	199 1 32	305 8 0	Tamworth.....	3	30 2 0	18 0 0
Murwillumbah.....	6	187 1 6	28 13 0	Wagga Wagga—			
Port Macquarie.....	4	16 0 19½	44 0 0	Albury.....	1	2 0 0	10 0 0
Hay—				Cootamundra.....	4	158 0 0	45 0 0
Balranald.....	3	7 0 0	30 0 0	Corowa.....	4	7 2 35	35 0 0
Deniliquin.....	17	1,249 1 32	222 12 0	Gundagai.....	6	118 0 5	43 5 0
Hay.....	12	1,279 3 0	147 5 0	Narrandera.....	4	22 0 0	50 0 0
Hillston.....	2	7 0 0	15 0 0	Tamut.....	1	0 3 38	5 0 0
Wentworth.....	1	2 0 0	10 0 0	Tumbarumba.....	1	2 0 0	10 0 0
Maitland—				Urana.....	2	6 1 25	20 0 0
Dungog.....	1	0 0 14	10 0 0	Wagga Wagga.....	1	10 0 0	16 10 0
Gosford.....	5	150 2 27½	67 10 0	Totals.....			
Maitland.....	3	0 1 2	117 0 0		675	10,026 3 39½	15,085 12 2
Muswellbrook.....	2	1 3 0	25 0 0				

SCHEDULE LXIV.

RETURN of Scrub Leases under Section 35 of the Crown Lands Act of 1889 current on 31st December, 1896, and of applications received, leases granted, forfeited, and expired during 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District.	No. of Applications.			Area of outstanding applications.	Area applied for during 1896.	Total area	Applications declined or withdrawn.			No. not finally dealt with.	Leases granted during 1896.			Leases forfeited during 1896.			Leases expired during 1896.			Leases current on 31st Dec., 1896.		
		Outstanding from 1895.	Received during 1896.	Total.				Outstanding from 1896.	Received during 1896.	Total.		No.	Area.	Annual rent.	No.	Area.	Annual Rent.	No.	Area.	Annual Rent.	No.	Area.	Annual Rent.
					acres.	acres.	acres.					acres.	£ s. d.		acres.	£ s. d.		acres.	£ s. d.		acres.	£ s. d.	
Bourke	Cobar	1	1		24,800	24,800				1													
Dubbo	Nyngan	4	4		195,296	195,296		3	3	1													
Forbes	Condobolin	1	1		4,444	4,444				1	679	1 8 4						1	679	1 8 4			
	Parkes	8	8		305,208	305,208		2	2	6													
Hay	Balranald	1	1		4,000	4,000				1													
	Deniliquin																	1	640	0 18 2			
	Hay	1	1	11,520		11,520				1								1	2,630½	2 3 10			
	Hillston																	2	15,240	42 11 4			
	Hillston, North																	2	16,040	88 3 4			
	Wentworth																	1	1,391	1 9 0			
Maitland	Scone																	1	560	1 0 0			
	Singleton																	2	1,072	30 0 0			
Moree	Bingara																	1	3,910	3 1 2			
	Moree	4	2	6	4,340	1,040	5,380	1	1	2	3	3,562	9 3 7					16	140,478	127 19 10			
	Warialda	3	1	4	5,380	2,000	7,380			1	3	16,000	20 0 0					5	21,500	30 19 6			
Sydney	Nowra																	1	1,920	1 10 0			
Tamworth	Narrabri	2	1	3	15,800	640	16,440	2	2	1								2	9,220	1 16 0			
Wagga Wagga	Tumut																	1	175	0 6 3			
Totals		10	19	29	37,040	637,428	574,468	3	5	8	14	7	20,241	30 11 11									
																			37	215,455½	333 6 9		

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SCHEDULE LXV.

RETURN showing Number, Area, and Rent of Leases of Inferior Crown Lands current on 31st December, 1896, and of Leases granted and forfeited during 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District.	Leases granted during 1896.			Leases declared forfeited and cancelled during 1896.			Leases current on 31st December, 1896.		
		No.	Area.	Rent.	No.	Area.	Rent.	No.	Area.	Rent.
			acres.	£ s. d.		acres.	£ s. d.		acres.	£ s. d.
Goulburn	Bombala	2	23,000	23 19 2	8	147,139	184 13 11	4	18,960	51 3 7
Forbes	Queanbeyan	2						2	23,000	23 19 2
Hay	Parke	2						2	6,261 1/2	26 1 10
	Balranald	2						2	23,500	43 15 0
	Hillston, North	1						1	45,450	17 15 0
	Wentworth	1						1	141,000	27 10 0
Wagga Wagga	Narrandera	23						23	106,165	70 17 6
	Totals	2	23,000	23 19 2	8	147,139	184 13 11	35	364,336	261 2 1

SCHEDULE LXVI.

RETURN showing the action taken during 1896 in respect of Residential Leases.

Land Board District and Land District.	Number of Applications.			Area applied for	No. of applications disallowed and withdrawn.	No. of applications in course of action on 31 Dec., 1896.	Leases granted during 1896.			Leases declared forfeited during 1896.			Leases current on 31st December, 1896.						
	Outstanding on 31/12/95.	Received during 1896.	Total to be dealt with.				No.	Area.	Annual Rent.	No.	Area.	Annual Rent.	No.	Area.	Annual Rent.				
																a. r. p.	£ s. d.	a. r. p.	£ s. d.	a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Armidale—																			
Armidale	4	4	8	140 0 0	2	2	4	80 0 0	8 10 0	..	..	16	200 0 0	27 15 0	..	..	..	..	..
Inverell	3	..	3	..	1	..	2	20 0 0	2 0 0	..	..	12	120 0 0	13 0 0	..	..	..	..	..
Tenterfield .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	30 0 0	2 15 0	..	..	..	..	..
Glen Innes	1	..	1	10 0 0	..	..	1	10 0 0	1 0 0	1	10 0 0	4	40 0 0	3 15 0	..	..	..	..	..
Walcha .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	10 0 0	3 0 0	..	..	..	..	..
Bourke—																			
Cobar	2	2	4	31 0 0	1	3	..	..	..	1	10 0 0	1	10 0 0	1 10 0	..	..	..	..	..
Willyama	1	1	2	40 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	4	40 0 0	7	70 0 0	19 5 0	..	..	..	..	..
Cooma—																			
Bega .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	10 0 0	1 0 0	..	..	..	..	..
Bombala .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	10 0 0	2 0 0	..	..	..	..	..
Braidwood	3	..	3	80 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	7 2 1	3 0 0	..	..	..	..	..
Moruya	1	2	3	24 0 0	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	8	19 1 5	3 10 0	..	..	..	..	..
Queanbeyan	1	..	1	10 0 0	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	10 0 0	1 10 0	..	..	..	..	..
Dubbo—																			
Dubbo .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*1	10 0 0	2	20 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Forbes—																			
Forbes	1	..	1	20 0 0	..	1	20 0 0	1 10 0	..	..	..	6	70 0 0	13 8 0	..	..	..	..	..
Grenfell .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	50 0 0	11 5 0	..	..	..	..	..
Parke .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*1	10 0 0	2	20 0 0	6 5 0	..	..	..	..	..
Goulburn—																			
Boorowa	1	..	1	20 0 0	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	10 0 0	2 0 0	..	..	..	..	..
Goulburn	1	..	1	5 0 0	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Young .....	..	1	1	20 0 0	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	19	182 3 6	30 15 0	..	..	..	..	..
Grafton—																			
Bellingen .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	10 0 0	1 0 0	..	..	..	..	..
Moree—																			
Bingara .....	..	1	1	20 0 0	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	5	34 0 0	7 0 0	..	..	..	..	..
Orange—																			
Bathurst	2	5	7	100 0 0	2	4	1	10 0 0	1 0 0	..	..	9	69 2 21	9 5 0	..	..	..	..	..
Carcoar	4	3	7	100 0 0	..	4	3	30 0 0	3 0 0	..	..	12	116 3 17	12 15 0	..	..	..	..	..
Molong	1	1	1	10 0 0	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	30 0 0	3 10 0	..	..	..	..	..
Mudgee	3	14	17	214 0 0	2	13	2	16 2 0	2 0 0	..	..	29	260 3 30 1/2	35 8 5	..	..	..	..	..
Orange	3	..	3	60 0 0	..	1	2	20 0 0	2 0 0	..	..	3	30 0 0	3 0 0	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington .....	..	2	2	30 0 0	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	20 0 0	2 0 0	..	..	..	..	..
Tamworth—																			
Tamworth	2	2	4	40 0 0	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	20 0 0	4 0 0	..	..	..	..	..
Wagga Wagga—																			
Cootamundra	2	..	2	20 0 0	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gundagai	10	11	21	348 0 0	3	17	1	10 0 0	1 0 0	1	3 0 0	12	105 1 23	19 7 0	..	..	..	..	..
Tumbarumba	2	2	4	58 2 0	..	4	..	..	..	1	10 0 0	5	50 0 0	5 5 0	..	..	..	..	..
Tumbarumba, North	1	1	2	40 0 0	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	20 0 0	2 0 0	..	..	..	..	..
Tumut	4	4	8	160 0 0	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	4	40 0 0	4 5 0	..	..	..	..	..
Wagga Wagga	1	..	1	20 0 0	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	53	66	109	1,570 2 0	13	77	17	216 2 0	22 0 0	10	93 0 0	16	1,706 3 12 1/2	261 13 5	..	..	..	..	..

* Land purchased at auction by lessee.

SCHEDULE LXVII.

RETURN showing Number, Area, and Rent of Snow Leases current on the 31st December, 1896, and of Snow Leases granted and forfeited during 1896.

Land Board District	Land District.	Leases granted during 1896.			Leases declared forfeited during 1896.			Leases current on December 31st, 1896.		
		No.	Area.	Rent.	No.	Area.	Rent.	No.	Area.	Rent.
			acres.	£ s. d.		acres.	£ s. d.		acres.	£ s. d.
Cooma	Cooma	5	19,890	133 5 3	1	5,930	24 14 2	17	61,300	621 7 0
Wagga Wagga	Tumut .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	24,100	50 4 3
	Tumbarumba	3	15,720	47 15 10	..	..	..	5	27,270	102 17 1
	Totals	8	35,620	181 1 1	1	5,930	24 14 2	25	112,670	774 8 4

SCHEDULE LXVIII.

RETURN showing Number and Area of Annual Leases applied for and granted under Section 33 of Crown Lands Act of 1889, and the number disallowed and withdrawn during 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District.	No. of Applications received during 1896.	Area applied for during 1896.			No. of Applications disallowed and withdrawn during 1896, including applications made during previous years.	No. of Applications approved, and in virtue of which Leases have been granted during 1896, including applications made during previous years.	Area of Leases Granted.			Rent.
			a.	r.	p.			a.	r.	p.	
Armidale	Armidale	29	18,254	0	0	9	42	29,042	0	0	191 12 11
	Glen Innes	37	23,393	0	0	8	32	20,835	0	0	204 15 0
	Inverell	26	16,833	0	0	14	49	47,643	2	0	275 19 2
	Tenterfield	29	21,475	0	0	9	51	131,094	0	0	165 13 1
	Walcha	19	13,301	0	0	4	17	13,935	0	0	102 18 2
	Totals	140	93,256	0	0	44	191	242,549	2	0	940 18 4
Bourke	Bourke .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	384	0	0	5 0 0
	Brewarrina	1	1,200	0	0	1	1	1,200	0	0	18 13 4
	Brewarrina, East	2	1,280	0	0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Wilcannia	7	13,440	0	0	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals	10	15,920	0	0	3	3	1,584	0	0	23 13 4	
Dubbo	Coonamble	15	15,596	0	0	3	7	10,518	0	0	121 15 8
	Dubbo	21	11,000	0	0	7	13	6,848	0	0	60 12 3
	Warren	1	500	0	0	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Totals	37	27,096	0	0	11	20	17,364	0	0	182 7 11
Forbes	Barmedman	3	1,756	2	0	2	1	644	2	0	2 13 9
	Barmedman, East .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Condobolin	9	9,080	2	0	.....	8	7,796	0	0	37 10 0
	Forbes	4	1,530	3	0	.....	3	1,193	3	0	13 7 7
	Grenfell	4	561	0	0	3	3	1,241	0	0	14 5 0
	Parkes .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	960	0	0	7 6 8
Totals	20	12,928	3	0	5	16	11,835	1	0	75 3 0	
Goulburn	Bega	56	27,093	3	0	2	51	26,646	3	0	147 4 9
	Bombala	31	17,509	3	20	11	29	18,438	0	0	104 2 0
	Boorowa	51	18,454	0	30	8	41	15,673	1	0	134 8 7
	Braidwood	53	26,362	0	0	11	45	18,933	1	0	130 7 5
	Cooma	121	98,301	0	0	16	160	136,359	2	0	754 3 2
	Eden	27	14,792	3	0	4	20	12,380	0	0	61 0 0
	Goulburn	94	44,000	0	0	6	72	33,354	3	0	242 17 9
	Gunning	33	10,647	0	0	4	28	11,014	3	0	67 19 0
	Milton	5	3,240	0	0	3	11	3,680	0	0	38 5 0
	Moruya	14	7,362	0	0	2	11	3,459	0	0	20 12 1
	Moss Vale	7	3,060	0	0	1	7	3,035	0	0	19 2 6
	Queanbeyan	78	42,914	1	0	24	75	40,297	1	0	223 4 9
	Yass	75	34,944	1	0	12	65	29,361	0	0	191 7 10
	Young	25	6,135	0	10	13	16	4,593	0	10	53 16 5
Totals	670	354,816	0	20	117	631	362,225	2	10	2,188 11 3	
Grafton	Bellingen	6	1,437	0	0	1	12	6,190	0	0	22 7 11
	Casino	97	77,674	0	0	3	66	55,077	1	0	413 15 3
	Grafton	54	22,605	0	0	7	82	38,608	1	0	211 8 10
	Kempsey	7	2,736	2	0	1	4	2,560	0	0	8 0 0
	Lismore	8	1,288	3	0	1	5	1,019	0	0	11 7 7
	Port Macquarie	3	2,200	9	0	3	12	6,080	0	0	24 13 6
Totals	175	107,941	1	0	16	181	109,534	2	0	691 13 1	
Hay	Deniliquin	3	324	0	0	1	3	1,166	0	0	80 13 0
	Hillston and Hillston, North	8	3,240	0	0	8	3	1,250	0	0	10 0 0
	Hay and Hay, North	1	598	0	0	1	1	55	0	0	4 0 0
	Wentworth	3	280	0	0	1	3	3,880	0	0	10 4 0
Totals	15	4,442	0	0	11	10	6,351	0	0	104 17 0	
Maitland	Cassilis	38	21,725	2	20	5	34	22,208	0	0	138 7 2
	Dungog	7	950	2	20	6	5	1,160	3	0	23 2 6
	Muswellbrook	13	6,176	0	0	8	6	3,423	0	0	17 16 6
	Maitland	2	65	0	0	.....	1	60	0	0	1 0 0
	Newcastle	1	39	2	0	.....	3	129	2	0	18 0 0
	Paterson	2	170	0	0	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Raymond Terrace	4	506	0	0	.....	1	85	1	20	1 8 5
	Scone	20	14,204	1	0	3	22	19,566	1	0	104 13 2
	Singleton	6	1,675	0	0	2	7	1,995	0	0	14 0 10
	Stroud	7	5,375	0	0	2	25	19,505	0	0	107 0 7
	Taree	14	6,022	3	0	5	19	11,520	3	0	62 15 4
Wollombi	5	2,296	0	0	1	2	861	1	0	4 9 8	
Totals	119	59,205	3	0	33	125	80,514	3	20	492 14 2	

SCHEDULE LXVIII—continued.

Land Board District.	Land District.	Number of Applications received during 1896.	Area applied for during 1896.			No. of Applications disclosed and withdrawn during 1896, including applications made during previous years.	No. of Applications approved, and in virtue of which Leases have been granted during 1896, including applications made during previous years.	Area of Leases granted.			Rent.
			a.	r.	p.			a.	r.	p.	£ s. d.
Moree	Bingara	6	3,319	1	10	.....	9	4,264	1	10	43 10 9
	Moree	11	7,014	3	0	2	11	7,094	3	0	60 0 4
	Walgett and Walgett North.	3	2,285	0	0	2	1	1,460	0	0	15 4 2
	Warialda	11	5,413	2	34	10	7	4,420	2	20	44 7 4
	Totals	31	18,032	3	4	14	28	17,239	2	30	163 2 7
Orange	Bathurst	106	56,111	3	0	9	73	46,680	3	0	227 0 10
	Carcoar	69	35,585	3	33	15	42	28,231	2	0	165 10 0
	Cowra	18	4,425	1	0	8	14	4,330	0	0	65 18 4
	Lithgow	57	29,271	1	0	5	37	20,950	2	0	99 7 4
	Molong	30	14,783	1	0	12	17	9,576	2	0	70 19 0
	Mudgee	37	13,835	3	0	4	41	14,057	1	0	87 1 9
	Orange	22	4,706	0	8½	2	18	3,211	2	0	47 18 11
	Rylstone	31	10,935	0	0	3	40	12,772	0	0	74 13 1
	Wellington	24	10,746	1	0	9	16	7,256	3	0	76 5 4
	Totals	394	180,400	2	1½	67	298	147,066	3	0	914 14 7
	Sydney	Nowra	8	4,120	0	0	17	8,723	0	0	22 10 0
Picton		6	5,180	0	0	.....	6	3,515	0	0	11 10 0
Windsor		3	1,920	0	0	1	3	1,920	0	0	6 0 0
Sydney		1	36	0	0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals		18	11,256	0	0	1	26	14,158	0	0	40 0 0
Tamworth	Coonabarrabran	19	9,581	0	0	3	22	12,040	2	0	53 19 2
	Gunnedah	4	1,240	0	0	6	7	4,056	3	0	44 15 10
	Murrurundi	6	2,750	0	0	1	2	1,100	0	0	11 7 6
	Narrabri	30	18,298	2	0	17	19	19,172	2	0	135 19 2
	Tamworth	65	40,334	3	0	8	55	34,568	1	0	205 17 11
Totals	124	72,204	1	0	35	105	70,938	0	0	451 19 7	
Wagga Wagga.	Albury	21	13,084	0	0	7	7	963	0	0	20 2 6
	Cootamundra	4	3,539	3	0	1	12	3,208	3	0	57 7 4
	Gundagai	16	10,674	0	0	47	35	8,812	2	0	221 15 2
	Narranderra	5	1,120	0	0	5	4	1,370	0	0	25 0 0
	Tumut	61	40,198	1	10	39	30	15,323	0	0	93 4 2
	Tumbarumba and Tumbarumba North.	49	38,360	0	0	4	69	67,409	0	0	283 13 7
	Urana	8	7,100	0	0	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Wagga Wagga	11	1,254	3	0	13	8	1,146	0	0	48 9 4
Totals	175	115,330	3	10	119	165	98,232	1	0	749 12 1	
Grand Total.....	1,928	1,072,830	0	35½	476	1,799	1,179,593	1	20	7,019 6 11	

SCHEDULE LXIX.

RETURN showing Areas offered by Auction and Tender as Annual Leases under 85th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and Area and Rent of such Leases granted.

Land Board District and Land District.	No. of Lots offered.	Area offered.	Area of Leases granted.	Rent.	Land Board District and Land District.	No. of Lots offered.	Area offered.	Area of Leases granted.	Rent.
		a. r. p.	acres.	£ s. d.			a. r. p.	acres.	£ s. d.
Armidale—					Maitland—				
Armidale	5	2,255 0 0	.....	.....	Maitland	3	1,248 0 0	.....	.....
Tenterfield	3	1,390 0 0	.....	.....	Scone	3	149 1 0	67½	2 0 0
Walcha	4	4,560 0 0	.....	.....	Moree—				
Bourke—					Walgett	1	115 0 0	115	8 12 6
Brewarrina	9	4,128 0 0	.....	.....	Orange—				
Dubbo—					Bathurst	1	250 0 0	250	4 10 0
Coonamble	20	20,910 0 0	1,350	11 15 0	Carcoar	6	494 2 25	476	38 15 1
Goulburn—					Lithgow	2	335 0 0	335	5 16 0
Braidwood	1	31 2 12	.....	.....	Molong	4	518 0 0	518	14 1 4
Boorowa	1	1,200 0 0	1,200	10 10 0	Mudgee	19	3,123 0 0	1,393	55 2 0
Goulburn	1	750 0 0	750	74 5 0	Tamworth—				
Queanbeyan	1	450 0 0	450	16 0 0	Tamworth	1	290 0 0	290	8 10
Yaes	14	18,498 0 0	1,490	4 13 1	Wagga Wagga—				
Grafton—					Narranderra	1	1,740 0 0	.....	.....
Bellingen	1	1,230 0 0	.....	.....	Urana	3	1,037 0 0	.....	.....
					Totals	104	65,102 1 37	8,589½	254 10 0

SCHEDULE LXX.

RETURN showing Number, Area, and Rental of Annual Leases notified as Lapsed and Cancelled during 1896.

Lapsed.			Cancelled.		
No.	Area.	Rent.	No.	Area.	Rent.
	a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.
919	715,082 0 0	4,485 3 10	117	63,917 3 32	460 17 6

SCHEDULE LXXI.

RETURN showing Number, Area, and Rental of Annual Leases current on 31st December, 1896.

Land Board District and Land District.	Number.	Area.	Rent.	Land Board District and Land District.	Number.	Area.	Rent.
EASTERN DIVISION.				CENTRAL DIVISION.			
Armidale—		a. r. p.	£ s. d.	Dubbo—		a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Armidale	222	157,688 3 20	1,181 18 4	Coonamble	31	31,763 0 0	387 3 6
Glen Innes	129	78,989 1 0	626 5 8	Dubbo	144	136,117 2 0	1,070 13 0
Inverell	189	203,717 2 0	1,201 19 4	Nyngan	18	18,870 0 0	235 3 4
Tenterfield	363	247,137 3 0	1,426 10 11	Warren	32	22,579 2 20	301 19 2
Walcha	82	68,991 0 0	410 8 11				
Goulburn—				Forbes—			
Bega	68	32,240 1 6	232 17 11	Barnedman	12	10,532 0 0	37 3 8
Bombala	70	42,487 3 20	306 12 1	Condobolin	19	15,056 0 0	225 19 6
Braidwood	149	88,168 1 0	456 11 0	Forbes	18	6,896 0 22	61 7 4
Boorowa	140	60,678 1 0	485 12 7	Grenfell	42	24,753 3 26	255 11 5
Cooma	327	222,322 0 0	1,327 3 9	Parkes	10	7,326 1 0	36 2 10
Eden	28	14,171 0 0	79 13 4				
Goulburn	287	127,715 0 30	1,050 4 3	Hay—			
Gunning	152	56,235 0 38	463 13 7	Balranald (South)..	4	1,541 0 0	13 16 5
Milton	21	13,277 0 0	71 11 0	Denihquin.....	43	23,609 2 0	935 9 4
Moruya	43	17,435 2 28	119 5 8	Hay	23	12,797 1 0	144 16 6
Moss Vale.....	36	24,877 0 0	131 6 11	Hillston.....	54	41,809 3 0	271 3 7
Queanbeyan.....	133	75,064 1 22	435 17 5				
Yass	143	76,382 1 0	452 16 0	Moree—			
Young	69	20,789 1 26	225 19 7	Bingara	33	18,586 0 30	121 11 3
Grafton—				Moree	50	35,517 3 0	322 2 3
Bellingen	28	8,490 0 0	109 0 1	Walgett	12	8,574 0 0	120 14 1
Casino	288	201,545 3 15	1,443 11 1	Warialda	22	19,901 0 0	139 2 10
Grafton	341	195,072 2 36	961 11 8				
Kempsey	32	22,936 1 0	90 7 7	Tamworth—			
Lismore	11	1,374 1 35	16 10 1	Coonabarrabran ...	87	74,385 3 0	363 15 10
Port Macquarie ...	50	36,883 0 0	143 19 2	Gunnedah.....	53	38,478 0 0	412 12 5
Maitland—				Narrabri	114	102,411 2 32	690 2 4
Casellis	407	225,751 1 0	1,350 10 9				
Dungog	6	1,706 3 0	15 12 8	Wagga Wagga—			
Gosford	3	1,100 0 0	8 5 0	Corowa	8	1,666 0 0	44 9 11
Maitland	3	501 0 0	23 0 0	Narrandera	44	16,538 2 20	520 4 6
Muswellbrook	69	37,226 1 0	236 19 9	Tumbarumba	97	93,042 0 0	420 5 1
Newcastle	3	138 0 0	17 0 7	Tumbarumba (N)...	12	11,744 0 0	85 18 8
Paterson	31	14,211 2 0	90 5 10	Tumut	64	33,281 2 0	213 2 2
Raymond Terrace...	1	85 1 20	1 8 5	Urana	9	6,748 0 0	112 7 6
Scone	206	154,678 3 0	913 7 7	Wagga Wagga.....	18	5,295 2 0	99 15 1
Singleton	31	15,146 2 0	93 8 4				
Stroud	98	74,058 0 0	414 11 1	Totals	1,073	819,882 3 30	7,651 13 6
Taree	61	37,512 0 0	226 19 3				
Wollombi	17	9,923 1 0	52 4 6				
Orange—				WESTERN DIVISION.			
Bathurst	761	441,328 2 33	2,767 1 11	Bourke—			
Carcoar	573	369,476 2 19	2,232 17 0	Bourke	16	13,065 0 0	64 2 6
Cowra	95	42,139 3 0	578 2 1	Brewarrina	14	13,914 0 0	151 14 8
Lithgow	247	142,059 0 0	733 15 5	Cobar	11	21,120 0 0	66 0 0
Molong	162	79,986 2 10	690 8 10	Wilcannia	2	2,780 0 0	26 19 2
Mudgee	570	283,214 3 39	1,724 9 3	Willyama	6	11,520 0 0	16 4 0
Orange	212	88,920 3 36	679 10 9				
Rylestone	375	187,201 0 0	1,124 14 6	Hay—			
Wellington	432	280,298 1 0	2,068 1 2	Balranald	2	820 0 0	3 13 0
Sydney—				Hay (North)	10	5,150 0 0	81 8 0
Campbelltown	1	150 0 0	1 10 0	Wentworth	5	6,187 0 0	18 4 0
Nowra	64	31,593 0 0	178 2 0				
Penrith	11	5,200 0 0	31 10 0	Moree—			
Picton	86	51,477 3 0	252 9 0	Walgett (North) ...	9	11,745 0 0	94 14 2
Windsor	6	3,220 0 0	15 13 0				
Tamworth—				Totals	75	86,301 0 0	522 19 6
Murrurundi	50	29,267 2 0	263 2 7				
Tamworth.....	262	191,212 0 1	1,097 14 7	Eastern Division	8,440	4,967,079 0 17	32,579 2 7
Wagga Wagga—				Central Division	1,073	819,882 3 30	7,651 13 6
Albury	40	13,588 1 0	142 2 11	Western Division	75	86,301 0 0	522 19 6
Cootamundra	75	34,634 1 16	419 8 1				
Gundagai	81	25,346 1 7	683 7 10	Grand Totals ...	9,588	5,873,263 0 7	40,753 15 7
Totals	8,440	4,967,079 0 17	32,579 2 7				

SCHEDULE LXXII.

RETURN showing the Number, Area, and Rental of Permissive Occupancies current on 31st December, 1896.

Land Board District.	No.	Area.	Annual Rental.	Land Board District.	No.	Area.	Annual Rental.
		a. r. p.	£ s. d.			a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Armidale	15	35 3 26	18 2 0	Moree	7	384 0 0	36 1 0
Bourke	13	521 2 0	45 8 5	Orange	5	8 0 19	13 0 0
Dubbo	2	31 1 0	1 10 0	Sydney	157	1,870 2 10	744 12 10
Goulburn	36	671 0 20	34 18 0	Tamworth	5	2 0 0	6 11 0
Grafton	81	674 0 0	96 8 0	Wagga Wagga	27	82 3 0	44 4 6
Hay	11	45 2 11	14 10 0	Total	518	4,394 1 11	1,233 14 9
Maitland	159	67 2 5	178 9 0				

SCHEDULE LXXIII.

NEWCASTLE PASTURAGE RESERVE.

RETURN showing, up to 31st December, 1896, the state of Applications to Purchase under the Newcastle Pasturage Reserve Acts.*

Total number of Applications received.	Number of Applications in which sale has been gazetted or disallowed.		Total area of Applications gazetted for sale.	Total amount of purchase money.	Applications declared forfeited for non-receipt of instalment money *		Applications to purchase in which purchase money has been paid in full.		Applications now current.*	
	Sale gazetted.	Disallowed.			No.	Purchase money.	No.	Purchase money.	No.	Purchase money.
1,169	964	205	a. r. p. 226 1 17½	£ 61,314	64	£ s. 3,891 17	302	£ s. 19,216 19	598	£ s. 33,205 9

* All action in connection with these purchases was suspended from November, 1895, to 20th November, 1896, under the Newcastle Pasturage Acts Amendment Act of 1895, and all purchases standing good at the time of passing of the Act were brought under same.

SCHEDULE LXXIV.

RETURN of Lands resumed during 1896 under the 105th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884 and the 41st section of the Crown Lands Act of 1889.

Originally dedicated or reserved for—	Place.	Area.	How disposed of.
		a. r. p.	
Public School site	Kingston	2 0 0	} To be sold or otherwise appropriated under the Crown Lands Acts.
"	Meryla	2 0 0	
"	Tarentta, Upper	2 0 0	
"	Trajere	2 0 0	
"	Yanko, Upper	2 0 0	
Mechanics' Institute site	Dubbo	0 1 0	} Part rededicated, the remainder reserved for Temporary Common.
General Cemetery	Gundurimba	14 0 0	
"	Hanging Rock	3 3 0	
"	Hill End	7 2 0	
"	Nooroona	8 1 8	
"	Nundle	7 2 0	
"	Singleton	23 0 29	
"	Westmead	19 0 33	
"	Wentworth	10 2 13	
"	Inverell	114 0 0	
Public Park	Drake (Fairfield)	11 0 0	} To be sold or otherwise appropriated under the Crown Lands Acts.
"	Forbes	184 2 0	
"	Kiama	2 2 0	
"	"	2 0 0	} Included in Show Ground.
"	Menindie	320 0 0	
"	Tenterfield	1 3 17½	} Rededicated as 1 ac. 0 rd. 38-4 per.
"	West Kempsey	180 0 0	
Racecourse	Cootamundra	160 0 0	} Rededicated with a view to issue of new deed.
"	Gooloogong	173 0 0	
"	"	102½ acres rededicated, the remainder reserved for Temporary Common.	} Dedicated for Athletic Sports.
Cricket Ground	Deniliquin	10 0 0	
Show Ground	Forbes	23 3 12	} To be sold or otherwise appropriated under the Crown Lands Acts.
"	Raglan	10 0 0	
Permanent Common	Bogabri	732 0 0	} 698 ac. 1 rd. 34 per. rededicated, the remainder reserved for Racecourse.
"	Merriwa	1,000 0 0	
"	Singleton	1,000 0 0	} The greater part of these areas was made available for settlement.
"	"	1,000 0 0	
Public Watering Place	Gumley Gumley	125 0 0	} Reserved for access and leased.
Water Supply	Randwick	9 2 37	
Total		5,178 2 35½	To be sold or otherwise appropriated under the Crown Lands Acts.

SUMMARY.

Year.	Number of Resumptions.	Area resumed.
1895	31	a. r. p. 1,961 0 11
1896	33	5,178 2 35½

SCHEDULE LXXV.

RETURN of Reserves from Sale notified during 1896.

Land Board District.	Access.		C.P. Gold-field.		Conditional Sale.		Mining.		Pending completion of exchange.		Pending Subdivision.		Preservation and growth of Timber.		Recreation.		Railway.		School.		Temporary Common.		Travelling Stock and Camping.		Village and Suburban Settlement.		Water Supply.		Other Public Purposes.		Other than Auction Sale only.		Totals.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
Armidale	12	1,797	3	6,338	5	1,201	...	...	10	4,458	8	92,970	1	1,050	4	71	1	12	1	2	4	2,918	19	7,853	1	620	9	851	12	697	3	695	93	121,533
Bourke .....	...	...	...	...	1	162	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	29	...	...	...	1	3	2	2,780	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	8,236
Dubbo	21	7,850	...	...	10	69,048	11	7,067	3	8,593	22	630,204	2	9,830	5	1,459	5	12,417	...	...	6	7,965	19	31,583	2	15,856	23	3,019	28	442,455	1	198	158	1,248,145
Forbes	4	1,293	2	1,250	2	425	...	...	6	2,044	10	18,670	7	23,480	1	10	3	24	1	10	5	4,796	30	24,574	...	...	8	762	7	403	5	927	91	75,668
Goulburn	7	323	3	33,000	...	...	7	65,856	1	945	1	2,725	6	3,962	6	92	2	900	6	47	6	5,406	7	418	...	...	7	505	35	800	6	973	100	115,952
Grafton	8	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2,760	6	2,578	2	4,032	6	277	1	22	1	10	4	2,990	2	1,050	...	...	5	276	14	303	1	59	49	14,374
Hay	2	177	...	...	...	...	1	89	6	7,654	7	849,050	7	25,846	2	51	...	...	...	...	2	320	15	62,270	...	...	4	2,671	13	34,219	4	1,136	63	982,483
Matland	7	176	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	2,221	5	22,040	2	2,950	3	30	2	653	...	...	2	1,450	8	593	...	...	12	279	25	3,238	...	...	83	33,630
Moree	15	6,117	1	440	22	49,291	...	...	19	19,487	19	207,714	3	9,330	2	29	1	340	1	5	2	159	3	27,051	2	587	3	2,365	12	3,340	3	1,027	139	327,282
Orange	3	884	11	254,297	2	360	24	187,698	5	1,745	8	6,291	...	...	2	136	2	111	1	7	9	21,394	32	27,418	...	...	15	2,715	8	977	2	508	124	504,544
Sydney	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	340	...	...	6	500	3	1	1	41	...	...	5	358	1	22	11	1,228	31	4,121	4	174	66	6,822		
Tamworth	22	5,307	5	10,315	2	145	...	...	28	22,897	19	170,871	5	237,260	2	1,228	1	25	1	8	5	4,370	25	43,670	...	...	4	5,550	27	7,192	3	310	149	509,148
Wagga Wagga	16	2,515	2	282	17	6,601	5	1,540	17	6,654	17	19,368	6	3,834	9	120	1	10	2	6	8	3,680	18	5,891	3	883	9	379	21	6,730	...	...	151	58,498
	118	26,457	27	305,922	61	127,233	48	262,850	116	79,548	125	2,021,824	41	318,574	49	4,038	22	14,515	16	139	55	58,179	214	232,759	9	17,973	110	20,600	237	504,787	32	6,007	1,275	4,001,315

SCHEDULE LXXVI.

RETURN of Reserves from Sale revoked during 1896.

Land Board District.	Access.		Other than Auction Sale.		C.P. Gold-field.		Conditional Sale, Conditional Lease, and Annual Lease.		Pending Subdivision.		Preservation of Timber.		Public Buildings.		Recreation.		Railway.		School.		Temporary Common.		Travelling Stock and Camping.		Village and Suburban Settlement.		Water Supply.		Other Public Purposes.		Tracts or Areas previously notified as not available for settlement until survey effected, &c.		Totals.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
Armidale .....	...	...	11	2,378	2	510	3	7,934	8	1,705	4	7,733	...	...	1	2	20	16,934	1	1	7	1,510	26	7,508	4	2,331	39	19,426	18	557	4	81,100	148	149,679
Bourke .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	36,791	...	...	...	...	2	24	3	6,521	...	...	9	7,709	25	36,024	4	1,026	8	5,979	5	1,729	3	23,278	61	119,073		
Dubbo	6	4,013	6	3,693	...	...	2	801	5	5,785	4	17,160	1	1	1	30	19	34,934	...	...	13	20,366	51	66,413	3	12,150	36	21,253	6	1,240	20	644,402	173	832,248
Forbes	18	4,093	2	1,912	2	2,089	3	748	2	12	1	11,200	...	...	2	78	15	48,920	1	10	10	1,790	44	62,553	...	...	26	33,138	11	6,540	7	12,106	144	185,219
Goulburn	1	1	4	903	6	34,125	1	30	...	...	13	13,020	...	...	8	345	5	3,922	3	83	15	1,810	16	2,871	4	447	20	3,738	25	2,467	...	...	121	63,762
Grafton	1	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	29	6	10,039	3	11	2	204	5	161	1	5	4	3,043	7	1,311	7	2,906	8	1,382	15	2,233	...	...	61	21,364
Hay	2	744	17	4,286	...	...	1	172	...	...	8	3,736	1	2	...	1	5,980	1	32	7	203	33	67,775	3	2,265	52	48,099	31	11,001	11	819,160	168	963,455	
Matland	2	356	4	261	3	4,746	...	...	...	...	7	3,592	...	...	2	15	6	10,725	1	20	4	2,093	7	2,570	2	746	11	871	19	1,478	4	28,410	72	55,877
Moree	6	8,036	5	2,683	1	2,100	4	10,237	2	10,990	2	2,760	...	...	...	...	12	25,132	...	...	3	2,436	45	41,171	3	1,744	52	32,986	15	44,861	5	55,200	155	240,336
Orange	1	480	1	408	35	167,128	16	90,170	3	2,355	1	140	...	...	1	40	14	42,116	1	6	15	37,258	53	50,822	5	2,624	34	10,579	25	6,229	1	1,000	206	411,355
Sydney	2	49	1	29	...	...	...	...	1	40	5	9,791	...	...	...	...	1	2,200	1	6	2	1,184	1	70	1	22	3	108	17	9,096	...	...	35	22,595
Tamworth	13	5,239	5	1,399	...	...	...	...	3	840	10	368,520	...	...	5	2,151	7	60,190	...	...	8	2,746	59	57,649	2	8,628	54	43,650	45	18,327	11	59,816	222	629,125
Wagga Wagga	4	2,850	19	1,668	13	6,339	3	823	3	1,442	10	8,715	1	9	...	...	4	1,139	3	96	9	1,884	36	11,261	4	1,426	92	100,251	21	15,104	6	6,365	228	159,372
	56	25,867	75	19,650	62	217,037	35	147,706	29	23,198	71	456,456	6	23	24	2,887	112	253,873	13	259	106	84,032	403	407,998	42	36,315	435	321,454	253	120,868	72	1,730,837	1,794	3,853,460

SCHEDULE LXXVII.

RETURN of Reserves from Lease and License, Annual Lease, &c., notified during 1896.

Land Board District.	Access.		Pending Sub-division.		Re-creation.		Roads.		Preservation and Growth of Timber.		Travelling Stock and Camping.		Water Supply.		Annual and Homestead Lease.		Annual Lease for Temporary Common.		Lease Generally.		Other Public Purposes.		Totals.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
Armidale.....	1	7	3	61,700	2	12	...	...	1	601	2	398	1	11	3	11,025	4	2,918	2	1,170	5	174	24	78,016
Bourke.....	1	8	...	...	...	...	4	1,961	...	...	37	95,120	...	...	5	40,800	6	21,529	3	12,186	3	527	59	172,181
Dubbo.....	...	...	3	23,849	...	...	3	435	...	...	1	1,280	2	1,140	6	92,763	6	7,966	...	...	12	442,307	33	569,740
Forbes.....	...	...	1	13,035	...	...	2	85	...	...	1	140	3	1,226	8	36,829	5	4,726	...	...	3	71	23	56,112
Goulburn.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	2	665	1	14	2	639	3	2,220	...	...	2	18	11	3,561
Grafton.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	80	1	190	...	...	3	2,900	...	...	...	...	5	3,170
Hay.....	2	43	...	...	...	...	4	415	...	...	1	60	1	1,360	8	102,532	3	4,200	2	11,640	1	100	22	120,350
Maitland.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1,284	...	...	2	1,633	2	1,450	...	...	2	9	11	4,376
Moree.....	3	86	...	...	...	...	11	589	...	...	9	2,763	...	...	2	56,667	2	159	...	...	1	24	28	60,288
Orange.....	1	120	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	4,231	5	316	3	1,430	9	4,722	8	2,356	2	9	43	13,184
Sydney.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1,840	1	2,195	2	4,035	
Tamworth.....	4	2,572	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	...	3	820	...	...	4	7,164	4	3,730	...	...	...	16	14,291	
Wagga Wagga.....	...	...	...	...	1	10	1	26	...	...	3	1,186	...	...	10	38,468	7	3,494	...	...	...	22	43,184	
	12	2,836	7	98,584	4	27	25	3,511	2	606	80	108,027	14	4,257	53	389,950	54	60,014	16	20,192	32	445,434	299	1,142,438

SCHEDULE LXXVIII.

RETURN of Reserves from Lease and License revoked during 1896.

Land Board District.	Access.		Mining.		Roads and Crossing.		Annual Lease or Occupation Lease for Temporary Common.		Suburban Settlement.		Travelling Stock and Camping.		Village.		Water Supply.		Conditional Lease and Annual Lease.		Other Public Purposes.		Totals.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
Armidale.....	...	...	1	640	...	...	9	2,800	...	...	5	1,355	1	558	3	128	...	...	7	7,584	26	13,065
Bourke.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	14,416	10	12,041	7	2,780	3	2,605	1	10,240	...	...	21	36,610	59	78,692
Dubbo.....	...	...	...	...	5	287	10	53,042	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5,788	20	59,117
Forbes.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	5,161	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	2,555	20	7,716
Goulburn.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	9,487	...	...	1	90	2	619	...	...	...	...	25	34,426	39	44,622
Grafton.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3,868	...	...	...	...	1	450	...	...	...	...	2	7	7	4,325
Hay.....	3	225	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1,173	1	188	3	4,355	...	...	26	7,597	37	13,538	
Maitland.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3,958	...	...	1	210	...	...	1	80	...	...	...	...	7	4,248
Moree.....	2	64	...	...	1	38	3	2,436	...	...	4	1,380	...	...	1	2,800	...	...	10	25,253	21	31,961
Orange.....	1	150	2	23	...	...	20	35,727	...	...	...	...	1	723	2	184	3	1,695	9	3,041	38	41,543
Sydney.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	314	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	314
Tamworth.....	2	48	...	...	1	87	7	43,843	...	...	3	937	...	...	1	1,660	4	940	15	18,691	33	66,206
Wagga Wagga.....	...	...	...	...	2	111	5	230	...	...	11	2,421	1	75	4	697	...	...	45	12,863	68	16,297
	8	477	3	663	9	523	105	175,282	10	12,041	36	10,346	10	5,218	16	20,044	7	2,635	172	154,416	376	381,644

SCHEDULE LXXIX.

RETURN of Dedications for Religious and Public Purposes during the year 1896.

Purpose of Dedication.	No. of Dedications.	Area dedicated			Religious Purposes.			No. of Dedications.	Area dedicated.					
		a.	r.	p.					a.	r.	p.			
Permanent Commons.....	2	1,408	1	34	Roman Catholic Church and Presbytery Site Church of England Church Site.....									
Racecourses.....	8	1,031	1	0										
Public Recreation.....	17	303	0	24 ¹ / ₂										
Public School sites.....	106	209	2	31 ¹ / ₂										
General Cemeteries.....	23	159	2	14 ¹ / ₂										
Show Grounds.....	4	28	2	3										
Public Reservoir.....	1	12	2	30										
Hospital Sites.....	2	12	0	0										
Athletic Sports.....	1	10	0	0										
Mechanics' Institute Sites.....	10	2	3	23 ¹ / ₂										
Accommodation House.....	1	2	0	0										
Preservation of Graves.....	3	1	0	34										
Public Recreation and Access.....	1	1	0	13										
Public Landing Place.....	1	0	2	36 ¹ / ₂										
Town Hall and Council Chambers Sites.....	2	0	2	20										
Total.....	182	3,183	3	25¹/₂	Total for Religious Purposes	2	1	3	38	Total for General Purposes	182	3,183	3	25¹/₂
					Grand Total.....	184	3,185	3	25¹/₂					

SCHEDULE LXXX.

RETURN of Special Areas proclaimed during 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District.	Within Population Area or Suburban Lands.		Country Lands.		Land Board District.	Land District.	Within Population Area or Suburban Lands.		Country Lands.	
		No.	Area.	No.	Area.			No.	Area.	No.	Area.
			a. r. p.		a. r. p.				a. r. p.		a. r. p.
Armidale	Armidale	12	95 1 9	5	877 3 0	Orange	Bathurst	1	97 0 0	6	1,271 0 0
	Glen Innes			2	77 0 20		Carcoar	1	76 3 11	6	2,397 3 0
	Tenterfield			2	599 0 0		Cowra	1	101 3 38	4	358 1 0
Dubbo	Coonamble	2	599 0 0	2	786 0 0		Molong	1	154 0 30	1	348 0 0
	Nyngan	2	786 0 0	1	1,230 0 0		Mudgee	1	72 1 0	1	490 0 0
Forbes	Barmedman	3	339 2 0	3	4,066 1 0	Sydney	Wellington	2	567 1 0		
	Forbes	1	7 2 13	1	1,230 0 0	Tamworth	Penrith	2	567 1 0		
	Parkes	5	297 1 20	1	130 0 0		Gunnedah	5	553 2 30	1	40 0 0
Goulburn	Bega	1	130 0 0	2	968 0 0		Murrurundi	2	116 1 11		
	Lismore	1	161 0 0	1	40 0 0	Wagga Wagga	Narrabri			6	2,480 0 0
	Murwillumbah			2	2,424 0 0		Tamworth			2	432 3 0
Hay	Balranald	1	59 0 0	1	208 0 0		Cootamundra			3	610 2 0
	Deniliquin	2	2,424 0 0	1	678 2 0		Corowa			8	3,681 0 0
Maitland	Cassilis	1	208 0 0	3	840 2 0		Narrandera			4	2,542 2 0
	Gosford	3	68 3 17				Urana			5	893 0 0
	Singleton	1	678 2 0				Wagga Wagga			7	1,623 3 0
Moree	Moree	3	840 2 0								
							Total	38	2,612 0 19	82	30,199 2 20

Number. Area.
Grand Total..... 120 a. r. p. 32,811 2 30

SCHEDULE LXXXI.

RETURN of Homestead Selection Areas notified during 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District.	No. of Blocks.	Area.	Land Board District.	Land District.	No. of Blocks.	Area.
			a. r. p.				a. r. p.
Armidale	Armidale	55	5,844 0 10	Maitland	Cassilis	39	3,035 3 0
	Glen Innes	8	618 3 14		Gosford	25	3,377 1 0
	Inverell	33	12,548 0 0		Maitland	56	4,478 3 30
	Tenterfield	3	1,280 0 0		Muswellbrook	4	768 1 0
	Walcha	14	2,944 1 0		Newcastle	3	589 0 0
Bourke	Brewarrina	17	14,483 3 20		Paterson	27	4,989 2 0
	Cobar	30	2,815 2 17		Singleton	35	2,258 0 14
Dubbo	Coonamble	8	300 0 10		Stroud	8	6,850 3 0
	Dubbo	81	35,032 1 13	Moree	Walgett	15	14,928 0 0
	Nyngan	45	16,119 3 0	Orange	Cowra	17	184 3 30
Forbes	Barmedman	3	1,814 0 0		Lithgow	3	579 1 10
	Forbes	7	5,405 1 0		Molong	20	3,918 3 35
	Grenfell	16	7,414 3 2		Mudgee	53	6,312 1 26
	Parkes	13	10,696 1 0	Sydney	Campbelltown	72	3,183 3 20
Goulburn	Boorowa	15	2,609 3 0		Liverpool	57	5,237 1 0
	Cooma	12	812 1 38		Penrith	28	1,136 3 10
	Goulburn	4	765 0 0		Picton	11	521 0 0
	Gunning	6	893 2 0		Windsor	22	911 2 10
	Moruya	4	579 2 0	Tamworth	Gunnedah	45	11,032 2 0
	Queambeyan	1	945 0 0		Tamworth	9	2,447 1 0
	Yass	10	1,083 0 0	Wagga Wagga	Albury	37	920 1 38
	Young	25	5,409 0 35		Cootamundra	28	6,347 1 10
Grafton	Casino	3	625 0 0		Corowa	35	11,919 3 31
	Grafton	7	1,072 2 0		Narrandera	56	32,173 1 0
	Lismore	16	5,211 3 0		Tumut	2	957 1 0
Hay	Balranald	3	3,098 3 0		Urana	63	26,861 2 0
	Deniliquin	15	5,912 2 0		Wagga Wagga	73	28,560 0 0
	Hay	18	8,453 2 0				
	Hillston	20	7,360 1 32		Total	1,335	347,639 0 15

SCHEDULE LXXXII.

RETURN of Settlement Lease Areas notified during 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District.	No. of Farms.	Area.			Land Board District.	Land District.	No. of Farms.	Area.		
			a.	r.	p.				a.	r.	p.
Armidale	Armidale	2	7,450	0	0	Maitland	Wollombi	6	12,955	3	0
	Inverell	2	9,180	0	0						
	Walcha	2	16,610	0	0	Moree	Bingara	12	50,578	0	0
Bourke	Bourke	7	63,213	0	0		Moree	54	144,632	3	0
	Brewarrina	1	5,980	0	0		Walgett	31	86,218	3	0
	Cobar	7	56,970	0	0		Warialda	21	60,174	2	0
	Wilcannia	1	10,238	0	0						
Dubbo	Coonamble	17	56,805	0	0	Tamworth	Coonabarrabran	37	128,779	2	0
	Dubbo	14	55,654	0	0		Gunnedah	8	13,825	2	0
	Nyngan	32	163,883	0	0		Narrabri	50	240,662	2	0
	Warren	35	103,292	2	0		Tamworth	1	2,112	0	0
Forbes	Barnedman	28	76,392	3	0						
	Condobolin	23	82,372	2	10	Wagga Wagga ...	Cootamundra	1	2,615	2	0
	Grenfell	13	31,726	3	0		Narrandera	4	17,974	0	0
Goulburn	Boorowa	2	5,229	0	0		Urana	6	10,487	2	0
	Cooma	1	1,850	0	0		Wagga Wagga	1	421	2	0
Hay	Balranald	14	71,180	0	0		Totals	481	1,719,391	1	10
	Deniliquin	1	1,587	1	0						
	Hay	9	32,088	3	0						
	Hullston	38	96,251	0	0						

SCHEDULE LXXXIII.

RETURN showing number of Trespasses on Crown Lands reported during 1896, and action taken thereon under the provisions of the Crown Lands Acts.

Number of cases not disposed of at end of 1895	441
Number of cases reported by the Crown Lands Bailiffs during 1896	524
	— 965
Number of prosecutions in which convictions were obtained	34
Number of prosecutions in which cases were dismissed	2
Trespasses abated after notice, without legal proceedings by the Department	513
Cases of reported trespass in which, after investigation, it was found that no proceedings were necessary	39
Number of cases referred to other Departments for action	22
Cases in which action was suspended by the Department pending investigation of application to be placed in legal occupation	34
Cases not disposed of at end of year	321
	— 965

SCHEDULE LXXXIV.

PART A.

RETURN showing Number, Area, and Rental of Pastoral Leases granted under the Church and School Lands Dedication Act of 1880, current on 31st December, 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District.	No.	Area.			Rent.		
			a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
Goulburn	Braidwood	53	15,964	2	36	622	0	2
Maitland	Dungog	47	71,954	0	0	582	19	9
	Maitland	4	174	0	20	6	16	0
	Stroud	63	84,846	3	0	1,202	5	3
	Singleton	5	948	3	31	23	0	0
Orange	Bathurst	52	27,406	3	23	549	19	4
	Carcoar	105	42,775	3	17	2,848	11	1
Totals		329	244,071	1	7	5,835	11	7

PART B.

RETURN showing Number, Area, and Rental of Agricultural Leases granted under the Church and School Lands Dedication Act, current on 31st December, 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District.	No.	Area.			Rent.		
			a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
Goulburn	Braidwood	28	753	3	11	95	13	2
Maitland	Dungog	10	740	0	0	115	17	10
	Maitland	5	11	1	23	5	16	0
	Stroud	103	5,481	2	0	837	7	7
Metropolitan	Liverpool	3	139	0	0	13	18	0
	Picton	2	3	1	11	1	0	0
Orange	Bathurst	85	977	2	0	228	18	2
	Carcoar	92	2,347	1	27	439	10	3
Totals		328	10,453	3	32	1,738	1	0

SCHEDULE LXXXV.

PART A.

RETURN showing Mineral Leases granted under the Church and School Lands Mining Acts of 1888-9, current on 31st December, 1896, and of applications received, refused, leases granted, cancelled, and expired during 1896.

Land Board District and Land District.	Number of Applications.			Area of outstanding Applications.	Area applied for during 1896.	Total Area.	Applications declined or withdrawn.			Number not finally dealt with.	Leases granted during 1896.			Leases cancelled during 1896.			Leases expired during 1896.			Leases current on 31st December, 1896.		
	Outstanding from 1895.	Received during 1896.	Total.				Outstanding from 1895.	Received during 1896.	Total.		No.	Area.	Rent.	No.	Area.	Rent.	No.	Area.	Rent.	No.	Area.	Rent.
				a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.						a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Maitland— Stroud	3	192 3 1	60 1 2
Orange— Bathurst	2	2	.....	50 0 0	50 0 0	...	1	1	1	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	1	20 0 0	5 0 0
Carcoar	14	14	.....	920 0 0	920 0 0	...	...	...	14	1	40 0 0	10 0 0	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	2	71 1 0	17 17 6
Totals.....	...	16	16	.....	970 0 0	970 0 0	...	1	1	15	1	40 0 0	10 0 0	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	6	294 0 1	82 18 8

PART B.

RETURN showing Gold Leases granted under the Church and School Lands Mining Acts of 1888-9, current on 31st December, 1896, and of applications received, refused, leases granted, cancelled, and expired during 1896.

Land Board District and Land District.	Number of Applications.			Area of outstanding Applications.	Area applied for during 1896.	Total Area.	Applications declined or withdrawn.			Number not finally dealt with.	Leases granted during 1896.			Leases cancelled during 1896.			Leases expired during 1896.			Leases current on 31st December, 1896.		
	Outstanding from 1895.	Received during 1896.	Total.				Outstanding from 1895.	Received during 1896.	Total.		No.	Area.	Rent.	No.	Area.	Rent.	No.	Area.	Rent.	No.	Area.	Rent.
				a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.						a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.		a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Goulburn— Braidwood	2	1	3	15 0 0	10 0 0	25 0 0	...	1	1	3	1	10 0 0	10 0 0	...	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	4	13 0 0	13 0 0
Maitland— Dungog	1	1	2	3 0 0	5 0 0	8 0 0	...	1	1	1	1	3 0 0	3 0 0	2	7 0 0	7 0 0	...	.....	.....	3	9 0 0	9 0 0
Stroud	5	3	8	27 0 0	5 0 0	32 0 0	...	...	...	...	6	28 0 0	28 0 0	...	.....	.....	1	2 0 0	2 0 0	6	23 0 0	23 0 0
Orange— Bathurst	8	4	12	38 0 0	25 0 0	63 0 0	...	1	1	2	8	46 0 0	46 0 0	2	15 0 0	15 0 0	...	.....	.....	9	49 0 0	49 0 0
Carcoar	25	16	41	127 2 0	99 0 0	226 2 0	...	1	1	11	29	151 2 0	152 0 0	10	59 0 0	59 0 0	1	5 0 0	5 0 0	84	520 3 29	579 16 0
Totals.....	41	25	66	210 2 0	144 0 0	354 2 0	...	4	4	17	45	238 2 0	239 0 0	14	81 0 0	81 0 0	2	7 0 0	7 0 0	106	619 3 29	678 16 0

SCHEDULE LXXXVI.

RETURN showing Number, Area, and Rental of 99-years Leases granted prior to passing of Church and School Lands Dedication Act of 1880, current on 31st December, 1896.

Land Board District and Land District.	No.	Area.	Rental.
		a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Metropolitan	41	16 1 31	494 0 0

RETURN showing Number, Period, Area, and Rental of Building Leases granted under the Church and School Lands Dedication Act of 1880, current on 31st December, 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District.	No.	Period of Lease.	Area.	Rental.
			years.	a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Metropolitan .....	.....	1	65	0 0 36½	43 0 0
Orange	Carcoar	2	50	10 3 21½	17 15 0
	Totals.....	3	.....	11 0 17½	60 15 0

SCHEDULE LXXXVII.

RETURN showing Pastoral Leases offered at Auction, Areas Leased, and Rental of Leases granted, also Areas Leased by Tender and Rental.

Land Board District.	Land District.	No. of Lots Offered or Leased.	Area.		Rental.
			Offered.	Leased.	
				a. r. p.	£ s. d.
By Tender— Orange	Bathurst	1	.....	76 3 0	1 10 0

RETURN showing Agricultural Leases offered at Auction, Areas Leased, and Rental of Leases granted, also Areas Leased by Tender and Rental.

Land Board District.	Land District.	No. of Lots Offered or Leased.	Area.		Rental.
			Offered.	Leased.	
				a. r. p.	£ s. d.
By Tender— Orange	Bathurst	15	.....	40 0 17½	11 10 0

SCHEDULE LXXXVIII.

RETURN showing Number, Area, Rental, and Period of Miscellaneous Holdings, granted prior and subsequent to the passing of the Church and School Lands Dedication Act of 1880, current on 31st December, 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District.	No.	Period.	Area.	Rental.
				a. r. p.	£ s. d.
Metropolitan .....	.....	1	Suffeience	2 0 0	5 0 0
Orange	Bathurst	1	Annual	1 1 28	0 15 0
	Carcoar	1	Suffeience.....	25 0 0	5 0 0
	Totals.....	3	.....	28 1 28	10 15 0

SCHEDULE LXXXIX.

RETURN showing places of Meetings, length of Sittings, and number of Cases dealt with during 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District.	Place of Meeting.	Number of Courts held.	Duration of Sittings.	Number of Cases dealt with.	Number of Cases adjourned.		
Armidale.....	Armidale.....	Armidale	15	days. 31½	{ 489 105*	32		
		Budarra	2	1½	{ 34	.....	
		Hillgrove	4	3	{ 34	.....	
		Urulla	3	3½	{ 36	3		
		Walcha Road	5	4½	{ 88	.....	
		Wandsworth.....	2	1½	{ 39	.....	
		Wollomombi	3	4	{ 77	4		
		Glen Innes	Glen Innes	Emmaville	2	1½	{ 19 27°	.....
				Glen Innes	8	12	{ 224	25
		Inverell	Inverell	Ashford.....	3	2½	{ 60 83°	4
				Budarra	3	2½	{ 47	6
				Inverell	7	14	{ 266	19
				Tingha	1	1	{ 5	.....
				Wandsworth.....	3	2½	{ 71	4
		Tenterfield	Tenterfield	Deepwater	3	2	{ 33 60°	1
				Tenterfield	8	14½	{ 276	17
				Wilson's Downtall	3	3	{ 48	11
		Walcha	Walcha	Walcha	7	13½	{ 308 32*	29
			
		Bourke	Bourke	Bourke	2	116½	{ 525	56
Cobar	1			35	{ 138	5		
Brewarrina.....	3			8	{ 85	21		
Wilcannia	3			43	{ 177	4		
Willyama	2			33½	{ 150	1		
.....	2			16	{ 78	4		
Dubbo	Dubbo	Coonamble	5	13½	{ 459	109		
		Gulgandra.....	3	2	{ 41	11		
		Dubbo	9	23	{ 487	92		
		Nyngan	6	11½	{ 287	70		
		Warren	8	27	{ 308	215		
Forbes.....	Barmedman and Barmedman East.	Barmedman	5	18	{ 382	77		
		Wyalong	1	1	{ 20	.....	
		Condobolin.....	5	19½	{ 217 5*	37 1*		
		Forbes.....	8	24½	{ 375 3*	118 1*		
		Grenfell	5	14	{ 161	82		
		Parkes	6	20½	{ 295 4*	117 3*		
			
Goulburn	Bega	Bega	5	4	{ 96 5*	4		
		Cobargo	2	1½	{ 22	.....	
		Bombala	Bombala	Bombala	4	4	{ 108 11*	4 2*
				Delegeete	3	2½	{ 53	1
		Boorowa	Boorowa	Binalong	10	7	{ 61	9
				Boorowa	11	9½	{ 159 1*	12
		Braidwood	Braidwood	6	5	{ 146 18°	1	
		Cooma.....	Adaminaby	Adaminaby	4	3	{ 85	5
				Buckley's Crossing	6	4½	{ 109	7
				Cooma	24	21	{ 420 45°	21 5°
		Eden.....	Eden	Eden	3	2½	{ 47 3°	.....
				Wyndham.....	2	1½	{ 44	1
		Goulburn	Goulburn	Crookwell.....	1	½	{ 3	.....
				Goulburn	16	14	{ 229 6°	33
				Taralga	7	5	{ 90	11
				Goulburn cases dealt with at Crookwell by Gunning Board.	3	2½	{ 21	2
		Gunning	Gunning	Crookwell.....	5	3½	{ 13	2
				Gunning	11	9½	{ 108 3*	8
		Moruya	Bodal'a	Bodal'a	4	3	{ 68	7
				Meruya	4	2	{ 52 3°	3 3*
Moss Vale	Moss Vale.....	11	9½	{ 112 2*	6			
Queanbeyan	Queanbeyan	14	13	{ 304 24*	8 1*			
Yass.....	Yass	10	8½	{ 152 5*	2			
Young.....	Young	12	11	{ 215 2°	12			

NOTE.—Cases marked thus (*) dealt with by Chairman sitting alone.

SCHEDULE LXXXIX—continued.

Land Board District.	Land District.	Place of Meeting.	Number of Courts held.	Duration of Sittings.	Number of Cases dealt with.	Number of Cases adjourned.
Grafton	Bellingen	Bellingen	4	9 days.	141	22
		Coff's Harbour	1	2	47	1
	Casino	Casino	6	16½	287	67
	Grafton	Grafton	7	9	229	32
	Kempsey	Kempsey	4	11½	202	18
	Lismore	Lismore	5	21	334	9
	Murwillumbah	Murwillumbah	5	9	138	15
	Port Macquarie	Port Macquarie	3	3½	58	6
Hay	Balranald	Balranald	3	18½	{ 212 3*	11
	Deniliquin	Deniliquin	6	95	{ 420 1*	18
		Moulamein	1	10	{ 71 1*	.....
	Hay	Hay	6	56	{ 345 14*	32
	Hillston	Hillston	2	20	{ 131 5*	4
		Lake Cudgellico	2	10	{ 70 5*	3
	Wentworth	Wentworth	2	14½	{ 97 5*	15
	Euston	1	1	{ 6 5*	7	
Maitland	Cassilis	Cassilis	3	3½	{ 91 4*	.....
		Leadville	3	3	{ 68 4*	3
		Merriwa	4	2½	{ 48 2*	2
	Dungog	Dungog	4	2½	{ 43 2*	1
	Gosford	Gosford	5	5	{ 70 1*	7
	Maitland	Maitland	4	2	{ 16 1*	1
	Muswellbrook	Muswellbrook	4	3½	{ 57 1*	8
	Newcastle	Newcastle	5	4	{ 25 1*	1
	Paterson	Paterson	3	1½	{ 22 1*	.....
	Raymond Terrace	Raymond Terrace	3	1½	{ 22 1*	.....
	Scone	Scone	4	7½	{ 154 6*	9
	Singleton	Singleton	4	3½	{ 59 6*	1
	Stroud	Gloucester	4	3	{ 80 6*	1
		Stroud	3	2	{ 27 6*	.....
	Taree	Foster	1	1	{ 19 3*	1
		Taree	4	5	{ 96 3*	4
		Wingham	3	2½	{ 41 1*	1
Wollombi	Wollombi	3	2	{ 27 1*	2	
Moree	Moree	Court House, Moree	4	29½	{ 508 93*	68
	Walgett North, &c.	do Collarendabri ..	2	4	{ 81 17*	7
	Walgett, &c.	do Walgett	2	15½	{ 268 33*	21
	Bingara	do Bingara	2	4	{ 132 18*	13
	Warialda and Moree	do Boggabilla	1	3	{ 47 3*	5
	Warialda	do Yetman	1	1	{ 21 3*	1
		do Warialda	2	6	{ 183 28*	20
Orange	Bathurst	Bathurst	5	8	{ 165 1*	2
		Oberon	3	1½	{ 39 1*	3
		Sofala	1	1½	{ 3 1*	.....
	Carcoar	Carcoar	4	5	{ 79 1*	3
		Trunkey	3	5	{ 87 1*	2
		Tucua	2	6	{ 124 1*	9
	Cowra	Cowra	5	16½	{ 247 1*	13
	Lithgow	Lithgow	3	5½	{ 124 1*	12
		Oberon	3	3½	{ 85 1*	10
	Molong	Molong	5	10½	{ 187 2*	8
		Cumnock	3	10	{ 217 2*	2
		Cudai	2	4½	{ 64 2*	13
		Canowindra	2	8	{ 109 2*	10
	Mudgee	Mudgee	5	20	{ 428 3*	30
	Orange	Orange	3	3½	{ 62 3*	2
	Rylstone	Rylstone	5	7	{ 167 4*	7
	Wellington	Wellington	5	11½	{ 245 4*	21

NOTE.—Cases marked thus* dealt with by Chairman, sitting alone.

SCHEDULE LXXXIX—continued.

Land Board District.	Land District.	Place o Meeting.	Number of Courts held.	Duration of Sittings.	Number of Cases dealt with.	Number of Cases adjourned.
Sydney	Campbelltown	Campbelltown	6	3 days.	45	15
	Kiama	Kiama	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	.....
	Liverpool	Liverpool	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	.....
	Metropolitan	Sydney	9	19	78	6
	Milton	Milton	2	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	44	.....
	Nowra	Nowra	5	3	49	1
	Parramatta	Parramatta	5	3	46	1
	Penrith	Penrith	3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	1
	Pieton	Pieton	6	4	106	2
	Windsor	Windsor	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	141	14
Tamworth	Coonabarrabran	Coonabarrabran	3	9	{ 265 12*	11
	Gunnedah	Boggabri	1	96	{ 162 4*	14
		Gunnedah .....					This meeting was adjourned from place to place, and the principal business consisted of the Merkadoolinquiries.
		Boggabri	1	1	12	.....
		Gunnedah	3	8	155	5
	Murrurundi	Murrurundi	3	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 60 10*	4
	Narrabri	Quirindi	4	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	113	2
		Millie	1	2	6	.....
	Tamworth	Narrabri	5	13	{ 221 15*	8
		Pilliga	3	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	64	.....
		Wee Wee	3	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	66	5
		Barraba	3	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	60	6
		Manilla	4	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	113	9
	Tamworth	8	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 440 95*	14	
Wagga Wagga	Albury	Albury	3	6	105	11
		Germanton	3	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	73	5
	Cootamundra, Cootamundra Central.	Cootamundra	3	11	{ 126 2*	5
		Temora	3	26	{ 268 2*	14
	Corowa	Corowa	2	6	63	2
		Mulwala	2	13	150	7
	Gundagai	Gundagai	3	16	259	17
	Narrandera	Narrandera	5	25	248	26
	Tumbarumba, Tumbarumba North.	Tumbarumba	2	11	150	2
	Tumut	Tumut	3	11	162	15
	Urana	Urana	4	30	{ 333 3*	16
	Wagga Wagga	Wagga Wagga	3	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	536	51

SUMMARY.

Armidale Land Board District	82	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 2,154 307*	155
Bourke	13	252	1,153	91
Dubbo	31	77	1,582	497
Forbes	30	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 1,450 12*	431
				5
Goulburn	178	148	{ 2,715 128*	159
				11
Grafton	35	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,436	170
Hay	23	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 1,352 28*	90
			
Maitland	64	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 968 25*	41
			
Morice	14	62	{ 1,240 189*	144
				2
Orange	59	127 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 2,432 17*	147
Sydney	43	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	526	39
Tamworth	42	189	{ 1,737 136*	78
				6
Wagga Wagga	36	221	{ 2,473 7*	171
				1
Total	650	1,697	22,067	2,308

NOTE.—Cases marked thus (*) dealt with by Chairman, sitting alone.

SCHEDULE XC.

RETURN showing the number of Instructions issued to, and Reports received from, Inspectors regarding Conditional Purchases, Homestead Selections, Conditional Leases, Homestead Leases, Settlement Leases, and Miscellaneous Cases during the year 1896.

Land Board District and Land Districts.	Name of Inspector.	No. of instructions issued to Inspectors to report on C.P.'s, C.L.'s, &c.					No. of C.P.'s, C.L.'s, &c. visited and reported on by Inspectors.						
		C.P.'s.	Home- stead Sele- ctions.	C.L.'s.	H.L.'s.	Settle- ment Leases.	Misc. Cases.	C.P.'s.	Home- stead Sele- ctions.	C.L.'s.	H.L.'s.	Settle- ment Leases.	Misc. Cases.
Armidale—													
Armidale	Geo. Silcock	252	37	200	...	1	21	274	15	193	...	1	19
Glen Innes	J. B. Wisdom	72	7	45	...	...	13	64	...	32	...	...	15
Inverell	do	174	2	118	...	...	13	167	...	106	...	...	14
Tenterfield	do	118	26	34	...	...	11	198	7	53	...	...	9
Port Macquarie	Geo. Silcock	124	3	63	...	...	2	114	10	60	...	...	3
(Grafton L.B.D.)	do	2	...	1	...	...	...	4	...	2	...	...	...
Totals		742	75	461	...	1	60	821	32	446	...	1	60
Bourke—													
Bourke	E. B. Barton	5	18	1	69	...	9	8	...	1	104	...	8
Brewarrina	do .....	...	3	2	12	2	8	2	...	3	26	...	4
Brewarrina East	do	10	...	5	...	2	...	21	...	6	6	...	...
Cobar	do	1	...	2	19	...	3	1	8	...	2	...	2
Brewarrina	T. Miller .....	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...
Brewarrina East	do	19	8	11	6	1	...	19	8	11	6	1	...
Wilcannia	do	4	...	11	73	...	2	4	...	11	72	...	2
Willyama	do .....	...	...	...	81	...	11	...	...	...	79	...	11
Bourke	do .....	...	...	1	6	...	...	...	...	1	6	...	1
Wilcannia	C. W. Lloyd .....	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...
Willyama	do .....	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...
Totals		39	33	33	284	5	33	53	20	33	319	1	23
Dubbo—													
Coonamble	E. H. Taylor	103	9	61	...	10	2	78	5	47	...	6	1
Warren	do	20	...	11	...	...	3	13	...	8	...	...	...
Dubbo	R. Sim, junr.	116	46	51	...	18	2	107	30	49	...	20	8
Nyngan	do	142	...	105	...	...	...	45	...	23	...	...	...
Warren	do	52	...	7	...	9	...	42	...	3	...	5	...
Totals		433	55	235	...	37	7	285	35	130	...	31	9
Forbes—													
Barmedman, and Bar- medman East	J. G. Postlethwaite	54	7	10	...	...	5	17	7	4	...	...	2
Condobolin	do	29	...	17	...	10	1	18	...	12	...	7	...
Grenfell	do	7	5	2	...	1	2	6	...	1	...	...	2
Barmedman and Barmedman East	H. E. Vindin	85	3	23	...	...	4	78	...	29	...	...	3
Condobolin	do	38	...	26	...	2	23	22	...	17	...	1	23
Do	R. W. Ouden	94	...	50	...	...	2	111	...	61	...	...	1
Forbes	do	180	12	14	...	2	14	216	9	13	...	2	1
Grenfell	do	30	2	6	...	...	5	29	...	5	...	...	5
Parkes	do	167	9	17	...	...	9	171	4	19	...	...	4
Totals		684	33	165	...	15	65	668	20	160	...	10	41
Goulburn--													
Bega	W. G. Evans	58	...	3	...	...	...	58	...	4	...	...	...
Do	J. S. Allan	15	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...
Bombala	W. G. Evans	71	...	18	...	...	...	71	...	16	...	...	...
Do	J. C. Martin	66	...	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Braidwood	W. A. Manton	42	...	16	...	...	...	48	...	17	...	...	...
Do	W. G. Evans	49	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Barrowa	J. C. Page	70	...	19	...	...	...	95	...	38	...	...	...
Do	H. E. Vindin	126	9	48	...	...	...	11	...	7	...	...	...
Cooma	W. Spicer	183	1	82	...	...	...	176	...	71	...	...	...
Do	J. C. Martin	205	3	96	...	...	...	101	...	45	...	...	...
Eden	W. G. Evans	37	...	7	...	...	...	37	...	11	...	...	...
Do	J. S. Allan	52	5	9	...	...	...	32	2	5	...	...	...
Goulburn	C. Cropper	93	...	46	...	...	...	82	...	41	...	...	...
Do	F. Isaac	42	...	17	...	...	...	24	...	9	...	...	...
Do	G. W. West	123	6	63	...	...	2	57	3	25	...	...	...
Do	J. C. Page	25	...	11	...	...	...	25	...	12	...	...	...
Do	G. Harrison	2	...	2	...	...	...	25	...	14	...	...	...
Gunning	do	34	...	13	...	...	...	40	...	16	...	...	...
Do	H. E. Vindin	61	12	14	...	...	...	30	2	6	...	...	...
Do	G. W. West	21	2	10	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Milton	W. A. Manton	14	...	1	...	...	...	17	...	2	...	...	...
Moruya	do	72	...	12	...	...	...	85	...	15	...	...	...
Do	J. S. Allan	48	3	4	...	...	2	29	...	3	...	...	2

SCHEDULE XC—continued.

Land Board District and Land Districts.	Name of Inspector.	No. of Instructions issued to Inspectors to report on C.P.s., C.L.s., &c.						No. of C.P.s., C.L.s., &c., visited and reported on by Inspectors.					
		C.P.s.	Home- stead Sele- ctions.	C.L.s.	H.L.s.	Settle- ment Leases.	Misc. Cases.	C.P.s.	Home- stead Sele- ctions.	C.L.s.	H.L.s.	Settle- ment Leases.	Misc. Cases.
Goulburn (continued)													
Moss Vale	C. Cropper	16	...	4	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...
Do	F. Isaac	71	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do	G. W. West	42	...	13	...	...	...	26	...	10	...	...
Do	G. Harrison	78	...	12	...	...	...	66	...	11	...	...
Queanbeyan	W. A. Manton	85	...	33	...	...	...	131	...	51	...	...
Do	W. G. Evans	104	...	34	...	...	...	30	...	13	...	...
Yass	G. Harrison	41	...	5	...	...	...	45	...	18	...	...
Do	H. E. Vindin	68	...	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Young	J. C. Page	81	...	7	...	...	...	99	...	10	...	...
Do	H. E. Vindin	127	19	16	...	...	18	82	9	13	...	12
	Totals	2,207	60	686	...	...	23	1,537	16	483	...	14
Grafton—													
Bellingen	T. H. Wilshire	65	...	4	...	...	3	75	...	5	...	3
Do	E. J. Deverell	49	2	8	...	...	...	26	2	4	...	...
Do	G. R. Brown	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Casino	G. W. West	44	...	8	...	...	46	61	...	11	...	47
Do	T. H. Wilshire	8	...	1	...	...	2	4	...	...	...	1
Do	W. P. Pope	51	...	6	...	...	8	39	...	2	...	3
Grafton	T. H. Wilshire	77	1	3	...	...	15	90	1	3	...	20
Do	E. J. Deverell	16	...	4	...	...	1	6	...	...	...	...
Kempsey	T. H. Wilshire	45	7	5	...	...	5	68	7	9	...	5
Do	E. J. Deverell	3	...	2	...	...	...	3	...	2	...	...
Do	G. R. Brown	27	1	7	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...
Lismore	G. W. West	56	5	...	...	...	1	73	5	...	...	1
Do	W. P. Pope	78	8	...	...	...	1	53	6	...	...	1
Murwillumbah	G. W. West	13	...	...	...	...	...	28	...	...	...	...
Do	W. P. Pope	36	...	2	...	...	1	29	...	2	...	1
Port Macquarie	T. H. Wilshire	28	...	2	...	...	3	51	...	5	...	2
Do	G. R. Brown	24	...	2	...	...	1	9	...	2	...	1
	Totals	621	24	54	...	...	87	617	21	46	...	35
Hay—													
Balranald	W. Dargin	...	...	...	24	...	2	...	...	20	...	...
Do	G. G. Benson	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Do South	do	23	6	5	...	...	2	12	6	...	...	2
Do do	W. Dargin	20	6	1	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...
Deniliquin	M. T. Day	105	48	1	1	...	...	93	17	6	...	2
Do	O. Wilshire	44	39	4	...	3	...	42	37	4	...	3	
Do	J. Manton	10	11	1	...	...	1	10	12	...	...	1
Hay	M. T. Day	74	18	27	...	7	12	61	18	24	...	6	
Do North	do	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	1
Hillston	do	29	11	11	...	...	2	24	11	11	...	2
Do North	do	...	...	...	7	...	5	...	...	6	...	3
Do do	G. S. M. Grant	...	...	...	6	...	4	...	...	4	...	1
Wentworth	D. A. Morgan	2	...	...	15	...	4	...	...	5	16	4
	Totals	312	139	50	56	10	33	245	102	50	49	12	
Maitland—													
Cassilis	J. B. Combes	56	11	40	...	...	7	5	...	3	...	...
Do	S. C. V. North	52	23	19	...	...	6	64	23	32	...	4
Dungog	J. B. Combes	11	1	6	...	...	...	14	...	6	...	...
Do	T. Miller	8	...	5	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	...
Do	J. J. Hardiman	9	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gosford	J. B. Combes	13	4	...	...	...	...	13	4	...	...	...
Do	J. Martin	19	12	...	...	...	...	12	7	...	...	...
Maitland	J. B. Combes	11	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...
Do	J. Martin	9	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Muswellbrook	J. B. Combes	70	...	8	...	...	1	71	...	5	...	...
Do	S. C. V. North	22	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...
Newcastle	J. B. Combes	2	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
Do	J. Martin	7	2	1	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...
Paterson	J. B. Combes	16	3	15	...	...	...	26	...	20	...	...
Raymond Terrace	do	11	...	6	...	...	...	17	...	6	...	...
Do	J. Martin	6	...	4	...	...	...	5	...	3	...	...
Scone	J. B. Combes	50	...	34	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Do	S. C. V. North	54	...	24	...	...	1	75	...	31	...	1
Singleton	J. B. Combes	38	15	24	...	...	1	36	15	22	...	1
Do	S. C. V. North	20	7	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Stroud	J. B. Combes	39	...	19	...	...	...	33	...	15	...	...
Do	T. Miller	31	...	15	...	...	...	23	...	11	...	...
Do	J. J. Hardiman	26	...	23	...	...	...	4	...	5	...	...
Taree	J. B. Combes	70	...	14	...	...	...	63	...	12	...	...
Do	T. Miller	32	...	2	...	...	...	17	...	3	...	...
Do	J. J. Hardiman	52	...	25	...	...	1	26	...	14	...	1
Wollombi	J. B. Combes	20	...	4	...	...	...	16	...	4	...	...
Do	J. Martin	19	...	4	...	...	...	9	...	2	...	...
	Totals	773	85	299	...	...	21	556	49	196	...	7

SCHEDULE XC—continued.

Land Board District and Land Districts.	Name of Inspector.	No. of instructions issued to Inspectors to report on C.P's., C.L's., &c.					No. of C.P's., C.L's., &c., visited and reported on by Inspector					
		C.P's.	Home- stead Selec- tions.	C.L's.	H.L's.	Settle- ment Leases.	Misc. Cases.	C.P's.	Home- stead Selec- tions.	C.L's.	H.L's.	Settle- ment Leases.	Misc. Cases.
Moree—												
Bingara	E. C. M'Pherson	45	...	27	...	...	7	33	...	24	...	6
Moree	do	163	...	93	...	19	10	170	...	97	...	18
Do	G. W. Walker	3	...	7	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Do	W. H. Tietkens	67	...	62	...	...	...	63	...	56	...	...
Walgett	do	112	7	94	...	2	6	104	7	95	...	3
Do	G. W. Walker	12	...	5	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	1
Do North	W. H. Tietkens .....	...	...	...	36	...	28	...	...	21	...	27
Do do	G. W. Walker .....	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Warialda	E. C. M'Pherson	75	5	36	...	...	2	60	2	32	...	2
	Totals	477	12	324	42	21	53	433	9	306	21	18
Orange—												
Bathurst	J. S. O'Hara	67	...	19	...	...	19	74	...	16	...	14
Carcoar	do	79	...	33	...	...	29	73	...	32	...	19
Do	R. Deighton	20	...	3	...	...	5	24	...	5	...	2
Cowra	do	129	...	13	...	...	6	98	...	11	...	3
Lithgow	J. S. O'Hara	101	3	22	...	...	12	111	...	38	...	1
Molong	R. Deighton	220	9	46	...	...	13	220	6	61	...	10
Do	G. H. Langley	20	...	10	...	...	2	77	...	27	...	1
Mudgee	do	135	47	63	...	...	20	118	33	39	...	21
Orange	R. Deighton	23	...	7	...	...	5	15	...	2	...	2
Do	J. S. O'Hara	33	...	11	...	...	4	20	...	12	...	0
Rylstone	G. H. Langley	81	...	34	...	...	4	74	...	30	...	5
Wellington	do	55	...	22	...	...	9	56	...	16	...	3
	Totals	963	59	283	...	...	128	960	39	279	...	81
Sydney—												
Campbelltown	J. B. Brown	5	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...
Do	H. O. Rotton	20	24	...	...	...	...	20	24	...	...	...
Kiama	do	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Metropolitan	J. B. Brown .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Milton	H. O. Rotton	10	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nowra	J. B. Brown	16	...	1	...	...	...	23	...	1	...	...
Do	H. O. Rotton	19	3	1	...	...	...	7	3	...	...	...
Parramatta	J. B. Brown	25	...	...	...	...	...	24	...	...	...	...
Penrith	do	22	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	...	...
Picton	do	112	...	23	...	...	...	93	...	19	...	...
Windsor	do	129	32	1	...	...	...	130	32	1	...	...
	Totals	359	69	28	...	...	...	326	59	21	...	...
Tamworth—												
Coonabarabran	Bishop Lyne	19	...	12	...	2	14	73	...	39	...	17
Do	William Macdonald	20	...	12	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Gunnedah	Bishop Lyne	99	12	40	...	...	1	84	...	37	...	1
Do	Sir Wm. Broun, Bart.	11	...	8	...	...	...	10	...	5	...	...
Do	William Macdonald	9	9	6	...	5	3	...	...	...	...	...
Murrumbidgee	Sir Wm. Broun, Bart.	64	12	41	...	...	...	49	8	27	...	...
Do	W. H. Tietkens	10	...	3	...	...	...	18	...	6	...	...
Narrabri	Bishop Lyne	84	1	51	...	5	4	87	1	53	...	1
Tamworth	Sir William Broun, Bart.	337	6	194	...	2	5	178	5	79	...	2
Do	W. H. Tietkens	43	...	22	...	...	1	18	...	10	...	...
	Totals	696	40	389	...	15	29	517	14	256	...	5
Wagga Wagga—												
Albury	F. S. Russom	41	...	14	...	...	...	40	...	14	...	...
Do	S. Payten	24	16	24	...	...	2	9	17	12	...	2
Cootamundra	W. J. Barnes	136	44	14	...	...	...	133	43	13	...	...
Do	F. B. Mulligan	70	14	10	...	...	...	43	11	6	...	...
Do Central	W. J. Barnes	5	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	3	...	...
Do do	F. B. Mulligan .....	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Corowa	E. S. Russom	18	2	...	...	...	18	16	...	...	...	18
Do	S. Payten	38	38	...	...	...	...	2	19	38	...	2
Gundagai	F. B. Mulligan	68	...	22	...	...	9	49	...	21	...	...
Narrandera	W. J. Barnes	28	7	9	...	...	4	34	10	12	...	4
Do	J. G. Condell	12	16	5	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Tumbarumba	E. S. Russom	7	...	5	...	...	6	5	...	4	...	5
Do	W. J. Barnes	100	...	67	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...
Do North	E. S. Russom	5	...	3	...	...	5	...	...	3	...	5
Do do	W. J. Barnes	17	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Tumut	E. S. Russom	5	...	...	...	...	2	6	...	...	...	3
Do	W. J. Barnes	86	...	106	...	...	4	68	...	42	...	...
Urana	do	24	1	...	...	1	...	7	1	...	...	1
Do	S. Payten	37	38	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	2
Wagga Wagga	F. B. Mulligan	94	16	8	...	...	4	94	16	6	...	4
Do	J. G. Condell	37	87	4	...	...	3	11	65	...	...	...
	Totals	842	282	295	...	3	68	541	201	136	...	3
	Grand Totals	9,148	961	3,302	382	107	607	7,561	617	2,542	389	81

SCHEDULE XCI.

RETURN of Applications for Permission to Ringbark for the year 1896.

Land Board District.	Land District.	Applications made during 1896.						Applications made prior to 1896.			No. outstanding on 31 Dec. 1896.
		No. received.	Area applied for.	Fees lodged.	No. allowed.	Area allowed.	No. disallowed.	No. allowed.	Area allowed.	No. disallowed.	
			acres.	£ s. d.		acres.	£	acres.			
Armidale	Armidale	3	12,200	8 0 0	2	2,200	.....	.....	.....	1
	Glen Innes	2	3,200	4 0 0	.....	.....	.....	1	2,940	2
	Tenterfield	3	5,120	6 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
	Walcha	1	706	2 0 0	.....	.....	1	1	1,920	.....
Bourke	Bourke	8	273,430	32 0 0	7	268,360	.....	.....	.....	1
	Brewarrina	8	98,900	28 0 0	1	9,773	.....	.....	.....	7
	Cobar	4	113,980	23 0 0	4	101,900	.....	3	14,130	.....
Dubbo	Coonamble	4	13,020	11 0 0	2	7,020	.....	1	5,120	2
	Dubbo	14	61,202	37 0 0	9	50,036	.....	7	34,885	5
	Nyngan	1	1,800	2 0 0	.....	.....	.....	1	34,000	1
	Warren	2	22,642	7 0 0	2	22,642	.....	2	4,800	1
Forbes	Barnedman	7	35,543	19 0 0	3	3,040	.....	3	21,914	4
	Condobolin	14	70,745	48 0 0	11	54,568	.....	2	35,200	1
	Forbes	11	17,456	25 0 0	9	14,040	1	2	4,900	1	
	Grenfell	2	2,270	4 0 0	2	2,270	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Parkes	6	20,290	18 0 0	.....	.....	.....	2	9,960	6
Goulburn	Braidwood .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	354	.....
	Boorowa	1	1,430	2 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
	Goulburn	1	750	2 0 0	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
	Young	3	1,460	6 0 0	3	1,460	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grafton	Casino	2	2,270	5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
	Kempsey	4	3,200	8 0 0	3	2,560	1	.....	.....	.....
Hay	Balranald South	2	20,255	4 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
	Deniliquin	1	164	2 0 0	1	164	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Hillston, North .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	33,800	1
	Wentworth	2	3,840	4 0 0	1	1,920	.....	.....	.....	1
Maitland	Cassilis	4	3,825	8 0 0	1	270	.....	3	4,771	3
	Muswellbrook	1	150	2 0 0	.....	.....	.....	1	730	1
	Scone	3	1,950	6 0 0	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	1
	Tarco	1	780	2 0 0	1	736	.....	.....	.....	.....
Moree	Bingara	7	38,780	24 0 0	4	29,770	.....	2	51,930	3
	Moree	2	28,100	8 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
	Walgett	2	12,027	7 0 0	1	9,030	.....	2	33,000	1
	Do North	11	202,311	42 0 0	7	50,416	1	3	14,060	3	
	Warialda .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	13,120	.....
Orange	Bathurst	4	5,728	9 0 0	.....	.....	.....	1	6,700	4
	Carcoar	6	6,238	13 0 0	3	2,208	.....	2	2,050	3
	Cowra	1	200	2 0 0	1	200	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Lithgow .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1,920	.....
	Molong	1	175	2 0 0	1	175	.....	2	1,900	.....
	Mudgee	1	1,280	2 0 0	1	1,280	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Orange	1	9,691	4 0 0	1	9,691	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Rylstone	1	320	2 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Wellington	5	4,180	10 0 0	1	130	.....	1	2,970	4	
Tamworth	Coonabarrabran	6	12,244	11 0 0	3	5,080	.....	6	26,312	2
	Narrabri	4	7,850	9 0 0	.....	.....	.....	2	2,318	1
	Tamworth	4	7,782	9 0 0	.....	.....	1	1	5,000	3
Wagga Wagga	Albury .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
	Cootamundra	1	450	2 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
	Gundagai	1	350	2 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
	Narrandera .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	3,020	.....
	Urana	1	1,800	2 0 0	.....	.....	.....	1	682	1
Wagga Wagga	2	2,120	4 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	
Totals		175	1,134,214	450 0 0	85	650,920	8	57	374,297	3	86

SCHEDULE XCII.

COMPARATIVE Statement of Letters Registered at Head Office during the years 1895 and 1896.

Branch.	Documents Registered.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1895.	1896.		
Alienation	11,270	14,364	3,094	.....
Conditional sales	36,672	40,697	4,025	.....
Conditional leases	9,724	7,033	.....	2,691
Ministerial	15,192	17,400	2,208	.....
Miscellaneous	16,090	16,440	350	.....
Miscellaneous leases	11,854	14,350	2,496	.....
Occupation	14,616	13,164	.....	1,452
Rabbit and Labour Settlement	2,808	1,590	.....	1,218
	118,226	125,038	12,173	5,361
			Net Increase, 6,812.	

SCHEDULE XCIII.

COMPARATIVE Statement of Manuscript Letters, Formal Documents, and Parcels despatched from Head Office during years 1895 and 1896.

Year.	Manuscript Letters.	Formal Documents, including Printed Letters, Schedules, Executive Council Minutes, <i>Gazette</i> Notices, Books of Reference to Benches of Magistrates, and Plans of Roads to same.		Parcels.	Totals.
		Printed Letters, Executive Council Minutes, &c.	Schedules.		
1895	21,185	107,064	793	18,775	147,817
1896	24,981	113,252	795	22,133	161,161
Increase	3,796	6,188	2	3,358	13,344
Decrease .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Telegrams sent during 1895

2,006

Telegrams sent during 1896

2,976

Increase

970

Circulars sent during 1895

145

Circulars sent during 1896

163

Increase

18

SCHEDULE XCIV.

SHOWING number of Letters and Documents received at and despatched from the Head Offices of the Local Land Boards during the year ending 31st December, 1896.

Land Board District.	Received.	Despatched.			Total No. Despatched.
	No. of Letters and Circulars.	Manuscript Letters.	Formal Documents (Partly printed and partly manuscript)	Parcels (Including Maps, &c.)	
Armidale	10,548	1,361	7,719	421	9,501
Bourke	7,543	845	4,197	250	5,292
Cooma*	5,006	840	4,572	200	5,612
Dubbo	8,383	1,095	5,463	132	6,690
Forbes	6,678	705	6,248	402	7,355
Goulburn	9,110	1,136	9,002	427	10,565
Grafton	7,444	1,224	3,792	544	5,560
Hay	7,267	1,148	3,851	433	5,432
Maitland	8,514	1,250	7,744	732	9,726
Moree	6,800	678	4,449	286	5,413
Orange	12,060	1,168	14,340	370	15,878
Sydney	2,883	308	2,500	2	2,870
Tamworth	10,055	2,097	8,172	741	11,010
Wagga Wagga	13,309	1,575	10,990	569	13,134
Totals	115,690	15,430	93,099	5,509	114,038

* This return is from 1st January, 1896, to 31st July, 1896. Cooma office amalgamated with Goulburn, 1st August, 1896.

SCHEDULE XCV.

APPROXIMATE Statement of Area of Land Alienated and Unalienated in the Colony on 31st December, 1896.

	acres.
1. Area alienated in all forms prior to 1862	7,146,579
2. Area alienated by auction and after auction selection (including sales under deferred payments) from 1st January, 1862, to 31st December, 1896	11,025,208
3. Area alienated by improvement and special purchase during the same period	2,798,411
4. Area alienated by conditional purchase during same period for which deeds have issued	2,773,065
5. Area alienated under Volunteer Land Regulations of 1867, to 31st December, 1896, for which deeds have issued.....	167,945
6. Area alienated by all other forms during same period, including lands dedicated	785,650
Area alienated up to 31st December, 1896.....	21,696,858
7. Estimated area of unalienated land in the Colony on 31st December, 1896	173,941,422
*Estimated area of Colony, 310,372 square miles; or,	198,638,080
8. Area under incomplete conditional purchase up to 31st December, 1896, exclusive of forfeitures, lapsings, cancellations, disallowances, and voidances	20,212,812
9. Area comprised in homestead selections confirmed prior to 31st December, 1896, including conversions under section 20, Crown Lands Act of 1895	331,717

* Area computed from recent compilation of the map of the Colony (includes Lord Howe Island, 5 square miles).

RETURN showing Areas under Several Classifications measured by Licensed Surveyors

Land Board District.	CLASS OF													
	Con- ditional Purchases.	Con- ditional Leases.	Anticipa- tion.	Special Areas.	Country Auction.	Suburban Auction.	Town Auction.	Home- stead Leases.	Special Leases.	Home- stead Selections.	Special Purchases, &c.	Reserves.	School Sites.	Settle- ment Leases.
Armidale	No. 100 Area ... 8,883ac. Cost ... £642 12s. Average 1a. 5¼d.	88 19,541ac. £226/17/6 10¼d.	.....	21 204ac. £36/4/10 3s. 5¼d.	13 1,199ac. £79/2/1 1s. 3¼d.	24 6ac. £15/10/5 51s. 9d.	10 5ac. £11/17/7 47s. 6d.	.....	5 700ac. £42/5/5 1s. 2¼d.	58 24,169ac. £602/2/1 5¼d.	.....	6 331ac. £32/16/6 31s. 3d.	5 9ac. £12/17/6 28s. 7d.	13 57,742ac. £310/17/2 1¼d.
Bourke	No. Area ... Cost ... Average	..... ..... ..... .....	.....	.....	9 45ac. £23/10/10 10s. 5¼d.	.....	84 23¼ac. £48/2/4 41s. 9d.	45 330,455ac. £1,321/0/7 ¼d.	5 1658ac. £26/15/10 9¼d.	.....	.....	15 52,378ac. £274/12/11 1¼d.	4 11ac. £14/9/4 25s. 6d.	.....
Dubbo	No. 65 Area ... 16,120ac. Cost ... £508 0/11 Average 7¼d.	51 29,316ac. £532 14s. 4¼d.	.....	2 599ac. £28 13s. 11¼d.	13 770ac. £39/2/1 1s. 0¼d.	150 1,238ac. £265/11/6 4s. 2¼d.	261 191ac. £212 11/10 22s. 3d.	.....	.....	100 27,370ac. £580/1/3 5d.	.....	7 78ac. £19/16/6 5s. 5d.	16 32ac. £16/4/3 10s. 1¼d.	71 154,146ac. £1,132/18/5 1¼d.
Forbes	No. 27 Area ... 4,063ac. Cost ... £144/10/3 Average 9¼d.	7 2,660ac. £53 13/1 4¼d.	.....	3 1,176ac. £32/12/9 6¼d.	88 1,954ac. £234 3/11 2s. 4¼d.	.....	76 18ac. £45/19/4 51s. 0¼d.	.....	3 65ac. £11/17/3 3s. 7¼d.	48 132,031ac. £545/0/3 4d.	.....	8 253ac. £41/15/6 3s. 4d.	3 12ac. £6/6/7 10s. 6¼d.	42 63,072ac. £570/7/3 2¼d.
Gooburn	No. 51 Area ... 3,547ac. Cost ... £368 8s. Average 2s. 0¼d.	37 7,307ac. £385 5/2 1s. 0¼d.	.....	.....	16 518ac. £78/16/2 3s. 0¼d.	12 47ac. £23/18/5 10s. 2d.	10 3¼ac. £8 4/9 50s. 8¼d.	11 3,838ac. £222/16/4 1s. 1¼d.	1 17ac. £17/12/3 20s. 8¼d.	32 8,412ac. £182/6/8 1s. 0¼d.	.....	6 220ac. £29/13/8 2s. 8¼d.	4 20ac. £14/12/6 14s. 7¼d.	.....
Grafton	No. 13 Area ... 931ac. Cost ... £111/14/9 Average 2s. 4¼d.	9 1,312ac. 495/1/3 1s. 5¼d.	1 120ac. £13 2/7 2s. 2d.	17 1,010ac. £234/14/7 4s. 7¼d.	10 170ac. £44/3/8 4s. 0¼d.	54 361ac. £158/2/9 8s. 8¼d.	35 25ac. £53/19/7 43s. 2d.	.....	1 21ac. £2/18/4 2s. 9¼d.	38 4,307ac. £212/17/6 11¼d.	.....	16 942ac. £74/12/7 1s. 7d.	10 27ac. £31 5/1 25s. 4¼d.	.....
Hay	No. 13 Area ... 3,040ac. Cost ... £627/4 Average 4¼d.	7 4,827ac. £67/19/5 3¼d.	.....	.....	4 1,256ac. £33 6¼d.	53 200ac. £38/7/4 8s. 10d.	352 426ac. £318 5/5 10s. 9d.	.....	2 133ac. £8/15/6 1s. 3¼d.	50 13,940ac. £156 11/9 2¼d.	.....	11 68ac. £31/6/5 9s. 3¼d.	2 12ac. £5/16/3 9s. 8¼d.	3 9,507ac. £88 17/2 2¼d.
Maitland	No. 47 Area ... 4,016ac. Cost ... £379/17/5 Average 1s. 4¼d.	27 4,211ac. £243/7/4 1s. 1¼d.	1 616ac. £23/12/6 9d.	1 208ac. £14/3/0 1s. 4¼d.	6 97ac. £19/19/1 4s. 1¼d.	71 323ac. £138/19/9 9s 7¼d.	62 42ac. £52 7/2 24s. 11d.	.....	11 161ac. £42/16/7 5s. 3¼d.	57 19,511ac. £560/13/4 6¼d.	.....	11 281ac. £58 4/7 4s. 1¼d.	9 23ac. £27/18/2 19s. 11¼d.	8 12,314ac. £213/16/2 4¼d.
Moree	No. 47 Area ... 13,816ac. Cost ... £408/7/9 Average 7d.	45 23,182ac. £611/13/2 5¼d.	1 260ac. £11/14/7 7¼d.	6 398ac. £40/12/5 2s. 1d.	32 1,471ac. £106/10/2 1s. 5¼d.	21 29ac. £34 16s. 24s.	130 175ac. £160/9/7 18s. 4¼d.	4 18,378ac. £90/5/5 1¼d.	6 819ac. £30 13s. 8¼d.	3 2,272ac. £35/2/9 3¼d.	.....	14 5,281ac. £117/7/9 6¼d.	9 17ac. £19/16/4 23s. 3¼d.	133 426,488ac. £3,400/7/5 1¼d.
Orange	No. 61 Area ... 5,637ac. Cost ... £423/3/8 Average 1s. 6¼d.	45 11,268ac. £473/15/1 10d.	2 200ac. £10/6/5 1s. 1¼d.	2 72ac. £10 3s. 1¼d.	10 269ac. £47/2/4 3s. 6d.	16 11ac. £22/16/0 41s. 6d.	20 6¼ac. £29/6/6 62s. 6¼d.	1 1,280ac. £35/7/3 6¼d.	4 30ac. £18/4/3 12s. 1¼d.	19 1,186ac. £55/4/2 1s. 1¼d.	.....	3 16ac. £10/11/10 13s. 2¼d.	12 44ac. £41/9/6 18s. 10d.	3 6,950ac. £26/3/7 ¼d.
Sydney	No. 13 Area ... 764ac. Cost ... £154 0/3 Average 4s. 0¼d.	5 878ac. £65/5/1 1s. 5¼d.	.....	.....	99 5,865ac. £456/7/8 1s. 6¼d.	231 422ac. £363/3/8 17s. 2¼d.	2 1¼ac. 6/11/8 105s. 4d.	.....	.....	131 6,612ac. £696/5/1 2s. 1¼d.	1 14ac. £5/5/5 70s. 3¼d.	8 552ac. £47/11/1 1s. 8¼d.	1 2ac. £4/16/2 48s. 1d.	.....
Tamworth	No. 102 Area ... 9,225ac. Cost ... £624/12/11 Average 1s. 4¼d.	47 17,106ac. £495/9/6 6¼d.	1 107ac. £1 18s. 4d.	.....	7 1,394ac. £62/2/8 1¼d.	2 1¼ac. £3/12/6 41s. 5d.	34 41¼ac. £57/12/3 27s. 9d.	.....	5 129ac. £28/2/5 4s. 4¼d.	77 24,212ac. £539/19/2 6d.	.....	16 1,867ac. £74/16/1 10¼d.	6 10ac. £14/14/3 29s. 5d.	62 145,270ac. £1,092/5/4 1¼d.
Wagga Wagga	No. 32 Area ... 3,940ac. Cost ... £195 7s. Average 1s. 0¼d.	4 707ac. £36/3/7 1s. 0¼d.	.....	4 781ac. £26/1/11 8d.	7 361ac. £33/14/3 1s. 10¼d.	23 47ac. £31/8/9 13s. 4¼d.	85 79ac. £90/7/7 22s. 10¼d.	.....	2 80ac. £8 1s. 5s. 4¼d.	351 149,160ac. £2,521/11/5 4¼d.	.....	22 2,138ac. £103/17/6 1¼d.	10 33ac. £20/18/2 12s. 8d.	8 19,498ac. £166/15/2 2¼d.
Total No.	577	372	6	56	309	657	1,170	61	45	962	1	144	61	343
Total Area	73,382ac.	127,265ac.	1,409ac.	4,442ac.	15,268ac.	2,709ac.	1,037ac.	353,955ac.	2,765ac.	308,032ac.	1¼ac.	64,200ac.	257ac.	894,077ac.
Total Cost	£4,028/2/3	£3,929/2/2	£60/12/1	£423/3/1	£1,257/14/11	£1,146/5/5	£990/15/3	£1,569/9/7	£238/1/10	£6,697/15/5	£5/5/5	£917/2/11	£234/4/1	£7,062/7/8
Average per Acre	1s. 1d.	7¼d.	10¼d.	1s. 10¼d.	1s. 7¼d.	6s. 5¼d.	19s. 1¼d.	1¼d.	1s. 8¼d.	5¼d.	£3 10s. 3¼d	3¼d.	18s. 2¼d.	1¼d.

XCVI.

on Fees during the year 1896, in Land Board Districts, New South Wales.

MEASUREMENT.

Miscellaneous.	Exchange Areas.	Improvement Leases.	Clearing Scrub Lands.	Scrub Leases.	Total for 1896.	Total for 1895.		Roads, Wm. IV., No. 11.	Alignments.	Feature, Geographical.	Boundaries, Pastoral Holdings.	Miscellaneous.	Total for 1896.	Total for 1895.
	5 4,372ac. £70/14/8 3¼d.				348 117,161ac. £2,683/17/9 5¼d.	400 53,306ac. £2,799 5s. 1s 0¼d.	No. Length Cost Average	8 703chs. £56/15/10 1s 5¼d.			1 1,385chs. £69/1/10 11¼d.		9 2,088chs. £125/17/8 1s 2¼d.	17 10,921chs. £398 6s. 8¼d.
31 40ac. £63/19 6 3¼s. 1¼d.	3 12,928ac. £64/13/10 1¼d.	5 522,306ac. £816/7/8 ¼d.			201 918,847ac. £2654/12/10 ¼d.	152 342,242ac. £1,536 5s. 1d.	No. Length Cost Average	7 2,834chs. £140/0/10 11¼d.			1 565chs. £25/0/1 10¼d.	4 10,217chs. £457/5/6 6¼d.	12 13,516chs. £452/6/5 8d.	18 17,025chs. £551 10s. 7¼d.
9 1,473ac. £48 0 3 8d.	19 11,589ac. £293/10/4 5¼d.		108 567,141ac. £1,127/5/5 ¼d.		862 810,028ac. £4,845/9/9 ¼d.	896 476,813ac. £3,057 5s. 2¼d.	No. Length Cost Average	9 1,728chs. £118/12/10 1s 3¼d.	2 999chs. £152 6s. 3s. 1¼d.		1 85chs. £2/10/10 7d.	3 1,097chs. £38/4/3 1¼d.	15 3,909chs. £281/13/11 1s 5¼d.	10 3,345chs. £173 5¼d.
102 64ac. £137/8, 6 42s. 10¼d.	29 12,456ac. £270/15/3 5¼d.	1 17,990ac. £41/1/2 ¼d.			433 135,798ac. £2,135/6/1 3¼d.	256 275,628ac. £3,125 15s. 2¼d.	No. Length Cost Average	3 306chs. £22/5/3 1s 5¼d.			2 687chs. £22/8/4 7¼d.	5 993chs. £44/13/7 10¼d.	6 3,166chs. £173 1s. 1d.	
1 20ac. £3 16 3 3s. 9¼d.	1 164ac. £45/16/6 5s. 7d.				182 19,113ac. £1,381/6 8 1s 5¼d.	132 14,041ac. £844 1s 2¼d.	No. Length Cost Average	13 1,892chs. £98/1/9 1s 9¼d.					13 1,862chs. £98/1/9 1s. 0¼d.	1 127chs. £5 10s. 10¼d.
4 95ac. £17 0 2 2¼s 1, d.					206 9,273ac. £1072/12/10 2s. 3¼d.	139 12,987ac. £1,150 1s. 9¼d.	No. Length Cost Average	40 6,021chs. £623/15/7 2s. 0¼d.					41 6,378chs. £643/6/1 2s. 0¼d.	31 4,013chs. £480 15s. 3s. 2¼d.
3 52ac. £20 11/4 10s. 2, d.	15 13,919ac. £175/8/2 3¼d.				515 47,342ac. £987/8/1 4¼d.	114 134,290ac. £1,425 5s. 2¼d.	No. Length Cost Average	5 1,472chs. £60/11/4 9¼d.		6 19,237chs. £366/8/7 4¼d.		2 686chs. £24/2/7 8¼d.	13 21,405chs. £451/2/6 5d.	1 1,215chs. £40 7d.
12 85ac. £62-5 8 19s. 4¼d.	2 83ac. £10 2s. 2s. 5¼d.				325 41,976ac. £1,869/3/8 10¼d.	360 41,519ac. £2,397 5s. 1s. 1¼d.	No. Length Cost Average	10 577chs. £55 3/10 1s. 10¼d.				4 715chs. £30 2/4 10d.	16 2,277chs. £129 9s. 1s. 1¼d.	29 10,744chs. £595 15s. 1s. 1¼d.
3 10ac. £20 19/7 41s. 0¼d.	30 60,127ac. £659/19/0 2¼d.	5 59,240ac. £837/2/11 ¼d.		5 20,948ac. £198/9/4 2¼d.	494 637,968ac. £6943/19/11 2¼d.	600 416,924ac. £5,729 3¼d.	No. Length Cost Average	5 446chs. £23/17/4 1s. 0¼d.		1 100chs. £87/10 1s. 0¼d.	1 438chs. £177/7/6 10d.		7 1,018chs. £40/12/8 11¼d.	6 1,270chs. £70 5s. 1s. 1¼d.
10 140ac. £47/15 4 6s. 0¼d.		2 11,200ac. £20/19/1 ¼d.			219 38,340ac. £1,281/6/11 9¼d.	424 56,221ac. £2,900 5s. 1s. 0¼d.	No. Length Cost Average	5 386chs. £31/11/7 1s. 7¼d.			1 201chs. £7/4/6 8¼d.		6 587chs. £36/16/1 1s. 3¼d.	7 821chs. £32 15s. 9¼d.
7 122ac. £39.3-5 6s. 5d.					498 15,220ac. £1,838 9/1 2s. 5¼d.	419 23,482ac. £2,154 5s. 1s. 10d.	No. Length Cost Average	26 2,391chs. £285/12/10 2s. 4¼d.	18 2,821chs. £411/14/4 3s. 7¼d.	4 1,667chs. £85/14/10 1s. 0¼d.		4 634chs. £33/19/2 1s. 0¼d.	52 7,013chs. £817/1/2 2s. 3¼d.	29 2,198chs. £273 15s. 2s. 5¼d.
7 123ac. £23 10 8 3s. 9¼d.	52 5,794ac. £276/5/11 11¼d.				418 204,969ac. £3,254/19/8 3¼d.	656 382,449ac. £6,685 5s. 4¼d.	No. Length Cost Average	7 1,544chs. £117/4/7 1s. 0¼d.	1 232chs. £46/19/2 4s. 0¼d.		1 315chs. £12/18/0 8¼d.	1 523chs. £18/0/10 8¼d.	10 2,614chs. £195/3/4 1s. 5¼d.	12 3,092chs. £134 10s. 10¼d.
15 213ac. £40 1 4 5s. 7¼d.	85 23,107ac. £500/6/1 5¼d.				648 198,994ac. £3,854/11/9 4¼d.	485 116,256ac. £3,024 15s. 6¼d.	No. Length Cost Average	7 1,938chs. £126/18/5 1s. 8¼d.				1 11chs. 11s. 6d. 1s. 0¼d.	8 1,040chs. £127/9/11 1s. 3¼d.	9 1,213chs. £87 1s. 5¼d.
204 2,377ac. £590 17s. 4s. 11¼d.	241 144,489ac. £2,417/12/0 4¼d.	13 610,726ac. £1215/11/10 ¼d.	108 567,141ac. £1,127/5/5 ¼d.	5 20,948ac. £198/9/4 2¼d.	5,349 3,195,030ac. £34,209/19/2 2¼d.	4,644 2,336,186ac. £39,549 10s. 4d.	Total No. Total Length Total Cost Average per chain	145 22,148chs. £1,760 12s. 1s. 7d.	21 3,552chs. £610/19/6 3s. 5¼d.	14 22,406chs. £523/4/7 5¼d.	6 2,964chs. £184/3/6 10¼d.	21 14,590chs. £424/14/6 6¼d.	207 65,050chs. £3,453/14/1 1s. 0¼d.	170 59,898chs. £2,946 11¼d.

Report of The Chief Surveyor to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Survey Branch, Sydney, 15 March, 1897.

I have the honor to submit for your information the Annual Report of the service performed in this branch of the Department during the year 1896.

Permanent Field Staff.

The permanent field staff attached to the Department comprised 59 officers, viz., 13 district surveyors, 35 salaried surveyors, and 11 assistant surveyors.

Retirement.

Mr. P. R. Donaldson, who filled the position of District Surveyor in the Grafton Board District, retired from the Public Service about the middle of the year.

Promotions.

Mr. R. M'Donald, District Surveyor at Armidale, was promoted to the position of Chairman of the Forbes Local Land Board.

Mr. E. MacFarlane, District Surveyor in charge of the Bourke Board District, was promoted to the position of Chairman of that District.

The three vacancies thus occurring on the list of district surveyors were filled by the promotion thereto of Mr. D. M. Maitland to Armidale, and Messrs. T. W. Conolly and E. Ebsworth, who for some time had been acting as district surveyors, to Bourke and Grafton respectively.

Transfers to Permanent Staff.

Two licensed surveyors and 4 assistant surveyors, previously employed on the temporary staff, were transferred to the permanent establishment.

Temporary Salaried employment.

One of the assistant surveyors on the permanent staff was employed the whole year on special duties, and was remunerated as a temporary salaried surveyor.

Reductions in staff.

Consequent on uniting the two Board districts of Goulburn and Cooma, the service of one of the district surveyors was dispensed with, under the report of the Public Service Board, thus reducing the number of district surveyors to 13.

The services of one of the salaried surveyors were also dispensed with under the Board's report.

Service performed for Commissioners for Taxation.

The District Surveyors were appointed District Commissioners under the Land and Income Tax Act of 1895, in order to conduct the assessment of lands liable to taxation; this business is still proceeding.

The services of Mr. Surveyor Perdriau, who is attached to the Metropolitan district, were at request of the Commissioners and by authority, appropriated for about eleven weeks in connection with assessment of waterside properties about the city of Sydney and environs.

Contract surveyors.

Ninety-eight licensed surveyors were employed in carrying out surveys under contract. In many cases only partial employment could be afforded owing to the falling off in survey work.

Inspection of contract surveys.

Thirty-eight reports on examination of surveys performed by licensed surveyors under contract were received, the results of the inspections being satisfactory (except in three instances), and showing that the surveys had been carried out in conformity with the departmental survey regulations.

Licenses under the Real Property Act.

The Board for granting licenses under the Real Property Act to surveyors held three meetings. One hundred and one renewals of the licenses were issued; first licenses were also granted in two cases, making the total number 103. The annual fee of £1 ls. was paid in each case, except in two instances which were specially exempted from payment.

Investigations for the Registrar General.

Twenty-five applications for certificates of title under the Real Property Act were referred to this Department by the Registrar-General for report as to any objection to the issue thereof. After the investigations had been made, the Registrar-General was apprised of the result in each case.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR LICENSE TO SURVEY CROWN LANDS.

The system adopted in 1895, by which all the colonies of the mainland co-operated in the holding of concurrent and identical examinations for qualification of survey, has been continued; and, although no examination was held in March, a representative of the Board of this Colony, Mr. T. F. Furber, F.R.A.S., acted in conjunction with the Boards of the other colonies in preparing papers for examinations held in Melbourne, Adelaide, and Perth. Similar joint action was taken in preparing for an examination held at Sydney, as well as in the other Australian capitals in September last.

At the meeting held in September, this Board examined 12 candidates, of whom the following were successful, viz.:—

Henry Walter Small,
Robert David FitzGerald,
Robert Derwent Dixon,

Charles John Easton,
Robert Paul Atkins.

TRIGONOMETRICAL SURVEY.

The weather during the past year has been more favourable for survey than during 1895. Mr. J. Brooks, F.R.A.S., F.R.G.S., Surveyor-in-charge of Field Operations, used the 18-inch alt-azimuth at Dromedary, Mumbulla, and Tathra Stations; at the two first mentioned, astronomical observations were made for determining latitude and azimuth; at Tathra, the latitude and longitude were determined in 1887, and on this occasion the instrument was used to observe azimuth, thus completing the requirements for a geodetic station. At these stations, 1,160 horizontal angles were measured; and 239 stars were observed for latitude, 231 stars for azimuth, and 30 stars for time.

At Wandellow, Bunga, and Merimbula Stations a 10-inch instrument was used by Mr. Brooks, and 814 horizontal and 412 vertical angles were measured.

The magnetic declination as indicated by compass on a 6-inch theodolite was noted at five stations.

Reserves were measured by Mr. Brooks for protection of the stations at Wandellow, Mumbulla, Bunga, Bouruda, Bermaguy, and Merimbula.

Mr. Gregson's service.

The services of Mr. Surveyor Gregson, using a 10-inch theodolite, comprised the completion of observations at Jillamatong and Coolumburra, and the full series of observations at Currock-billy, Milo, Dampier, and Slapup Stations; also additional observations which were needed at Umaralla, Berlang, and Wyanbene Stations, and he commenced work at Wadbilliga; he thus measured 3,104 horizontal and 704 vertical angles, and noted 775 readings for magnetic declination.

Ten reserves for protection of stations were measured and marked, and five connection surveys were effected, by Mr. Gregson.

Preliminary work.

Mr. Healy, piling overseer, formed 37 new stations in the counties Harden, Buccleuch, Wynyard, Bland, and Clarendon, and connection surveys were made for all.

Mr. Gordon, piling overseer, formed 26 new stations under unusual difficulties in the counties Beresford, Cowley, and Wallace; connection surveys were also made for descriptions of stations, and where the stations are on Crown lands reserves were defined for their protection.

It may here be mentioned that amongst other duties Mr. Brooks marked standard lengths in the basement of the building used for head offices at Sydney, to be used for testing the steel bands and chains used in survey; and he also devised the apparatus for use in connection therewith.

TRIGONOMETRICAL

TRIGONOMETRICAL COMPUTING BRANCH.

Field books of angles at the following stations have been received, viz. :—Newstead, Dromedary, Mumbulla, and Tathra, observed at with 18-inch theodolite; and at Tomboyc, Jillamatong, Coolumburra, Currockbilly, Wandera, Comerang, Wandellow, Milo, Berjang, Wyanbene, Dampier, Slap-up, and Umaralla, taken with a 10-inch theodolite. The details of these observations have been reduced and entered in the record books, and the computations generally have been carried as far forward as the progress of the field work would permit.

Further work was done in the computation of the meridian series from the Lake George base, southerly to the Victorian border, and the results entered in the record books. The final adjustment of the triangulation of the county St. Vincent has been made, the whole being now co-ordinated. There has been provisional computation to fix stations in the counties of Dampier and Georgiana required for immediate map construction.

The astronomical observations of latitude and azimuth at stations Tianjara, Warden Head, Durras, and Newstead have been reduced; and the field-books of like observations at Dromedary and Mumbulla have been received.

Observations for determining the values of divisions of the levels used in the altitude and astronomical observations have been reduced, as well as those to determine the value of a revolution of the micrometer used in the latitude observations.

A map is appended showing the extent of the main triangulation at the end of the year.

The departmental stock of surveying and scientific instruments has been maintained in good condition. It was found necessary to send several theodolites, which had done several years' service, to the makers, Troughton and Simms, for renovation; the work has been well done. Also several aneroid barometers, which were in unserviceable condition, have been renovated and put into excellent order. And several arithmometers (for which there is a considerable demand) have been fitted with improved gearing, and other minor repairs effected. The stock of arithmometers is but sufficient to meet requirements, many of these instruments have been in use for long periods, and it is to be expected that continuous wear must have its due effect, and consequently additions to the stock will soon be needed; inquiries have therefore been instituted as to the best improved form of instrument.

DETAIL SURVEY FOR SEWERAGE OF SYDNEY AND ENVIRONS, AND COUNTRY TOWNS.

On the recommendation of the Public Service Board, the Detail Survey Branch was transferred to the Department of Public Works, on the 31st July.

As in the year 1895, seven surveyors were engaged upon the field work up to the time of transfer.

Of the work completed the greater portion was in the Lower Hunter District, at Newcastle, West Maitland, Waratah, and Merewether. In the environs of Sydney, Granville was commenced, and progress made at Drummoyne.

During the period mentioned the completed work was satisfactory, the number of separate holdings or tenements surveyed for the seven months being 1,715.

A standard traverse connected with the trigonometrical survey, embracing the populous parts of the Municipality of Granville was run, the cost being 1s. 6½d. per chain, for about 10¼ miles; this is lower than the average cost of similar survey, except that of Lambton and Waratah, which cost 1s. 3d. per chain.

With the advance of the survey into the less populous parts of the Newcastle environs, it was not to be expected that the low prices per tenement of the new work could be maintained, the cost for 1896 being 13s. 8d. per tenement, as compared with 12s. 7d. for 1895, and 10s. 7d. in 1894.

The area covered by new work for the seven months was 1,448 acres, against 2,683 acres in 1895 and 1,341 acres in 1894. Revision of survey for second edition of maps covered 1,033 acres.

Computed on an area basis also, the cost was slightly higher than in 1895, though lower than in any previous year, being 16s. 2d. per acre against 14s. 10½d. in 1895, £1 5s. 2d. in 1894, and £1 1s. 8d. in 1893.

In revisional surveys for second editions of lithographs, and immediately prior to the publication of first editions, 757 new tenements were fixed, as well as 1,450 material alterations over fifty-seven sheets.

The distribution of the work of the Detail Survey effected is indicated in the following tabular statement, which does not include revisional surveys prior to publication of first editions:—

New Surveys.			Surveys for Second Editions.		
Municipalities.	No. of Sheets.	No. of Tenements.	Municipalities.	No. of Sheets.	No. of Tenements.
Canterbury.....	3	7	Balmain.....	9	130
Drummoyne.....	17	211	Camperdown.....	3	69
Granville.....	12	206	Leichhardt.....	4	177
Merewether.....	10	531	Newtown.....	2	36
Waratah.....	22	351	Paddington.....	1	16
West Maitland.....	7	409	Petersham.....	1	27
			Sydney.....	9	124
			Waverley.....	1	36
			Woollahra.....	3	42
Totals.....	71	1,715	Totals.....	33	657

Incidental to the survey, a large number of details were fixed, which cannot well be enumerated in any tabular statement, such as the Sydney Hospital, additions to Parliament Houses, Supreme Court, and Registrar-General's Office, Fernhill and Waratah railway stations, bridge over Parramatta River, Waratah Court-house, and public school, wharfs, &c.

The standard levels of Granville, and detail levels over twenty-two sheets of survey in Waratah, were determined.

In

In addition to the completed work above mentioned, there was additional field-work, but particulars were not to hand at the date of transfer to the Works Department.

With regard to office work effected, one plan of standard survey and 78 plans, or sheets, of detail survey were drawn and completed; 34 plans were revised preparatory to the publication of second editions of the lithographs; additional particulars prior to first publication were placed on 16 plans; and the detail levels were noted upon 30 plans.

Fifty-four sheets of Sydney and Suburbs, and 2 of Newcastle, were traced ready for the production of lithographs.

The plans, &c., in the Branch were used to a large extent by officers in connection with the assessments for land taxation purposes, 1,377 plans and 54 field-books having been referred to by them; in addition to which, the public largely availed themselves of the information given, frequent references being made especially in connection with surveys under the Real Property Act.

Four maps are supplied, showing in blue tint the area surveyed during the first seven months in 1896, and, in red, the area surveyed prior to that date.

MISCELLANEOUS CHARTING BRANCH.

The business of this Branch has, on the whole, exceeded that performed in 1895. There has been a decrease in some items; in others, the increase has been mainly due to negotiating exchanges of land under the Crown Lands Act of 1895. One thousand two hundred and twenty papers relating to cases of this kind were dealt with; during the previous year there were 755.

The area scheduled for auction has been 46,950 acres, as against 51,105 acres in 1895.

The number of plans and tracings charted has been 2,921, at a cost of £204; in 1895 the number was £3,410.

The character of this work has changed since the Act of 1895 came into operation. The greater number of the plans now represent large subdivisions made in anticipation of Homestead Selection or Settlement Lease, instead, as formerly, of single portions in smaller areas measured for Conditional Purchase or Lease.

The number of miscellaneous papers dealt with shows an increase, the numbers being 8,506 and 9,356 for 1895 and 1896 respectively.

As a result of inquiry by the Public Service Board, the work connected with the proclamation of boundaries for Municipalities, Police, District Court, Petty Sessions, Licensing, and Circuit Court Districts was transferred from the Electoral Office to this Department. The work has been assigned to this Branch, and will require the whole attention of one draftsman for some time to come; for all the Police and various Court District boundaries require revision and adjustment to eliminate errors and discrepancies in descriptions, and for making the various boundaries coincident as far as may be desirable. This revision has been in hand for several months past; and as a preliminary, 95 illustrative diagrams have been prepared.

The important business of disposing of expiring pastoral leaseholds has received careful attention. Out of 241 leaseholds, the leases of which expired not later than the end of 1896, 188 have been fully dealt with (90 of these in 1895). Action is now proceeding on all leaseholds of which the leases expire between the end of 1896 and the end of 1898.

More progress was expected than has been attained with the compilation of the new register of reserves. This has frequently been laid aside to give attention to matters of more pressing importance.

It is anticipated that the work of this year will fully occupy the present staff.

COMPILING BRANCH.

Miscellaneous Division.—The compilation of county maps has received a large share of attention. Eight new maps have been completed, and of eleven other counties, first editions have been prepared.

The compilation and drawing of the new Colony map have been completed during the year, and the map brought up to date with the exception of part of sheet 6; and sheets 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 have been photo-lithographed on the same scale with satisfactory results. The four remaining sheets will be photo-lithographed shortly, when the whole of the proofs will be revised and sent on for printing of a complete edition with as little delay as possible.

The area of the Colony computed from this map is 310,372 square miles—which includes Lord Howe Island, 5 square miles. The area of the Colony previously estimated was 310,700 square miles.

New compilations of the following county maps have been completed:—Narromine, Forbes, Harden, Leichhardt, Gregory, Hunter, Buccleuch, Windeyer. Maps of the following have been charted up and prepared for new editions:—Bland, Cunningham, Barrona, Ularara, Evelyn, Perry, Wynyard, Camden, Cook, Yungnulgra, Flinders, Northumberland, and St. Vincent.

Compilations of the following county maps were in hand at the end of the year:—Ashburnham, Bathurst, Roxburgh, Finch, Dampier, Georgiana, Baradine, Wellington, and Gresham. Standard maps in hand for charting up:—Urana, Cooper, and Denison.

Maps of the villages of Warratta, Blandford, Wrightville, and Fifield have been compiled and drawn; and maps have been prepared from surveyors' plans of the villages of Hermidale, Harrington, Cumborah, Reefton, Mount Allen, Ponto, Tichborne, and environs of Barmedman.

A map of the Metropolitan Land Board District has been completed.

Twenty-nine plans representing 295½ miles of feature and connection surveys have been charted.

A considerable quantity of minor miscellaneous work has also been done.

Parish Map Division.—The work for the year comprises 224 new compilations of parish maps, and 93 standard maps charted for new editions.

It should be mentioned that both Divisions of the Compiling Branch (especially the Parish Map Division) have been short-handed during the latter half of the year, draftsmen having been sent to country offices to meet the exigencies of departmental business.

LITHOGRAPHIC BRANCH.

A large number of plans of areas for settlement under the new forms of tenure provided by the Act of 1895 have been lithographed. Two hundred and ninety separate lithographs have been prepared and printed for issue simultaneously with proclamations of the settlement areas. The bi-chromate gelatine process has been continued with satisfactory results as regards both expedition and economy.

With reference to the sheets of Detail Survey required for sewerage works, which are under the heading of miscellaneous, it may be noted that on the completion of the sheets now in process of printing the lithography of this series of maps will almost cease. The Public Works Department, now charged with the Detail Survey, has decided to dispense, as far as possible, with lithographing sheets of new surveys.

The following returns show the details of lithographic operations for the year:—

Counties.

County maps show measured areas, roads, reserves, features, and all other information which is capable of delineation on a scale of 2 miles to an inch; they are published at 5s. per copy.

Twelve county maps were lithographed during the year, comprising 1,900 printed copies:—

Barrona	Dudley	Harden
Camden† (1 mile to an inch)	Dudley*	Northumberland
Cook† (1 mile to an inch)	Gregory	St. Vincent
Cunningham	Gregory*	Yungnulgra.

† Published at 10s. per copy.

Of these maps, those indicated by the asterisk are on the scale of 8 miles to an inch, which are printed for use in this office, but not for publication.

Towns.

Town maps show the general design, measured lands and names of purchasers thereof, reserves, and dedications within town and suburban limits. They are usually photo-lithographed from compilations prepared at this office or from the surveyors' original plans to the scale of 4 or 8 chains to an inch, and sold at 1s. per copy.

Fifteen town maps were lithographed during the year, comprising 1,400 printed copies:—

Barmedman	Cookamidgera	Ponto
Blandford	Cumborah	Stockinbingal
Campbelltown	Dubbo	Telcraree
Carroll	Harrington	Tichborne
Collarendabri	Hermidalo	Wallace.

Parishes.

Parish maps are compiled to a scale of 20 chains to an inch for office use, and then, with few exceptions, reduced to 40 chains scale for publication and sale at 1s. per copy.

Three hundred and twenty-four parishes were lithographed during the year, comprising 25,315 printed copies.

Auction Sale Plans.

Lithographs of all lands measured for auction are printed for use at auction sales.

One hundred and ninety-eight plans were lithographed during the year, comprising 16,968 printed copies.

Miscellaneous.

This class of work principally comprised the following items, viz.:—36 sheets of the detail survey for sewerage purposes in the cities of Sydney and Newcastle and municipalities of Newtown, Balmain, and Marrickville; 350 classified area plans, mainly for homestead selection and settlement lease purposes; 27 maps in connection with scrub clearing operations in the West Bogan Country; 10 maps of Land Board Districts; 13 maps showing parts of travelling stock routes, Jerilderie to Tocumwal and Narrandera to Wagga Wagga, for clearing purposes; maps of New South Wales showing railways with coach routes; also maps showing Land Districts, &c., in connection with new editions of Crown Lands Acts; and eight maps illustrating Annual Report of the Department of Lands for 1895.

Four hundred and fifty-two miscellaneous maps were lithographed during the year, comprising 76,765 printed copies.

Other Departments.

Maps, plans, and diagrams have been printed for the Departments of Chief Secretary, Public Works, and Railway Commissioners, comprising maps of New South Wales, City of Sydney, Port Jackson; Detail Survey maps of the municipalities of Alexandria, Randwick, Woollahra, and Waverley (18 sheets); diagrams of plain beam bridges (8 sheets); military map of the country between George's River and Broken Bay, &c.

Thirty-seven maps, plans, and diagrams for other Departments were lithographed during the year, comprising 15,269 printed copies.

Official Forms.

These forms comprise circulars, decisions, forms, and memoranda required for use at head-quarters and at country offices.

One hundred and thirty-five official forms were lithographed during the year, comprising 71,472 printed copies.

Comparative

Comparative Summary for 1895 and 1896.

Map, Plan, or Document.	1895.		1896.	
	No. of Separate Maps.	No. of Copies printed.	No. of Separate Maps.	No. of Copies printed.
Counties.....	16	2,800	12	1,900
Towns.....	28	2,625	15	1,400
Parishes.....	314	25,508	324	25,815
Auction sale plans	262	25,305	198	16,968
Miscellaneous	350	50,095	452	76,765
Other Departments	231	54,702	37	15,269
Official forms.....	112	62,850	135	71,472
Totals.....	1,313	223,385	1,173	209,039

Contracts for lithography have been completed in value to the amount of £874 1s. 10d.

ROADS BRANCH.

The Roads Branch inquires into applications for survey and opening of roads through alienated land and Crown land held under lease, and deals with correspondence relating to roads and streets matters in general, *e.g.*, complaints of obstruction of roads, objections to proposed roads, and claims to compensation. The plans of roads are examined, catalogued, and approved in the district offices, and then forwarded to this branch, where proceedings are taken for proclamation under the Public Roads Act, or for resumption under the Crown Lands Act of 1889. Afterwards the roads are charted upon office plans and maps, and fully noted copies of the plans are furnished to the Department of Public Works and to the Registrar-General.

Land Boards' appraisements of compensation consequent on the opening of roads are dealt with, and action taken in respect of granting Crown land or unnecessary roads in lieu of land resumed.

Plans of streets surveyed for alignment on the applications of Municipal Councils are examined, catalogued, and approved in District Survey Offices, then forwarded to this branch, where the cases are prepared to conform with the requirements of the 128th section of the Municipalities Act.

Applications for permission to erect public gates under Act 39 Victoria No. 10 are considered and dealt with.

Applications under section 67 of the Crown Lands Act, 48 Victoria No. 18, for purchase of unnecessary roads, receive preliminary consideration, and when purchase has been completed all maps and office plans are noted.

During the year 478 applications for survey of roads and streets were received and dealt with; also 323 surveyors' reports (exclusive of reports transmitting plans of surveys); 282 road plans, showing 491 miles of road surveyed; 14 alignment plans, showing 74 streets as marked for alignment of carriage-ways and foot-ways; 45 applications for permission to erect 80 public gates; 59 applications for purchase of 113 unnecessary roads; and 454 objections and claims with regard to road and street surveys.

Information has been furnished for 3,509 letters, in reply to communications and inquiries from members of the public, with regard to roads and streets matters. There were 7,306 papers registered during the year, which, together with 709 papers relating to roads registered in other branches, make a total of 8,015 papers received and dealt with. In 116 cases action has been taken to grant Crown land or unnecessary roads in compensation for land resumed under 42nd section of the Crown Lands Act of 1889.

During the latter half of the year on the recommendations of the Public Service Board the work of examination and approval of road and alignment plans was transferred to the District Survey Offices, and the staff of the branch reduced. There are now 5 draftsmen less than prior to August, 1896.

OCCUPATION DRAFTING BRANCH.

Miscellaneous business in connection with clearing scrub in the West Bogan country has been carried out by this branch; also investigations with regard to the withdrawal of land from leasehold areas for settlement purposes in the Central and Western Divisions.

Notifications of withdrawals from 7 leasehold areas in the Central Division were published in the *Government Gazette*, covering an area of 174,400 acres.

Maps have been prepared for the Public Works Committee showing the tenure of lands within 20 miles on each side of the proposed railways from Nevertire to Warren, and from Manilla to Tamworth.

Particulars were furnished with regard to homestead leases in force within 20 miles on each side of the proposed railway from Condobolin to Broken Hill.

The year's work shows a slight increase in the number of surveys dealt with under the 143rd and 52nd sections. Seven cases have been completed representing the survey of 62½ miles of holding boundaries and dividing lines, towards the cost of which the sum of £83 1s. 6d. has been collected from the pastoral lessces.

A comprehensive index to the field-books of old surveys is now in course of compilation, which, when complete, will put this section of the records on a satisfactory basis.

Adjustments in connection with areas of occupation licenses and pastoral leases affected by withdrawals or reversions show a decrease. 829 cases have been dealt with; during the year 1895 the number was 1,095. In 144 instances a thorough investigation of the area under review was found to be expedient.

One hundred and thirty-four cases have been investigated as to proposed withdrawal of land from leasehold areas for settlement purposes under the Act of 1895.

Two hundred and seventy-two homestead, improvement, and other leases have been charted, and 380 plans noted

One hundred and seventy-five tracings and lithographs have been prepared for appraisalment and other purposes.

Eighty-five new occupation licenses have been charted on office maps.

Fifty-seven plans of abandoned resumed areas have been charted up and forwarded to the District Surveyors for report as to best means of disposal.

Two hundred and fifteen blocks of vacant Crown lands proposed to be offered by auction or tender for occupation license have been dealt with.

MISCELLANEOUS CONTRACT BRANCH.*

There were 3,727 lithographs and tracings prepared and issued from this branch (being 379 less than in the previous year); these are chiefly illustrative of tracts of country for settlement under the provisions of the Act of 1895; also maps (12) showing 300 miles of travelling stock reserve; maps (219) illustrative of exchange proposals; standard tracings (379) of plans of roads and streets; and plans (60) for notation purposes.

There were 475 maps and plans noted by this branch to relieve the Deeds Branch.

The total number of applications dealt with is 1,606; 1,161 were dealt with in 1895.

On the whole a larger amount of work has been done than in 1895.

CORRESPONDENCE AND RECORD BRANCH.

The duties carried out in this branch are shown hereunder:—

Papers received from other branches and dealt with	12,626
Papers, plans, tracings, &c., received by post	988
Instructions issued to surveyors	1,329
Reports received from surveyors and recorded	1,196
Letters written and despatched	1,010
Memoranda, tracings, plans, &c., sent to surveyors	5,609
Minutes written to the Under Secretary	790
Ministerial decisions noted	460
Telegrams written and despatched	141

Recording all leave taken by Survey Branch in the head office and country offices.
Three clerks are employed in this branch.

PLAN RECORD BRANCH.

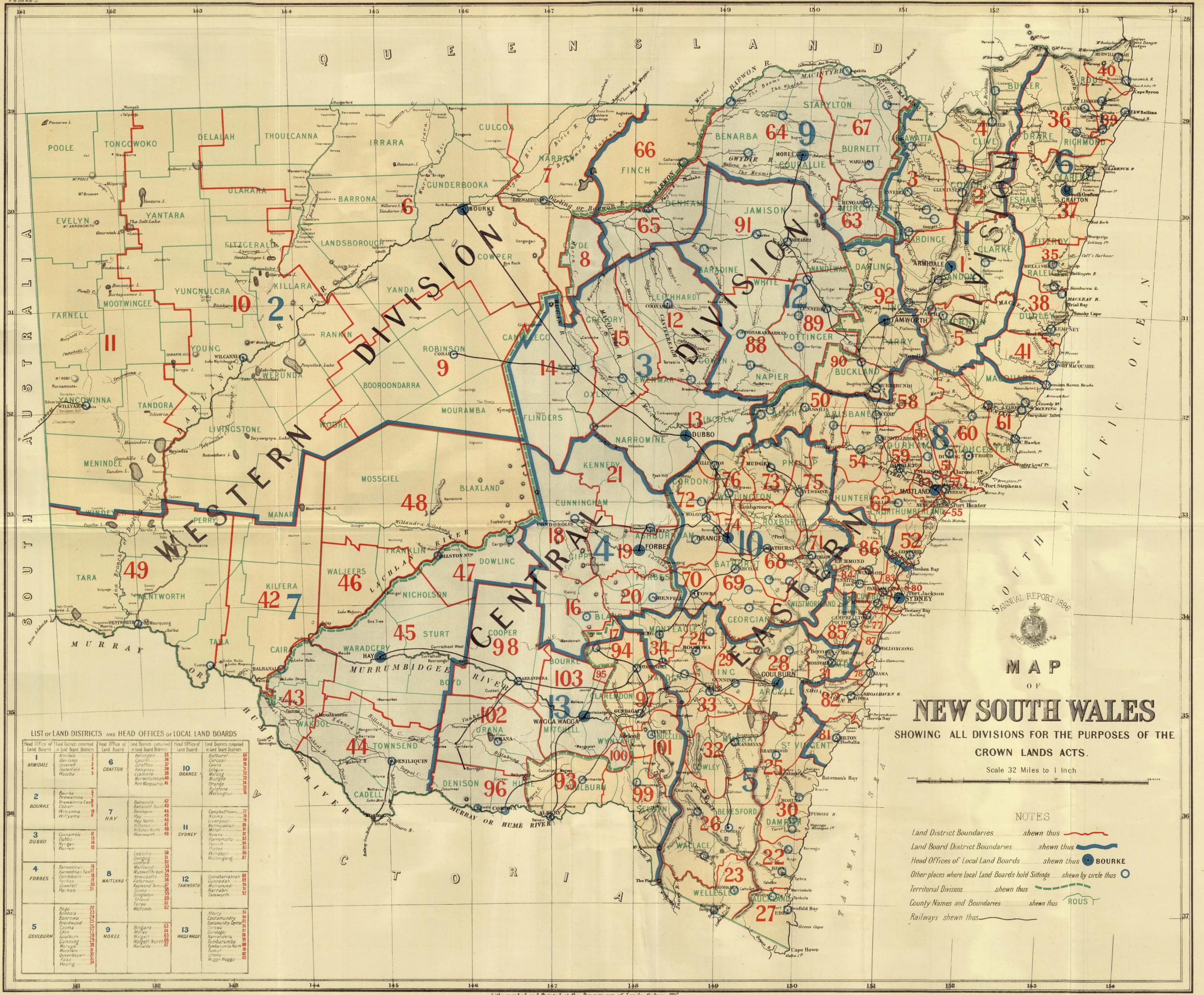
Approximate number of plans entered in books at end of year	274,068
Approximate number issued to and returned from officers in Metropolitan District Survey Office, Head Office, and Mines Department	133,260
Cancelled maps received	752
Plans sent to plan-mounter	5,640
Issued to Inquiry Branch... ..	724
Exhibited at counter	6,268
Surveyors' field-books in custody	6,700
Despatched to District Survey Offices	13,766
Returned from District Survey Offices	15,593
Applications from District Survey Offices (registered)	2,696
Memoranda returning plans from District Survey Offices (registered)	1,298
Draftsmen's memoranda to District Survey Offices for plans	1,330
Certified copies of plans received from District Survey Offices	2,900

PLAN-MOUNTING BRANCH.

The work performed comprises:—Plan-mounting, 16,719 pieces; rollers, varnishing, corners, lists, and miscellaneous, 1,834 pieces; binding, 864 pieces; parcels post, 890 pieces; altogether 20,307 pieces. The total for the previous year was 17,977 pieces. The increase is due partly to the requirements of the Land Tax Department, and partly to the demand for mounted lithographs in connection with the West Bogan scrub-clearing.

E. TWYNAM,
Chief Surveyor.

[7 maps.]



LIST OF LAND DISTRICTS AND HEAD OFFICES OF LOCAL LAND BOARDS

Head Office of Land Board	Land Districts comprised in Land Board Districts	Head Office of Land Board	Land Districts comprised in Land Board Districts	Head Office of Land Board	Land Districts comprised in Land Board Districts
1 ARMIDALE	Armidale Glen Innes Lyell Wentworth	6 CRAFTON	Bellingen Casino Crafton Kempsey Lismore Murrumbidgee Port Macquarie	10 ORANGE	Bathurst Canberra Cairns Cassara Coffs Harbour Lalor Molong Mudgee Orange Rylstone Wellington
2 BOURKE	Bourke Brewarrina Cobar Wilcannia Wyalapa	7 HAY	Barraba Belconnen Deniliquin Hay Hay North Hillston Murrumbidgee Warrumbidgee	11 SYDNEY	Campbelltown Kangaroo Liverpool Metropolitan Milton Newra Parramatta Petersham Pittong Windsor Wollongong
3 DUBBO	Coonamble Dubbo Narandah Warren	8 MATTLAND	Casalis Gungahlin Gosford Maitland Muswellbrook Newcastle Pahorah Raymond Terrace Scone Singleton Stroud Taree Wollombi	12 TAMWORTH	Coonabarabran Gunnedah Murrumbidgee Narrabri Singleton Tamworth
4 FORBES	Barraba Carrathool Cumbalong Forbes Grenfell Parker	9 MORÉE	Bingara Maree Wagga Wagga North Wagga South	13 WAGGA WAGGA	Albury Coolamundie Denhammond Gorewa Gundagai Narrandera Tumbarumba Tumbarumba North Tumbarumba South Urana Wagga
5 COULBURN	Bega Bombala Burrumbidgee Cooma Eden Goulburn Murrumbidgee Murrumbidgee North Murrumbidgee South Yass Young				

NEW SOUTH WALES

SHOWING ALL DIVISIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE CROWN LANDS ACTS.

Scale 32 Miles to 1 Inch

NOTES

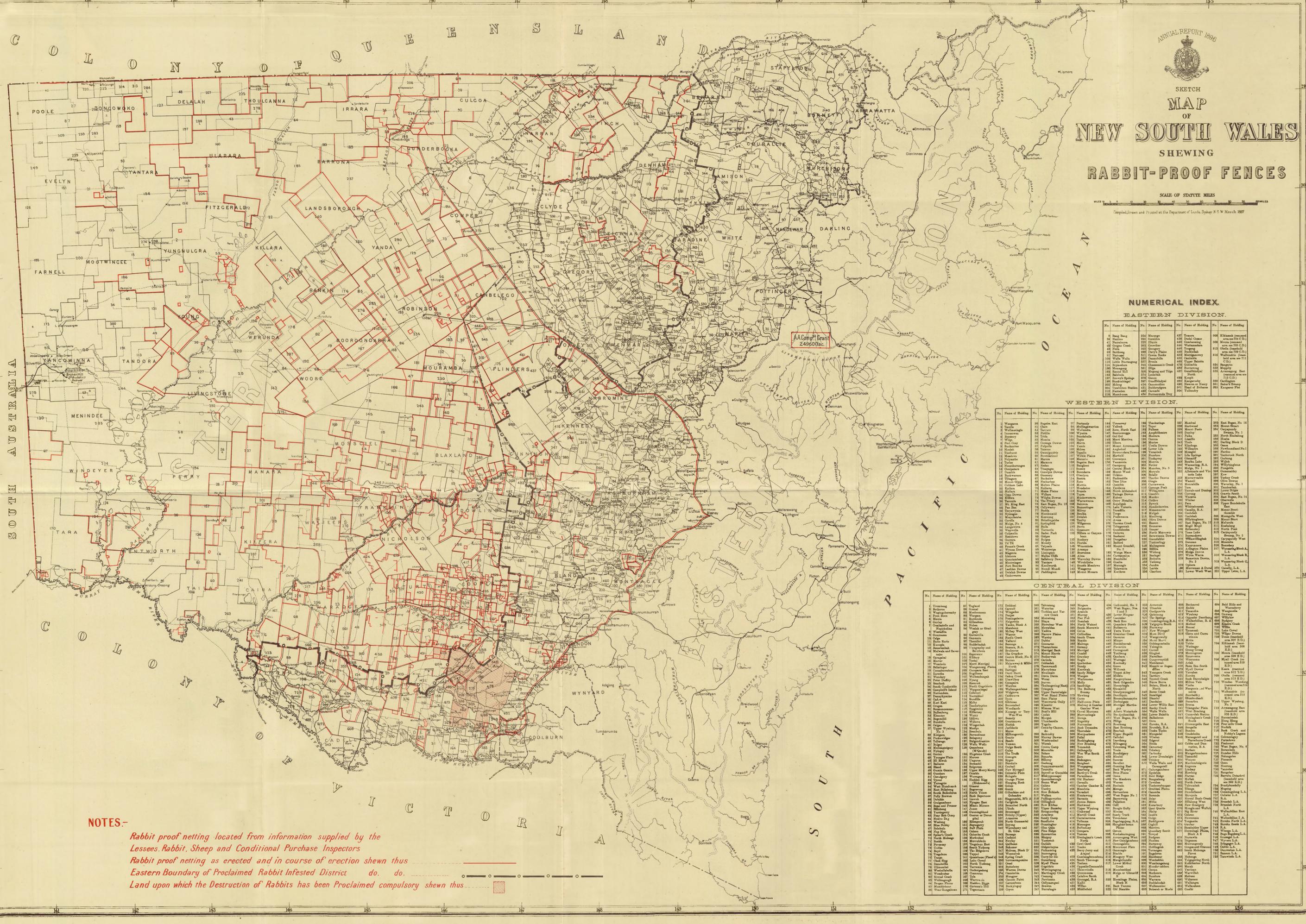
- Land District Boundaries shown thus
- Land Board District Boundaries shown thus
- Head Offices of Local Land Boards shown thus
- Other places where Local Land Boards hold Sittings shown by circle thus
- Territorial Divisions shown thus
- County Names and Boundaries shown thus
- Railways shown thus



SKETCH MAP OF NEW SOUTH WALES SHEWING RABBIT-PROOF FENCES

SCALE OF STATUTE MILES

Prepared, Drawn and Printed at the Department of Lands, Sydney N.S.W. March 1907



NUMERICAL INDEX

EASTERN DIVISION.

No.	Name of Holding	No.	Name of Holding	No.	Name of Holding	No.	Name of Holding
1	Waggon	101	Waggon	201	Waggon	301	Waggon
2	Waggon	102	Waggon	202	Waggon	302	Waggon
3	Waggon	103	Waggon	203	Waggon	303	Waggon
4	Waggon	104	Waggon	204	Waggon	304	Waggon
5	Waggon	105	Waggon	205	Waggon	305	Waggon
6	Waggon	106	Waggon	206	Waggon	306	Waggon
7	Waggon	107	Waggon	207	Waggon	307	Waggon
8	Waggon	108	Waggon	208	Waggon	308	Waggon
9	Waggon	109	Waggon	209	Waggon	309	Waggon
10	Waggon	110	Waggon	210	Waggon	310	Waggon

WESTERN DIVISION.

No.	Name of Holding	No.	Name of Holding	No.	Name of Holding	No.	Name of Holding
1	Waggon	101	Waggon	201	Waggon	301	Waggon
2	Waggon	102	Waggon	202	Waggon	302	Waggon
3	Waggon	103	Waggon	203	Waggon	303	Waggon
4	Waggon	104	Waggon	204	Waggon	304	Waggon
5	Waggon	105	Waggon	205	Waggon	305	Waggon
6	Waggon	106	Waggon	206	Waggon	306	Waggon
7	Waggon	107	Waggon	207	Waggon	307	Waggon
8	Waggon	108	Waggon	208	Waggon	308	Waggon
9	Waggon	109	Waggon	209	Waggon	309	Waggon
10	Waggon	110	Waggon	210	Waggon	310	Waggon

CENTRAL DIVISION.

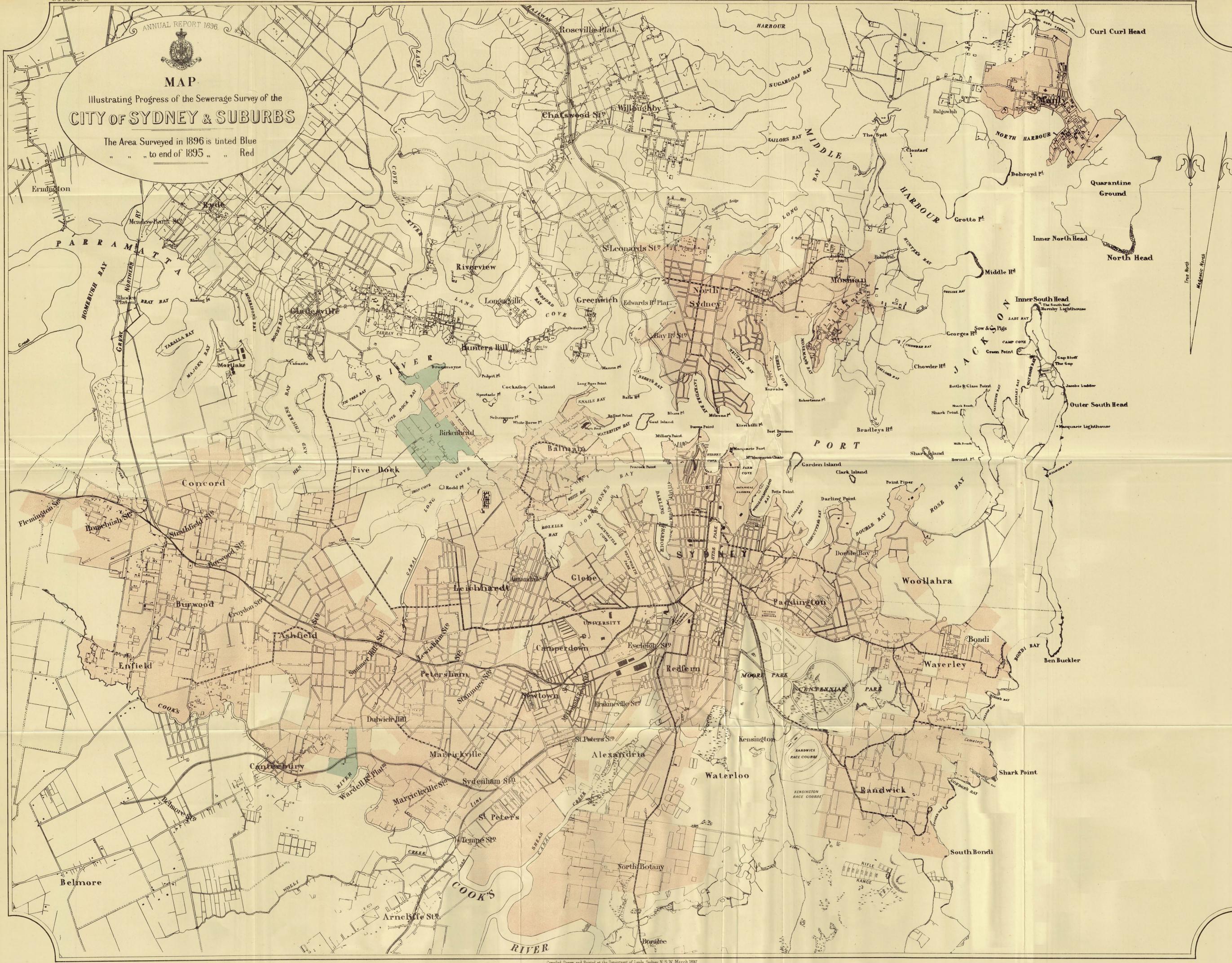
No.	Name of Holding	No.	Name of Holding	No.	Name of Holding	No.	Name of Holding
1	Waggon	101	Waggon	201	Waggon	301	Waggon
2	Waggon	102	Waggon	202	Waggon	302	Waggon
3	Waggon	103	Waggon	203	Waggon	303	Waggon
4	Waggon	104	Waggon	204	Waggon	304	Waggon
5	Waggon	105	Waggon	205	Waggon	305	Waggon
6	Waggon	106	Waggon	206	Waggon	306	Waggon
7	Waggon	107	Waggon	207	Waggon	307	Waggon
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9	Waggon	109	Waggon	209	Waggon	309	Waggon
10	Waggon	110	Waggon	210	Waggon	310	Waggon

NOTES:-
 Rabbit proof netting located from information supplied by the Lessees, Rabbit, Sheep and Conditional Purchase Inspectors
 Rabbit proof netting as erected and in course of erection shewn thus
 Eastern Boundary of Proclaimed Rabbit Infested District do. do.
 Land upon which the Destruction of Rabbits has been Proclaimed compulsory shewn thus



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

The Area Surveyed in 1896 is tinted Blue
" " " " to end of 1895 " " Red





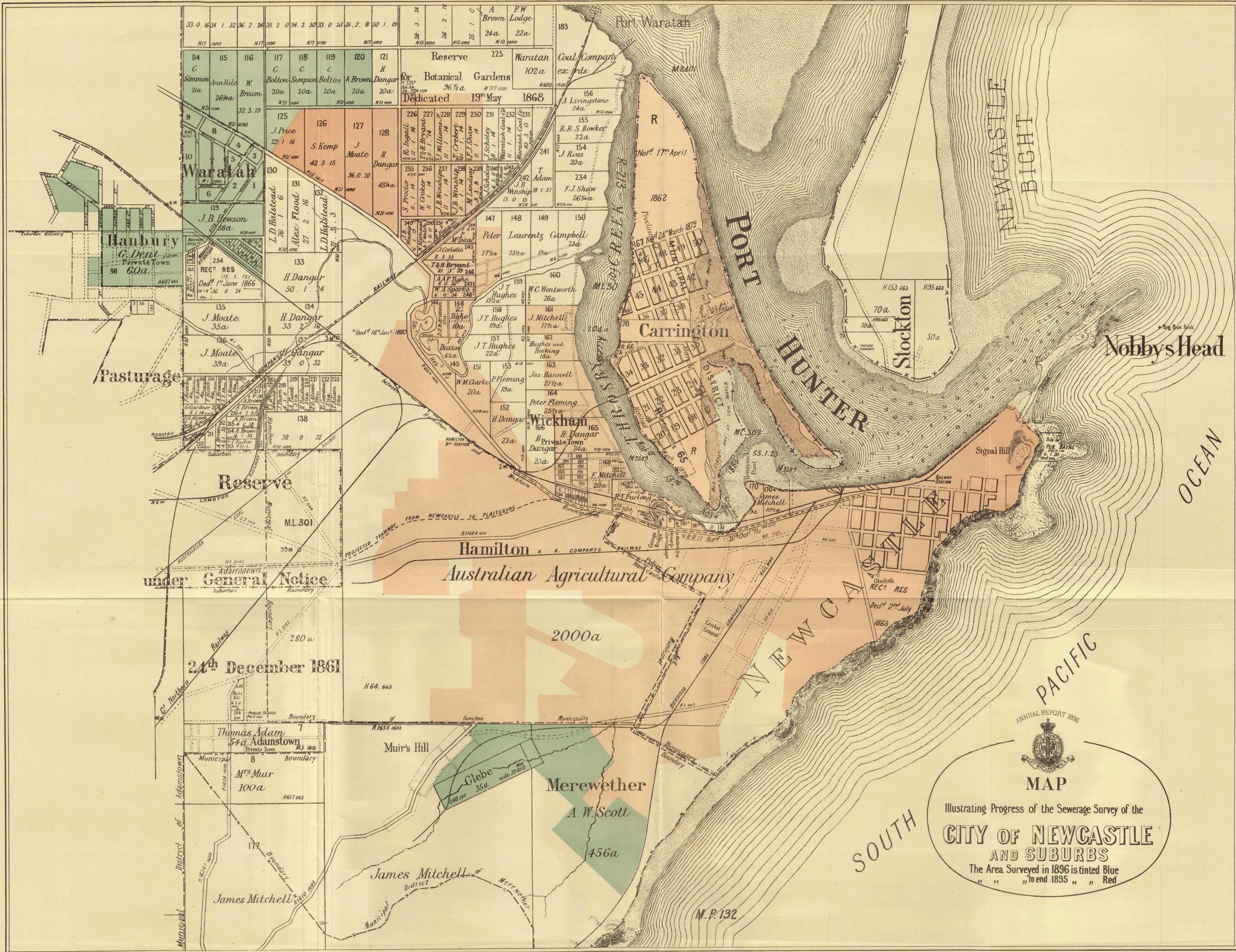
ANNUAL REPORT 1896

MAP

Illustrating Progress of the Sewerage Survey of the

TOWN OF GRANVILLE

The Area Surveyed in 1896 is Tinted Blue



ANNUAL REPORT 1896

MAP
 Illustrating Progress of the Sewerage Survey of the
CITY OF NEWCASTLE AND SUBURBS
 The Area Surveyed in 1896 is tinted Blue
 " " "to end 1895 " " Red

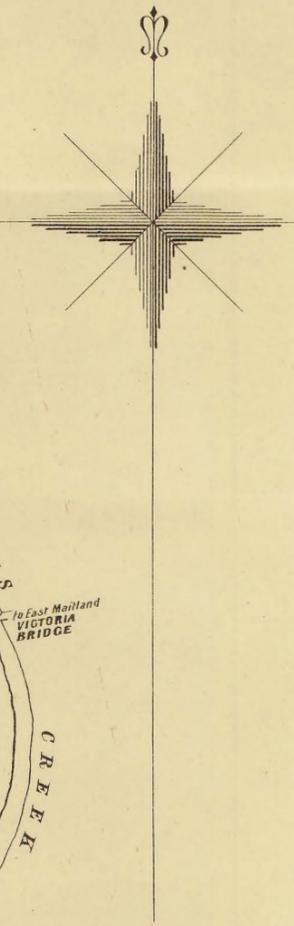
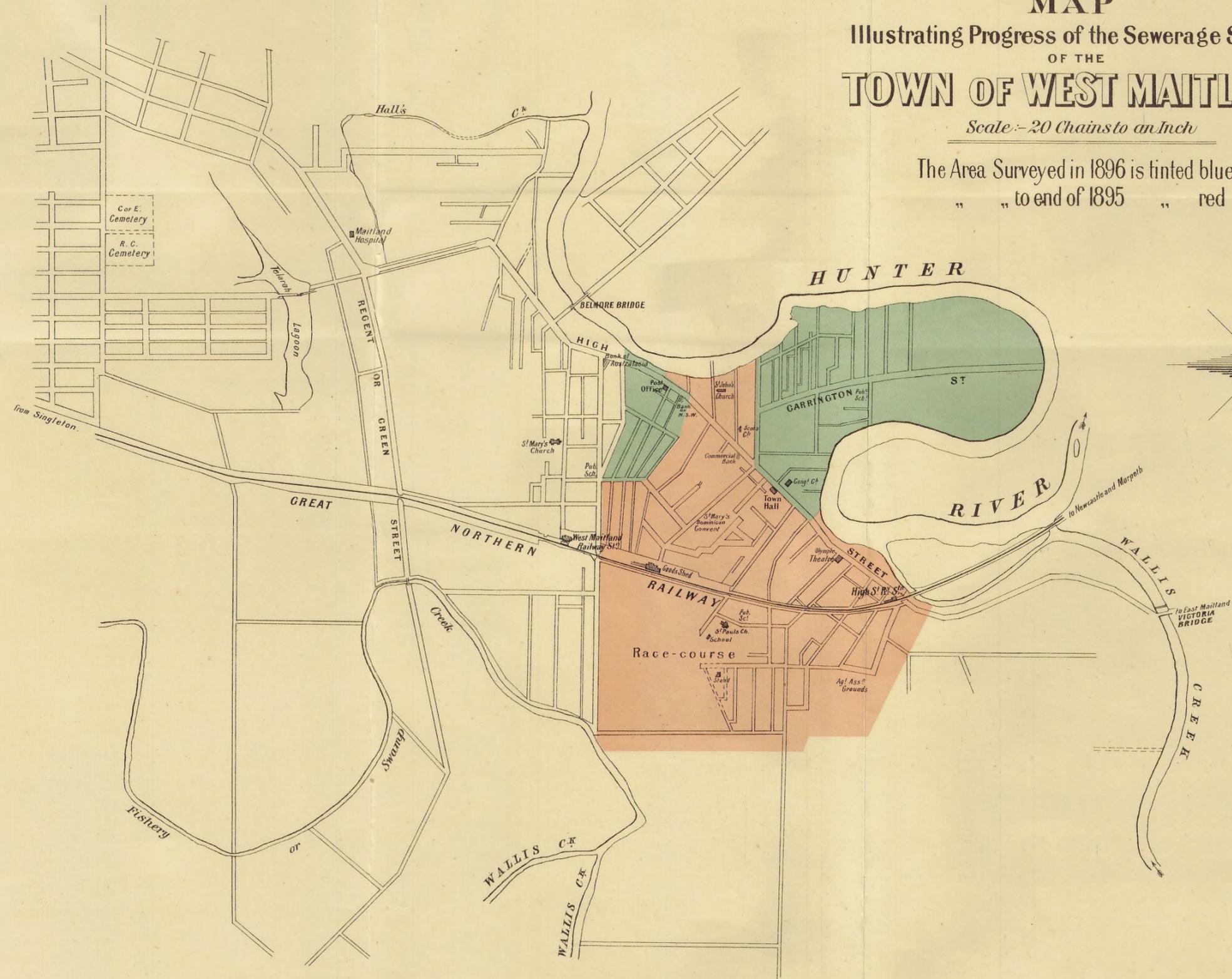
ANNUAL REPORT 1896



MAP Illustrating Progress of the Sewerage Survey OF THE TOWN OF WEST MAITLAND

Scale: - 20 Chains to an Inch

The Area Surveyed in 1896 is tinted blue.
" " to end of 1895 " red



1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

CONSOLIDATION OF THE LAND LAWS;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND

APPENDIX.

Printed under No. 24 Report from Printing Committee, 2 December, 1897.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPELATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1897.

1897.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES NO. 8. WEDNESDAY, 12 MAY, 1897.

32. CONSOLIDATION OF THE LAND LAWS:—Mr. Carruthers moved, pursuant to Notice,—
(1.) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report on the Consolidation of the Laws relating to Crown Lands.
(2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Copeland, Mr. Chanter, Mr. Moore, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Millen, Mr. Gormly, Mr. Watson, Mr. Macdougald, and the Mover.
Debate ensued.
Question put.
The House divided.

Ayes, 56.

Mr. Cook,	Mr. Moore,	Mr. Wilks,
Mr. Neild,	Mr. Bavister,	Mr. James Thomson,
Mr. Young,	Mr. Morgan,	Mr. Watkins,
Mr. Lonsdale,	Mr. Lyne,	Mr. Gillies,
Mr. Brunker,	Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick,	Mr. Law,
Mr. Affleck,	Mr. Cann,	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Carruthers,	Mr. Molesworth,	Mr. J. O. J. Fitzpatrick,
Mr. Sydney Smith,	Mr. Watson,	Mr. McFarlane,
Mr. Dacey,	Mr. McGowen,	Mr. Edden,
Mr. Sleath,	Mr. Hogue,	Mr. Ewing,
Mr. Anderson,	Mr. Lec,	Mr. O'Sullivan,
Mr. Fegan,	Mr. Wright,	Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Garrard,	Mr. Smailes,	Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Gould,	Mr. Harris,	Mr. Ferguson.
Mr. Mahony,	Mr. Newman,	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr. Rigg,	Mr. Millard,	
Mr. Travers Jones,	Mr. Bull,	Mr. Black,
Mr. Chaunter,	Mr. Griffith,	Mr. Hawthorne.
Mr. Simeon Phillips,	Mr. McLean,	
Mr. Wheeler,	Mr. Parkes,	

Noes, 8.

Mr. Miller,
Mr. Wood,
Mr. McLaughlin,
Mr. Keily,
Mr. A. B. Piddington
Mr. Ashton.
Tellers,
Mr. Hurley,
Mr. Perry.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

VOTES NO. 11. WEDNESDAY, 19 MAY, 1897.

- * * * * *
1. CONSOLIDATION OF THE LAND LAWS:—Mr Speaker informed the House that he had received from Mr. Copeland a letter, stating that, for the reasons therein given, he desired to resign his position as a Member of the Select Committee appointed to consider the subject referred. Whereupon, Mr. Carruthers moved, That Mr. Copeland be discharged from attendance upon the said Committee.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.

VOTES NO. 76. TUESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 1897.

4. CONSOLIDATION OF THE LAND LAWS:—Mr. Carruthers, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before, the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this subject was referred on 12th May, 1897; together with Appendix.
Referred by Sessional Order to the Printing Committee.

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1897.

 CONSOLIDATION OF THE LAND LAWS.

 REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed on the 12th May, 1897, "to inquire into and report on the Consolidation of the Laws relating to Crown Lands," have agreed to the following report :—

Your Committee having held eight meetings and examined the following witnesses, viz., Mr. Thomas C. J. Foster, Barrister-at-Law, and Messrs. H. A. G. Curry, C. J. Saunders, W. H. Capper, R. H. De Low, J. R. Yorke, J. E. O'Dwyer, E. A. Bronsdon, J. P. McGuanne, and E. C. Landers, Officers of the Lands Department (whose evidence will be found appended hereto) beg to report as follows :—

1. That the Bill attached to this Report, and marked "A," is, according to the evidence, a true and faithful consolidation of the law relating to Crown Lands, and the Committee accordingly recommend the Bill as such to the Legislative Assembly.

2. That it has undergone careful revision by Mr. T. C. J. Foster, Barrister-at-Law, acting in conjunction with experienced officers of the Lands Department.

3. That no amendment of the law has been made, and the only alterations of verbiage which your Committee have sanctioned have been made as follows :—

Clause 108, sub-clause 3 ("Provided the Board may issue a final and, if necessary, dispense with the first certificate) before the expiration of ten years from the date of application for any such additional conditional purchase if the condition of residence attaching to such additional conditional purchase has been fulfilled before the expiration of such ten years."

Your Committee are of opinion that this is only declaratory of the law, and is in every way desirable, being in accord with the accepted interpretation and administration of the law.

Clause 135, sub-section 4, the words "*from and after*" are altered in the Bill to read "*on and after*," and the same alteration has been made in clause 253, sub-clause 4. This is a verbal alteration only, avoiding an existing ambiguity.

Clause 261, sub-clause (b), the words "*one sum*" have been substituted for the words "*one instalment*"; and in sub-clause (d) of the same clause the words "*from the date of the lease*" have been added.

In neither case is the law altered, but the verbiage is improved.

J. H. CARRUTHERS,
Chairman.

No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly,
30th November, 1897.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

WEDNESDAY, 30 JUNE, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Carruthers,	|	Mr. Hayes,
Mr. Watson,	|	Mr. Chanter,
	Mr. Macdonald.	

Mr. Carruthers called to the Chair.

Entries from Votes and Proceedings appointing the Committee, and referring to the resignation of Mr. Copeland as a Member of the Committee, read by the Clerk. Committee deliberated.

Re-assembling of the Committee to be arranged by the Chairman.

[Adjourned.]

WEDNESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Ashton,	|	Mr. Moore,
	Mr. Hayes.	

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Ashton called to the Chair, *pro tem*. Re-assembling of the Committee to be arranged by the Chairman.

[Adjourned.]

WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Carruthers in the Chair.		
Mr. Ashton	|	Mr. Hayes,
Mr. Gormly,	|	Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Moore,	|	Mr. Macdonald.

Thomas C. J. Foster (*Barrister-at-law*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness produced copy of Crown Lands Consolidation Bill, as revised by him; also, table showing how every section of every existing Act is dealt with by the Consolidation Bill.

[Adjourned till to-morrow at 3 o'clock.]

THURSDAY, 18 NOVEMBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Carruthers in the Chair.

Mr. Hayes,	|	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Moore,	|	Mr. Ashton.

Thomas C. J. Foster, re-called and further examined.

Harris Adam Gray Curry (*Chief Inspector, Lands Department*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next at 2 o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Carruthers in the Chair.

Mr. Hayes,	|	Mr. Moore,
Mr. Gormly,	|	Mr. Macdonald.

Charles James Saunders (*Inspector of Land Boards and District Survey Offices*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

William Henry Capper (*Clerk-in-charge of Conditional Sales Division, Lands Department*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Robert Henry De Low (*Clerk-in-charge of Lease Division, Lands Department*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

John Richard Yorke (*Clerk-in-charge of Conditional Sales Branch, Lands Department*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

James

James Edmund O'Dwyer (*Clerk-in-charge of Miscellaneous Branch, Lands Department*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Edward Arnold Bronsdon (*Clerk-in-charge of Alienation Branch, Lands Department*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

John Percy M'Guanne (*Clerk-in-charge of Miscellaneous Leases Branch, Lands Department*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Edwin Canrobert Landors (*Clerk-in-charge of Occupation Branch, Lands Department*), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till To-morrow at 3 o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Carruthers in the Chair.

Mr. Hayes,	|	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Moore.	|	Mr. Watson,
Mr. Ashton.		

Thomas C. J. Foster recalled and further examined.

Mr. Foster asked to be supplied with a copy of the evidence.

Resolved (on motion of Mr. Moore), That Mr. Foster be supplied with a copy of the evidence.

[Adjournment till To-morrow, at 3:15 o'clock.]

THURSDAY, 25 NOVEMBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—

Mr. Carruthers in the Chair.

Mr. Gormly,	|	Mr. Hayes,
Mr. Ashton,	|	Mr. Moore,
Mr. Macdonald,	|	Mr. Chanter,
Mr. Watson.		

Committee considered Draft Bill.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next at 2:30 o'clock.]

TUESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Carruthers in the Chair.

Mr. Ashton,	|	Mr. Moore,
Mr. Chanter,	|	Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Gormly,	|	Mr. Hayes.

Thomas C. J. Foster recalled, and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

The Chairman submitted copy of the Crown Lands Consolidation Bill finally revised.

Ordered to be appended. [*Appendix A*].

Chairman then submitted Draft Report.

Same read, amended, and agreed to.

Chairman to report to the House.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

CONSOLIDATION OF THE LAND LAWS.

WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER, 1897.

Present:—

MR. ASHTON,
MR. CHANTER,
MR. GORMLY,

MR. HAYES,
MR. MACDONALD,
MR. MOORE.

THE HON. JOSEPH HECTOR CARRUTHERS IN THE CHAIR.

Thomas C. J. Foster, sworn and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] You are a barrister of the Supreme Court of New South Wales? Yes.
2. You have been entrusted with the work of finally revising the Crown Lands Consolidation Bill? Yes. T. C. J. Foster.
3. How long have you been engaged upon the work? A little over three months.
4. Have you been engaged upon it pretty constantly? Upon an average, ten hours a day. The work ^{17 Nov., 1897.} has been very severe, and has extended into the night.
5. Before you took up this work you had a fair amount of practice in the Land Court? Yes. I have had general experience in my profession, and I have had experience in the Land Court.
6. You have made yourself conversant with our land laws? Yes.
7. And you have acted as counsel for the Crown in many of the Lands Department cases? Yes.
8. When you took the work of revision in hand, there was in existence a fair draft consolidation? Yes.
9. You hand in a copy of the Bill as revised by you? Yes.
10. Do you feel prepared to give the Committee the assurance that this Bill is a fair consolidation of the existing law? Yes, I can do that. Of course, there are some typographical errors in it, because we rather rushed the Government Printer; but I shall have them altered.
11. Have you followed any well-established principle in carrying out the work of consolidation? Yes, generally. I may say that I took the Bill originally laid before the House, and went through it carefully, revising and correcting where I thought necessary, and checking all the clauses. Then I collaborated with Mr. Curry. Without his first Bill I do not know what amount of time would have been required for the work of consolidation. What he had done was most valuable, and, he being so thoroughly conversant with the land laws, knew what sections naturally ran together. Since then we have practically worked together, comparing notes at the end of each day. We have altered the shape of the original Bill considerably. In the first place, we have expanded the saving clauses. We found that there were several tenures created under the existing Acts, and that certain disqualifications and limitations applied to, perhaps, three or four of them, and we thought it better that these should each be referred to under a heading dealing with some particular tenure, so that any one who wanted to ascertain the law relating to that tenure would find it all in the same place. This remark applies particularly to the provisions relating to the alienation of land, and creating tenures by conditional purchase, conditional lease, sale, and so on. To each of these tenures certain conditions apply, and these conditions are put under the various headings of the tenures, so that if you want to know anything in regard to any particular method of alienation, you may find it all under one heading. To this arrangement, however, there are one or two exceptions, namely, where land reverts to a leasehold, upon the forfeiture of different tenures, and in regard to the ownership of improvements. The provisions relating to these matters were found to be too long

T. C. J. Foster. long to repeat in connection with every tenure, and they have been put under a miscellaneous heading, some of them being dealt with under the heading of "Ownership of Improvements," and others under the head of "Reverters."

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12. You have generally acted upon the plan of making each part of the Bill a full statement of the law relating to the subject matter of that part, repeating provisions where it is necessary to repeat them? Yes.

13. Have you avoided everything that might be called an amendment of the law? We have made amendments in the law in two instances, if indeed they can be termed amendments, and to them I wish to direct the attention of the Committee. One of these new provisions refers to additional conditional purchases made since the coming into force of the Act of 1895. It was found that there was really no provision for the issue of a certificate of conformity in regard to such conditional purchases. The only provision came under the Act of 1884, section 36, which allowed a like certificate as was issued on an original conditional purchase to be issued upon fulfilment of conditions; but additional conditional purchases made since the Act of 1895 carry a ten years residence, which, however, is cut down in various ways. We had to provide for this. Therefore, I have printed in the Bill, in *italics*, so that the attention of the Committee may be drawn to it, a provision which I think meets the case. The Act of 1884 said:—

A like certificate may be granted by such Board upon application of the holder of any additional conditional purchase when such Board shall be satisfied, after like inquiry, that all conditions applicable thereto, except that of payment of balance of instalments, have been duly complied with.

In regard to additional conditional purchases made before 1st June, 1895, the Bill provides:—

And a like certificate may be granted by such Board upon the application of the holder of any additional conditional purchase made before the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or any additional conditional purchase made out of a conditional lease applied for before the first day of June one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, so soon as such Board is satisfied, after due inquiry, that all conditions applicable thereto, except payment of the balance of instalments, have been duly complied with, and notwithstanding that five years from the date of confirmation of the application for such additional conditional purchase may not have expired.

That provision embodies the provisions of section 36 of the Act of 1884, section 22 of the Act of 1889, and section 29 of the Act of 1895. Where a man has taken up an additional conditional purchase since the passing of the Act of 1895, if he is the person who has fulfilled the conditions on the original conditional purchase, his ten years of residence are reduced by a period not in any case amounting to more than five years. That would leave him really only five years of residence to perform; but even that condition of residence is reduced, or rather, as the Act terms it, it is waived. The Act says that the condition of residence is waived, so long as the person who took up the original conditional purchase still holds it with the additional conditional purchase. The result is, that if an original conditional purchaser has taken up an additional conditional purchase since the passing of the Act of 1895, he has no residence to perform, provided he still keeps the original conditional purchase. We had to deal with this case, and we therefore inserted the provision which is shown in *italics*.

And like certificates may be granted by such Board in respect of any additional conditional purchases applied for after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this Act, when such Board is satisfied, after due inquiry, that all conditions applicable thereto, except payment of the balance of instalments, have been duly complied with.

III. Provided that the Board may issue a final (and if necessary dispense with the first) certificate before the expiration of ten years from the date of application for any such additional conditional purchase if the condition of residence attaching to such additional conditional purchase has, by virtue of the provisions of section 84 of this Act been fulfilled before the expiration of such ten years.

I think this amendment was really necessary. I found the matter being talked about, and it seemed to be necessary either to leave it alone or to allow a determination to be come to in regard to it through the medium of a decision of the Land Court, when, perhaps, it might be more easily done in this way. The provision which I have inserted prevents any difficulty arising, and really only carries out the provisions of the Act of 1884, by expanding them to apply to selections taken up under the Act of 1895.

14. *Mr. Moore.*] This provision will not alter the existing law, that if conditions of residence have been fulfilled they will be waived? No; it alters nothing. It provides for the granting of a certificate, without making a double certificate necessary.

15. *Mr. Macdonald.*] And without making it necessary for a man to wait ten years? Yes.

16. *Mr. Moore.*] Are all the amendments of the existing law printed in *italics*? No; the next one is not.

17. But there are only two amendments, material or immaterial? Yes; that I am aware of. The next amendment is on page 60. Section 96 of the Act of 1884, says:—

Every lease shall be liable to forfeiture if any rent be not paid within the prescribed period, or upon breach of any condition annexed to such lease.

18. These are tremendously vague terms;—what is the meaning of the words, "liable to forfeiture"? There is nothing in the Act to say what they mean, and I could find no decisions interpreting them. What I gathered was, that if there were forfeiture the same proceedings would be taken in regard to leases as are taken in regard to conditional purchases. Clause 187 of the Bill provides that—

Every lease (whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act) shall be liable to forfeiture if any rent be not paid within the prescribed or allowed period —

I have added the words "allowed period," because certain conditions arise which allow a man to have his time extended.

or upon breach of any condition annexed to such lease; but —

These are the new words—

no forfeiture of any lease under this Act, or the Acts 1861–1896, shall take effect until the expiration of thirty clear days after notification by the Minister of such forfeiture in the *Gazette*.

That provision shows what the words, "liable to forfeiture," mean.

19. *Mr. Ashton.*] What is that provision an expansion of? It is an expansion of section 96 of the Act of 1884.

20. *Chairman.*] Those are the only amendments you have made? Yes; so far as I am aware.

21. Are there any other points you would like to refer to? Yes; there is another matter to which I should like to draw the attention of the Committee, and it has to do with validations. The Committee will

will know that at various times defects have been discovered—generally in view of legal proceedings—which have invalidated some conditional purchase, or series of conditional purchases, and Parliament has passed Acts validating these conditional purchases. In my opinion, and I state it broadly as a lawyer, I do not think validating Acts ought to be incorporated into a Consolidation Bill, because they are of no use for any purpose, except to show title in particular persons. If hon. members look at the saving clause, they will see that no harm can possibly be done by the repeal of these Acts. I have, however, put them into this Bill as a tentative measure, their provisions being embodied in clauses 307 to 327, and in clause 331. These provisions have been inserted under a heading which does not interfere with anything else in the Bill, but they are only inserted tentatively, because I wanted to ask the Committee if any useful purpose would be served by keeping them, and whether they feared that harm might be done by repealing them.

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22. *Mr. Macdonald.*] When you speak of their repeal I suppose you mean their omission? I have here a table showing how every section of every existing Act is dealt with by the Consolidation Bill. For instance, a short Act was passed to declare the meaning of the words "report of the Land Board." Under section 43 of the Act of 1889 extensions of pastoral leases could be granted upon the Land Board making a report as to the improvements, and it seemed to be the intention that because there were improvements upon the pastoral lease, the lessees should have a right to an extension of not more than five years. To declare the meaning of these words, the Crown Lands Act of 1889 Declaratory Act was passed.

23. *Mr. Hayes.*] That Act is now dead? Yes; its operation is exhausted, and the Act has been omitted from the Consolidation Bill because of that.

24. *Mr. Macdonald.*] It is not necessary to repeal that Act because it is already dead? The idea seems to be to clear the Statute Book, and to wipe away every unnecessary Act, and that being so, this Act should be repealed. Then again, the Crown Lands Purchases and Leases Validation Act validated a tremendous number of conditional purchases and leases, and to it were attached schedules containing the names of the persons holding these conditional purchases and leases. No practical purpose, however, can be served by keeping that Act alive. If you look at the saving clause of the Bill, you will find that it is a larger saving clause than even the Interpretation Act which was passed the other day. I consulted the Honorable C. G. Heydon on this matter and he said, "I advise you to look at the English Statutes Revision Acts." I found that those Acts went a little further than the Interpretation Act, and I said, "We will save everything, so that no one can be hurt." It will be seen, by looking at the saving clauses of the Bill, that the repeal of any Act shall not revive anything not in force or existing at the time, or affect the previous operation of any enactment repealed, or anything "duly done, suffered, or commenced, or contracted to be done," or affect the validity, invalidity, or consequences of anything already done or suffered. So that if a person has had his selection validated, you cannot go behind the validation. The repeal of the Validating Act does not affect anything that has been done under it. Therefore, I think that these Acts, having served their purpose, should be repealed. They are now of about as much use as an old Appropriation Act.

25. *Mr. Ashton.*] I find that you have treated section 36 of the Act of 1895, which deals with the reappraisement of special areas, as a lapsed section? Yes.

26. Upon the same principle as that upon which you have omitted the Declaratory Act, to which you have referred? In the table which I have handed in (*Exhibit B*), I say in regard to this section—

Partly operation exhausted; all rights are preserved in saving clause. The Act, 60 Victoria No. 2, still further reduces the annual payments.

If a man does not apply to have his annual payments reduced, they go on as before, but he can still apply for their reduction under the Conditional Purchasers Relief Act.

27. In clause 68, the Government is empowered to proclaim special areas, which it shall be lawful to conditionally purchase

at such prices (not being less than 30s. per acre).

Now a man may hold a special area for 22s. 6d. an acre; but there would be nothing to show how that price was arrived at. It seems to me that there may be a want of clearness in regard to this matter?

28. *Mr. Hayes.*] I notice that in many places—for instance, in clause 52, section J,—you refer to sections of existing Acts and to sections of the Consolidation Act. For instance, you say:—

Crown lands set apart under section 10 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, or section 46 of this Act,

People in the country may think that these are separate provisions? The provisions are identical. In the section which you have quoted however, the land was set apart under section 10 of the Act of 1895, not under section 46 of this Act.

THURSDAY, 18 NOVEMBER, 1897.

Present:—

MR. GORMLY,
MR. ASHTON,

MR. MOORE,
MR. HAYES.

THE HON. JOSEPH HECTOR CARRUTHERS IN THE CHAIR.

Thomas C. J. Foster recalled and further examined:—

29. *Chairman.*] Have you anything to add to your evidence of yesterday? There is, perhaps, one matter to which I should draw the attention of the Committee, and that is the definitions that are given in the Bill of the terms, "Leasehold Area" and "Resumed Area." The only definition of those terms in the existing law occurs in section 4 of the Act of 1884. That section says:—

"Leasehold area" means that portion of a pastoral holding for which a pastoral lease may be granted under this Act.

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In clause 3 of the Bill I have expanded that definition, but always in accordance with judicial decision and the language of the Acts themselves. Where the Act says that such and such a piece of land shall revert to the leasehold area, it has been held in many decisions that that land becomes part of the leasehold area, although it was not "that portion of a pastoral holding for which a pastoral lease could be granted." For instance, take the case of a reserve within the external boundaries of a leasehold area. When that reserve is revoked the land reverts to the leasehold area, but it was not a "portion of a pastoral holding and for which a pastoral lease may be granted." Then, again, part of the Act of 1895 deals with the attachment of resumed areas to leasehold areas. The resumed area thus attached becomes leasehold area, though it is not a "portion of a pastoral holding for which a pastoral lease may be granted." I do not think it is going outside the work of consolidation to declare the meaning of a term like this. I have expanded the interpretation given in the Act of 1884 to read:—

"Leasehold area" means that portion of a pastoral holding for which a pastoral lease may have been granted under the Acts 1854-1896, or lands of which a pastoral lease may have been granted under such Acts, or may be granted under this Act.

That deals with the case of land which may be added to the leasehold area by a reverter of any kind.

Or lands within an expired pastoral lease in the Central Division, unless and until such lands have been notified as, or otherwise become, a resumed area; or a resumed area in the Western Division on, and during, attachment to leasehold areas.

Until something is done with an expired pastoral lease it remains leasehold area.

30. *Mr. Hayes.*] Is there any danger of going too far? Well, the definition might be allowed to stop at the words "granted under this Act." The same correction might be made in the new definition of the term "Resumed Area." Of course the Courts have been accustomed to give their decision without this expansion of the original definition.

31. *Chairman.*] Have you been careful to bring the Bill into line with the decisions that have been given by the Supreme Court in interpreting the existing law? Yes; where there is a decision which has not already been dealt with by Act of Parliament. In going through a long line of Supreme Court decisions, I found that in nearly every instance the Legislature had subsequently taken the matter up, and had amended the Law. In one instance, however, in regard to these decisions I have done what, according to the books, is true consolidation, and, following the decision *in re Baldwin*, 12 N.S.W. L.R., I say:—

A conditional purchase made under the provisions of section 22 of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, shall not be deemed to be an original conditional purchase within the meaning of this section.

These conditional purchases under section 22 of the Act of 1861 were made generally by pastoral lessees holding a grant. They had a small grant which they were allowed to extend to 320 acres. *In re Baldwin* the Court held that such a conditional purchase was not an original conditional purchase, so as to give the power to make additional conditional purchases. This case has not been provided for in the existing Act, and, according to the authorities, consolidation means bringing into line all the cases which have not been dealt with by the Legislature. I have put in this provision to show that such a conditional purchase cannot give the right to take up an additional conditional purchase. I might also mention that there is now a Bill before the House, which makes some amendments in the existing law, and which may cause the recasting of some of the clauses in the Consolidation Bill. Another thing to which my attention was drawn is this: The consolidation Bills already before the House appear to have consolidated the registration Acts, and in this Bill we have a reference to the registration Acts under the head of "Transfers." I shall have to alter that provision.

32. You have paid attention to the Interpretation Act which has been passed? Yes; the Interpretation Act is responsible for nearly the whole of the saving clause appearing in the Bill. Another matter I have to mention is this: If you take section 36 of the Act of 1884—and all these Acts have to be read together—you will find that after talking about giving a certificate in connection with an original conditional purchase, it says:—

And a like certificate may be granted by such Board upon application of the holder of any additional conditional purchase when such Board shall be satisfied after like inquiry that all conditions applicable thereto, except that of payment of balance of instalments have been duly complied with.

In clause 108, in a provision printed in italics, which refers to additional conditional purchases taken up after the passing of the Act of 1895, I say:

And like certificates may be granted by such Board in respect of any additional conditional purchases applied for after the 1st day of June, 1895, or after the commencement of this Act when such Board is satisfied after due inquiry that all conditions applicable thereto except payment of the balance of instalments have been duly complied with.

That provision does not go any further than the provision of the Act of 1884. Under the Act of 1895 an additional conditional purchaser has ten years' residence to perform where there is no reduction or waiver. The Act allows him to get certificates for the additional conditional purchase at the end of five and of ten years just as he gets a certificate for the original conditional purchase. The Act of 1884 says that "like certificates may be granted," so that the provision in clause 108 goes no further than the provision in the Act. There is also a proviso which deals with what may be called an omitted case. A man by reason of a reduction may be able to fulfil his conditions in less than ten years. If five years were taken off by reason of previous residence, he would be entitled to his certificate within five years; but there is no provision in the Act which says that he shall get that certificate. The Act only makes provision for two certificates—one at the end of five years and one at the end of ten years. This matter was not provided for because, I suppose, it was unforeseen.

33. *Mr. Ashton.*] Do you think there is any possibility of an amendment of the law having crept in inadvertently in the course of the literary transcriptions and alterations which have been made necessary by the work of consolidation? I think not; and I may say that I am sure not. Every possible care has been taken in checking the work, not once but several times. When I took part of a section out of an Act I marked that part, in order to be able to check my work, and in this way I am able to see what has been left out and what alteration has been made.

34. You are positive that in changing the language of the existing Acts you have brought about no change of meaning? Yes.

35. *Mr. Hayes.*] These changes of language have only been made in a few cases? Yes. They were necessary where several provisions were taken from different Acts, and were put together in order to make one sentence.

36. *Mr. Gormly.*] In the work of consolidation, I suppose you have taken into consideration the decisions of the Court in regard to the meaning of various parts of the Acts? Yes; but I have not felt justified in altering the language of the Bill to make the language conform to any decision.

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37. You have taken these decision into consideration, but you have adhered as strictly as you could to the wording of the existing Acts? Yes.

38. *Mr. Ashton.*] We are not to understand that you have made any change in the verbiage of any clause in consequence of any decision by the Court? No; I have not taken notice of any decision in that way, except of that *in re Baldwin*. These decisions interpret the verbiage of the existing Acts, but I did not consider myself justified in changing that verbiage so as to make it more clearly conform with the interpretation put upon it. If I had attempted to do that I might have been making new law.

39. *Mr. Gormly.*] You have, so far as possible, adhered to the language of the existing Acts? Yes.

Harris Adam Gray Curry, called in, sworn, and examined:—

40. *Chairman.*] What are you? I am Chief Inspector in the Lands Department.

41. How long have you been in the Department? About twenty-five years.

H. A. G.
Curry.

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42. What positions have you held there? Various positions in most of the branches of the Department. I have been in charge of a sub-branch in connection with improvement purchases; I was head of the conditional lease branch; I was at one time examiner of declarations, and I have acted as Under Secretary.

43. You have been a member of one or two Commissions? Yes.

44. When acting for the Under Secretary, you have attended to the business before Parliament? Yes.

45. You were in attendance at the House during the passing of the Act of 1895? Yes.

46. To you has been largely committed the first drafting of many of the Land Bills? Yes.

47. They have gone from you to the Parliamentary Draftsman? Yes; but I must not overlook the important part the Under Secretary plays in such matters.

48. You have made the land laws of the Colony your study? Yes, very largely.

49. You have an oversight of the briefs and statements of cases which go to the Land Appeal Court? Yes.

50. You have had large general experience in regard to the legal interpretation of the Crown Lands Acts and in drafting Bills, and you have had great practical experience of the operation of the law? Yes.

51. I suppose that experience has been of a general character, affecting conditional purchases, leases, auction sales, pastoral leases, reclamations, and all the miscellaneous work of the Department? Yes.

52. You have for a long time been engaged upon the work of consolidating our land laws? Yes.

53. For how long? The work has been taken up at odd times.

54. Have you been engaged upon it for twelve months? I have done it chiefly at night. The work has extended over twelve months.

55. You have devoted many hours in each week to it? Yes.

56. You have made many revises? Yes; there have been a very large number of revises.

57. The draft Bill which has been laid upon the Table of the House is your work? Yes.

58. Did you revise any portion of it with the Parliamentary Draftsman? Yes.

59. How many clauses? About ninety.

60. You have been collaborating with Mr. Foster in the final revision? Yes.

61. You have been in consultation with him almost daily? Yes.

62. Have you been careful to see that the consolidation fairly expresses the law as it now stands upon the Statute book? Yes.

63. You have heard Mr. Foster's evidence? Yes.

64. Have you anything to add to it in respect to any amendment which may possibly have crept into the consolidation? I heard what Mr. Foster had to say in regard to the certificate of conformity in connection with additional conditional purchases, and I agree with him that you can hardly call the provision in the Bill an amendment of the law. The provision simply says that when a man has fulfilled the conditions of his conditional purchase he shall get a certificate, and that seems to have been the accepted law from the very first.

65. That is the practice now? Yes.

66. There is nothing illegal in this practice? No; the provision in the Bill does not alter the conditions of the tenure; it simply says that when they are fulfilled (and the fulfilment is a matter for the Board to determine) the conditional purchaser shall be entitled to his certificate. It prevents postponement and delay in the granting of the certificate, that is all. I do not think it ought to be regarded as an amendment.

67. It really only puts into express language what is implied by the wording of the existing Acts, and what is the actual practice? Quite so.

68. It does not alter the accepted law? No.

69. Is there any other point you wish to speak on? No; I do not think so. A good many of the provisions of the Acts have been distributed; but we came to think that this would be rather an advantage. In the first draft, particular provisions, dealing with the disqualification of applicants and other matters, were kept together; but, looking further into the matter, this arrangement seemed to place some clauses so remote from specific chapter dealing with different holdings—say, settlement leases—that we thought it better to alter it. We thought that it might not occur to a man, who was looking up any particular chapter, to search through an earlier part of the Bill in order to ascertain if there were not certain disqualifications and limitations applying to him. It was thought better to make the different chapters as complete as possible, even at the expense of repeating several provisions.

70. You have made no verbal or other alterations which would bring the Bill into conflict with the decisions of the courts? No.

71. You have been careful to preserve the existing law, even where a manifest absurdity exists; for instance, although there is an evident omission in section 11 of the Act of 1895, you have left that omission in the Bill? Yes; the idea has been to exactly reflect the existing law. We have not added to any man's obligations, or relieved any man of his obligations.

72. Are you able to say that the work of administration would be materially lightened if this consolidating Bill were passed? Yes; I feel sure that it would.

- H. A. G. Curry.
18 Nov., 1897.
73. Would the bulk of the enactments be lessened? I think so, though I have not counted the exact number of clauses in the Consolidating Bill. The operation of a good part of the existing law is exhausted, and we have left out of the Draft Bill all exhausted provisions. It is only the living part of the law that we have embodied in the Bill. Putting aside some validating clauses (as to the advisability of retaining which there is some difference of opinion, and which we have inserted tentatively), every provision whose operation has been exhausted has been left out of the consolidating Bill.
74. I notice that in the later part of the Bill the cross-heads are not so numerous as in the earlier part;— have you not found that cross-heads lead to a better understanding of a measure? Yes; I like cross-heads myself.
75. Have you consulted with many of the officers of the Department in regard to this measure? Yes; very freely. I have accepted from them all the assistance I could get.
76. Has any suggestion been made by them which you would like to mention? No; a large proportion of the suggestions have been in the way of amendment. There was a disposition to point out defects which it was thought it might be within the scope of this Bill to remedy.
77. You have been careful to keep within the province of pure consolidation, and you have avoided all amendments? Yes; I am not conscious that there is any provision in the Bill which deserves to be called an amendment of the law. Of course, in any consolidating Bill, there must be some literary handling of the wording of the Acts which are being consolidated. But if the law now is A, B, C, this Bill does not make it A, B, or A, B, C, D. The Bill does not alter the law. Wherever the language of the existing Acts could be adhered to it has been adhered to as closely as possible. A provision in one Act may be qualified by a later Act, and may be further amended by a still more recent Act. It would be impossible to follow these provisions word for word without the result being very crude and confused. If one Act says a man can do A, and another Act says he cannot do A, but may do B, and a further Act says he cannot do B, but may do C, it would be sufficient to say simply that he can do C. This, however, while expressing the law, may involve an alteration of the actual text of the law. The language of the existing Acts has, however, been followed as closely as possible.
78. *Mr. Ashton.*] Do you think there is any reasonable probability of an amendment of the law having been made inadvertently in the course of these literal alterations? I do not think so. Our great aim has been to avoid making any amendment of the law.

TUESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER, 1897.

Present:—

MR. HAYES,	MR. MOORE,
MR. GORMLY,	MR. MACDONALD.

THE HON. JOSEPH HECTOR CARRUTHERS, IN THE CHAIR.

Charles James Saunders, called in, sworn, and examined:—

- C. J. Saunders.
23 Nov., 1897.
79. *Chairman.*] What position do you hold in the Lands Department? I am Inspector of Land Board and District Survey Offices. I was Chief Draftsman of the Department for eight years, and I had charge of one of the divisions of the Reserves Branch under the old administration.
80. How long have you been in the Lands Department? Twenty-three years.
81. Are you well acquainted with the working of the Crown Lands Acts? Yes. The different positions which I have held have brought me into contact with the administration of the Crown Lands Acts.
82. The office you now hold is one of the highest in the Department? It is.
83. You were associated with Mr. Curry in the work of assisting the Minister with the Crown Lands Bill of 1895? Yes.
84. And you have given assistance in connection with many amending Acts since? Yes.
85. What particular portions of the land law are you specially acquainted with? At the present time my special responsibility is in connection with exchange applications; but in the position of Inspector I have constantly under my notice difficulties that arise in connection with the decisions of the Appeal Court, or in other ways, as the procedure of the local offices has to be altered from time to time to harmonise with the law.
86. You have to do with the settlement provisions of the law? Yes; with all new areas coming forward for survey and classification.
87. You are well acquainted with the operation of the law affecting conditional purchases and settlements; and you have a great deal to do with the law affecting pastoral leases? Yes.
88. Have you gone through the Consolidation Bill which has been revised by Mr. Foster? Yes.
89. Carefully? Yes.
90. Did you go through the earlier drafts? Mr. Foster and Mr. Curry consulted me from time to time in order to get my views on various points, and to know what I thought upon different matters which they were embodying in the consolidation.
91. Not only have you gone through the Bill since it was referred to this Committee, but you were previously engaged in connection with this revision? Yes; I was consulted from time to time as points arose upon which it was thought I might have some special knowledge.
92. After your examination of the Bill can you give the Committee the assurance that it is only a fair representation of the existing Crown Lands Acts? I think it is a very fair representation of them.
93. Have you detected any amendment of or any departure from what you consider the existing law? No. There were two or three alterations which I desired to have made, but they were declined by Mr. Foster and Mr. Curry as going beyond the scope of consolidation.
94. Is there any other statement you desire to make? I should like to point out that it would be advisable to have new schedules prepared in lieu of the present schedules, describing the territorial divisions of the Colony. The existing descriptions are out of date.
95. Any description submitted must be accompanied by the assurance that there is no alteration of boundaries? Yes, I understand that. Of course the Minister may, by virtue of his own authority, cause alterations to be made in the boundaries of these divisions, but it would be more consistent to publish correct descriptions with the consolidation.

William

William Henry Capper, called in, sworn, and examined:—

96. *Chairman.*] What are you? I am Clerk-in-charge of the Conditional Sales Division, Department of Lands.
97. How long have you been in the Lands Department? Since 1873.
98. Have you had a good experience of the operation of the Crown Lands Acts? Yes, particularly with regard to conditional sales.
99. You have had to do with all the conditional sales alienations, and with the litigation arising out of and affecting the law relating to them? Yes.
100. Have you gone through the Draft Consolidation Bill, revised by Mr. Foster? Yes.
101. More especially with regard to the provisions affecting conditional sales? Yes, particularly with regard to the provisions affecting conditional sales, auction purchases, special sales—including rescissions of reservations and reclamations—and homestead selections after they have been applied for.
102. As a result of your examination of the Bill, can you give the Committee the assurance that it is a fair consolidation of the existing law in regard to these matters? Yes.
103. You have satisfied yourself as to that? Yes.
104. Have you carefully analysed the Bill to see that it contains nothing that may be called an amendment of the law? Yes.
105. Have you found anything omitted? The only matter that I brought under the notice of Mr. Foster and Mr. Curry was the question of the issue of certificates by the Minister, as provided for in the Act of 1895.
106. Certificates of what? Certificates of abandonment. The reason why I brought the matter under their notice was that the Minister had given a decision that this particular provision did not apply to selections made before the Act of 1895. I think it was intended to apply to all selections. Under the Act of 1884, a selector whose selection has been forfeited cannot take up another selection unless he gets a certificate of abandonment from the Land Board. The Local Land Boards in some instances refuse these certificates. When the Bill of 1895 was before the House, an amendment was put in—I think to give the Minister power to take the merits of any such case into consideration. After the Bill had become law, however, the matter was brought under your notice, and you decided that the provision in question did not apply to selections made and forfeited before the Act of 1895.
107. Are there any other points? No.
108. There is nothing you would like to add? No.
109. Nothing has been omitted from the Bill, and there is no amendment of the existing law? There is no amendment of the existing law, but under the head of "auction sales" there is an alteration—I do not know whether it is not really too small to be considered by the Committee—to which I invite attention. The old law provides that we must advertise for two months, and that we must not advertise for more than three months. That is a very absurd provision, because, very often after we have advertised a sale for two months, we have to postpone it. We cannot postpone it beyond a month, because the law says that we must not advertise for more than three months. That means that we have to withdraw the whole sale, and advertise it again for another two months. The question is whether this provision should not be omitted. It would simply be the omission of an absurdity.
110. *Mr. Macdonald.*] But it has not been omitted? Yes.

W. H.
Capper.

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Robert Henry De Low, called in, sworn, and examined:—

111. *Chairman.*] What are you? Clerk-in-charge of the Lease Division, Department of Lands.
112. As Clerk-in-charge of that division, to what particular business do you specially attend? I have to do with the granting of pastoral leases, occupation licenses, the making and undoing of reserves, annual leases, snow leases, scrub leases, improvement leases, inferior leases, special leases, the appointment of trustees for cemeteries and parks, and general grants for public purposes.
113. You have a particular acquaintance with the law which specially relates to those matters? Yes.
114. You have had the conduct of the Department of many cases in which the law has been tested? Yes.
115. I suppose you are thoroughly acquainted with the operation of the law, and its interpretation in regard to all these matters? Yes.
116. How long have you been in the Lands Department? Since 1874.
117. Have you gone through the Draft Consolidation Bill which is before the Committee? Yes.
118. Have you carefully studied it? Yes; and particularly those parts of it which embody the provisions with which the administration of which my Department is concerned.
119. As the result of your study of the Bill, can you give the Committee the assurance that the measure is a fair consolidation of the existing law;—does it amend the law at all? I think it is a very fair consolidation.
120. Have you detected any amendments of the law in it? No material amendments. In one place I notice that a few words have been introduced to make the law clearer.
121. The introduction of those words does not alter the meaning or the intention of the law? No.
122. Is there any omission? No.
123. Do you think that the administration in your Department under this Bill would be different from the work of administration under the existing Acts? There would be a difference only in point of simplicity.
124. It would be simpler to work under the Consolidation Bill? Yes.
125. In that respect, would the consolidation be of such benefit to the people who come to see you, and who write to you on land matters? In my opinion it would be of great benefit to them.
126. I suppose you find, in your work, that great complaints are made about the difficulty of understanding the law as it now stands? Yes, because the provisions bearing upon any particular point are distributed through so many Acts.
127. Some of them are, therefore, liable to be overlooked? Yes.
128. *Mr. Macdonald.*] What are the new words you say have been introduced? The words, "For grazing purposes" have been introduced into clause 199, sub-clause 1. They make the intention of section 85 of the Act of 1884 much clearer.

R. H. De Low.

23 Nov., 1897.

R. H. De Low. 129. *Chairman.*] Are you satisfied that these words preserve the intention and the operation of the existing law? Yes. The 85th section of the Act of 1884 has, as a heading, "Annual leases for pastoral purposes."

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130. It has been the universal practice of the Department to refuse annual leases, except for grazing purposes? Yes.

131. Annual leases are never applied for, except for grazing purposes? No.

132. *Mr. Hayes.*] Has the Department made any objection where people have desired to cultivate land held under annual lease? Whenever it becomes known that a man is cultivating the land he holds under annual lease, the Department calls upon him to take out a special lease for cultivation purposes.

133. *Chairman.*] Is there any other matter to which you would like to call our attention? No.

John Richard Yorke, called in, sworn, and examined:—

J. R. Yorke.

134. *Chairman.*] What are you? I am Clerk-in-charge of the Conditional Sales Branch.

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135. You are under Mr. Capper? Yes.

136. How long have you been in the Lands Department? About twenty-one years.

137. Are you well acquainted with the land laws? Yes; I have had a good deal of experience in connection with them.

138. Is it necessary that you should be especially acquainted with the law relating to conditional purchases? Yes.

139. Have you gone through the Consolidation Bill, now before the Committee? Yes; but more particularly with regard to the provisions affecting conditional purchases and homestead selections.

140. Do you find it a fair representation of the existing law? I think that it is. I have checked it with the existing law, and I have not been able to find that anything which ought to be included has been left out. It appears to me a very good representation of the existing acts.

141. Have you noticed any amendment or alteration of the law? In some cases it has been necessary to alter the wording slightly. For instance, you might have three sections of different Acts embodied in one clause of the Bill. In such a case, alteration of the verbiage would be necessary.

142. But is there any alteration of the law—any innovation? No, I think not. I think that the Bill fairly represents the existing law.

143. Do you wish to add anything? No. I have had an opportunity during the compilation of the Consolidating Bill to point out anything that I thought might be altered, and the alterations which I have suggested have been made.

144. Your examination of the Bill has not been confined merely to the few days during which it has been before the Committee; you examined the various rough drafts that were made? Yes; I have had an opportunity of doing so, and alterations have been made from time to time, so that I am not aware of anything in the Bill which now requires alteration.

145. *Mr. Macdonald.*] When you speak of alterations, you mean alterations of language, not alterations of meaning? Yes; there have been no alterations of the meaning of the law.

146. *Chairman.*] Can you give an instance of what you mean? Well, clause 109, which relates to the issue of a certificate in connection with a non-residential conditional purchase originally read—

The Local Land Board may, on the production to such Board . . . of evidence satisfactory to such Board that the conditions of improvements applicable to such conditional purchase have been duly fulfilled.

The revised clause, however, reads:—

The Local Land Board may, on the production to such Board . . . of evidence satisfactory to such Board that all conditions (except payment of the balance of instalments) applicable to such conditional purchase, have been duly fulfilled.

147. The clause now literally embodies the existing law? Yes.

148. It does not amend the existing law? No; the clause was altered to make it more fully conform with the existing law. Then in connection with clause 183, a similar alteration has been made to take into account the provisions of the Mining Act of 1889 as well as those of section 45 of the Act of 1884.

James Edmund O'Dwyer called in, sworn, and examined:—

J. E. O'Dwyer.

149. *Chairman.*] What are you? Clerk-in-charge of the Miscellaneous Branch, Department of Lands.

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150. How long have you been in the Department? Twenty-one years.

151. What work are you particularly engaged upon? My work is connected with homestead selections, settlement leases, special areas, reserves, dedications, and revocations thereof.

152. Are you well acquainted with the Crown Lands Acts? Yes, I hope so.

153. You have a good deal to do in the final stages with a great many of the complex questions arising under the land laws? Yes.

154. You have had a great deal of preliminary work to do in connection with these cases, and, I suppose, you have watched the decisions which have been given? Yes.

155. You know all the doubtful points under the existing law, so far as one can? Yes.

156. Have you gone through the revised copy of the Consolidation Bill? Yes.

157. Carefully? Yes. I devoted particular attention to those provisions which affect my particular work, and I went generally through the whole Bill.

158. You satisfied yourself that the Bill is a fair representation of the Crown Lands Acts? Yes.

159. Are there any amendments of the law made by it? So far as I can see it makes no amendment of the law; but there are some things which I think might be done with improvement, and without amending the law.

160. Will you give us an instance of what you mean? Well, clause 10, sub-clause *b*, contains this provision—

By declaring lands held under lease or license . . . which may be situated within any division, or partly within two divisions, to be wholly within any one division.

It seems to me that the wording of that clause might be improved.

161. What would you suggest? I think it would be better if it were provided that lands partly within two divisions might be declared wholly within one division, and that lands within one division might be declared to be in another division.

J. E.
O'Dwyer.

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162. Do you think that can be done under the law as it now stands? I think it can.

163. You are not sure about it? I should like to see it stated a little more explicitly. The clause as it stands simply says that land within one division may be declared to be within one division.

164. You think that the language may be made clearer? Yes.

165. Is there anything else? I think that the word "from" in clause 135, sub-clause 4—"a date from and after"—might be replaced by the word "on."

166. Is there anything else? I think that the marginal note of clause 148 requires alteration. As you will see by the cross heading, the clause refers to "residence by deputy before grant," whereas the marginal note reads "Homestead selections without residence before grant." Then again, in regard to the marginal note of clause 149—"dispensation of requirements of residence in certain cases"—it is not that the clause provides for a dispensation of the requirements of residence, because there must still be residence in a hamlet or village, but that the requirements of separate residence are dispensed with. Further on, clause 261, sub-clause *b*, speaks of a "payment being made in one instalment." The word "instalment" should obviously be altered to the word "sum" or "amount."

Edward Arnold Bronsdon, called in, sworn and examined :—

167. *Chairman.*] What are you? I am Clerk-in-charge of the Alienation Branch, Department of Lands.

E. A.
Bronsdon.

23 Nov., 1897.

168. How long have you been in the Department? For twenty-one years.

169. Have you had considerable experience in connection with the working of the Lands Acts? Yes.

170. Have you made yourself conversant with these Acts? Yes.

171. Have you gone through the Consolidation Bill now before the Committee? Yes, and more especially the clauses dealing with the subjects coming under my supervision.

172. You find the Bill a fair representation of the law as it stands? Yes.

173. Have you discovered any omissions? No.

174. Have you discovered anything that may be termed an amendment of the law? No; the only point I am in doubt about has reference to exchanges. Section 46 of the Act of 1889 makes it imperative for the Land Board to inquire into exchange cases; but that section was, to some extent, modified by section 47 of the Act of 1895. The question is whether it was really repealed by it. I do not know that clause 181 quite expresses the intention of the Act.

175. Is there any other point? This is a point which I brought under the notice of Mr. Curry. Clause 177 (*a*) speaks of "Crown lands to which no way of access is attainable." Those words are correctly copied from the existing Act, but would it not be better if the Committee made the clause to read, "Crown Land to which no road of access exists." That is what is meant. We have power to make a road of access to any land.

176. Is there anything else? I do not think there is anything else I could suggest which would not amount to an amendment of the present law. I have gone carefully through the Bill at each stage, and I think that it correctly embodies the existing law.

John Percy McGuanne, called in, sworn, and examined :—

177. *Chairman.*] What position do you hold in the Lands Department? I am Clerk-in-charge of the Miscellaneous Leases Branch.

J. P.
McGuanne.

23 Nov., 1897.

178. How long have you been in the Department? For twenty-one years.

179. What is your particular work? I have to deal with annual leases, special leases, residential leases, settlement leases, snow leases, scrub leases, trespass matters, and so on.

180. Have you gone through the Draft Bill now before the Committee? Yes.

181. Do you think that, so far as these subjects are concerned, its provisions fairly represent the existing law? Yes.

182. Have you any suggestions to make to the Committee? Nothing of very great importance. Clause 261, sub-clause *d*, says that

The lessee shall fence the farm within five years from the date of issue of the lease.

The words "from the date of issue of the lease" have been added. In the leases, a copy of which I have here, the words "from the execution of these presents" are used. Clause 266 requires revision, and I believe its arrangement is to be altered. Then clause 267 contains a proviso which I think is unnecessary :—

Provided that leases may be granted at a reduced rental to contractors of public works for purposes connected with the construction of such works during the term of contract.

At one time a minimum rental of £10 was insisted upon by law, but that minimum was done away with by the Act of 1895; and, inasmuch as there is now no minimum, it is not necessary to have this proviso. When the application is for a special lease it is the province of the Land Board to make the assessment, but that is provided for in another clause.

Edwin Canrobert Landers, called in, sworn, and examined :—

183. *Chairman.*] What are you? I am Clerk-in-charge of the Occupation Branch.

E. C. Landers.

23 Nov., 1897.

184. How long have you been in the Lands Department? Over twenty-five years.

185. Are you well acquainted with the laws relating to the occupation of Crown lands? Yes.

186. Have you gone through the Draft Consolidation Bill? Yes.

187. Do you think it a fair representation of the existing law? Yes.

188. There are no omissions and no amendments? No. The Bill is a fair embodiment of the existing Acts.

WEDNESDAY,

WEDNESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER, 1897.

Present:—

MR. MOORE,
MR. WATSON,

MR. HAYES.

MR. GORMLY,
MR. ASHTON.

THE HON. JOSEPH HECTOR CARRUTHERS IN THE CHAIR.

Thomas C. J. Foster re-called and further examined:—

T. C. J.
Foster.
24 Nov., 1897.189. *Chairman.*] You have heard the evidence given by previous witnesses? Yes.

190. Do you wish to supplement the evidence which you have already given? Yes; I think there might be some misunderstanding in regard to the answer given by me to Question 17.

The next amendment is on page 60. Section 96 of the Act of 1884 says:—

"Every lease shall be liable to forfeiture if any rent be not paid within the prescribed period, or upon breach of any condition annexed to such lease."

18. These are tremendously vague terms;—what is the meaning of the words, "liable to forfeiture"? There is nothing in the Act to say what they mean, and I could find no decisions interpreting them. What I gathered was, that if there were forfeiture the same proceedings would be taken in regard to leases as are taken in regard to conditional purchases. Clause 187 of the Bill provides that—

"Every lease (whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act) shall be liable to forfeiture if any rent be not paid within the prescribed or allowed period——"

I have added the words "allowed period," because certain conditions arise which allow a man to have his time extended.

"or upon breach of any condition annexed to such lease; but ——"

These are the new words—

"no forfeiture of any lease under this Act, or the Acts 1861-1896, shall take effect until the expiration of thirty clear days after notification by the Minister of such forfeiture in the *Gazette*."

What I really meant to say was that the words "by the Minister" are new words. The other words are in the existing Act, because section 136 of the Act of 1884 says—

No forfeiture of any purchase or lease under this Act or any Act hereby repealed shall take effect until the expiration of thirty clear days after notification of such forfeiture in the *Gazette*.

The following words of clause 187 are, however, an expansion of the provision of the existing law:—

But nothing in this Act shall require the notification of forfeiture of any annual lease or occupation license, the renewal rent or license fee of which shall remain unpaid on the 31st day of December.

That is the expansion I referred to in my previous evidence. I am not at all certain, however, that these words should be put into what is merely a Consolidation Bill.

191. *Mr. Ashton.*] The insertion of the words "by the Minister" is not a serious alteration; but the insertion of the other words which you have read is a doubtful amendment? Yes.

192. Until a forfeiture is declared by the Minister it does not take effect—in fact, it does not take effect until some time afterwards? Not until thirty clear days afterwards.

193. Then, to insert the words which you have read would bring about a serious disturbance of the existing law? Well, by a curious anomaly, an annual lease, in the first instance, is not an annual lease at all, but a lease for a shorter period.

194. *Mr. Hayes.*] Do you suggest the omission of the words you have read? Yes; I think they might be omitted. If a man wants to renew an annual lease, he has to apply for a renewal in September. The Act of 1884 provides that the rent of all new leases must be paid on or before the 30th September. The rent is then paid for the ensuing year. If a lessee does not pay the rent, there is this provision for forfeiture. Of course the lessee already in possession would still have a period of three months to run, namely, until the end of the year; but no one would be able to do anything with the land until the 31st December. The lessee might have paid his rent up to the 31st December; but, having applied for and obtained a new lease, he might not have paid the rent due for it on or before the 30th September. Under these circumstances a new applicant could not apply for the lease until January, and the whole of January would have to be lost, because the lease would not commence until the end of the month.195. *Mr. Moore.*] Are not these words an amendment of the existing law:—No forfeiture of any lease under this Act or of the Acts 1859-1896 shall take effect until the expiration of thirty clear days after notification by the Minister of such forfeiture in the *Gazette*.

? No; they are taken from section 136 of the Act of 1884. The words "by the Minister" have been added.

196. In the clause you speak of the Act of 1859? That is quite correct. What we have to look at are the schedules of the previous Acts. The interpretation clause shows what Acts are meant.

197. By the term "the Acts 1859-1896" you mean the Acts from 1859 to 1896 inclusive? Yes; we shall have to alter that to read 1897, because there is a new Land Bill before the House, and the Public Trust Act which has been embodied in the Bill is an 1897 Act.

198. It is not necessary for an annual lease to do anything more than lapse? The Clause makes provision for the case in which a man holding an annual lease obtains a renewal, for which he does not pay before September of the year previous to that for which he has obtained the renewal. The original lease runs on to the 31st December; but the renewed lease ought to be forfeited.

199. *Chairman.*] Have you adopted the alterations which were suggested by various witnesses yesterday? Yes; for instance, Mr. De Low drew attention to the fact that I had inserted the words "for grazing purposes" in clause 199, and I have now omitted those words. Exception was taken to the wording of clause 177:

Crown lands to which no way of access is obtainable.

But I have made no alteration there, because that is the wording of the existing Act. It was also suggested that the word "instalment" clause 261—"the payment being made in one instalment"—should be altered to the word "sum." I have adopted that alteration, although the clause as it stands embodies the literal wording of the Act of 1895.

200. It was suggested that the words "from and after" sub-clause 4, of clause 135, should read "on and after"? Yes; the words "from and after" mean that the date upon which the blocks referred to in the clause are available for selection must not be taken into consideration.

201. *Mr. Ashton.*] Then the word "after" would have the same meaning as the words "from and after"? *T. C. J. Foster.* Yes. I think you will find by referring to the Acts Shortening Act, and by taking the usual interpretation of time, that that is the meaning of the words "from and after." There is a doubtful matter in clause 55. That clause includes the words

Or unless (notwithstanding the non-obtaining of such certificate).

Parliament knew what its intention was when it passed the Act, and for my part I do not know that any harm will be done by leaving out the words I have quoted. There was a certificate of abandonment under the Act of 1884, and also under section 40 of the Act of 1895; but a decision was given by the Minister that this certificate only applied to conditional purchases taken up after the passing of the Act of 1895. I propose to omit from clause 55 the words:

Or unless (notwithstanding the non-obtaining of such certificate) such person has previously obtained the written approval of the Minister to make another original conditional purchase as aforesaid.

202. Those words have been added? Yes; and I do not know that any harm would be done by leaving them out. If conditional purchasers before the Act of 1895 have this right, they would still have it after we repealed the Act of 1895, because all their rights are reserved by the saving clause.

203. *Chairman.*] Are there any other points? Another matter to which my attention has been drawn is the new interpretation clause which we have thought it advisable to add. We have put into that clause definitions of the terms "residential conditional purchase" and "non-residential conditional purchase." These terms were never defined before. The first time that the word "non-residential conditional purchase" was used was in the Conditional Purchasers' Relief Act. Three synonymous terms have been used in the various Acts—"a conditional purchase under the Act of 1884," a "conditional purchase without residence," and "a non-residential conditional purchase," which last is the term everybody uses, and which I have used throughout the Bill, because it is a commonly-accepted term for which we have Parliamentary sanction. All additional conditional purchasers have to comply with conditions of residence; except those belonging to one class, namely, additional conditional purchasers who have taken up their land by virtue of an additional lease applied for before the Act of 1895. It was suggested in the Lands Office that there being no definition of the term "non-residential conditional purchase," a man who had a purchase of this kind might say, "I have a non-residential conditional purchase, because I have no conditions of residence to comply with." With regard to the definition of "Minister" contained in the interpretation clause, I wish to strike out all the words after the word "thereof." These words were put in because of the Public Trust Act, which was incorporated in the Bill; but I do not think they are required. I wish to add the words "assistant Crown lands agent" to the definition of "land agent." Those words are contained in the existing Act. Another alteration, which should be made, is the insertion of the word "by" in clause 336. The clause should read:

Or by depasturing stock thereon.

The word "by" is in the original Act. It has been omitted from the clause.

204. *Mr. Moore.*] Do you not think that in place of the term "Acts 1859-1884" and similar terms, which are apt to mislead people, it would be better to use the words "Acts 1859 to 1884 inclusive" or similar words? I think the phrase used in the clause is a short and convenient one, and its meaning is fully explained in the interpretation clause. The words "of age" should be inserted after the words "sixteen years" in the last line of clause 198.

205. *Chairman.*] What about the validating provisions? I do not know that I can say anything more about them than I have already said. I saw the Chief Justice upon the subject, and he said, "I would not put in any validating Act unless it altered some section of some other Act. If it did that I would make the Bill conform to that alteration, otherwise I would not incorporate any validating Act." I do not think that provisions of validating Acts ought to be incorporated in the Bill, and I think they ought to be repealed. I do not think their repeal would affect anything done under them. So far as I remember, I have attended to all the suggestions which were made yesterday.

TUESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 1897.

Present:—

MR. MACDONALD,
MR. ASHTON,
MR. MOORE,

MR. GORMLY,
MR. CHANTER,
MR. HAYES.

THE HON. JOSEPH HECTOR CARRUTHERS IN THE CHAIR.

Thomas C. J. Foster recalled and further examined:—

206. *Chairman.*] I understand that you wish to add to your evidence? I wish to inform the Committee that I have seen the Hon. C. G. Heydon in reference to the alterations which have been made in the Bill, and his opinion is that they are advisable and justifiable. *T. C. J. Foster*

207. Was it his opinion that they were fairly within the scope of consolidation? Yes.

30 Nov., 1897.

208. You pointed out to him the passages where the actual text of the existing Acts had been departed from? Yes.

209. Was he of opinion that the alterations which have been made are not alterations of the law? Yes.

210. He considered them to be thoroughly within the scope of consolidation? Yes.

211. And he recommended their adoption? Yes.

212. *Mr. Hayes.*] They do not amend the law in any respect? No. Mr. Heydon went rather carefully into the question of the advisability of incorporating the provisions of the Validating Acts, and he said that he considered that upon the whole we had adopted the wisest course in incorporating them, and that there were some instances in which it appeared that the whole force of these Acts was not yet exhausted. I produce the last revised copy of the Consolidation Bill, in which all the suggestions of the Committee have been attended to.

213. This represents your final revision of the Bill? Yes.

214. You have made provision for the continuance of the proclamations under the Acts 1859-1897? Yes.

215. And you have considered all the other points which were raised? Yes.

CROWN LANDS CONSOLIDATION BILL.

APPENDIX.

A.

[Appended by the Committee.]

TABLE showing the sections of the Acts dealt with in this Consolidation and the Corresponding Clauses in the Bill:—

Section of Act.	Clause of Bill.	Remarks.
CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884 (48 Vic. No. 18).		
1	.....	Short title. Commencement and Divisions of Act.
2	.....	Repeals.
3	67.	
4	3, 272.	
5	4.	
6	5, 6.	
7	7, 132.	
8	9, 10.	
9	11.	
10	12, 13, 14.	
11	16, 17, 20.	
12	21.	
13	22.	
14	18, 21, 23, 42.	
15	25.	
16	15.	
17	28.	
18	.....	Repealed by Crown Lands Act of 1889.
19	.....	Repealed by Crown Lands Act of 1889.
20	26.	
21	52	Ss. i. As to that portion requiring the right of lease to be exercised within ninety days is exhausted by operation of time; ss. ix is repealed by the Act of 1889.
22	51, 55, 182.	
23	61.	
24	65, 66, 67, 68, 72, 97 ...	S. 18 of the Act of 1889 altered the area of special areas which could be conditionally purchased.
25	71.	
26	72.	
27	73.	
28	73.	
29	.....	Repealed by the Act of 1889.
30	74.	
31	74.	
32	50, 82, 83.	
33	90, 91.	
34	.....	Obsolete. All declarations of fulfilment of conditions were repealed by s. 32 of the Act of 1895. The portion relating to the Crown lands agent is provided under the Act of 1889 more fully.
35	97, 98, 100.	
36	107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112.	
37	113.	
38	119.	
39	116.	
40	114.	
41	.....	Repealed by Act of 1889.
42	67, 68.	The area of conditional purchases in special areas was extended by s. 18 of the Act of 1889.
43	Omitted	Superseded as to residence by s. 30 of the Act of 1895 as to residence, fencing, and improvements by s. 26 of the Act of 1889. The last clause is impliedly repealed by s. 30 of the Act of 1895.
44	Omitted	S. 32 of the Act of 1895 abolished all declarations of fulfilment of conditions.
45	183.	
46	161.	
47	50, 57, 65, 66, 67, 72, 89, 90, 92, 97, 109, 126.	Ss. v. is altered by 52 Vic. No. 7, s. 6, making the fencing date, not from the survey, but from the confirmation of the application.

Section of Act.	Clause of Bill.	Remarks.
48	67, 69	The portion as to report, survey, confirmation, &c., is superseded by s. 13 of the Act of 1889.
49	.....	Repealed by Act of 1889.
50	.....	Repealed by Act of 1889.
51	90	The proviso as to residence is superseded by the larger provision of s. 30 of the Act of 1895.
52	.....	Operation exhausted.
53	.....	Repealed by Act of 1889.
54	.....	Operation exhausted.
55	.....	Repealed by Act of 1889.
56	.....	Repealed by Act of 1889.
57	80.	
58	81.	
59	.....	Repealed by Act of 1889.
60	77.	
61	164, 168, 177, 277.	
62	164, 167.	
63	168.	
64	171, 173.	S. 54 of the Act of 1895 supersedes this as regards payments on completion of the reclamation.
65	168, 171.	
66	177.	
67	.....	Repealed by No. 5 of 1897.
68	169, 178	As regards reclamations this section is superseded by the provisions of s. 54 of the Act of 1895.
69	.....	Repealed by the Act of 1889.
70	.....	Operation exhausted.
71	.....	Operation exhausted.
72	.....	Operation exhausted.
73	.....	Operation exhausted.
74	.....	Operation exhausted.
75	.....	Operation exhausted.
76	.....	Operation exhausted.
77	.....	Operation exhausted.
78	189, 240, 242	Ss. II, v, and VII are the only portions having any operative power, the remainder of the section is either repealed as ss. VIII, or the operation is exhausted, or it is superseded by the Act of 1895.
79	.....	Repealed by Act of 1889.
80	240, 242.	
81	246.	
82	189, 205, 214, 215, 220, 221, 223, 224.	
83	.....	Repealed by Act of 1889.
84	211.	
85	199, 201.	
86	.....	Repealed by Act of 1889.
87	.....	Repealed by Act of 1889.
88	.....	Repealed by Act of 1889.
89	266.	
90	266.	
91	344.	
92	268.	
93	193.	
94	194.	
95	195.	
96	120, 187.	
97	.....	Operation exhausted.
98	184.	
99	205, 239.	
100	.....	Repealed by Act of 1889.
101	274, 276.	
102	276, 278, 301.	
103	274, 277.	
104	290.	
105	290.	
106	291, 292, 293, 296.	
107	278.	
108	190, 191.	
109	274.	
110	.....	Repealed by Act of 1889.
111	334.	
112	285.	

Section of Act.	Clause of Bill.	Remarks.
113	286.	
114	287.	
115	288.	
116	289.	
117	122, 125.	
118	127, 229, 245.	
119	128.	
120	130.	
121	64, 141, 213.	
122	49.	
123	62, 140, 210.	
124	60, 61, 197, 198, 209.	
125	115, 129, 228.	
126	102, 188.	
127	342.	
128	196.	
129	340.	
130	.....	Repealed by s. 55, Act 1895.
131	335.	
132	337.	
133	336.	
134	338.	
135	118, 156.	
136	121, 163, 187.	
137	8.	
138	307... ..	Validation.
139	339.	
140	.....	Repealed by Act of 1889.
141	332.	
142	185.	
143	222, 247.	
144	186.	
145	345.	Power to make regulations.

CROWN LANDS TITLES AND RESERVATIONS VALIDATION ACT OF 1886 (50 Vic. No. 21).

1	308... ..	Short title and interpretation.
2	309.	
3	310.	
4	311.	
5	312.	
6	313.	
7	314.	
8	315.	
9	316.	

CONDITIONAL PURCHASES AND LEASES VALIDATION ACT (50 Vic. No. 34).

1	317.	
2	318.	
3	319.	
4	320.	
5	321.	
6	.....	Short title.

CROWN LANDS (AUCTION SALES BALANCES) ACT OF 1887 (50 Vic. No. 39).

1	164, 167.	
2	.....	Short title.

CROWN LANDS AMENDMENT ACT OF 1887 (51 Vic. No. 11).

1	.....	Short title, &c.
2	.....	Superseded by Act of 1889.
3	.....	Superseded by Act of 1889.
4	19.	

CONVERSION INTO MINING CONDITIONAL PURCHASES VALIDATION ACT OF 1888 (51 Vic. No. 29).

1	182.	
2	.....	Short title.

Section of Act	Clause of Bill.	Remarks.
CROWN LANDS FURTHER AMENDMENT ACT (52 Vic. No. 7).		
1	.....	Short title.
2	.....	Operation exhausted.
3	.....	Operation exhausted.
4	89, 92	The proviso is superseded by s. 33 of the Act of 1895.
5	.....	Declarations of fulfilment of conditions were abolished by s. 32 of the Act of 1895.
6	90, 92	Same remarks apply to this as to the previous section.
7	.....
8	.....
9	90.	
10	.....
11	91.	
12	.....	Repealed by Act of 1889.
13	92.	
14	93, 28.	
15	92.	
CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1889 (53 Vic. No. 21).		
1	.....	Commencement and short title.
2	.....	Repeals.
3	23, 28, 74	Substitution—the necessary amendments have been made in the sections.
4	.....	Interpretation.
5	16	Saving clause protects any previous acts of the land board.
6	44, 168.	
7	28.	
8	29, 31, 32, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 43.	
9	24, 39.	
10	52, 54, 322.	
11	48, 72, 161, 270.	
12	75, 76, 78, 96, 218, 220, 226.	The provision as to impounding is superseded by s. 55 of the Act of 1895.
13	75.	
14	80.	
15	75, 76.	
16	93.	
17	94	Declarations of fulfilment of any conditions were abolished by s. 32 of the Act of 1895.
18	68, 72, 97.	
19	52, 67.	
20	72.	
21	55, 223	The operation is exhausted of the greater part of this section.
22	97, 98, 107, 108	The declarations mentioned were abolished by s. 32 of Act of 1895.
23	91, 93, 332.	The first part of this section is superseded by s. 33 of 1895.
24	95, 227	Declarations of fulfilment of conditions were abolished by s. 32 of 1895.
25	52, 67, 70	The last part of the section dealing with the term of conditional leases is altered by s. 35 of the Act of 1895.
26	69, 72, 90, 92.	
27	77.	
28	96.	S. 45 of the Act of 1895 renders the provision with regard to minimum rental or fee unnecessary.
29	96, 231, 240, 242	Nearly the whole of this section has expired by effluxion of time; portion of ss. (c) is incorporated in the Bill, and the provision as to the issue of the lease.
30	192, 205, 239.	
31	240, 242.	
32	279, 304.	
33	199, 200, 301.	
34	187, 198, 209, 210, 214, 215, 217, 220, 221, 223, 224, 225, 228, 229, 233, 235.	

Section of Act.	Clause of Bill.	Remarks.
35	189, 250, 251.	
36	265.	
37	238.	
38	201.	
39	52, 54, 206, 239, 274, 275, 276, 278, 290.	
40	10, 11, 272, 276, 278.	
41	290.	
42	333.	
43	187, 240, 242, 246, 301 ...	Part relating to roads repealed by Act 5 of 1897. The operation as to extension of pastoral leases in Central Division is exhausted; as to Western Division the section is repealed, and provided for in s. 7 of the Act of 1895.
44	164, 301.	
45	203.	
46	180... ..	Partly superseded by s. 47 of the Act of 1895.
47	60, 86, 197.	
48	248.	
49	343.	
50	341.	
51	Omitted	Saving clause covers this.
52	247... ..	Power to make regulations, &c.
CROWN RENTS ACT OF 1890 (54 Vic. No. 11).		
...	.....	Operation exhausted, repealed in Schedule.
CROWN LANDS ACT AMENDMENT ACT OF 1891 (55 Vic. No. 1).		
1	.....	Short title.
2	328.	Interpretation.
3	328.	
4	331.	
5	331.	
6	330.	
7	48.	
CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1889 DECLARATORY ACT (57 Vic. No. 27).		
...	.....	As the operation, so far as the report of the Board in s. 43 of the Act of 1889 is exhausted, this Act has served its purpose, and the operation is exhausted.
CROWN LANDS PURCHASES AND LEASES VALIDATION ACT (57 Vic. No. 9).		
6	324, 325, 326, 327 ...	The remaining sections apply to particular cases only, and are simply evidence of title, and have no place in a Consolidating Act.
7	327.	
RESERVES DECLARATORY ACT (58 Vic. No. 16).		
1	280.	
2	281.	
3	282.	
4	283.	
5	284.	
6	278.	
7	.....	Special validation of Eliza Ann Notts' conditional purchase saving clause.
8	.....	Short title.
CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1895 (58 Vic. No. 16).		
1	.....	Commencement and short title.
2	.....	Interpretation.
3	241.	
4	240, 246, 301.	
5	240, 301.	
6	244.	
7	204, 216, 232, 242.	
8	243.	

Section of Act.	Clause of Bill.	Remarks.
9	.....	Operation exhausted.
10	46, 52.	
11	53.	
12	47.	
13	135.	
14	136, 143.	
15	147, 301.	
16	150, 155.	
17	151, 152, 153.	
18	48, 148.	
19	149.	
20	Omitted	Superseded by 60 Vic. No. 2.
21	158.	
22	48, 118, 140, 141, 145, 156, 301, 304, 328, 330, 332.	The first part of the section is altered by s. 2, 59 Vic. No. 26.
23	159.	
24	253, 258.	
25	261, 262, 301.	
26	238, 251.	
27	160, 234, 237, 238, 242, 252, 261, 263.	
28	106.	
29	50, 82, 83, 107, 108, 113, 115, 125.	
30	84, 85.	
31	67.	
32	.....	The necessary corrections have been made in the sections in accordance with the provisions of this section which abolished declarations of fulfilment of conditions.
33	88, 90, 92.	
34	114, 131.	
35	96.	
36	.....	Partly operation exhausted; all rights are preserved in saving clause. The Act 60 Vic. No. 2 still further reduces the annual payments.
37	27, 91, 93, 94, 95, 224.	
38	48.	
39	28.	
40	55, 56, 137, 207, 254.	
41	58, 59, 138, 139, 208, 209, 255, 256.	
42	63, 75, 142, 212, 220, 257, 258.	
43	117, 123, 157, 230, 236, 264.	
44	306.	
45	304, 305.	
46	266, 267, 269.	
47	180.	
48	102, 154, 162, 170, 176, 179, 188, 301.	The first portion repeals portion of s. 96 of the Act of 1884.
49	200, 201.	
50	248, 249.	
51	204, 302.	
52	303.	
53	45.	
54	172, 174, 175.	
55	79, 146, 202, 219, 222, 260.	
56	164, 165, 166.	
57	273.	
58	336.	
59	34.	
60	147.	
61	345... ..	Power to make regulations.
CROWN LANDS HOMESTEAD SELECTIONS AND SETTLEMENT LEASES ACT (59 Vic. No. 26).		
1	.....	Short title.
2	144, 259, 261.	

Section of Act.	Clause of Bill.	Remarks.
CONDITIONAL PURCHASERS RELIEF ACT (60 Vic. No. 2).		
1	.....	Short title.
2	103.	
3	104.	
4	105.	
5	101.	
6	133.	
7	134.	
8	345... ..	Power to make regulations.
PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT (No. 8 of 1897).		
1	293.	
2	294.	
3	292.	
4	293, 295, 296.	
5	297.	
6	298.	
7	290.	
8	290.	
9	299.	
10	300.	

No. , 1897.

A BILL

To consolidate the Laws relating to Crown Lands.

BE it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

1. This Act may be cited as the "Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1897," and is divided into Parts, Divisions, and Subdivisions, as follows :—

PART I.

GENERAL AND PRELIMINARY—s. 1-49.

DIVISION I.—Repeals and savings—s. 2.

DIVISION II.—Interpretation—s. 3.

DIVISION III.—Dealings with Crown lands—ss. 4-8.

DIVISION IV.—Divisions and land districts—ss. 9-11.

DIVISION V.—Land agents—ss. 12-14.

DIVISION VI.—District surveyors and other officers—s. 15.

DIVISION VII.—Constitution, jurisdiction of, and procedure before local land boards—ss. 16-26.

Chairman may deal with certain matters not in open court—s. 27.

DIVISION VIII.—Right of appeal to land court—s. 28.

DIVISION IX.—Land appeal court—ss. 29-43.

DIVISION X.—Determination of rents, values, &c.—ss. 44-45.

DIVISION XI.—Classification and survey of Crown lands—s. 46.

What deemed Crown lands under Mining Act—s. 47.

DIVISION XII.—Conflicting applications—Ballot—s. 48.

DIVISION XIII.—Illegal contracts a misdemeanour—s. 49.

PART II.

CONDITIONAL PURCHASES AND CONDITIONAL LEASES—ss. 50-134.

DIVISION I.—Conditional purchases—residential and non-residential—s. 50.

DIVISION II.—Land open to or exempt from conditional purchase or conditional lease—ss. 51-54.

Classified areas—s. 53.

Lands exempt from conditional lease—s. 54.

DIVISION III.—Qualifications, disqualifications, and limitations as to conditional purchases and conditional leases—ss. 55-64.

Limitations as to original conditional purchases—s. 55.

Limitation as to number of holdings—s. 56.

Limitation as to non-residential conditional purchases—s. 57.

Limitation as to area—s. 58.

Persons not natural-born or not naturalised—s. 59.

Married women—s. 60.

Minors—s. 61.

Rights and liabilities of minors—s. 62.

Good faith in applicants—s. 63.

Certain contracts void—s. 64.

DIVISION IV.—What areas may be purchased or leased—ss. 65-67.

Conditional purchases within special areas—s. 68.

Conditional leases—s. 69.

Preferent right of purchase in virtue of conditional lease—s. 70.

DIVISION V.—Applications for conditional purchases and conditional leases—ss. 71-76.

Land to be marked and described—s. 71.

Application—s. 72.

Receipt for deposit—s. 73.

Caveats against applications—s. 74.

Confirmation or disallowance of conditional purchase or conditional lease applications—s. 75.

Withdrawal of application—s. 76.

DIVISION VI.—Rules of measurement—s. 77.

DIVISION

Crown Lands Consolidation.

8

DIVISION VII.—Title to conditional purchases and conditional leases
—ss. 78–81.*Commencement of title—s. 78.**Trespass and impounding—s. 79.**Errors of description—s. 80.**Encroachments—s. 81.***DIVISION VIII.—Conditions—ss. 82–115.***Residence on conditional purchases and conditional leases—ss. 82–87.**Residence by married women—s. 86.**Residence by minors—s. 87.**Fencing and improvements—ss. 88–91.**Condition of improvements—s. 92.**Enclosing of roads or water-courses—s. 93.**Ring fences—s. 94.**Suspension of conditions—s. 95.**Rent and term of conditional leases—s. 96.**Payment of purchase money—ss. 97–101.**Overdue payments on conditional purchases or conditional leases—s. 102.**Reduction of payments—ss. 103–105.**Suspension of payment of instalments upon conditional purchases—s. 106.**Certificate of fulfilment of conditions of a conditional purchase—ss. 107–113.**Conditions attach on devolution of purchase—ss. 114–115.***DIVISION IX.—Forfeitures—ss. 116–121.***Forfeiture for breach of conditions—ss. 116.**Forfeiture for want of good faith—s. 117.**Forfeiture for false statements—s. 118.**Forfeiture for non-payment—s. 119.**Operation of forfeiture when forfeiture takes effect—s. 121.***DIVISION X.—Transfers of conditional purchases and conditional leases—ss. 122–130.****DIVISION XI.—Subdivision of conditional purchases—s. 131.****DIVISION XII.—Conversion of conditional purchases into mining conditional purchases—s. 132.****DIVISION XIII.—Conversion of conditional purchases and leases into homestead selections—ss. 133, 134.****PART III.****HOMESTEAD SELECTIONS—ss. 135–160.***Homestead selection areas—s. 135.**Disqualifications—s. 136.**Limitation as to number of holdings—s. 137.**Limitation as to area—s. 138.**Persons not natural-born or not naturalised—s. 139.**Rights*

- Rights and liabilities of minors—s. 140.*
Certain contracts void—s. 141.
Good faith in applicants—s. 142.
Applications for homestead selections—s. 143.
Commencement of title—ss. 144, 145.
Trespass and impounding on homestead selections—s. 146.
Conditions precedent to the right to a grant—s. 147.
Residence by deputy before grant—s. 148.
Residence in hamlet or village—s. 149.
Inquiry by Land Board—s. 150.
Homestead grants—ss. 151-153.
Overdue moneys on homestead selections—s. 154.
Forfeiture for breach of conditions—s. 155.
Forfeiture for false statements—s. 156.
Forfeiture for want of good faith—s. 157.
Surrender, &c., of homestead selections—s. 158.
Protection of homestead selections—s. 159.
Homestead grants out of leases—s. 160.

PART IV.

MISCELLANEOUS SALES—ss. 161-183.

DIVISION I.—Improvement purchases in gold-field—ss. 161-163.

DIVISION II.—Auction sales—ss. 164-167.

Auction sales—s. 164.

After auction sales—s. 165.

Overdue payments—s. 166.

Auction sales or after auction sales may be annulled—s. 167.

DIVISION III.—Special sales without competition.—Rescission of reservation—ss. 168-170.

DIVISION IV.—Reclamations—ss. 171-176.

DIVISION V.—Sales in special cases—ss. 177-179.

DIVISION VI.—Exchanges and surrenders—ss. 180, 181.

DIVISION VII.—Volunteer land order selections—s. 182.

DIVISION VIII.—Authority to search for gold in alienated land within gold-fields—s. 183.

PART V.

LEASES AND LICENSES—s. 184-271.

DIVISION I.—General provisions as to leases, &c.—ss. 184-198.

Liability to forfeiture—s. 187.

Overdue rents—s. 188.

Withdrawals—ss. 189, 190.

Reserve from sale not a withdrawal—ss. 191, 192.

Ringbarking by lessees—ss. 193-195.

Promise of lease—s. 196.

Disqualifications as to married women and minors—ss. 197, 198.

DIVISION

DIVISION II.—Annual leases—ss. 199–202.

DIVISION III.—Artesian well leases—ss. 203, 204.

DIVISION IV.—Homestead leases—ss. 205, 236.

Lands exempt from homestead lease—s. 206.

Limitation as to number of holdings—s. 207.

Limitation as to area—s. 208.

Persons not natural-born or not naturalised—s. 209.

Rights and liabilities of minors—s. 210.

Pastoral and homestead leases not to be held in combination—s. 211.

Good faith in applicants—s. 212.

Certain contracts void—s. 213.

Applications for homestead leases—s. 214.

Area of homestead leases—s. 215.

Term of homestead leases—ss. 216–217.

Commencement of title—s. 218.

Trespass and impounding on homestead lease—s. 219.

Applications, how dealt with—s. 220.

Non-acceptance of homestead lease—s. 221.

Survey of homestead lease—s. 222.

Conditions of homestead lease—ss. 223–226.

Suspension of conditions—s. 227.

Cases of death, lunacy, &c.—s. 228.

Transfer and sub-letting of homestead leases—s. 229, 230.

Miscellaneous provisions re homestead leases—ss. 231–234.

Surrender of homestead leases—s. 235.

Forfeiture of homestead lease for want of good faith—s. 236.

DIVISION V.—Improvement leases—s. 237.

DIVISION VI.—Leases of inferior lands—s. 238.

DIVISION VII.—Pastoral leases—ss. 239–245.

Lands exempt from pastoral lease in Central or Western Division—s. 239.

Pastoral leases in the Central Division—s. 240.

Power of withdrawal from Central Division pastoral leases—s. 241.

Pastoral leases in the Western Division—s. 242.

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DIVISION I.—Repeals and Savings.

2. On and after the day when this Act takes effect the Acts mentioned in Schedule I hereto are repealed to the extent therein expressed :

Provided that such repeal shall not—

- (a) revive anything not in force or existing at the time at which the repeal takes effect ; or
- (b) affect the previous operation of any enactment so repealed or anything duly done, suffered, or commenced, or contracted to be done under any enactment so repealed ; or
- (c) affect the validity, invalidity, or consequences of anything already done or suffered under any enactment so repealed ; or
- (d) affect any right, title, privilege, obligation, liability or disability acquired, accrued, or incurred under any enactment so repealed ; or
- (e) affect the right to exercise any power conferred, or the obligation to fulfil any duty imposed by any enactment so repealed, in respect of anything duly done, suffered, or commenced to be done or omitted to be done, or in respect of any right, privilege, obligation, liability, or disability, acquired, accrued, or incurred before the commencement of this Act under any enactment so repealed ; or
- (f) affect any penalty, forfeiture, or punishment incurred in respect of any offence committed against any enactment so repealed ; or
- (g) affect any investigation, legal proceeding, or remedy in respect of any such right, title, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture, or punishment as aforesaid ; or
- (h) affect any notice, proclamation, reservation, dedication, or setting apart, published, issued, or made before the commencement of this Act ;
- (i) require the re-establishment, or re-definition of the boundaries of any land district established before and existing at the commencement of this Act ;
- (j) require the reappointment of the president or any other member of the land appeal court, or the registrar of such court, or any chairman of any land board, or any member of such board, or any district surveyor, or land agent, or other officer appointed before, and holding office at, the commencement of this Act ;

(k)

(k) affect any appointment, order, rule, application, affidavit, or award made, or any summons or writ issued, or any warrant granted, or any notice or certificate given under the said Acts or any of them before the commencement of this Act; and any such investigation, legal proceeding, or remedy may be instituted, continued, or enforced, and any such penalty, forfeiture, or punishment may be imposed and enforced, as if this repealing enactment had not been passed.

And any notice or proclamation made under the Acts 1859-1897 and not revoked before the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to have been sufficiently made for all purposes of this Act.

And any appointments made and not revoked before the commencement of this Act, and the establishment or definition of the boundaries of any land district made, and not revoked or altered before the commencement of this Act, shall be deemed to have been sufficiently made, established, or defined for all purposes of this Act.

And all regulations made and forms prescribed under any Act in force on the day when this Act takes effect and hereby repealed shall be deemed to have been made under this Act, and shall be and continue in force until amended, cancelled, or superseded after the commencement of this Act.

DIVISION II.—Interpretation.

3. In this Act, unless the context necessarily requires a different meaning the expression—

“Acts 1859-1881” means any or all of the enactments passed during, or at any time between, the years one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine and one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one, and set out in the Second Schedule (B) to this Act.

“Acts 1859-1884” means any or all of the enactments passed during or at any time between, the years one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine and one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, and set out in the First and Second Schedules (A) and (B) to this Act.

“Acts 1859-1889” means any or all of the enactments passed during, or at any time between, the years one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine and one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine, and set out in the First and Second Schedules (A) and (B) to this Act.

“Acts 1859-1897” means any or all of the Acts passed during, or any time between, the years one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine and one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, and set out in the First and Second Schedules (A) and (B) to this Act.

“Acts 1875-1897” means any or all of the enactments passed during, or at any time between, the years one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five and one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, and set out in the First and Second Schedules (A) and (B) to this Act.

“Acts 1884-1889” means any or all of the enactments passed during, or at any time between, the years one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four and one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine, and set out in the First Schedule (A) to this Act.

“Acts 1884-1897” means any or all of the enactments passed during, or at any time between, the years one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four and one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, and set out in the First Schedule (A) to this Act.

“Board”

- “Board” or “Land Board” means the local land board of the district in question, and includes land appeal court in any case where an appeal or reference to that Court has been made.
- “Conditional purchase” excludes special purchase, or purchase by auction, or purchase by virtue of improvements, but includes an original and an additional conditional purchase.
- “Crown Lands” means lands vested in Her Majesty and not permanently dedicated to any public purpose or granted or lawfully contracted to be granted in fee simple under this Act or the Acts 1859–1897.
- “City, Town, or Village”—A city, town, or village declared to be so by proclamation of the Governor in the Gazette.
- “Frontage” means abuttal on or frontage to the sea-coast or to any lake, inlet, river, creek, stream, water-course, road, or intended or designed road prescribed as a boundary.
- “Governor” means Governor with the advice of the Executive Council.
- “Land Agent” means any person duly appointed to the office of Crown land agent, assistant Crown land agent, or acting Crown land agent.
- “Land Appeal Court” means the land appeal Court as constituted under the Acts 1884–1897.
- “Land office day” means any day notified as such in the Gazette upon which land agents are required to attend at their land offices for the purpose of receiving applications for sale or lease of Crown lands.
- “Lease” includes any unexpired engagement, contract, or promise of a lease.
- “Local newspaper” means newspaper published or circulating in the particular district or place in reference to which the expression is used.
- “Leasehold area” means that portion of a pastoral holding for which a pastoral lease may have been granted under the Acts 1884–1897, or may be granted under this Act.
- “Be declared a lunatic” include a person who has become an “insane patient” within the meaning of the “Lunacy Act of 1878,” and the Acts amending the same.
- “Minerals” means and includes coal, kerosene shale, and any of the following metals, or any ore containing the same, namely:—Gold, silver, copper, tin, iron, antimony, cinnabar, galena, nickel, cobalt, platinum, bismuth and manganese, and any other substance which may from time to time be declared a mineral within the meaning of this Act by proclamation of the Governor published in the Gazette.
- “Minister” means the Minister for Lands or other Minister charged with the administration of this Act or any part thereof.
- “Non-residential conditional purchase” means an original conditional purchase exempt from any condition of residence, and any additional conditional purchase made by virtue thereof.
- “Oath” means affirmation, promise, and declaration in every case where an affirmation, promise, or declaration is by law allowed instead of an oath.
- “Occupation license” includes preferential occupation license.
- “Prescribed” means prescribed by this Act, or any regulation made thereunder.
- “Population boundaries or area” includes lands within areas as defined by proclamation in the Gazette, with boundaries distant not more than ten miles from the nearest boundary of any city, town, or village.

- “Public purpose” means and includes, in addition to any purpose specified in any section of this Act, any purpose declared by the Governor, by notification in the Gazette, to be a public purpose within the meaning of such section.
- “Regulations” means regulations made under the authority of this Act.
- “Representatives” means the executors or administrators of the person with reference to whom the word is used, and includes all persons in whom the estate or interest of such person is vested.
- “Residential conditional purchase” means an original conditional purchase applied for under the Acts 1859–1896 or this Act, subject to a condition of residence or any additional conditional purchase made by virtue thereof, whether a condition of residence has attached or attaches to such additional conditional purchase or not.
- “Resumed area” means that portion of a pastoral holding for which a pastoral lease may not have been granted under the Acts 1884–1897, or may not be granted under this Act.
- “Scrub” means any tree, undergrowth, plant, which the Governor may, by notification in the Gazette, declare to be scrub within the meaning of this Act.
- “Series” or “the same series,” when used in connection with conditional purchases or conditional leases, means an original conditional purchase, whether taken up before or after the commencement of this Act, under the Acts 1859–1897 or this Act, and any additional conditional purchases, which may have been or may be made by virtue thereof, and any conditional leases which may have been or which may be granted by virtue of any of such conditional purchases.
- “Vacant land” means land not alienated by or held under any lease or promise of lease or license from the Crown.

DIVISION IV.—Dealings with Crown lands.

No dealing with Crown lands except under this Act.
Sec. 5, Act 1884.

4. Crown lands shall not be sold, leased, dedicated, reserved, or dealt with except under and subject to the provisions of this Act, and nothing in this Act shall affect the provisions of any Act regulating mining on Crown lands, or shall affect the prerogative of the Crown in respect to any lands reverting by escheat or forfeiture to Her Majesty otherwise than under the provisions of this Act or the Acts 1859–1896.

Provisions as to grants, leases, &c.
Sec. 6, Act 1884.

5. The Governor on behalf of Her Majesty may grant, dedicate, reserve, lease, or make any other disposition of Crown lands but only for some estate, interest, or purpose authorised by this Act and subject in every case to its provisions.

Crown grant not to be in trust.
Sec. 6, Act 1884.

6. No Crown grant issued after the commencement of this Act shall be expressed or purport to be in trust for private persons or purposes.

Minerals reserved in all grants.
Sec. 7, Act 1884.

7. All grants of land issued under the authority of this Act or the Acts 1884–1897 shall contain a reservation of all minerals in such land and shall contain such other reservations and exceptions as may by the Governor be deemed expedient in the public interest: Provided that whenever it shall be found that land alienated under this Act or under the Acts 1859–1897 contains any mineral, and such land has been alienated subject to the minerals being reserved to the Crown, the Governor may permit the owner of such land to remove such mineral upon payment of such royalty and upon such conditions as may be prescribed.

8. Every grant and registration copy of such grant issued under this Act or under the Acts 1859–1897 shall, for the purpose of enabling the Crown to proceed by way of scire facias for the repeal of any such grant issued improvidently or inadvertently or in violation of the provisions of any of such Acts as aforesaid, be deemed to be a record of the Supreme Court notwithstanding anything in the Real Property Act or any Act amending the same to the contrary.

Proceeding by way of scire facias.
Sec. 137, Act 1884.

DIVISION V.—Divisions and land districts.

9. For the purposes of this Act New South Wales shall consist of Three Divisions, namely:—The Eastern Division—the Central Division—and the Western Division—and the boundaries of each Division shall, subject to any alteration which may have been made under the provisions of the Acts 1884–1897, and subject to the provisions of section *ten* of this Act, be as set forth in the Third Schedule (C) hereto.

Establishment of Divisions.
Sec. 8, Act 1884.

10. The Governor may from time to time, by proclamation in the Gazette, alter the boundary of any division—

Alterations of divisions.

(a) so as to avoid the severance of any existing conditional purchase or lease or other lawful holding whatsoever ;

Sec. 8, Act 1884.

(b) by declaring lands held under lease or license, cities, towns, villages, and suburban lands attached thereto, or measured portions, which may be situated within any division or partly within two divisions, to be wholly within any one division.

Sec. 40, Act 1889.

And upon the publication of such proclamation the boundary as altered thereby shall be deemed to be the true boundary of the division referred to in such proclamation.

11. The Governor may, within each division, by proclamation in the Gazette—

Land districts.

(a) establish and define or alter the boundaries of land districts ;

Sec. 9, Act 1884.

(b) declare lands held under lease or license, cities, towns, villages, and suburban lands attached thereto, or measured portions, which may be situated within any land district, or partly within two or more land districts, to be wholly within any one land district; and upon such proclamation the boundaries of such land districts shall be deemed to be sufficiently altered and defined for the purposes of this Act.

Sec. 40, Act 1889.

DIVISION VI.—Land agents.

12. (i) The Governor may appoint a land agent either for each land district or for several adjoining land districts, who shall perform the duties imposed on him by this Act or the regulations.

Land agent.
Sec. 10, Act 1884.

13. It shall be the duty of every land agent to forward to the Colonial Treasurer all moneys received by him by virtue of this Act, or the Acts 1884–1897, or the regulations, in the prescribed manner, and in all other respects to conform to the regulations, and to carry out the instructions given by, or by direction of, the Minister.

Duties of land agents.

14. Any land agent shall, by virtue, and during his tenure of office be deemed for the purposes of this Act and the regulations thereunder, or the Registration of Deeds Act to be a Commissioner of the Supreme Court for taking affidavits; but any declarations required by this Act or by the regulations may be made before the land agent or any justice of the peace or commissioner for taking affidavits for the Colony of New South Wales.

Land agent a commissioner for affidavits.
Sec. 22, Act 1889.

(ii) The Minister may at any time in the absence of any such agent appoint a person to act for him.

Acting land agents.
Sec. 10, Act 1884.

All things done by an acting land agent within the scope of his authority shall be of the same efficacy as if done by the land agent.

DIVISION

DIVISION VII.—District surveyors and other officers.

Appointment, &c.,
of district staff of
officers.

Sec. 16, Act 1884.

15. For every land district the Governor may appoint a district surveyor and such other officers as he may think necessary for the purposes of this Act: Provided that whenever required by the Minister such officers shall perform the duties connected with their respective offices in and for any land district, in addition to that for which they have been appointed.

DIVISION VIII.—Constitution and jurisdiction of and procedure before local land boards.

Local land boards.

Sec. 11, Act 1884.

Land boards may be
authorised to deal
with matters outside
their own district.

Sec. 5, Act 1889.

16. There shall be a local land board for every land district or for several land districts:

Provided that the Minister may from time to time direct any local land board to deal with any matter, question, or inquiry that has arisen or shall arise, without regard to the land board district or land district in which the land forming the subject of such matter, question, or inquiry may be situated. And the said land board shall have as full power and jurisdiction to deal with the matter as if the land aforesaid were situated within that board's proper land board district or land district.

Number of members
of land board.

Sec. 11, Act 1884.

17. (i) The members of a local land board shall not exceed three in number, and shall be appointed by the Governor.

One of such members shall be the chairman, who shall be appointed in like manner, and shall be paid such salary as Parliament may sanction.

Every other member of the board shall be paid such fee for each sitting as may be prescribed.

Vacancies.

Sec. 14 (viii), Act
1884.

18. The resignation, removal from office, insolvency, or absence from three consecutive meetings of the board of any member of the board without leave of the Minister shall cause a vacancy therein, and the Governor may appoint a person to supply such vacancy.

Suspension, removal,
&c., of chairman of
local land board.

Sec. 4,

51 Vic. No. 11.

Acting chairman.

19. The Governor may suspend or remove the chairman of any local land board and appoint some other person in his place, or in the event of any chairman being suspended or being unable to act from any cause whatever, the Governor may appoint some other person as acting chairman, who while so acting shall have and exercise all the powers and authority and be subject to all the obligations applicable to the office of chairman.

Penalty.

Sec. 11, Act 1884.

20. Any member of a local land board who sits or acts in any way as a member of such board in any case in which he is or has been directly or indirectly interested shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding *five hundred pounds*.

Quorum.

Chairman's votes.

Sec. 12, Act 1884.

21. A majority of the members of any local land board shall constitute a quorum, and the chairman shall, if present, preside at all meetings of the board, and have an original vote on any question brought before or referred to such board:

Provided that the chairman shall have a casting vote on any question on which the votes are equal.

Acting chairman
in absence of
chairman.

Sec. 14, subsec. (viii).

In the absence of the chairman the members present at any meeting of the board shall appoint one of their number to act as chairman at such meeting, or any adjournment thereof, who shall, while so acting, have all the powers and authority of the chairman.

Duties and powers of
local land boards
under Acts repealed
by Act of 1884.

Sec. 13, Act 1884.

22. In addition to the matters hereinafter required, or permitted to be made the subject of adjudication, appraisalment, valuation, inquiry, or report by local land boards, it shall be the duty of every such

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such board, and it shall have full power and authority to hear, examine, and report to the Minister or the land appeal court upon—

- (a) any matter referred for report to such board by the Minister or the land appeal court, which under the provisions of the Acts 1859–1881 might have been the subject of any claim for compensation, or of arbitration, appraisal, inquiry, or complaint;
- (b) any complaint or question as to the non-fulfilment of any condition of residence or improvement by a conditional purchaser under any of the said Acts;
- (c) any allegation or complaint that land conditionally purchased under any of the said Acts has been so purchased by the applicant in violation of any of the provisions thereof: Provided that nothing herein contained shall refer to any land for which a certificate of completion of the conditions of residence and improvements or grant has already issued.

23. For the purpose of regulating the procedure of local land boards under this Act, and of empowering such boards to give full effect to the meaning and intent thereof, the following provisions shall be applicable to and be carried out by such boards—

- (I) Every such board shall have power to hear and determine all complaints and other matters brought before it, and shall conduct all inquiries sitting as in open Court, and shall take evidence on oath, and its procedure while so sitting shall be the same as the procedure before a court of petty sessions. General powers and procedure of local land boards. Sec. 14, Act 1884. Sec. 3, Act 1889. Local land board to sit as in open Court.
- (II) The chairman of every such board shall be a justice of the peace by virtue of his office, and shall have and may exercise the like powers and authorities as are possessed by a court of petty sessions to summon and compel the attendance of witnesses to give evidence on any matter before the board, and to produce all deeds and documents in their possession or under their control relating to such matter. And all witnesses so summoned to attend shall be entitled to the like allowances for attendance and travelling expenses as witnesses attending a district court are by law entitled to. Power to compel attendance of witnesses. Expenses of witnesses.
- (III) Every party to a proceeding before such board shall have the same right to be heard by counsel, attorney, or agent, and to enforce the attendance of witnesses before such board, and to examine such witnesses as upon summary proceedings before justices. Parties may be heard by counsel, attorney, or agent.
- (IV) The chairman shall give the decision of the board (when unanimous) in open court, but if not unanimous the board shall decide by vote (retiring for that purpose if it thinks fit). The decision shall then be given by the chairman as aforesaid, and no member shall comment upon or question such decision. Upon an appeal to the land appeal court as hereinafter provided any member of the board may assign in writing such reasons for his opinion as he may deem necessary, which shall be transmitted through the chairman to such court. Decision of board, how given.
- (V) Any person not authorised in that behalf by the Minister desirous of prosecuting any complaint before such board shall do so by lodging with the land agent a notice in the prescribed form verified by a statutory declaration setting forth the grounds of such complaint, and shall at the same time deposit with such land agent the sum of ten pounds as security for any costs which may be awarded against him by such board: Complaint by other than authorised persons.

Provided

Provided that should the board be of opinion that the sum of ten pounds will be insufficient to meet the probable expenses in any case, it may demand such further sum as may be deemed necessary, and should such sum not be deposited with the land agent within such time as the board may specify such complaint shall not be proceeded with.

When the board gives a decision in favour of the complainant, he shall be entitled to a refund of the sum so deposited, and it may award such expenses for witnesses and such costs to the successful party as to it may seem reasonable, and such expenses and costs shall be recoverable in the manner prescribed by the Acts regulating the procedure in courts of petty sessions.

Reference to land appeal court.

(VI) The local land board, instead of giving any decision or adjudication in any case within the jurisdiction of such board, may after taking evidence refer such case with the evidence for decision by the land appeal court, which shall have power to deal with the case so referred in all respects as if it had been brought before it in the first instance.

Signature of summonses, documents, &c.

(VII) Any member of the board may sign summonses, and the chairman shall sign certificates and other documents given or issued by the board, and immediately after adjudication or decision upon any case shall (if required) forward all papers connected with the case, together with any report required thereon, to the Minister or the land appeal court.

Witness may be summoned and examined on oath. Sec. 9, Act 1889.

24. (I) In any case it shall be lawful for the chairman of any land board to summon and compel the attendance of any person whose evidence such board may desire to hear, and to examine him, or allow him to be examined, upon oath, and to cause his examination to be reduced to writing and signed by him, and require him to produce any document relating to the matter in question in his possession or control.

What questions may be put.

(II) No question put to any witness before any land board shall be deemed to be unlawful by reason only that the answer thereto may expose him to any forfeiture or penalty under the Acts 1859-1897 or this Act: Provided that no examination, or any answer thereto, shall be admissible in evidence against the witness in any criminal proceeding other than a prosecution against him for perjury, or for giving false answers, or making false declarations.

Witness failing to appear before land board may be summarily fined.

(III) If any person who has been summoned as aforesaid by the chairman of the local land board, or subpoenaed as a witness in any proceeding before such board, and who has had payment or tender of his reasonable expenses made to him neglects to appear; or if any person summoned, subpoenaed, or examined as a witness in any such proceeding refuses to be sworn, or to make affirmation, promise, or declaration in lieu of an oath, or prevaricates in his evidence, or refuses to answer any lawful question, or to produce any document in his possession or control relating to the matter in question, which he has been summoned or subpoenaed to produce, or which is then in his possession or control, or to sign his examination when reduced into writing, it shall be lawful for the chairman to commit such offender to gaol for any time not exceeding three months, or to impose on any such offender a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds; and in default of immediate payment thereof to commit the offender to gaol for any time not exceeding three months unless the fine be sooner paid.

In any of the cases aforesaid a warrant in the form contained in the Fourth Schedule (D) heretoshalland may be issued by such chairman, and shall be good and valid in law without any other warrant, order,

or

or process whatsoever; and the sheriff, his deputy, and all officers of the police force, and gaolers, to whom the same is addressed, shall obey the same.

(iv) Where any person who has been duly summoned or subpcnaed to attend as a witness before the local land board, and who has had payment or tender of his reasonable expenses made to him, fails to appear in obedience to his summons or subpcna, the chairman, upon proof of such person having been duly served with such summons or subpcna, and upon proof also that such person's non-appearance was without just cause or reasonable excuse, may issue a warrant in the form or to the effect of the Fifth Schedule (E) hereto to bring such person before the local land board to give evidence.

Witness failing to appear before land board may be brought before board by warrant.

25. In any case where a local land board, pursuant to the provisions of this Act or the Acts 1884-1897, and subject to the provision for appeal hereinafter provided for, shall make any adjudication or award, and to give effect to such adjudication or award shall make any order for the payment of money, whether as compensation, costs, appraised value, or otherwise howsoever, such order shall be under the hand of the chairman, and may be enforced by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the person ordered to pay such money in manner prescribed by the regulations, or the same may be recovered in a summary way before any two justices of the peace by the person to whom such money is ordered to be paid.

Orders of local land board how enforced.
Sec. 15, Act 1884.

26. Any question of lapse, voidance, or forfeiture, whether arising under this Act or under the Acts 1859-1897 may be by the Minister referred to the local land board, and the decision thereon of the said board after due investigation in open court shall, unless appealed from in the prescribed manner, be final.

As to lapse, voidance, and forfeiture.
Sec. 20, Act 1884.

Chairman may deal with certain matters not sitting in open court.

27. The chairman shall have power, on behalf of a local land board, to deal with applications (whether made before or after the commencement of this Act) for—

Attendance before Board not required for formal application.
Sec. 37, Act 1895.

- (a) permission to inclose a road or water-course wholly or in part;
- (b) suspension of the condition of fencing attaching to a conditional purchase, conditional lease, or homestead lease, or extension of the period within which the condition shall be fulfilled;
- (c) exemption from fencing any portion of the boundary of a conditional purchase, conditional lease, or homestead lease;
- (d) exemption to the members of one family in pursuance of section seventeen of the Crown Lands Act of 1889 or section *ninety-four* of this Act, from any condition of fencing or improvement, other than the erection of a ring fence; and for prescribing the character of such fence and fixing or extending the term within which the fence shall be erected;
- (e) such other formal orders as may from time to time be prescribed.

The chairman may deal with any such application as aforesaid, not sitting in open court, and after having given notice to the parties concerned; and where he does not grant the application the same shall afterwards be dealt with in due course by the local land board; and he may in any case, instead of dealing with an application as aforesaid, bring the same before the local land board.

DIVISION

DIVISION IX.—Right of appeal to Land Appeal Court.

Procedure on appeal
to land appeal court.
Sec. 17, Act 1894.
Secs. 3 and 7, Act
1889.
Sec. 39, Act 1895.

28. Either party to any proceeding, dispute, or claim before a local land board, and any caveator as hereinafter provided, may appeal from the adjudication, decision, recommendation, determination, or award of such board to the land appeal court at any time within twenty-eight days after the same has been given by giving written notice of such appeal to the chairman of the board, and to the other party to the proceeding (if any), and depositing with such chairman the sum of five pounds as security for the costs of the appeal. And every such notice shall state the grounds of appeal.

DIVISION X.—Land appeal court.

Land appeal court to
consist of three
members.
Sec. 8, Act of 1889.
Sec. 2, 55 Vic. No.
26.

29. (I) There shall be a land court, which shall be a court of record and have an official seal; and the said court shall be designated the Land Appeal Court.

The said court shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be the president.

Judicial notice of
seal and signatures.

(II) All courts of law and equity shall take judicial notice of the seal of the land appeal court, and of the signature of the president, acting president, registrar, or deputy registrar, when attached to any document issuing out of the said court.

Removal of land
appeal court
members.
Sec. 8, Act 1889.

(III) It shall be lawful for the Governor to remove any member of such land appeal court for inability or misbehaviour, provided that twenty-one days at least before the removal of such member of the land appeal court he shall have notice of the intention to remove him, and he shall thereafter and before removal have the opportunity of being heard before the Governor and the Executive Council in his defence.

The president and each member appointed after the commencement of this Act shall be appointed by the Governor.

Salaries.

30. There shall be paid to the president of the land appeal court the annual salary of two thousand pounds, and to each of the other members of that court (to be designated commissioners of the land appeal court) the annual salary of one thousand pounds, and such salaries are hereby charged on the Consolidated Revenue Fund, which, to the extent required for the payment thereof, is hereby permanently appropriated.

Registrar and officers
of land appeal court.
Sec. 8, Act 1889.

31. It shall be lawful for the Governor to appoint a registrar of the land appeal court and other necessary officers, who shall be paid such salaries as may from time to time be approved.

The registrar shall have the custody of the official seal of the court and of its records, and shall sit in the court, and keep and sign minutes of the court's proceedings, and make reports of the court's decision in each case to the Minister. The registrar shall have power to seal with the official seal, and to sign and issue in the name of the court, subpoenas, summonses, certificates, orders, notices, and other documents; and the registrar shall perform the various matters and things in respect of which powers are hereinbefore conferred upon him, or which by any regulation in that behalf made as hereinafter provided he may be ordered to do.

Deputy registrar.

Any duties imposed or powers conferred upon the registrar as aforesaid may, in his absence or inability to act, be discharged or exercised by any person provisionally appointed as deputy registrar by the president or acting president of the land appeal court.

Who to preside.
Sec. 8, Act 1889,
subsec. (1).

32. (I) The president shall preside at all meetings of the court, but in his absence, through illness or other sufficient reason, any member may be authorised by the Governor to temporarily act as president,

president, who, while so acting, shall have and exercise all the powers and authorities, and be subject to all the obligations applicable to the office of president. In the absence, through illness or otherwise, of any member, the Governor may appoint any person to temporarily act as member.

(II) A majority of the members of the land appeal court shall constitute a quorum.

33. Any member who sits or acts in any case in which he is or has been directly or indirectly interested shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five hundred pounds.

34. The Minister may refer to the land appeal court any decision or recommendation of a local land board (whether made or given before or after the commencement of this Act), whereby the rights, interests, or revenues of the Crown may have been, or may hereafter be injuriously affected, and may likewise refer any case where it may appear that a local land board has failed or neglected to duly discharge its duty according to law, or that a local land board has exceeded such duty.

Any such reference shall be duly made, if and when a notice in writing that the Minister has referred the case to the land appeal court is given to the registrar of the said court, and no provision of this Act in respect of the lodging of appeals shall apply to the giving of such notice; but the land appeal court shall deal with the matter of such reference in the same way, and the rights and liabilities of the Crown in respect of such reference shall be the same as if such reference were an appeal by the Crown.

Nothing in this section contained shall affect any remedy by writ of prohibition, or mandamus, or in the nature of a mandamus, which the law now allows to the Crown or any person against a local land board.

35. The land appeal court shall have power to hear and determine all appeals, and all matters referred to such court by the Minister, or by a local land board under the provisions of subsection (VI) of section *twenty-three* of this Act, or subsection (VII) of section fourteen of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and to make such orders for payment of costs incurred in such appeals or proceedings as such court may think fit; and such appeals and matters shall, after the prescribed notice has been given to the parties, and at such times and places as the land appeal court may appoint, be heard and determined in open court; and all parties may be heard by counsel, attorney, or agent, but no fresh evidence shall be adduced before such court, except with the sanction of such court.

36. The Crown may without having lodged a caveat, appeared before the local land board, given notice of appeal, or taken any preliminary step other than may be prescribed by the regulations or by rules of the land appeal court appear as a party in all proceedings in which its rights, interests, or revenues may be concerned.

37. In all cases in which the land appeal court makes any order or award for the payment of money, whether as costs or otherwise, the said order or award shall, save as herein provided, be conclusive upon the parties, and have the force of a judgment of the Supreme Court at common law; and the party in whose favour any such order or award may have been finally or ultimately made may obtain a certificate of the amount due thereunder, which certificate shall be conclusive evidence of the facts therein stated, and he shall, upon production thereof to the prothonotary, be entitled to have judgment entered up thereon, without any judge's order to that effect, and to have execution for such amount and costs issued and enforced in the same way as may be done upon judgments at common law; provided that, in any case in which a deposit has been made by an appellant, the same shall be available in payment or part payment of any sum which he may be ordered to pay, and the surplus, if any, shall be returned.

Decision final.
Sec. 8, Act 1859,
subsec. (v).

38. The decision of the land appeal court upon any appeal shall, subject to the provisions of section *forty-four* of this Act, be final and conclusive.

Witness may be
summoned and
examined on oath.
Sec. 9, Act 1889.

39. (1) In any case it shall be lawful for the president, or in his absence any member, of the land appeal court to summon and compel the attendance of any person whose evidence such court may desire to hear, and to examine him, or allow him to be examined, upon oath, and to cause his examination to be reduced to writing and signed by him, and require him to produce any document relating to the matter in question in his possession or control.

What questions may
be put.

(II) No question put to any witness before the land appeal court shall be deemed to be unlawful by reason only that the answer thereto may expose him to any forfeiture or penalty under the Acts 1859-1897 or this Act: Provided that no examination, or any answer thereto, shall be admissible in evidence against the witness in any criminal proceeding other than a prosecution against him for perjury, or for giving false answers, or making false declarations.

Process of land
appeal court.
Subsec. (vii), sec. 8,
Act 1889.

40. Any subpoena, summons, or other process issuing out of the land appeal court shall have the same force and effect as if issued out of the Supreme Court in any matter pending therein; and the land appeal court shall have the same powers of dealing with witnesses who fail to appear when called, or refuse to answer questions, or otherwise misconduct themselves, and for repressing disorders, or punishing contempts committed in in the face of the said court, as are possessed by the Supreme Court or any judge thereof upon the hearing of any cause or matter within the jurisdiction of the said court. Any warrant to apprehend and to detain and bring before the land appeal court, or to keep in any gaol, prison, lock-up, or other place of detention, any person liable upon the order of the land appeal court to be so dealt with, shall be valid and sufficient if it be in the form appropriate thereto contained in the Sixth Schedule (F) to this Act or the effect thereof; and the sheriff, his deputy and assistants, and all officers of the police force, and gaolers to whom the same is addressed shall obey the same: Provided that no such warrant shall be issued against a person who fails to appear as a witness when called, unless it be proved to the satisfaction of the land appeal court that he has been duly served with a summons or subpoena, and that payment or tender of his reasonable expenses have been made to him.

Case may be
returned to the land
board.
Subsec. (iv), sec. 8,
Act 1889.

41. If in any case it appears to the land appeal court that any evidence tendered before such court, or that further evidence, ought to be taken before the local land board, or that the case is incomplete, it may be remitted to the board for such action as the land appeal court may direct; and the board shall take such action, and may uphold, reverse, alter, or amend its previous decision in any way that may be considered necessary. The land appeal court shall have power to remit to the board any case in which an order has been made by the land appeal court with directions to the board to enforce or carry out such order, and in any such case the board shall be empowered and bound to act accordingly.

Rehearing.
Subsec. (vi), sec. 14,
Act 1884.

42. The land appeal court may return to the local land board for revision, rehearing, or further consideration any case or matter which to such land appeal court may appear to have been improperly or insufficiently considered or determined by such board.

Appeal to Supreme
Court.
Subsec. (v), sec. 8,
Act 1889.

43. Whenever any question of law arises in a case before the land appeal court, the land appeal court shall, if required in writing by any of the parties within the prescribed time and upon the prescribed conditions, or may of its own motion, state and submit a case for decision by the Supreme Court thereon, which decision shall be conclusive. Every such case shall purport to be stated under this section, and shall state the names of the persons who are parties to the appeal, reference, or other proceeding, and shall be transmitted to the prothonotary

prothonotary of the Supreme Court to be dealt with as to the setting down of the case for argument, and the hearing of the same, and its return with the decision of the Supreme Court thereon, as the judges, or any two of them, may direct. The Supreme Court, for the purposes of this section, may consist of two judges only, and shall have power to deal with the costs of, and incidental to, any case stated under this section as it may think fit.

DIVISION XI.—Determination of rents, values, &c.

44. (I) Whenever any rent or license fee, or the price of any Crown land (other than of land to be sold or leased by auction, by tender, or by conditional purchase, or except as provided in sections one hundred and thirty-five, one hundred and forty-seven, two hundred and fifty-three, and two hundred and sixty-one of this Act) is to be determined, or whenever this section is expressly referred to in connection with the determination of any value, an appraisement of the same shall be made by the local land board, and any such appraisement may be appealed against in the prescribed manner.

Determination of rents, values, &c.
Sec. 6, Act 1889.

(II) On receipt of any appraisement not so appealed against, the Minister shall either accept the same or, within one month, refer it to the land appeal court with a statement of his reasons for so doing.

(III) The land appeal court shall, both in cases of appeal and reference, determine the amount of such rent, fee, or price, and the amount so determined shall be final and conclusive: Provided, however, that, if it appears to the Minister that further consideration or inquiry is necessary, he may return the case to such land appeal court for such purpose, and the determination of the land appeal court thereupon shall be final and conclusive.

45. (I) In any appraisement or reappraisement under this Act or under the Acts 1884–1897, the rent or license fee of the holding in respect of which such appraisement or reappraisement is made shall be assessed, irrespective of the unexhausted value of improvements then existing on such holding, and effected or owned by the lessee.

Appraisement or reappraisement of rent or license fee of holding.
Sec. 53, Act 1895.

(II) The unexhausted value means the fair cost of making the improvement, less depreciation in value from use or otherwise.

DIVISION XII.—Classification and Survey of Crown Lands.

46. (I) For the purpose of effecting a proper classification of Crown lands, the Governor shall have power, after such inquiry and report as may be deemed expedient, to declare by notification in the Gazette that the Crown lands comprised within any tract or area to be described in the notification shall be set apart for holdings (whether by way of purchase, lease, or otherwise) of the kinds which are specified in the notification; and thereupon the Crown lands comprised within the tract or area so described shall cease to be available, and any lands within the tract or area which may thereafter become Crown lands shall not become available for the purpose of any application for a holding of a kind not specified in the notification, except as hereinafter provided.

Power to classify Crown lands.
Sec. 10, Act 1895.

(II) For the purpose of effecting a proper survey and subdivision of Crown lands, the Governor shall have power to declare by notification in the Gazette that the Crown lands comprised within any tract or area to be described in the notification shall not be available for the purposes of any application until a further notification has been published in the Gazette; and thereupon the Crown lands comprised within the tract or area so described shall cease to be available, and any lands within the tract or area which may thereafter become Crown lands

Power to withhold Crown lands until survey effected.
Sec. 10, Act 1895.

lands shall not become available for the purposes of any application, until such further notification has been published, or, if such further notification specify a future date, then until such date.

Notifications may be amended.
Sec. 10, Act 1895.

(III) Any notification under this section or section ten of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, may in the like manner be corrected, amended, modified, or revoked, whether as to the whole or any part thereof; and it shall be sufficient for the purposes of any such notification if the description of lands is in any form of general description:

What shall not be affected by notification.
Sec. 10, Act 1895.

- (IV) Provided that no such notification shall affect—
- (a) the reservation or dedication for public purposes of any Crown lands; or
 - (b) the granting or renewing of occupation licenses and annual leases, unless the same be expressly excluded; or
 - (c) any lease in existence at the date thereof.

What deemed Crown lands under Mining Act.

Crown lands set apart to be deemed Crown lands for purposes of Mining Act.
Sec. 12, Act 1895.

47. All Crown lands comprised in any tracts or areas which have been set apart for certain specified kinds of holdings under sections ten, thirteen, or twenty-four of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, or which may be set apart for certain specified kinds of holdings under sections forty-six, one hundred and thirty-five, or two hundred and fifty-three of this Act; shall be and be deemed Crown lands for the purposes of the Mining Act, 1874, and any Act amending the same.

DIVISION XIII.—Conflicting applications—Ballot.

Priority of conflicting applications to be determined by ballot.
Secs. 11, Act 1889; and 38, Act 1895.

48. (I) When any applications lodged with the land agent at the same time are, or appear to the land agent to be, conflicting (whether severally or collectively), he shall determine by ballot in the prescribed manner the priority of the applications, and shall thereafter transmit such applications to the chairman of the local land board.

Sec. 38, Act 1895.

(II) Where the land agent has omitted to hold a ballot, or has held a ballot but not in the prescribed manner, the local land board may direct the land agent to hold a ballot or a fresh ballot as the case may be.

Ibid.

(III) Applications for conditional purchases and conditional leases of the same series shall, for the purposes of any ballot, be deemed to form together a single application for the whole of the land comprised within the said applications taken conjointly.

Sec. 18, Act 1895.

(IV) In the case of homestead selections a conflicting application from a person intending to personally perform the obligation of residence shall in all cases have priority over any application for a homestead selection with residence by deputy before grant.

Sec. 7, 55 Vic. No. 1.

(V) The fact that two or more applications for conditional purchases or conditional leases included in any ballot for priority have, before or after the commencement of this Act, been made by different applicants for the benefit of one and the same person shall be prima facie evidence that none of such applications has been made bona fide and for the applicant's sole use and benefit.

Sec. 11, Act 1889.

(VI) Any applicant shall be at liberty, either before or immediately after the ballot, to withdraw his application, and thereupon to receive from the land agent a refund of any moneys paid to such agent in connection therewith; but an application for a conditional purchase or conditional lease or homestead selection, which upon a ballot being had, has before or after the commencement of this Act been determined to have priority over all other applications included in such ballot, shall not be withdrawn without the approval of the local land board.

Sec. 7, 55 Vic. No. 1.
Sec. 22, Act 1895.

Sec. 11, Act 1889,
and 38, Act 1895.

(VII) Conflicting applications shall be dealt with by the local land board in the order of their priority as determined by ballot, and on their respective merits.

DIVISION

DIVISION XIV.—Illegal contracts a misdemeanour.

49. If any person knowingly and with intent to defeat or evade or commit any fraud upon the provisions or purposes of this Act shall induce or make use of any other person to make any conditional purchase or homestead selection, or to execute any will, or to enter into any contract, lease, or agreement declared by this Act to be illegal, or to become the purchaser, selector, lessee, or licensee of any land otherwise than for the use, benefit, and advantage of such purchaser, selector, lessee, or licensee, the person so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall be liable to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for any term not exceeding two years and not less than three months.

The provisions of this section, so far as they apply to homestead selections, shall apply only until the grant thereof.

Illegal contract a misdemeanour.
Sec. 122, Act 1884;
22, Act 1895.

PART II.

CONDITIONAL PURCHASES AND CONDITIONAL LEASES.

DIVISION I.—Conditional purchases—residential and non-residential.

50. A conditional purchase may be made with or without a condition of residence: Provided that in the case of a non-residential conditional purchase the deposit price and annual instalments shall be double such as would be required in the case of a residential conditional purchase.

Conditional purchase with or without residence.
Sec. 32, Act 1884.
Secs. 47, Act 1884;
29, Act 1895.

DIVISION II.—Land open to or exempt from conditional purchase or conditional lease.

51. All Crown lands not hereinafter exempted from conditional sale shall be open to conditional sale, and all Crown lands not hereinafter exempted from conditional lease shall be open to conditional lease under and subject to the provisions and conditions of this Act.

What land open to conditional purchase and conditional lease.
Sec. 22, Act 1884.

52. The Crown lands hereinafter specified shall be exempt from conditional sale. And for the purposes of this section it shall be immaterial whether the proclamation, dedication, reservation, setting apart, notification, lease, or application herein mentioned in connection with any such lands was made under this Act, or under the Acts 1859–1897.

What lands exempt from conditional purchase.
Sec. 21, Act 1884.

- (a) Lands held under any lease, other than annual lease, or than occupation license. Sec. 10, Act 1889.
- (b) Lands held under conditional lease except by the conditional leaseholder having a preferent right of purchase as specially provided by this Act or the Acts 1884–1897, or which is the subject of a valid application for conditional lease. Sec. 21, Act 1884.
Sec. 19, Act 1889.
- (c) Lands comprised within leasehold areas. Sec. 21, Act 1884.
- (d) Lands under lease or lawful occupation for mining purposes, and lands of which a lease under any Act in force for the time being relating to mining has been applied for. *Ibid.*
- (e) Lands within the Western Division unless within special areas, or unless held as a conditional lease by the applicant for the additional conditional purchase, and not otherwise exempt from conditional sale. Sec. 25, Act 1889.
Sec. 21, Act 1884.
- (f) Lands reserved or set apart for town or suburban lands or for village sites, and lands within population areas, except as provided in section *sixty-eight* of this Act. Sec. 21, Act 1884.

(g)

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| <i>Ibid.</i> and 39, Act 1889. | (g) Lands reserved from sale generally, or from conditional sale specifically, or dedicated, reserved, or set apart for any public purpose other than as aforesaid. |
| 21, Act 1884. | (h) Lands in proclaimed gold-fields within areas reserved from conditional sale. |
| Sec. 10, Act 1895. | (i) Crown lands which by virtue of a notification made under section ten of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, or section <i>forty-six</i> of this Act, are not available for the purposes of any application. |
| Sec. 10, Act 1895. | (j) Crown lands set apart under section ten of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, or section <i>forty-six</i> of this Act, for holdings other than conditional purchases. |

Classified areas.

Additional conditional purchases in classified areas.

Sec. 11, Act 1895.

53. A notification that Crown lands are set apart for holdings of any kind shall not operate to prevent the lands situated within the tract or area so set apart being or becoming available for the purpose of an application for an additional conditional purchase, or a conditional lease of a series of which the original conditional purchase was made before the date of the notification in any case where—

- (a) the application is made not later than forty days after the date of the notification—and
- (b) the applicant has been for six months previously and still is in bona fide residence on some conditional purchase or conditional lease of the same series at the date of the notification:

Provided that—

- (c) the area which may be added to any series by all such additional conditional purchases and conditional leases shall not exceed the area sufficient, in the opinion of the local land board, to enable the holder thereof by agriculture or by agriculture combined with any other ordinary pursuits to maintain his home thereon, and shall not, in any case, exceed the area which may be taken under this Act; and
- (d) that such additional conditional purchases and conditional leases shall be taken so as to conform to the general design of the subdivision, if any, of such tract or area.

Crown lands exempt from conditional lease.

What lands exempt from conditional lease.

Secs. 10 and 39, Act 1889.

54. Crown lands belonging to any of the classes hereinafter specified shall be exempt from conditional lease.

- (a) Lands exempt from conditional purchase.
- (b) Lands reserved from lease generally.
- (c) Lands reserved from conditional lease specifically.
- (d) Lands within a special area.

DIVISION III.—Qualifications, disqualifications, and limitations as to conditional purchases and conditional leases.

Limitations as to original conditional purchases.

Cases in which a second selection may not be made.

Sec. 22, Act 1884, and 40, Act 1895.

55. No person who, on or after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, and before the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, has made an original conditional purchase shall make another original conditional purchase, unless he has previously obtained a certificate from the local land

land board of fulfilment of all the required conditions (except payment of balance of purchase money), or that having made such conditional purchase bonâ fide and solely in his own interest he had been compelled through adverse circumstances to vacate or abandon the same, or unless (notwithstanding the non-obtaining of such certificate) he has previously obtained the written approval of the Minister to make another original conditional purchase as aforesaid.

The mere fact that forfeiture of a conditional purchase has before or after the commencement of this Act been notified shall not bar the issue of the certificate of abandonment referred to. Sec. 21, Act 1889.

Limitation as to number of holdings.

56. (I) No person who, on or after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, has applied, or who, after the commencement of this Act, applies for an original conditional purchase, and has obtained or obtains a title thereto in pursuance of such application, shall be qualified to apply for another original conditional purchase; and no person who, on or after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, has applied or who after the commencement of this Act applies for a homestead selection or a settlement lease, or an original homestead lease, and has obtained or obtains a title thereto in pursuance of such application, shall be qualified to apply for an original conditional purchase; unless he has previously obtained a certificate as prescribed that he was compelled by adverse circumstances to abandon or to surrender the holding first applied for, or unless (notwithstanding the non-obtaining of such certificate) such person has previously obtained the written approval of the Minister to apply for an original conditional purchase as aforesaid. The privilege of selecting, &c., when exhausted. Sec. 40, Act 1895.

(II) For the purposes of this section title in pursuance of an application shall be taken to have been obtained—in the case of a homestead selection, settlement lease, and original conditional purchase—when the application has been confirmed by the local land board, and in the case of a homestead lease when the approval of the issue of the lease has been notified in the Gazette, and a valid notice of non-acceptance has not been duly given:

(III) Provided that if the holding first applied for were a settlement lease or an original homestead lease, the disqualification enacted by this section shall cease to operate upon the expiration of the term of the lease by effluxion of time, or if the lease has been forfeited, surrendered, or otherwise sooner determined, then upon the expiration of the period which the term of the lease would have had to run, but for such forfeiture, surrender, or other sooner determination.

(IV) The mere fact that forfeiture of a conditional purchase has before or after the commencement of this Act been notified shall not bar the issue of the certificate of abandonment referred to. Sec. 21, Act 1889.

Limitations as to non-residential conditional purchases.

57. (I) No person who has made a conditional purchase, whether before or after the commencement of this Act, shall be permitted to make or to hold a non-residential conditional purchase. Non-residential selection. Sec. 47, Act 1884.

(II) No person shall be permitted to make a second or subsequent non-residential conditional purchase (whether the first purchase was made before or after the commencement of this Act) except by way of additional conditional purchase.

(III) No person who has, before or after the commencement of this Act, made a non-residential conditional purchase shall be permitted to make any other conditional purchase whatsoever.

Limitation

Limitation as to area.

Disqualifications by reason of area already held.
Sec. 41, Act 1895.

58. No person shall be competent to apply for an original conditional purchase, who—

- (a) owns at the date of application; or
 - (b) owned at any time previous to the date of application, and fraudulently divested himself of the ownership thereof by transfer, conveyance, assignment, or otherwise, or purported so to do, in order to evade the foregoing provision;
- an area of land granted in fee simple, or conditionally purchased, or conditionally leased from the Crown, which area, added to the area of the holding applied for, exceeds as a total area the maximum area permitted by law to a conditional purchase.

Persons not natural born or not naturalised.

Persons not natural-born or naturalised.
Sec. 41, Act 1895.

59. A person who is not a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty shall not be qualified to apply for an original conditional purchase, unless he has resided in New South Wales for one year, and at the time of making such application has lodged a declaration of his intention to become naturalised within five years from the time of making such declaration.

If such person shall fail to become so naturalised within the period aforesaid, he shall absolutely forfeit all land the subject of his application, together with all the improvements thereon.

Married women.

Married women.
Sec. 47, Act 1899.

60. (I) Any married woman who is, under an order for judicial separation made by any court of competent jurisdiction, living apart from her husband, may, out of moneys belonging to her for her separate use, conditionally purchase, or conditionally lease land, and such land shall form part of her separate estate, and she shall have the same powers of dealing with and disposing of the same, both at law and in equity, as if she were a femme sole, and her husband shall not be entitled to any interest in such land as tenant by the courtesy or jure mariti.

Sec. 47, Act 1899.

(II) Except as aforesaid, a married woman shall not be entitled to conditionally purchase or conditionally lease Crown land under this Act.

Sec. 124, Act 1894.

(III) No married woman shall be capable of holding any conditional lease, except as separate estate, by virtue of any law in force protecting the property of married women:

Sec. 47, Act 1899.

(IV) Provided that nothing herein contained shall disentitle a married woman from holding any conditional purchase or conditional lease which may have devolved upon her under the will or intestacy of any deceased holder:

(V) And further provided that if any conditional purchase has, before or after the commencement of this Act, been made by an unmarried woman and she afterwards marry, she may continue to hold the same, and may make any additional conditional purchase or conditional lease during her coverture by virtue of any such conditional purchase or purchases.

Minors.

Minors.
Secs. 23 and 124, Act 1894.

61. (1) No person under the age of sixteen years shall be a conditional purchaser of Crown lands, but any person of or above that age (if under no legal disability except that of age) may be a conditional purchaser of such lands, and may hold a conditional lease by virtue

virtue of a conditional purchase; but a minor of any age may hold a conditional lease by way of inheritance:

Provided that no person under the age of twenty-one years shall make a non-residential conditional purchase. Sec. 47, Act 1884.

Rights and liabilities of minors.

62. Any person between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one years who after the passing of this Act shall become the owner of a conditional purchase or conditional lease, and shall during his ownership, either personally or by an agent, enter into any agreement for or in relation to the performance of any work or rendering of any services on such conditional purchase or conditional lease or in relation thereto, or to the loan of money or the sale or purchase of goods and chattels of any description whatsoever, or shall in like manner enter into any agreement connected with the occupation, management, or general purposes of such conditional purchase or conditional lease not being in violation of the provisions of this Act, shall be subject to the same liabilities and have the same rights in respect of such agreement as if he were of the full age of twenty-one years. Minor holding conditional purchase or conditional lease liable on agreement. Sec. 123, Act 1884.

Good faith in applicants.

63. Every application for a conditional purchase or conditional lease, is hereby required to be made in good faith; and an application shall be taken to be made in good faith when the sole object of the applicant in making the application is to obtain the land or a lease thereof, as the case may be, in order that he may hold and use the land for his own exclusive benefit according to law. Good faith in applicants. Sec. 42, Act 1895.

Certain contracts void.

64. Every devise, contract, lease, agreement, or security made, entered into, or given before, at, or after the date of any application to make a conditional purchase, or conditional lease, with the intent or having the effect of enabling any person other than the applicant to acquire by purchase or otherwise the land applied for, shall be illegal and absolutely void both at law and in equity. Devise, contract, lease, or security void in certain cases. Sec. 121, Act 1884.

DIVISION IV.—What areas may be purchased or leased.

65. In the Eastern Division no application for an original residential conditional purchase shall be received for less than forty or for more than six hundred and forty acres, and in that Division no application for an original non-residential conditional purchase shall be received for less than forty or more than three hundred and twenty acres. What areas may be originally purchased. Secs. 24 and 47, Act 1884.

66. In the Central Division no application for an original residential conditional purchase shall be received for less than forty or more than two thousand five hundred and sixty acres, and in that Division no application for an original non-residential conditional purchase shall be received for less than forty or more than three hundred and twenty acres. Sec. 24, Act 1884.

67. Any holder of an original conditional purchase in the Eastern or Central Division may by application made before, at, or after the confirmation of the application relating to the original conditional purchase or any additional conditional purchase of the series make additional conditional purchases of Crown lands adjoining the original or any prior additional conditional purchase or each other, and for the purposes of this section it shall be immaterial whether the original What areas available for additional conditional purchase. Secs. 42, 47, 48, Act 1884; 19 and 25, Act 1889.

original or prior additional conditional purchase were made under this Act, or under the Acts 1859-1897, or partly under one and partly under any other, provided that—

- Sec. 24, Act 1884. (a) No additional residential or non-residential conditional purchase in any Division shall be of a less area than forty acres.
- Sec. 42, Act 1884. (b) In the Eastern Division an original residential and additional residential conditional purchases shall not (subject to the provisions of section *sixty-nine* of this Act as to additional purchases of land comprised in conditional leases), exceed in the whole six hundred and forty acres; and in that Division an original non-residential and additional non-residential conditional purchases shall not exceed in the whole three hundred and twenty acres.
- Sec. 47, Act 1884.
- Sec. 42, Act 1884. (c) In the Central Division an original residential and additional residential conditional purchases shall not exceed in the whole two thousand five hundred and sixty acres; and in that Division an original non-residential and additional non-residential conditional purchases shall not exceed in the whole three hundred and twenty acres.
- Sec. 3, Act 1884. (d) No application to make any additional conditional purchase of Crown lands whatever by virtue of any holding under the Acts 1859-1897 shall be entertained or dealt with otherwise than in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- Sec. 31, Act 1895. (e) The payment to the Crown of the balance of purchase money due upon any conditional purchase or the issue of a grant in respect thereof shall not prevent additional conditional purchases being made, and conditional leases being granted, in the same way as if the said balance had not been paid, or the said grant had not issued; and it shall be immaterial whether the payment of the said balance or the issue of the said grant took place before or shall take place after the commencement of this Act.
- (f) A conditional purchase made under the provisions of section *twenty-two* of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861 shall not be deemed to be an original conditional purchase within the meaning of this section.

Conditional purchases within special areas.

Conditional purchases in special areas.

Secs. 24 and 42, Act 1884, 18; Act 1889.

68. (I) The Governor may, by proclamation in the Gazette, set apart from time to time, in the Eastern, Central, and Western Divisions any areas of Crown lands, not being within pastoral or homestead leases, to be called special areas, which it shall be lawful to conditionally purchase in such areas as may be notified in the proclamation not exceeding three hundred and twenty acres in the Eastern, or six hundred and forty acres in the Central or Western Division, at such prices (not being less than thirty shillings per acre), deposits, and instalments as may be notified in the proclamation.

Special areas within suburban or population boundaries.

Sec. 18, Act 1889.

(II) The Governor may also, by proclamation in the Gazette, set apart as special areas any lands within the suburban or population boundaries or population areas of any cities, towns, or villages, and such lands (without cancellation or revocation of such boundaries or areas) shall be open to conditional purchase on or after such dates, and in such areas, and subject to the payment of such prices, deposits, and instalments, and subject to the fulfilment of such conditions as to residence, improvements, fencing, or otherwise as may be specified in the proclamation. Any conditions so set forth shall have the force of law, and any breach thereof shall render the conditional purchase liable to forfeiture in accordance with this Act.

(III) Additional conditional purchases may, in special areas within the Eastern, Central, and Western Divisions, be made by holders of conditional purchases, such purchases, original and additional, not exceeding the maximum areas as aforesaid. Additional conditional purchases. Sec. 42, Act 1884.

(IV) The Governor may at any time revoke or modify any proclamation, whether made before or after the commencement of this Act, of any special area, or of any conditions applicable thereto, and any such revocation or modification shall take effect on proclamation in the Gazette. Revocation or modification. Sec. 18, Act 1889.

(V) Before any special areas are declared to be open for conditional purchase, the same shall be surveyed, and shall, subject to the provisions of section seventy-seven of this Act, be taken in portions as measured. Survey before selection. Sec. 18, Act 1889.

(VI) The provisions of this section shall extend to special areas which may be in existence at the commencement of this Act.

Conditional leases.

69. (I) Any applicant for an original or additional conditional purchase, or any holder of an original or additional conditional purchase applied for after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, or after the commencement of this Act, in the Eastern or Central Division (not being a non-residential conditional purchase within either Division or a conditional purchase within a special area within the Eastern Division) may obtain a conditional lease, or additional conditional leases, to comprise an area not exceeding three times the area thereof: Application for conditional lease. Sec. 48, Act 1884; 26, Act 1889.

Provided that the total area of land conditionally purchased and conditionally leased shall not exceed one thousand two hundred and eighty acres in the Eastern, or two thousand five hundred and sixty acres in the Central Division: Total area.

Provided also that the local land board, if the area applied for under such lease be not available, may allot the applicant a lesser area, not being less than forty acres in any case.

(II) In estimating the area which may be conditionally purchased and conditionally leased, all conditional purchases of the same series, and all land held by conditional lease by virtue of such conditional purchases shall be included, and the land which may be leased shall adjoin the land so conditionally purchased or conditionally leased.

Preferent right of purchase in virtue of conditional lease.

70. (I) The holder of any conditional lease in respect of which no forfeiture has, before or after the commencement of this Act been incurred, may at any time apply for the whole or part of the land comprised under such lease as an additional conditional purchase or purchases, subject to all the provisions of this Act as to the making of applications, available land, area, deposits, measurement, and (unless where otherwise provided in subsection (d) of section *eighty-four* of this Act) all other conditions applicable to ordinary residential additional conditional purchases except that nothing in this Act shall be held to render any such additional conditional purchase invalid by reason only that the land may be situated in the Western Division. Conversion of conditional leases into additional conditional purchases. Sec. 25, Act 1889.

(II) Provided that the land so purchased shall not, with any conditional purchases of the same series, exceed one thousand two hundred and eighty acres in the Eastern or two thousand five hundred and sixty acres in the Central or Western Division.

(III) And in all such cases the remaining area of such conditional lease may be held at a proportionate part of the rental thereof, although

although such lease may, when taken with the land conditionally purchased, exceed one thousand two hundred and eighty acres in the Eastern, and two thousand five hundred and sixty acres in the Central or Western Division.

(IV) A refund of the rental shall not be granted until after confirmation of the application for the additional conditional purchase, but, when granted, shall be calculated from the date of such application.

DIVISION V.—Applications for conditional purchases and conditional leases.

Land to be marked and described.

Unmeasured land to be marked before application.
Sec. 25, Act 1884.

71. (I) When the land to be applied for as a conditional purchase is unmeasured land the intending applicant shall before lodging his application mark some corner of such land in the prescribed manner, and shall in his application describe such land in such manner as to permit of its identification by the description.

(II) If the land applied for has not a frontage it must be situated at a reasonable distance from a frontage.

Description of measured and improved land.

(III) When such land is measured land the applicant shall so describe it.

(IV) And whenever the land so applied for contains improvements the applicant shall state that fact in his application and shall describe the nature and position of such improvements.

Application.

Tender of application.
Sec. 26, Act 1884.

72. (1) Every application for an original conditional purchase shall be tendered by the applicant in person, on some land office day, and every application for an additional conditional purchase may be tendered by the applicant in person, or by any duly authorised agent on some land office day to the land agent.

Declaration fee and deposit to be lodged with application.
Sec. 26, Act 1884.
Sec. 11, Act 1889.
Sec. 20, Act 1889.

(II) With the application there shall be lodged with the land agent a declaration made by the applicant in the prescribed form, or, in the case of an application for an additional conditional purchase, a declaration made by the applicant or his duly authorised agent in the prescribed form, together, in any case, with a fee in accordance with the prescribed scale for the survey of the area applied for, and—

Sec. 26, Act 1884.

(a) a deposit at the rate of two shillings per acre in the case of a conditional purchase other than a non-residential conditional purchase, or other than a conditional purchase within a special area;

Sec. 47 subsec. (III), Act 1884.

(b) a deposit at the rate of four shillings per acre in the case of a non-residential conditional purchase not being within a special area; and

Sec. 24, Act 1884.
Sec. 18, Act 1889.
Sec. 47, Act 1884.

(c) in the case of a conditional purchase within a special area, such deposit as may have been notified in the proclamation of the special area, provided that in any case the deposit in connection with a non-residential conditional purchase shall be double such as would be required in connection with a residential conditional purchase of the same land.

Conditional lease.
Sec. 25, Act 1889.
Sec. 11, Act 1889.

(III) Applications for conditional leases or additional conditional leases shall be made in the prescribed manner. With any application for a conditional lease a deposit of twopence per acre of the area applied for, and a survey fee according to a prescribed scale, shall be paid to the land agent.

(IV)

(iv) Where a conditional purchase is held absolutely by a corporation, company, or partnership, any application for an additional conditional purchase or for any conditional lease or any prescribed declaration in respect thereof may be made by any officer of such corporation or company or officer or member of such company or partnership duly authorised for the purpose.

Application by officer of corporation.
Sec. 20, Act 1889.

(v) When the transferee of any land conditionally purchased before or after the commencement of this Act (or in the case of a corporation, company, or partnership, being such transferee, any officer of such corporation or company, or any officer or member of such company or partnership) has made or shall make a statutory declaration showing that the transferee holds such land by way of mortgage or security only, the owner (subject to such mortgage or security) of the said land, or such transferee, may make an application in the prescribed manner for an additional conditional purchase or conditional lease to be registered in the name of the transferee, subject to the conditions of the additional conditional purchase or conditional lease being fulfilled by the aforesaid owner.

Application for additional conditional purchase may be made by mortgagor.
Sec. 20, Act 1889.

With any such application by the owner as aforesaid the written consent of the transferee shall be tendered to the land agent.

Any land purchased or leased under this provision shall be subject to the same equity of redemption as the land by virtue of which the same may be purchased or leased.

(vi) If any person makes a false statement in any such declaration as aforesaid as to any of the matters contained therein, he shall forfeit all moneys paid by him in respect of the land applied for, and all right and title to such land. And any conveyance, transfer, mortgage, or disposition of such land made by such person shall be null and void if taken with notice or knowledge of such false statement.

Declaration by applicant.
Sec. 26, Act 1884.

(vii) If the declaration in connection with an additional conditional purchase is made by an agent of the applicant, and if such agent wilfully makes a false statement in such declaration, he shall be liable to the penalties in that behalf made and provided; and the forfeitures provided in this section shall be held to have been incurred by the person for whom such agent has acted.

Declaration by agent.
Sec. 20, Act 1889.

Receipt for deposit.

73. (i) The applicant who shall have duly complied with all prescribed requirements shall be entitled to a receipt from the land agent for the deposit paid by him.

Receipt for deposit.
Sec. 27, Act 1884.

(ii) The land agent shall enter the particulars of all such applications, deposits, and declarations in a register to be kept by him in the prescribed manner, and shall thereupon transmit such applications to the local land board, together with all documents relating thereto, to be dealt with as hereinafter provided.

Applications to be transmitted to local land board.
Sec. 28, Act 1884.

(iii) A list of all such applications so transmitted to the local land board shall be kept by such land agent in the prescribed manner, and be exhibited by him for public inspection in some conspicuous part of his office.

(iv) All applications so transmitted shall be dealt with by the said board sitting as in open Court on a day of which at least fourteen days notice shall be given in the prescribed manner.

Caveats against applications.

74. (i) Any person claiming a right to land applied for as a conditional purchase may in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed time lodge a caveat with the local land board setting forth objections

Caveats against applications.
Sec. 30, Act 1884;
sec. 3, Act 1889.

objections against the confirmation of any such application, and shall at the time of lodging the same, deposit with the board the sum of ten pounds, to be dealt with by the board as hereinafter provided.

(II) All applications in respect of which caveats have been so lodged shall be dealt with at a meeting of the board, holden after the prescribed notice thereof has been given to the applicant and the caveator, at which meeting the board sitting as in open Court shall hear and determine the grounds of objection set forth in the caveat, and if the caveator be not present, or if the board consider that the objections are not sustained, it may order the deposit of the caveator or any part thereof to be paid to the applicant by way of compensation, or may make such other order in the premises as it may deem just.

(III) The board may upon such terms as it may deem fit postpone the hearing of any application under caveat to some day of which the prescribed notice shall be given to the applicant and the caveator.

Sec. 31, Act 1884.

(IV) Unless the caveator gives the prescribed notice of appeal to the land appeal court, and with such notice deposits the sum of five pounds with the local land board, the adjudication of such board shall be final and conclusive, but if such notice has been duly given and such deposit made, the appeal shall be heard and determined by the land appeal court.

Confirmation or disallowance of conditional purchase or conditional lease applications.

Confirmation,
modification, or
disallowance of
application.

75. (I) Upon receipt from the land agent of any application for a conditional purchase or conditional lease, the chairman of the land board may refer the same to the district surveyor.

Sec. 13, Act 1889.

(II) If the land therein described is unmeasured, and appears to be available, and to be capable, as applied for, of being measured in a proper form, the district surveyor shall cause the same to be measured. But if the land is not, or is only partly, available, or if any other objection appears to exist, the district surveyor shall so report.

Sec. 13, Act 1889.

(III) The board shall thereafter deal with the application, either by disallowing it, or permitting its withdrawal, or directing the survey of such land as may be proposed to be allotted, and for this purpose may, subject to the provisions of this Act, allot land in a modified or different position from that applied for.

Sec. 12, Act 1889.

(IV) If land be allotted in satisfaction thereof of a less area than, or in a different position from, that applied for, such of the land described as may not be allotted, shall, at the date of confirmation of the application, revert to the lease or license under which the land may have been held.

Sec. 13, Act 1889.

(V) Any allotted lands which are not described in the original application shall, so far as the withdrawal of the same from such lease or license is concerned, be deemed to have been applied for on the date of the confirmation.

(VI) When the land has been measured, if no sufficient objection exist, and the local land board be satisfied that the application has been made in good faith, as defined in section sixty-three of this Act, the board shall, in open court, confirm such application as made or modified, subject to payment as prescribed of any necessary extra deposit.

Sec. 13, Act 1889.

(VII) The chairman shall, within the prescribed time thereafter, issue a certificate of such confirmation.

Sec. 13, Act 1889.

(VIII) The board, in open court, may, for sufficient reason, with or without a report from the district surveyor, and either before or after measurement of the land, disallow any application, wholly or in part.

(IX)

(IX) The local land board shall disallow an application for a conditional purchase or conditional lease made after, or pending at, the commencement of this Act, unless it be satisfied that the application is made in good faith as defined in section *sixty-three* of this Act. Sec. 42, Act 1895.

(X) In any case where the local land board is satisfied that an application for any conditional purchase or conditional lease as aforesaid has been made otherwise than in good faith, it may declare that any moneys lodged with such application shall be forfeited to the Crown, and the same shall be forfeited accordingly : Sec. 42, Act 1895.

(XI) Provided always that the local land board shall not disallow an application for an additional conditional purchase as not having been made in good faith, merely because the original conditional purchase is subject to a mortgage. Sec. 42, Act 1895.

(XII) On the disallowance or modification of any application for a conditional purchase or conditional lease, the land ceasing to be affected thereby shall be held to have been available from the date of such application, and any application made and not disposed of before such disallowance or modification as aforesaid shall be dealt with as if the prior application had not been made. Sec. 15, Act 1889.

Withdrawal of application.

76. (I) If any application for a conditional purchase or conditional lease has not been confirmed within six months from the date of such application, the applicant shall on giving, within one month after the expiration of such six months, the prescribed notice of withdrawal to the chairman, be entitled to withdraw the same and to receive a refund of moneys paid by him in respect thereof, unless the land board is of opinion that the application was not made in good faith, or that the delay in obtaining confirmation was improperly caused or contributed to by the applicant. Applications may be withdrawn. Sec. 15, Act 1889.

(II) Where an application cannot be granted, except subject to modification, or where other sufficient reason may, in the opinion of the board, exist, the applicant may before or within twenty-eight days after confirmation withdraw his application, subject to the approval of such board. Sec. 15, Act 1889.

(III) In any case of withdrawal the board may deduct from the moneys deposited such amount as may be deemed necessary to defray the cost of survey and the expenses of dealing with such application. Sec. 15, Act 1889.

(IV) The whole of the lands described in the application shall, at the date of approval of its withdrawal, revert to the lease or license from which the land may have been taken. Sec. 12, Act 1889.

(V) On the withdrawal of any application for a conditional purchase or conditional lease, the land ceasing to be affected thereby shall be held to have been available from the date of such application, and any application made and not disposed of before such withdrawal as aforesaid shall be dealt with as if the prior application had not been made. Sec. 15, Act 1889.

DIVISION VI.—Rules of measurement, &c.

77. Measured Crown land, upon being applied for as a conditional purchase or conditional lease, shall be taken in portions as measured, and if the area applied for, or any part thereof, is part of a measured portion, such portion may on approval by the local land board be subdivided, and the applicant shall pay the cost of survey for such subdivision, provided that in either case the limitations and provisions as to form of measurement of unmeasured land hereinafter contained shall, as far as practicable, be held to apply to applications for Measurement of land applied for under conditional purchase or conditional lease. Sec. 27, Act 1889.

for

for measured land. For the purposes of this section land measured originally for conditional lease under the fifty-second section of the Crown Lands Act, 1884, may be held by the local land board to be measured or unmeasured.

- (I) No land shall be considered to be measured until the plan of the measurement has been approved by the district surveyor, or an officer duly authorised by the Minister in that behalf, of which approval the signature of the district surveyor, or such duly authorised officer on such plan shall be prima facie evidence: Provided that, where lands have been measured in pursuance of the provisions of the Acts 1859-1884, and the plan of such measurement has been approved or accepted by the then surveyor-general, or some other officer, such lands shall, for the purpose of any of such Acts, or this Act, be considered measured lands.
- (II) Any land applied for as an original conditional purchase, if unmeasured and having no frontage, shall be measured in the form of a rectangle, the length of which shall not exceed twice the width; and if having frontage shall be measured with a breadth of frontage not exceeding one-half of the depth, and all such measurements shall have the boundaries, other than the frontage directed to the cardinal points. And any additional conditional purchase or conditional lease shall not, together or in combination with any original or previous additional conditional purchase or lease, have a greater breadth of frontage or length than as hereinbefore provided for an original conditional purchase of an area equal to the aggregate area of such original and additional conditional purchases or conditional leases; but whenever it appears necessary or desirable, the local land board may alter or modify the boundaries of any land applied for, or direct a measurement of the land as applied for, notwithstanding that such measurement may exceed the limitations or provisions of this section.
- (III) The intervention of any road, not being a frontage or intended frontage road, between an original conditional purchase and any additional conditional purchase or conditional lease shall not be an objection to the measurement of the land applied for, and in every such case the additional purchase or purchases or conditional lease shall be measured as herein provided. But no additional conditional purchase or conditional lease shall be allowed of land not on the same side of any frontage road or water-course or other prescribed frontage as the purchase or purchases by virtue of which such additional conditional purchase or conditional lease is applied for, unless all the available land on that side has been exhausted. In the latter case such additional conditional purchase or purchases or conditional lease may be measured on the opposite side of such frontage as hereinbefore provided:

Provided that whenever it appears desirable to the local land board or the Minister, Crown lands may be measured across any frontage road, or intended or designed frontage road, and the boundaries of portions having frontages may be made approximately at right angles with the frontage and may be so applied for, and may be otherwise modified, although such modification may have the effect of altering the frontage or depth of any portion or the direction of any other boundaries thereof as hereinbefore prescribed, and the boundaries of portions having no frontages may be modified in like manner, and necessary roadways, trigonometrical stations, and sites for and sources of water supply may be excluded from any measurement.

DIVISION

DIVISION VII.—Title to conditional purchases and conditional leases.

Commencement of title.

78. (I) The title to any conditional purchase or conditional lease applied for after the commencement of this Act shall commence from the date of application therefor, if valid. Commencement of title to conditional purchase or lease. Sec. 12, Act 1889.

(II) Any such application shall withdraw such of the lands therein described as may be available for the purpose from any annual lease or occupation license under which they may be held.

(III) The land agent shall, within one week of the receipt of any such application, notify the same through the post to the holder of any annual lease or occupation license within which the land applied for or any part thereof may be situated.

Trespass and Impounding.

79. No person occupying land under a conditional purchase or conditional lease, or in virtue of an application for a conditional purchase or for a conditional lease shall— Trespass by stock on unfenced lands. Sec. 55, Act 1895.

(a) bring an action for trespass committed by stock upon the said land, whether before or after the commencement of this Act; or

(b) impound any stock trespassing upon the said land, unless the said land or the portion thereof trespassed upon was, at the date of the trespass, enclosed with a fence reasonably sufficient to keep out stock:

Provided always that nothing in this section contained shall apply to any trespass wilfully caused, or refer to any conditional purchase for which a grant has been issued at the date of such trespass.

Errors of description, &c.

80. (I) No error or uncertainty in the description of land conditionally purchased either before or after the commencement of this Act shall invalidate the purchase in any case where the local land board is satisfied that the land occupied by the conditional purchaser is the land intended to be described in his application. Error in application or declaration or description not to invalidate purchase. Sec. 57, Act 1884

(II) And if the board notifies to a conditional purchaser the description of the land purchased by him as finally approved by the board such notification shall be conclusive evidence that the land therein described is the land conditionally purchased.

(III) No error, uncertainty, omission, or misdescription in any application for a conditional purchase or conditional lease, or in any declaration made in connection with any such application, shall invalidate the application in any case where the local land board is satisfied that such error, omission, uncertainty, or misdescription was not wilful, and made with intent to deceive. 14, Act 1889.

(IV) The board shall have full power to authorise the correction of any error or omission in any application or declaration, so as to bring the same into conformity with the statutory requirements.

(V) The provisions of this subsection shall apply only to applications made after the first day of December, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine, or after the commencement of this Act, and to applications and declarations made before but not finally disposed of on the first day of December aforesaid.

Encroachments.

Power of adjustment where encroachments made on exempt lands.
Sec. 58, Act 1884.

81. In any case where any portion of land purchased is found to encroach upon or be included within an area reserved or exempt from sale, or to encroach upon or be included within other land purchased, the title of the holder of or the claim of the applicant for any such purchase shall not be prejudiced or affected further than to the extent of the encroachment on or inclusion within such area if the residue be not less than forty acres.

DIVISION VIII.—Conditions.

Residence on conditional purchases and conditional leases.

Residence to mean continuous and bona fide living on land.
Sec. 29, Act 1895.
Sec. 32, Act 1884.

82. Residence for the purpose of the condition of residence on a conditional purchase shall be taken to mean continuous and bona fide living on the land as the holder's usual home, without any other habitual residence.

Term of residence.
Sec. 32, Act 1884.
Sec. 29, Act 1895.

83. The holder of any conditional purchase (other than a non-residential conditional purchase) applied for after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this Act, shall hold the same, subject to a condition of residence, until the expiration of ten years from the date of the application for the conditional purchase, and the conditional purchaser shall, within three months from the date of confirmation of his application by the local land board, commence and thereafter continue to reside on his conditionally purchased land for the prescribed term :

Provided that—

- (a) when a conditional purchase has been transferred bonâ fide by way of mortgage, the condition of residence may be performed by the owner subject to such mortgage ; and
- (b) when the beneficial owner of a conditional purchase dies, or is declared a lunatic, the condition of residence shall be suspended until the conditional purchase has been transferred or conveyed, and no longer.

Residence on additional conditional purchases and conditional leases.
Sec. 30, Act 1895.

84. The condition of residence defined in the preceding section shall attach to every additional conditional purchase or conditional lease applied for after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this Act, and it shall be immaterial whether the original conditional purchase of the series was made under this Act, or under the Acts 1859–1897. The said condition shall not be taken to have been performed by the performance of the condition of residence which attached to the original conditional purchase, or any prior additional conditional purchase of the same series :

Provided that—

- (a) if the person fulfilling the condition of residence has, before the commencement of the term of such residence, continuously resided upon some purchase or lease of the same series, the term of residence shall be reduced by the period during which residence was previously carried on, but not so as in any case to be reduced to less than five years ; and
- (b) conditions of residence attaching to any number of purchases or leases of the same series may be performed concurrently ; and
- (c) a person residing upon any purchase or lease of a series shall, for the purposes of any conditions of residence, be taken to be residing upon every purchase or lease of the series ; and

(d)

- (d) an additional conditional purchase if made out of a conditional lease applied for before the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, shall not be subject to any condition of residence. Sec. 30, Act 1895.

85. The performance of the aforesaid condition of residence in respect of an additional conditional purchase or a conditional lease shall be waived so long as the person, upon whom the performance of the said condition would for the time being devolve, is the person who applied for the original conditional purchase of the series and for the said additional conditional purchase or conditional lease. But this provision as to waiver shall not operate where the applicant for the additional conditional purchase or conditional lease—

- (a) has taken up a full area; or
 (b) is the owner of a full area; or
 (c) has owned a full area at any time previous to the date of application, and has divested himself of the ownership thereof by transfer, conveyance, assignment, or otherwise, or purported so to do in order to obtain the benefit of the foregoing provision.

In the construction of the foregoing provision a full area shall be taken to mean an aggregate area of conditional purchases and conditional leases, whether of the same or different series, amounting to two thousand five hundred and sixty or more acres in the Central Division, or one thousand two hundred and eighty or more acres in the Eastern Division, or one thousand nine hundred and twenty or more acres if the said conditional purchases and conditional leases are some in one Division and some in another Division.

Residence by married women.

86. (I) If any conditional purchase has been or is made by an unmarried woman, and she has married or marries prior to the completion of the term of residence required for her conditional purchase, it shall be a sufficient compliance with this Act or the Acts 1884–1897 (so far as residence is concerned) if she has resided or resides for the remainder of such term, either upon her conditional purchase or upon any conditional purchase held by her husband, for which his term of residence may not at the time have been completed. Residence by married women. Sec. 47, Act 1889.

(II) Or the husband may complete any term of residence required for his conditional purchase upon any conditional purchase held by his wife for which her term of residence may not at the time have been completed.

(III) In either case notice as prescribed shall be forwarded to the chairman of the land board on the conditional purchaser's intention so to reside.

Residence by minors.

87. In all cases where a minor has before or after the commencement of this Act, conditionally purchased land adjoining land held as a conditional purchase or conditional lease by the parent or parents of such minor, such minor may, up to the age of twenty-one years if a male, or twenty-four years if a female and unmarried, continue to reside with his or her parents on such adjoining land on making a declaration in the prescribed form to the local land board of the intention of such minor so to reside. Residence by minors. Sec. 47, Act 1889.

(II) Such residence, if continuous and bonâ fide, shall be deemed to be a fulfilment of the conditions of residence within the meaning of this Act.

(III) For the purposes of this section the word "adjoining" shall be deemed to include lands separated by roads or creeks or by conditional purchases or leases held by any child of the same parent.

Fencing

Fencing and improvements.

Residential
conditional purchases
Condition of fencing
or improvements.
Sec. 33, Act 1895.

88. (I) Every conditional purchase (other than a non-residential purchase) and every conditional lease shall be subject, at the option of the purchaser or lessee, and without any application in that behalf to a condition of fencing, or in the alternative, to a condition of improvement.

(II) The provisions of this section shall apply to any existing conditional purchase or conditional lease, the application for which has been confirmed within two years before the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five.

Non-residential
conditional
purchases.
Conditions of
improvements and
fencing.

Sec. 47, Act 1884.
Sec. 4, 52 Vic. No. 7.

89. (I) Every non-residential conditional purchase shall be subject to a condition of improvement as well as to a condition of fencing:

(II) Provided that the holder of any such conditional purchase may at any time within two years after the confirmation of the application apply to the Chairman of the Local Land Board in the prescribed form for permission to substitute other improvements wholly or partly in lieu of fencing: And any such application may be approved or refused by such Board, subject to appeal to the Land Appeal Court.

Secs. 33, 51, Act
1884.

90. The following provisions shall apply in respect to the condition of fencing:—

Original and
additional con-
ditional purchase
one holding.

Sec. 26, Act 1889.

(I) The fence shall be erected on the exterior boundaries of each conditional purchase and conditional lease, or on the exterior boundaries of the conditional lease and the conditional purchase by virtue of which it has been granted; provided that all conditional purchases of the same series, and all conditional leases granted in virtue thereof, shall, for all purposes of fencing, be deemed to be one holding, and it shall be sufficient if the fence be erected on the exterior boundaries of such holding so as to enclose the whole area.

Sec. 51, Act 1884.

(II) The fence shall be a substantial one, and shall be prescribed by the local land board; but such board shall not prescribe any fence likely to be a harbour or shelter for rabbits or such other animals as may have been or may be declared by the Minister by notice in the Gazette to be vermin.

Local Land Board to
determine kind of
fence.

Sec. 33, Act 1884.
Sec. 9, Act 52 Vic.
No. 7.

(III) Where a condition of residence attaches to the conditional purchase or conditional lease the holder of the conditional purchase or lease shall maintain the fence in good repair and condition during the entire period of the term of residence.

Maintenance of
fences.
Secs. 33 and 51, Act
1884.

(IV) Subject to the provisions of the next succeeding subsection the fence shall in the case of a non-residential conditional purchase be erected within one year from the date of confirmation of the application for such purchase, and in the case of any other conditional purchase or any conditional lease the fence shall be erected within three years from the date of confirmation of the application for the purchase or lease.

Period for fencing.
Sec. 47, Act 1884;
sec. 6, 52 Vic. No. 7.

Sec. 33, Act 1895.

(V) Upon sufficient cause the board (or the chairman pursuant to the provisions of section *twenty-seven* of this Act), may on application extend the period within which the condition of fencing shall be fulfilled.

Extension of period.
Sec. 33, Act 1884;
37, Act 1895.

91. The board (or the chairman, pursuant to the provisions of section *twenty-seven* of this Act), on the application of the purchaser or lessee may grant him an exemption from fencing—

Exemption from
fencing from tage to
river, creek, &c.
Sec. 33, Act 1884.
Sec. 37, Act 1895.

(a) any part of his land which has frontage to a permanent river, creek, or other natural boundary held by the chairman or board to be sufficient; or

(b)

- (b) any boundary line fenced by the holder or occupant of adjoining land with a fence, which in the opinion of the board or chairman is of a sufficiently useful and substantial kind; or
- (c) any boundary line in any case where a fence although not erected upon the actual boundary line is, in the opinion of the board or chairman, a sufficient boundary fence.

And any exemption granted under this section shall not involve the making of other improvements in lieu of fencing.

Condition of improvements.

92. Where the holder of a conditional purchase (other than a non-residential conditional purchase) or a conditional lease elects to perform a condition of improvement instead of a condition of fencing, or where in the case of a non-residential conditional purchase permission is granted (or is not applied for or is applied for and not granted) to substitute improvements in lieu of fencing, the following provisions shall apply:—

- (i) In the case of residential conditional purchases the improvements, including any fencing, shall within, and at the expiration of, three years from the date of confirmation of the application, be of the value of at least six shillings per acre, but shall not be required to be of a greater value than three hundred and eighty-four pounds; and within, and at the expiration of, five years from the date of confirmation of the application shall be of the value of, at least, ten shillings per acre, but shall not be required to be of a greater value than six hundred and forty pounds.

- (ii) In the case of a non-residential conditional purchase, the purchaser shall, within five years after the confirmation of the application for the conditional purchase, expend a sum not less than one pound per acre upon permanent improvements other than for the boundary fencing:

Provided that where the land board grants permission to substitute other improvements in lieu of fencing, such improvements (including any fencing) of the value of at least thirty shillings per acre shall be made within five years from the date of confirmation of the application for the conditional purchase.

- (iii) The improvements, including any fencing, shall be of a fixed, permanent, and substantial character, and necessary for the beneficial occupation of the land.
- (iv) The area embraced by any original conditional purchase, and any additional conditional purchases made by virtue thereof, and any conditional leases whatsoever granted by virtue of such conditional purchases, may, for all purposes of improvements, be held to be one holding, notwithstanding that one, or more, of such conditional purchases or leases may have been made or granted under the Acts, 1859-1897.

Enclosing of roads or water-courses.

93. (i) Where in any case the unfenced sides of lands, whether held by different persons and under different conditions or not, are separated by a road or water-course, the board (or the chairman pursuant to the provisions of section *twenty-seven* of this Act), on application being made to the chairman in the prescribed form and within the prescribed time, may grant permission for such road or water-course to be wholly or in part inclosed, provided that gates or suitable

suitable substitutes such as the board or chairman may consider necessary and direct, shall be erected or made so as not to unnecessarily interfere with any traffic, or, to any large extent, divert the natural flow of water.

Sec. 14, 52 Vic. No. 7. (II) Any such gate may on application to, and approval of, the Minister who may administer the Public Gates Act be made a public gate within the meaning, and subject to the provisions of that Act. And nothing in the Public Gates Act shall be held to have prevented or to prevent the foregoing provision from having its full effect and operation.

Sec. 14, 52 Vic. No. 7. (III) Upon complaint being made in the prescribed form to the chairman of the local land board, such board may, for any sufficient reason, cancel any permission granted under this section, and may order any fence, gate, or other structure on any road or water-course to be removed by such persons, and within such periods as such board shall determine.

Sec. 14, 52 Vic. No. 7. (IV) Nothing in this section shall exempt the holder of any conditional purchase or conditional lease from being required to make other improvements in lieu of fencing :

Sec. 23, Act 1889. (V) Provided that the Land Board on application as prescribed by the holder of the land may exempt him from making improvements in addition to the fencing erected or to be erected on the land.

Ring-fences.

One or more conditional purchases may be enclosed by ring-fence.
Sec. 17, Act 1889.
Sec. 37, Act 1815.

94. (I) Where conditional purchases (other than non-residential conditional purchases) or conditional leases adjoin so as to form one block, or are separated only by road or creeks, and such conditional purchases or conditional leases are held by members of one family, standing in the relation of parents and children, it shall be lawful for the board (or the chairman, pursuant to the provisions of section *twenty-seven* of this Act), upon a joint application made within the prescribed time and in the prescribed manner by the holders of the land, to exempt such holders from any condition of fencing or improvements in connection therewith further than the erection of a ring-fence of a character to be prescribed by such board or chairman on the external boundaries of the lands so as to enclose them as one holding.

(II) The board or chairman may, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Act, accept any such application, wholly or in part, and the board may disallow any such application, wholly or in part: Provided that such board or chairman shall, in connection with any accepted application, fix the term (and may upon application as prescribed extend the term) within which the fence shall be erected, such term being determined as far as practicable with due regard to the respective dates of commencement of the purchases or leases.

(III) If the ring fence be not erected within the term allowed, each and every purchase or lease shall be liable to forfeiture by notice in the Gazette.

Suspension of conditions.

Suspension of condition in case of illness, drought, flood, or other sufficient cause.
Sec. 24, Act 1889.
37, Act 1895.

95. (I) If the holder of any conditional purchase or conditional lease, applied for before or after the commencement of this Act, is through illness, drought, flood, or other sufficient cause prevented from fulfilling any conditions of residence, fencing or improvements attaching thereto, the board, after inquiry in open Court (or in the case of fencing, the chairman may, pursuant to the provisions of section

section *twenty-seven* of this Act), on application as prescribed, suspend for a specified period not exceeding six months any or all of such conditions, or the Board may refuse the application for suspension.

(II) On the expiration of such specified period the holder shall commence and continue to reside thereon for a period which (when taken with the period during which he may have resided thereon since the date of his obligation to do so) shall complete the full term prescribed by the Act under which the conditional purchase or conditional lease was made, and shall, during the term extended as aforesaid or otherwise, complete any other conditions, subject upon default in either case to forfeiture.

Rent and term of conditional leases.

96. (I) Every conditional lease shall be subject to a provisional rental of twopence per acre, pending determination of the rent in accordance with this Act. Rent and term of conditional leases. Sec. 28, Act 1889.

(II) The rents of all conditional leases applied for after the commencement of this Act shall be paid annually in advance not later than one day prior to a date corresponding to the date of application. And the rents of all conditional leases applied for before the commencement of this Act shall be paid annually in advance before the recurring dates of commencement of such leases. Sec. 12, Act 1889.

(III) Subject to payment of rent and fulfilment of any prescribed conditions, all conditional leases (whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act) shall have a term of twenty-eight years from the respective dates of their commencement; and, subject to the provisions of the next succeeding subsection, the rent of any conditional lease granted before the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to have been, and the rent of any conditional lease granted after the commencement of this Act shall be, determined for the whole term of the lease. Sec. 35, Act 1895. Sec. 29, Act 1889.

(IV) At the expiration of the first period of fifteen years of any such conditional lease the rent of the land may, on the application of the lessee, or on a reference by the Minister, be redetermined in accordance with the provisions of section *forty-four* of this Act.

(V) The Governor may, upon application in the prescribed manner, give, by notification in the Gazette, tenant right in improvements to the last holder of a conditional lease which has before or after the commencement of this Act been forfeited or surrendered, and shall give such tenant right to the last holder of a conditional lease which has expired.

Payment of purchase money.

97. (I) Every holder of a conditional purchase, the application for which shall be made after the commencement of this Act, shall at the end of the third year after the date of his application pay to the land agent an instalment on his purchase and Conditions for payment of residue of purchase money. Secs. 35, Act 1884, 22, Act 1889.

(II) Thereafter shall pay in like manner a like instalment annually during a period until the balance together with interest at the rate of four per centum per annum thereon shall have been paid :

(III) Three months grace shall be allowed for the payment of the first and for each and every instalment, provided that in the case of any moneys not being duly paid the provisions of section *one hundred and two* of this Act shall apply. Sec. 38, Act 1884.

(IV) In the case of a conditional purchase (other than a non-residential conditional purchase or a conditional purchase within a special area), each instalment shall be one shilling per acre, and the balance, after payment of the first instalment, seventeen shillings per acre. Sec. 35, Act 1884.

(V)

Sec. 47, Act 1884.

(v) In the case of a non-residential conditional purchase (if not within a special area) each instalment shall be two shillings per acre, and the balance, after payment of the first instalment, thirty-four shillings per acre.

Secs. 24 and 47,
Act 1886.
Sec. 18, Act 1889.

(vi) In the case of a conditional purchase within a special area, each instalment shall be at such rate as has been or shall be notified in the proclamation of the special area, provided that the instalment in the case of a non-residential conditional purchase shall be double the instalment which would be payable in the case of a residential conditional purchase.

Secs. 35, Act 1884,
and 22, Act 1889.

(vii) After the last payment of such instalments and interest the conditions of payment shall be deemed to have been duly fulfilled :

Sec. 35, Act 1884.
Sec. 22, Act 1889.

98. The conditional purchaser may pay off the whole or any portion of such instalments at any time after a certificate has been granted to him to the effect that all the conditions applicable to the conditional purchase, except payment of balance of instalment, have been duly complied with.

99. Payment of interest and balance of purchase money in respect of conditional purchases applied for before the commencement of this Act shall be paid in accordance with and subject to the provisions of such Acts as may be applicable thereto.

Conversion of
holding under
repealed Act as
regards unpaid
balance.
Sec. 35, Act 1884.

100. Any holder of a conditional purchase made before the first day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, and not brought under the instalment system, may, by writing addressed to the land agent, apply to convert his holding so far as regards the balance unpaid of his purchase money into a holding under the conditions of payment prescribed by this Act.

Reduction in the
rate of interest on
repealed Act con-
ditional purchases.
60 Vic. No. 2, sec. 5.

101. The rate of interest payable on the balance of purchase money for the time being unpaid upon conditional purchases applied for before the first day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, and subject to the provisions of section eight of the Lands Acts Amendment Act, 1875, but not brought under the provisions of section thirty-five of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, shall be reduced to four per centum per annum, such reduction taking effect as from the first day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six.

Provided always that—

- (a) the aforesaid reduction in the rate of interest shall not operate in respect of any interest which may have accrued before the date hereinbefore mentioned for the taking effect thereof in any case ;
- (b) nothing in this section contained shall affect the provisions of section forty-eight of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, or section *one hundred and two* of this Act.

Overdue payments on conditional purchases or conditional leases.

Overdue moneys to
bear interest accruing
day by day.
Sec. 49, Act 1895.

102. Any sums which shall become payable to the Crown as purchase money or interest, or rent, or otherwise (in connection with any conditional purchase or conditional lease applied for before or after the commencement of this Act) shall from and after the due date for the payment thereof bear interest at the rate of ten per centum per annum, and such interest shall be considered as accruing due day by day. Nothing in this section contained shall be construed so as to prevent or to compel the enforcement of any forfeiture, or the acceptance of any overdue sums together with interest as aforesaid, and the acceptance by or on behalf of the Crown of any purchase money or part thereof in respect of any conditional purchase or of interest

Sec. 126, Act 1884.

interest or rent or other payment under any lease, shall not be held to operate as a waiver by the Crown of any forfeiture accruing by reason of the breach of any condition annexed by law to the estate or interest of a conditional purchaser or of a lessee.

Reduction of payments.

103. Subject to the provisions hereinafter contained, the Minister may reduce the rate of one shilling per acre per annum payable in respect of a conditional purchase (whether applied for before or after the commencement of this Act) to ninepence per acre per annum, or (if the case so admit) to sixpence per acre per annum, and where the rate shall have been reduced under this Act (or the Act sixtieth Victoria number two) to ninepence per acre per annum, may further reduce the rate to sixpence per acre per annum; and in any such case any annual payments in respect of the said conditional purchase accruing due after the date fixed for the operation of the reduction may be made at the reduced rate as determined by the Minister.

Reduction of annual payments on conditional purchases.
60 Vic. No. 2, s. 2.

The rate of annual payments in respect of a conditional purchase within a special area (whether the value of such conditional purchase has been determined by appraisal or not) may, subject to the provisions hereinafter contained, be reduced to three-fourths or one-half of the rate payable previous to the first reduction under this Act, or the Act sixtieth Victoria number two:

The like within special areas.

Provided always that the Minister shall in every such case so determine the rate that the annual payments, as reduced, will extinguish the balance of purchase money, together with the interest thereon within the period of sixty-six years from the date when the instalment of purchase money first succeeding the deposit became due.

104. Before any reduction is made by the Minister in respect of any conditional purchase, an application for such reduction shall be made in the prescribed manner by the holder of the conditional purchase, or if the same is held by way of mortgage, then by the person who holds subject to the mortgage, and shall be accompanied by a declaration and fee as prescribed;

Conditions precedent to a reduction.
60 Vic. No. 2, s. 3.

And a reduction shall not be made to any applicant whose home and place of abode is not established on a holding of which the conditional purchase in respect of which the reduction is applied for forms part.

A holding for the purposes of this section shall mean a continuous block, or portions separated by roads or watercourses, and may include land held in fee simple and conditional purchases or conditional leases of the same or different series.

Provided that the conditional purchases (included in such holding) in respect to which the reduction may be made shall not exceed an area of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres in the Eastern Division, or two thousand five hundred and sixty acres in the Central or Western Division:

Provided that nothing herein shall prevent the Minister from making a reduction (subject to such conditions as he may deem expedient) in any case where he is satisfied that the applicant, although not resident as hereinbefore required, holds the land *bonâ fide* for his sole use and benefit, and is not in a position to pay the instalments at the original rate, and is not the holder under any tenure of a greater total area in this Colony than is necessary for the maintenance of a family, such total area not exceeding in any case one thousand two hundred and eighty acres in the Eastern Division, or two thousand five hundred and sixty acres in the Central or Western Divisions:

Provided further that this reduction under the last proviso shall not run with the land, but shall attach only as a concession to the applicant personally.

Reductions may be cancelled in certain events.

60 Vic. No. 2, sec. 4.

105. In any case where the Minister is satisfied, with or without a report from the Local Land Board, that the holder for the time being of the conditional purchase, in respect of which a reduction has been granted under this Act or the Act sixtieth Victoria number two (or, if the same is held by way of mortgage, then that the person who holds, subject to the mortgage) has ceased to keep his home and place of abode thereon, or that the declaration accompanying the application for the reduction contains any false statement, the Minister may direct that payments at the rate obtaining previous to any reduction shall be resumed; and in any such case payments at the said rate shall be resumed from and after such date as the Minister may specify for that purpose.

Suspension of payment of instalments upon conditional purchases.

Suspension of payment of instalments.

Sec. 28, Act 1895.

106. (i) The holder of a conditional purchase (whether applied for before or after the commencement of this Act), may, in case of temporary inability to pay the instalments of purchase money thereon as they fall due, apply to the Minister in the prescribed manner that the condition of payment attaching thereto may be suspended; and the Minister may, either with or without reference to the local land board, upon the conditional purchaser paying the prescribed fee to cover expenses incurred by the Crown in consequence of the aforesaid application, suspend the said condition for one year under any one suspension.

(ii) During the period of any such suspension, interest on the balance of purchase money, calculated at the rate of four per centum per annum, shall be added to the balance of the purchase money owing, unless the conditional purchaser pays such interest on the date at which an instalment of purchase money would otherwise be payable.

(iii) The Minister shall not grant suspension of the condition of payment unless he is satisfied that the holder of the said conditional purchase, or if the same has been transferred by way of mortgage, that the owner thereof subject to such mortgage, is in residence upon the said conditional purchase, or upon some purchase or lease of the same series, and is the holder or owner thereof (as the case may be), *bond fide* for his sole use and benefit.

(iv) Suspension of the condition of payment shall be deemed to be determined:—

- (a) Upon the conditional purchase being transferred; or
- (b) Upon the holder or owner ceasing to reside upon the series;

or

- (c) Upon an instalment of the purchase money being paid.

(v) Upon the expiration of the period of suspension, payment of instalments, as prescribed by the Acts 1875–1897 or this Act, as the case may be, shall be resumed, and no sums paid by way of interest as aforesaid shall be taken to form part of the balance of purchase money.

Certificate of fulfilment of conditions of a conditional purchase.

Certificates of conformity.

Conditional purchases under Acts 1884–1889.

Sec. 36, Act 1884.

107. (i) With respect to a residential conditional purchase applied for under the Acts 1884–1889, the local land board shall if such board after due inquiry at the expiration of the term of residence prescribed by such Acts is satisfied that all conditions applicable to such conditional purchase except payment of the balance of instalments of purchase money have been duly complied with issue a certificate to that effect.

(ii)

(II) And a like certificate may be granted by such board upon the application of the holder of any additional conditional purchase made before the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or any additional conditional purchase made out of a conditional lease applied for before the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, so soon as such board is satisfied after due inquiry that all conditions applicable thereto except payment of the balance of instalments have been duly complied with, and notwithstanding that five years from the date of confirmation of the application for such additional conditional purchase may not have expired.

108. (I) With respect to original residential conditional purchases applied for after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this Act, the local land board shall hold inquiries after the expiration of five and ten years from the date of the application, whether all conditions applicable to the conditional purchase except payment of the balance of instalments have so far been duly complied with, and if the board be satisfied of such compliance it shall issue certificates to that effect; and such certificates shall be designated the first and second certificates respectively.

(II) And like certificates may be granted by such board in respect of any additional conditional purchases applied for after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this Act when such board is satisfied after due inquiry that all conditions applicable thereto except payment of the balance of instalments have been duly complied with:

(III) Provided that the board may issue a final (and if necessary dispense with the first) certificate before the expiration of ten years from the date of application for any such additional conditional purchase if the condition of residence attaching to such additional conditional purchase has been fulfilled before the expiration of such ten years.

109. The local land board may, on the production to such board, by the holder of a non-residential conditional purchase (whether applied for before or after the commencement of this Act) of evidence satisfactory to such board that all conditions (except payment of the balance of instalments) applicable to such conditional purchase have been duly fulfilled, grant to him a certificate to that effect, notwithstanding that such conditions have been fulfilled within five years from the date of confirmation of the application for such conditional purchase.

110. Any certificate issued under the Acts 1884-1897 or under this Act shall be transferable subject to the prescribed conditions, and when it is a certificate that all conditions applicable to the conditional purchase have been fulfilled shall be *prima facie* evidence of the title of the holder thereof to the land therein described subject to the fulfilment of the prescribed conditions of payment.

111. No certificate shall be issued by the board before the expiration of thirty days from the date of publication in the Gazette of notice of its intention to issue the same within which period any person may lodge in the prescribed form and manner a caveat against such issue, and every such caveat shall be disposed of by the board before issuing such certificate in manner provided in section *seventy-four* of this Act for dealing with caveats:

112. Upon satisfactory proof being adduced that an original certificate issued has been lost or destroyed, the board may after the prescribed notice in the Gazette and in the prescribed manner, issue to the person entitled thereto a fresh certificate.

Certificate necessary before grant.
Sec. 37, Act 1884.
Sec. 29, Act 1895.

113. Subject to (and not before) the issue—
- (a) in respect of cases under sections *one hundred and seven* and *one hundred and nine* of this Act, of a certificate of fulfilment of conditions;
 - (b) in respect of cases under section *one hundred and eight* of this Act, of the second or a final certificate of fulfilment of conditions;

and upon payment of the balance of instalments, stamp duty, and deed fee, a grant in fee simple of the land shall be issued upon application.

Conditions attach on devolution of purchase.

Applicability of conditions to representatives of conditional purchasers.
Sec. 40, Act 1884.

114. The conditions and obligations imposed by, and all other the provisions relating to, conditional purchasers contained in this Act shall be equally applicable and attach to persons deriving title through or under such conditional purchasers, and to all persons upon whom title shall devolve or be cast by operation of law; but this section shall be read subject to the provisions contained in sections *eighty-three*, *one hundred and fifteen*, and *one hundred and twenty-nine* of this Act relative to cases of death, lunacy, insolvency, or judgment debt of a conditional purchaser.

Cases of death or lunacy of conditional purchaser.
Sec. 125, Act 1884.

115. If any conditional purchaser shall die or be declared a lunatic before the fulfilment of the prescribed conditions of residence and fencing his conditional purchase may, together with any conditional lease or right of conditional lease attached thereto (if any), be held by his representatives or their assigns, subject to the fulfilment by them of all unfulfilled conditions, except the condition of residence, but in trust for and for the benefit of the persons rightfully entitled, provided that in respect of any conditional purchase applied for after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this Act the condition of residence shall, in accordance with subsection (b) of section *eighty-three* of this Act, be suspended until the land has been transferred or conveyed, and no longer.

Sec. 29, Act 1895.

DIVISION IX.—Forfeitures.

Forfeiture for breach of conditions.

Forfeiture for non-fulfilment of conditions of fencing and residence or improvements.
Sec. 39, Act 1884.

116. If the local land board or the land appeal court shall, in the case of any conditional purchase or conditional lease applied for under the Acts 1884-1897 or under this Act, report to the Minister that after due inquiry held by such board or court the conditions of residence or fencing or improvements attached to such conditional purchase or conditional lease have not in the opinion of such board or court been, or are not being, duly fulfilled by any conditional purchaser or lessee or his representatives, such Minister may declare the conditional purchase or lease to be forfeited, and any payment made in respect of such purchase or lease shall in such case be forfeited to Her Majesty.

Forfeiture for want of good faith.

Forfeiture for want of good faith.
Sec. 43, Act 1895.

117. (1) In any case where an application for a conditional purchase or conditional lease has been confirmed, after the first day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this Act, and it appears to the satisfaction of the local land board—

- (a) that the application was not made in good faith; or
- (b) that the land is not held or used for the exclusive benefit of the purchaser, lessee, or apparent owner thereof,

the Governor shall have power to forfeit, by notification in the Gazette, the purchase, or lease in question, together with all moneys paid thereon.

(11)

(11) Nothing in this section contained shall affect any person acquiring any interest in a conditional purchase or conditional lease after the same becomes capable of being transferred, unless he has, before acquiring such interest, had notice of a violation of the provisions of section *sixty-three* of this Act, or of section forty-two of the Crown Lands Act, 1895, as the case may be, or of the intention to institute an inquiry as to such violation.

Not to apply to transferee without notice.

Forfeiture for false statements.

118. If it be proved by inquiry before the local land board that any statement in writing or any statutory declaration or evidence on oath has been made or given for the purpose of misleading any officer, authority, or person in the exercise of his duty or office under this Act, or under the Acts 1884-1897, or that any such statement, declaration, or evidence wilfully misrepresents facts, or that any fraudulent attempt has been made to prove that the conditions of this Act or the Acts 1884-1897 have been complied with, then and in any such case the Minister may declare any conditional purchase or leasehold in connection with which such statement, declaration, or evidence was made or given to be forfeited, together with all moneys paid on account of or in connection with such conditional purchase or lease: Provided that no forfeiture shall be held to affect any transferee unless declared within twelve months after the local board has issued a certificate in accordance with the provisions of this Act or the Acts 1884-1897 that the conditions attaching to such conditional purchase have been fulfilled.

Liability to forfeiture for misleading statement, &c.
Sec. 135, Act 1884.

Forfeiture for non-payment.

119. In default of payment of any instalment or interest (in respect of any conditional purchase applied for under this Act or the Acts 1859-1897) within the period allowed for payment, the conditional purchase may be declared by the Minister to be forfeited, and upon such declaration being published in the Gazette, the conditionally purchased land in respect of which such payment is due shall revert to Her Majesty and become Crown lands for the purposes of this Act, and any payment made in respect of such purchase shall in such case be forfeited to Her Majesty.

Forfeiture on default of payments on conditional purchase.
Sec. 38, Act 1884.

120. In default of payment of any rent on any conditional lease, applied for before or after the commencement of this Act, on the day when such payment shall have fallen due, the conditional lease may be declared by the Minister to be forfeited, and upon such declaration being published in the Gazette, the conditional lease in respect of which such payment is due shall become forfeited.

Forfeiture on default of payment on conditional lease.
Sec. 96, Act 1884.

Operation of forfeiture.—When forfeiture takes effect.

121. Every forfeiture of land conditionally purchased, whether under this Act or the Acts 1859-1897, shall be deemed to operate as a forfeiture of all additional conditional purchases held in virtue of such first-mentioned lands as well as of all conditional leases or rights attached to the lands so forfeited, and whenever any land is so forfeited such land shall become Crown land and may be dealt with as such; but no forfeiture of any conditional purchase or conditional lease shall take effect until the expiration of thirty clear days after notification of such forfeiture in the Gazette.

Forfeited lands.
Sec. 136, Act 1884.

DIVISION X.—Transfers of conditional purchases and conditional leases.

Transfers to be in prescribed form.
Sec. 117, Act 1884.

122. All transfers of conditional purchases shall be notified to the land agent in such form as may be prescribed.

Notice of liability to forfeiture or avoidance.
Sec. 43, Act 1895.

123. Any person who, before the issue of a certificate of conformity in respect of a conditional purchase, whether made before or after the commencement of this Act, takes a transfer or conveyance thereof, or of any interest therein, shall be held to have taken the same with notice and knowledge of all facts and matters by reason of which such conditional purchase may be liable to be forfeited or declared void.

Transfers of original purchases.
Sec. 29, Act 1895.

124. An original conditional purchase applied for after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this Act, may be transferred at any time after, and shall not be transferred before, the issue of a certificate by the local land board, after the expiration of five years from the date of application for such purchase, that all conditions applicable to the conditional purchase, except payment of balance of instalments, have so far been duly complied with.

Original and additional purchases.
Sec. 117, Act 1884.
Sec. 29, Act 1895.

125. Original conditional purchases, together with any additional conditional purchases made in virtue thereof, may be transferred in the prescribed manner—

(a) (when the original conditional purchase in virtue of which such additional conditional purchases were made was applied for before the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five) on completion of the residence required on such original conditional purchase ;

(b) (when the original conditional purchase in virtue of which such additional conditional purchases were made was applied for after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this Act) after the issue of the certificate mentioned in the previous section :

Provided that original conditional purchases and additional conditional purchases made in virtue thereof shall not be transferred separately until all the conditions applicable to the whole area, except that of payment of balance of purchase money or of instalments thereof, have been duly fulfilled.

Non-residential purchases.
Sec. 47, Act 1884.

126. The estate or interest of a non-residential conditional purchaser shall be incapable of being transferred, alienated, mortgaged, encumbered, or pledged until after the issue of the certificate of conformity by the local land board, but subject to the payment of instalments due on the land purchased may devolve or be transferred by operation of law.

Conditional leases.
Sec. 118, Act 1884.

127. The holder of a conditional lease may transfer his right of ease in the prescribed manner ; but a conditional lease shall not be transferred except with the land in virtue of which it was granted.

Effect in law of transfer.
Sec. 119, Act 1884.

128. Every transfer of land conditionally purchased, if made by a person not under legal disability, shall, subject to the provisions and conditions of this Act, be deemed to pass to the transferee the whole estate and interest, whether at law or in equity, of the transferor of such land as effectually to all intents and purposes as if a conveyance or assignment under seal of such estate and interest to such transferee had been duly executed by such transferor ; but this enactment shall be subject to the conditions following, namely :—

(i) The equities of all persons claiming any estate or interest in any such land by matter prior to the date of execution of any such transfer shall not be affected by this section, but shall be capable of assertion and enforcement as if this Act had not been passed.

(ii)

- (II) No transfer shall have the effect hereinbefore expressed, unless such transfer has been made, executed, and lodged in accordance with the regulations.
- (III) No such transfer shall prejudice or affect any conveyance or assignment, or any other assurance under seal relating to land conditionally purchased, if such conveyance, assignment, or assurance shall have been previously registered, as by law required, in the office of the general registry of deeds in Sydney.

129. Any sale, transfer, or other disposition whatsoever of the estate, right, title, or interest of any conditional purchaser by an official assignee or other lawful authority upon the insolvency of such purchaser, or by a Sheriff or Registrar of a District Court, or any other person by virtue of or under the authority of any writ of execution or other process of any Court, or by the trustees of any deed of assignment for the benefit of creditors, or by any person under any decree or order of any Court shall pass to a purchaser or to any other person only such estate, right, title, or interest as the conditional purchaser himself was entitled to at the date of sequestration, writ, process, decree, order, or assignment respectively, and subject to all conditions remaining unfulfilled at such date.

Cases of insolvency
or judgment debt.
Sec. 125, Act 1884.

130. The effect given to duly registered deeds and instruments affecting lands, hereditaments, and other property by the eleventh section of the Registration Act, seventh Victoria number sixteen, shall be deemed to be annexed and to be incident to all transfers within the meaning of this Act, if duly registered under the said Registration Act, after the prescribed registration or record thereof in the books of the Department of Lands shall have been duly effected.

Priority.
Sec. 120, Act 1881.

DIVISION XI.—Subdivision of Conditional Purchases.

131. Any conditional purchase (whether made before or after the commencement of this Act) of not less than one hundred acres may, upon application by the holder at any time after the issue of a certificate of conformity in respect thereof, be subdivided into portions which shall in no case be less than forty acres each.

Subdivision of
conditional
purchases.
Sec. 34, Act 1895

The application shall be accompanied by the prescribed deposit which shall be available for the payment of the costs of any survey and report which may be required; and the applicant shall surrender such land as may be necessary for providing roads of access to the subdivided portions, which land shall thereupon become Crown land free from any claim of the conditional purchaser thereto.

The local land board shall settle the line or lines of subdivision so as to conform to any regulations which may be made in that behalf, and shall determine the portion of the subdivided conditional purchase, to which any conditional lease acquired in virtue of the conditional purchase before the subdivision thereof shall be attached, but so that the conditional lease shall be attached to such portion thereof as the applicant proposes not to transfer.

After subdivision the balance of purchase money payable in respect of any portion of the subdivided conditional purchase may be paid up and a grant thereof issued, as if such portion were a separate conditional purchase.

No portion measured off in any such subdivision as aforesaid shall be capable of being separated by transfer, devolution, or otherwise from the residue of such portions, until a grant of such first-mentioned portion has been issued.

DIVISION

DIVISION XII.—Conversion of conditional purchases into mining conditional purchases.

Conversion of certain conditional purchases into mining conditional purchases.
Sec. 7, Act 1884.

132. The right of any holder of a conditional purchase made under sections thirteen, twenty-one, or twenty-two of the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861" to convert such purchase into a conditional purchase for mining purposes, in accordance with any regulations in force for the time being made under the said Act, may be exercised subject to the terms and conditions contained in such regulations as if this Act or the Acts, 1884–1897, had not been passed.

51 Vic. No. 29.

And all regulations made prior to the commencement of this Act, purporting to authorise such conversion, shall be deemed to have had the force of law, and any conversion effected or sanctioned in pursuance, or purporting to be in pursuance thereof, or any conversion approved or permitted by any Secretary for Lands or other person on his behalf, shall be deemed to have been and to be valid.

DIVISION XIII.—Conversion of conditional purchases and leases into homestead selections.

Conversion of conditional purchases and leases into homestead selections.
Section 6, Conditional Purchasers' Relief Act.

133. Any conditional purchase, together with any conditional lease held by virtue thereof, or any conditional purchases or conditional purchases and conditional leases (whether of the same or different series, and although including more than one block) held by the same person (whether such conditional purchases or leases were applied for wholly or partly before or after the commencement of this Act), may be converted into a homestead selection, subject to the general provisions of this Act in that behalf, and to the following provisions:—

- (a) Application for conversion shall be made to the Minister in the prescribed form, and the conversion shall be subject to the approval of the Minister.
- (b) If the land included in the application is the subject of any mortgage or charge, an application by the mortgagor shall not be valid without the consent in writing of the person having the mortgage or charge.
- (c) The applicant shall be at the date of application, and shall have been for at least six months preceding that date in bonâ fide residence, within the meaning of section *eighty-two* of this Act, on the land included in his application.
- (d) No conditional purchase or conditional lease in respect of which a liability to forfeiture has been incurred shall be converted into a homestead selection while that liability to forfeiture continues.
- (e) It shall be immaterial whether the land was wholly or in part applied for before, or shall be applied for after, the commencement of this Act, or whether in the case of a conditional purchase a certificate of due compliance with the conditions applicable has or has not been issued: Provided that no purchase or lease applied for after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, or after the commencement of this Act, shall be converted into a homestead selection unless or until the application for such purchase or lease has been confirmed.
- (f) An application for conversion shall not be approved unless payment has been made for such improvements on the land as are by any enactment directed to be paid for.

(g)

- (g) The fact that the area may exceed one thousand two hundred and eighty acres shall not be a bar to conversion, provided that the area does not exceed one thousand two hundred and eighty acres in the Eastern or two thousand five hundred and sixty acres in any other Division, unless the Minister (who may refer to the local land board for report) is satisfied that a larger area is necessary for the maintenance of a family.
- (h) After approval of conversion, the Governor may issue a homestead grant of the land.
- (i) All moneys paid as interest on land held under conditional purchase, or as rent on land held under conditional lease, shall be taken to have been paid for the occupation or use of the land while the land was held under conditional purchase or conditional lease; but all moneys paid by way of purchase money on land held under conditional purchase, and not applied, as in the next subsection mentioned, towards the payment of interest as aforesaid, shall be credited towards the rent of the homestead selection.
- (j) In respect of any conditional purchase converted into a homestead selection, interest on the balance of purchase money owing on such conditional purchase shall be paid up to the date of the issue of the homestead grant, but may be taken (wholly or in part) out of any moneys paid by way of purchase money as aforesaid.
- (k) Notwithstanding anything in section *one hundred and fifty-three* of this Act, the Governor shall have power from time to time to waive the condition of residence attaching to any homestead selection converted into such under the provisions of this Act in any case where the land was, on the fourteenth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six, held *bonâ fide* by way of mortgage or security: Provided that no one waiver shall operate over a longer period than one year, and during the period of waiver the annual rent shall be three-and-a-half instead of two-and-a-half per centum per annum of the capital value of the land.
- (l) Upon the forfeiture to the Crown of any land held under a homestead grant issued under the provisions of this section in any case where at the date of application for conversion the land was held by way of mortgage or security, the Governor may, for any reason which he may deem sufficient, grant tenant right in the improvements on such land to the last holder of the mortgage or security.

134. (I) The annual rent of the homestead selection from the date of issue of the grant shall be two and one-half per centum of the capital value of the homestead selection. Rent of homestead selections.
60 Vic. No. 2, s. 7.

(II) Such capital value for the first ten years period, which shall commence from the date of issue of the grant shall be taken to be—

- (a) in the case of a conditional purchase (whether a residential or a non-residential conditional purchase) not being within a special area, one pound per acre;
- (b) in the case of a conditional purchase within a special area, at the price of the conditional purchase;
- (c) in the case of a conditional lease, the sum represented by capitalising the annual rent of the lease on a two-and-a-half per centum basis;

or, if the applicant make request in his application for an appraisalment, or at the direction of the Minister, the capital value of the whole land included

included in the application shall be determined by appraisement; and any such appraisement shall, so far as procedure is concerned, be subject to the provisions of section *forty-four* of this Act:

Provided that no appraisement shall be made of land which has been appraised within the previous two years.

PART III.

HOMESTEAD SELECTIONS.

Homestead Selection Areas.

Homestead selection
areas.
Sec. 13, Act 1895.

135. The Governor may, subject to the provisions of and under the power conferred by section *forty-six* of this Act, set apart any tract of Crown lands for disposal by way of homestead selection.

Any tract which has been so set apart (or any tract set apart under the Crown Lands Act of 1895 for disposal by way of homestead selection, and not already dealt with as required by that Act) shall be dealt with as follows:—

(I) A subdivision shall be made thereof into blocks, no one of which shall be more than one thousand two hundred and eighty acres in area, and the standard to be adopted in regulating the area of each such block shall be that the selector thereof may, by agriculture or by agriculture combined with any other ordinary pursuits, be enabled to establish and maintain his home thereon.

Any subdivision, whether made before or after any notification under this Act, may be taken to be a subdivision within the meaning of this section, and one or more measured portions may by notification under this section constitute a block.

(II) A valuation of the said blocks shall be made according to the capabilities and situation of the land, and in making such valuation due regard shall be paid to the tenure of the holding and to the intention of these provisions that the selector may be enabled to establish and maintain his home thereon.

(III) The value to an incoming tenant of any improvements on any such block may be appraised by the Minister after inquiry and report by the local land board in the prescribed manner, and such appraisement shall, as between the Crown or the owner of the improvements, as the case may be, and any person selecting the said block, be conclusive evidence of the value of the improvements at the date of the appraisement.

(IV) A notification by the Minister shall be published in the Gazette, and in a local newspaper, giving particulars of the said blocks and of their respective areas and values, and of appraised value of any improvements thereon, and specifying a date on and after which the said blocks shall be available for selection.

The value and area specified in the said notification, in respect of any block, shall be taken to be the capital value and area thereof for all purposes of the rent hereinafter provided.

- (v) The Minister may also notify that special conditions as to drainage, irrigation, the clearing, cutting, preservation, or planting of timber, or such other matters as require to be regulated in the public interest, will be made conditions of a homestead selection of any such block, and will be inserted in the grant of any such block when issued.

Any such notification under this or the preceding subsection or subsection (iv) or (v) of section thirteen of the Crown Lands Act of 1895 may be corrected, amended, modified, or revoked by notice in the Gazette.

- (vi) The setting apart of any tract of Crown lands for disposal by way of homestead selection and the notification required by this section may, whenever it is deemed expedient, be effectuated by one and the same notification in the Gazette, and in any such case any preliminary notification shall be deemed to have been unnecessary.

Disqualifications.

136. Every person shall be disqualified from being an applicant for a homestead selection if—

- (a) such person is under the age of sixteen years; or
 (b) such person is a married woman not living apart from her husband under a decree for judicial separation; or
 (c) such person is subject to any legal disability other than non-age or coverture, or to any disqualification specially mentioned in this Act.

Married women
 minors.
 Sec. 14, Act 1895.

Limitation as to number of holdings.

137. No person who, on or after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, has applied, or who after the commencement of this Act applies, for a homestead selection, and has obtained or obtains a title thereto in pursuance of such application shall be qualified to apply for another homestead selection; and no person who, on or after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, has applied, or who after the commencement of this Act applies for an original conditional purchase, or a settlement lease, or an original homestead lease, and has obtained or obtains a title thereto in pursuance of such application, shall be qualified to apply for a homestead selection unless he has previously obtained a certificate as prescribed that he was compelled by adverse circumstances to abandon or to surrender the holding first applied for, or unless (notwithstanding the non-obtaining of such certificate) he has previously obtained the written approval of the Minister to apply for a homestead selection.

The privilege of
 selecting, &c., when
 exhausted.
 Sec. 40, Act 1895.

For the purposes of this section title in pursuance of an application shall be taken to have been obtained—in the case of a homestead selection, settlement lease, and original conditional purchase—when the application has been confirmed by the local land board, and in the case of a homestead lease when the approval of the issue of the lease has been notified in the Gazette, and a valid notice of non-acceptance has not been duly given:

Provided that if the holding first applied for were a settlement lease or an original homestead lease, the disqualification enacted by this section shall cease to operate upon the expiration of the term of the lease by effluxion of time, or if the lease has been forfeited, surrendered, or otherwise sooner determined, then upon the expiration of the period which the term of the lease would have had to run, but for such forfeiture, surrender, or other sooner determination.

Limitation

Limitation as to area.

Disqualifications by reason of area already held.

Sec. 41, Act 1895.

138. No person shall be competent to apply for a homestead selection who—

- (a) owns at the date of application ; or
- (b) owned at any time previous to the date of application, and fraudulently divested himself of the ownership thereof by transfer, conveyance, assignment, or otherwise, or purported so to do, in order to evade the foregoing provision, an area of land granted in fee simple, or conditionally purchased, or conditionally leased from the Crown, which area, added to the area of the homestead selection applied for, exceeds as a total area the maximum area permitted by law to a homestead selection.

Persons not natural born or not naturalised.

Persons not natural-born or naturalised.

Sec. 41, Act 1895.

139. A person who is not a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty shall not be qualified to apply for a homestead selection unless he has resided in New South Wales for one year, and at the time of making such application has lodged a declaration of his intention to become naturalised within five years from the time of making such declaration.

If such person shall fail to become so naturalised within the period aforesaid, he shall absolutely forfeit all land the subject of his application, together with all the improvements thereon.

Rights and liabilities of minors.

Minor may enter into certain agreements.

Sec. 123, Act 1884 ;
22, Act 1895.

140. Any person between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one years who, after the commencement of this Act, becomes the owner of a homestead selection, and during his ownership either personally or by an agent enters into any agreement for or in relation to the performance of any work or rendering of any services on such homestead selection, or in relation thereto, or to the loan of money or the sale or purchase of goods and chattels of any description whatsoever, or in like manner enters into any agreement connected with the occupation, management, or general purposes of such homestead selection, not being in violation of the provisions of this Act, shall be subject to the same liabilities and have the same rights in respect of such agreement as if he were of the full age of twenty-one years.

The provisions of this section shall apply until the grant of the homestead selection.

Certain contracts void.

Devise, contract, lease, or security void in certain cases.

Sec. 121, Act 1884 ;
22, Act 1895.

141. Every devise, contract, lease, agreement, or security made, entered into, or given before, at, or after the date of any application to make a homestead selection, with the intent or having the effect of enabling any person other than the applicant to acquire by purchase or otherwise the land applied for, shall be illegal and absolutely void both at law and in equity.

The provisions of this section shall apply until the grant of the homestead selection.

Good faith in applicants.

Good faith in applicants.

Sec. 42, Act 1895.

142. Every application for a homestead selection is hereby required to be made in good faith ; and an application shall be taken to be made in good faith when the sole object of the applicant in making the application is to obtain the land in order that he may hold and use the land for his own exclusive benefit according to law.

Applications

Applications for Homestead Selections.

143. (I) On and after the date specified in any notification under section thirteen of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, or section *one hundred and thirty-five* of this Act as the case may be, any person, who is not disqualified, may apply for any block so notified as a homestead selection.

Application and confirmation.
Sec. 14, Act 1895.

(II) The application shall be made and lodged in the prescribed manner, and shall be accompanied by a half year's rent in advance and a survey fee according to the prescribed scale; or if the applicant desires to defer the payment of the survey fee, then by one-third of the total amount thereof.

(III) The applicant for a homestead selection shall, upon the day appointed, satisfy the local land board that he or she is qualified, and that the application has been made in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(IV) The local land board shall confirm the application if so satisfied, unless it permits the applicant to withdraw the same. The local land board shall disallow any application if not so satisfied.

(V) The local land board shall disallow an application for a homestead selection unless it be satisfied that the application is made in good faith, as defined in section one hundred and forty-two of this Act.

Land board may disallow application.

(VI) In any case where the local land board is satisfied that an application as aforesaid has been made otherwise than in good faith, it shall have power to declare that any moneys lodged with such application shall be forfeited to the Crown, and the same shall be forfeited accordingly.

(VII) Every application as aforesaid pending at the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to be within the provisions of this section.

Application pending.

Commencement of title.

144. The title to any homestead selection applied for after the commencement of this Act shall commence from the date of application therefor, if valid, and any such application shall withdraw such of the land therein described as may be available for the purpose from any annual lease or occupation license under which it may be held:

Commencement of title of homestead selections.
59 Vic. No. 26.

Provided that the land agent shall, within one week of the receipt of any such application, notify the same through the post to the holder of any annual lease or occupation license within which the land applied for, or any part thereof, may be situated.

145. Except as against the Crown, any land applied for as a homestead selection after the commencement of this Act, and for which the application is valid, shall be deemed to be land contracted to be granted, and, except as aforesaid, the receipt of the said application shall (if such application is valid) be deemed to be a sale of the said land.

Sec. 22, Act 1895.

Trespass and Impounding on Homestead Selections.

146. No person occupying land under a homestead selection shall—

Trespass by stock on unfenced lands.
Sec. 55, Act 1895.

(a) bring an action for trespass committed by stock upon the said land, whether before or after the commencement of this Act;

or

(b) impound any stock trespassing upon the said land, unless the said land or the portion thereof trespassed upon was, at the date of the trespass, enclosed with a fence reasonably sufficient to keep out stock:

Provided always that nothing in this section contained shall apply to any trespass wilfully caused, or refer to any homestead selection for which a grant has been issued at the date of such trespass.

Conditions

Conditions precedent to the right to a grant.

Conditions to be performed.

Sec. 15, Act 1895.

Sec. 60, Act 1895.

147. The applicant for any homestead selection shall perform, to the satisfaction of the local land board, the following conditions, which shall be taken to be conditions precedent to the right to a grant:—

- (a) He shall within the prescribed time pay the balance (if any) of survey fee; and
- (b) He shall pay the value of the improvements as appraised, and interest on such value at the rate of four per centum per annum, the payment being made in four equal yearly instalments, at the dates and in the manner prescribed; and
- (c) He shall, within three months after the confirmation of his application, commence to live upon the homestead selection, and shall continue to have his home and place of abode there until the issue of the grant: Provided that if the applicant die or be declared a lunatic, this condition may be performed by any member of his family or any other person to be approved by the local land board.

The local land board shall have power to grant leave to the applicant to cease living upon the selection for such necessary causes as may be prescribed, and for such period as may be determined; and

- (d) He shall within eighteen months after the confirmation of his application erect upon the homestead selection and thereafter maintain a dwelling house of not less than twenty pounds in value; and
- (e) He shall at the prescribed date or dates pay an annual rent which, in the case of any application made after the commencement of this Act, shall be computed from the date of application and shall amount to one and a quarter per centum of the capital value of the block; the said rent shall be paid in two equal half-yearly instalments in advance; and
- (f) He shall perform and observe the special conditions (if any) which have been notified by the Minister in the Gazette.

Residence by deputy before grant.

Homestead selections with residence by deputy before grant.
Sec. 18, Act 1895.

148. In any case where the applicant for a homestead selection is debarred by his calling from living on the selection, the condition precedent may, until issue of a grant, be performed by a deputy, to be approved by the local land board; but in every such case—

- (a) The application shall be expressed to be made under the provisions of this section, and the full amount of survey fee shall be paid therewith; and the applicant shall, before his application is confirmed, satisfy the local land board that his calling prevents him living on the selection, and that he ultimately intends to establish his home thereon; and
- (b) A deputy to be approved by the local land board shall perform the condition of living on the selection; and
- (c) The annual rent, until issue of the grant, shall be three and one half per centum of the capital value; and
- (d) The dwelling house to be erected and maintained shall be not less than forty pounds in value; and
- (e) The applicant shall, within three years after the confirmation of the application, have not less than one-tenth of the area of the homestead selection in full tillage, and shall during the fourth and fifth years after the confirmation have one-fifth of such area in full tillage, to the satisfaction of the local land board.

Save

Save as aforesaid, all provisions as to homestead selections shall apply to a homestead selection under this section, and the grant thereof when issued shall be in the same terms as the grant of a homestead selection in other cases: Provided always that a conflicting application from a person intending to personally perform the obligation of residence shall in all cases have priority over any application under this section lodged at the same time.

Residence in hamlet or village.

149. If a number of homestead selectors, embracing at least twenty families, with a view to greater convenience in the establishment of schools and churches, and to the attainment of social advantages of like character, ask to be allowed to settle together in a hamlet or village adjacent to their selections, the Governor may, in his discretion, vary or dispense with the requirements as to residence upon the homestead selection and substitute residence in such hamlet or village, subject to such conditions as he may prescribe.

Dispensation of requirements of residence in certain cases.
Sec. 19, Act 1895.

Inquiry by Land Board.

150. The local land board may at any time inquire as to the performance of any condition attached to a homestead selection (whether the application for such homestead selection was made before or is made after the commencement of this Act); and at the expiration of five years from the confirmation of such application the local land board shall hold an inquiry whether the applicant has, up to the date of the inquiry, duly performed all conditions precedent to the right to a grant.

Local land board to be satisfied of performance.
Sec. 16, Act 1895.

If, upon the final inquiry, the applicant satisfies the local land board that he has, up to the date of the inquiry, duly performed all the said conditions, it shall issue to him a certificate to that effect.

Homestead Grants.

151. The Governor shall issue a grant (to be termed a homestead grant) of the homestead selection (whether applied for before or after the commencement of this Act) to an applicant who has duly obtained a certificate from the local land board; and the Governor may, upon the expiration of five years from the date of the confirmation of the application, issue a grant to an applicant who has failed to obtain the said certificate in any case where the local land board reports that the applicant is nevertheless deserving of the grant.

The grant of a homestead selection.
Sec. 17, Act 1895.

152. Upon the forfeiture to the Crown of any lands held under a homestead grant, the Registrar-General shall make an entry of such forfeiture upon the folium of the register containing such grant, and the holder of the duplicate copy of such grant shall deliver up the same to the Registrar-General for the purpose of being cancelled.

Entry of forfeiture to be made by Registrar-General.
Sec. 17, Act 1895.

No transfer of the lands described in a homestead grant shall be registered by the Registrar-General unless the Minister certifies, in the prescribed form, that all the obligations of the grant have been duly fulfilled up to the date of such certificate, and the registration of such transfer shall be evidence of the fulfilment of all the obligations under the grant up to the date of the aforesaid certificate.

153. (1) The grant of any homestead selection shall contain provisions for—

The obligations under the grant.
Sec. 17, Act 1895.

- (a) The annual payment by the grantee, his heirs and assigns for ever of a perpetual rent, the yearly amount of which shall be two and one-half per centum of the capital value of the homestead selection as fixed under this Act; or, in the case of

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a homestead selection of land set apart for homestead selection before the commencement of this Act, the capital value, as fixed under the Crown Lands Act of 1895; and

- (b) The performance by the grantee, his heirs, and assigns for ever of an obligation to live upon the homestead selection, having his or their home and place of abode there; and
- (c) Forfeiture to the Crown of the lands granted in case the obligation to live thereon or to pay any sums due as rent be not duly performed.

The grant of a homestead selection may contain provisions to secure the creation and maintenance of channels for drainage or irrigation purposes, and the preservation or planting of trees for timber and shade, and such reservations of rights, powers, minerals, and materials as may appear to the Governor necessary in the public interest.

The obligations to live on the lands granted and to pay rent shall be incidents in perpetuity of the tenure of the lands held under a homestead grant; and the provisions to be inserted in a homestead grant for the purpose of defining the said incidents of tenure and securing the due performance thereof shall be in such form as may be prescribed.

The value of the homestead selection shall for the first period of ten years after the issuing of the grant thereof be the value, as notified in accordance with the provisions hereinbefore contained, or in the case of a homestead selection of land set apart for homestead selection before the commencement of this Act, as notified in accordance with the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, and for every succeeding period of ten years shall be determined, irrespective of improvements, in accordance with the provisions of section *forty-four* of this Act.

Regulations as to the performance of obligation to reside.

(II) The Governor may from time to time by regulations define the minimum period of living on the land in each year which shall be taken to satisfy the aforesaid obligation, being not less than seven months in every year; and may in the like manner provide for the granting of exemptions from the performance of the aforesaid obligation or for the relaxation thereof in such cases of inability, difficulty, or hardship as are likely to arise, and may attach such conditions to the granting of an exemption or relaxation as may appear desirable to secure the proper user of the land and to carry out the policy of this Act, but no such exemption or relaxation shall be granted for more than one year either retrospectively or in advance.

In any case where, in pursuance of the regulations for the time being in force, an exemption or relaxation has been granted, and the conditions, if any, of such exemption or relaxation fulfilled, a forfeiture shall not be enforced for the non-performance of the obligation to live on the lands granted during the period of such exemption or relaxation.

The Governor shall not have power to discharge, release, or abrogate the obligation to live upon the lands held under any such grant or to pay the rent, and the acceptance of rent shall not of itself constitute a waiver of any forfeiture which may have accrued.

Overdue moneys on homestead selections.

Overdue moneys on homestead selections, Sec. 43, Act, 1895.

154. Any sums which shall become payable to the Crown, whether as rent or interest or otherwise, on any homestead selection applied for before or after the commencement of this Act, and whether granted or ungranted, shall from and after the due date for the payment thereof bear interest at the rate of ten per centum

centum per annum, and such interest shall be considered as accruing due day by day. Nothing in this section contained shall be construed so as to prevent or to compel the enforcement of any forfeiture, or the acceptance of any overdue sums, together with interest as aforesaid.

Forfeitures.

Forfeiture for breach of conditions.

155. If at any time the local land board is not satisfied that the applicant for a homestead selection applied for before or after the commencement of this Act is duly performing any condition, or if upon the final inquiry the board is not satisfied that he has duly performed all conditions as aforesaid, the Governor may, by notification in the Gazette, forfeit the applicant's interest in the homestead selection, and thereupon the applicant's right to continue in occupation shall wholly cease and determine. Forfeiture for non-fulfilment of conditions.

The like notification may be made in any case (whether the homestead selection was applied for before or after the commencement of this Act) where the applicant has failed or fails to duly pay the required rent or the balance (if any) of survey fee.

Forfeiture for false statements.

156. If it be proved by inquiry before the local land board that any statement in writing or any statutory declaration or evidence on oath has been made or given for the purpose of misleading any officer, authority, or person in the exercise of his duty or office under this Act or the Crown Lands Act of 1895, or that any such statement, declaration, or evidence wilfully misrepresents facts, or that any fraudulent attempt has been made to prove that the conditions of this Act or the Crown Lands Act of 1895 have been complied with, then and in any such case the Minister may declare any homestead selection in connection with which such statement, declaration, or evidence was made or given to be forfeited, together with all moneys paid on account of or in connection with such homestead selection: Provided that no forfeiture shall be held to affect any transferee unless declared within twelve months after the issue of the certificate hereinbefore provided by the local board, and the provisions of this section shall apply until the grant of the homestead selection. Liability of, for misleading statement, &c. Sec. 135, Act 1894, and 22, Act 1895.

Forfeiture for want of good faith.

157. (1) In any case where an application for a homestead selection has been confirmed after the first day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this Act, and it appears to the satisfaction of the local land board— Forfeiture for want of good faith. Sec. 43, Act 1895.

- (a) that the application was not made in good faith; or
- (b) that the land is not held or used for the exclusive benefit of the selector, or apparent owner thereof,

the Governor shall have power to forfeit, by notification in the Gazette, the selection in question, together with all moneys paid thereon.

(II) Nothing in this section contained shall affect any person acquiring any interest in a homestead selection after the same becomes capable of being transferred, unless he has, before acquiring such interest, had notice of a violation of the provisions of section one hundred and forty-two of this Act, or of section forty-two of the Crown Lands Act, 1895, or of the intention to institute an inquiry as to such violation. Not to apply to transferee without notice.

Surrender of homestead selections. Tenant-right on surrender or forfeiture.

Surrender, &c., of a homestead grant and tenant right.
Sec. 21, Act 1895.

158. The holder of an estate in fee-simple in possession in any lands granted under a homestead grant may, with the consent of the Governor, surrender the said lands to the Crown by an instrument in the prescribed form; the surrenderor shall be entitled to tenant right (as the same is hereinafter defined) in improvements existing at the date of such surrender upon the surrendered lands.

Upon the forfeiture to the Crown of lands granted under a homestead grant the Governor (upon application in the prescribed manner) may, by notification in the Gazette grant the last owner of such lands tenant right (as the same is hereinafter defined) in improvements existing at the date of such forfeiture upon the forfeited lands.

Protection of homestead selections.

Protection of homestead selections.
Sec. 23, Act 1895.

159. (I) The owner for the time being of a holding consisting of a homestead selection, whether granted or ungranted (and whether applied for before or after the commencement of this Act) may, in any case where his home is established upon such holding, obtain for such holding protection under this Act by registering with the land agent for the district, or any other prescribed authority, an instrument in the prescribed form; and the land agent or other prescribed authority shall enter such particulars as may be prescribed in a book to be kept by him for the purpose, and such book shall be open to inspection by the public at such times and subject to such conditions as to payment of fees or otherwise as may be prescribed.

(II) Any holding protected under this Act or under the Crown Lands Act of 1895—

- (a) Shall not be sold under any writ of execution issuing out of any Court; and
- (b) Shall not vest in any official assignee or trustee, or be ordered to be conveyed upon the bankruptcy of the owner thereof, or pass by any assignment for the benefit of his creditors; and
- (c) Shall not in any other way be taken from the owner thereof for the satisfaction of any debt or liability under process or constraint of law.

Any transfer, assignment, alienation, conveyance, charge, or incumbrance of a holding protected under this Act, or under the Crown Lands Act, 1895, shall be absolutely void, but nothing herein or therein contained shall affect the validity of any such charge or incumbrance created before the holding, which is the subject thereof, was registered.

(III) Registration shall not have the foregoing effect, if the owner is in insolvent circumstances at the date thereof; and the protection shall cease as to any holding—

- (a) when the owner ceases to live thereon as his home; or
- (b) when he obtains for another holding protection under this Act; or
- (c) when the owner transfers the holding;

(IV) Provided always that nothing in this section contained shall—

- (a) Exempt the holding, or part thereof, or interest therein, from levy or sale for rates or taxes hereafter to be legally imposed; or
- (b) Affect any remedy for any cause of action accruing before the registration, or for any breach of trust, or for any debt for rent, instalments of purchase money, or interest due to the Crown, or any power of forfeiture.

Homestead

Homestead grants out of leases.

160. The holder of any pastoral or homestead lease in the Western Division, or of any scrub lease not being within a pastoral or homestead lease, or of any lease of inferior lands, or of any improvement lease, whether in any case granted before or after the commencement of this Act, whose dwelling-house may be erected on Crown lands, may, at any time during the last year of the term of the lease, apply for the portion of the leasehold which contains such dwelling-house not exceeding six hundred and forty acres in area, as a homestead selection, subject to the provisions hereunder contained:—

Homestead grants
out of certain leases.
Sec. 27, Act 1895.

- (I) The area which may be so applied for shall, before the date of the application for the same, have been improved by the holder of the lease or his predecessors in title with permanent, fixed, and substantial improvements to the value of one pound per acre, and the improvements shall at the date of the application be on the land and be the property of the applicant.
- (II) The application shall be made in the prescribed manner, and the applicant shall, before the grant is issued, pay the full cost of survey.
- (III) The land shall be measured in the same form as if it were an original conditional purchase, and the measurement shall be completed before the application is confirmed, and the Local Land Board shall have the same powers of modification, allotting land, and otherwise, in respect of any such application as it has in the case of applications for conditional purchases.
- (IV) The Governor may thereafter grant to the applicant the land for which the application has been confirmed as a homestead selection, the value of which shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of section *forty-four* of this Act, and be subject to reappraisalment as also hereinbefore provided.
- (V) Upon the issuing of the grant the land granted shall be withdrawn from the lease, but the lease shall otherwise continue in full force and effect.

The holder of a settlement lease may make the like application for a homestead selection out of the land leased, and the foregoing provisions (other than that requiring improvements to the value of one pound per acre) shall apply in any such case, except that the maximum area which may be applied for and granted shall be one thousand two hundred and eighty acres.

PART IV.

MISCELLANEOUS SALES.

DIVISION I.—Improvement purchases in gold-field.

161. Upon application (accompanied by the prescribed survey fee) by the owner of improvements in authorised occupation by residence under any Act in force for the regulation of mining on Crown lands of land within a proclaimed gold-field, the Governor may sell and grant such land to such owner without competition, at a price to be fixed by the local land board not being less than at the rate of—

Improvement
purchases in gold-
fields.
Sec. 46, Act 1884.
and 11, Act 1889.

- Eight pounds per acre for town lands, or
- Two pounds ten shillings per acre for suburban and other lands, or

Two

Two pounds ten shillings for any area less than one acre :
 Provided that such sales be made in accordance with the
 general subdivision of the land, and
 embrace only allotments or portions on which the improvements
 may be, and
 that the areas to be sold shall not exceed—
 one quarter of an acre for town lands, and
 one acre for suburban or other lands :
 Such price shall be exclusive of the value of the improvements.
 For the purposes of this section improvements of value equal
 to the respective minimum rates hereinbefore provided for shall be
 sufficient.

No person shall be permitted to make a subsequent purchase
 within three miles of a prior purchase by him.

Sec. 48, Act 1895.

162. Any sums payable to the Crown in connection with any im-
 provement purchase shall, from and after the due date for the payment
 thereof, bear interest at the rate of ten per centum per annum,
 and such interest shall be considered as accruing due day by day ;
 but nothing in this section shall be construed so as to prevent or to
 compel the enforcement of any forfeiture, or the acceptance of any
 overdue sums, together with interest, as aforesaid.

Sec. 5, of 55 Vic.
 No. 1.

Sec. 136, Act 1884.

163. Any forfeiture hereafter to be declared of an improvement
 purchase applied for under this Act or the Acts 1884–1897 shall be
 notified by the Minister in the Gazette, and shall take effect on the
 expiration of thirty clear days after the date of notification of
 forfeiture in the Gazette.

DIVISION II.—Auction sales.

Sale by auction of
 lands.

Sec. 61, Act 1884.

Sec. 56, Act 1895.

164. (I) Crown lands, not exceeding in the aggregate for the
 whole Colony two hundred thousand acres in any one year, may be sold
 by public auction, at any place which may appear to the Minister to
 be most convenient for the purpose (whether such place be within or
 without the land district in which the lands to be sold are situate), and
 at such times as the Minister shall direct and notify in the *Gazette*,
 not less than two months nor more than three months before the day
 of sale, and the upset prices per acre shall not be lower than for :—

Town lands eight pounds.

Suburban lands two pounds ten shillings.

Other lands one pound five shillings.

But such upset prices may be respectively fixed at any higher
 amounts.

Sec. 61, Act 1884.

Sec. 44, Act 1889.

(II) The value of any improvements (within the meaning of
 section *three hundred and one* of this Act) shall be added to such upset
 price, and when not the property of the Crown shall be refunded to
 the owner, or if it should appear that such improvements were
 made under misapprehension, or for other sufficient reason, the
 Governor (or the Minister, after report by the Land Board) may remit
 or refund the value thereof to the improver or his representatives.

Sec. 61, Act 1884.

(III) Town lands shall not be sold under this section in areas
 exceeding one-half acre.

Suburban lands shall not be sold in areas exceeding twenty
 acres.

Country lands shall not be sold in areas exceeding six hundred
 and forty acres.

(IV) A deposit of not less than one-fourth of the purchase
 money shall be paid by the purchaser at the time of sale, and in case
 the purchaser fails to pay the deposit the land may be again offered by
 the land agent, who shall not accept any bid by the person so failing
 to pay.

(v)

(v) The balance of purchase money shall be paid within three months after the date of sale: Provided that the Minister may make special terms of payment on auction sales of

Town lands,
Suburban lands, and

Lands which may have been or may hereafter be subdivided into areas not exceeding twenty acres:

Provided that in every case a deposit of one fourth of the purchase money shall be paid at the time of sale, and the time allowed for any deferred payments shall in no case exceed five years from the day of sale.

And that all such deferred payments shall bear interest at the rate of five pounds per centum per annum.

After auction sales, &c.

165. The Governor may grant any town or suburban lands or Crown lands within population areas which have been offered for sale at auction and not sold (whether such offering for sale was before or after the commencement of this Act) at the *last* upset price thereof to any person who shall duly apply for the same.

The applicant shall, with his application, lodge a deposit of one fourth of the said upset price, and if the application be approved by the Minister shall pay the balance of the said price, subject to such terms and conditions as were notified in the Gazette in connection with the aforesaid offering at auction.

Overdue payments.

166. Any sums payable to the Crown as purchase money otherwise, on any land sold at or after auction, shall, from and after the due date for the payment thereof, bear interest at the rate of ten per centum per annum, and such interest shall be considered as accruing due day by day.

Nothing in this section contained shall be construed so as to prevent or to compel the enforcement of any forfeiture, or the acceptance of any overdue sums together with interest as aforesaid.

Auction sales or after auction sales may be annulled.

167. On default of payment of any instalment for thirty days after the day when the same shall have fallen due, or on default of payment of any balance of purchase money, when the same shall have fallen due, in connection with any land sold at or after auction (before or after the commencement of this Act), the Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, annul the sale, and the annulling shall take effect as a forfeiture.

On the expiration of thirty clear days after the date of notice in the Gazette as aforesaid, the land, the subject of such sale, shall be forfeited to the Crown and become Crown lands within the meaning and for the purposes of this Act, and the deposit and all payments made in respect of such land shall be forfeited to Her Majesty.

DIVISION III.—Special sales without competition.

Rescission of reservation.

168. The Governor may authorise the rescission of any reservation of water frontage on the sea-coast, or to any bay, inlet, harbour, or navigable river, or of land adjoining such frontage contained in any Crown grant either wholly or to such extent and subject to such conditions and restrictions as he shall think fit.

The

Sec. 63, Act 1884.

The land the subject of such rescission may be granted to the owner of the land contained in such Crown grant on payment in the prescribed manner of the fair value thereof, to be determined in accordance with section *forty-four* of this Act, being not less than for—town lands, eight pounds per acre; suburban lands, two pounds ten shillings per acre; other lands, one pound five shillings per acre:

Sec. 6, Act 1889.
Sec. 61, Act 1884.

Sec. 63, Act 1884.

Provided that nothing in this section shall empower the Governor to grant any land used as a public thoroughfare, or any land set apart and dedicated for any public purpose:

Notice before grant.
Sec. 63, Act 1884.

Provided also that notice for four consecutive weeks shall be given in the Gazette and some local newspaper if any before the issuing of such grant, and that the applicant shall pay all costs of survey, reports, notification, and deed fee incurred in dealing with any application under this section.

Caveats.

Sec. 65, Act 1884.

At any time before the expiration of the four weeks referred to, any person feeling aggrieved may in the prescribed manner lodge a caveat with the local land board setting forth objections against the authorisation of any such rescission as aforesaid, and shall at the time of lodging the same deposit therewith the prescribed sum, and all such applications shall be dealt with as provided in section *seventy-four* of this Act in reference to other caveats.

Payment of purchase money.

Sec. 68, Act 1884.

169. On the approval of any application to purchase made under this Act or the Acts 1884–1897, such approval shall be notified in the Gazette. And if within three months after such notification the applicant shall fail to pay the full amount of purchase money, together with the deed fee and all costs as hereinbefore provided for, the right to purchase such land may be treated by the Minister as having lapsed, and the land itself may be sold by auction, or reserved, or otherwise disposed of pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

Overdue moneys.

Sec. 48, Act 1895.

170. Any sums payable to the Crown shall from and after the due date for the payment thereof bear interest at the rate of ten per centum per annum, and such interest shall be considered as accruing day by day, but nothing in this section shall be construed so as to prevent or compel the enforcement of any forfeiture or the acceptance of any overdue sums together with interest as aforesaid.

DIVISION IV.—Reclamations.

Reclamation of lands by proprietor of adjoining lands.

Sec. 64, Act 1884.

171. The Governor may on the application of any proprietor in fee simple of land having frontage to the sea, or to any tidal water, or to any lake authorise such proprietor to reclaim any land adjoining thereto and lying beyond or below high-water mark:

Provided always that no such reclamation shall be authorised which may interrupt or interfere with navigation:

Provided also that notice of the application to reclaim such land shall be published in the Gazette and some local newspaper, if any, for four consecutive weeks before such authority for reclamation shall be given.

And that the applicant shall pay all costs of survey, reports, notification, and deed fee incurred in dealing with his application.

Caveats.

Sec. 65, Act 1884.

At any time before the expiration of the four weeks aforesaid, any person feeling aggrieved may in the prescribed manner lodge a caveat with the local land board setting forth objections against the authorisation of any such reclamation as aforesaid, and shall at the time of lodging the same deposit therewith the prescribed sum, and all such caveats shall be dealt with as provided in section *seventy-four* of this Act in reference to other caveats.

Basis of appraisal.

Sec. 54, Act 1895.

172. In any case where after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this

Act,

Act, the Governor has authorised or authorises the reclamation of any land (whether application for such reclamation has been made under the Acts 1884-1897 or under this Act), the local land board shall appraise—

(a) the amount by which the value of the whole holding will be enhanced, by reason of the land to be reclaimed having been reclaimed and being held and enjoyed with the land held in fee simple, and

(b) the amount of the estimated cost of the reclamation ;
and the excess (if any) of such first-named amount over such last-mentioned amount shall, within three months after the notice in the Gazette calling for the same, be paid by the applicant to the Colonial Treasurer; and in default of such payment the authority to reclaim may be declared to have lapsed, and the same shall thereupon become void and of no effect. Term for payment.

173. The applicant shall, within such period as may be allowed for the purpose, complete the reclamation to the satisfaction of the Minister, in the metropolitan land district and elsewhere of the local land board, and upon the due completion thereof a grant of the land so reclaimed shall be issued. Sec. 64, Act 1884.

174. If the reclamation be not completed to the satisfaction of the Minister or local land board, as the case may be, or be not so completed within the aforesaid period, the Minister may, by notification in the Gazette, declare the right to purchase the land, together with all moneys paid thereon to be forfeited, and the same shall become forfeit accordingly; and upon such forfeiture the said authority to reclaim shall become void and of no effect, and any land which may have previously been reclaimed under such authority shall revert to the Crown, freed and discharged from any right or claim of the applicant or any other person in or to the same. Sec. 54, Act 1895.

175. The Governor in giving authority to reclaim (whether the application to reclaim was made under the Acts 1884-1896 or under this Act) may give the same subject to such terms and conditions as may appear desirable in the public interest, and in particular to the conditions— Sec. 54, Act 1895. Special terms and conditions of reclamation.

(a) that the reclaimed lands or any portions thereof may be resumed for public purposes by notification in the Gazette, and that upon resumption the lands shall vest in the Crown, freed and discharged from all private rights, interests, titles, and estates in and to the same; and

(b) that no other compensation shall be payable than the value of any improvements upon the lands resumed, effected with the written approval of the Minister first had and obtained, together with a repayment of the purchase money, and of the cost of reclamation, or if the land resumed be a portion only of the land reclaimed, of a fair proportion of such purchase money and cost as aforesaid ;

and the grant of any land to be reclaimed under any such authority as aforesaid shall embody the terms and conditions subject to which the authority was given, or such of them as require to be so embodied.

176. Any sums payable to the Crown shall, from and after the due date for the payment thereof bear interest at the rate of ten per centum per annum, and such interest shall be considered as accruing due day by day; but nothing in this section contained shall be construed so as to prevent or to compel the enforcement of any forfeiture or the acceptance of any overdue sums, together with interest as aforesaid. Sec. 48, Act 1895. Overdue moneys.

DIVISION V.—Sales in Special Cases.

Sales in special cases.
Sec. 66, Act 1884.

177. Crown lands—

- (a) to which no way of access is attainable, or
- (b) which are insufficient in area for conditional sale, or
- (c) are situated between granted land and a street or road which forms or should form the way of approach to such granted land, or

(d) are encroached on by buildings erected on granted land may be sold after recommendation by the Minister if the land is situated in the metropolitan land district, or the local land board, if the land is situated elsewhere, to the proprietor or proprietors in fee simple of adjacent lands at a price to be determined in accordance with section *forty-four* of this Act, being not less than—for town lands, eight pounds per acre; for suburban lands, two pounds ten shillings per acre; for other lands, one pound five shillings per acre. Purchasers under this section shall, in addition to the price of the land applied for pay the cost of survey report and deed fee incurred in dealing with such applications.

Secs. 61 and 66, Act 1884.

Sec. 68, Act 1884.

Payment of purchase money.

178. On the approval of any application to purchase made under the Acts 1884–1897 or this Act such approval shall be notified in the Gazette. And if within three months after such notification the applicant shall fail to pay the full amount of purchase money, together with the deed fee and all costs demanded for survey and reports incurred in connection with the land applied for, the right to purchase such land may be treated by the Minister as having lapsed, and the land itself may be sold by auction, or reserved, or otherwise disposed of pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 48, Act 1895.

Overdue moneys.

179. Any sums payable to the Crown shall, from and after the due date for the payment thereof, bear interest at the rate of ten per centum per annum, and such interest shall be considered as accruing due day by day, but nothing in this section contained shall be construed so as to prevent or to compel the enforcement of any forfeiture, or the acceptance of any overdue sums, together with interest as aforesaid.

DIVISION VI.—Exchanges and Surrenders.

Exchange and surrender.

Sec. 47, Act 1895.

180. (I) The Governor may, on behalf of the Crown, with the consent of the owner, exchange any Crown lands for any other lands of which a grant in fee-simple has been issued or may be called for, and may accept such surrenders and issue such grants as may be necessary for effectuating an exchange.

Sec. 47, Act 1895.

Lands on which purchase money has not been fully paid.

(II) The Governor may accept a surrender of lands, in respect of which a balance of purchase money remains unpaid, if upon payment of such balance, with or without interest thereon, the right to a grant of the said lands in fee-simple will become absolute, and may allot and grant Crown lands in exchange therefor; but in any such case the acceptance of the surrender shall not be taken to affect the aforesaid balance of purchase money, or any right, remedy, or liability in respect thereof, and a grant of the Crown lands allotted in exchange shall not be issued until the aforesaid balance of purchase money, together with interest has been duly paid.

Sec. 47, Act 1895.

(III) When any lands have been surrendered as aforesaid, and Crown lands have been allotted in exchange therefor, such provisions of such Acts, as applied to the surrendered lands in respect of the payment of the balance of purchase money and interest, and of forfeiture upon default shall be deemed to apply to the lands so allotted in the same way as if the lands so allotted were the lands originally purchased.

(IV)

(IV) In any such exchange the lands exchanged shall be of equal area and as nearly as practicable of equal value, or if the Crown lands to be granted or allotted be of greater value the difference of value shall be paid before any grant is issued : Sec. 47, Act 1895.
Sec. 46, Act 1889.
Equality of area and value.

(V) Provided that, if the land applied for by way of exchange is measured land, and is, in the aggregate, less than forty acres in excess of the land surrendered, such excess area may be granted to the surrenderor at a price to be determined in accordance with section *forty-four* of this Act. Sec. 46, Act 1889.

(VI) The Governor may reserve from sale and lease any lands included in an application or proposal for an exchange. Sec. 47, Act 1895.

(VII) The surrenderor shall pay all costs and fees incurred in respect of the surrender and exchange of such land : Sec. 46, Act 1889.

(VIII) Every proposal for surrender and exchange shall (unless refused without reference to the Local Land Board) be notified in the Gazette and in a local newspaper. Sec. 47, Act 1895.

(IX) The local land board shall inquire into and report upon any application or proposal referred to such board by the Minister, and the values of any lands included therein shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of section *forty-four* of this Act, before the exchange is carried out. Sec. 47, Act 1895.

(X) A surrender of lands to the Crown shall be evidenced by an instrument in the prescribed form, which shall, without enrolment in the Supreme Court, re-vest the surrendered lands in Her Majesty, Her heirs and successors according to law ; and an entry of any such instrument shall be made in the register under the Real Property Act in all cases where it may be necessary. Sec. 47, Act 1895.
Evidence of surrender.

(XI) Lands so surrendered shall become Crown lands for the purposes of this Act, but shall not be available for the purposes of any application until a notification to that effect has been published in the Gazette. And such surrendered lands may by notice in the Gazette be added to any adjoining lease or license or conditional purchase or homestead selection (notwithstanding that such lease, license, purchase, or selection may or may not already contain the maximum area prescribed by law), subject to such conditions as to payment of purchase money or rental as may be determined by the Governor and consented to by the lessee, licensee, purchaser, or selector. Sec. 47, Act 1895.

(XII) Any improvements on the surrendered land shall, notwithstanding the surrender, remain the property of the surrenderor, subject to the provisions of section *three hundred and one* of this Act, but the Governor, in any case in which the public interest seems so to demand, may require that any surrender shall be a surrender of the land together with any improvements thereon ; and upon the surrenderor consenting in writing thereto, the said improvements shall, upon the acceptance of the surrender, become the property of the Crown. Sec. 46, Act 1889.
Improvements.
Sec. 47, Act 1895.

(XIII) Any application or proposal for exchange of land lawfully made before the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, and not refused on its merits or withdrawn, may be completed, subject to all the conditions agreed upon under the original application or proposal, notwithstanding the expiration of the pastoral lease, in virtue of which such application was made. Sec. 47, Act 1895.

181. The Governor may (after inquiry and report by the local land board) acquire, for the purpose of access or approaches to any natural water, tank, or dam, or for a road, or travelling stock route, or camping reserve, or watering place, or for any like purpose, any land of any tenure, either by way of purchase or by granting in fee-simple, or for any less estate, any Crown land of equal value (to be determined Sec. 46, Act 1889.
Acquisition of land for public purpose.

determined in accordance with the provisions of section *forty-four* of this Act) in exchange for such land. And any land so acquired shall thereupon be deemed to be reserved from sale and lease, and may, on revocation of the reserve, be dealt with in accordance with this Act.

DIVISION VII.—Volunteer land order selections.

Volunteer land order selections.
Sec. 22, Act 1884.]

182. Where in any Act relating to the Volunteer Force reference is made to the thirteenth section of the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861" such reference shall, in respect to all claims to free grants of land unsatisfied at the commencement of this Act, be deemed and taken to refer to Crown lands open to conditional sale under this Act.

DIVISION VIII.—Authority to search for gold in alienated land within gold-fields.

Crown land within proclaimed gold-field.
Sec. 45, Act 1884.
Mining Act of 1889.

183. Any Crown land within a proclaimed gold-field which, after the twenty-fifth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and eighty, and before the thirtieth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine, has been sold conditionally, or by auction, or in virtue of improvements, or otherwise, shall be subject to the following condition, namely:—Any person specially authorised in the prescribed manner by the Minister shall be at liberty to dig and search for gold within such land, and should it be found to be auriferous the Governor may cancel, wholly or in part, the sale of such land; and upon the notification thereof in the Gazette, the proprietor shall be entitled to compensation for the value of the land as if it were not auriferous, and of the improvements thereon as appraised by the local board, and such land shall thereupon become Crown land within the meaning of the Mining Act, 1874, or any Act amending the same, and shall be reserved from sale until such reservation be revoked by the Governor: Provided that the person so specially authorised by the Minister to dig and search for gold shall, on the appearance of such notification in the Gazette, be deemed to be the first applicant for a claim or lease of such land, or a portion thereof; and the date of such application shall be reckoned from the day of publication of such notification in the Gazette, but in all other respects as to area, labour conditions, and other matters, such application shall be dealt with subject to the regulations in force for the time being authorising the occupation of Crown lands for gold-mining purposes.

PART V.

LEASES AND LICENSES.

DIVISION I.—General provisions as to leases, &c.

General provisions affecting lessees and licensees.
Sec. 98, Act 1884.

184. The following provisions shall govern all leases and licenses (whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act) and the holders of such leases or licenses, namely:—

- (I) No lease or license other than a special lease shall confer any right to remove material from the leased land, or to sublet such land for other than grazing purposes, or to prevent the entry and removal of material by authorised persons.
- (II) Lessees and licensees may take from land under lease or license to them, not comprised within a timber or forest reserve, such timber and other material for building and other purposes upon the land under lease or license as may be required by them as tenants or licensees respectively.

(III)

(III) No lessee or licensee shall prevent other persons duly authorised in that behalf either from cutting or removing timber or material for building or other purposes, or from searching for any mineral within the land under lease or license: Provided that nothing in this subsection shall apply to a conditional lease as regards the taking or removal of timber or other material for building purposes.

185. For the purposes of any lease or license granted under this Act or the Acts 1884-1897 except a conditional lease it shall be sufficient if the land and the boundaries thereof be defined by a general description, and no such lease or license shall be void by reason of the imperfection of any such description if the land therein described is defined with reasonable certainty.

Sufficiency of general descriptions.
Sec. 142, Act 1884.

186. It shall be lawful for any authorised person who may have marked on the ground any boundary of a leasehold that has been accepted by the Minister, to certify by signature to any plan representing such boundary, that such representation is accurate, and such plan shall thereupon be *prima facie* evidence of such boundary.

Certification of boundaries.
Sec. 144, Act 1884.

Liability to forfeiture.

187. Every lease (whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act) shall be liable to forfeiture if any rent be not paid within the prescribed or allowed period or upon breach of any condition annexed to such lease; but no forfeiture of any lease under this Act or the Acts 1859-1897 shall take effect until the expiration of thirty clear days after notification of such forfeiture in the Gazette; Subject to the provisions of sections *two hundred and forty*, subsection (VII), and *two hundred and forty-two*, subsection (v) of this Act, whenever any land shall be forfeited under this Act, such land shall become Crown land, and may be dealt with as such.

Liability of lessees on non-payment of rent.
Secs. 96 and 136, Act 1884.
Sec. 34, Act 1889.

Sec. 136, Act 1884.
Sec. 43, Act 1889.
Sec. 96, Act 1884.

No forfeiture shall operate to extinguish any debt to the Crown in respect of such rent as aforesaid.

Overdue Rents.

188. Any sums which shall become payable to the Crown, whether as rent or license fee or interest (on any lease or license applied for or granted before or after the commencement of this Act), shall from and after the due date for the payment thereof bear interest at the rate of ten per centum per annum, and such interest shall be considered as accruing due day by day. Nothing in this section contained shall be construed so as to prevent or to compel the enforcement of any forfeiture, or the acceptance of any overdue sums, together with interest as aforesaid. And the acceptance by or on behalf of the Crown of any interest or rent or other payment under any lease or license shall not be held to operate hereafter as a waiver by the Crown of any forfeiture accruing by reason of the breach of any condition annexed by law to the estate or interest of a lessee or licensee.

Overdue sums liable to interest.
Sec. 48, Act 1895.

Sec. 126, Act 1884.
Acceptance of interest or other payment no waiver.

Withdrawals.

189. The Governor may withdraw from any pastoral, homestead, or scrub lease (whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act) any land required for any public purpose including for the purposes of settlement for towns and villages. Upon publication in the Gazette of such withdrawal the lessee shall be entitled to such compensation, for the unexpired term of such lease, and for improvements lawfully made by such lessee upon the land so withdrawn from lease as may be determined by the Minister after appraisalment by the local land board.

Withdrawal in certain cases.
Subsec. 7 of sec. 78, Act 1884.
Sec. 82, subsec. 2, Act 1884.
Sec. 35, Act 1889.

General power of withdrawal.
Sec. 108, Act 1884.

190. The Governor may withdraw from any lease or license (whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act) any land required as sites for towns and villages, or for any public purpose.

Reserve from Sale not a Withdrawal.

Reserves from sale not to take the land out of lease.
Sec. 109, Act, 1884.

191. Crown lands within any leasehold now or hereafter temporarily reserved from sale under the provisions of the Acts 1859-1897, or this Act shall not be deemed to have been or to be withdrawn thereby from such leasehold in respect of the ordinary use of such lands for the purposes of the lease, or to be exempted from reletting on the termination of the existing lease.

Effect of proclamation of cities, towns, &c.
Sec. 30, Act 1889.

192. Lands reserved from sale for towns or villages shall not be deemed by virtue of such reservations to be withdrawn from pastoral or homestead lease; but the proclamations of cities, towns, and villages, and the definition of the limits of suburban lands to be attached thereto, shall be held to withdraw and to have withdrawn such lands from any lease or license within the boundaries of which they may be situated from the date of such proclamation.

Ringbarking by Lessees.

Permission to ringbark.
Sec. 93, Act 1884.

193. Every lessee or licensee of Crown lands desiring to ringbark trees upon his leasehold land or land held under license (whether the lease or license was granted before or after the commencement of this Act) shall obtain a permission to do so from the local land board, and in his application in the prescribed form addressed to the land agent shall describe the boundaries and area of the land upon which he proposes to ringbark.

Sec. 93, Act 1884.

In regard to any land not comprised within a timber or forest reserve the board may, in their discretion, refuse or grant permission for the same, after such inquiry and upon such conditions as to them may seem necessary.

Penalty for unauthorised ringbarking by lessee.
Sec. 93, Act 1884.

Any lessee or licensee who shall without such permission (or a permission granted under the Acts 1881-1897) ringbark trees on a leasehold, or on land held under license, or shall cause or knowingly permit or suffer the same to be done shall, on conviction before any two justices of the peace at the Court of Petty Sessions nearest to such leasehold or land held under license, be liable for the first offence to a penalty of not less than *one* shilling nor more than *ten* shillings for each tree so ringbarked, and for a second or subsequent offence be liable to a like penalty and to the forfeiture of his lease.

Unauthorised ringbarking by persons other than lessee.
Sec. 94, Act 1884.

194. Whosoever shall ringbark trees or strip bark from trees on Crown lands without holding a permission granted under this Act or the Acts 1884-1897, or in violation of any condition thereof, or without a written authority under the hand of the lessee or licensee of such Crown lands shall, on conviction as aforesaid, be liable to a penalty for each tree ringbarked or stripped of not less than *one* shilling nor more than *ten* shillings.

Unauthorised ringbarking—proceedings before justices.
Sec. 95, Act 1884.

195. Every information for an offence under the two preceding sections shall be laid by some officer of police or person specially authorised by the Minister. And if at the hearing of such information any question shall arise whether any person holds a valid permission to ringbark, the burden of proof thereof shall be on the person who claims to hold such permission.

Promise of lease.

Right of lease may be given in evidence in actions.
Sec. 128, Act 1884.

196. In any action or suit brought to recover possession or to recover damages for trespass upon or otherwise in relation to any Crown Lands of which no lease from the Crown shall have issued, it shall

shall be lawful for any party thereto to plead and put in evidence any promise, engagement, or contract from or with the Crown, or its agents, lawfully authorised in that behalf, and such promise, engagement, or contract shall as between the parties, and subject to the provisions of this Act have the same effect as if a lease from the Crown of such lands had been duly issued in pursuance of such promise, engagement, or contract to the party entitled thereunder, and any receipt by or on behalf of the Colonial Treasurer for rent of such lands for the year then current shall, according to the tenor thereof, be *prima facie* evidence that the party therein named is the holder of the lease or promise of lease thereof for the time being.

Disqualifications as to married women and minors.

197. Any married woman who is, under an order for judicial separation made by any court of competent jurisdiction, living apart from her husband, may, out of moneys belonging to her for her separate use, lease land, conditionally or otherwise; and such land shall form part of her separate estate, and she shall have the same powers of dealing with and disposing of the same, both at law and in equity, as if she were a femme sole, and her husband shall not be entitled to any interest in such land as tenant by the courtesy or jure mariti.

Except as aforesaid, a married woman shall not be entitled to lease Crown land under this Act; nor shall any married woman be capable of holding any lease or license, applied for or granted under this Act or the Acts 1884-1897, except as separate estate, by virtue of any law in force protecting the property of married women:

Provided that nothing herein contained shall disentitle a married woman from holding any lease which may have devolved upon her under the will or intestacy of any deceased holder.

198. (i) No minor shall be capable of accepting or holding any lease or license applied for or granted under this Act or under the Acts 1884-1897, except by way of inheritance, or in so far as a minor, not less than sixteen years of age, is permitted to hold a conditional lease by virtue of a conditional purchase: Provided that a minor, not less than sixteen years of age (not being a female), may be a homestead lessee.

DIVISION II.—Annual Leases for Pastoral purposes.

199. (i) The Governor may lease by auction, or tender, or on application made in the prescribed manner, in areas not exceeding one thousand nine hundred and twenty acres, any Crown lands not held under any lease or license, or not reserved from lease generally, or not reserved from annual lease specifically, or not reserved from license.

(ii) Crown lands may be put up to lease at auction at the lands office of the district or let by tender, either on application or otherwise, but no such sale of leases or letting by tender shall take place without one month's notice thereof having been given in the Gazette.

(iii) The amount bid at auction shall be the annual rental of the lease, and there shall be paid at the time of sale a sum proportionate to the number of months between the first day of the month succeeding the date of sale and the thirty-first day of December.

(iv) Any lease offered at auction and bid for, but the price of which shall not be forthwith paid, may be again offered for sale at auction.

(v)

Sec. 85, Act 1884,
subsec. (VI).

(v) A lease of any land which may have been offered for sale at auction and not bid for may be obtained on application to the land agent of the district and payment of the upset price, or may be again submitted to auction, unless the land shall have been previously otherwise dealt with.

Applications for
annual leases.
Sec. 33, Act 1889.

200. Where application in the prescribed manner is made for an annual lease the first applicant shall have a right to an annual lease of the land applied for (subject to modification by the board) on payment of such rent as shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of section *forty-four* of this Act, and any such annual lease shall commence from the date of allotment or approval by the board: Provided that no application for an annual lease made after any of the land applied for shall have been notified in the Gazette for lease by auction or tender shall prevent the land from being let as so notified, and any application for an annual lease may be refused by the Minister in any case where the granting of such lease appears to him to be contrary to the public or general interest.

Sec. 49, Act 1895.

Provisions relating
to annual leases.

Sec. 85, Act 1884,
subsec. (I).

201. All annual leases, whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act, shall be subject to the following provisions:—

(I) Every such lease shall be for the then current year, and shall expire on the thirty-first day of December.

Sec. 49, Act 1895.

(II) The rent for an annual lease shall commence from the first day of the month succeeding the date of the notification in the Gazette.

Of the Minister's approval thereof, or

Acceptance of the tender for the same, or

In the case of an annual lease sold at auction, from the first day of the month succeeding the date of such sale.

The first year of the lease shall expire on the thirty-first day of December then succeeding; and the rent for the first year shall be proportionate to the number of months between the commencement of the lease and the said thirty-first day of December.

Sec. 35, Act 1894,
subsec. (III).

(III) Such leases may be renewed subject to the payment of the annual rent. The Minister may at any time, upon giving three months' notice prior to the expiration of any year for which rent has been paid in advance, increase such rent by any sum not exceeding twenty-five per cent.

Sec. 85, Act 1884,
subsec. (IV).

(IV) The rent of all renewed leases shall be paid on or before the thirtieth day of September in each year for the ensuing year, and in the prescribed manner and time, to the Colonial Treasurer or land agent. And if such rent be not paid the lease will be liable to forfeiture and sale at auction or by tender.

Sec. 85, Act 1884,
subsec. (VIII).

(V) An annual lease shall not exempt the land leased from sale or homestead selection or special or conditional or settlement or other lease.

Annual leases.
Sec. 33, Act 1889.

(VI) The Minister may at any time cancel any annual lease by giving not less than three months' notice in the Gazette or otherwise of his intention to do so, such notice to terminate at the end of the then current year.

Trespass by stock
on unfenced lands.
Sec. 55, Act 1895.

202. No person occupying land under annual lease shall—

(a) bring an action for trespass committed by stock upon the said land, whether before or after the commencement of this Act;
or

(b) impound any stock trespassing upon the said land—
unless the said land or the portion thereof trespassed upon was, at the date of the trespass, enclosed with a fence reasonably sufficient to keep out stock:

Provided always that nothing in this section contained shall apply to any trespass wilfully caused.

DIVISION

DIVISION III.—Artesian Well Leases.

203. Upon application in the prescribed manner (accompanied by a deposit of ten pounds to cover the expenses in dealing therewith) (or in pursuance of any pending application made under the provisions of section forty-five of the Crown Lands Act of 1889) for permission to bore and search for water in any land in the Western Division, held by the applicant under occupation license or annual lease, the Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, set apart an area not exceeding ten thousand two hundred and forty acres in one block on the resumed area.

Protection of
artesian wells.
Sec. 46, Act 1889.

Upon publication of such notice the land therein described shall be held to be temporarily exempt from sale or lease under this Act to other than the applicant, but shall not be withdrawn from the occupation license or annual lease.

Within sixty days after such notice the applicant shall commence to bore and search for water on such land, and shall forward to the Chairman of the land board by registered letter notice verified by statutory declaration of his having done so.

The work of boring and searching as aforesaid shall be continued until water be found, or until it appear to the Minister that the work cannot be pursued with reasonable hope of success or profit.

Within fourteen days after the discovery of water, the licensee or lessee shall, by registered letter, notify the fact to the Chairman of the local land board, and the said licensee or lessee shall, on approval by the Governor, become entitled to a lease for such a term as may be determined, not exceeding the unexpired term of the current pastoral lease of the leasehold area of the pastoral holding.

The rental of such area shall be at the rate then payable upon the land held under such occupation license or annual lease.

If in respect of any application or lease, whether made or granted before or after the commencement of this Act:—

The applicant shall fail to forward any notice prescribed by this Act or the Crown Lands Act of 1889, as the case may be, or

If the Minister shall consider that the application has not been made *bond fide*, or

That reasonable efforts have not been or are not being made to discover water, or

That any water discovered is not sufficiently permanent, or

That the quantity of water is not sufficiently great,

he may withdraw the notice published under this Act or the Crown Lands Act of 1889, as the case may be, or the Governor may cancel the lease granted before or after the commencement of this Act, and upon publication in the Gazette of notice of such withdrawal, or cancellation, the temporary exemption from sale or lease of such land, and the lease thereof, shall be held to be annulled.

Not more than one such area as aforesaid shall be leased under the provision of this section out of each sixty-four thousand acres of an occupation license, and not more than three such areas shall be leased hereunder in respect of one and the same occupation license.

204. Upon the expiration by effluxion of time of the term of any artesian well lease (whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act) the last holder of the lease shall have tenant-right as the same is hereinafter defined in improvements upon the lands theretofore held under the lease: Provided that the value of any successful and useful well or bore for artesian water shall not be taken to exceed the first cost thereof, and no allowance shall be made for any unsuccessful or useless well or bore.

Tenant-right.
Sec. 7, Act 1895.
Sec. 51, Act 1895.

DIVISION

DIVISION IV.—Homestead Leases.

Homestead leases in the Western Division. Sec. 82, Act 1884.

205. In the Western Division the Governor may grant homestead leases within resumed areas or vacant lands.

Lands exempt from homestead lease.

Exemptions from lease.

Secs. 90, Act 1884, and 30, Act 1889.

206. The following classes of lands shall be exempt from homestead lease:—

- (a) Lands within proclaimed cities, towns, and villages, and the defined limits of suburban lands attached thereto.
- (b) Lands under lease or lawful occupation for mining purposes.
- (c) Lands dedicated to any public purpose.
- (d) Lands temporarily reserved from sale for commonage.
- (e) Lands reserved from lease under any of the Acts 1859–1881 until the reservation thereof shall have been revoked under the provisions of this Act.
- (f) Lands reserved from lease generally or reserved specifically from homestead lease before or after the commencement of this Act.

Sec. 39, Act 1889.

Limitation as to number of holdings.

The privilege of selecting, &c., when exhausted. Sec. 40, Act 1895.

207. No person who, on or after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, has applied, or who after the commencement of this Act applies, for an original homestead lease, and has obtained or obtains a title thereto in pursuance of such application shall be qualified to apply for another original homestead lease; and no person who, on or after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, has applied, or who after the commencement of this Act applies, for an original conditional purchase, or a settlement lease, or a homestead selection, and has obtained or obtains a title thereto in pursuance of such application, shall be qualified to apply for an original homestead lease unless he has previously obtained a certificate as prescribed that he was compelled by adverse circumstances to abandon or to surrender the holding first applied for, or unless (notwithstanding the non-obtaining of such certificate) he has previously obtained the written approval of the Minister to apply for an original homestead lease.

For the purposes of this section title in pursuance of an application shall be taken to have been obtained—in the case of a homestead selection, settlement lease, and an original conditional purchase—when the application has been confirmed by the local land board, and in the case of a homestead lease when the approval of the issue of the lease has been notified in the Gazette, and a valid notice of non-acceptance has not been duly given:

Provided that if the holding first applied for were a settlement lease or an original homestead lease, the disqualification enacted by this section shall cease to operate upon the expiration of the term of the lease by effluxion of time, or if the lease has been forfeited, surrendered, or otherwise sooner determined, then upon the expiration of the period which the term of the lease would have had to run, but for such forfeiture, surrender, or other sooner determination.

Limitation as to area.

Disqualifications by reason of area already held. Sec. 41, Act 1895.

208. No person shall be competent to apply for an original homestead lease who—

- (a) owns at the date of application; or
- (b) owned at any time previous to the date of application, and fraudently divested himself of the ownership thereof by transfer, conveyance, assignment, or otherwise, or purported so to do, in order to evade the foregoing provision,

an

an area of land granted in fee simple, or conditionally purchased, or conditionally leased from the Crown, which area, added to the area of the homestead lease applied for, exceeds as a total area the maximum area permitted by law to a homestead lease.

Persons not natural born or not naturalised.

209. A person who is not a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty shall not be qualified to apply for an original homestead lease unless he has resided in New South Wales for one year, and at the time of making such application has lodged a declaration of his intention to become naturalised within five years from the time of making such declaration.

Persons not natural-born or naturalised.
Sec. 41, Act 1895.

If such person shall fail to become so naturalised within the period aforesaid, he shall absolutely forfeit all land the subject of his application, together with all the improvements thereon.

No minor shall be capable of accepting or holding any homestead lease (except by way of inheritance) unless such minor is of the male sex, and is of, or over the age of sixteen years.

Sec. 124, Act 1884.
Sec. 34, Act 1889.

Rights and liabilities of minors.

210. Any person between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one years who, after the passing of this Act, shall become the owner of a homestead lease, and shall during his ownership, either personally or by an agent, enter into any agreement for or in relation to the performance of any work or rendering of any services on such lease or in relation thereto, or to the loan of money, or the sale or purchase of goods and chattels of any description whatsoever, or shall in like manner enter into any agreement connected with the occupation, management, or general purposes of such lease, not being in violation of the provisions of this Act, shall be subject to the same liabilities and have the same rights in respect of such agreement as if he were of the full age of twenty-one years.

Minors liable on agreement.
Sec. 123, Act 1884.
Sec. 34, Act 1889.

Pastoral and homestead leases not to be held in combination.

211. No holder of a pastoral lease shall during the currency thereof hold or cause to be held on his behalf or in his interest a homestead lease, nor shall the holder of a homestead lease during the currency thereof hold or cause to be held on his behalf or in his interest a pastoral lease, nor shall any person hold or cause to be held on his behalf or in his interest more than one homestead lease, under penalty in every such case of forfeiture of every lease held by him or on his behalf or in his interest and any rent paid thereon. And for the purpose of this section every owner or part owner of any lease shall be deemed to be a holder thereof: Provided that any *bonâ fide* mortgagee for value may, on application to the Minister, be registered as the holder of more than one homestead lease, subject to such regulations as may be made in that behalf, although such mortgagee is the registered holder of one or more pastoral leases.

What leases not to be held in combination.
Sec. 81, Act 1884.

Good faith in applicants.

212. Every application for a homestead lease is hereby required to be made in good faith; and an application shall be taken to be made in good faith when the sole object of the applicant in making the application is to obtain a lease of the land in order that he may hold and use the land for his own exclusive benefit according to law.

Good faith in applicants.
Sec. 42, Act 1895.

Certain contracts void.

Devise, contract,
lease, security void
in certain cases.

Sec. 121, Act 1884.

213. Every devise, contract, lease, agreement, or security made, entered into, or given before, at, or after the date of any application to make a homestead lease with the intent or having the effect of enabling any person other than the applicant to acquire by lease or otherwise the land applied for shall be illegal and absolutely void both at law and in equity.

Applications for homestead leases.

Applications.

Sec. 82, Act 1884.

Sec. 34, Act 1889.

214. Applications for homestead leases or additional homestead leases may be made in the prescribed manner upon any land office day, and with any such application there shall be lodged a sum equal to one penny per acre for the area proposed to be leased.

Area of homestead leases.

Area which may be
held under
homestead lease.

Sec. 34, Act 1889.

215. The area which may be granted and held under a homestead lease shall not (except as provided in section *three hundred and four* hereof) exceed ten thousand two hundred and forty acres, and shall not, subject to the provisions hereinafter contained, be less than two thousand five hundred and sixty acres:

Any applicant for or holder of a homestead lease, whether applied for before or after the commencement of this Act, may, in virtue thereof, obtain additional homestead leases adjoining the land comprised in the original or any prior additional homestead lease, provided that the total area of such original and additional leases shall not exceed ten thousand two hundred and forty acres.

Provided that an application for an additional homestead lease may be received for less than two thousand five hundred and sixty acres, if such an area is not available, or cannot be taken up without causing the aforesaid maximum area of ten thousand two hundred and forty acres to be exceeded; but in no case shall an application for an additional homestead lease be received for an area less than six hundred and forty acres.

No additional homestead lease shall be granted in virtue of an original homestead lease which, if applied for before the commencement of this Act, was not granted subject to, or brought under the provisions of, the Crown Lands Act of 1889.

Sec. 82, Act 1884.

Where more than one applicant shall apply for the same land, or for any portion thereof, on the same day, the right of lease shall be determined in the manner prescribed by section forty of this Act.

Term of homestead lease.

Term of lease.

Sec. 7, Act 1895.

216. Every homestead lease granted before or after the commencement of this Act shall have a term of twenty-eight years, and the term shall be divided for the purpose of the appraisalment of the rate of rent into four periods each of seven years, and a separate appraisalment shall be made of the rate of rent payable for each of such periods, if the same be a period commencing after the first day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five or after the commencement of this Act.

Provided always that—

- (a) In the case of a homestead lease granted before the first day of December, in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine, and not brought under the provisions of section twenty-nine of the Crown Lands Act of 1889, the rate of rent from time to time payable under the Crown Lands Act of 1884 shall be paid until the expiration of such seven-year period of the term of the lease as may have been current on the first day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five.
- (b)

(b) Nothing contained in this section shall prevent or affect the reappraisal of the rent of a homestead lease in pursuance of section nine of the "Crown Lands Act of 1895," or the coming into operation of any rent so reappraised.

217. The term and periods of any additional homestead lease shall determine at the same respective dates as the term and periods of the original homestead lease, and the surrender or the forfeiture (otherwise than for non-payment of rent) of an original homestead lease shall involve the forfeiture or surrender of all additional leases.

Commencement of title.

218. The title to any homestead lease applied for after the commencement of this Act shall commence from the date of application therefor, if valid, and any such application shall withdraw such of the lands therein described as may be available for the purpose from any annual lease or occupation license under which they may be held.

The land agent shall, within one week of the receipt of any such application, notify the same through the post to the holder of any annual lease or occupation license within which the land applied for, or any part thereof, may be situated.

Trespass and impounding on homestead lease.

219. No person occupying land under a homestead lease, or in virtue of an application for a homestead lease shall—

(a) bring an action for trespass committed by stock upon the said land, whether before or after the commencement of this Act; or

(b) impound any stock trespassing upon the said land— unless the said land or the portion thereof trespassed upon was, at the date of the trespass, enclosed with a fence reasonably sufficient to keep out stock:

Provided always that nothing in this section contained shall apply to any trespass wilfully caused.

Applications, how dealt with.

220. Any application for a homestead lease may, after report by the land board, be refused by the Minister, or the position and boundaries of the land may be altered, varied, or modified.

If land be allotted in satisfaction thereof of a less area than, or in a different position from, that applied for, such of the land described as may not be allotted, or if the application be withdrawn, the whole of the lands described therein, shall revert to the lease or license on notification in the Gazette of the approval of such lease, or of the acceptance of the applicant's refusal thereof.

Any allotted lands which are not described in the original application shall, for the purposes of withdrawal from lease or license, be deemed to have been applied for on the date of notification in the Gazette of approval of the lease.

(II) The local land board shall disallow an application for a homestead lease unless it be satisfied that the application is made in good faith as defined in section *two hundred and twelve* of this Act.

In any case where the local land board is satisfied that an application as aforesaid has been made otherwise than in good faith, it shall have power to declare that any moneys lodged with such application shall be forfeited to the Crown, and the same shall be forfeited accordingly:

Provided

Provided always that a local land board shall not disallow an application for an additional homestead lease as not having been made in good faith merely because the original homestead lease is subject to a mortgage.

Application pending.

(III) Every application as aforesaid pending at the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to be within the provisions of this section.

Non-acceptance of homestead lease.

Non-acceptance of lease.

Sec. 82, Act 1884.

Sec. 34, Act 1889.

221. Should the Minister recommend the issue of a lease (whether applied for before or after the commencement of this Act) in a form other than as applied for, the applicant may, within ninety days after the notification in the Gazette of the approval of the issue of a lease, notify in writing to the local land board his intention of not accepting it, and he shall thereupon be entitled to a refund of the deposit paid, unless, in the opinion of the Minister, the land approved to be leased does not differ materially in form or situation from that applied for, but if the applicant shall have occupied or made use of any land by virtue of his application the Minister may refuse to accept any such notice of non-acceptance. In default of any notice of such intention, or of occupation within the time specified for either purpose, the deposit shall be forfeited.

The acceptance by the Minister of any such notice of non-acceptance shall take effect on notification in the Gazette.

In the event of the non-acceptance of the lease, the land shall revert to the holding from which it was taken.

Survey of homestead lease.

Survey of lease.

Sec. 143, Act 1884.

Sec. 55, Act 1895.

222. The Minister may direct a survey of the boundaries of any homestead lease, and upon such survey being made may demand from the lessee towards defraying the cost of such survey, payment of any sum not exceeding twenty shillings for each linear mile of the boundary so surveyed, and in default of payment of such sum within sixty days after notification of the demand in the Gazette, the lease shall be liable to forfeiture.

Conditions of homestead leases.

Conditions to be fulfilled.

Sec. 82, Act 1884, and sec. 21, Act 1889.

Sec. 34, Act 1889.

Sec. 21, Act 1889.

Sec. 31, Act 1889.

223. Every applicant for a homestead lease shall, within ninety days after the notification in the Gazette of the approval of the issue of a lease, enter into occupation of and commence residence upon the leased land, and shall reside continuously thereon for at least six months of each year of the prescribed term of residence, and such term shall expire five years after the date of application for the lease.

Prior to the date of commencement of residence during any year the lessee shall notify the local land board to that effect; and such notice shall specify the date from which he intends to reside.

Sec. 82, Act 1884.

Sec. 37, Act 1895.

224. Within two years after such entry into occupation the lessee shall fence the outside boundaries of such land with a fence of such a character as may be prescribed by the land board. But for sufficient cause shown the time for completing such fencing may be extended by the land board or by the Chairman of such board pursuant to the provisions of section *twenty-seven* of this Act.

The land board (or the Chairman pursuant to the provisions of section *twenty-seven* of this Act) may grant an exemption from fencing any natural or other boundary of the land held under lease.

Sec. 34, Act 1889.

Sec. 37, Act 1895.

Sec. 34, Act 1889.

225. Any original and additional homestead leases may, for all purposes of residence and fencing, be held to be one homestead lease.

226. The rents of homestead leases applied for after the commencement of this Act shall be paid annually in advance not later than one day prior to a date corresponding to the date of application. Rent shall be charged from the date of application, and pending determination a provisional rent of one penny per acre shall be payable.

Sec. 12, Act 1880.

Suspension of conditions.

227. If the holder of any homestead lease applied for before or after the commencement of this Act shall through illness, drought, flood, or other sufficient cause be prevented from fulfilling any conditions of residence or fencing attaching thereto, the local land board may, on application as prescribed, and after inquiry in open Court (or in the case of fencing the chairman may pursuant to the provisions of section *twenty-seven* of this Act) suspend for a specified period not exceeding six months any or all of such conditions. On the expiration of such specified period the holder shall (if a condition of residence attaches to the lease) commence and continue to reside thereon for a period which (when taken with the period during which he may have resided thereon since the date of his obligation to do so) shall complete the full term prescribed by this Act, and shall, during the term extended as aforesaid or otherwise, complete any other conditions, subject upon default in either case to forfeiture.

Suspension of conditions in case of illness, drought, flood, or other sufficient cause.
Sec. 24, Act 1889.

Cases of death, lunacy, &c.

228. If the holder of any homestead lease applied before or after the commencement of this Act shall die or be declared a lunatic, before the fulfilment of the conditions of residence and fencing attached to such lease, his lease may be held by his representatives or their assigns subject to the fulfilment by them of all unfulfilled conditions except the condition of residence, but in trust for and for the benefit of the persons rightfully entitled. And any sale, transfer, or other disposition whatsoever of the estate, right, title, or interest of any homestead leaseholder by an official assignee or other lawful authority upon the insolvency of such lessee, or by a sheriff or registrar of a district court or any other person by virtue of or under the authority of any writ of execution or other process of any court, or by the trustees of any deed of assignment for the benefit of creditors, or by any person under any decree or order of any court shall pass to a purchaser or to any other person only such estate, right, title, or interest as the lessee himself was entitled to at the date of sequestration, writ, process, decree, order, or assignment respectively, and subject to all conditions remaining unfulfilled at such date.

Cases of death, lunacy, insolvency, or judgment debt.
Sec. 125, Act 1884, and sec. 34, Act 1889.

Transfer and subletting of homestead leases.

229. The holder of a homestead lease (applied for before or after the commencement of this Act) may transfer his right of lease in the prescribed manner, but shall have no power to transfer the same until he shall have fulfilled the condition of residence, but no additional homestead lease shall be transferred apart from the original, or vice versa, unless and until the prescribed condition of residence has been fulfilled. Nothing in this Act or the Acts 1884-1897 shall prevent any homestead lease being transferred by way of mortgage or security, at the risk of the transferee, before the expiration of the term of residence subject to the conditions of the lease being fulfilled by the owner, subject to such mortgage or security.

Transfers.
Sec. 118, Act 1884.
Sec. 34, Act 1889.

230. All agreements for the subletting of a homestead lease (whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act) shall be in writing, and a copy of every such agreement shall be verified and sent

Agreements for subletting.
Sec. 43, Act 1895.

sent to the chairman of the local land board in the prescribed manner. Any subletting which is not effected by an agreement in writing, or in respect of which a copy of the agreement is not verified and sent as aforesaid, may, in the absence of any sufficient explanation, be taken to be evidence that the homestead lease is not held or used for the exclusive benefit of the lessee or apparent owner thereof.

Miscellaneous provisions re homestead leases.

Miscellaneous provisions.
Sec. 29, Act 1889.

231. Upon the application of any homestead lessee the Minister shall cause to be issued to him a lease for the land held by him, which lease shall be in the form prescribed and shall be subject to a fee of twenty shillings.

Tenant right in improvements.
Sec. 7, Act 1895.

232. Upon the expiration by effluxion of time of the term of any homestead lease (whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act), the last holder of the lease shall have tenant right (as the same is hereinafter defined) in improvements upon the lands theretofore held under the lease.

Disposal of lease.
Sec. 34, Act 1889.

233. On any determination of any homestead lease (whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act), the land comprised therein may be leased as a homestead lease by auction or tender, or otherwise disposed of, in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Homestead selection out of lease.
Sec. 27, Act 1895.

234. The holder of any homestead lease whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act may, subject to the provisions of section *one hundred and sixty* of this Act, apply during the last year of the term of the lease for a portion of the leasehold as a homestead selection, such portion not exceeding six hundred and forty acres in area.

Surrender of homestead leases.

Surrender.
Sec. 34, Act 1889.

235. Any homestead lease (whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act) may be surrendered on giving the Minister not less than twelve months notice.

Forfeiture of homestead lease for want of good faith.

Forfeiture for want of good faith.
Sec. 43, Act 1895.

236. (I) In any case where an application for a homestead lease has been recommended for approval after the first day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this Act, and it appears to the satisfaction of the local land board—

(a) that the application was not made in good faith; or

(b) that the land is not held or used for the exclusive benefit of the lessee, or apparent owner thereof,

the Governor shall have power to forfeit, by notification in the Gazette, the lease in question, together with all moneys paid thereon.

Not to apply to transferees without notice.
Sec. 43, Act 1895.

(II) Nothing in this section contained shall affect any person acquiring any interest in a homestead lease after the same becomes capable of being transferred, unless he has, before acquiring such interest, had notice of a violation of the provisions of section two hundred and twelve of this Act, or of section forty-two of the Crown Lands Act, 1895, or of the intention to institute an inquiry as to such violation.

DIVISION V.—Improvement leases.

Improvement leases.
Sec. 26, Act 1895.

237. The Governor may, under this section, grant leases of Crown lands, which, by reason of inferior quality, heavy timber, scrub, noxious animals, undergrowth, marshes, swamps, or other similar cause, are

are not suitable for settlement until improved, and can only be rendered suitable by the expenditure of large sums in the improvement thereof. The granting of the leases shall be subject to the provisions hereunder contained:—

- (I) The term of the lease shall not exceed twenty-eight years, and shall commence from the date of the execution of the lease.
- (II) The area included in the lease shall not exceed twenty thousand four hundred and eighty acres.
- (III) The amount bid at a sale by public auction of the lease, or offered by an accepted tender, shall be the yearly rent of the lease; but an upset rent may be placed upon any such lease if offered by auction, and the Governor shall not be bound to accept any tender.
- (IV) The lease may contain such covenants and provisions as to the Governor may seem expedient according to the circumstances of each case, and all such covenants and provisions shall be notified in the Gazette and in a local newspaper before the lease is offered for sale or tenders called for. The lease shall contain covenants and provisions for the improvement of the land leased and for the expenditure of money thereon, for the payment of rent, and for the determination of the lease upon any breach by the lessee of the covenants and provisions thereof.
- (V) Upon the expiration of the term of any improvement lease by effluxion of time the lessee shall have tenant-right (as the same is hereinafter defined) in improvements.
- (VI) The holder of any improvement lease may, subject to the provisions of section *one hundred and sixty* of this Act, apply during the last year of the term of the lease for a portion of the leasehold as a homestead selection, such portion not exceeding an area of six hundred and forty acres. Sec. 27, Act 1895.

DIVISION VI.—Leases of inferior lands.

238. The Minister may, after report by the local land board, lease by auction or tender for a period not exceeding twenty years such vacant lands in the Eastern, Western, or Central Division as in consequence of their inferior character, or isolated positions may not have been held under any tenure, or having been held have been abandoned, subject to the following provisions—

- (I) Such leases shall be subject to such conditions as may be specified in the Gazette notice offering the land on lease.
- (II) No such lease shall be sold by auction, nor shall any tender be accepted until after the expiration of thirty days from the date of such notice, but when sold or granted shall commence from the date of sale or notification of acceptance of tender as the case may be.
- (III) The upset rental shall be determined by the Minister after report by the local land board.
- (IV) The amount bid at auction, or offered by an accepted tender, shall be the annual rental of the lease; and shall be paid, if the lease be sold at auction at the time of such sale, but if upon tender, within sixty days after the notification in the Gazette requiring payment thereof. If the rent be not paid within the time allowed, the lease and any amounts paid may be forfeited by notice in the Gazette. And any lease sold at auction, the price bid for which shall not forthwith be paid, may there and then be reoffered for sale.

(v)

- (v) Tenders shall be made in the form prescribed; and shall describe the land applied for in terms of the notice calling for tenders; and shall be accompanied by a receipt showing that a sum of two pounds has been paid to the land agent or Treasury as a deposit thereon. Such deposit paid by a person, whose tender may be accepted, shall be credited on account of the first year's rent, and the rent for the ensuing year shall in all cases be paid on or before a date corresponding to the date of commencement of the lease.
- (vi) A lease of any such land which may have been offered at auction, and not bid for, may be obtained on application to the land agent, and upon payment of the required upset rent, in accordance with subsection (iii) of this section; or the lease may be again submitted to auction unless the land shall have been previously otherwise dealt with.
- (vii) Upon application being made by any person for the submission of land to lease under this section the Minister may demand such amounts as may seem necessary to cover the expenses of report in connection therewith.
- (viii) If the Minister shall be satisfied, after inspection by an authorised officer and report by the local land board, that the holder of any lease (whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act) has failed, or is failing to fulfil any condition of his lease, such lease, together with any amounts paid, may, by notification in the Gazette, be forfeited.
- Sec. 26, Act 1895. (ix) The Governor may, on application as prescribed, extend the term of any inferior land lease granted under the Acts 1884-1897 to a term not exceeding twenty-eight years, on such terms and conditions as he may think fit, but such term shall be computed from the commencement of such lease under those Acts, and may grant to the last holder thereof tenant-right as defined in this Act.
- Sec. 27, Act 1895. (x) The holder of any lease of inferior lands (whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act) may, subject to the provisions of section *one hundred and sixty* of this Act, apply during the last year of the term of the lease for a portion of the leasehold as a homestead selection, such portion not exceeding an area of six hundred and forty acres.

DIVISION VII.—Pastoral leases.

Lands exempt from pastoral lease in Central or Western Division.

239. The following classes of lands shall be exempt from any pastoral lease in the Central or Western Division:—

Exemption from
pastoral lease.
Sec. 99, Act 1884;
30, Act 1889.

- (a) Lands within proclaimed cities, towns, and villages, or within the defined limits of suburban lands attached thereto.
- (b) Lands under lease or lawful occupation for mining purposes.
- (c) Lands dedicated to any public purpose.
- (d) Lands temporarily reserved from sale for commonage.
- (e) Lands reserved from lease under the Acts, 1859-1881, until the reservation thereof shall have been revoked under the provisions of this Act.
- (f) Lands reserved from lease generally or reserved specifically from pastoral lease before or after the commencement of this Act.

Pastoral

Pastoral leases in the Central Division.

240. The following provisions shall apply to pastoral leases in the Central Division :—
- (i) Rent shall be payable annually in advance before the recurring date of division of the pastoral holding under the Crown Lands Act of 1884. Pastoral leases in Central Division. Rent. Sec. 78, subsec. (11).
- (ii) A pastoral lease in the Central Division may be subdivided upon application by the lessee to the Minister, who may approve of the line of subdivision, or may himself determine such line: Provided that the provisions of this subsection shall not conflict or interfere with the provisions of section *two hundred and forty-one* of this Act. Subdivision. S. 80, Act 1884.
- (iii) The holder of a pastoral lease in the Central Division may surrender his lease after having given the Minister not less than twelve months notice of his intention so to do, and such notice shall specify the date on which the surrender is intended to take effect. Surrender. S. 31, Act 1889.
- (iv) Upon the determination, by effluxion of time, of the extended term of a pastoral lease in the Central Division, and of all periods (if any) added thereto, the holder of the lease shall, if not less than two months prior to such determination he shall have paid a license fee as prescribed, be entitled to occupy the lands theretofore held under such lease under a preferential occupation license, which shall be subject to all the provisions of this Act in respect of occupation licenses, as qualified by subsection (vi) of section *two hundred and forty-six* of this Act. Conversion of pastoral lease into occupation license. S. 4, Act 1895.
- (v) After the expiration, before or after the commencement of this Act, of the term or extended term of a pastoral lease in the Central Division the lands theretofore subject to such lease shall be deemed to have become, or shall become, a resumed area on notification in the Gazette to that effect, in pursuance of section five of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, or of this section, as the case may be, and on such notification, and not before, shall be deemed to have ceased or shall cease to be a leasehold area within the meaning of this Act. Notification that leasehold has become resumed area. S. 5, Act 1895.
- (vi) After the expiration, before or after the commencement of this Act, of the term, or extended term, of any pastoral lease in the Central Division, the lands comprised thereunder, if not subject to and applied for under preferential occupation license, may be offered by auction or tender under occupation license, or otherwise dealt with as vacant lands. Disposal of lands. Sec. 43, Act 1889.
- (vii) Lands held under any pastoral lease in the Central Division which may have been or which may be forfeited or surrendered may be relet under pastoral lease by auction or tender, for the unexpired portion of the forfeited or surrendered term, upon such conditions as to the periods of appraisalment of rent or otherwise as may be determined by the Minister, or may be offered by auction or tender under occupation license, or otherwise dealt with as vacant lands. After forfeiture or surrender of any pastoral lease as aforesaid, the land shall not be deemed to be Crown Lands, and shall not be available as such until after notification (before or after the commencement of this Act) in the Gazette that the same may be so dealt with. S. 43, Act 1889.
- (viii) Upon the application of any pastoral lessee the Minister shall cause to be issued to him a lease for the land held by him, which lease shall be in the form prescribed and shall be subject to a fee of twenty shillings. Issue of lease. Sec. 29, Act 1889.

Power of withdrawal from Central Division pastoral leases.

Withdrawal from
pastoral leases for
settlement purposes,
S. 3, Act 1895.

241. The Governor shall have power to withdraw from pastoral lease in the Central Division any lands held thereunder, whenever he shall deem it expedient so to do for the purpose of providing for settlement by other holdings :

Provided that prior to any such withdrawal being notified as hereinafter provided, the local land board shall make inquiry and report to the Minister with respect to the expediency of the proposed withdrawal, and the portion of the lease to be withdrawn, and, upon such inquiry, the lessee may be a party, without any right of appeal to the Land Appeal Court :

Provided further that the leasehold area shall be divided by the Minister into two parts as nearly equal in area as practicable, and the part from which withdrawals may be made shall be defined, and notice thereof given to the lessee.

The area withdrawn under one exercise of this power shall be in as compact a form as practicable, and the first withdrawal shall not be less than one-fourth, and the aggregate areas to be withdrawn under this power shall not exceed one-half of the area held under such lease on the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five.

Every such withdrawal shall be notified in the Gazette and some newspaper published in the district, and shall take effect four months after the date thereof or at such later date as may be specified for that purpose in the notification ; and copies of such notifications, together with the reasons for the withdrawals therein notified, shall be laid upon the tables of both Houses of Parliament forthwith if Parliament be sitting, and if not, then within eight days after the commencement of the next Session.

Upon any such withdrawal taking effect the pastoral lease shall cease to include the lands so withdrawn, but shall otherwise continue in full force and effect except as hereinafter provided.

The power of withdrawal conferred by this section shall be in addition to, and not in substitution for, the power of withdrawal conferred by section *one hundred and eighty-nine* of this Act.

In compensation for a withdrawal under the power conferred by this section ;—

- (a) a period shall be added to the term of the pastoral lease ; and
- (b) the lands withdrawn may, upon payment of the license fee as prescribed, continue to be occupied in virtue of a preferential occupation license ; and
- (c) the rent for the succeeding years of the pastoral lease shall be reduced in proportion to the area withdrawn ; and
- (d) a proportionate amount of any rent paid in advance shall be credited on account of the first year's license fee for the withdrawn area, or refunded at the request of the lessee.

The period to be added to the term of a pastoral lease in consideration of a withdrawal shall be computed so that the added period shall bear the same ratio to the unexpired period as the area withdrawn bears to the area left.

The method of ascertaining the added period shall be by multiplying together the unexpired period and the area withdrawn, and dividing the product by the area left. And in the foregoing formula —

“Unexpired period” means the number of months which the lease has to run, reckoning from the date of the withdrawal up to the date at which the lease (including all periods previously added) would have expired.

“Added

“Added period” means the number of months by which the term of a pastoral lease is to be extended in consideration for such withdrawal.

“Area withdrawn” means the number of acres included in such withdrawal.

“Area left” means the number of acres left under the pastoral lease at the date of withdrawal.

For the purposes of computation any fractional part of a month shall be reckoned as one month, and any fractional part of an acre shall be disregarded :

Provided always that upon application by the lessee within the time and in the manner prescribed, the rent of the area left shall be reappraised.

The Governor shall notify in the Gazette the length of the period to be added to the term of a pastoral lease in consideration of a withdrawal, and the date at which such added period will expire; and the added period shall determine upon the date so notified; and the Governor shall likewise notify the rate of the rent of the pastoral lease in any case where the rate has been varied, and the rate so notified shall be deemed to have been payable as from the date of withdrawal.

The period added to the term of a pastoral lease in consideration of a withdrawal shall be affixed to the extension (if any) of such lease under section forty-three of the Crown Lands Act of 1889, and the conditions of the lease during any such added period shall be the same as immediately prior to the commencement of such period.

Pastoral leases in the Western Division.

242. (I) Every pastoral lease in the Western Division shall have a term of twenty-eight years, and such term (which shall be deemed to have commenced when the term, as existing before the first day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, commenced) shall be divided for the purpose of the appraisement of the rate of rent into four periods each of seven years and a separate appraisement shall be made of the rate of rent payable for each of such periods as may have commenced after the first day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or may commence after the commencement of this Act :

Pastoral and homestead leases in the Western Division.
S. 7, Act 1895.

Provided always that—

(a) In the case of a pastoral lease granted before the first day of December, in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine, and not brought under the provisions of section twenty-nine of the Crown Lands Act of 1889, the rate of rent from time to time payable under the Crown Lands Act of 1884 shall be paid until the expiration of such seven-year period of the term of the lease as may have been current on the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five.

(b) Nothing contained in this section shall prevent or affect the reappraisement of the rent of a pastoral lease in pursuance of section nine of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, or the coming into operation of any rent so reappraised.

(II) Whenever the rent of a pastoral lease shall be determined notice thereof shall be published in the Gazette, and shall be notified to the leaseholder in the prescribed manner; and if, within the time and according to the manner prescribed, he shall fail to pay into the Treasury the amount notified to be due under such lease his right thereto shall be liable to forfeiture. Pending determination the lessee

Sec. 78, subsec. (v),
Act 1884.

Sec. 29, Act 1889. lessee shall in every case continue to pay the previous rent; but when such determination shall have been made, he shall be entitled to a refund of any sums paid in excess, or shall pay within the prescribed time any difference due to the Crown between the previous rent and the rent as determined.

S. 80, Act 1884. (III) A pastoral lease in the Western Division may be subdivided upon application by the lessee to the Minister, who may approve of the line of subdivision, or may himself determine such line: Provided that the provisions of this subsection shall not conflict or interfere with the provisions of section *two hundred and forty-four* of this Act.

S. 31, Act 1889. (IV) The holder of a pastoral lease in the Western Division may surrender his lease after having given the Minister not less than twelve months notice of his intention so to do, and such notice shall specify the date on which the surrender is intended to take effect.

S. 43, Act 1889. (V) Lands held under any pastoral lease in the Western Division which may have been or which may be forfeited or surrendered may be relet under pastoral lease by auction or tender, for the unexpired portion of the forfeited or surrendered term, upon such conditions as to the periods of appraisement of rent or otherwise as may be determined by the Minister, or may be offered by auction or tender under occupation license, or otherwise dealt with as vacant lands.

After forfeiture or surrender of any pastoral lease as aforesaid, the land shall not be deemed to be Crown lands, and shall not be available as such until after notification (before or after the commencement of this Act) in the Gazette that the same may be so dealt with.

(VI) After the expiration of the term, or extended term, of any pastoral lease in the Western Division, the lands comprised thereunder may be offered by auction or tender under occupation license, or otherwise dealt with as vacant lands.

Tenant right in improvements.

S. 7, Act 1893.

(VII) Upon the expiration by effluxion of time of the term of any pastoral lease in the Western Division the last holder of the lease shall have tenant right (as the same is hereinafter defined) in improvements upon the lands theretofore held under the lease.

S. 27, Act 1895.

(VIII) The holder of a pastoral lease in the Western Division may, subject to the provisions of section *one hundred and sixty* of this Act, apply during the last year of the term of the lease for a portion of the leasehold as a homestead selection, such portion not exceeding six hundred and forty acres.

S. 29, Act 1899.

(IX) Upon the application of any pastoral lessee the Minister shall cause to be issued to him a lease for the land held by him, which lease shall be in the form prescribed, and shall be subject to a fee of twenty shillings.

Attachment of resumed area to leasehold area in Western Division.

Attachment of resumed area to leasehold area.

S. 8, Act 1895.

243. In any case in which—

- (a) the Minister, after inquiry by the local land board, is satisfied that any resumed area in the Western Division (not being within the land districts of Brewarrina, Hay North, or Walgett North) is not, and is not likely to be, required for purposes of settlement before the expiration of the pastoral lease of the leasehold area; and
- (b) the occupation license or annual lease, if any, of the resumed area is not held by a person other than the holder of the pastoral lease of the leasehold area

the Minister may, with the consent of the holder of the pastoral lease by notification in the Gazette, declare that the resumed area shall thenceforward

thenceforward be held under pastoral lease; and the occupation license or annual lease, as the case may be, of the resumed area shall thereupon expire, and any artesian well lease on the resumed area, held concurrently with the pastoral lease, shall be deemed to be surrendered, but not so as in either case to thereby render the improvements on the resumed area the property of the Crown.

The resumed area, or so much thereof as may be available, shall be added to the area held under the existing pastoral lease; and the rent of the area so added shall be fixed in accordance with the following provisions:—

- (i) If the Minister and the lessee so agree, such rent shall be, at the rate per acre, payable for the leasehold area.
- (ii) If the Minister and the lessee do not agree, the rent for the area so added shall be appraised by the local land board in accordance with the provisions of this Act as if it were the rent for a pastoral lease of the resumed area.
- (iii) Any reappraisal of the rent of the pastoral lease shall be of the rent of the lease as including the whole area.
- (iv) Upon default in the due payment for the whole area of any sum due as rent, or added to the rent, the lease of the whole area may be forfeited in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- (v) The accounts between the lessee and the Crown shall be adjusted, and for the purposes of such adjustment any rent and license fee shall be considered as accruing due day by day.

Any resumed area added to land under pastoral lease in accordance with the provisions of this section or section eight of the Crown Lands Act of 1895 shall be deemed to have been or to be added subject to the provision that the Governor may (by notice in the Gazette) withdraw, without compensation, the whole or any part or parts thereof from pastoral lease whenever he shall deem it necessary or expedient to make the land available under any provisions of this Act. Upon such withdrawal (which shall not take effect until the expiration of six months from the date of notice thereof) the lessee shall (on application within the prescribed time and payment of license fee as prescribed) be entitled to hold the withdrawn area under preferential occupation license; and any improvements upon the withdrawn area (not forfeited or forfeitable to or vested in the Crown) shall be taken to be the property of the lessee for all purposes and subject to the provisions of section *three hundred and one* of this Act.

Power of withdrawal from Western Division pastoral leases.

244. The Governor shall have the same power of withdrawing land from a pastoral lease in the Western Division as by this Act is conferred upon him in respect of pastoral leases in the Central Division, except that:—

Withdrawal for extra-urban settlement in the Western Division.

S. 6, Act 1895.

- (a) The area withdrawn under one exercise of the power shall not be less than one-sixteenth, and the aggregate areas to be withdrawn under this power shall not exceed one-eighth of the area held under the lease, and this power shall only be exercised to withdraw land within ten miles of the boundary of a town containing at least fifty inhabitants; and
- (b) Any period to be added to the term of a pastoral lease in consideration of a withdrawal shall be affixed to the term of the lease as extended by the Crown Lands Act of 1895.

The lessee shall have compensation upon any such withdrawal in the like manner as is hereinbefore provided upon a withdrawal from a pastoral lease in the Central Division, and shall have tenant right in improvements as the same is hereinafter defined upon the land so withdrawn.

Transfers

Transfers of pastoral leases.

Transfers.

S. 118, Act 1884.

245. The holder of any pastoral lease may transfer his right of lease in the prescribed manner.

DIVISION VIII.—Occupation licenses.

Occupation Licenses.

S. 81, Act 1884.

246. Subject to the provisions hereinafter contained the Governor may issue Occupation Licenses. And such licenses shall entitle the licensees to occupy for grazing purposes a resumed area or vacant lands or any portion thereof:—

- (I) The right to occupation licenses for any portions of resumed areas or vacant lands which were not applied for by the runholder under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, or which have been forfeited or surrendered, may be disposed of by auction or tender in the prescribed manner.
- Sec. 43, Act 1889. (II) After the expiration (before or after the commencement of this Act) of the term, or extended term, of any pastoral lease, the lands comprised thereunder, if not subject to and applied for under preferential occupation license, may be offered by auction or tender under occupation license, or otherwise dealt with as vacant lands.
- Sec. 43, Act 1889. (III) Lands held under any pastoral lease which may have been or which may be forfeited or surrendered may be offered by auction or tender under occupation license or otherwise dealt with as vacant lands, after notification in the Gazette (before or after the commencement of this Act) that the same may be dealt with as Crown lands.
- Sec. 81, Act 1884, subsec. (1). (IV) the Minister may at any time direct a fresh appraisalment to be made of any occupation license or preferential occupation license in any Division, and may require the licensee to pay his annual license fee on the basis of such fresh appraisalment after the expiration of any current year during the continuance of the license;
- Sec. 81, Act 1884, subsec. (1). (V) Occupation licenses and preferential occupation licenses shall be in force from the first day of January to the thirty-first day of December in each year, and the rates of license fee shall be published in the Gazette, and if within sixty days thereafter such fees be not paid into the Treasury by the licensee, the Minister may refuse to renew such license.
- Sec. 4, Act 1895. (VI) Where on the determination by effluxion of time of the term or extended term of any pastoral lease in the Central Division, or where on the withdrawal of land from pastoral lease in the Central or Western Division the land shall be obtained under preferential occupation license, the license fee payable in respect of the land held under the preferential occupation license shall be at the same rate as is payable in respect of the resumed area, unless the Minister shall direct an appraisalment of the license fee to be made; or, if there be no resumed area, or if the resumed area be not held under occupation license, then at a rate to be appraised, and, until such appraisalment, and subject to an adjustment of accounts thereupon, at a provisional rate of two pounds per section of six hundred and forty acres. The Governor may, giving not less than three months' notice in the Gazette, refuse a renewal of any such preferential occupation license in the Central Division, or any similar preferential occupation license in that Division granted before the commencement of this Act, and in such case the preferential occupation license shall determine at the end of the then current year, and if the Governor refuse to renew any such preferential occupation license of lands containing

containing improvements, the last holder of the license shall have tenant right (as the same is hereinafter defined) in such of the improvements as were made with the consent of the Crown after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this Act.

- (VII) Upon the granting of any lease or the sale of any land under occupation license the licensee's right of occupation to the extent of such portion shall thereupon cease, but he shall be entitled to a refund of so much of the license fee paid in advance and to reduction in future rent as shall be proportionate to the area so withdrawn and from the date of withdrawal, and shall be entitled to be paid such compensation for improvements on any portion so withdrawn as may be determined after appraisalment by the Local Land Board.

Sec. 81, Act 1884,
subsec. (IV).

DIVISION IX.—Survey of Leasehold and Resumed Areas, &c.

247. (I) The Minister may direct the survey of the boundaries or portions of the boundaries of any land held under pastoral lease or occupation license.

Survey of leasehold and resumed area and settlement of disputed boundaries.

(II) If such survey be made at the request of the lessee or licensee the Minister may demand from the lessee or licensee the whole or any part of the cost thereof, but if otherwise, any sum not exceeding twenty shillings for each linear mile of the boundary so surveyed, and, in default of payment of such sum within sixty days after notification of the demand in the Gazette, such lessee or licensee shall become liable to the same penalties as attach to non-payment of his rent or license fee.

Sec. 143, Act 1884 ;
52, Act 1889.

(III) If at any inquiry or proceeding before a local land board concerning any application to purchase or lease Crown Lands, any question or dispute shall arise as to the extent or boundary or boundaries of any land comprised in any lease or license, it shall be competent for such board thereupon to inquire into the matter and recommend for the approval of the Minister (subject to appeal) any adjustment of such boundary or boundaries which may appear reasonable; or such adjustment of boundaries may, subject to the ultimate approval of the Minister, be determined by agreement between the parties; and for this purpose the description of any land applied for as aforesaid may be modified to conform with the boundary or boundaries so determined; and any such boundary or boundaries approved by the Minister as aforesaid shall, for the purposes of the Acts 1859-1897, or this Act, be held to be the boundary or boundaries of such pastoral lease or occupation license or other lands applied for.

Sec. 52, Act 1889.

(IV) The Minister may refer to the local land board for inquiry any question or dispute which may have arisen or may arise in respect of the boundaries of any land held under lease or license, and the board shall in due course deal therewith: Provided that in any case the board make such order as it may deem fit touching the cost of such inquiry, and of any survey which may be deemed necessary, which shall be borne by such persons and in such proportions as the board may direct.

Sec. 52, Act 1889.

DIVISION X.—Residential Leases.

248. It shall be lawful for the Governor, on the recommendation of the Warden of any gold-field, to grant leases for periods not exceeding fifteen years of areas not exceeding twenty acres of Crown Land within gold and mineral fields to any holder of a miner's right or mineral license for the purpose of *bonâ fide* residence, upon such terms

Residential lease may be granted to holder of miner's right or mineral license.

Sec. 48, Act 1889 ;
50, Act 1895.

terms and conditions as to rent, cost of survey, term of lease, erection of fences and buildings, and upon such other provisions for the protection of the public interest as may be prescribed.

249. All holders of residential leases, whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act, shall have tenant right in improvements as herein defined.

DIVISION XI.—Scrub Leases.

Scrub-lands may be declared and leased. Sec. 35, Act 1889.

250. The Minister may, upon the recommendation of the local land board, declare by notification in the Gazette, any Crown lands wholly or partly covered by scrub or noxious undergrowth to be scrub-lands; and may, on the recommendation of the local land board (and notwithstanding anything in the Prickly-pear Act contained), grant leases of such lands on application, or sell the same by auction or tender at such times and places and under such conditions and for such terms not exceeding twenty-one years as he may deem desirable.

Lands so declared to be scrub-lands shall not until leased in accordance with this section be withdrawn from any lease or license under which they may at the time be held.

No scrub-lease of lands within the outside boundaries of land held under pastoral lease or homestead lease shall be granted to any person but the holder of such pastoral or homestead lease, in which case such scrub-lease shall not be for a longer term than the unexpired term of such pastoral or homestead lease.

The term of a scrub-lease may be divided into such periods as the Minister shall fix, and the rent for the second or any succeeding period shall be determined in accordance with section *forty-four* of this Act.

Notwithstanding anything in this Act or in the Acts 1884-1897 contained, the Minister may, on the recommendation of the local land board, either before or after granting any such scrub-lease, cause the rental of the remainder of the land held under pastoral or homestead lease to be reappraised and redetermined.

No pastoral or homestead lessee shall hold or cause to be held on his behalf, or in his interest, any scrub-lease, except within the land held under lease by himself.

The applicant for any scrub-lease shall pay the cost of survey thereof, or in the event of his withdrawing his application, all costs of survey, reports, or inquiry incurred in dealing therewith.

251. All leases of scrub-lands, whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act, shall be subject to the general provisions here following—

- (I) Every such lease shall, if granted in pursuance of an application or by tender, commence from the date of the notification in the Gazette of the Minister's approval of the application or acceptance of the tender; and, if sold at auction, shall commence from the date of sale. And the land held thereunder shall (subject to the provision for withdrawal contained in section *one hundred and eighty-nine* of this Act) during the whole currency thereof be unavailable for purchase or lease.
- (II) Rent for the first year of the lease shall together with the cost of survey, be paid within one month from the date of the notice in the Gazette specifying the amount thereof; and the rent shall for succeeding years be paid annually in advance on or before the last day of the current year of the lease.
- (III) Every holder of a scrub-lease shall, as conditions of his lease, be required to take all such steps as the local land board shall

shall from time to time, subject to appeal, direct, for the purpose of destroying such scrub as may be specified in his lease or promise of lease, in and upon the land under scrub-lease, or in and upon any land within the boundaries of the lease, or in and upon any reserves or roads within such boundaries; and when so destroyed to keep such land free from the same; and shall commence to destroy the same within three months after the commencement of the lease. And if rent thereon shall not be paid within the time allowed, or if in the opinion of the Minister, after report by the local land board, subject to appeal, the holder shall have failed to comply with any condition of his lease, the Minister may, by notification in the Gazette, declare such lease to be forfeited; and all improvements on such lands shall be the property of the Crown.

- (iv) Any land held under scrub-lease shall, on the forfeiture or surrender thereof, be added to the lands held under lease or license within the boundaries of which it may be situated, and rent therefor shall be payable at such rate per acre as may be determined by the local land board, and shall form part of the rent payable for such lease or license, which shall be liable to forfeiture if the rent for the added lands be not paid as prescribed.
- (v) If a pastoral lease or homestead lease be held in conjunction with a scrub-lease, neither of such leases shall be transferred separately.
- (vi) The Governor may, on application as prescribed, extend the term of any scrub-lease granted under the Acts 1884–1897 or this Act to a term not exceeding twenty-eight years on such terms and conditions as he may think fit, but such term shall be computed from the commencement of such lease under those Acts. Sec. 26, Act 1895.
- (vii) The Governor may grant to the last holder of any scrub-lease tenant-right as defined in this Act. Sec. 26, Act 1895.

252. The holder of any scrub-lease not being within a pastoral or homestead lease, whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act, may, at any time during the last year of the term of the lease, apply, subject to the provisions of section *one hundred and sixty* of this Act for a portion of the leasehold as a homestead selection, such portion not exceeding six hundred and forty acres in area. Sec. 27, Act 1895.

DIVISION XII.—Settlement Leases for Agriculture and Grazing.

Settlement lease area.

253. The Governor may, subject to the provisions of and under the power conferred by section *forty-six* of this Act set apart any tract of Crown lands to be disposed of by leases under the provisions hereinafter contained. Settlement lease areas. Sec. 24, Act 1895.

Any tract which has been so set apart (or any tract set apart under the Crown Lands Act of 1895 for disposal under settlement lease and not already dealt with as required by that Act) shall be dealt with as follows:—

- (i) A subdivision shall be made thereof into farms, which in cases where the land appears suitable for agriculture, shall not contain more than one thousand two hundred and eighty acres; and in cases where the land appears suitable chiefly for grazing shall not be more than ten thousand two hundred and

forty acres in area ; and the standard to be adopted in regulating the extent of each such farm shall be that the lessee thereof may be able to establish and maintain a home thereon by the use of the land.

Any subdivision whether made before or after any notification under this Act may be taken to be a subdivision within the meaning of this section, and one or more measured portions may by notification under this section constitute a farm.

- (II) A valuation of the said farms shall be made according to the capabilities and situation of the farm, and in making such valuation, due regard shall be paid to the term and conditions of a settlement lease, and to the intention of these provisions that the lessee may be enabled to establish and maintain his home thereon.
- (III) The value, to an incoming tenant, of any improvements on any such farm may be appraised by the Minister after inquiry and report by the Local Land Board in the prescribed manner, and such appraisal shall, as between the Crown or the owner of the improvements, as the case may be, and any person taking such farm, be conclusive evidence of the value of the improvements at the date of the appraisal.
- (IV) A notification shall be published in the Gazette and in a local newspaper, giving particulars of the areas, values and qualities of the said farms, and of the appraised value of any improvements thereon, and specifying a date on and after which leases of the said farms may be applied for; the area and value of any farm as stated in the said notification shall be taken to be the area and capital value thereof for the purposes of the provisions hereinafter contained.
- (V) Any notification under this section or section twenty-four of the Crown Lands Act of 1895 may be corrected, amended, modified, or revoked by notice in the Gazette.
- (VI) The setting apart of any tract of Crown lands for disposal by way of settlement lease, and the notification required by this section may, whenever it shall be deemed expedient, be effectuated by one and the same notification in the Gazette, and in any such case any preliminary notification shall be deemed to have been unnecessary.

Sec. 24, Act 1895.

Limitation as to number of holdings.

254. No person who, on and after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, has applied, or who after the commencement of this Act applies, for a settlement lease, and has obtained or obtains a title thereto in pursuance of such application shall be qualified to apply for another settlement lease; and no person who, on or after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, has applied, or who after the commencement of this Act applies for an original conditional purchase, or a homestead selection, or an original homestead lease, and has obtained or obtains a title thereto in pursuance of such application, shall be qualified to apply for a settlement lease unless he has previously obtained a certificate as prescribed that he was compelled by adverse circumstances to abandon or to surrender the holding first applied for, or unless (notwithstanding the non-obtaining of such certificate) he has previously obtained the written approval of the Minister to apply for a settlement lease.

The privilege of selecting, &c., when exhausted.

Sec. 40, Act 1895.

For

For the purposes of this section title in pursuance of an application shall be taken to have been obtained—in the case of a homestead selection, settlement lease, and original conditional purchase—when the application has been confirmed by the local land board, and in the case of a homestead lease when the approval of the issue of the lease has been notified in the Gazette, and a valid notice of non-acceptance has not been duly given :

Provided that if the holding first applied for were a settlement lease or an original homestead lease, the disqualification enacted by this section shall cease to operate upon the expiration of the term of the lease by effluxion of time, or if the lease has been forfeited, surrendered, or otherwise sooner determined, then upon the expiration of the period which the term of the lease would have had to run, but for such forfeiture, surrender, or other sooner determination.

Limitation as to area.

255. No person shall be competent to apply for a settlement lease who—

(a) owns at the date of application ; or

(b) owned at any time previous to the date of application, and fraudulently divested himself of the ownership thereof by transfer, conveyance, assignment, or otherwise, or purported so to do, in order to evade the foregoing provision,

an area of land granted in fee simple, or conditionally purchased, or conditionally leased from the Crown, which area, added to the area of the settlement lease applied for, exceeds as a total area the maximum area permitted by law to a settlement lease.

Disqualifications by reason of area already held.
Sec. 41, Act 1895.

Persons not natural-born or not naturalised.

256. A person who is not a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty shall not be qualified to apply for a settlement lease unless he has resided in New South Wales for one year, and at the time of making such application has lodged a declaration of his intention to become naturalised within five years from the time of making such declaration.

Persons not natural-born or naturalised.
Sec. 41, Act 1895.

If such person shall fail to become so naturalised within the period aforesaid, he shall absolutely forfeit all land the subject of his application, together with all the improvements thereon.

Good faith in applicants.

257. Every application for a settlement lease is hereby required to be made in good faith ; and an application shall be taken to be made in good faith when the sole object of the applicant in making the application is to obtain a lease of the land in order that he may hold and use the land for his own exclusive benefit according to law.

Good faith in applicants.
Sec. 42, Act 1895.

Applications for settlement leases.

258. (I) On and after the date specified in any notification under section two hundred and fifty-three of this Act or section twenty-four of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, any person not disqualified by this Act may apply to the land agent for any farm so notified.

Application for settlement lease.
Sec. 24, Act 1895.
Sec. 24, Act 1895.

(II) The application shall be made in the prescribed manner, and shall be accompanied by one half years rent in advance, and by a survey fee upon the prescribed scale.

The applicant shall satisfy the local land board that he is qualified to make the application, and that the same has been made in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(III)

(iii) The local land board shall confirm the application, if so satisfied, unless it permits the applicant to withdraw the same; if not so satisfied, it shall disallow the application.

Land board may disallow application.
Sec. 42, Act 1895.

(iv) The local land board shall disallow an application for a settlement lease unless it be satisfied that the application is made in good faith, as defined in section two hundred and fifty-seven of this Act.

(v) In any case where the local land board is satisfied that an application as aforesaid has been made otherwise than in good faith, it shall have power to declare that any moneys lodged with such application shall be forfeited to the Crown, and the same shall be forfeited accordingly.

Application pending

(vi) Every application as aforesaid pending at the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to be within the provisions of this section.

Commencement of title.

Sec. 2, 59 Vic. No. 26.

259. The title to any settlement lease applied for after the commencement of this Act shall commence from the date of application therefor, if valid, and any such application shall withdraw such of the land therein described as may be available for the purpose from any annual lease or occupation license under which it may be held: Provided that the land agent shall, within one week of the receipt of any such application, notify the same through the post to the holder of any annual lease or occupation license within which the land applied for, or any part thereof, may be situated.

Trespass and impounding.

Trespass by stock on unfenced lands.
Sec. 55, Act 1895.

260. No person occupying land under a settlement lease shall—

(a) bring an action for trespass committed by stock upon the said land, whether before or after the commencement of this Act; or

(b) impound any stock trespassing upon the said land— unless the said land or the portion thereof trespassed upon was, at the date of the trespass, enclosed with a fence reasonably sufficient to keep out stock:

Provided always that nothing in this section contained shall apply to any trespass wilfully caused.

Issue of settlement leases.

Settlement leases.
Sec. 25, Act 1895.

261. The Governor may grant to an applicant whose application (whether made before or after the commencement of this Act) has been confirmed by the Local Land Board a settlement lease of the farm applied for.

The term of the lease shall be twenty-eight years, and the lease shall be in the prescribed form, and shall contain provisions to secure:—

Sec. 2, 59 Vic. No. 26.

(a) That the lessee shall pay an annual rent of one and one quarter per centum on the capital value of the farm as fixed under this Act (or where the application is for land set apart for settlement lease before the commencement of this Act on the capital value as fixed under the Crown Lands Act of 1895), and such rent shall be charged from the date of the application for the lease if such application is made after the commencement of this Act;

Sec. 25, Act 1895.

(b) that the lessee shall pay the value of the improvements as appraised, and interest on such value at the rate of four pounds per centum per annum, the payment being made in one sum, or, at his option, in three equal yearly instalments, at the dates and in the manner prescribed;

(c)

- (c) that the lessee shall reside on the farm and make it his *boná fide* residence during the whole term, or if the lease have been transferred by way of *boná fide* mortgage, then that the owner, subject to such mortgage shall so reside;
- (d) that the lessee shall fence the farm within five years from the date of the lease;
- (e) That the lessee shall conform to any regulations made by the Minister relating to keeping the farm clear of rabbits and other noxious animals, and also to clearing the farm of scrub and noxious weeds;
- (f) that the lessee shall not assign or sublet without the Minister's consent;
- (g) that the Governor may forfeit the lease upon breach of any of the conditions, covenants, and provisions therein contained. The lease may also contain such additional provisions, conditions, and covenants as to the Governor may seem expedient in the public interest. Sec. 27, Act 1895.

262. Upon the expiration of the full term of any settlement lease the last holder thereof shall have tenant right (as the same is hereinafter defined) in the improvements thereon.

263. The holder of any settlement lease may, subject to the provisions of section *one hundred and sixty* of this Act apply during the last year of the term of the lease for a portion of the leasehold as a homestead selection, such portion not exceeding an area of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres.

Forfeiture of settlement lease for want of good faith.

264. (I) In any case where an application for a settlement lease has been confirmed after the first day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this Act, and it appears to the satisfaction of the local land board— Forfeiture for want of good faith. Sec. 43, Act 1895.

- (a) that the application was not made in good faith; or
- (b) that the land is not held or used for the exclusive benefit of the lessee, or apparent owner thereof,

the Governor shall have power to forfeit, by notification in the Gazette, the lease in question, together with all moneys paid thereon.

(II) Nothing in this section contained shall affect any person acquiring any interest in a settlement lease after the same becomes capable of being transferred, unless he has, before acquiring such interest, had notice of a violation of the provisions of section *two hundred and fifty-seven* of this Act or of section *forty-two* of the Crown Lands Act, 1895, or of the intention to institute an inquiry as to such violation. Not to apply to transferee without notice.

DIVISION XIII.—Snow Leases.

265. The Minister may, upon the recommendation of the local land board, lease by auction any Crown lands not being under pastoral or conditional lease, which may be usually covered with snow for a part of each year and unfit for continuous use or occupation. Leasing of snow lands. Sec. 36, Act 1889.

Such land shall be leased in areas of not less than one thousand two hundred and eighty or more than ten thousand two hundred and forty acres, and during the currency of the lease shall be exempt from sale or other lease under the provisions of this Act.

Every such lease shall commence from the day of sale, and shall withdraw the land from any annual lease or license under which it may be held, and rent therefor shall be paid annually in advance not later than the last day of each year of the lease, subject in default to forfeiture, by notice in the Gazette.

No

No right of impounding any stock of the outgoing licensee or lessee shall vest in the holder of a lease under this section until one month after the commencement of such lease.

The prescribed fee for the survey of the land and the first year's rent shall be paid by the purchaser at the time of sale, and upon default the lease may there and then be reoffered for sale.

The lease shall have a term of seven years, and at the expiration thereof the lessee shall have a right of extension for a term of three years, subject to the payment of such annual rental as may be determined in accordance with the provisions of this Act, provided that he shall have notified to the Minister at least twelve months prior to the expiration of such term his intention of claiming such extension.

The Minister may determine any such lease, whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act, by giving the lessee notice to that effect not later than one year prior to the date on which the term shall expire.

Not more than two of any such leases shall be held by, or in the interest of, one person.

Special Leases.

266. The Governor may lease, upon such conditions as he may think fit, for a term not exceeding twenty-eight years—

land situated under the sea or under the waters of any harbour, bay, lake, river, creek, estuary, or navigable stream, which shall be deemed to be Crown lands for the purposes of this section,

for the erection of wharfs, jetties, piers, or floating docks. No such lease of such Crown lands fronting any land held in fee-simple shall be made, except to or with the consent of the proprietor thereof.

No such lease shall be made for the erection of any wharf, jetty, pier, or floating dock, which would interfere with navigation or with the rights of adjoining proprietors.

The intention to make a lease of such land shall be notified in the Gazette for four consecutive weeks, and not less than four times in some local newspaper, if any, before the lease is issued.

267. The Governor may lease Crown lands—

by auction or otherwise, and in areas not exceeding in any case three hundred and twenty acres, for a term not exceeding twenty-eight years,

for any of the purposes hereinafter specified, that is to say, for dams, tanks, irrigation works, wharfs, bridges, punt-houses, ferries, bathing-places, landing-places, saw-mills, brick-kilns, lime-kilns, slaughter-houses, tanneries, wool-washing establishments, quarries, fisheries, building or repairing ships or boats, tramway purposes, obtaining guano, shells, limestone, loam, brickearth, gravel, or ballast, or for an inn, store, smithy, bakery, or mail station in sparsely populated districts, or for business purposes, or for the erection of buildings, or for any purpose declared by the Governor by proclamation in the Gazette to be a purpose within this section. And the Governor may determine the upset rent thereof if let at auction or the annual rent if let by tender, and may annex to any such lease such conditions, reservations, and provisions as he may deem fit: Provided that leases may be granted at a reduced rental to contractors of public works for purposes connected with the construction of such works during the term of contract.

268. Subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, the Governor may make leases of Crown lands, not exceeding three chains in width but without limit of length, for irrigation works, or for forming and maintaining tramways and crossings, and other necessary approaches and

Leases for wharfs,
jetties, &c.
Sec. 80, Act 1884,
46, Act 1895.

Sec. 90, Act 1884,
46, Act 1895.
Leases for special
purposes.

Leases for tramway
and irrigation
purposes.
Sec. 92, Act 1884.

and works in connection therewith. And notice of every application for a lease under this section, and of the purpose for which it is proposed to be made, shall be published in the Gazette for at least four consecutive weeks before the issue of such lease.

269. The term of any special lease (whether applied for before or after the commencement of this Act) may be fixed for or extended to any term not exceeding twenty-eight years. Sec. 46, Act 1895.

270. With any application for a special lease a fee in accordance with the prescribed scale shall be tendered for the survey of the land. Sec. 11, Act 1899.

271. If it should appear to the satisfaction of the Governor that the land comprised in any special lease, whether granted before or after the commencement of this Act, is not used and occupied *bonâ fide* for the purpose for which the same has been made, or that default has been made in any condition, he may declare such lease forfeited, together with any improvements erected on the land and any rent paid in respect thereof.

PART VI.

PROCLAMATIONS OF CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES, RESERVES, DEDICATIONS.

DIVISION I.—Cities, towns, villages, &c.

272. The Governor may proclaim in the Gazette—
- (a) any city, town, or village; Cities, towns, and villages. Sec. 4, Act 1884.
 - (b) the suburban lands, or any extension of such suburban lands, to be attached to any such city, town, or village, or to any existing city, town, or village; Sec. 30, Act 1880. Sec. 101, Act 1884.
 - (c) population areas; and such population areas may be defined with lines directed to the cardinal points; or with boundaries other than lines directed to the cardinal points; but in any case such boundaries or lines shall be distant not more than ten miles from the nearest boundary of the city, town, or village.

Lands in any proclaimed city, town, village, suburban boundaries, or population areas shall be deemed to have been and to be set apart within the meaning of this Act.

DIVISION II.—Alteration of designs of cities, towns, &c.

273. (I) It shall be lawful for the Governor by notice in the Gazette to correct or alter the name, design, or plan of any city, town, or village, and the limits of any suburban lands attached thereto, or to wholly cancel any such design or plan or limits, and whether such city, town, village, or lands were dedicated or set apart under this Act or the Acts 1859–1897, or Orders in Council; and an abstract thereof shall be laid before Parliament within thirty days after such notification if Parliament be then in session, and if not then within thirty days after the commencement of the then next session. Alteration of plan of town or village. Sec. 107, Act 1884. Sec. 57, Act 1895.

(II) When it is intended to alter or cancel the design or plan or limits of any city, town, or village, or suburban lands in which allotments or portions have been sold, notice of the intention and of the nature of the proposed alteration or cancellation shall be published in the Gazette and in some newspaper circulating in the district, and no such correction, alteration, or cancellation shall be carried into effect until the expiration of three months from the notification in the Gazette of such intention. After

After notice in the Gazette of such intention as aforesaid the Local Land Board shall assess the loss (if any) of value which may be suffered by the holder of any allotment or portion if the proposed alteration or cancellation is carried into effect.

If the intention to alter or cancel the design or plan is afterwards carried into effect, the sum assessed by the Local Land Board shall be the total sum payable by way of compensation to the said holder, and all persons claiming under or through him; and such holder and all persons claiming under or through him shall be barred of any action or suit in respect of the alteration or cancellation of the design or plan or limits or the carrying out thereof other than an action for the sum so assessed as aforesaid: Provided however that compensation for loss of value shall be assessed only in cases where the alteration or cancellation of design or plan if carried into effect will deprive the said holder of access from his allotment or portion to the nearest street or road.

DIVISION III.—Reserves.

274. The Governor may—

- (I) by notice in the Gazette declare what portions of Crown lands shall be reserved and set apart as sites for cities, towns, or villages, and may define the limits of the suburban lands to be attached thereto, and to any existing city, town, or village, and may in like manner declare what portions of Crown lands shall be temporarily reserved from sale pending survey or determination by him of the portion to be set apart for any public purpose, or for commonage, or for population areas, and all lands so declared shall be reserved accordingly until revoked or altered in like manner. Within one month after such declaration, should Parliament be then in session, and otherwise within one month after the commencement of the next ensuing session of Parliament, there shall be laid before both houses of Parliament an abstract of all such reservations. And the Governor may reserve from conditional sale any Crown lands within a gold-field under the meaning and operation of any Act in force for the regulation of mining on Crown lands, and the expression public purpose shall be taken to include any purpose for mining or for removal of minerals.
- (II) by notice in the Gazette, define and set apart routes not exceeding one mile in width through any leasehold or any land held under occupation license for the passage of stock travelling pursuant to the provisions contained in the fifteenth section of the Act forty-first Victoria number nineteen, or any Act amending the same, and may also define and set apart camping places for travelling stock not in any case exceeding one square mile. Such routes and camping places shall be determined in the first instance by the local land board, and the lessee or licensee of any lands within which such routes or camping places are situate shall not be entitled to impound any stock travelling as aforesaid, or to maintain any action for trespass in respect thereof, while such stock shall keep within the boundaries of the said routes or camping places. And a reduction of the rent or license fee by reason of setting apart such routes or camping places may be made in the prescribed manner.
- (III) by proclamation in the Gazette, reserve temporarily from sale any Crown lands within one mile on either side of any railway now or hereafter to be made or projected.

(IV)

Temporary reserves from sale for sites of cities and other purposes.

Sec. 101 of Act of 1884.

Travelling stock routes and camping places.

Sec. 109 of Act of 1884.

Railway reserve.

Sec. 103 of Act of 1884.

(iv) by notice in the Gazette, reserve any land therein described from being sold or let upon lease or license in such particular manner as may be specified in such notification; and the land shall thereupon be temporarily reserved and exempt from sale or lease or license accordingly, and, unless expressly otherwise declared, shall not be reserved or exempt from sale or lease generally.

Reserves from sale or lease or license.
Sec. 39 of Act of 1889.

275. No reservation made before or after the commencement of this Act shall be held to have been or to be invalid by reason of the land being already reserved at the date of such reservation, or by reason of the revocation of any other reservation including wholly or in part the same land.

Sec. 39 of Act of 1889.

DIVISION IV.—Revocation of reserves.

276. The Governor may revoke or alter any reserve of any kind whatsoever or any population area which has been made before or after the commencement of this Act in like manner as such reserve or population area was made (whether by notice or proclamation) in the Gazette: Provided that the Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, revoke or modify any reserve made under the provisions of section thirty-nine of the Crown Lands Act of 1889 or subsection four of section two hundred and seventy-four of this Act, or any reserve made before the first December, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine.

Revocation of reserves.
Sec. 101, Act 1884.
Sec. 103, Act 1884.
Sec. 39, Act 1889.
Sec. 102, Act 1884.
Sec. 40, Act 1889.

277. The Governor may, by proclamation in the Gazette, revoke the—

Sec. 103, Act 1884.

- (a) reservation from sale of any Crown lands within one mile on either side of any railway now or hereafter to be made or projected;
- (b) the reservation from sale of any lands within similar limits made under the Acts 1859-1881.

And in such proclamation may prescribe the price, terms, and conditions on which such land may thereafter be sold, and the areas of the portions, and if deemed necessary may by proclamation vary such price, terms, conditions, and areas, the price not being less in any case than for—

town lands, eight pounds per acre,
suburban lands, two pounds ten shillings per acre,
other lands, one pound five shillings per acre;

Sec. 61, Act 1884.

nor the area more than for—

town lands, one half acre,
suburban lands, twenty acres,
country lands, six hundred and forty acres.

278. The revocation, alteration, or modification of any reservation made before or after the commencement of this Act, and whether from sale or lease or license or from lease and license or of any population area shall not take effect until after the expiration of sixty days from the day of publication in the Gazette of the notice of revocation, alteration, or modification: Provided that Crown lands temporarily reserved from sale shall not be sold before the expiration of sixty days after the reservation thereof has been revoked.

58 Vic. No. 16, s.
Sec. 39, Act 1889.
Sec. 40, Act 1889.

279. In any case where any forfeited or other lands have been or shall be reserved from sale and from lease or license, under one notification for any public purpose, it shall be lawful for the Governor, by notification in the Gazette, to revoke any such reservation, or to limit, vary, or modify the same in respect of its extent, character, or effect.

Sec. 32, Act 1889.

DIVISION V.—Reserves declaratory.

Land withdrawn from lease or license shall be deemed to have been reserved.
53 Vic. No. 16.

280. (I) Where land at any time between the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, and the twenty-seventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five (inclusive of both dates), has been withdrawn from lease, but not reserved from lease generally or in any particular manner, the said land shall, on and after the day when the withdrawal was made, be deemed to have been and to be land reserved from lease generally.

58 Vic. No. 16.

Where land, at any time between the dates aforesaid, has been withdrawn from occupation license, the said land shall, on and after the day when the withdrawal was made, be deemed to have been and to be land reserved from occupation license.

58 Vic. No. 16.

(II) Any notice in the Gazette purporting to have been a cancellation or revocation of a withdrawal from lease or from occupation license as aforesaid shall, on and after the day when the notice was published, be deemed to have been and to be a valid revocation of the reservation from lease or from occupation license (as the case may be) effected by virtue of this section.

Land withdrawn prior to 1 January, 1885, to be deemed reserved from lease and license.

281. (I) Land withdrawn at any time prior to the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, from lease shall, on and after the day when the withdrawal was made, be deemed to have been and to be land reserved from lease generally; and shall also, on and after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, and after the commencement of this Act, be deemed to have been and to be land reserved from occupation license.

58 Vic. No. 16.

(II) Any notice in the Gazette purporting to have been a cancellation or revocation of a withdrawal from lease as aforesaid shall, on and after the day when the notice was published, be deemed to have been and to be a valid revocation of a reservation from lease and license effected by virtue of this section.

Validation of certain reservations.
58 Vic. No. 16.

282. (I) Where the Governor, with or without the advice of the Executive Council, has, prior to the first day of December, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine, by notice in the Gazette, reserved or purported to reserve certain land from lease, such land shall, on and after the days when the said reservations were made, be deemed to have been and to be duly reserved from lease generally, and from occupation license.

(II) Any notice in the Gazette purporting to have been a cancellation or revocation of a reservation made or purporting to have been made as aforesaid shall be deemed to have been and to be a valid revocation of the reservation.

Land reserved shall be deemed to have been withdrawn from lease and license.
58 Vic. No. 16.

283. Where at any time before the twenty-seventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, land then under lease or license has been reserved from lease or occupation license (whether by virtue of the operations of the Act fifty-eighth Victoria number sixteen, or otherwise), the said land shall, on and after the day when the reservation was made, be deemed to have been and to be land withdrawn from any lease other than special or conditional lease, and from occupation license:

Provided that this section shall not have effect in any case where, since the day aforesaid, rent or license fee has been demanded by the Crown, and has been paid by the holder of the lease or license aforesaid in respect of the said land.

Cancellation to operate as a revocation.
58 Vic. No. 16.

284. The cancellation at any time before the twenty-seventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, by notice in the Gazette, of a reservation of land from lease, or of a withdrawal of land from lease, shall, on and after the day of the publication of the notice, be deemed to have been and to be a revocation of the reservation or withdrawal of the land from lease.

DIVISION

DIVISION VI.—State Forests—Timber Reserves—Licenses—Permits.

285. It shall be lawful for the Governor, by notification in the Gazette, to proclaim any areas of Crown Lands therein described to be State Forests, and in like manner to reserve from sale any such areas as timber reserves, for the purpose in each case of preserving under regulations in that behalf to be made by the Governor the growth and succession of timber trees, and of preventing as far as practicable the destruction and exhaustion of such State forests.

State forests and timber reserves.
Sec. 112, Act 1884.

286. State forests may be subdivided into such blocks as the Minister may think fit. For the purpose of carrying out such subdivision all existing forest and timber reserves may be reserved from sale, lease, or otherwise as the Minister may think proper until so subdivided.

Subdivision of State forests.
Sec. 113, Act 1884.

287. Any State forest or any portion thereof may by notification in the Gazette be dedicated or reserved for a specified period by the Governor for the conservation of timber, and upon publication of such notification such forest or portion thereof shall not during the term of reservation be open to timber or other licenses or permits under the provisions of this Act.

Reserves for timber conservation.
Sec. 114, Act 1884.

288. It shall be lawful for the Governor to frame regulations for the issue of licenses or rights or permits to cut and remove live or dead timber on State forests or timber or other reserves or Crown lands whether held under lease or license or not, and of licenses and permits to dig for and remove from State forests, timber reserves, or Crown lands, whether under lease or not, any gravel, stone, clay, shells, or other materials subject to the following provisions:—

Regulations for State forests and timber reserves.
Sec. 115, Act 1884.

- (I) The rights or licenses to cut timber on a State forest shall be for one or more specified blocks in such forest, and may be sold by auction at such place as may be determined by the Minister, or by tender as the Minister may think fit.
- (II) Such rights or licenses in State forests shall be for a term not exceeding one year, unless in special cases the Minister may think fit to extend such term, but no such extended term shall exceed three years.
- (III) The upset rent shall be not less than ten pounds per annum for each block of six hundred and forty acres, and a proportionate amount for each one hundred and sixty acres in excess of that area. And every holder of a right to cut timber shall, in addition to his rent, pay such royalty according to the class of timber cut at such times and places and subject to such conditions as may be fixed by the regulations.
- (IV) Permits to cut and remove timber on timber reserves may be issued for a year or any less term, not being less than one month, at an annual fee of not less than six pounds, and a proportionate fee for shorter terms. Such permits may also be issued for any specified number of trees at a rate to be fixed by regulations for each tree. General permits may also be issued for the supply of saw-mills for any term not exceeding one year at an annual rate of six pounds, and subject to a royalty according to the scale fixed by the regulations.
- (V) Licenses may be issued to cut piles or props to be used for mining purposes, for the erection of jetties, wharfs, and for other purposes, on such terms and conditions as may be fixed by the regulations.
- (VI) All fees or sums of money, except royalty, payable in respect of any rights to cut timber or in respect of licenses or permits shall be payable in advance.

And

And such regulations may prescribe the forms and conditions to be contained in any such right, license, or permit, and may fix the rents or fees to be payable by the holder of any license or permit where-soever the same shall not have been fixed by this Act, and may provide for the forfeiture of any rights, licenses, or permits for the enforce-ment of rents, royalties, or fees, for the removal of felled timber, for the licensing of sites for saw-mills and the agistment of stock, for the limitation of girth of trees to be felled, for the issue of wattle bark permits, for the marking of logs of felled trees, for the seizure and sale of timber cut without authority or upon which the royalty has not been paid, and for defining the power and privileges conferred by rights, licenses, and permits. And such regulations may also provide for the imposition of penalties and fines for the infringement or viola-tion of any such regulation made under the authority of this Act, but no such penalty shall exceed the sum of *twenty* pounds exclusive of the value of the material taken or destroyed.

Forfeitures may be declared.
Sec. 116, Act 1884.

289. The breach of any condition or obligation, or the failure to perform any act or matter specified in any right, license, or permit issued under the authority of this Act, or the Acts 1884-1897, shall have the effect of forfeiting such right, license, or permit upon a declaration of forfeiture by the Minister.

DIVISION VII.—Dedications.

Dedication of Crown Lands to public purposes.
Sec. 104 Act, 1884, and 41 Act, 1889.

290. The Governor may, by notice in the Gazette, dedicate Crown Lands (whether previously reserved or not) in such manner as may seem best for the public interest for any railway or railway station—public road, canal, or other means of internal communication—public quay or landing place—public reservoir, aqueduct, or watercourse—the preservation of water supply—any purpose of defence—hospital, asylum, or infirmary, public market, or slaughter-house—college, school, mechanics' institute, public library, museum, or other institution for public instruction or amusement—town-hall, court-house, or gaol—permanent common—public health or recreation convenience or enjoy-ment—cricket ground—or racecourse—interment of the dead—use and general purposes of pastoral and agricultural associations—public baths—or for any other public purpose.

Sec. 39, Act 1889.

No dedication made before or after the commencement of this Act shall be held to have been or to be invalid by reason of the land being already reserved at the date of such dedication, or by reason of the revocation of any other reservation including wholly or in part the same land.

Public Trusts Act.

The Governor may, by notice in the Gazette, dedicate land appropriated or resumed for any public purpose and vested in some Minister of the Crown on behalf of Her Majesty under the authority of any statute, or acquired by the Crown by gift or otherwise; and no reservation or dedication made, or purporting to have been made, before the com-mencement of this Act in pursuance of the powers in any statute shall be invalid by reason only that the land reserved or dedicated had been appropriated, resumed, vested, acquired, or given as aforesaid.

Sec. 104, Act 1884.

Upon any such notice as aforesaid being published in the Gazette such lands shall become and be dedicated accordingly, and may at any time thereafter be granted for such purposes in fee-simple.

An abstract of any intended dedication under this section shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament one calendar month before such dedication is made.

All lands heretofore permanently reserved or dedicated or here-after dedicated for any of the purposes aforesaid shall be deemed to be

be dedicated accordingly, and every conveyance, alienation, or disposition thereof, except for the purpose for which such reservation or dedication shall have been made shall be absolutely void as well against Her Majesty as all persons whomsoever:

Provided that in any case in which the Governor shall be of Sec. 105, Act 1884. opinion that the purposes for which any permanent reservation or dedication of Crown lands heretofore or dedication of Crown lands hereafter made have failed wholly or in part, or

That there is any doubt or uncertainty as to such purposes, or

That the trusts annexed to any land dedicated under this Act or permanently reserved or dedicated under the Acts 1859-1897 have failed or cannot reasonably be carried out, or

That it is expedient in the public interest to resume the whole or any part of the land so dedicated or reserved, or

To make an exchange of the whole or any portion of any such land for other land of equivalent value or nearly so to be dedicated or reserved on similar trusts or for like purposes.

Then and in every such case the Governor may direct a notice under the hand of the Minister to be published in the Gazette, which notice shall set forth the mode in which it is proposed to deal with the dedication, reservation, or land in question (hereinafter termed "Proposals"), a copy of which notice shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within ten days of the publication thereof in the Gazette if Parliament be sitting, and

If not, then within ten days after the beginning of the next ensuing session. If Parliament shall within one month declare by resolution that it does not assent to the proposals set forth in such notice no further action shall be taken in the matter.

If no such resolution be passed, then after the termination of thirty clear days from the date when the notice was laid before Parliament, it shall be lawful for the Governor to direct the proposals so notified to be carried out, and the same shall be carried out accordingly, and for that purpose the Governor may revoke by proclamation in the Gazette any such dedication or reservation wholly or in part, and make any new dedication or reservation sanctioned by such proposals, and issue such grants and execute such exchanges, deeds, assurances, and instruments as the circumstances of each case may require.

The provisions of this section shall be held to apply and to have Sec. 41, Act 1889. applied to Crown Lands which have been or shall be dedicated and granted by the Crown, and to any lands which, after grant by the Crown, shall have been or shall be resumed, purchased, or otherwise acquired by the Crown, and dedicated or granted for any purpose.

Upon revocation under the provisions of this section of any dedication, or grant and dedication, the lands shall forthwith be vested in Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, and shall become Crown Lands within the meaning of this Act.

DIVISION VIII.—Trustees may be appointed.

291. The Governor may appoint trustees (whose appointment Appointment of trustees. shall take effect only upon notification in the Gazette), to be charged Sec. 106, Act 1884. with the care and management of—

lands already or hereafter dedicated,

lands permanently reserved, or

lands already or hereafter resumed under the provisions of the Lands for Public Purposes Acquisition Act,

lands already or hereafter purchased or acquired by the Government

for

Sec. 106, Act 1884. for the recreation, convenience, health, or enjoyment of the inhabitants of any city, town, or district, or for any other public purpose whatsoever.

Grant to trustees. 292. The Governor may confer such estate in such lands, and accompanied by such powers and with such conditions as he may think fit, and as may be included in any grant issued to such trustees.

Governor may vest land in trustees. Sec. 3, Public Trusts Act. The Governor may by notice in the Gazette, and without any deed, grant, or other assurance, vest such lands in such trustees for such estate, and with such powers and subject to such limitations and conditions as he may think fit.

Rules and regulations. Sec. 106, Act 1884. The Governor may make rules and regulations enforceable by penalties not to exceed in any case *twenty* pounds for the management and control of such lands without placing them in trust, which rules and regulations, upon notification in the Gazette, shall have the full force of law.

Appointment of trustees of land temporarily reserved. Public Trusts Act, sec. 1. 293. The Governor shall be deemed to have had and shall have power to appoint, by notice in the Gazette, trustees of land temporarily reserved from sale under section *two hundred and seventy-four*, subsection (1), of this Act or section one hundred and one of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, or otherwise, or under any enactment repealed by that Act, and to remove any trustees so appointed, and fill any vacancies occurring by reason of such removal or by death or resignation, and to make rules and regulations for the management and control of such lands, and impose in those rules and regulations any penalty not exceeding *ten* pounds for any breach of the same.

Limitation of number of trustees. Sec. 106, Act 1884. Sec. 4, Public Trusts Act. In any trust created after the nineteenth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, or after the commencement of this Act the total number of trustees shall not (except as provided in section *two hundred and ninety-four* of this Act) be less than three or more than seven.

Corporations or Municipal councils may be appointed. trustees. Sec. 2, Public Trusts Act. Sec. 2, Public Trusts Act. 294. (1) The Governor may, by notice in the Gazette, appoint a corporate body as trustees of land set apart, dedicated, or reserved (temporarily or otherwise) for any public purpose before or after the commencement of this Act, and may grant to or vest the said land in such corporate body as aforesaid.

The Governor may, in like manner, appoint the council for the time being of a municipality as trustees of such land as aforesaid, whether the land be within or without the boundaries of the municipality, and may grant to or vest the said land in such council as aforesaid; but the council of a municipality shall not be appointed trustees of land situate either wholly or in part within the boundaries of another municipality.

Validation of past appointments. Sec. 2, Public Trusts Act. (II) No appointment of trustees of such land as aforesaid, and no acts or things done by such trustees; shall be deemed to have been or to be invalid or unlawful by reason only that the trustees so appointed were a corporate body, or were the Council of a Municipality.

Governor may appoint additional trustees. Sec. 4, Public Trusts Act. 295. The Governor may, by notice in the Gazette, appoint additional trustees of any lands set apart or dedicated for any public purpose, or reserved temporarily or otherwise, before or after the commencement of this Act, whether the land is or is not vested in trustees, and whether the number of trustees is greater than, equal to, or less than the number of trustees originally appointed or authorised to be appointed by the statute, document, or notice creating or authorising the creation of the trust; and may grant to, or by notice in the Gazette vest in, the trustees so appointed such estate or interest in the lands as he may think fit.

Sec. 4, Public Trusts Act. In the case of trusts existing on the nineteenth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, the power hereby conferred

on the Governor shall not be exercised beyond the appointment of one such trustee if the majority of the existing trustees shall object in writing to such additional appointment.

296. The Governor may from time to time remove any trustee or trustees, whether appointed under this Act or otherwise, and fill any vacancies which may occur by reason of such removal, or by death or resignation. Governor may remove trustees. Sec. 106, Act 1884.

The Governor may also, by notice in the Gazette, remove any trustees of any such lands who desire to be discharged from or refuse or become unfit or incapable to act in the trusts, or who shall reside out of the Colony, or who in case of a trust for any local purpose shall reside out of the locality in which the trust lands are situated, and fill any vacancies which may occur by reason of such removal or by death or resignation. The removal of any trustee shall divest the trustee so removed of any estate in the land subject to the trust. Sec. 4, Public Trusts Act.

Trustees to report to Minister.

297. The trustees appointed before or after the commencement of this Act of lands set apart, dedicated, or reserved temporarily or otherwise, before or after the commencement of this Act, and the trustees or other persons having the control and management of land held under trust for schools of arts, mechanic institutes, hospitals, and other institutions receiving aid from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, shall, at such times as the Minister may direct, report to the Minister upon the administration of the trust or institution, and upon such matters in connection therewith as the Minister may from time to time specify, and shall if required furnish him with a statement of revenue received and expenditure made during such period as he may specify. Trustees to report. Sec. 5, Public Trusts Act.

Inspection of books and documents.

298. Such trustees and persons as aforesaid, their servants and agents, shall permit any person authorised in that behalf by the Minister to inspect any books and documents and to audit any accounts relating to the trust or institution; and whosoever obstructs any person in the exercise of the powers conferred by this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding *twenty pounds*. Trustees to permit inspection of books and documents. Sec. 6, Public Trusts Act.

Land may be entered upon.

299. It shall be lawful for the Minister, or any person authorised by him, to enter at any time upon land dedicated or reserved for any public purpose and inspect the same, and whosoever obstructs the Minister or any such authorised person in the performance of any duty connected with such inspection shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding *twenty pounds*. Minister may enter and inspect land dedicated or reserved. Sec. 9, Public Trusts Act.

300. Any penalties imposed by sections *two hundred and ninety-three, two hundred and ninety-eight, and two hundred and ninety-nine* of this Act may be recovered before a police or stipendiary magistrate, or any two justices of the peace in petty sessions. Recovery of penalties. Sec. 10, Public Trusts Act.

PART VII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DIVISION I.—Ownership of Improvements.

- No improvements to bar sale, lease, &c., subject to payment of their value.
Sec. 44, Act 1889.
Sec. 44, Act 1889.
Sec. 22, Act 1895.
301. (I) Improvements within the meaning of this section may include fencing, but shall be such as in the opinion of the Board are of a permanent, fixed, and substantial character, and necessary for the profitable occupation of the land.
- (II) Any improvements made upon any lands, the purchase, selection, or lease or license of which has become forfeited, surrendered, or has expired, before or after the commencement of this Act, or which have been made under colour of any application which may have been or which may be forfeited, disallowed, or withdrawn, shall (except as provided in section *one hundred and eighty* of this Act) be the property of the Crown; but
- Sec. 44, Act 1889. (a) no lease or license which may be renewed or extended shall, whilst any renewal or extension continues, be deemed to have expired within the meaning of this section.
- (b) Nothing in this section shall prevent the accruing or granting of tenant right in improvements in accordance with any provisions of this Act.
- Sec. 102, Act 1884. (III) Improvements effected subsequently to the first day of July, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six on any land reserved from sale shall, on the revocation of such reservation or withdrawal of the land from lease, become the property of the Crown.
- Sec. 44, Act 1889. (IV) No Crown lands shall be exempt from conditional or other purchase, or from homestead selection, or from any lease or license, by reason only that it contains improvements, but the purchaser, selector, or lessee shall pay for such improvements at their value:
- Sec. 44, Act 1889. Provided that when any land containing improvements shall be let under annual lease or occupation license the lessee or licensee shall not be called upon to purchase such improvements, but may be charged rent or license fee for the use thereof, to be ascertained by auction or tender, or in manner herein provided for the determination of their value.
- Sec. 44, Act 1889. (v) Where the improvements belong to the Crown, their value shall be appraised by the Land Board, subject to appeal, and shall be paid for within such periods and in such amounts as such Board or the Land Appeal Court shall determine, provided that in the case of a homestead selection or a settlement lease the special provisions of sections *one hundred and forty-seven* and *two hundred and sixty-one* of this Act as to the manner of payment shall apply.
- Secs. 15 and 25, Act 1895. (VI) Where the improvements do not belong to the Crown their capital or annual value shall be paid by agreement between the parties, or failing such agreement (and on application by either party in the prescribed manner, accompanied by a deposit of ten pounds to cover the cost of dealing therewith), as appraised by the Land Board, and within such periods and in such amounts as the Board shall determine, subject to appeal under this Act: Provided that in the case of a homestead selection or a settlement lease the special provisions of sections *one hundred and forty-seven* and *two hundred and sixty-one* of this Act as to the manner of payment shall apply.
- Sec. 44, Act 1889. (VII) Any appraisement of improvements, where such improvements have been or are made after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this Act, with the consent of the Crown, on land held under pastoral lease in the Central Division, or on land held under preferential occupation license in that division, shall be made on the basis of their value to the land taken and to an incoming tenant. (VIII)

(VIII) Before the determination of the value of improvements, such of them as are of a removable nature, may, with the permission of the Board, be removed by the owner, who, upon permission being granted, shall have full power by himself or his agents to enter upon the land within such period as the Board may allow, and to do all things necessary to effect their removal. Sec. 44, Act 1889.

(IX) The value of any improvements on land sold at auction shall be added to the upset price, and when not the property of the Crown shall be refunded to the owner. Sec. 44, Act 1889.

(X) In cases where improvements may have been, or may be made through misapprehension as to the boundaries of land, or for any sufficiently reasonable cause, and the land containing them has been, or shall be purchased, selected, or held under lease or license by the owner of such improvements, it shall be lawful for the Minister, after report by the Land Board, to remit the value to such owner. Sec. 44, Act 1889.

(XI) In any case in which the purchaser, selector, or lessee of land (whether the application for such land was made before or is made after the commencement of this Act) containing improvements has failed, or shall fail, to pay for them within the period allowed, his purchase, selection, or lease shall (together with all moneys paid in connection therewith) be liable to forfeiture by notice in the Gazette. Sec. 44, Act 1889.

(XII) Improvements on lands in the Eastern Division, the pastoral lease of which expired by effluxion of time, shall be deemed to have become the property of the Crown on the expiration of the pastoral lease, but nothing in this Act shall be construed to vest in the Crown (while any renewal of the occupation license hereinafter mentioned continues) any improvements upon land held under a pastoral lease in the Eastern Division, which having expired by effluxion of time has, under the provisions of section thirty-three of the Crown Lands Act of 1889, been converted into a preferential occupation license if the said improvements were not at the date of such expiration forfeited or forfeitable to or vested in the Crown. Secs. 33 and 41, Act 1889.

(XIII) Improvements, whether made before or after the commencement of this Act, on land in the Central Division, the pastoral lease of which expired before or shall expire after the commencement of this Act by effluxion of time or otherwise, shall be deemed to have, or shall become, as the case may be, the property of the Crown on the expiration of the term or extended term of such pastoral lease, and no compensation therefor shall be payable therefor to the outgoing lessee, notwithstanding that, on the expiration by effluxion of time of the extended term of the lease (and of all periods if any added thereto), the lands may be held under preferential occupation license obtained in accordance with the provisions of section *four* of the Crown Lands Act of 1895 or section *two hundred and forty* of this Act, but improvements made after the first day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this Act, being made with the consent of the Crown, upon any lands within the Central Division, which, at the date of the making of the said improvements, are held under pastoral lease, shall upon the said lands ceasing to be the subject of the pastoral lease, and becoming the subject of a preferential occupation license, be taken to be the property of the licensee for all purposes of this section, but if made without the consent of the Crown shall be the property of the Crown. The consent of the Crown to the making of improvements may be given by such authorities, and shall be evidenced in such manner as may be prescribed. Sec. 43, Act 1889.

(XIV) Improvements made after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this Act with the consent of the Crown upon any lands within the Central Division which, at the date of the making of the said improvements are Sec. 5, Act 1895.

are held under preferential occupation license, shall be taken to be the property of the licensee for all purposes of this section, but if made without the consent of the Crown, shall be the property of the Crown. The consent of the Crown to the making of improvements may be given by such authorities, and shall be evidenced in such manner as may be prescribed.

Sec. 43, Act 1889.
Sec. 44, Act 1899.
Sec. 33, Act 1899.

(xv) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to vest in the Crown (while any renewal of the preferential occupation license hereinafter mentioned continues) any improvements made before the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five (other than such as may have been forfeited or forfeitable to or vested in the Crown) upon land held under a pastoral lease in the Central Division, an application for an extension of which under the provisions of section forty-three of the Crown Lands Act of 1889 was not made, or if made was not granted, or was withdrawn within the time prescribed by that Act and the Act fifty-seventh Victoria number twenty-seven, if, under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1889 a preferential occupation license was obtained of the land theretofore held under pastoral lease.

Sec. 48, Act 1895.

(xvi) Any sums which shall become payable to the Crown, as payment for improvements, shall from and after the due date for the payment hereof bear interest at the rate of ten per centum per annum, and such interest shall be considered as accruing due day by day. Nothing in this section contained shall be construed so as to prevent or to compel the enforcement of any forfeiture, or the acceptance of any overdue sums together with interest as aforesaid.

Sec. 22, Act 1895.

(xvii) The provisions of this section shall apply to homestead selections until the grant thereof.

DIVISION II.—Tenant Right in Improvements.

Tenant right in improvements.
Sec. 51, Act 1895.

302. Tenant right shall accrue upon the determination of the lease or other holding by reason of which the tenant right is expressed to be conferred, and shall entitle the person in whom for the time being the tenant right is vested to receive the value to an incoming tenant of the improvements from any persons who make a purchase, or take a lease (not being an annual lease) of the land containing the improvements. And in the event of such persons not paying the amount then due and unpaid for the value of such improvements, such amount or so much thereof as remains unpaid for the time being shall be and remain a charge upon the land containing such improvements while in the hands of a purchaser or lessee until payment thereof. The value of the improvements to an incoming tenant shall be appraised by the local land board in the manner prescribed by section three hundred and one of this Act, but shall be calculated on the basis of the value of such improvements to the land purchased or leased, and the payment of the value shall be made by such instalments, and at such dates, as may be prescribed.

The improvements, in respect of which tenant right is conferred by this Act or the Crown Lands Act of 1895, shall in all cases be—

- (a) of a permanent, fixed, and substantial character, and necessary for the profitable occupation of the land; and
- (b) the property of the person claiming to have tenant right in respect thereof;

and improvements which were forfeited or forfeitable to, or vested in, the Crown immediately prior to the accruing of the tenant right shall not be included:

Provided always that—

- (a) the tenant right shall lapse after the expiration of twelve years from the date of its first accruing, and thereafter the improvements

- improvements shall be the property of the Crown; but such lapsing shall not affect any agreement, appraisalment, or order for payment previously made; and
- (b) the holder of the purchase or lease of the land containing the improvements shall be liable to pay any instalments of the value thereof, as appraised by the local land board, which shall accrue due during his holding; and
- (c) the value of any successful and useful well or bore for artesian water shall not be taken to exceed the first cost thereof, and no allowance shall be made for any unsuccessful or useless well or bore.

DIVISION III.—Forfeited Lands containing improvements subject to tenant right or ownership.

303. Where a purchaser or lessee of land shall have paid to the person having tenant right or ownership in improvements, as the case may be, part of the value of the improvements, and the purchase or lease is forfeited, such share of the value of the improvements as is represented by the amount so paid at the time of the forfeiture shall vest in the Crown, and the remaining share of the improvements, or in the case of no such payment having been made, then the whole of the improvements shall continue to belong to the person having tenant right or ownership, as the case may be, and shall be subject to tenant right as defined by this Act or ownership, as the case may be: Provided that if the land be purchased or leased after the forfeiture fresh appraisalment shall thereupon be made of such share of the value of the improvements as are vested in the person having tenant right or ownership, as the case may be.

Forfeited lands containing improvements subject to tenant right or ownership.

Sec. 52, Act 1895.

DIVISION IV.—Reverters.

304. (i) Upon the forfeiture of any conditional or other purchase, or forfeiture or surrender of any homestead selection or of any conditional or other lease, situated wholly or in part within the external boundaries of any pastoral or homestead lease or occupation license, so much of the forfeited or surrendered land as may be situated within such external boundaries shall (subject to the power of the Governor or the Minister to waive or reverse such forfeiture) be added to the land under lease or license, and be included under such lease or license.

Reverters.

Sec. 32, Act 1889.

Sec. 45, Act 1895.

Sec. 22, Act 1895.

(ii) Upon the taking effect of the revocation (of the whole or any part) of any reserve from lease or license situated wholly or in part within the external boundaries of any pastoral or homestead lease or occupation license, so much of the reserve revoked as may be situated within such external boundaries shall (subject to the power of the Governor or Minister to cancel or modify such revocation) be added to the land under lease or license.

(iii) And from the date of forfeiture or revocation taking effect, rent or license fee shall be payable for such unimproved lands at the same rate per acre as for the rest of the lease or license; and in respect of any land which may contain improvements the rent or license fee shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of section forty-four of this Act.

(iv) So much of any such forfeited or surrendered lands, situated within the external boundaries of any reserve from sale, or lease or license, or reserve from conditional purchase, or of any population area, or special area, or suburban lands, or gold-field, or tract or area set apart or classified under the provisions of section forty-six of this Act or section ten of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, shall be added to and form

form part of the same whether held under lease or license or not; and no specific notification of such reservation or addition as aforesaid shall be held to be necessary under this Act: Provided that where lands reserved or set apart as aforesaid are held under lease or license, any lands so added shall be also included under the lease or license, subject to payment as hereinbefore provided. The non-payment within the prescribed time of any sums due as aforesaid shall involve the forfeiture of the lease or license.

Sec. 22, Act 1895.

The provisions of this section shall apply to homestead selections until the grant thereof.

Sec. 45, Act 1895.

305. For the purposes of section thirty-two of the Crown Lands Act of 1889, and of section three hundred and four of this Act:—

(a) The external boundaries of any pastoral lease or occupation license are hereby declared to be and to have been so much of the external boundaries of the pastoral holding duly defined under authority or recognised by the Lands Department as together with the dividing line determined under section seventy-six of the "Crown Lands Act of 1884" form the ambit within which the pastoral lease or occupation license is situated:

(b) The external boundaries of any reserve from sale or lease, or license, or reserve from conditional purchase, or of any population area, or special area, or homestead selection area, or settlement lease area, or suburban lands or gold-field, are hereby declared to have been and to be the boundaries as described in the Gazette:

Provided always that nothing in this section shall affect any conditional purchase or conditional or other lease for which the application was confirmed, approved, or granted before the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five.

DIVISION V.—General power of validation of purchases and leases.

Provision for validation or avoidance of purchases and leases generally.
Sec. 44, Act 1895.

306. Any purchase or lease of Crown lands purporting to have been made or granted before the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, under the provisions of the Acts, 1859–1897, shall not be held to be void by reason of any breach or non-observance of the provisions of the said Acts, but every such breach or non-observance as aforesaid (if of a nature to affect the validity of the purchase or lease) shall render the same voidable only at the instance of the Crown.

If any such purchase or lease as aforesaid appears to be voidable at the instance of the Crown, the Minister may, in pursuance of section twenty-six of this Act, refer the case to the Local Land Board, which shall investigate the matter and find whether or not the said purchase or lease be voidable; and where the said purchase or lease is found to be voidable, the Governor may, by notification in the Gazette, declare the same to be void, and the same shall thereupon become void to all intents and purposes: Provided always that if the application for such purchase or lease has been confirmed by a Local Land Board, the Minister may, in manner provided in section thirty-four of this Act, refer to the Land Appeal Court the decision of the Local Land Board confirming the same.

If the Crown elects to sustain any such purchase or lease as aforesaid, the Governor may, by notification in the Gazette, declare that the purchase or lease shall cease to be voidable by reason of any breach or non-observance of statutory provisions which may be specified in such notification, and the same shall become valid so far as regards the ground of objection so specified.

Nothing

Nothing in this section contained shall affect—

- (a) any right accrued prior to the date of such purchase or lease;
- (b) any application for a conditional purchase or lease made before the thirteenth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four, in reliance on the fact that the questioned purchase or lease was void;
- (c) any proceedings pending on the beforementioned day;
- (d) any remedy by writ of scire facias where a grant has been or shall have been issued for any such purpose as aforesaid.

The provisions of this section shall apply in like manner to purchases, selections, or leases purporting to be made or granted after the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, or after the commencement of this Act; but the Governor shall not, in any such case, declare that the purchase, selection, or lease shall cease to be voidable, unless notice of the intention to make such declaration shall have lain before both Houses of Parliament for not less than ninety days, without being objected to by specific resolution.

DIVISION VI.—Validation of conditional purchases and leases in special cases.

Validations under the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

307. (I) No conditional or additional conditional purchase made under any of the Acts repealed by the Crown Lands Act of 1884 shall be held to be void—

Validation of certain conditional purchases under former Acts. Sec. 138, Act 1884.

by reason only of the application therefor having been tendered by an agent; or
of more than one such application having been made by the same applicant on the same day; or
of the land having been applied for by a conditional purchaser not residing at the time of the application on the land by virtue of which an additional conditional purchase was made; but nothing herein shall be construed to relieve such conditional purchaser from fulfilment of the complete term of residence required by law.

(II) And no conditional purchase shall be held to be void by reason only of any applicant having, through erroneous or insufficient marking, or definition or description, been allowed to conditionally purchase land extending into or within a different Crown lands district from that in which the same was applied for; or

by reason of the same having been measured with a greater frontage than eighty chains or a less depth than twenty chains or sixty chains as in the said Acts respectively prescribed: Provided that such measurement shall have been duly accepted thereunder.

And in any case in which the land applied for was not open to conditional purchase but the applicant shall have resided upon and made improvements on such land without question by any authorised person for not less than one year after his conditional purchase, then, and in all such cases, the Governor, upon the recommendation of the Minister, may notify in the Gazette once a fortnight for three months the particulars of such conditional purchase, and it shall thereafter be lawful for the Governor on the like recommendation to declare by proclamation in the Gazette such conditional purchase to be valid, and such conditional purchase shall thereupon become and be a valid conditional purchase, but subject to the fulfilment by the holder thereof of all conditions required by law.

And

And no pre-emptive lease which may have been granted under the said repealed Acts, and which may be converted into a conditional lease under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, shall be void or invalid by reason only that it was situated wholly or in part within the area of any previously forfeited pre-emptive lease :

Provided that no validation as herein mentioned shall take effect in any case where the illegality was wilfully committed, or if a conflicting interest has arisen, or if the case has been finally disposed of in a lawful manner.

Validations by the Act 50 Vic. No. 21.

Interpretation.
50 Vic. No. 21.

308. For the purposes of interpretation of the eight following sections, the word "Corporation" means a corporation whether aggregate or sole—"Company" includes all associations and co-partnerships, whether registered under the Acts relating to joint stock companies or not and whether incorporated or not. And such sections shall be deemed to have taken effect on the fourteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six.

Validation of title of corporations and companies to additional conditional and mineral conditional purchases and conditional leases.
50 Vic. No. 21.

309. The title or claim of any corporation or company, or their assigns, accrued before the date aforesaid, to hold any land as an additional conditional purchase, mineral conditional purchase, or conditional lease under the Acts or regulations relating to Crown lands, in force at the time or times when such title or claim was acquired or intended to be acquired by or on behalf of such corporation or company, shall not be deemed to have been in any way prejudiced or affected by reason only that such corporation or company was not at such time or times a "person" within the meaning of such Acts or regulations. And for the purpose of giving full effect to this enactment, the word "person" and every other word restricted in meaning to an individual whensoever occurring in any such Act or regulation, shall be deemed to have included a corporation or company: Provided always that every act or thing required by such Acts and regulations as aforesaid to be done by a person shall have been done before the aforesaid date by some person on behalf and under the authority of such corporation or company.

Governor and Executive Council may declare certain applications valid.
50 Vic. No. 21.

310. The Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council may, by proclamation in the Government Gazette declare that any application for a mineral conditional purchase made before the date aforesaid, or any grant issued by the Crown for land so conditionally purchased shall be valid, and upon the publication of any such proclamation any such mineral conditional purchase or any grant issued as aforesaid prior to the date of such proclamation, shall be valid and effectual to all intents and purposes.

Expenditure on mineral conditional purchases in certain cases.
50 Vic. No. 21.

311. For the purpose of determining the expenditure required by law to be made on portions of land acquired or held as mineral conditional purchases, the intervention of any railway, road, or creek between any such portions shall not be deemed to have prevented such portions from being held as one holding subject to the expenditure in the aggregate of two pounds per acre in mining operations upon any part or parts of the said land, or upon any adjoining lands held and used in connection therewith, pursuant to the twenty-sixth section of the Lands Acts Amendment Act, 1875: Provided always that this section shall only be applicable to cases in which such portions shall be or have been held by one and the same person, corporation, or company, respectively.

As to mineral leases converted into mineral conditional purchases in certain cases.
50 Vic. No. 21.

312. Where any lease for mineral purposes has been converted into a mineral conditional purchase under the Acts or regulations repealed by the Crown Lands Act of 1884, no such mineral conditional purchase

purchase shall be deemed to have been invalid, because the conversion thereof may not have been approved or authorised by the Governor, or because at the date of application to convert, pursuant to sections twenty-seven and twenty-eight of the Lands Acts Amendment Act 1875, the said leases for mineral purposes were within lands reserved from sale: Provided that the Minister shall be satisfied that the reservation from sale is not required in the public interest.

313. No application to convert any mineral lease into a mineral conditional purchase made under the Acts aforesaid shall be held to be invalid, because all the lessees or persons holding interests in such mineral lease were not parties to or did not sign such application to convert: Provided such lessees or persons have since concurred in such application by writing under their respective hands addressed to the Minister, or that the Minister is satisfied that such lessees or persons had or have ceased to hold any interest in the lease the subject of such application.

As to conversion of mineral leases where all parties did not join in application, &c.
50 Vic. No. 21.

314. When any conditional purchase made under sections thirteen, twenty-one, and twenty-two of the Crown Lands Act of 1861, is by section seven of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, declared to be convertible into a mineral conditional purchase, it shall be deemed to be and have been convertible, notwithstanding that the regulations relating thereto under the first-mentioned Act may not have had the force of law.

Conversion of ordinary conditional purchases into mineral conditional purchases.
50 Vic. No. 21.

315. Where a reservation of Crown land from sale made pursuant to any of the Acts repealed by the Crown Lands Act of 1884 has been or shall be revoked by a notification published in the Gazette, and before the expiration of thirty days from the date of publication of such revocation a further reservation of such Crown land or any part thereof from sale has been or shall be made and notified in the Gazette, such last reservation shall not by reason only of its having been made within such thirty days be deemed to have been invalid: Provided that reservations made pursuant to the Acts repealed by the Crown Lands Act of 1884 shall be held to have been revocable under the Crown Lands Act of 1884 and under this Act.

As to the notification and revocation of reserves from sale.
50 Vic. No. 21.

316. Provided that nothing in the eight preceding sections shall affect any proceeding instituted prior to the twenty-fifth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, by any private individual or any cause of action accrued to such individual, or shall affect any additional conditional purchase or mineral conditional purchase already declared void: Provided also that nothing in this section contained shall apply to or save any proceedings at any time instituted by the Crown or in the name of the Crown before the fourteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six.

Saving clause.
50 Vic. No. 21.

Validations by the Act 50 Vic. No. 34.

317. Notwithstanding anything in section twenty-one subsection (111) of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, where any land conditionally purchased under the Acts in force prior to the passing of such Act is situated wholly or partly within the boundaries of a leasehold area notified under section seventy-six of the said Act, and such land has, after the date of notification of such area, been forfeited for some breach of conditions, no conditional purchase of such land made before the eighteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven, under such Act shall be deemed to have been invalid by reason only that the whole or some portion of such land was situated within the boundaries of such leasehold area. And for the purposes of this section the expression "land conditionally purchased" shall be held to include all land held in virtue of such land and forfeited therewith.

Validation of conditional purchases in certain cases.
50 Vic. No. 34.

Validation of certain leases under sec. 48 of Principal Act. 50 Vic. No. 34.

318. No conditional lease of Crown land applied for before the eighteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven, under the forty-eighth section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, shall be held in any of the cases hereinafter specified to have been invalid by reason only that the land as and when applied for was situated wholly or partly within the boundaries of any leasehold area, that is to say:—

Where lease was in conditional purchase forfeited after notification of leasehold area.

(I) Where the land applied for as a conditional lease was at the date of application included wholly or partly in a conditional purchase which had been forfeited after the date of the notification of the leasehold area within the boundaries of which such conditional purchase was situated.

Where lease was in conditional lease so forfeited.

(II) Where the land applied for as a conditional lease was at the date of application included wholly or partly in a conditional lease which had been forfeited after the date of the notification of the leasehold area within the boundaries of which such conditional lease was situated.

Where lease was within pre-emptive lease so forfeited.

(III) Where the land applied for as a conditional lease was at the date of application included wholly or partly in a pre-emptive lease to which a right of conversion into a conditional lease attached and was lawfully claimed, but which pre-emptive lease had been forfeited after the date of the notification of the leasehold area within the boundaries of which such pre-emptive lease was situated.

Validation of certain leases under sec. 52 of Act of 1884. 50 Vic. No. 34.

319. No conditional lease applied for under the fifty-second section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884 shall be held to have been invalid by reason only that the land comprised within such lease was not available for pre-emptive lease at the date of the grant thereof, or for conditional lease in the form applied for or as granted, but in every such case the lease as on or after the eighteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven, surveyed and charted and approved of by the Minister for Lands, or any modification thereof to be so approved, shall be deemed to be and to have been the land lawfully available for such lease.

As to applications under sec. 54 of Act of 1884. 50 Vic. No. 34.

320. No application for a conditional lease applied for under the fifty-fourth section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884 shall be held to have been invalid by reason only that the land applied for had, prior to such application being finally dealt with, been included within a leasehold area or the boundaries of such leasehold area.

Saving clause. 50 Vic. No. 34.

321. Nothing in the four preceding sections shall affect any cause of action in respect of which proceedings have been commenced in any court prior to the first day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven.

Validations by Section 10, Crown Lands Act of 1889.

Conditional leases in leasehold areas. Sec. 10, Act 1889.

322. No conditional lease which may have been or which may be granted in satisfaction of an application under the fifty-fourth section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and no additional conditional purchase made out of such conditional lease shall be held to have been or to be invalid by reason only of the land being situated within the boundaries of a leasehold area.

Validations by Section 31 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895.

Additional conditional purchases by virtue of paid-up original. Sec. 31, Act 1895.

323. All additional conditional purchases and conditional leases, the applications for which were confirmed before the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, are hereby declared to have been and to be valid, so far as regards any objection to the validity

validity thereof based upon the fact that before the date of the application therefor the balance of purchase money had been paid, or a grant had been issued, in respect of the original conditional purchase, or any prior additional conditional purchase of the same series :

Provided always that the foregoing declaration shall not prejudice or affect any application lodged, or title acquired, before the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five.

Validations by the Act 57 Victoria No. 9.

324. No original conditional purchase existing on the fourth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four, shall be held to have been or to be invalid by reason only that it was applied for by or in the name of two or more persons.

Validation of conditional purchases and conditional leases against certain objections.

Sec. 6, 57 Vic. No. 9.

325. No additional conditional purchase existing on the fourth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four, shall be held to have been or to be invalid by reason only that it was applied for by virtue of a conditional purchase made under section twenty-two of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, whether the combined areas of the freehold and the conditional purchases and conditional leases of the series exceed the area limited by the Crown Lands Acts for ordinary conditional purchases and conditional leases or not.

326. No conditional lease existing on the fourth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four, shall be held to have been or to be invalid by reason only that it was applied for by virtue of a conditional purchase of land within a special area :

327. Provided that nothing in the three preceding sections shall operate to revive any application, purchase, or lease which, prior to the fourth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four, had been, and at date of such passing stood as, disallowed, refused, withdrawn, or forfeited, or to validate any application pending on the fourth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four, which had not been confirmed ; or shall affect any proceedings, either at law or in equity, instituted before the thirty-first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three.

Proviso.

DIVISION VII.—Reversal of forfeitures.

328. Subject to the provisions hereinafter contained, the Minister shall have power to reverse, whether provisionally or otherwise, any forfeiture which has heretofore been, or may hereafter be notified, declared, or otherwise asserted or enforced, under this Act or the Acts 1859–1897, and for the purposes of this section and the next succeeding section, unless the context otherwise requires, “forfeiture” includes the lapse or voidance of any contract with the Crown under any of such Acts for the purchase, selection, or leasing of Crown lands :—

Validity and effect of reversals of forfeiture.
55 Vic. No. 1.
Sec. 22, Act 1895.

(I) A provisional reversal hereafter to be made of a forfeiture shall be deemed to have suspended, or shall suspend, as the case may be, the operation of the forfeiture, as from the date when such forfeiture has been or shall be notified, declared, or otherwise asserted or enforced ; in any case, where such provisional reversal shall afterwards be revoked, such revocation shall have the same effect as if the provisional reversal so revoked had never been made.

(II) Any absolute reversal of a forfeiture shall be deemed to have related back or shall relate back, as the case may be, to the date when such forfeiture has been or shall be notified, declared, or otherwise asserted or enforced, and shall be

deemed to have had or shall have the same effect as if the forfeiture so reversed had never been notified, declared, or otherwise asserted or enforced.

- (III) In any case where a forfeiture has been or may hereafter be duly notified or declared for any cause other than the non-payment of money the Minister shall, before absolutely reversing such forfeiture, refer to the Local Land Board for inquiry and report as to any fact or circumstance in virtue of which he proposes to make such absolute reversal as aforesaid. And such Board, or the Land Appeal Court, upon an appeal or reference shall inquire into such fact or circumstance and make a report and recommendation thereon to the Minister: Provided that should the Minister decide in any case contrary to the recommendation of the Land Board or Land Appeal Court, as the case may be, he shall, on the day of so deciding, record in writing in the Lands Department his reasons for so doing; and the Minister shall, as soon as practicable, lay upon the table of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly a copy of his decision, together with such reasons as aforesaid.
- (IV) Any reversal of a forfeiture hereafter to be made shall, as soon as practicable, be notified in the Gazette, but the date of such reversal shall be the date of the Minister's approval thereof.

Sec. 22, Act 1895.

The provisions of this and the next succeeding section shall apply to homestead selections until the grant thereof.

329. And no provisional or absolute reversal hereafter to be made of any forfeiture shall defeat any valid application for a conditional purchase, homestead selection, or conditional or homestead lease, which shall have been lodged before the receipt by, or on behalf of, the Minister of a request in writing for such reversal, unless the applicant shall consent in writing to such reversal.

DIVISION VIII.—Waiver of forfeiture.

Waiver of
forfeitures.
55 Vic. No. 1.
Sec. 22, Act 1895.

330. In any case in which a purchase, homestead selection, lease, or license has or shall become liable to forfeiture by reason of the non-fulfilment of any condition annexed by law to such purchase, selection, lease, or license, but in which the Minister shall be satisfied that such non-fulfilment has been caused by accident, error, mistake, inadvertence, or other innocent cause, and that such forfeiture ought therefore to be waived, it shall be lawful for the Minister to declare that such forfeiture is waived, either absolutely or upon such conditions as he may see fit to declare, and the forfeiture shall thereupon be waived accordingly; and when the forfeiture of any conditional purchase, homestead selection, or conditional lease shall have been waived, and the conditions, if any, of such waiver shall have been performed, the holder of any such conditional purchase or homestead selection shall, if otherwise entitled thereto, be entitled to receive a certificate of conformity in respect of the same, notwithstanding that such certificate may have previously been applied for and refused, and the holder of any such conditional lease shall be entitled to make additional conditional purchases of the land comprised within such lease as if no forfeiture thereof had been incurred.

Sec. 22, Act 1895.

The provisions of this section shall apply to homestead selections until the grant thereof,

DIVISION

DIVISION IX.—Reversals of forfeitures prior to the fourteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one.

331. Subject to the provisions hereinafter contained, the Governor or the Minister, as the case may be, shall be deemed to have had power to reverse, whether provisionally or otherwise, any forfeiture which before the fourteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one, was notified, declared, or otherwise asserted or enforced, under the Acts 1859–1889. Unless the context otherwise requires, the expression “Forfeiture” includes the lapse or voidance of any contract with the Crown under any of such Acts for the purchase or leasing of Crown lands; and “Minister” means the Minister for the time being charged with the administration of the public lands in accordance with such Acts.

Validity and effect of reversals of forfeiture. 55 c. V No. 1.

Interpretation.

- (I) A provisional reversal made before the fourteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one, of a forfeiture shall, unless the Governor or the Minister has subsequently done or performed, or shall hereafter do or perform, some act, matter, or thing in assertion and enforcement of such forfeiture, be deemed to have been an absolute reversal thereof, relating back to the date when such forfeiture was notified, declared, or otherwise asserted or enforced, and shall have the same effect as if the forfeiture so reversed had never been notified, declared, or otherwise asserted or enforced.
- (II) Any absolute reversal before the fourteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one, of a forfeiture shall be deemed to have related back to the date when such forfeiture was notified, declared, or otherwise asserted or enforced, and shall be deemed to have had the same effect as if the forfeiture so reversed had never been notified, declared, or otherwise asserted or enforced.
- (III) Any reversal made before the fourteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one, of any forfeiture whatsoever shall not be deemed to have been or to be ineffectual by reason only that the same was not published in the Gazette, or that the same was not made by the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council.
- (IV) No provisional or absolute reversal made before the fourteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one, of any forfeiture which had previously been duly notified or declared shall be deemed to have had the effect ascribed thereto by the preceding subsections as against any application to purchase or lease conditionally or otherwise the lands, or any part of the lands, which were the subject of such forfeiture, if such application was duly made, and was not refused, withdrawn, disallowed, or otherwise finally disposed of before the twentieth day of October, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety.
- (V) Any forfeiture, voidance, or annulling asserted or enforced before the fourteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one, of an improvement or auction purchase, shall not be deemed to have been or to be ineffectual by reason only that the same was not published in the Gazette, or that the same was not made by the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council.

Validation not to prejudice applications for conditional purchase or conditional lease made before October 20th, 1890.

DIVISION X.—Boundary Fences.

Contributories to cost of fencing and maintenance.

Sec. 141, Act 1884.

Sec. 22, Act 1895.

Sec. 10, 52 Vic. No. 7.

Owners of fences made before or after 1 January, 1885, may claim contribution in respect thereto.

Sec. 10, 52 Vic. No. 7.

Sec. 22, Act 1889.

Fencing between adjoining holdings.

Sec. 141, Act 1884.

Sec. 22, Act 1895.

Contributories.

Sec. 141, Act 1884.

Annual leases and leases having less than five years to run.

Sec. 141, Act 1884.

Disputes.

Sec. 23, Act 1889.

Resumption for canal, &c.

Sec. 42, Act 1889.

332. (I) Fencing within the meaning of this Act shall be deemed an improvement common to the land on either side of the line of such fencing.

(II) The side of a reserved, intended, proclaimed, or other road shall not be held to form or be a common boundary-line within the meaning of this section.

(III) For the purposes of this section fencing shall be held to mean or include fencing, whether erected before or after the first day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, or after the commencement of this Act, and whether prescribed by the local land board or not, provided it is, in the opinion of such board, of a sufficiently useful and substantial kind, and fences which may under sections eleven or fourteen of the Crown Lands Act Further Amendment Act or sections ninety-one or ninety-three of this Act have been or may be made or treated as boundary fences.

(IV) Whenever land adjoining that which forms a conditional purchase or lease, or a homestead selection (before issue of the grant of such homestead selection), or a homestead lease, has been or shall be alienated or leased by the Crown, conditionally or otherwise, the person who shall fence his land may demand and enforce from the purchaser or homestead selector or lessee of such adjoining land or his alienee a contribution towards the cost of such fencing to the extent of one half of the appraised value thereof, but so far only as such fencing marks a common boundary-line.

(V) And while such fencing is maintained in good repair and condition by such person, every owner, lessee, or occupant of adjoining lands shall be and remain liable as a contributory towards the cost of so maintaining such fence to the extent of one half of the estimated cost thereof.

(VI) No holder of an annual lease under this Act, and no holder of any lease having less than five years to run, shall be liable as a contributory under this section towards the original cost of fencing, but shall be liable as a contributory towards the cost of maintaining such fencing.

(VII) And in all cases of dispute in reference to the erection, completion, or repair of fencing, or to contributions towards the cost or maintenance of fencing upon or between adjoining lands or lands on opposite sides of roads or creeks, the board shall on application as prescribed by any party concerned, determine, subject to appeal, all questions in dispute, appraise all values, estimate all costs, determine the kinds of fencing to be erected within the meaning and for the purposes of this section, and make any order necessary or incident to the settlement thereof; and any such order shall be a sufficient authority and justification for entering upon any of the said lands, and doing such acts as may be necessary for carrying the same into effect.

DIVISION XI.—Resumption for Canal, &c.

333. If at any time it shall be deemed expedient to open a canal, or cutting for irrigation purposes, through any land conditionally purchased or conditionally or otherwise leased or held in fee simple, or under homestead selection, it shall be lawful for the Governor by notification in the *Gazette* to resume so much of the land as may be required for the purpose, and in the like manner to at any time proclaim the same.

No such resumption shall be made until the expiration of one month from notice in the *Gazette* and in one or more newspapers published or circulated in the Land District wherein is situated the land as well as notice by letter to the reputed proprietors or occupiers of the said land, addressed to their last known abode or place of business of the intention to resume, during which time any person feeling aggrieved may address to the Minister any objection he may have thereto.

Subject to the provisions herein contained, a refund shall be granted of any moneys paid on account of the land so resumed; but in any case where the resumed land shall have been held in fee simple, or be a conditional purchase or conditional lease, the value thereof shall be appraised by the local land board, subject to appeal and the provisions of the forty-fourth section hereof; and such value shall be paid by the Crown.

No land shall be resumed under the provisions of this section which may be situated within two hundred yards of any dwelling-house if attached thereto and used in connection therewith, as a yard, garden, orchard, plantation, park, or avenue, unless the owner of such lands consent to the same being so resumed, or the purposes of the resumption cannot be otherwise secured. Any surveyor or other person duly authorised in that behalf may, for all purposes of this section, enter upon any lands proposed or liable to be resumed thereunder, and do all things necessary thereon without obstruction or resistance.

The provisions of this section shall apply to homestead selections Sec. 22, Act 1865. until the grant thereof.

DIVISION XII.—Roads of Access.

334. Every purchaser of Crown lands and every holder of a lease or license shall be entitled to a road of access, and also to free ingress and egress thereby to and from the lands held by him to the nearest reserved or proclaimed road through and over any Crown lands whether under lease or not if no access to the lands held by him by means of a reserved or proclaimed road or track shall be provided. And such road shall not interfere with any buildings, garden, stock, or drafting yards belonging to such lessee or licensee, and shall in every case follow such a direction, and be so marked as to occasion as little damage or inconvenience to the lessee as may be possible. And the Minister shall have power to close any such road upon giving three months notice to that effect in the *Gazette*.

Road of access through leased land. Sec. 111, Act 1884.

DIVISION XIII.—Removal of Trespassers.

335. On information in writing preferred in that behalf by any person duly authorised to any justice of the peace, setting forth that any person is in the unlawful occupation or use of any Crown land, or in the occupation or use of any Crown land in virtue or under colour of any purchase, lease, or license, although such purchase, lease, or license shall have been forfeited or otherwise made void, or although the conditions thereof shall have been broken or unfulfilled, or although such lease or license shall have expired, such justice shall issue his summons for the appearance of the person so informed against before two or more justices of the peace, at the nearest court of petty sessions to such Crown land, at a time to be specified in such summons. And at such time and place such Court, on the appearance of such person, or on due proof of the service of such summons on him, or at his usual or last known place of abode or business, shall hear and inquire into the

Removal of trespassers. Sec. 131, Act 1884.

the subject matter of such information. And on being satisfied of the truth thereof, either by the admission of the person informed against, or on other sufficient evidence, such justices shall issue their warrant addressed to any officer duly authorised in that behalf, requiring him forthwith to dispossess and remove such person or any buildings from such land, and to take possession of the same on behalf of Her Majesty, and the person to whom such warrant is addressed shall forthwith carry the same into execution.

DIVISION XIV.—Penalties for Trespass.

Penalties for trespass or for unauthorised cutting or stripping bark on Crown lands. Sec. 133, Act 1884. Sec. 58, Act 1896.

336. Any person unless lawfully claiming under any subsisting lease or license, or otherwise under this Act, or the Acts 1859–1897, or under any Act in force for the regulation of mining, who shall be found occupying or using any Crown land or land granted, reserved, or dedicated for public purposes, either by residing, or by erecting any hut or building or other structure thereon, or depasturing stock thereon, or by clearing, digging up, or enclosing or cultivating any part thereof, or by cutting or removing timber other than firewood not for sale thereon, or by obtaining stone therefrom, or driving piles or otherwise, or who shall strip or remove or cause to be stripped or removed the bark of any tree thereon, shall be liable on conviction to a penalty not exceeding *five* pounds for the first offence, and not exceeding *ten* pounds for the second offence, and not exceeding *twenty* pounds for the third or any subsequent offence: Provided that it shall not be lawful for the holder of any leasehold under this Act or the previous Acts to obstruct any Government surveyor or other authorised person from entering upon such leasehold whenever such surveyor or other authorised person may require to do so.

DIVISION XV.—Penalties for destroying Improvements.

Penalties on destroying improvements. Sec. 132, Act 1884.

337. If any person wilfully destroys or damages any dam, tank, well, excavation, boring, or other work lawfully constructed, sunk, or made, or in course of lawful construction, sinking, or making for the purpose of impounding or supplying water on any land, whether alienated by or under lease or license from the Crown under this Act or the Acts 1859–1897, such person shall be guilty of felony and be liable to penal servitude for any term not exceeding *ten* years, or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding *three* years. And if any person wilfully destroys or damages any fencing or improvement other than those before mentioned, lawfully constructed, or made by any holder of a conditional purchase, lease, or license, whether under this Act or the Acts 1859–1897 (which lawfulness the Court shall have power to determine), such person shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding *fifty* pounds, or to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding *six* months, and to pay in addition such fine by way of compensation to the person injured as the Court may order.

DIVISION XVI.—Removal of Boundary Marks.

Removal of boundary mark to be a misdemeanour. Sec. 134, Act 1884.

338. If any person shall unlawfully and wilfully obliterate, remove, or deface any boundary or survey mark, or any land mark or beacon, made or erected by the authority of the Surveyor-General, or by or under the direction of any authorised Government officer, such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanour.

DIVISION

DIVISION XVII.—Recovery of Penalties.

339. Whenever by any section of this Act, or by any regulation made thereunder, any person is made liable to a penalty or to pay any sum of money, whether as compensation or in any other way, and the mode of recovering such penalty or sum is not therein described, such penalty or sum may be recovered before any two or more justices of the peace in petty sessions in accordance with the Acts in force for the time being regulating summary proceedings before justices. And all sums of money ordered by any such Court to be paid, and all costs and expenses awarded by such Court, may be recovered and enforced by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the person ordered to pay the same; and in default of sufficient distress, such person shall be liable to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding *three* months, unless such money, costs, or expenses be sooner paid.

Procedure for recovery of penalties, &c.
Sec. 139, Act 1884.

DIVISION XVIII.—Limitation of Actions.

340. All actions or other proceedings against any officer acting under the provisions of this Act for anything wrongfully done under or against the provisions of this Act, or the Acts 1859-1897, shall be commenced within twelve months after the matter complained of was committed, and not otherwise. And notice in writing of any such action and of the cause thereof shall be given to the defendant one month at least before the commencement of the proceeding. And in every such proceeding the defendant may plead the general issue, and give this Act and the special matter in evidence at any trial to be had thereupon. And no plaintiff shall recover in any such proceeding if tender of sufficient amends shall have been made before the same was commenced, or if a sufficient sum of money shall have been paid into court after such commencement by or on behalf of the defendant, together with costs incurred up to that time. And if a verdict shall pass for the defendant, or the plaintiff shall become nonsuit or discontinue such proceeding, or if upon demurrer or otherwise judgment shall be given against the plaintiff, the defendant shall recover his costs and have the like remedy for the same as any defendant has by law in other cases.

Limitation of actions.
Sec. 129, Act 1884.

DIVISION XIX.—Acts of Surveyor-General.

341. When in this or the previous Acts or any other Act it is provided that certain acts or things shall or may be done, or directions shall or may be given by the Surveyor-General, such acts or things may be done and such directions may be given by any officer duly authorised by the Minister in that behalf.

Acts of Surveyor-General to be done by officer authorised in that behalf.
Sec. 50, Act 1889.

DIVISION XX.—Copies of Documents to be evidence.

342. A copy of any application, letter, document, or instrument of any kind whatsoever relating to any purchase, reservation, dedication, lease, plan, or right to or disposition of land under this Act, or the Acts 1859-1897, and whether of the original or of any press copy thereof, and of any indorsement or memorandum upon the same certified by the officer having the custody thereof to be correct, shall be admissible in evidence in every case in which the original would be admissible, and without proof that the person so certifying is the officer having the custody thereof if he shall state in his certificate that he has such custody.

Copies of documents to be evidence.
Sec. 127, Act 1884.

DIVISION

DIVISION XXI.—Suits by the Crown.

Suits by the Crown
for recovery of rents,
&c.
Sec. 49, Act 1889.

343. It shall be lawful for the Minister for Lands to bring under that name, and as nominal plaintiff on behalf of the Crown, any suit or action for the recovery of arrears of rent or of any other sums which, under the Acts 1859–1897 or this Act, may be due to the Crown. And no such suit or action shall be prejudiced, or abate, or require amendment merely because after the commencement thereof the Minister who brought the same may have gone out of office, or because another Minister may have been appointed, or the office may for the time being be vacant: Provided that costs may be given for or against such plaintiff in the same way as in any ordinary suit or action. And it shall be lawful for the Minister, for the purpose of recovering arrears of rent due to the Crown, to exercise by any duly authorised agent such powers of distress as are now given by law to any landlord.

DIVISION XXII.—Royalty on coal from mineral leases.

Provision for
obtaining royalty on
coal from mineral
lessees.
Sec. 91, Act 1884.

344. The Governor shall, notwithstanding the provisions of the Mining Act of 1874, impose a royalty of not less than sixpence per ton on coal raised from land which may be hereafter leased. And such royalty shall be in addition to or in substitution of any rent payable by such lessee under the said Act, but shall not affect or prejudice any other condition of the lease. And for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this section the Governor may make regulations prescribing the time and manner of payment of such royalty, and the manner of enforcing such payment.

DIVISION XXIII.—Regulations.

Power to make
regulations and rules.
Sec. 145, Act 1884;
53, Act 1889; 61,
Act 1895.

345. Whenever in this Act the word “prescribed” is used in connection with any matter referred to in the context, and whenever, in any section of this Act, “regulations” are mentioned in connection with any such matter the Governor may in every such case frame regulations for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of such section. And, for the purpose of carrying this Act into full effect generally, the Governor may make regulations, which shall, upon being published in the Gazette, be good and valid in law; and for the purpose of regulating proceedings before the Land Appeal Court, it shall be lawful for the Governor to make rules for the time and mode of procedure, and for the general practice of such Court, which shall, upon being published in the Gazette, be binding upon such Court, and upon the parties to any proceedings therein as the rules of the Court of Equity are binding upon that Court and the parties suing therein: Provided that a copy of all such regulations and rules shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within fourteen days from the publication thereof if Parliament be then in session, or otherwise within fourteen days after the commencement of the next ensuing session.

Crown Lands Consolidation.

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SCHEDULES.

FIRST SCHEDULE (A).

Year and Number of the Act.	Title of Act.	Extent of Repeal.
48 Vic. No. 18 ...	The Crown Lands Act of 1884	The whole.
50 Vic. No. 21 ...	The Crown Lands Titles and Reservations Validation Act of 1886	The whole.
50 Vic. No. 34 ...	The Conditional Purchases and Leases Validation Act of 1887	The whole.
50 Vic. No. 39 ...	The Crown Lands (Auction Sales Balances) Act of 1887.	The whole.
51 Vic. No. 11 ...	The Crown Lands Act Amendment Act of 1887.	The whole.
51 Vic. No. 29 ...	The Conversion into Mining Conditional Purchases Validation Act of 1888.	The whole.
52 Vic. No. 7 ...	The Crown Lands Act Further Amendment Act	The whole.
53 Vic. No. 21 ...	The Crown Lands Act of 1889	The whole.
54 Vic. No. 11 ...	The Crown Rents Act of 1890	The whole.
55 Vic. No. 1 ...	The Crown Lands Act Amendment Act of 1891	The whole.
57 Vic. No. 9 ...	The Crown Lands Purchases and Leases Validation Act of 1894	Section 6.
57 Vic. No. 27 ...	The Crown Lands Act of 1889 Declaratory ...	The whole.
58 Vic. No. 16 ...	The Reserves Declaratory Act	The whole.
58 Vic. No. 18 ...	The Crown Lands Act of 1895	The whole.
59 Vic. No. 26 ...	The Crown Lands (Homestead Selections and Settlement Leases) Act, 1895.	The whole.
60 Vic. No. 2 ...	The Conditional Purchasers' Relief Act ...	The whole.
No. 8 of 1897 ...	Public Trusts Act, 1897... ..	Except in so far as it applies to public parks.

SECOND SCHEDULE (B).

Year and number of Act.	Title of Act.
22 Vic. No. 17 ...	An Act to impose an Assessment on Runs in the Unsettled and Intermediate Districts, and to increase the Rent of Lands leased for Pastoral purposes within the Settled Districts of New South Wales.
23 Vic. No. 4 ...	An Act to include the Intermediate with the Settled Districts.
25 Vic. No. 1 ...	An Act for regulating the Alienation of Crown Lands.
25 Vic. No. 2 ...	An Act for regulating the Occupation of Crown Lands.
39 Vic. No. 13 ...	An Act to declare and amend the Laws relating to Crown Lands.
42 Vic. No. 26 ...	An Act to declare the Law as to the effect of Transfers before grant of Lands conditionally purchased under the Acts regulating the Alienation of Crown Lands.
43 Vic. No. 29 ...	An Act further to amend the Lands Acts of 1861, and the Act of 1875.
43 Vic. No. 33 ...	An Act to declare the Law in respect to Lands forfeited or reverting to Her Majesty by reason of non-compliance with the conditions of purchase by the conditional purchaser.
45 Vic. No. 8 ...	An Act to regulate Ringbarking on Crown Lands, and to limit claims for compensation under the fifteenth section of the Lands Acts Further Amendment Act of 1880.
45 Vic. No. 9 ...	An Act to extend the power of correcting designs of plans of towns and villages, and the limits of Suburban Lands.

THIRD SCHEDULE (C).

BOUNDARIES OF DIVISIONS.

EASTERN DIVISION.

That portion of the Colony of New South Wales within the following boundaries:— Commencing on the sea coast at Point Danger; and bounded thence by the boundary dividing the Colonies of New South Wales and Queensland generally westerly to the north-eastern corner of the land district of Warialda, as proclaimed in the New South Wales Government Gazette of the fifth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five; and thence by the boundaries dividing that land district and the land districts of Bingara, as proclaimed twenty-fourth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, and modified fifteenth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six; Narrabri, proclaimed twenty-ninth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three; Gunnedah, proclaimed twenty-ninth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, modified eighteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, twenty-seventh day of February and twenty-seventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven; Coonabarrabran, Dubbo, and Parkes, proclaimed twenty-ninth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three; Forbes, proclaimed twenty-second day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three; Grenfell, proclaimed twenty-second day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, modified fourth day of May and fifteenth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, and sixth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven; Barmedman, proclaimed twenty-second day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, modified eighth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four; Wagga Wagga and Cootamundry Central, proclaimed twenty-second day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three; Tumbarumba North, proclaimed first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two; Urana, proclaimed fifth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five; and Corowa, proclaimed fifteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, from the land districts of Inverell, proclaimed fifteenth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four; Tamworth, proclaimed twenty-third day of April, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two, modified first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two, first day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, eighteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, fifteenth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six, and twenty-seventh day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven; Murrurundi, proclaimed sixth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety, modified twenty-first day of November, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one, fourteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, twenty-seventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven; Cassilis, proclaimed twelfth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight; Wellington, proclaimed sixteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight; Molong, proclaimed fifth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five; Cowra, proclaimed fifth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, modified fourth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, and sixth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven; Young, proclaimed eleventh day of May, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine, modified fifteenth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one, and fifteenth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five; Barmedman East, proclaimed twenty-second day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, modified eighth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four; Cootamundry, proclaimed twenty-second day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three; Gundagai and Tumut, proclaimed first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two; Tumbarumba and Albury, proclaimed fifteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, generally south-westerly to the boundary dividing the Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria; thence by that boundary generally south-easterly to the sea coast at Cape Howe; and thence by the waters of the South Pacific Ocean generally north-easterly, to the point of commencement.

CENTRAL DIVISION.

That portion of the Colony of New South Wales within the following boundaries:— Commencing on the boundary dividing the Colonies of New South Wales and Queensland, at the north-eastern corner of the land district of Warialda, as proclaimed in the New South Wales Government Gazette of the fifth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five; and bounded thence by the boundaries dividing that land district and the land districts of Bingara, proclaimed twenty-fourth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, modified fifteenth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six; Narrabri, proclaimed twenty-ninth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three; Gunnedah, proclaimed twenty-ninth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, modified eighteenth day of May,

May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, twenty-seventh day of February and twenty-seventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven; Coonabarabran, Dubbo, and Parkes, proclaimed twenty-ninth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three; Forbes, proclaimed twenty-second day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three; Grenfell, proclaimed twenty-second day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, modified fourth day of May and fifteenth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, and sixth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven; Barmedman, proclaimed twenty-second day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, modified eighth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four; Cootamundry Central and Wagga Wagga, proclaimed twenty-second day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three; Tumbarumba North, proclaimed first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two; Urana, proclaimed fifth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five; and Corowa, proclaimed fifteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, from the land districts of Inverell, proclaimed fifteenth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four; Tamworth, proclaimed twenty-third day of April, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two, modified first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two, first day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, eighteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, fifteenth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six, and twenty-seventh day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven; Murrurundi, proclaimed sixth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety, modified twenty-first day of November, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one, fourteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, twenty-seventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven; Cassilis, proclaimed twelfth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight; Wellington, proclaimed sixteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight; Molong, proclaimed fifth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five; Cowra, proclaimed fifth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, modified fourth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, and sixth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven; Young, proclaimed eleventh day of May, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine, modified fifteenth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one, and fifteenth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five; Barmedman East, proclaimed twenty-second day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, modified eighth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four; Cootamundry, proclaimed twenty-second day of September, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three; Gundagai and Tumut, proclaimed first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two; Tumbarumba and Albury, proclaimed fifteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, generally south-westerly to the boundary dividing the Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria, being the left bank of the Murray or Hume River; thence by that boundary generally westerly to a point west of the confluence of the Wakool River with that river; thence by a line east to that confluence and by the boundaries dividing the land districts of Balranald South, proclaimed fifteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven; Hay, proclaimed second day of November, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five; Hillston and Condobolin, proclaimed second day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven; Nyngan and Warren, proclaimed twenty-ninth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three; Brewarrina East, proclaimed nineteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three; Walgett, proclaimed twenty-ninth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three; and Moree, proclaimed twenty-fourth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, from the land districts of Balranald, proclaimed fifteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven; Hay North and Hillston North, proclaimed twenty-fifth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight; Cobar, Bourke, and Brewarrina, proclaimed tenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety; and Walgett North, proclaimed second day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, generally north-easterly to the boundary dividing the Colonies of New South Wales and Queensland aforesaid; thence by that boundary generally easterly, to the point of commencement.

WESTERN DIVISION.

That part of the Colony of New South Wales within the following boundaries:— Commencing on the boundary dividing the Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria, being the left bank of the Murray or Hume River, at a point west of the confluence of the Wakool River with that river; and bounded thence by a line east to that confluence, and by the boundaries dividing the land districts of Balranald South, proclaimed fifteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven; Hay, proclaimed second day of November, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five; Hillston and Condobolin, proclaimed second day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven; Nyngan and Warren, proclaimed twenty-ninth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three; Brewarrina East, proclaimed nineteenth day of April, one thousand

eight

eight hundred and ninety-three; Walgett, proclaimed twenty-ninth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three; and Moree, proclaimed twenty-fourth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, from the land districts of Balranald, proclaimed fifteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven; Hay North and Hillston North, proclaimed twenty-fifth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight; Cobar, Bourke, and Brewarrina, proclaimed tenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety; and Walgett North, proclaimed second day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, generally north-easterly to the boundary dividing the Colonies of New South Wales and Queensland; thence by that boundary, being the twenty-ninth parallel of south latitude, west to its intersection with the one hundred and forty-first meridian of east longitude, being the boundary dividing the Colonies of New South Wales and South Australia; thence by that boundary south to the boundary dividing the Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria, being the left bank of the Murray or Hume River; and by that boundary generally easterly, to the point of commencement.

FOURTH SCHEDULE (D).

(A.)

In the matter of the "Crown Lands Act of 1884" and the "Crown Lands Act of 1889." To the Sheriff of New South Wales, his deputy and assistants, and to all officers of the Police Force of New South Wales, and to the keeper of the gaol, prison, or lock-up at

THESE are to command you the said Sheriff and all officers as aforesaid to apprehend A.B. of and to convey him to the said gaol, &c., and to deliver him to the said keeper, together with this warrant; and you the said keeper to receive him into your custody in the said gaol, &c., and him there safely to keep for the term of [or unless the sum of shall be sooner paid], I, the undersigned, Chairman of the Local Land Board, sitting at , having now here adjudged the said A.B. [to pay a fine of and in default of immediate payment thereof] to be imprisoned for the said term, for that he the said A.B. [here state the offence to the following effect as the case may require] having been duly served with a summons or subpoena to attend and give evidence before the said Board in the matter of [here state the nature of the proceedings], and having had payment or tender of his reasonable expenses duly made to him has neglected to appear, such neglect having been without just cause or reasonable excuse (or) having been duly summoned or subpoenaed (or) examined as a witness on the hearing of a certain matter [here state the nature of the proceedings] has refused to make oath, affirmation, promise, or declaration in lieu of an oath before the said Board (or) has refused to answer a certain lawful question, that is to say [here state the nature of the question] (or) has refused to produce a certain document within his possession or control, that is to say [here state the nature of the document] (or) to sign his examination reduced into writing, &c., &c., being lawfully required by me the said Chairman so to do, and such refusal being without lawful cause or excuse (or) has perjured in his evidence.

Given under my hand this day of 18 at aforesaid.
C.D., Chairman of the Local Land Board.

FIFTH SCHEDULE (E).

(B.)

In the matter of the "Crown Lands Act of 1884" and the "Crown Lands Act of 1889." To the Sheriff of New South Wales, his deputy and assistants, and to all officers of the Police Force of New South Wales.

WHEREAS it has this day appeared to me, the Chairman of the Local Land Board, sitting at that A.B. of having been duly served with a subpoena or summons to attend and give evidence before the said Board in the matter of [here state the nature of the proceedings], and having had tender or payment of his reasonable expenses duly made to him has failed to appear when called, these are to command you forthwith to apprehend the said A.B. and to detain him in custody and bring him before the said Board to give evidence in the said matter.

Given under my hand this day of at aforesaid.
C.D., Chairman of the Local Land Board.

SIXTH SCHEDULE (F).

In the Land Court of New South Wales.

To the Sheriff of New South Wales, his deputy and assistants, and to all officers of the Police force of New South Wales [and to the keeper of the gaol, prison, or lock-up at]:

It having this day appeared to the Land Court sitting at that A.B. of having been duly served with a subpoena or summons to attend and give evidence before the said Court in the matter of [*here state the nature of the proceedings*], and having had tender or payment of his reasonable expenses duly made to him has failed to appear when called. These are therefore to command you forthwith to apprehend the said A.B., and to detain him in custody, and to bring him before the said Court to abide the further order of the said Court.

Given under my hand this day of at aforesaid.
C.D., President.
(or) E.F., Acting-President.

(or) It having this day appeared to the Land Court sitting at that A.B. of has on the hearing of a certain matter [*here state the nature of the proceedings*] refused to make oath or affirmation before the said Court (or) to answer a certain question (or) to produce a certain document within his possession or control (or) to sign his examination reduced into writing (or) &c., &c., being lawfully required by the said Court so to do, and such refusal being without lawful cause or excuse (or) that A.B. of has obstructed the business of the said Court (or) has committed a contempt in face of the said Court (or) &c., &c. These are therefore to command you the said Sheriff and all the said officers as aforesaid to apprehend the said A.B., and to detain and convey him to the said gaol, &c., and to deliver him to the said keeper thereof, together with this warrant; and you the said keeper to receive him into your custody in the said gaol, &c., and him there safely to keep until the said A.B. shall have signified to the Land Court his submission to make the said oath or affirmation (or) &c., and the further order of the said Court in the premises shall have been made known to you under my hand (or) until the term of days from the date hereof shall have expired (or) until a fine of £ shall have been paid (or) until the said A.B. shall have been otherwise discharged in due course of law.

Given under my hand this day of at aforesaid.
C.D., President.
(or) E.F., Acting-President.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

EXCHANGE OF LAND ON YANGA STATION,
NEAR BALRANALD.

(RETURN RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 18 Report from Printing Committee, 7 October, 1897.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 1st July, 1897, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“All papers in connection with the exchange of land on Yanga Station,
“near Balranald.”

(*Mr. Chanter.*)

SCHEDULE.

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1. The Manager of the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited) to the Under Secretary for Lands, proposing exchange of lands on Stonchenge, Baan Baa, and Cooma Pastoral Holdings for lands on Yanga Pastoral Holding, with enclosure. 23 July, 1896	3
2. The Under Secretary for Lands to the District Surveyor, Armidale, with minutes. 28 July, 1896	3
3. The same to the District Surveyor, Tamworth, with minutes. 28 July, 1896	4
4. The same to District Surveyor, Hay, with minutes. 30 July, 1896	4
5. The same to same, with minute. 26 August, 1896	5
6. Telegram from Draftsman in charge, Survey Office, Hay, to the Under Secretary for Lands, with minutes. 9 October, 1896	5
7. The Acting Under Secretary for Lands to the Manager, English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited). 12 October, 1896	5
8. Surveyor R. N. Somerville to the District Surveyor, Hay, with minutes. 17 October, 1896	5
9. Office Memorandum. 30 October, 1896	6
10. Office Memorandum, with minute. 30 October, 1896	7
11. The Manager, the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited) to the Under Secretary for Lands, forwarding application to surrender lands on Stonchenge, Cooma, and Baan Baa South Pastoral Holdings in exchange for lands on Yanga Pastoral Holding, with enclosures. 30 October, 1896	7
12. The Under Secretary for Lands to the Chairman of the Local Land Board, Armidale, with minute. 3 November, 1896	9
13. Same to Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay, with minutes. 3 November, 1896	10
14. Same to Chairman, Local Land Board, Tamworth, with minutes. 3 November, 1896	10
15. The Chairman, Local Land Board, Armidale, to the Under Secretary for Lands. 4 November, 1896	10
16. The District Surveyor, Hay, to the Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay. 7 November, 1896	11
17. The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay, to the Under Secretary for Lands. 7 November, 1896	11
18. The Chairman, Local Land Board, Tamworth, to the Under Secretary for Lands. 10 November, 1896	11
19. Office Memorandum, with minutes. 16 November, 1896	11
20. The Acting Under Secretary for Lands to the Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay. 16 November 1896	12
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22. The Acting Under Secretary for Lands to the Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay, with Minutes. 16 November, 1896	12
23. The District Surveyor, Tamworth, to the Under Secretary for Lands. 17 November, 1896	12
24. Same to Clerk-in-charge, Land Board Office, Tamworth, with minute. 17 November, 1896	12
25. The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay, to the Under Secretary for Lands. 18 November, 1896	12
26. Same to same, with minutes. 18 November, 1896	13

NOTE.—The plans laid upon the Table with this Return have been omitted by the Printing Committee.

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[580 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £52.]

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27. The Chairman, Local Land Board, Tamworth, to the Acting Clerk-in-Charge, Land Board Office, Tamworth, with minute. 19 November, 1896	13
28. The District Surveyor, Hay, to Mr. Surveyor Somerville. 21 November, 1896	13
29. A. B. Briggs, Esq., for English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), to the Secretary for Lands. 24 November, 1896	14
30. The Chairman, Local Land Board, at Deniliquin, to the Under Secretary for Lands, with minutes. 25 November, 1896	14
31. The Clerk-in-charge, Land Board Office, Hay, to the Chairman, Local Land Board at Deniliquin, with minute. 25 November, 1896	14
32. The Chairman, Local Land Board, at Deniliquin to the Clerk-in-charge, Land Board Office, Hay, with minutes, 25 November, 1896	14
33. Surveyor Scudall to the District Surveyor, Tamworth, with enclosures. 25 November, 1896	14
34. The District Surveyor, Hay, to the Chairman, Local Land Board at Deniliquin, with minute. 26 November, 1896	18
35. The Chairman, Local Land Board, at Deniliquin, to the Clerk-in-charge, Land Board Office, Hay, with minutes. 27 November, 1896	18
36. The Chairman, Local Land Board, at Deniliquin, to the Under Secretary for Lands. 28 November, 1896	18
37. The District Surveyor, Tamworth, to the Chairman, Local Land Board, Tamworth, with minutes. 30 November, 1896	18
38. The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay, to the Under Secretary for Lands, with minutes. 30 November, 1896	18
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46. The Acting Under Secretary for Lands to the Manager, the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited). 7 December, 1896	21
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EXCHANGE OF LAND ON YANGA STATION, NEAR BALRANALD.

No. 1.

The Manager of the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited) to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir, The English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), Sydney, 23 July, 1896.

Referring to the suggested scheme of exchange of lands on Stonehenge, Baan Baa, and Cooma holdings for lands on Yanga, which was laid before you by our Pastoral Inspector on the 21st instant, I have now the honor to furnish more definite information on the subject.

As you are doubtless aware, the Bank are the holders of the undermentioned property in the neighbourhood of the towns of Glen Innes and Narrabri, viz. :—

EASTERN DIVISION.

1,134 acres,	Stonehenge holding, No. 108,	freehold land.
12,508 "	" "	" conditional purchase land.
3,981 "	" "	" " lease "
1,882 "	" "	" " " (non-convertible).

CENTRAL DIVISION.

17,780 acres,	Cooma leasehold area, No. 602,	at a rental of 1½d. per acre per annum.
1,466 "	" "	" conditional purchase land.
2,880 "	" "	" " lease "
12,691 "	Baan Baa leasehold area, No. 628,	at a rental of 2½d. per acre, per annum.
4,172 "	" "	freehold land.
3,188 "	" "	conditional purchase land.
6,794 "	" "	" " lease "

The whole of this land has been fully improved by fencing, ringbarking, water conservation, and buildings at a heavy outlay. It is suitably located for close settlement, and comprises a large area of agricultural land within easy reach of railway communication.

Should the proposal be acceptable to the Minister, the Bank is prepared to enter into negotiations for the exchange of the whole of the foregoing property, and would also surrender the leasehold areas for lands on Yanga, in the extreme west of the Central Division, now held by the Bank under a pastoral lease at a rental of 1d. per acre per annum.

A summary of all the lands available for exchange gives the following results :—

5,306 acres,	freehold land.
17,162 "	conditional purchase land.
13,655 "	lease land.

36,123 acres, total.

In the event of the proposal being finally approved, the Bank will convert the 13,655 acres conditional lease into conditional purchase land.

I enclose a sketch of the Yanga leasehold area, showing the freehold land coloured in red and the 36,123 acres proposed for exchange colored blue.

It may be mentioned that the lands proposed for exchange on Yanga are rabbit infested, destitute of water, within an area of light and capricious rainfall, and essentially grazing country, remote from all railway communication.

The object of the proposal is to consolidate widely-scattered lands, though in doing so it is quite apparent that the Bank is making a great sacrifice.

It would be of extreme convenience if you could advise us at the earliest possible moment whether the Minister was disposed to view the proposal in a favourable light.

I would point out that while the question of exchange remains unsettled, it very seriously hampers the immediate future operations on the properties to be surrendered.

I shall be glad to supply any further information you may require.

With reference to our two applications for exchange of lands on Cooma holding, No. 602, for lands on Baan Baa South, No. 628, I shall be obliged if you will delay dealing with these until the present more comprehensive proposal has received consideration.

I have, &c.,

FLETCHER DIXON,

Manager.

No. 2.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The District Surveyor, Armidale.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

28 July, 1896.

A copy of a letter recently received by the Department, in which the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank offers to surrender lands in the Land Board Districts of Armidale and Tamworth in exchange for other lands in the Land Board District of Hay, is enclosed; and as Mr. McDonald has recently reported very fully on the merits of another exchange proposal affecting Stonehenge lands only, and he is, therefore, in possession of all the facts, will he favour me with his views in regard to the Stonehenge lands, i.e., whether acceptance of this surrender is desirable in the public interests, and likely to facilitate settlement.

A rough estimate of the value of these lands should also be supplied, if possible.

C.J.S. (for the Under Secretary).

I presume that the present proposal does not affect the exchange already approved. It would have been more satisfactory if the applicant Bank had furnished a plan illustrating the proposals; but speaking from my general knowledge of the Stonehenge (Graham's Valley) Estate, I may state that the lands comprised therein would undoubtedly attract settlement under the favourable terms afforded by the homestead

homestead settlement provisions. The unimproved value of the land is about 25s. per acre. The improvements consist of fencing, ringbarking, a little cultivation, and the home station improvements at Graham's Valley. The latter are not at all of an extravagant character. I have no knowledge of the Baan Baa or Cooma holdings, but I know the Yanga holding very well. The description of the latter given in the enclosed letter (Aln. 96-7,749) is correct. The country is not suitable for small holdings. The climate is very hot and dry, and the rainfall about 14 inches per year. The altitude above sea level is about 200 feet. At Stonehenge the annual rainfall is about 40 inches; the altitude about 3,800 feet. The summer climate is delightful, but it is very cold in winter.—ROBERT M'DONALD, District Surveyor, 5/8/96.

The Great Northern railway passes within a few miles of Graham's Valley.—R.M'D.

No. 3.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The District Surveyor, Tamworth.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

28 July, 1896.

For enclosure,
see No. 1.

A COPY of a letter recently received by the Department is enclosed, in which the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank offers to surrender lands in the Land Board Districts of Armidale and Tamworth in exchange for other lands in the Land Board District of Hay, and is referred to the District Surveyor at Tamworth for early report in regard to the lands within the Cooma and Baan Baa South pastoral holdings, *i.e.*, whether acceptance of surrender of the freehold and selected areas is desirable in the public interests and likely to facilitate settlement; also, whether the lands covered by the existing pastoral leases are likely to be again readily disposed of in the event of the leases being abandoned as now proposed.

A rough estimate of the value of the lands affected should also, if possible, be supplied.

The papers relating to the previous exchange are enclosed; and, as these holdings have only recently been reported on by the District Surveyor, it is thought that he may be in a position to furnish the information now asked for without a further inspection.

C.J.S. (for the Under Secretary).

Reporting from general knowledge, and without inspection, I am of the opinion that the acceptance by the Crown of the surrender by way of exchange, as proposed, of the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank's freehold and selected lands on Baan Baa South and Cooma pastoral holdings, accompanied by the abandonment on the Bank's part of the lands held by it under conditional lease (non-convertible) and pastoral lease, is desirable in the public interests and likely to facilitate settlement. I do not anticipate any difficulty in disposing of the lands held under pastoral lease when they become available in the form of settlement leases. I am unable to furnish a rough estimate of the lands to be surrendered; but, from general knowledge, I believe they comprise lands ranging in value from 20s. to 40s. per acre.—FRED. POATE, District Surveyor, 7th August, 1896.

No. 4.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The District Surveyor, Hay.

30 July, 1896.

For enclosure
see No. 1.

THE enclosed letter from the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank—in which areas within the Land Board Districts of Armidale and Tamworth are placed under offer for surrender, and others in the Land Board District of Hay, are desired in exchange—is referred to the District Surveyor at Hay for preliminary report in regard to the Yanga lands affected.

Taking this holding as a whole, the scheme is not as comprehensive as it might be, nor is the form in which the land is desired without objection; but the Bank's representative has verbally intimated to the Department that the frontage lands have been specially omitted, in order not to interfere with a subsequent application which is intended to be made for the surrender and further consolidation of the Yanga lands only.

The matters for consideration are, therefore:—

- (1.) Whether any objections exist to the alienation of lands in this pastoral holding, as proposed, and if unobjectionable.
- (2.) As regards the form this consolidation should take.

To facilitate consideration of this proposal, the lessees' working plan has been borrowed, and the necessary information shown on enclosed lithograph.

A rough estimate of the value of the lands affected by any scheme recommended by the District Surveyor should be supplied.

C.J.S. (for the Under Secretary).

If possible, a report should be furnished within a month.

Telegram to Under Secretary, asking for appraisal papers, leasehold area of Yanga, 6 August, 1896. Received, 8 August, 1896.

With regard to the exchange proposed, I beg to report that there is no objection to alienate the land sought in this proposal, provided, however, that consolidation be effected in a more compact form. The contemplated supplementary exchange should undoubtedly be dealt with in conjunction with this proposal, to ensure that the lands held by the station and the Crown lands left for future settlement, should be in as compact a form as possible. In any scheme that is considered, the position of the town of Balranald must not be lost sight of, in order that any demand for closer settlement may be met without recourse to resumption. I value the lands sought in this proposal at from 15s. (fifteen shillings) to 25s. (twenty-five shillings) per acre.—W. G. WALKER, District Surveyor, 8/9/96. The Under Secretary for Lands.

The

The District Surveyor does not indicate what form he recommends the consolidation should take, or where would be the most desirable locality in which to aim at consolidation of the Crown lands. The lessees urge that they cannot surrender the block containing the woolshed. They are also extremely anxious to know how far their proposal is acceptable, in order that arrangement may be made in connection with the stock on the holdings proposed to be surrendered. An immediate reply is requested.—C.J.S. (for the Under Secretary), 23/9/96. The District Surveyor, Hay.

Referred to Mr. Surveyor Somerville for immediate report, from his local knowledge, as to what form the consolidation should take, in addition to embracing the numerous measured portions that intersect the station freeholds, which are too small for settlement. It might be advisable to include (with the exception of 640 acres fronting the river) the whole of water reserve 2,114, parish of Kiecla. As he is now close to Yanga station, he should interview the manager, with a view to obtaining information as to the form of the contemplated supplementary exchange.—W. G. WALKER, District Surveyor, Wentworth, 9/10/96. *Very urgent.*

Dealt with by letter No. 96-37, 17th October, 1896.—RICHD. N. SOMERVILLE, Surveyor.

No. 5.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The District Surveyor, Hay.

Hay, 26th August, 1896.

The within reports by the District Surveyors at Armidale and Tamworth are forwarded for your perusal, &c., in connection with papers, Aln. 96-7,485 sent early this month.

For enclosures, see Nos. 1 and 2.

C.J.S. (for the Under-Secretary).

Returned to Head-quarters with my report, No. 96-300, of this date, covering papers, L.B. 96-4,270.—W. G. WALKER, District Surveyor, 8/9/96. The Under Secretary for Lands.

No. 6.

Telegram from Draftsman-in-Charge, Survey Office, Hay, to The Under-Secretary for Lands.

Hay, 9 October, 1896.

Re Yanga exchange, District Surveyor wires from Wentworth that he considered it advisable to refer matter to Surveyor Somerville, who is in locality and will report next week.

J. G. FEWINGS,

Draftsman-in-Charge, District Survey Office.

Inform Bank.—C. J. SAUNDERS, 12/10/96. English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), Sydney, informed, 12/10/96.

No. 7.

The Acting Under Secretary for Lands to The Manager, English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited).

Sir, Department of Lands, Sydney, 12 October, 1896.

In reply to your personal inquiries I have the honor to inform you that the survey of the lands to be granted on Stonchenge holding is to be made at once, and action is being expedited thereon; and the District Surveyor has referred your proposal for exchange on Yanga holding to the surveyor now in the locality, whose report is expected this week.

Exchange—Stonchenge, No. 103, Eastern Division.

Yanga, No. 76, Central Division.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,

Acting Under Secretary

(Per W.H.C.)

No. 8.

Surveyor R. N. Somerville to The District Surveyor, Hay.

Sir, Hay, 17 October, 1896.

In accordance with your instructions, No. 96-61, October 9th, L.B. 96-4,270, I have the honor to report upon the proposed consolidation in Yanga pastoral holding, county Cairn, of lands offered in surrender in Stonchenge, Cooma, and Bann Baa holdings.

I believe it is desired to treat this exchange on its merits without bringing in the question of surrender of any of the Yanga freehold lands. Keeping this in mind, I am of opinion, from a cursory inspection, that the form of consolidation need not be objected to. Applicants have aimed at pure consolidation without respect to country.

The land sought is not suitable for close settlement, none of it is agricultural land, and, taken as a whole, its grazing capacity is low.

In event of the exchange being accomplished, a road should be provided easterly from portion 19, parish Yanga, through the holding.

The station manager is unaware what form the contemplated surrender and exchange of Yanga lands only will take.

I have, &c.,

RICHD. N. SOMERVILLE,

Surveyor.

There

There is no objection to the alienation of the land sought on Yanga holding, nor do I think now that there is any occasion to formulate a design for surrender of freeholds on this holding, having regard to a consolidation of the Crown lands with a view to closer settlement near Balranald. I was under the impression that there were some areas adapted for agriculture, but I now find that the land is purely pastoral. Blocks of at least 5,000 acres would be required for independent holdings; but I understand from Mr. Somerville that even upon blocks of this size, on account of the liability of the land to flood, settlers would be hampered in keeping and moving the stock on and off the lands. As regards the form that the consolidation of the holding should take, I am of opinion that the interests of the Crown are not in any way prejudiced by granting the land in the form shown by blue tint on lithograph, with a slight modification giving the area hatched blue instead of the area edged blue. An amalgamation of the two main areas is, perhaps, desirable; but this will probably come under consideration in the supplementary exchange. At the present time I consider it best, in the interests of the Crown, to retain the Crown lands between the two main areas, and north and east of the proposed consolidated area, in the parishes of Kia and Parker (where blocks of a suitable size and form can be obtained for future settlement), rather than that a connection between the two divisions should be made. If it be considered, however, that the areas should be joined now, I would suggest that the area F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, should be substituted for the area A, B, C, D, E, F, although this would result in severing the Crown lands. I am of opinion, too, that the Crown lands west of line G, P, H, to, and inclusive of, travelling stock reserve 3,202, should, in any proposal, be retained for future settlement, as they are more accessible in flood time and nearer to Balranald than the rest of the lands to the east and north of the area. In the supplementary exchange, the lessee should, in the event of the area suggested in substitution for area A, B, C, D, E, F being adopted in the present proposal, be asked to surrender portions 1, 29, 30, and 31, parish of Parker.—W. G. WALKER, District Surveyor (*per J.G.F.*), 19/10/96. The Under Secretary for Lands.

No. 9.

Office Memorandum.

PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF EASTERN AND CENTRAL DIVISION LANDS.

30 October, 1896.

Stonehenge, No. 108, Eastern Division; lease expired.
Baan Baa South, No. 623, Central Division; five years' extension.
Cooma, No. 602, Central Division; five years' extension.
Yanga, No. 76, Central Division; five years' extension.

UNDER separate papers the owners were consolidating their Cooma and Baan Baa South (Central Division) and Stonehenge (Eastern Division) properties; but on the 23rd July last they asked whether the Department would be likely to favourably entertain a scheme for the surrender of all their alienations on the holdings named (together with the pastoral leases covering the Cooma and Baan Baa South properties) in exchange for an equivalent area in Yanga holding, the relative position of the estates affected being indicated on accompanying small Colony map. Approximately the area for surrender and abandonment is:—

	Freehold.	Conditional Purchase.	Conditional Lease.	Lease.
Eastern Division	1,134 acres	12,508 acres	3,981 acres	1,832 acres
Central Division	5,306 „	4,654 „	9,674 „	30,421 „

making a grand total of 68,376 acres, which will be rendered available for settlement should the scheme be adopted.

The District Surveyors have been consulted, and are found to favour such an exchange.

In regard to the Baan Baa South and Cooma Estates, the District Surveyor at Tamworth states that the relinquishment of the station interests there would be likely to facilitate settlement, and that no difficulty need be anticipated in readily disposing of the land under settlement lease provisions. A rough estimate places the value of this country at from 20s. to 40s. per acre.

Regarding the Stonehenge holding, the District Surveyor at Armidale reports that the land comprised therein would undoubtedly attract settlement under the favourable terms afforded by the homestead selection provisions. He estimates the land to be worth about 25s. per acre. Mr. McDonald also has the advantage of knowing the Yanga land, which he states is not suitable for small settlement.

In exchange the applicants seek to attain the land represented by blue tinting on the lithograph to this form the District Surveyor at Hay has no strong objection to offer.

The Crown lands to the west of the line P, G, H he considers should be retained for future settlement. His estimate of the value of this country is from 15s. to 25s. per acre.

The owners have now lodged the usual formal application for the surrender of the station alienations on Stonehenge, Baan Baa South, and Cooma holdings in exchange for an equal area on Yanga holding, and have intimated their willingness to abandon their Baan Baa South and Cooma pastoral leases and to relinquish the improvements on the portions for surrender.

This proposal embraces land in three Land Board Districts, and is the first of the kind which has arrived at the stage of reference to a Land Board. Section 47 requires that the Local Land Board shall inquire into and report upon any proposal, and shall appraise the value of the land included therein. The surrender land is within the Glen Innes and Narrabri Board Districts, while the land applied for in exchange is within the Balranald Board District.

It would perhaps meet the case if the Glen Innes and Narrabri Boards were directed to report as to the surrender of the portions within their respective districts, and to appraise the value of those lands, and also to state whether their acquisition by the Crown would promote settlement; and the Balranald Board were directed to inquire into and report whether the lands sought in exchange could be alienated without prejudice to public interests, and also to assess the value of those lands, the several Boards' reports to be subsequently reviewed by the Minister and the exchange then considered as a whole.

C. J. SAUNDERS.

No. 10.

Office Memorandum.

EXCHANGE OF LAND WITHIN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS.

30 October, 1896.

THE question is, how to get this matter before the Land Board, the special feature of the case being that the proposal refers to lands within three Land Board Districts.

Section 47 of the Act of 1895 does not limit an exchange to lands within the same district; but the Local Land Board is introduced in the following way:—

The Local Land Board shall inquire into and report upon any application or proposal referred to such Board by the Minister, and the values of any lands included therein shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of section 6 of the "Crown Lands Act of 1889," before the exchange is carried out. In any such exchange the lands exchanged shall, as nearly as practicable, be of equal value, or if the Crown lands to be granted be of greater value the difference of value shall be paid before any grant is issued.

The land proposed to be surrendered to the Crown is in the Land Districts of Narrabri and Glen Innes, and the land proposed to be acquired by the lessees is in the Balranald Land District.

The case may be, perhaps, dealt with by one Land Board under the provisions of section 5 of the Act of 1889, which is as follows:—

5. It shall be lawful for the Minister from time to time to direct any Local Land Board to deal with any matter, question, or inquiry that has arisen, or shall arise, without regard to the Land Board District in which the land forming the subject of such matter, question, or inquiry may be situated. And the said Land Board shall have as full power and jurisdiction to deal with the matter as if the land aforesaid were situated within that Board's proper Land Board District or Land District. Provided that anything similarly done by any Local Land Board before the commencement of this Act, either from inadvertence or otherwise, shall have the same effect in law as if done by the Land Board empowered to deal therewith.

But before one Board deals with it finally, it ought to have before it the views of the Land Board with regard to the land within that Land Board's district. Strictly, perhaps, all witnesses should appear before the one Board; but this would be expensive. The Board is not asked to decide, but to inquire and report; and, of course, the real object to be aimed at is to understand that the proposals are fair, both so far as the Crown's interests and those of the parties are concerned.

H. CURRY,

Acting Under Secretary.

The Land Board for the district in which land is to be granted should make the chief inquiry. The other Boards should report on the values, &c., of the lands to be surrendered.—J.H.C., 30/10/96.

No. 11.

The Manager, the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), to The Under Secretary for Lands.

The English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited),

Sydney, 30 October, 1896.

Sir,

Following up yesterday's interview of our Pastoral Inspector with the Minister, relative to the proposed exchange of lands on Stonchenge, Cooma, and Baan Baa South, for lands on Yanga holding, I have now the honor to enclose formal application, with schedule attached, for surrender and exchange of the lands in question.

In the event of our proposals receiving final approval, we are prepared to abandon the leases of Cooma No. 602, and Baan Baa South, No. 628, in the Central Division, at the termination of the current year. I presume, however, that the right to run our stock on the country for a few months after that date could be arranged for later on, in order to allow us time to dispose of them to advantage.

Trusting that further steps in the matter, as promised, will now be taken.

I have, &c.,

FLETCHER DIXON,

Manager.

[Enclosure.]

APPLICATION BY THE OWNER TO SURRENDER LAND IN EXCHANGE FOR CROWN LAND.

RECEIVED a deposit of £10 and a provisional survey fee of £62.

The Treasury, Sydney, 30 October, 1896.

J. S. WALFORD,

(pro Treasurer).

IN accordance with provisions of section 47 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, we, the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), being the holders of grants of the lands specified on the back hereof, or the holders of lands specified on the back hereof, in respect of which the only unfulfilled condition is that of payment of balance of purchase money, within Stonchenge, Cooma, and Baan Baa South holdings, Nos. 108, 602, 628, in the Eastern and Central Divisions, hereby apply to surrender the same in exchange for the Crown lands described on the back hereof, situated within Yanga holding, No. 76, Central Division. Particulars of the improvements on the respective areas are set forth in the Schedules appended, and we hereby agree to relinquish the improvements on the portions for surrender.

Signed this 29th day of October, 1896.

THE ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN BANK (LIMITED)
(By its Attorney—FLETCHER DIXON),

The Under Secretary for Lands.

George-street, Sydney.
PARTICULARS

PARTICULARS OF LAND TO BE SURRENDERED AND OF THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON.

Parish.	Portion.	Area.	Nature of Alienation.
STONHENGE—Glen Innes District.			
Ben Lomond	18	a. r. p. 240 0 0	} Freehold.
Fletcher	12	40 0 0	
"	25	60 0 0	
"	26	40 0 0	
"	15	80 0 0	
Ben Lomond	27	100 0 0	
"	90	174 0 0	
"	45	360 0 0	
Fletcher	349	40 0 0	
		1,134 0 0	
Fletcher	66	60 0 0	} Conditional purchase.
"	31	200 0 0	
Fletcher and McIntyre	32	200 0 0	
"	151	180 0 0	
"	49	320 0 0	
"	8	160 0 0	
"	7	320 0 0	
"	44	100 0 0	
"	65	40 0 0	
"	16	60 0 0	
"	17	120 0 0	
"	5	80 0 0	
"	64	40 0 0	
"	35	40 0 0	
"	134	420 0 0	
"	135	60 0 0	
"	67	40 0 0	
"	24	40 0 0	
McIntyre	1	40 0 0	
"	2	40 0 0	
Fletcher	28	254 0 0	
"	9	160 0 0	
Clifton	87	640 0 0	
M'Intyre	3	40 0 0	
"	4	40 0 0	
Ben Lomond	7	640 0 0	
M'Intyre	8	40 0 0	
Fletcher	Part of 154	352 0 0	
"	" 28	346 0 0	
Ben Lomond	55	318 0 0	
Fletcher	Part of 154	248 0 0	
M'Intyre	16	120 0 0	
Clifton	347	300 0 0	
M'Intyre	17	40 0 0	
"	5	40 0 0	
Ben Lomond	38	322 0 0	
"	54	640 0 0	
"	56	640 0 0	
"	26, 29, 51, 155	320 0 0	
Clifton	32	340 0 0	
M'Intyre	53	440 0 0	
"	51	560 0 0	
"	50	595 2 0	
"	49	560 0 0	
Ben Lomond	74	154 3 0	
Fletcher	75	330 0 0	
Ben Lomond	96	261 0 0	
"	91	640 0 0	
M'Intyre	33	320 0 0	
Ben Lomond	97	238 0 0	
		13,642 1 0	
	Date.		
No. 20,883	17 July, 1890	640 0 0	} Conditional leases to be converted into conditional purchases.
" 20,884	17 " 1890	640 0 0	
" 96,007	3 May, 1894	461 0 0	
" 9,421	24 March, 1887	960 0 0	
" 25,703	3 May, 1894	640 0 0	
" 25,704	3 " 1894	640 0 0	
		3,981 0 0	
COOMA—Narrabri District.			
Cooma	98	a. r. p. 506 0 0	} Conditional purchase.
Blake	1	640 0 0	
"	5	320 0 0	
		1,466 0 0	
No. 87-30	640 acres	1,920 0 0	} Conditional lease to be converted into conditional purchases.
" 87-32	320 "	960 0 0	
		2,880 0 0	

Parish.	Portion.	Area.	Nature of Alienation.	
BAAN BAA—Narrabri District.				
Baan Baa	14, 15, 16, 48	a. r. p. 300 3 0	} Freehold.	
"	5	320 0 0		
"	10	40 0 0		
"	77	227 0 0		
"	56	72 2 0		
"	58	160 3 0		
"	59	472 2 0		
"	68	167 2 0		
"	69	160 0 0		
"	70	320 0 0		
"	79	40 0 0		
"	54	480 0 0		
"	78	160 0 0		
"	55	400 0 0		
"	8, 9, 11, 12, 61, 62, 46	558 1 0		
"	51	284 0 0		
		4,172 1 0		
"	4	50 0 0		} Conditional purchase.
"	7	60 0 0		
"	64	250 0 0		
"	63	43 2 0		
"	65	225 1 0		
"	80	640 0 0		
Gorman	3	500 0 0		
Baan Baa	2	140 0 0		
"	6 and 84	160 0 0		
"	87, 88, 92	480 0 0		
Tulla Mullen	22	640 0 0		
		3,198 3 0		
No. 77-2,238	82-271	780 2 0	} Conditional leases to be converted into conditional purchases.	
" 77-2,294	77-71	276 2 0		
" 88-38	89-60 and	1,500 0 0		
" 89-54	88-64	420 0 0		
" 89-21	89-21	480 0 0		
" 89-82	89-91	1,417 3 0		
" 89-37	89-45	1,920 0 0		
		6,794 3 0		

SUMMARY.

	Freehold.			Conditional Purchase.			Conditional Lease.			Total.		
	a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.
Stonehenge	1,134	0	0	12,508	1	0	3,081	0	0	17,623	1	0
Cooma				1,466	0	0	2,880	0	0	4,346	0	0
Baan Baa	4,172	1	0	3,188	3	0	6,794	3	0	14,155	3	0
	5,306	1	0	17,163	0	0	13,655	3	0	36,125	0	0

Improvements on lands to be surrendered on Stonehenge, Cooma, and Baan Baa South holdings, Nos. 108, 602, and 028, consisting of fencing, ringbarking, water supply, buildings, &c., £15,000.

On Crown lands applied for in exchange on Yanga holding, No. 76, consisting of fencing and water supply, £500.

PARTICULARS OF CROWN LANDS APPLIED FOR IN EXCHANGE AND OF THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON.

LAND coloured blue on map forwarded with the preliminary proposal for exchange, dated 23rd July, 1896, being 36,125 acres on the Yanga leasehold area, No. 76, Central Division.

No. 12.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Armidale.

PROPOSED EXCHANGE—Affecting lands on Stonehenge, Baan Baa South, Cooma, and Yanga Holdings.

3 November, 1896.

The papers relating to the Stonehenge portion of this exchange are enclosed, together with copies of those parts referring to the other holdings affected—the originals in connection with the latter having been sent to the respective Boards of the districts within which the lands are situated.

The Minister wishes these matters to be dealt with concurrently and at the earliest date possible, as it is represented to be a matter of immediate importance to the Bank in connection with the disposal of their stock on the different holdings affected.

The

The Chairman is therefore requested to have the case taken in hand at once for action as directed; and, in order that the Minister may be informed when the case will be dealt with, the District Surveyor should be consulted, and a report supplied under separate letter, stating the earliest date upon which the matter can be heard by the Board.

C.J.S. (for the Under Secretary).

The Under Secretary for Lands informed that the case will be dealt with at Glen Innes on 23rd November, 1896.—E.H.D., 4/11/96.

No. 13.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay.

PROPOSED EXCHANGE—Affecting lands on Stonehenge, Baan Baa South, Cooma, and Yanga Holdings.

3 November, 1896.

THE papers relating to the Yanga portion of this exchange are enclosed, together with copies of those parts referring to the portions under offer for surrender—the originals in connection with the latter having been sent to the respective Boards of the districts within which the lands are situated.

The Minister wishes these matters to be dealt with concurrently, and at the earliest date possible.

The Chairman is therefore requested to have the case taken in hand at once for action as directed; and, in order that the Minister may be informed when the case will be dealt with, the District Surveyor should be consulted, and a report supplied under separate letter, stating the earliest date upon which the matter can be heard by the Board.

C.J.S. (for the Under Secretary).

English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), informed of reference. Submitted.—A.J.V., Clerk-in-charge, 6/11/96. See telegrams to Under Secretary for Lands and A. Lakeman, Esq., on enclosure, L.B. 96-6,075.—A.J.V., Clerk-in-charge, 7/11/96. To District Surveyor for necessary action.—A.J.V. (for Chairman, Hay), 10/11/96. Form F to Surveyor Somerville. Instructions have this day been issued to Surveyor Somerville. Lithograph P, it is suggested, should be exhibited at Hay, and lithograph Q.—J.G.F. (for District Surveyor), 21/11/96.

No. 14.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Tamworth.

PROPOSED EXCHANGE—Affecting lands on Stonehenge, Baan Baa South, Cooma, and Yanga holdings.

3 November, 1896.

THE papers relating to the Baan Baa South and Cooma portions of this exchange are enclosed, together with copies of those parts referring to the other holdings affected, the originals in connection with the latter having been sent to the respective Boards of the districts within which the lands are situated.

The Minister wishes these matters to be dealt with concurrently, and at the earliest date possible.

The Chairman is therefore requested to have the case taken in hand at once, for action as directed; and, in order that the Minister may be informed when the case will be dealt with, the District Surveyor should be consulted, and a report supplied under separate letter, stating the earliest date upon which the matter can be heard by the Board.

C.J.S. (for the Under Secretary).

Urgent. Owing to the number of urgent instructions now in hand of a similar nature, I think the earliest time at which this case can be ready for Board action will be the end of February or the beginning of March, 1897. When writing my minute of 7 August, 1896, on papers Alienation 96-S,173, I was under the impression that the lands held by the Bank on Baan Baa South were those indicated on enclosed tracing by red tint; I now notice that the blue-tinted areas are also held in the same interest. The land south-westerly of the railway line is, generally speaking, of an inferior nature.—FRED. POATE, District Surveyor, 9/11/96.

Letter (memoranda) to Under Secretary, indicating that end of February or beginning of March next is the earliest time possible for Board action as to the Baan Baa South and Cooma lands, drawing attention to the supplementary preliminary information from District Surveyor as to general character of lands, &c.—W.F., 10/11/96.

Now for inspection as to character in detail and value in detail of the lands, and for report as to suitability or otherwise for profitable settlement of the Bank's lands on Baan Baa South and Cooma holdings.—WILLIAM FREEMAN, Chairman, 10/11/96.

Mr. Surveyor Sendall, for inspection and report at the earliest opportunity, having in view other instructions of a similar nature now in his hands.—FRED. POATE, District Surveyor, 10/11/96. Heliographs from comprehensive tracing, to illustrate your report, will be forwarded in a few days.—R.S., 13/11/96. Returned to the District Surveyor, with my report of 25 November, No. 96-70.—W. NEVILLE SENDALL, Surveyor, 25/11/96.

No. 15.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Armidale, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir, Department of Lands, Local Land Board Office, Armidale, 4 November, 1896.

In reply to your letter of the 3rd instant, I have the honor to inform you that necessary action has been taken in regard to proposed exchange of lands on Stonehenge pastoral holding, and the case will be considered by the Local Land Board at Glen Innes on the 23rd instant.

I have, &c.,

F. G. FINLEY,

Chairman.

No. 16.

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No. 16.

The District Surveyor, Hay, to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay.

MEMORANDUM.

7 November, 1896.

If these papers (Yanga Exchange) are transferred to me during the next few days, I can have inspection of the lands made and report furnished in the first week of next month.

W.G.W.

I propose setting case for hearing at Hay (if parties consent and Minister sanctions) on either 12th December or 22nd December, and probably first day would be most convenient. Will case then be ready?—P.T., 7/11/96. The District Surveyor. Yes, case will be ready by 12th December; but as tracing has to be exhibited for a month, it is necessary that I should know definitely before 12th instant where case is to be heard.—W.G.W., 7/11/96.

No. 17.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Hay, 7 November, 1896.

Re proposed exchange affecting lands on Yanga, Stonehenge, &c., will Minister give consent for Yanga lands to be dealt with by Hay, instead of Balranald, Board? Reason, chiefly that I cannot personally attend at Balranald for a considerable time. Case can be dealt with at Hay on 22nd December.

FRED. TROLLOPE,
Chairman.

No. 18.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Tamworth, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

MEMORANDUM.

Tamworth, 10 November, 1896.

Exchange desired by English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited)—Lands on Stonehenge in Armidale Land Board District, on Baan Baa South and Cooma in Tamworth Land Board District, for Crown Lands on Yanga Holding in Hay Land Board District.

Your instruction in this matter to me was brought under my notice on return from circuit. Yesterday I made preliminary reference to the District Surveyor, and he reports that "owing to the number of urgent instructions now on hand of a similar nature, I think the earliest time at which this case can be ready for Board action will be the end of February or the beginning of March, 1897. When writing my minute of 7th August, 1896, on papers Alienation, 96-8,173, I was under the impression that the lands held by the Bank on Baan Baa South were those indicated on enclosed tracing by red tint. I now notice that the blue tinted areas are also held in the same interest. The land south-westerly of the railway line is, generally speaking, of an inferior nature."

I may state that this land, generally speaking of an inferior nature (the underlining is mine), is about three-fourths* the total area the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank seeks to give in exchange upon their Baan Baa Estate.

The earliest time that the matter may come before the Board is that named by the District Surveyor.

I would respectfully suggest that it is far more important that this matter as a whole should be at every stage very deliberately considered than unduly expedited, as it might be found when too late that the public interest is sacrificed in some respects. The different Boards, and even the different District Surveyors, may have different bases of value, and I am strongly of opinion that one experienced officer of high standing should, after personal inspection of the lands in detail, report on the whole proposal and give evidence before a Board.

I would suggest Mr. Robert McDonald, recently District Surveyor at Armidale, who it appears knows both the Stonehenge and the Yanga lands, should do this. His evidence should be read by each Board, if he inspects, &c., as I suggest.

I am pushed for time—just starting on circuit.

WILLIAM FREEMAN,
Chairman.

No. 19.

Office Memorandum.

YANGA-STONEHENGE, BAAN BAA EXCHANGE.

16 November, 1896.

In reply to directions sent out in regard to the earliest date on which the several Land Boards might be able to deal with their respective parts of the Stonehenge, Baan Baa South, Cooma, and Yanga Exchange, the Chairmen reply as follows:—

Armidale:—The necessary action has already been taken, and the case will be considered by the Board at Glen Innes on the 23rd instant.

Hay:—Should the Minister consent to the case being heard at Hay instead of Balranald, the matter can be dealt with at Hay on the 22nd proximo, but that the Chairman cannot attend at Balranald for a considerable time.

Tamworth:—After consultation with the District Surveyor, the earliest time that the matter may come before the Board at Narrabri is found to be the end of February or beginning of March.

Having regard to the fact that the large area applied for on the Yanga holding is close to the town of Balranald, and there is certain to be some local feeling in the matter, the Chairman's proposal to have the case dealt with at Hay on the 22nd proximo should not, it is thought, be approved of.

The

* This includes conditional leases.—W.F., 10/11/96.

The Minister's original intention in this case was that a special meeting of the Board should be called to consider the case. Probably the Chairman should be so directed now, and asked to name the earliest date upon which the case can be heard at Balranald.

In the case of the Narrabri Board the same course should be adopted, as the Chairman reports that the matter will not be disposed of in the ordinary course before the end of February or March next, and it is necessary that the Tamworth inquiry should be completed before the Balranald inquiry is commenced.

C. J. SAUNDERS.

For approval. Some means of having a meeting of the Narrabri Board should be arranged earlier.—H. CURRY, 16/11/96. Approved.—J.H.C., 16/11/96. Chairmen, Hay and Tamworth, asked by wire, 16/11/96.

No. 20.

Telegram from The Acting Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay.

Sydney, 16 November, 1896.

Re Yanga exchange: Minister directs case must be dealt with by Balranald Board. State earliest date upon which special meeting can be held.

H. CURRY,
Acting Under Secretary for Lands.

No. 21.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Hay, 16 November, 1896.

It is urgent that I should know to-day if Minister approves change of venue, Yanga exchange case. Leaving this afternoon for Deniliquin.

F. TROLLOPE,
Chairman.

No. 22.

Telegram from The Acting Under-Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay.

Sydney, 16 November, 1896.

Re Baan Ba-Yanga exchange: Minister directs case be dealt with at special meeting, Narrabri Board. State earliest date meeting can be held.

H. CURRY,
Acting Under Secretary for Lands.

Repeated to Chairman, Coonabarabran.—E. T. CREER, 16/11/96. The District Surveyor.—E. T. CREER (*pro* Chairman), 16/11/96. Noted, and necessary action is being taken to have the case ready by the date mentioned.—R.S. (for District Surveyor), 18/11/96. The Chairman. The papers in this case were sent to you yesterday. Forwarded to be placed therewith.—J. W. WARD (*pro* Chairman), 4/12/96.

No. 23.

Telegram from The District Surveyor, Tamworth, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Coonabarabran, 17 November, 1896.

Re your wire to Chairman that Minister directs Baan Baa-Yanga exchange to be dealt with specially, I will make every endeavour to have case ready for hearing at Narrabri Board meeting on thirtieth (30th) instant.

FRED. POATE,
District Surveyor.

No. 24.

Telegram from The District Surveyor, Tamworth, to The Clerk-in-charge, Land Board Office, Tamworth.

Coonabarabran, 17 November, 1896.

Re Baan Baa-Yanga exchange: Chairman directs case to be set down for hearing at Narrabri on thirtieth (30th) instant. Issue necessary notices immediately.

FRED. POATE,
District Surveyor.

For Board meeting at Narrabri on the 30th November, 1896. Notice sent to the Manager, English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), 17/11/96.

No. 25.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Deniliquin, 18 November, 1896.

Re Yanga exchange: I have existing arrangements for Board meetings up to Christmas, and I particularly wish to avoid travelling in January. Letter posted.

FRED. TROLLOPE,
Chairman, Deniliquin.

No. 26.

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No. 26.

The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Deniliquin, 18 November, 1896.

In reference to the hearing of the Yanga exchange case, I have the honor to inform you that I have existing Board meetings at which I have to attend, and which will hold me until the 24th December, 1896, viz.:—at Deniliquin, at Hay, at Hillston, and at Lake Cudgellico.

I have been exceedingly anxious to clear all the outlying districts of work before the extreme heat of the year began.

In this I have not been successful, as I have to travel to Hillston and Cudgellico in December; but if to this is added a journey to Balranald in February, I am afraid that my strength will be over-taxed.

Since the middle of April, I have been incessantly engaged at Board meetings, having, in addition to the ordinary work, dealt with the Western District appraisements and the appraisements of special areas.

I request to be informed if the inquiry into the Yanga exchange case can stand over until March without prejudice to the public interest.

I desire to add that the inquiry is one at which the Chairman should be present.

I have, &c.,

FRED. TROLLOPE.

Chairman.

Balranald Land Board, *in re* Yanga-Baan Baa-Stonehenge Exchange.—The Chairman of the Narrabri Board will endeavour to deal with his portion of the above proposal this month. The Chairman, Armidale, has already arranged for hearing his moiety. Mr. Trollope, Chairman of the Balranald Board, is, however, unable to name a date earlier than March next for the main inquiry, and he asks the Minister to allow the case to stand over until that date, for the special reasons set out in his letter enclosed. It may be remembered that the Bank officials have explained that it is most important that they should know at an early date whether the exchange is likely to be entertained, in order that they may dispose of their stock, and make the most economical arrangements possible for the future working of their station properties.—C. J. SAUNDERS, 20/11/96.

Mr. Trollope was affected by the heat of last summer, and no doubt this has something to do with his wish to avoid having to go to Balranald before March next. It would be desirable to have the case disposed of earlier. Mr. Trollope might be able to suggest some special arrangements as to travelling which the Department might consider.—H. CURRY, Acting Under Secretary, 20/11/96.

Approved.—J.H.C., 24/11/96. Chairman, Hay, asked by wire, 25/11/96.

No. 27.

Telegram from The Chairman Local Land Board, Tamworth, to The Acting Clerk-in-Charge, Land Board Office, Tamworth.

Coonabarabran, 19 November, 1896.

RESPECTING your telegram as to Baan Baa, &c., my answer is "No"; but send all necessary notices to parties to-day.

WILLIAM FREEMAN,

Chairman Land Board.

Notice to Manager, English, Scottish, and Australian Bank sent 17/11/96—*vide* L.B. 96-8890, herewith attached.

No. 28.

The District Surveyor, Hay, to Mr. Surveyor Somerville.

District Surveyor's Office, Hay.

(FORM F.)

MEMORANDUM OF INSTRUCTIONS.

(To be returned with reply).

Subject.	Reply. (If necessary, the reply should be by letter enclosing this instruction).
Mr. Surveyor Somerville is requested, at his early convenience, to inspect the Crown lands comprising the area shown by blue tint on the accompanying heliograph which is proposed to be granted in exchange for other lands without this Board District.	Returned to the District Surveyor in accordance with memo., 1/12/96.—RICHARD N. SOMERVILLE, Surveyor, 2/12/96.
It is desired that the character and value of these lands be fully reported upon, and also as to whether, irrespective of the value of the lands, there is any probability of their being required for closer settlement.	Reissued to Mr. Surveyor Steane.—J.G.F. (for District Surveyor), 3/12/96.
If it should occur to Mr. Somerville, after inspection, that a desirable modification in the form of alienation of the lands can be made, he will be so good as to suggest it. The improvements on the lands should also be reported upon without going into too much detail. J.G.F. (for District Surveyor), 21/11/96.	Dealt with by my report, 96-39, 15th December, 1896.—S. A. STEANE.

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No. 29.

A. B. Briggs, Esq., for English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), to
The Secretary for Lands.

Dear Sir,

Lands Department, 24 November, 1896.

Referring to our interview relative to the Yanga-Baan Baa exchange, I understand that all the papers in connection with this matter are before you, but there is a difficulty about holding a Land Board meeting at Balranald owing to the Chairman's health. I trust, however, that you may see your way to carry out the promise given to dispose of the question at an early date, and would point out that a hearing at Hay would suit us equally well as Balranald.

If I could offer any assistance I shall be glad to wait upon you again.

Yours, &c.,
A. B. BRIGGS.

No. 30.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board, Deniliquin, to The Under
Secretary for Lands.

Deniliquin, 25 November, 1896.

Re Yanga exchange: Board members could perform duties at Hillston and Cudgellico, as no special cases there occur, in which event I could deal with case at Balranald on 18th December, if Minister will sanction hearing twenty-one days after tracing exhibited.

FRED. TROLLOPE,
Chairman.

The Chairman's recommendation may, it is thought, be adopted, provided the proposed exchange is fully advertised at Balranald. The land applied for by way of exchange is not far distant from that town. The Chairman should perhaps be asked who will act as Chairman at Hillston and Cargellico.—C. J. SAUNDERS, 26/11/96.

For approval. The direction that a tracing should be exhibited for a period of one month is not required by the Act or Regulations, but was conveyed by Circular 93-23. Regulation 286 appears to refer to a public purpose exchange. The General Regulations *re* exchanges are 294 to 302 inclusive.—H. CURRY, Acting Under Secretary, 27/11/96.

Approved.—J.H.C., 27/11/96. Inform Chairman by wire.—E.A.B., 27/11/96. Chairman Local Land Board informed by wire, 27/11/96.

No. 31.

Telegram from The Clerk-in-charge, Land Board Office, Hay, to The Chairman,
Local Land Board, Deniliquin.

Hay, 25 November, 1896.

PLEASE say if decided date deal with Yanga exchange, Balranald. Want exhibit tracing one month, and *Gazette*.

A. J. VILES,
Clerk-in-charge.

Cannot decide at present.—FRED. TROLLOPE, Chairman (*per* W. O'H.) The Clerk-in-charge, Land Board Office.

No. 32.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board Office, Deniliquin, to The Clerk-
in-charge, Land Board Office, Hay.

Deniliquin, 25 November, 1896.

SEND Yanga exchange tracing for exhibition at Balranald by to-morrow night's post. Will hear on 18th December, if Minister sanctions.

FRED. TROLLOPE,
Chairman.

Please prepare notice and attach heliograph to go Balranald to-night's mail. Objections to be lodged on or before 18th December, 1896.—A.J.V., Clerk-in-charge, 26/11/96. Notice prepared and, with heliograph, forwarded to Crown Lands Agent, Balranald.—W.O.R., 26/11/96.

No. 33.

Surveyor Sendall to The District Surveyor, Tamworth.

REPORT on proposed surrender of lands within Baan Baa South and Cooma holdings, counties of Pottinger and White, Land District of Narrabri, Central Division.

Sir,

Narrabri, 25 November, 1896.

I have the honor to report that between the 19th and 22nd November, 1896, in compliance with instructions of the 13th November, No. 96-56, I inspected lands within Baan Baa South, No. 62S, and Cooma, No. 602, pastoral holdings, counties of Pottinger and White, Land District of Narrabri, Central Division, offered for surrender by the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), in connection with the Bank's proposal to exchange lands under the 47th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1895.

Other lands offered for surrender are on Stonehenge holding, No. 108, Eastern Division, Land District of Glen Innes, and the lands asked in exchange are on Yanga holding, No. 76, Central Division, Land District of Balranald.

The

The lands within Baan Baa South and Cooma holdings are suitable for settlement, and there would be no difficulty in disposing of them under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1895.

The improvements on portions 16 and 11, parish of Baan Baa, are extensive, comprising homestead, woolshed, yards, outbuildings, and clearing—a total value of about £1,700.

These would probably have to be sacrificed, as they are too costly for the profitable occupation in small areas of land surrounding them.

With this exception, the improvements are not such as should bar selection, being necessary for working the land, and would rather tend to attract settlement, as they enable future tenants to enter immediately after selection into profitable occupation of the country. All these lands are within easy reach of the railway—from half a mile to 6 miles from Narrabri West and Baan Baa Stations.

Enclosed is a schedule giving an estimate of the value of improvements on the lands offered for surrender. It was not considered advisable to spend time inspecting those improvements closely, in view of the fact that if the surrenders are accepted, and the land becomes available for future settlement, they will have to be appraised at their value then to an incoming tenant, and present valuations would be of little use.

The approximate total present value is £5,789.

Following are descriptions of the portions offered for surrender on Baan Baa South and Cooma, which are shown on heliographs accompanying this report, in red colour:—

County of Pottinger, portions 7, 63, 64, 65, parish of Baan Baa, 578½ acres. Within part of portion 65, about 80 acres is a stony and gravelly ridge, good red soil, timbered with box and ironbark, good grazing land; the remainder, and the other portions, 498½ acres, are level chocolate soil, small open plains, and very open box and myall; rich grazing land, and patches fair agricultural. The land is broken by watercourses, and there is permanent water in Tulla Mullen Creek, on portion 65. The timber, except shade trees, is ringed; distance to Baan Baa railway platform, 6 miles. Value, 50s. per acre.

Portions 8, 14, 9, 15, 10, 77, 16, 11, 12, 62, 61, 46, 48, Baan Baa, 1,135 acres. West of Tulla Mullen Creek, about 460 acres; the country is timbered with box, oak, pine, and rosewood; the soil is deep red loam, good grazing and rich agricultural land; the timber has been ringed, and there is a light growth of suckers. The remainder, 675 acres, consists of small open plains and open box and myall country, chocolate, black, red, and grey soils; all rich grazing land, and patches of fair agricultural land; the timber has been ringed, except about half of portion 48, where there is a heavy growth of box timber; there is permanent water in Tulla Mullen Creek at two points, portions 14 and 16; distance to Baan Baa railway platform, 4 to 5 miles. Value, 50s. per acre.

Portion 4, parish Baan Baa, 50 acres, consists of black and chocolate soils, timbered heavily with box, yellow-jacket, and apple; good grazing and fair agricultural land; permanent water Namoi River; 4 miles to Baan Baa railway platform. Value, 40s. per acre.

Portion 5, parish Baan Baa, 320 acres. Open plain and very open box and myall country, ring-barked; black and chocolate soils; rich grazing and patches fair agricultural land; 3 miles to Baan Baa railway platform; value, 50s. per acre.

Portions 51, C.P.L. 2,944, part C.P.L. 2,238, north-east of railway line, parish Baan Baa, 850 acres. All timbered with box, oak, rosewood, and pine; deep red loam soil; good grazing and rich agricultural land; the timber has been ringbarked, and there is a light growth of suckers; 4 miles to Baan Baa railway platform. Value, 50s. per acre.

Portion 78, parish Baan Baa, 160 acres. Consists of red and gray clay soils, timbered with box, oak, rosewood, and myall, ringbarked; good grazing land; distance to Baan Baa railway platform, 4 miles. Value, 40s. per acre.

Portions 54, 55, 59, and 68, parish Baan Baa, 1,520 acres. Small open plains and very open box and myall, some belar west of Tulla Mullen Creek; black and chocolate soils; rich grazing and patches of fair agricultural land; the Tulla Mullen Creek through these portions is a swamp, from 10 to 15 chains wide, generally dry, and good grazing country; the box timber on this is heavier than on surrounding land, and the whole has been ringbarked; from Baan Baa railway platform, 1½ to 4 miles. Value, 45s. per acre.

Portions 56 and 58, parish of Baan Baa, 233½ acres. Nearly all open plain, a little box and myall timber; black and chocolate soils; rich grazing land, and patches fair agricultural; 1½ to 3 miles from Baan Baa railway platform. Value, 50s. per acre.

Portions 69, 70, and 79, parish Baan Baa, 520 acres. About 150 acres light sandy soil; oak, box, pine, gum, and belar timber; poor grazing land; about 100 acres stony and gravelly ridge; ironbark, pine, and scrub; poor grazing land; and about 270 acres open box and myall, and Tulla Mullen Swamp; good grazing; all the country ringbarked, with now a growth of young timber and scrub; ¼ to 1½ mile from Baan Baa railway platform. Value, 30s. per acre.

Part C.P.L. 2,238 South-west railway line, and portion 80, parish of Baan Baa, 1,130½ acres. Box, pine, rosewood, and belar timber; a little ironbark; timber ringbarked, and about 640 acres heavy growth of suckers, the remainder light growth; deep red loam inclining to sandy; good agricultural soil and fair grazing; 2 to 4 miles from Baan Baa railway platform. Value, 35s. per acre.

Portions 87 and 88, parish of Baan Baa, 160 acres. Heavy belar timber; about half grey crab-hole ground and half red soil; good grazing if ringbarked; 2 miles from Baan Baa railway platform. Value, 30s. per acre.

Portions 92 and 94, parish of Baan Baa, 1,200 acres. Box, pine, oak, rosewood, and belar timber; dense scrub of pine, oak, rosewood, and wattle; light sandy and sandy loam soil; fair grazing if ringbarked and scrub cut; and patches of fair agricultural land; about 400 acres ringbarked; heavy growth of suckers and scrub. Baan Baa railway platform 1½ mile. Value, 25s. per acre.

Portions 6, 84, and 85, parish of Baan Baa, 640 acres. Box, oak, pine, rosewood, and belar timber; light scrub and undergrowth; red sandy and sandy loam soil; fair grazing when ringbarked and scrub cut; and patches of fair agricultural land; all ringbarked; light growth of suckers and undergrowth. A waterhole on the south boundary of portion 85 is nearly permanent; a permanent supply could be secured at little cost by a small dam. Distance from railway platform at Baan Baa 1 mile. Value, 30s. per acre.

Portion 95, parish of Baan Baa, 537½ acres. Box, oak, pine, rosewood, and belar timber; pine, oak, wattle scrub, and undergrowth; light sandy and sandy loam soil; fair grazing land if ringbarked and scrub cut, and patches fair agricultural land; 3 miles from Baan Baa railway platform. Value, 25s. per acre.

Portion

Portion 74, parish of Baan Baa, 80 acres. Box, pine, oak, and rosewood timber; light sand and sandy loam; fair grazing when ringbarked, and patches fair agricultural land. Has been ringbarked, but there is now a very heavy growth of suckers. Distance from Baan Baa railway platform, 4 miles. Value, 25s. per acre.

County of White, portions 2, 3, 4, and 19, parish of Gorman, 2,480 acres. About 400 acres open box ridges, a little currajong; red stony soil; good grazing; about 500 acres heavy belar country; black and grey soils; good grazing if ringed; about 1,280 acres box, pine, rosewood, oak, and a little belar; pine, oak, rosewood, and wattle scrub; light sand and sandy loam; fair grazing if ringbarked and scrub cut, and patches fair agricultural land. All this 2,180 acres has been recently ringbarked. The remaining 300 acres is a light sandy and stony ridge timbered with bloodwood, gum, ironbark, and pine, with dense scrub of pine, wattle, currawong, five-corner, and grass-tree; very poor country; not ringbarked; 4 to 6 miles from Baan Baa railway platform. Value, 25s. per acre.

Portions 22 and 23, parish of Tullen Mullen, 2,560 acres, county of Pottinger. About 700 acres, in four areas as shown on heliograph. Box, pine, and rosewood, light pine, wattle and rosewood scrub; red sandy loam; fair grazing country when ringbarked, and fair agricultural land. These areas are ringbarked. The remaining 1,860 acres are mostly light sandy soil, a few patches of sandy loam; timbered with box, gum, pine, oak, and rosewood; dense scrub of pine, oak, wattle, rosewood, and undergrowth; inferior country. Distance from Baan Baa railway platform, 2 to 4 miles. Value, 17s. 6d. per acre.

On Cooma holding, portion 98, parish of Cooma, 506 acres. About 150 acres dense belar and brigalow scrub; black and grey soils; good grazing if timber is killed; 356 acres ironbark, box, and a few brigalows, oak, and pine; sandy and red clay soils; good grazing if timber is killed, and fair agricultural land; all ringbarked. On the 150 acres a heavy growth of young timber, and on the remainder a moderate growth. This is a valuable agistment paddock, being only $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile from Narrabri West railway station. Value, 70s. per acre.

Portions 5 and 6, parish of Cooma, 1,280 acres. About 250 acres dense brigalow; grey and black soil. 150 acres low ground; gum timber; grey soil. 400 acres red sand and sandy loam; box, pine, and oak timber; and 480 acres light loose sand, with gum, apple, box, and pine timber; pine and wattle scrub. The area, except about 400 acres, has been ringbarked, but is now heavily overgrown with suckers, pine and wattle scrub, and undergrowth in a worse condition than unimproved country. There is permanent water in Brigalow Creek at Borah Waterhole. Distance from Narrabri West railway station, 3 to 5 miles. Value, 20s. per acre.

Portions 1 and 2, parish of Blake, 2,560 acres. About 400 acres dense brigalow; grey soil; good grazing if timber is killed. Remainder, light sand and sandy loam soil; timbered with ironbark, box, oak, and pine; pine, wattle, oak scrub, and light undergrowth; fair grazing land; and patches of fair agricultural land. All, except the 400 acres brigalow, has been ringbarked, and there is a moderate growth of suckers. Five miles from Narrabri West railway station. Value, 25s. per acre.

Enclosed is a Schedule containing areas and values of lands offered for surrender, showing an area of 14,155 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres (value, £23,203), on Baan Baa South; and on Cooma an area of 4,346 acres (value, £6,251); a total of 18,501 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres (value, £29,454); average value per acre, 32s.

I have, &c.,

W. NEVILLE SENDALL,

Surveyor.

Time occupied in service.—Field, 3 days; office, 3 days.

[Enclosure.]

SCHEDULE of Lands offered for Surrender under section 47 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, Baan Baa South, No. 628, and Cooma, No. 602, Holdings.

CENTRAL DIVISION.—BAAN BAA SOUTH HOLDING

Parish and County.	Portion.	Area	Price per Acre.		Value.	
			Board's Valuation.	Surveyor's Valuation.	Board's Valuation.	Surveyor's Valuation.
		acres.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
County Pottinger—						
Baan Baa	7	60	35/-	50/-	105 0 0	150 0 0
"	63	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	35/-	50/-	76 2 6	108 15 0
"	64	250	35/-	50/-	437 10 0	625 0 0
"	x 65	225 $\frac{1}{2}$	30/-	50/-	337 17 6	563 2 6
"	x 8	40	40/-	50/-	80 0 0	100 0 0
"	x 14	60	40/-	50/-	120 0 0	150 0 0
"	x 9	40	35/-	50/-	70 0 0	100 0 0
"	x 15	168	35/-	50/-	294 0 0	420 0 0
"	x 10	40	35/-	50/-	70 0 0	100 0 0
"	x 77	227	35/-	50/-	397 5 0	567 10 0
"	x 16	40	40/-	50/-	80 0 0	100 0 0
"	x 11	40	40/-	50/-	80 0 0	100 0 0
"	x 12	40	35/-	50/-	70 0 0	100 0 0
"	62	227	35/-	50/-	397 5 0	567 10 0
"	61	131 $\frac{1}{2}$	35/-	50/-	229 13 9	328 2 6
"	46	40	35/-	50/-	70 0 0	100 0 0
"	48	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	35/-	50/-	73 1 3	104 7 6
"	4	50	40/-	40/-	100 0 0	100 0 0
"	5	320	40/-	50/-	640 0 0	800 0 0
"	x 51	284	40/-	50/-	568 0 0	710 0 0
"	C.P.L. x 2,944	276	40/-	50/-	552 0 0	690 0 0
"	C.P.L. x 2,238	290	35/-	50/-	507 10 0	725 0 0
"	part north-east from railway.					
"	78	160	30/-	40/-	240 0 0	320 0 0
"	54	480	35/-	45/-	840 0 0	1,080 0 0
"	55	400	35/-	45/-	700 0 0	900 0 0
"	59	472 $\frac{1}{2}$	35/-	45/-	826 17 6	1,063 2 6

BAAN BAA HOLDING.

Parish and County.	Portion.	Area.	Price per Acre.		Value.	
			Board's Valuation.	Surveyor's Valuation.	Board's Valuation.	Surveyor's Valuation.
County Pottinger—		acres.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Baan Baa	68	167½	35/-	45/-	293 2 6	376 17 6
"	56	72½	35/-	50/-	126 17 6	181 5 0
"	58	160½	35/-	50/-	281 6 3	401 17 6
"	69	160	20/-	30/-	160 0 0	240 0 0
"	70	320	20/-	30/-	320 0 0	480 0 0
"	79	40	20/-	30/-	40 0 0	60 0 0
"	C. P. L. 2,238 part south-west from railway.	490½	25/-	35/-	613 2 6	858 7 6
"	80	640	25/-	35/-	800 0 0	1,120 0 0
"	87	40	20/-	30/-	40 0 0	60 0 0
"	88	120	20/-	30/-	120 0 0	180 0 0
"	92	320	15/-	25/-	240 0 0	400 0 0
"	94	880	15/-	25/-	660 0 0	1,100 0 0
"	6	40	20/-	30/-	40 0 0	60 0 0
"	84	120	20/-	30/-	120 0 0	180 0 0
"	85	480	20/-	30/-	480 0 0	720 0 0
"	95	537½	15/-	25/-	403 6 3	672 3 9
"	74	80	15/-	25/-	80 0 0	100 0 0
County White—						
Gorman	2	1,500	15/-	25/-	1,125 0 0	1,875 0 0
"	3	140	15/-	25/-	105 0 0	175 0 0
"	4	420	15/-	25/-	315 0 0	525 0 0
"	19	420	15/-	25/-	315 0 0	525 0 0
County Pottinger—						
Tulla Mullen	22	640	6/8	17/6	213 6 8	560 0 0
"	23	1,920	6/8	17/6	640 0 0	1,680 0 0
		14,155½			15,473 4 2	23,203 1 3
COOMA HOLDING.						
County White—						
Cooma	98	506	45/-	70/-	1,138 10 0	1,771 0 0
"	5	320	13/4	20/-	213 6 8	320 0 0
"	6	960	13/4	20/-	640 0 0	960 0 0
Blake	1	640	13/4	25/-	426 13 4	800 0 0
"	2	1,920	13/4	25/-	1,280 0 0	2,400 0 0
		4,346			3,698 10 0	6,251 0 0
Total Baan Baa and Cooma Holdings		18,501½			19,171 14 2	29,454 1 3

To accompany my report to the District Surveyor of 25th November, No. 96 70.

W. NEVILLE SENDALL,
Surveyor.

This is Appendix 1 to Exhibit C, referred to in our decision of this date as to values, Baan Baa and Cooma lands, proposed for exchange in papers L.B. 96-8,521, Alienation.

WILLIAM FREEMAN, Chairman.
C. A. ROSS, } Members of Board.
J. RIDDLE, }

Court-house, Narrabri, 2nd December, 1896.

SCHEDULE showing particulars of improvements on portions offered for surrender on Baan Baa South, No. 628, and Cooma, No. 602, Holdings, Central Division

Parish and County.	Portion.	Area.	Particulars of Improvements.	Value.
County Pottinger—		acres.		£ s. d.
Baan Baa	16	40	Woolshed and surroundings	1,100 0 0
"	11	40	Homestead and surroundings	600 0 0
"	11, 12, 16	120	Clearing, 40 acres	30 0 0
"	56	72½	Well about 40 feet deep	20 0 0
"	84	120	House, garden, and clearing	60 0 0
"	51	284	Tank and dam, 1,600 yards	80 0 0
"	54, 55	880	" 3,600 "	180 0 0
"	80	640	" 2,000 "	100 0 0
"	59	472½	" 2,400 "	120 0 0
"	70	320	" 1,000 "	50 0 0
"	74	80	" 300 " £15; house, £15	30 0 0
Tulla Mullen	22	640	" 500 " £25; hut, £10	35 0 0
"	23	1,920	" 2,000 "	100 0 0
County White—				
Gorman	2	1,500	Tank and dam, 3,500 "	175 0 0
"			" 500 "	25 0 0
Cooma	98	506	Hut and clearing	40 0 0
Blake	1	640	Tank and dam, 1,000 yards	50 0 0
"	2	1,920	" 2,000 "	100 0 0
			51 miles fencing on Baan Baa South; average value, £22 per mile	1,122 0 0
			8½ miles rabbit-proof netting, Baan Baa South; value, £70 per mile	595 0 0
			14 miles fencing on Cooma; average value, £22 per mile	308 0 0
			10,400 acres ringbarking on Baan Baa South, at 1s. 3d. per acre	650 0 0
			3,500 acres ringbarking on Cooma, at 1s. 3d. per acre	218 5 0
				5,788 15 0

To accompany my report to the District Surveyor of the 25th November, No. 96-70.

W. NEVILLE SENDALL,
Surveyor.

No. 34.

Telegram from The District Surveyor, Hay, to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Deniliquin.

Deniliquin, 26 November, 1896.

I UNDERSTAND you propose to hear Yanga on 18th, Balranald. Surveyor Somerville, owing to illness, will be unable to start for Yanga inspection until 7th December. Work will occupy a total of twelve days, including the work in my office; so that the 18th is too early. Somerville is already summoned for Hay Court on 12th December, *re* widening road through Groongal, Wyvern, and Brungagee. Perhaps you can hear this on 7th, by getting Mr. Mair's consent.

W. G. WALKER,
District Surveyor.

No. 35.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board, Deniliquin, to The Clerk-in-charge, Land Board Office, Hay.

Deniliquin, 27 November, 1896.

PLEASE state if you posted tracing *re* Yanga exchange as directed.

FRED. TROLLOPE,
Chairman.

Informed tracing sent yesterday, and have worded notice to permit of any alteration in date.—A.J.V., 27/11/96. Prepare notice for *Gazette* and papers. Urgent. For Board, Balranald, 21 December, 1896. Instruct Crown Lands Agent alter date on notice to 19th.—A.J.V., Clerk-in-charge, 2/12/96. Mr. Russell. Wire to *Gazette*. Notice to *Balranald Recorder*. Crown Lands Agent informed.—W.O.R., 2/12/96. Let notices issue for 21st December, 1896. Urgent.—A.J.V., Clerk-in-charge, Hay, 2/12/96. Mr. O'Hanlon. Court at Balranald on 21st December, 1896. Notice 3/12/96, to the Manager, English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited) care of A. Lakeman, Esq., Hay, and District Surveyor, Hay.—W.O.H., 3/12/96. Also, Manager English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited) Sydney.—W.O.H., 3/12/96.

No. 36.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board, Deniliquin, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Deniliquin, 28 November, 1896.

MR. RODGERSON, Police Magistrate, Hillston, at present away on leave. Will inform you *re* Hillston-Cudgelico Courts when I can hear from him.

FREDK. TROLLOPE,
Chairman.

No. 37.

The District Surveyor, Tamworth, to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Tamworth.

Department of Lands, District Surveyor's Office, Tamworth.

Proposed surrender of Freehold Conditional Purchase and Conditional Lease Lands on Baan Baa South and Cooma Holdings, Land District of Narrabri, in connection with an exchange proposal by the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, affecting lands on Stonehenge, Baan Baa South, Cooma, and Yanga Holdings.

IN view of Mr. Surveyor Sendall's report, 96-70, of the 25th instant enclosed herewith, it appears that the acquisition by the Crown of the freehold conditional purchase and conditional lease lands on Baan Baa South and Cooma Holdings in the Land District of Narrabri will promote settlement. The description and value of these lands, which are indicated by red tint on enclosed heliographs marked "A" and "B," are fully dealt with in that report.

FRED. POATE,
District Surveyor.

Cost to date, £15 15s., exclusive of Board's expenses.—F.P., Narrabri, 30 November, 1896.

What are the Survey Branch costs to date, including for your attendance and the attendance of Mr. District Surveyor Sendall, in connection with the Board inquiry, for Mr. Sendall's inspection, &c.?—WILLIAM FREEMAN, Chairman, Narrabri, 30/11/96. The District Surveyor.

See above.—F.P., 30/11/96.

No. 38.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Hay, 30 November, 1896.

Re your wire of 27th November, propose Mr. Rodgerston, Police Magistrate, sit as Chairman, with Mr. Witcombe as member, Hillston and Cudgelico.

FRED. TROLLOPE,
Chairman.

Mr. Trollope will not be present at the Hillston and Cudgelico Board's sittings referred to in this telegram, and it is therefore submitted that he be informed the Department has no objection to his proposal that Mr. Rodgerston, Police Magistrate, should act as Chairman under the provisions of subsection 8 of section 14 of the Crown Lands Act of 1854, in his absence on the occasion, with Mr. Witcombe as member. H. L. THOMPSON (in charge Ministerial Branch), 2/12/96.

May be informed.—C. J. SANDERS, 2/12/96. H. Curry, Acting Under Secretary, 3/12/96. Approved.—J.H.C., 4/12/96. Chairman informed, 4/12/96.

No. 39.

Caption to Depositions of Witnesses.

Crown Lands Act of 1894—(Part II, Section 14, Subsection 1).

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

THE examination of Walter Neville Sendall, of Gunnedah, in the Colony of New South Wales, Staff Surveyor; Walter Scott, of Narrabri; Alfred Farrand, of Baan Baa; and Frederick Poate, of Tamworth, in the said Colony: Whereas it hath come before the Board whether the application for surrender and exchange of lands within Baan Baa and Cooma pastoral holdings by the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), should be recommended or otherwise; and it hath been found necessary to investigate the said matter on oath, the depositions of the several witnesses are appended hereto. Number of pages of evidence, 14; number of exhibits, 3.

[Enclosure.]

THIS deponent, *Walter Neville Sendall* of Gunnedah, Staff Surveyor, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By the District Surveyor: I have just read in open Court my report on the lands proposed to be surrendered by the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited) on Baan Baa South and Cooma holdings; that report is marked Exhibit C, and its Schedules Appendixes 1 and 2; the report is illustrated by heliograph marked Exhibits A and B; I consider the acquisition of these lands by the Crown will promote settlement. For Exhibit C, see No. 33.

By the Chairman: The values I have given are the values I consider could be easily obtained by the Crown exclusive of the improvements; there are certain of the portions I value higher now than if they had never been ringbarked; they are now marked by a X on Appendix 1; portions 5 and 6, parish of Cooma, county of White, have been damaged by the neglect of the ringbarking after it was done, and are of less value now than before the timber on them was touched; I cannot say what the depreciation is, but I do not consider it much; there was no second growth to speak of remaining on portions 63, 64, 65, and 7; west of the creek it would cost about 6d. per acre to clear the suckers and light scrub—it is only about time now to attend to this new growth; on portion 51, C.P.L. 2,944, and part of C.P.L. 2,238, north-east of the railway, the same remarks will apply; in regard to the part of C.P.L. 2,238, south-west of the railway, it will cost 6d. per acre to remove the suckers; I do not consider there has been any neglect there; portion 80 has been neglected, but the neglect can be remedied for 1s. per acre; the ringbarking has not injured this portion; the ringbarking on portions 92 and 94 is not at the present time an advantage; it has been neglected, and would cost about 1s. per acre to remedy the neglect; all the country south-west of the railway is country on which it is very difficult to kill the timber, and if the ringbarking be neglected it would become worse than its original state, on account of suckers and increase of scrub following the ringbarking; the country south-west of the railway is inferior grazing country in its original state.

What would it carry when fenced and water provided? It is not fit to put sheep on.

It would cost about 3s. per acre to kill the timber entirely on the parts worth ringbarking; on portions 2 and 4, parish Gorman, county White, there are about 300 acres not worth ringbarking; it is practically worthless at the present time; if not fenced off from the body of the scrub by a rabbit-proof fence it would be a harbour for vermin; on portions 22 and 23, parish Tulla Mullen, there are about 500 acres nearly as bad; I would value it at not more than 5s. per acre; the ringbarking on portions 1 and 2, parish of Blake, is now in a state to be attended to by suckering—cost about 6d. per acre; to the best of my belief, some of the box is narrow-leaved and some is round-leaved box, but I cannot now locate them; the part south-west of the railway worth improving would carry a sheep to 2 acres for wool only, when the timber is killed, at a cost of 3s. per acre; I have had no practical experience in grazing, but from what I have read, and from my own inquiries, I judge the net return per sheep to be 3s. to 3s. 6d. per annum.

What would be the gross amount obtained from wool—say, Merino sheep? I could not give an estimate; I think three-fourths of the part south-west of the railway would be worth clearing for cultivation of wheat; with ordinary means of cultivation used in New South Wales, so far as I know it, I believe this country would return 20 bushels of wheat to the acre in fair average seasons; I judge it to be fair average wheat land, as regards soil and climate.

Would you be surprised to learn that the yield for the whole colony is not more than about 13 bushels to the acre? Yes.

By Mr. Farrand: All the sheep I saw on the run, on both sides of the railway line, were in good condition, and some very fat; and I saw sheep on the parts that had suckered heavily.

By the Chairman: Some of the country is suitable for homestead selection, the balance for settlement lease; I am unable to say whether the wheat crops in the Narrabri District are a success or a failure this year.

Sworn by W. N. Sendall, at Narrabri, before us, }
this 30th of November, 1896, —

W. NEVILLE SENDALL.

WILLIAM FREEMAN, Chairman.
C. A. ROSS, }
J. RIDDLE, } Members.

THIS deponent, *Walter Scott*, of Narrabri, Crown Land Agent, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By the Chairman: The rent of William Smith's conditional lease, 9,621, portion 6, parish Cooma, is 2d. per acre; the conditional lease, 9,631, of Denis Riordan, carries a rental of 2d. per acre; the rent of William Thompson's C.P.L., 2,238, of 780½ acres, is £10 14s. 8d.; the rent of C.P.L. 2,944, John Thomson, is 3½d. per acre; the rent of conditional lease 89-21 (14,337), A. McIntyre, is 2½d. per acre; the rent of conditional lease 14,967, A. McIntyre, is about 1½d. per acre; the rent of W. Giddin's conditional lease, 13,187, is 2½d. per acre; the rent of J. A. Walker's conditional lease, 12,601, is 2½d.; and the rent of J. A. Walker's conditional lease, 14,222, is 1d. per acre.

Sworn by Walter Scott, at Narrabri, before us, }
this 30th of November, 1896, —

WALTER SCOTT.

WILLIAM FREEMAN, Chairman.
C. A. ROSS, }
J. RIDDLE, } Members.

THIS deponent, *Alfred Farrand*, of Baan Baa, station manager, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By the Chairman: I have not been running any sheep on Cooma for the last twelve months; I have been running sheep on the whole of Baan Baa, which comprises about 27,000 acres; I shored about 16,000 last season, and in 1895, 16,000; on an average I run about 20,000 sheep—all dry sheep; I do not breed at all; the bales of wool I send away from Baan Baa would average about 400 lb.; in 1895 I sent away 247 bales, and this year 265; in 1895 the clip averaged 5½ lb. of wool per sheep; the wool realised a gross return of about 3s. 4d. per sheep; this year the clip averaged 6 lb. 14 oz. of wool per sheep; if anything, the price of wool is a little weaker this year than last; the wool has not been sold yet this year; we sell in London; the extra cost of sending it to London is about 4d. per sheep; the gross return I have given is for London; I cannot give an estimate of the cost of production of the wool.

By the District Surveyor: I run from 1,000 to 1,200 cattle on Baan Baa and Cooma—a combined area of about 49,000 acres—as well as the sheep; I also take in a good deal of stock on agistment on Cooma; I receive about £150 per annum for agistment on Cooma without any extra cost; I charge 2d. per head per night; I have about fifty horses on the two stations; during the last twelve months I have sold about 150 fat cattle; last season was a bad season for fattening; I did not send any fat sheep to market during the last twelve months, but I sold 3,000 sheep to Edgeroi as stores, many of which were fats; the year before I sold between 2,000 and 3,000 fat sheep.

By the Chairman: The gross return per head would be about 9s. per head per annum; I breed nearly all the cattle on Baan Baa and Cooma; I have only bought 200 head in six years; I lost from eighty to 100 cattle from starvation and exposure in the winter of 1895; this is the only loss I have had in cattle during the six years I have been on Baan Baa; they would be worth about £2 10s. per head before being starved; I did not make any allowance for this loss in calculating the return per beast.

By

By the District Surveyor: I lost between 2,000 and 3,000 sheep in the winter of 1895, which was an exceptionally bad winter.

By the Chairman: In July, 1895, store sheep were worth about 4s. per head; the whole of the season, from shearing to shearing, was bad.

Sworn by Alfred Farrand, at Narrabri, before us, }
this 30th of November, 1896,— }

ALFRED FARRAND.

WILLIAM FREEMAN, Chairman.

C. A. ROSS, }
J. RIDDLE. } Members.

This deponent, *Frederick Poate*, of Tamworth, District Surveyor, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith as follows:—

By the Chairman: The report by Mr. Surveyor Sendall on this proposed surrender was only completed in time to reach me this morning, and I have not had sufficient time to design the area into suitable blocks for settlement; however, after looking into the matter as far as time will permit, I think that from thirty to thirty-five persons can be settled on the area that will become available, in conjunction with reserves and reserves from lease which are no longer required; I mean from thirty to thirty-five separate holders, but it is only an estimate, and after the examination of the Crown lands, about 30,000 acres under lease, it may be necessary to modify this estimate; I have very little knowledge of the land held under lease—certainly not enough to define areas; I would design it for homestead selections and settlement leases—twelve to fifteen of the former, and eighteen to twenty of the latter; on the south-west of the railway it would require 2,560 acres and upwards, and I think it would all go within two years, but I cannot say whether on the basis of Mr. Sendall's values; the station is paying a rental of 2½d. for Crown lands*, and they are surrendering their improvements for an extension of the lease, which means another 2½d. per acre. This capitalised, at settlement-lease rates, viz., 1½ per cent., is £1 13s. 4d. per acre; I am unable to say the charge for loans, on good security, at the present.

Sworn by Fred. Poate, at Narrabri, before us this }
30th of November, 1896,— }

FRED. POATE.

WILLIAM FREEMAN, Chairman.

C. A. ROSS, }
J. RIDDLE, } Members.

* This only applies to Baan Baa leasehold area. The rent of Cooma leasehold area is only about half the above-stated rate.—WILLIAM FREEMAN
Chairman, 30/11/96.

No. 40.

Telegram from the Acting Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Narrabri.

Sydney, 1 December, 1896.

PLEASE return Baan Baa South and Cooma exchange papers for transmission to Balranald.

H. CURRY.

Acting Under Secretary for Lands.

No. 41.

Decision of Local Land Board, Narrabri.

Crown Lands Act of 1884—(Part II, Section 14, Subsection 4.)

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

WHEREAS on the 30th day of November, 1896, and on the 2nd day of December, 1896, it became a matter for investigation before us to appraise the values of all the lands in the Cooma and Baan Baa Estates, in the Land District of Narrabri, owned by the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), under fee simple, conditional purchase, and conditional lease, in connection with the application of that Bank for the acquirement, by way of exchange, for those lands, and the lands comprising the Bank's estate at Stonehenge, in the Glen Innes Land District, of certain lands within the Yanga pastoral holding, in the Land District of Balranald, sections 6 and 46, Crown Lands Act of 1889, section 47, Crown Lands Act of 1895, and having taken evidence and inquired into the said matter, we appraise the unimproved values of the above stated Cooma Estate and Baan Baa Estate lands, on a freehold basis, at the rates specified in red ink, in Appendix 1 to Exhibit C enclosed, making the total value of the 18,501½ acres, £19,171 4s. 2d.—an average value of £1 0s. 9d. per acre, on a freehold basis.

We report the cost to date as £20 sterling, including £15 15s. for inspection, &c., reported by the District Surveyor, and £4 15s. cost of Board inquiry.

Mr. Alfred Farrand appeared for the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), on 30th ultimo.

Given under our hands, at the Court-house, at Narrabri, in the Colony of New South Wales, this 2nd day of December, 1896.

WILLIAM FREEMAN, Chairman.

C. A. ROSS, } Members

J. RIDDLE. } of Board.

In view of the telegram of yesterday, enclosed, from the Under Secretary, forward promptly to Head Office, Sydney, after registration of the enclosed reports (2) of Surveyor Sendall and the District Surveyor. The District Surveyor, doubtless, will desire to see decision, and to number his report of 30th ultimo.—WILLIAM FREEMAN, Chairman, Narrabri, 2/12/96. The Clerk-in-charge, Land Board Office, Tamworth. Urgent.

Referred to the District Surveyor.—T. W. WARD (*pro* Chairman), 3/12/96. Noted and returned.—R.S. (for District Surveyor), 3 December 1896. The Chairman. Returned, *vide* Board's decision of 2nd instant, and your telegram of 1st instant.—T. W. WARD (*pro* Chairman), 3/12/96. The Under Secretary for Lands.

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No. 42.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board, Narrabri, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Narrabri, 2 December, 1896.

BOARD gave reserved decision values, &c., Baan Baa and Cooma exchange lands to-day. Have directed that papers be forwarded you promptly after registration for transmission to Balranald. See your yesterday's telegram.

WILLIAM FREEMAN,
Chairman, Land Board.

No. 43.

The Manager, the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), to The Under Secretary for Lands.

The English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited),

Sydney, 4 December, 1896.

Sir,

In connection with the proposed exchange of lands on Baan Baa, Cooma, and Stonehenge for Crown lands on Yanga, I have received a communication from the Chairman of the Narrabri Land Board, under date the 2nd instant, giving the appraised value of the Cooma and Baan Baa lands, in which reference is made to Appendix 1, Exhibit C, and I shall be obliged if you will supply me with a copy of same.

I have, &c.,

ANDREW SHANKS,
(*pro* Manager).

Send copy of schedule, as amended by Board.—E.A.B. (for Under Secretary), 7/12/96. The Manager, English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), with copy, 7/12/96. Forwarded to the Chairman, in connection with the inquiry to be held at Balranald on the 18th instant. The Stonehenge part of the scheme will be heard on the 11th instant, and the papers will be sent on immediately after the close of the inquiry.—C.J.S. (for the Under-Secretary), 9/12/96. The Chairman, Hay.

No. 44.

The Acting Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 4 December, 1896.

Referring to your telegram of the 30th ultimo, I am directed to inform you that, as you will not be present at the Hillston and Cudgellico Land Board sittings therein referred to, the Department has no objection to your proposal that Mr. Rogerson, P.M., should act as Chairman, under the provisions of subsection 8 of section 14 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, in your absence on the occasion, with Mr. Witcombe as member.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,
Acting Under Secretary,
(*per* F.H.W.)

No. 45.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board, Armidale, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Armidale, 5 December, 1896.

THE Stonehenge-Yanga exchange case will be positively dealt with at Glen Innes 11th instant and forwarded to you same day.

F. G. FINLEY,
Chairman.

No. 46.

The Acting Under Secretary for Lands to The Manager, the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited).

Cooma and Baan Baa Exchange.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 7 December, 1896.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of 4th instant, I have the honor to forward herewith a copy of the schedule referred to.

I have, &c.,

H. CURRY,
Acting Under Secretary,
(*per* W.H.C.)

No. 47.

Extract from *The Riverina Recorder*, 9 December, 1896.

BALRANALD MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

THE usual fortnightly meeting was held last Monday. Present: The Mayor (in the Chair), Aldermen Greenham, Hartwell, Tyson, and Dowling.

General Business.

Regarding the special Government grant of £80, it was decided to expend the same in lowering the drains in Myall and Court streets and other places.

The Mayor then drew attention to the surrender of station lands on Baan Baa, Cooma, and Stonehenge, the property of the E. S. and A. Bank (Limited), in exchange for lands on Yanga Station. If it were allowed to take place it would mean the locking up for ever of about 30,000 or 40,000 acres of land near the town. Yanga Station already covered over 300,000 acres, and the exchange would considerably increase it.

Alderman

Alderman Tyson thought they were a little premature. The exchange would come before the Land Board, and it could then be opposed.

The Mayor said the Minister had the power to grant the exchange without it going before the Board.

Alderman Greenham said that all objections must be in before the 18th instant; and, on the motion of Alderman Dowling, seconded by Alderman Tyson, it was resolved that Sir J. P. Abbott be written to on the matter.

The meeting then rose.

No. 48.

The District Surveyor, Armidale, to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Armidale.

PROPOSED Exchange—Surrender of land on Stonehenge, Baan Baa South, and Cooma Holdings in exchange for land on Yanga Holding.

District Surveyor's Office, Armidale, 10 December, 1896.

THIS is an application to surrender the whole of the freehold, conditional purchase, and convertible conditional lease land belonging to the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), situated on the Stonehenge pastoral holding, No. 108, Eastern Division (Graham's Valley Run) Land District of Glen Innes.

The lands applied for in exchange are situated in the Land District of Balranald, on Yanga pastoral holding.

From the enclosed papers, it appears that, so far as this Land Board District is concerned, all that is required is a report as to the suitability for settlement of the land offered for surrender, and an appraisal of its value.

The portions offered for surrender are specified in the enclosed type-written schedule, marked A, and are tinted red on lithograph "X" herewith.

I have made a general but careful inspection of the area which the Bank proposes to surrender, with the exception of the 3,119 acres in the parishes of Clifton and Fletcher, north of the Beardy Waters, and of portion No. 90, parish of Ben Lomond, the values of which had already been assessed by the Board in connection with the proposed surrender and exchange dealt with on the 20th December, 1895, (Papers L.B. 95-12,619) and of which I only made a cursory inspection.

The country is chiefly of basaltic formation, with occasional granite out-crops. The principal indigenous timber is gum, peppermint, black sally, and a little stringybark, with occasional belts of wattle.

The flats fronting the Beardy Waters, on its south bank, from special area No. 14,418 upwards to a little above water reserve No. 14,408, are in some places over half a mile in width, and consist of rich alluvial soil, nearly the whole of which is fit for the cultivation of maize, pumpkins, &c., or cereals, while the ridges abutting thereon, though steep in places, consist for the most part of good chocolate soil.

Along the course of the Graham's Valley Creek the soil is perhaps hardly of so rich a character as on the Beardy Waters; but the luxuriant crops at present to be seen on the adjoining holdings indicate that the lower portions of it at any rate are thoroughly suited for the cultivation of cereals. Up the creek the flats gradually become smaller.

On the upper portion of the main waters the hills rise abrupt and stony for some distance, until a gently undulating plateau of considerable elevation is reached, which is intersected by numerous small streams of water.

This elevated plateau, forming part of the Ben Lomond tableland, slopes gradually up to the summit of the range, near Mount Kumbie, attaining a height of considerably over 4,000 feet above sea-level.

Nearly the whole of this elevated country, which may be described as gently rolling downs with occasional extensive flats, consists of very rich chocolate soil, fit for the culture of oats, potatoes, hops, and is very well suited for orchard purposes, due consideration being given to the somewhat severe character of the winters on account of the high elevation.

A comparatively large quantity of the area under consideration is steep, much of it is stony; but, without exception, so far as I could see, the soil of the whole is of rich quality and carries a very close sward of natural grasses, and it should easily support a beast to five (5) acres.

One great drawback to a large portion of it, especially the upper part of the Graham's Valley watershed, as regards its adaptability for sheep-grazing, is the large number of springs, which, of course, also militate against it for the depasturage of cattle, although to a considerably less degree than for sheep.

During the summer months it is evidently grazing country of a high order, but I am given to understand that the winters are exceedingly severe.

There is an unfailing supply of water in Beardy Waters, Graham's Valley Creek, Stonehenge Creek, Maybole Creek, and in the numerous springs above mentioned.

During the time at my disposal it was out of my power to attempt any valuation of the existing improvements, which consist of ringbarking, a substantial wire fence of about 35 miles round the external boundaries of the large block, which is subdivided into numerous paddocks, and the homestead, situated on portion 45, parish of Ben Lomond; the value of the latter, however, is not extravagant, being probably under £100.

Besides the large area, of which I have endeavoured to indicate the leading characteristics, there are two much smaller ones, which are included in the proposed surrender.

One of these, portion 90, parish of Ben Lomond, may be passed at present without further comment, as it was included in the proposed exchange before-mentioned (L.B. 95-12,619) and consequently its value has been already appraised by the Board.

The other portion, No. 12, parish of Fletcher, containing 40 acres, is undulating country, embracing good grazing-land; but its principal value, as regards the portions immediately surrounding it, is its unfailing supply of water. It appears possible that some mistake has been made with regard to the offer of this portion for surrender, as an adjoining landowner—A. Henman—claims to have purchased it from the Bank, and now occupies it, having fenced it in with a substantial fence. Should, however, it be found that his claim to it is untenable, and that it still forms a portion of the Bank's estate, I do not anticipate any difficulty would arise in disposing of it.

Very nearly the whole area offered has been ringbarked, only just sufficient for shade and shelter having been retained. The effect of this irremovable improvement has, of course, been taken into consideration by me in estimating the present value of the land, but the removable improvements, as before indicated, I have not attempted to assess.

I should mention that, in consequence of the wholesale ringbarking which has been carried out, timber for fencing or building purposes is exceedingly difficult to procure within a reasonable distance.

In addition to a consideration of the quality of the soil, &c., the most potential factors in deciding on the suitability or otherwise of any area for settlement purposes, are naturally its degree of accessibility to railway station and market, its postal arrangements, and also the amount of facilities afforded for enabling the rising generation to avail themselves of scholastic advantages.

In these respects the area is conveniently situated: Graham's Valley Post Office is within a mile, the Public School of the same name being somewhat further. The distances to the Glen Innes and Glencoe railway stations are respectively about 12 and 8 miles by good roads, a bridle track to the latter being only 2½ miles, while from the upper part of the property, Ben Lomond railway station is distant about four (4) miles by a very fair road. Maybolic Public School is situated within half a mile from the more western part of the holding.

I have made a careful valuation of the whole area offered for surrender with the exception of those already assessed by the Board, and having allowed what I consider to be due weight to each of the various component factors which together determine value, I am of opinion that it may be taken all round at £1 2s. 6d. per acre. I therefore consider that the total value of the 17,623 acres offered for surrender on a freehold basis to be £20,281, made up as follows:—3,293 acres previously appraised at £4,160, and the further area now included in the proposal, viz., 14,330 acres, at £1 2s. 6d. per acre.

The proposed surrender is of a somewhat novel character, not permitting the same person to make an actual comparison of the area offered for surrender with the one applied for in exchange, which, of course, ensures the correctness of their relative valuations as they are then viewed from an identical standpoint; I have, therefore, taken special care in this case to guard against my views being tinged with any bias, dealing, as I do, with only one side of the question in the exchange; but I have no hesitation in stating my opinion that the surrender of the area proposed would be advantageous.

Taken in conjunction with the Crown lands included in the former exchange (blue edging), and the conditional leases (brown tint) which, not being convertible, would revert to the Crown, there would be an area of about 23,000 acres practically in one block available and suitable for settlement.

On account of the quality of the land, its proximity to the railway, and general convenience of access, and despite the drawbacks to which I have drawn attention, I am of opinion that only judicious subdivision would be required to render it attractive to intending landholders under the liberal provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1895, and that settlement would be advanced by the proposed surrender.

The costs of inspection, report, and office work in connection with this proposal amounts to £7 7s.

I have the honor to invite attention to the Bank's prior application to consolidate their Graham's Valley property, which has been previously alluded to, with regard to which survey has already been effected by direction of the Minister for Lands.

This minor exchange involved the surrender of the portions edged red on lithograph "X" in exchange for those edged blue.

In connection with this minor exchange, the expenses to date in this office amount to £65 5s. including the cost of surveys.

In reference to these surveys the question is submitted whether the expenses should be borne by the Bank in the event of the minor exchange being abandoned in favour of the larger proposal.

The survey fees amounted to £50, and the surveys will not be of much utility if the larger exchange is completed.

The Bank first wrote on 23rd July, 1896, suggesting the larger exchange, and asking if it were likely to be acceptable; and in that letter they requested a stay of proceedings in connection with exchanges on "Cooma" and "Baan Baa South" holdings, but no reference was made to the exchange on "Stonehenge" holding.

The formal application for the larger exchange was not lodged until 30th October, 1896, and at that date the whole of the expenses above mentioned (£65 5s.) had been incurred. It therefore appears that the Crown is fairly entitled to expect payment thereof from the Bank.

D. M. MAITLAND,
District Surveyor.

No. 49.

Caption to Depositions of Witnesses.

Crown Lands Act of 1884—(Part II, Section 14, Subsection 1).

New South Wales, Glen Innes, }
to wit. }

THE examination of Duncan M. Maitland, of Armidale, in the Colony of New South Wales, District Surveyor; and Arthur S. Menzies, of Reedy Creek, in the said Colony: Whereas it hath come before the Board whether the application for surrender and exchange of lands on Stonehenge pastoral holding (and Graham's Valley), No. 109, by the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), should be recommended or otherwise, and it hath been found necessary to investigate the said matter on oath, the depositions of the several witnesses are appended hereto. Number of pages of evidence, 2; number of exhibits, 2.

[Enclosure.]

THIS deponent, *Duncan Mearns Maitland*, of Armidale, being duly sworn maketh oath and saith as follows:—I am District Surveyor for the Land Board District of Armidale; I inspected and reported on the land proposed to be surrendered on Stonehenge and Graham's Valley Run, by the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank; I had in my report, Exhibit "A," and plan, Exhibit "B." (*By consent report here read over.*) I inspected on 7th and 8th December.

For Exhibit A,
see No. 48.

By Board: I think the areas available for settlement would range approximately from 250 to 1,280 acres; the most desirable holdings to subdivide the land into would be homestead selections and settlement leases; I believe it would be a boon to the district.

Sworn by the deponent, at Glen Innes, }
this 11th of December, 1896,— }

D. M. MAITLAND,
District Surveyor.

F. G. FINLEY, J.P., Chairman.
JAMES MARTIN, J.P. }
HUGH MACDONALD, J.P. } Members.

This

This deponent, *Arthur Stuart Menzies*, of Reedy Creek, being duly sworn, make oath and saith as follows:—I appear for the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, re the exchange of land on Stonehenge and Grabau's Valley Run; I have heard the District Surveyor's report read, and I agreed with his valuation of the land and description of the country; the land is all ringbarked at an actual cost of 1s. an acre, but the grazing capacity has been improved beyond that amount; the ringbarked timber is suitable for fencing; there is about 100 miles of wire fencing on the land—present value, £30 a mile; there are also about 1,000 acres of cultivation land which originally must have cost £4 an acre to clear; I think the Bank will surrender the whole of the improvements; I value the homestead, yards, &c., at £500.

By District Surveyor: Portion 12, parish Fletcher, is under lease to a man named Henman for three years, with the right of purchase; I believe it was an oversight including it in the exchange; I value it at £1 an acre unimproved.

Sworn by the deponent, at Glen Innes, }
this 11th of December, 1896.—

A. MENZIES.

F. G. FINLEY, J.P., Chairman.
JAMES MARTIN, J.P., } Members.
HUGH MACDONALD, J.P. }

No. 50.

Decision of Local Land Board.

Crown Lands Act, 1884—(Part II, Section 14, Subsection 4).

New South Wales, Glen Innes, }
to wit. }

WHEREAS on the 11th day of December, 1896, it became a matter for investigation before us as to the proposed surrender of lands on Stonehenge pastoral holding, No. 108, Eastern Division, Land District of Glen Innes, county of Gough; and having taken evidence and inquired into the said matter, we report to the Minister and find as follows:—

Firstly: That we have fully considered the application made by the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited) to surrender lands held by the Bank on Stonehenge pastoral holding, No. 108, Eastern Division, Land District of Glen Innes, in exchange for lands in the Balranald District; and we consider that the acquirement of the lands by the Crown (as shown by pink tint on the District Surveyor's plan, Exhibit "B") would most undoubtedly promote healthy settlement in the locality.

Secondly: That the lands are principally of a nature very suitable for agricultural settlement (as exhaustively set forth and explained in the District Surveyor's report, Exhibit "A"), and it would be rapidly and extensively applied for under the liberal provisions of the Crown Lands Act of 1895 by way of homestead selection and settlement lease.

Thirdly: That the area offered to be surrendered is approximately 17,623 acres; but from the evidence adduced it would appear that portion No. 12, of 40 acres, parish of Fletcher, is not held by the Bank at the present time, and should probably be excluded from the exchange.

Fourthly: We appraise the value of the lands proposed to be surrendered at the sum of £1 2s. 6d. per acre, or a gross total value of £20,241 (exclusive of portion 12 aforesaid).

Fifthly: We further find that the lands proposed to be surrendered are extensively improved by ringbarking, fencing, buildings, and clearing to the extent of about £5,000, and to a large extent those improvements are not of a movable nature; and to prevent settlement on such an extensive area being in any way hampered, we are of opinion that the whole of the improvements should be unconditionally surrendered to the Crown.

Given under our hands, at the Court House, Glen Innes, this 11th day of December, 1896.

F. G. FINLEY, J.P., Chairman.
JAMES MARTIN, J.P., } Members.
HUGH MACDONALD, J.P. }

Forwarded to the Chairman, in connection with the general inquiry set down for hearing at Balranald on the 18th instant. The Narrabri Board's report on the Baan Baa South and Cooma parts of the proposal has already been sent to Hay. Special care should be taken that these papers, together with those referred to in the preceding paragraph, are before the Balranald Board by the 18th instant.—C.J.S. (for the Under Secretary), 14/12/96. The Chairman, at Hay.

No. 51.

Telegram from the Chairman, Local Land Board, Glen Innes, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Glen Innes, 11 December, 1896.
The Stonehenge-Yanga exchange case dealt with by the Board this day. Report posted, and should reach you to-morrow.
F. G. FINLEY,
Chairman.

No. 52.

The Hon. Secretary, Burrawong Progress Committee, to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Balranald.

Sir,
Burrawong Progress Committee, 14 December, 1896.
On behalf of the Burrawong Progress Committee, I hereby object to the proposed surrender of lands at Cooma, Baan Baa, and Stonehenge in exchange for lands on the leasehold area of Yanga pastoral holding.
W. WEBB,
Honorary Secretary, Burrawong Progress Committee.

GROUND'S OF OBJECTION.

- (1.) That such exchange would be directly against the centralisation of settlement in this district.
- (2.) That it would be detrimental to the progress of the town of Balranald.
- (3.) That it would permanently lock up valuable land suitable for agricultural purposes.
- (4.) That a large area of the proposed land would be taken up by settlers when the leases fall in.

Sir J. P. Abbott, K.C.M.G., M.P., to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

14, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, 14 December, 1896.

I have the honour to forward you a letter dated the 10th instant from the Town Clerk of the Municipal Council of Balranald, protesting, on behalf of the Council, against the proposed exchange of lands on Yanga Station for land in the district of Narrabri.

All that I ask is that these exchanges may not be sanctioned without a full inquiry being held at Balranald, and an opportunity afforded the Municipal Council of that place to give evidence before the Local Land Board in support of their views against the alienation of these lands.

I also enclose you an extract of the proceedings which took place at a meeting of the Municipal Council, as reported in the local paper of the 9th instant, in reference to the proposed alienation.

I have, &c.,

J. P. ABBOTT.

This case is set down for hearing at Balranald, on 18th instant. It would, perhaps, be well to ask the District Surveyor (by wire) to see that the Council's objections are brought before the Board; and also wire the Council Clerk to lodge the objection, in writing, with that officer, and consult him as to giving evidence before the Board. Sir J. P. Abbott to be informed how the case stands, and of the action proposed.—E. A. BRONSDON, Clerk-in-charge, Alienation Branch, 16/12/96.

For approval.—W. H. CAPPER, in charge Sales Division, 16/12/96. Approved.—H. CURRY, 16/12/96. Wire sent to District Surveyor and Council Clerk, 16/12/96. Honorable Sir J. P. Abbott, M.P., informed, 17/12/96.

[Enclosures.]

Sir,

Municipal Council, Balranald, 10 December, 1896.

I have the honor, by direction of this Council, to draw your attention to the fact that the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, who own Yanga Station, have applied for an exchange of some land in the Narrabri District for some on the Yanga holding.

We shall be glad if you will kindly interview the Minister with a view to preventing this, as it is of utmost importance to the district, Yanga being the only station within the district that will fall in for many years.

Thanking you in anticipation.

I have, &c.,

H. L. HARBEN,

Council Clerk.

The Honorable Sir J. P. Abbott, M.P., Sydney.

Extract from the *Riverina Recorder*.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

REGARDING the special Government grant of £80, it was decided to expend the same in lowering the drains in Myall and Court Streets and other places.

The Mayor then drew attention to the surrender of station lands on Baan Baa, Cooma, and Stonehenge, the property of the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), in exchange for lands on Yanga Station. If it were allowed to take place, it would mean the locking up for ever of about 30,000 or 40,000 acres of land near the town. Yanga Station already covered over 300,000 acres, and the exchange would considerably increase it.

Alderman Tyson thought they were a little premature. The exchange would come before the Land Board, and it could then be opposed.

The Mayor said the Minister had the power to grant the exchange, without it going before the Board.

Alderman Grinham said that all objections must be in before the 18th instant; and, on the motion of Alderman Dowling, seconded by Alderman Tyson, it was resolved that Sir J. P. Abbott be written to on the matter.

The meeting then rose.

Mr. John Hudson to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Balranald.

YANGA, Cooma, Baan Baa South, and Stonehenge.

Sir,

Pine Grange, Lower Edwards, 15 December, 1896.

In response to your notice in the *Recorder* of the 9th instant, I have the honor most respectfully, on behalf of myself and members of my family, to lodge our protest and objections against granting an exchange and surrender of lands, as per margin, for the following reasons:—

First.—The Legislature never intended that lands upon an aggregation of different pastoral holdings should be surrendered and exchanged *in toto* upon one and another holding; but the meaning of clause 46-1889 and clause 47-1895 was to consolidate isolated alienated portions of land upon each pastoral holding.

Secondly.—The granting of this exchange, as applied for, would be nothing more or less than freebooting the public estate.

Thirdly.—There would be no objection to exchange land within the "Yanga pastoral holding" for other lands upon the same holding.

Fourthly.—It would be a national sin and loss to futurity to barter land in this manner, and reviving the "Norman's" method in England in ages past.

Fifthly.—That it would be robbing the future generation of its inheritance and playing into the hands of speculators, who have their abode 16,000 miles from the shores of this continent—in England and Scotland.

Sixthly.—The fact is well known that no shareholders in the "English and Scottish Bank of Australia" reside in this part of the globe.

And lastly, we fervently hope that the Governor-in-Council will not be advised by the Executive to use his power to grant this demand as applied for.

I have, &c.,

JOHN HUDSON.

No. 55.

Surveyor S. A. Steane to The District Surveyor, Hay.

YANGA EXCHANGE—Report upon the proposed exchange by the lessees of Yanga Holding, No. 167, under section 47 of the Crown Lands Act of 1895.

Sir,

Yanga, Balranald, 15 December, 1896.

I have the honor, in compliance with your instructions, No. 96-56, dated 3rd December, 1896, to report that I inspected the lands proposed to be granted to the lessees of Yanga pastoral holding, No. 167, in exchange for land on the Baan Baa South and Cooma holdings, in the Tamworth District, and the Stonehenge holding, in the Armidale District, under the provisions of the 47th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1895.

The land sought for is situated wholly within the Yanga leasehold area, and if, the exchange is effected will make a consolidated area on the Moolpa and Keri Keri boundaries.

I am informed by the representatives of the lessees at Yanga that it is the intention, if possible, at an early date to further consolidate by an inter-change of lands within the holding; so that if any modification were advisable it could be dealt with later, though the area appears very compact in the present design.

I have shown approximately on the sketch herewith the features, timber, creeks, &c.; but owing to the dryness of the past few seasons, the flooded country is not easily traceable. Some of the main box and lignum creeks are indicated.

The land is situated within a radius of from 10 to 24 miles from Balranald—that is, the nearest land sought for is about 10 miles and the furthestmost 24 miles from Balranald. As it is in the leasehold area, the tenure of which runs for about (3) three years, at the expiration of the lease I do not think it will be required for closer settlement.

With regard to the necessary provision for access in the event of the exchange being effected, I have shown in brown tint the tracks that are in use on the holding under sufferance or otherwise. The road granted to J. Davis, under the 111th section, is not accessible during flood, as the lignum and box creeks are impassable; but this applies to a great deal of the country in this locality. The track used by him, *via* portion 28, in the parish of Fisher, is not very much better.

It might be possible to get a direct route from portion 20, in the parish of Yanga, as direct east as possible to Keri Keri, to avoid the box and lignum creeks, the resumption of which might be dealt with in this exchange; great care will be required in its selection.

Another road in the south of the run, leading from Keri Keri, seems very desirable. The traffic at present is not great, but will no doubt increase later on, and it seems desirable to take the opportunity of providing for it. I would suggest a (5) five-chain road along the south boundary to water reserve 2,006, with a 640 acre travelling stock and camping reserve about the position shown, or perhaps a little more central in position. This will involve some exchange, but it can be done in the present exchange better than at a later period.

I append schedules giving in detail information regarding the separate areas with values, &c.

The residents of Balranald, I am informed, are intending to oppose the exchange, on the grounds that the land is required for future settlement. It might perhaps be desirable to have information relative to the present and prospective areas for settlement.

The time occupied in this service has been three days field and one in office.

I have, &c.,

S. A. STEANE.

[Enclosure.]

YANGA Exchange Improvements.

Note Book Page.	Parish and County.	Portion or position.	Area.	Description of Country.	Nature.	Value of Applicant's improvements.	Carrying capacity in acres to 1 sheep.	Carrying capacity per portion in sheep.	Capital value per acre.	Capital value per portion.
G 115	County Cairn. Fisher.....	Unmeasured Crown land, between portions 25, 26, 27, 17, 16, parish Fisher, and the eastern boundary of leasehold area.	acres. About 954	Open plain, intersected with lignum, and cane-grass swamps, with cotton bush and good grass land.	Brown lignum soil, alternating patches of grey and red.	£ s. d. 231 chains at £30, half value 180 12 6	4	240	11/-	£ s. d. 528 0 0
117	"	17	. 320	Open plain lignum country ..	Brown lignum and grey soil.	40 chains at £20 per mile 10 0 0	4	80	11/-	176 0
119	"	18	320	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	4	80	11/-	176 0
123	"	27	265	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	5	58	10/-	132 10 0
125	"	Unmeasured land between water and travelling stock reserve 2,090 and portions 20, 21, 24, same parish.	About 4,140	Varies; bad box, lignum creek, red sandy loam, open undulating plain, cotton, and saltbush; plain eaten out.	Brown holey lignum soil, red sandy loam, grey soil.	220 chains at £20 per mile 55 0 0	4½	942	12/-	2,544 0 0
127	"	Part of water and travelling stock reserve 2,090, generally to the east of portions 10, 11, parish of Impimi.	About 1,296	Open plain generally; belar timber in the south-west.	Good red and grey sandy loam.	"	4	332	12/-	798 0 0
129	"	Unmeasured land between water and travelling stock reserve 2,090 and portion 13, same parish.	About 1,625	Open plain, with belar timber and cabbage bush; edible scrub.	" " " " " " " "	"	4	393	12/-	944 8 0
131	Impimi	1	320	Part open plain, and part belar and box.	Grey friable soil in north; red and brown soil in belar.	Tank, 700 at 6d. 170 10 0 1½ mile at £20, 15 0 0	3	106	20/-	320 0 0
131	"	3	320	Open plain and belar timber	Grey friable soil in north, near box; red sandy soil in belar clumps.	"	3	106	20/-	320 0 0

Note Book Page.	Parish and County.	Portion or position.	Area.	Description of country.	Nature.	Value of Applicant's improvements.	Carrying capacity in acres to 1 sheep.	Carrying capacity per portion in sheep.	Capital value per acre.	Capital value per portion.
			acres.			£ s. d.				£ s. d.
G 188	County Cairn Impini	0	320	Belar timbered country, with scattered open plains.	Red and sandy soil in clumps; red and brown in open plains		3	106	20/-	320 0 0
133	"	8	320	Belar and cabbage-bush and open plain and edible scrub.	Brown and red soils.	Tank, 1,400 at 6d,	3	106	20/-	320 0 0
185	"	9	320			but, 35 0 0	15 0 0	3	106	20/-	320 0 0
135	"	12	320	Open plain, with scattered belar, yarran, and box; edible scrub.	Red and brown sandy loams.		3	106	20/-	320 0 0
137	"	13	320				3	106	20/-	320 0 0
137	"	14	320	Dense belar and cabbage bush, with open plain in patches; wind-blown.	" " "		3	106	20/-	320 0 0
139	"	15	320				3	106	20/-	320 0 0
139	"	16	320	Dense belar and cabbage bush, with patches of plain; wind-blown; scattered yarran.	" " "		3	106	20/-	320 0 0
141	"	19	320	Open plain, with dense belar and scattered yarran.	" " "		3	106	20/-	320 0 0
141	"	20	320	Mostly belar and cabbage bush in north and west, with belar clumps and plain.	Red and brown sandy loams; limestone sub-soil; wind-blown.	Tank, 3,000 yds. at 6d,	3	106	20/-	320 0 0
143	"	26	320	Open plain and cabbage bush, with belar and yarran clumps	Red and brown sandy soils; limestone subsoil; wind-blown.	1 mile fence, at £20, half value, 10 0 0	3	106	20/-	320 0 0
143	"	35	320	Open plain; belar, cabbage bush, with belar and yarran clumps.	Red and brown sandy soils; red in belar; wind-blown.	1/2 mile, at £20, half value, 5 0 0	3	106	20/-	320 0 0
145	"	36	320	Open plain; belar and cabbage bush, with clumps of belar.	Red sandy soil, high and wind-blown.	1/2 mile, at £20, half value, 5 0 0	3	106	20/-	320 0 0
147	"	61	183a 2r. 3Sp.	Box at north end; belar at south, with open plain, lignum and blue bush, salt and cotton bush.	Mostly grey friable soil, with red sandy soil in south.	25 chains, at £20, 6 5 0	3	61	20/-	183 14 9
149	"	Unmeasured land, between portion 62 and eastern boundary of parish Marepadlock.	About 960	Box on north end, with lignum and belar on south end, open plain, blue and dillon bush, salt bush.	Grey, hard soil in box; open plain; grey soil; limestone subsoil; dillon and blue bush, with lignum.	3 1/2 miles, at £20, 75 0 0	3	323	20/-	970 0 0
149	Kia	Unmeasured land, between portion 41, parish Impini, and western boundary of parish Kia.	About 615	Mostly belar timber, with cabbage bush, with some open plain.	Red soil, principally with brown patches.	Tank, 600 yds., 16 0 0	3	206	20/-	620 0 0
161	"	2	320	Plain, mostly with open box	Grey soil; good grass land		4	80	15/-	240 0 0
161	"	4	320	Plain, mostly with open box, high sand ridge, dillon bush.	Red and grey soil; high land; partly wind-blown.		4	80	15/-	240 0 0
153	"	7	320	Plain, intersected by lignum creek; cotton bush and dillon bush in small patches.	Brown lignum and grey soils; cotton bush and dillon bush in small patches.	1/2-mile at £20, 10 0 0	6	53	10/-	160 0 0
153	"	9	320	Plain, with belar, cuba, yarran; box creek; cuba scattered.	High, red sandy ridge, with brown and grey soils, in box timber.	1/2-mile at £20, 10 0 0	4	80	15/-	240 0 0
165	"	11	320				4	80	15/-	240 0 0
155	"	15	320	Open plain in south; box country in north.	Grey and brown soil; cotton bush.		4	80	15/-	240 0 0
157	"	17	320	Open plain; cotton bush.	Brown and grey soil		4	80	15/-	240 0 0
150	County Wakool, Lintot	Unmeasured land east of portions 165, 166, parish of Lintot.	About 1,591	Undulating plain, with dense belar in the south end; scattered clumps of belar, with lignum.	Mostly good red sandy loam, with brown and grey soils in box flats and lignum; good grazing land.	2 1/2 mile at £20 per mile, half value, 63 15 0 Fence, 110 chains at £20 per mile, 27 10 0	3	540	20/-	1,020 0 0
161	"	53	320	Open plain, with belar and cabbage bush; about one-third timber; dense belar.	" " "		3	106	20/-	320 0 0
161	"	54	320	Dense belar and cabbage bush	Red sandy loam; good soil	Fence, 1 mile at £20, half value, 33 15 0	3	106	20/-	320 0 0
163	"	70	173				1 1/2 mile at £20, half value, 16 0 0	3	57	20/-	173 0 0
163	"	160	320	Open plain and dense belar, and cabbage bush.	" " "		3	106	20/-	320 0 0
163	"	181	260 1/2				3	38	20/-	280 5 0
165	"	165	320	Open plain and belar clumps	" " "		3	106	20/-	320 0 0
107	County Wakool, Lintot	Part of water and travelling stock reserve 2,000, from its southern end to its intersection by county boundary line.	About 1,695	Plains and timbered lands; belar mostly; scattered wilga, myall.	Very good land; red loamy soils, with brown friable soils.		4	425	15/-	1,275 0 0
167	"	Unmeasured land between water and travelling stock reserve 2,000, and eastern boundary of parish.	About 1,570.	Open plain; dense belar on portion	Low lying brown soil on westside; good red loamy soil on south and east	2 tanks 800 yards at 6d, 20 0 0 1,100 yards at 6d, 42 10 0	4	405	15/-	1,215 0 0
167	"	Unmeasured land lying generally between portion 13 and portions 60 61.	About 842.	Plain, with clumps of belar and cabbage bush.	Brown soil in south; good red soil in north, and swampy in south-east.	Fence on south boundary, 4 1/2 miles, at £20, half value, 135 0 0	4	225	15/-	675 0 0
169	Merwin	Unmeasured land lying generally between western boundary of parish and portions 21, 22, 23, and reserve 1,171.	About 2,774.	Plains in south with scattered belar; dense belar in north.	Red sandy soil in north; brown friable soil in south with salt and cotton bush eaten out.		4	706	15/-	2,118 0 0

Note Book Page.	Parish and County.	Portion or position.	Area.	Description of country.	Nature.	Value of Applicant's improvements.	Carrying capacity in acres to 1 sheep.	Carrying capacity per portion in sheep.	Capital value per acre.	Capital value per portion.
G 171	County Wakool, Merwin	Reserve 1,171	acres. About 900.	Plains with scattered timber, belar, box.	Mixture of red and grey soils; cane grass swamp; brown soils.	£ s. d.	4	250	15/-	£ s. d. 750 0 0
171	"	Unmeasured land between portions 16, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31, 32, and the eastern boundary of leasehold area and reserve 1,171	About 900.	Mostly open plain with scattered clumps of box, belar; intersected by lignum and cane grass swamp.	Red and grey soils with brown in box swamp.	5½ miles at £60, half value, 157 10 0	4	233	15/-	701 5 0
173	"	21	320	Open plain with scattered clumps of belar.	Red soil with grey in low lying land.	.....	4	80	15/-	240 0 0
173	"	29	320	Open plain; mostly belar country, also scattered clumps.	Red soil with patches grey and brown.	.....	4	80	15/-	240 0 0
176	County Cairn, Parker	Unmeasured land generally between portions 1, 7, 18, parish Kia, and portions 30, 31, parish Parker.	About 3,663.	Mostly open plain with scattered box, clump at south end; intersected by lignum creek; roly poorly.	Soils vary from grey on high land, brown in lignum country; very rough	250 chains at £20 62 10 0	4½	633	14/-	2,625 0 0
177	"	Unmeasured land generally between portion 1, and a line running north from portion 29	About 1,550.	Mostly open plain with box timber on the south and east in small clumps; roly poorly.	Brown soil in lignum in good quantity; lignum creek; grey soil on higher land, good grass north-west of 29 with high red soil	.....	5	320	10/-	800 0 0

SUMMARY.

Improvements.

Fencing	£ 787	s. 17	d. 5
Tanks	205	0	0
Hut	15	0	0
Rangbarking	500	0	0

£1,507 17 5

Total acreage.	Total carrying capacity.	Total value.
36,125 acres.	9,470.	£27,365 2s. 9d.
Mean carrying capacity.	Mean value per acre.	
3·8 acres to 1 sheep.	15s. 2d.	

No. 56.

The Manager, English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,
 Re Baan Baa, Cooma, and Stonehenge-Yanga exchange proposal: Referring to my letter of the 4th instant, applying for a statement showing the appraised values of the Cooma and Baan Baa lands, I shall be obliged if you shall supply me with a similar statement of the Stonehenge land proposed for surrender.

I have &c.,

ANDREW SHANKS,
 Manager.

Acknowledge receipt, and add that the papers are at present with the Local Land Board, Hay.—
 E. A. BRONSDON, 18/12/96.

Manager, English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), informed, 18/12/96.

No. 57.

Extract from the *Riverina Recorder*, 16 December, 1896.

BURRAWANG PROGRESS COMMITTEE.

THE YANGA LAND EXCHANGE.

A SPECIAL meeting of the above body was held at the Yanga school last Monday afternoon. Mr. F. W. Graban occupied the chair, and there were also present Messrs. Brown, Neild, J. Limon, T. Limon, Dawson, Bercsford, Hillerman, Stenning, and W. Webb, honorary secretary.

The chairman briefly explained the object of the meeting, which was to draw members attention to the proposed exchange of Yanga leasehold land with lands in other portions of the colony. He then read to the meeting the verbatim decision given by the Narrabri Land Board. (A copy of this decision appears on the fourth page of this issue).

Several of those present spoke strongly against the proposed exchange, one member pointing out that the Balranald Council were taking steps to prevent the exchange, and were being represented at the forthcoming Land Board meeting on the 21st instant, when the application was to be considered.

Mr. W. Webb then proposed,—“That this meeting expresses its disapproval of the proposed surrender of lands at Cooma, Baan Baa, and Stonehenge, in exchange for lands situate on the leasehold area of Yanga pastoral holding, on the following grounds:—

- “1. That such exchange would be directly against the centralization of settlement in this district.
- “2. That it would be detrimental to the progress of the town of Balranald.
- “3. That it would permanently lock up valuable land suitable for agricultural purposes.
- “4. That a large area of the proposed land would be taken up by settlers when the leases fall in next year.”

The motion was seconded by Mr. Neild and carried unanimously.

On

On the motion of Mr. T. Limon, seconded by Mr. Brown, it was resolved to engage Mr. Malcolm to represent them at the forthcoming Land Board meeting and oppose the exchange.

The Secretary was then instructed to write to Sir J. P. Abbott, M.P., and Mr. J. M. Chanter, M.P.,—the proposed exchange affecting constituents in both districts represented by these gentlemen—requesting, them to use their influence in preventing the proposed exchange taking place.

No. 58.

The Mayor of Balranald to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Balranald.

Municipal Council, Balranald, 16 December, 1896.

Re exchange of land at Cooma, Baan Baa, and Stonehenge for land on Yanga.

On behalf of the Balranald Council, and the District, I beg to lodge an objection to the above, on the following grounds:—

1. That it would prevent settlement in this district.
2. That it would be detrimental to the progress of the town of Balranald.
3. That it would permanently lock up valuable land suitable for agricultural purposes.
4. That a large area of the proposed land would be taken up by settlers when the leases fall in next year.

W. LUTZ,
Mayor.

No. 59.

Telegram from The Acting Under Secretary for Lands to The District Surveyor, Hay.

Sydney, 16 December, 1896.

YANGA exchange. Please see that Balranald Municipal Council's objections are brought before Board. Council Clerk advised to see you.

H. CURRY,
Acting Under Secretary for Lands.

Telegram to Mr. Surveyor Steane to give Council Clerk every assistance to bring before Board whatever they desired. Report also to Chairman upon the Council's objection.—W.G.W., 19/12/96.

No. 60.

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

Sydney, 16 December, 1896.

YANGA exchange. Lodge objections in writing with District Surveyor, and consult him as to giving evidence before Board.

H. CURRY,
Acting Under Secretary for Lands.

No. 61.

Telegram from the District Surveyor, Hay, to Mr. Surveyor S. A. Steane.

Hay, 16 December, 1896.

INTERVIEW Council Clerk at once, and report by next mail upon Council's objections to Yanga exchange.

W. G. WALKER,
District Surveyor.

Dealt with by my report, No. 96-40, 17th December, 1896.—S. A. STEANE.

No. 62.

Telegram from The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Hay, 16 December, 1896.

Re exchange of lands, Yanga *cum* Stonehenge *cum* Narrabri lands, please state how far does the Minister desire the Balranald Board to report. Shall we accept the finding of Glen Innes and Narrabri Boards on the lands offered in surrender as far as those findings go; and when we have made our finding as to fact and circumstance, shall we report on the united finding, or shall we confine our report merely to the facts and circumstances of the Yanga lands case set down for hearing on 21st instant?

F. TROLLOPE,
Chairman.

In this case the land for surrender is situated in the Glen Innes and Narrabri Districts, and the reports of the Boards at those places as to the value of the land, &c., have been sent to the Board at Balranald, in which district the land to be granted is situated. It is thought that the intention is for the Balranald Board to report on the whole proposal, accepting, of course, the findings of the other Boards as to the value of the land to be surrendered. The Chairman may perhaps be so advised.—E. A. BRONSDON, Clerk-in-charge, Alienation Branch, 16/12/96.

It is submitted that the Chairman may be advised to furnish a full report upon the whole proposal, excepting, of course, the value of the land to be surrendered.—W. H. CAPPER, in charge Sales Division, 16/12/96.

State that the reports of the Glen Innes and Narrabri Boards might be taken so far as they go, and the Balranald Board should, in addition to their own individual share in the matter, report on the united finding.—H. CURRY, 16/12/96. Wire sent to Chairman, Hay, 16/12/96.

No. 63.

Telegram from The Acting Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay.

Sydney, 16 December, 1896.

REPORTS of Glen Innes and Narrabri Boards may be taken so far as they go ; and Balranald Boards should, in addition to their own individual share in matter, report on united finding.

H. CURRY,
Acting Under Secretary for Lands.

No. 64.

The Acting Under Secretary for Lands to Sir J. P. Abbott, K.C.M.G., M.P.

Sir, Department of Lands, Sydney, 17 December, 1896.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 14th instant, covering a communication from the Balranald Municipal Council protesting against the proposed exchange on Yanga holding, and to inform you that the case is set down for hearing at Balranald to-morrow, and the Council Clerk was yesterday advised by wire to lodge objections in writing, and the District Surveyor was instructed to see that the same were brought before the Board.

I have, &c.,
H. CURRY,
Acting Under Secretary,
(Per W.H.C.)

No. 65.

Surveyor S. A. Steane to The District Surveyor, Hay.

REPORT upon the Balranald Council's objection to the Yanga Exchange.

Sir, Yanga, Balranald, 17 December, 1896.

I have the honor, in compliance with your telegraphed instructions received this morning, to report that I interviewed the Mayor and Council Clerk of Balranald with the view of reporting upon the objections raised by the Council in opposition to the Yanga Exchange.

I enclose herewith a copy of the Council's objections, as well as extracts from the local papers giving information with regard to further publication in this matter.

The objection raised by the two bodies referred to, which will in all probability be clearly set before the Board by their representatives, are in most cases beyond dispute if, at the expiration of the lease (approximately August, 1900), land is likely to be in very great demand for settlement.

I was at a disadvantage in being ignorant of the land that is at present available for settlement, and what will be in the immediate future. I believe a large quantity is open on Nap Nap and some on Yanga which has not yet been applied for, but it will be desirable to have full information on this head for the Board. The contention is that Yanga lease falls in in 1900, which will provide the only land about Balranald for some time to come, and that the importation of outside lands to absorb the Crown lands, instead of effecting the exchange locally, and providing for closer settlement near Balranald, will be ruinous to the future prospects of the town and district ; that this will in all probability be a precedent for the further monopoly of Crown lands in this estate by the introduction of lands foreign to the district that are owned by the Yanga lessees.

I think it is evident that it would be more beneficial to the prosperity and progress of the town to have this land occupied by small successful selectors, if it can be shown that they can profitably take it up as stated, than by having it absorbed into the Yanga Estate.

All four objections are in some degree indisputable, though it is somewhat anomalous to class lands as agricultural in a district of 12-inch rainfall without irrigation, as referred to in objection III, and very strong evidence will be required to give weight to objection IV.

I will miss no opportunity of procuring any information relative to the various objections. At the same time it will be desirable to have official information with regard to the present and prospective settlement areas, &c.

I have, &c.,
S. A. STEANE.

Yanga Exchange Report was forwarded by Tuesday's mail.

Forwarded to the Chairman in connection with Yanga Exchange.

TAKING the objections of the Municipal Council seriatim :—

(1.) "That it will prevent settlement in this district."

It will, of course, withdraw from future settlement in this locality 36,124 acres ; but I would submit that the matter must be looked at in a broader light than the benefit of a particular district only.

The area referred to would not accommodate more than about nine settlers on Yanga ; whereas, according to evidence taken before the Tamworth and Armidale Boards, the same area would accommodate fifty-three or fifty-eight settlers on Baan Baa South, Cooma, and Stonchenge Estates.

(2.) "That it would be detrimental to the progress of the town of Balranald."

The remarks to No. 1 objection will apply to this, viz.—the benefit of the few must give way to the welfare of the many.

(3.) "That it would permanently lock up valuable land suitable for agricultural purposes."

The Yanga land must be classed on the whole as grazing land only, and although a large area is withdrawn from future settlement near Balranald, if the exchange is granted it must not be overlooked that land infinitely better adapted for cultivation and agriculture will be released for immediate settlement near Narrabri, Glen Innes, &c.

(4.)

(4.) "That a large area of the proposed land will be taken up by settlers when the lease falls in next year."

The Yanga pastoral lease does not fall in till the 10th July, 1900, and, as I stated before, in reply to objection No. 1, the area is sufficient only in my opinion to accommodate about nine settlers.

The Chairman.

W. G. WALKER, District Surveyor, 19/12/96.

Forward to the Chairmau at Balranald in connection with Yanga Exchange.—A.J.V., Clerk-in-charge, 19/12/96.

No. 66.

The District Surveyor, Hay, to The Chairman, Local Land Board.

MEMORANDUM.

17 December, 1896.

MR. SURVEYOR STEANE'S Report on the land sought in exchange on Yanga holding is forwarded for the consideration of the Board.

The land sought in exchange is shown on lithograph marked "R" by blue tint, and contains about 36,124 acres. Upon lithograph "R" Mr. Steane has indicated approximately the features, timber, creeks, &c.; but at the same time he states that, owing to the dryness of the past few seasons, the flooded country is not easily traceable.

I am of opinion that very little objection can be raised on the ground of consolidation; but I understand further consolidation will be effected by a supplementary exchange.

The land is situated from 10 to 2½ miles from Balranald, and I agree with Mr. Steane that it is not likely to be required for closer settlement.

The only public provision that appears to be necessary is for a road 5 chains wide, as indicated approximately by a red line on lithograph "R," and another road 5 chains wide on the southern boundary of the holding, with a camping reserve of 640 acres. The former road, selected on the best trafficable route, will probably pass over little, if any, of the present freeholds or the proposed grants; but in regard to both roads there is any amount of scope for adjustment of areas on Yanga.

Mr. Steane values the land on Yanga (and details are set forth in schedule marked "A"), *i.e.*, 36,124 acres, at £27,365 2s. 9d. (average value 15s. 2d. per acre); but I am of opinion that, viewing the reported carrying capacity, his values are rather high.

However, having regard to the Board's findings in regard to the land proposed to be surrendered, the exchange is undoubtedly in the interests of the Crown. The Tamworth Board valued the land on Baan Baa and Cooma, *i.e.*, 18,501½ acres, at £19,171 4s. 2d., or an average value of £1 0s. 9d. per acre, and the Armidale Board valued the land on Stonehenge, *i.e.*, 17,583 acres, at £20,241, or an average of £1 2s. 6d. per acre; total, 36,084½ acres, equal to an average value of £1 1s. 10d. per acre, or a total value of £39,412 4s. 2d., resulting in a difference in favour of the Crown of at least £12,000. This is irrespective of improvements, as it is reported that on Stonehenge and Baan Baa South-Cooma there are improvements, mostly of an irremovable nature, valued at £5,000 and £3,788 respectively. Upon Yanga the improvements consist of tanks (6), hut, ringing, and fencing, valued at £1,007.

The lands on Stonehenge are 12 miles from Glen Innes, 8 miles from Glencoe, and 4 miles from Ben Lomond railway stations, and those on Baan Baa South and Cooma, from ½ mile Narrabri West to 6 miles from Baan Baa railway station.

I understand that the Balranald Municipal Council propose to object to the granting of any lands on Yanga, and a report will be furnished as soon as the objections are received.

W. G. WALKER,

District Surveyor.

The cost of Mr. Surveyor Steane's inspection and report is £12 12s., and of this report £1 1s.; total, £13 13s.—W.W.G.

P.S.—The District Surveyor at Tamworth estimated that from thirty to thirty-five new settlers could be accommodated on the Baan Baa South and Cooma lands in conjunction with unnecessary reserves adjoining; and the District Surveyor at Armidale estimated that the areas for settlement on Stonehenge would range approximately from 250 to 1,280 acres (say, about twenty-three new holdings).—W.G.W.

No. 67.

The Acting Under Secretary for Lands to The Manager, the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited).

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 18 December, 1896.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 16th instant, *re* Baan Baa, Cooma, and Stonehenge-Yanga exchange, and to inform you that the papers are at present with the Local Land Board, Hay.

I have, &c.,

H. CERRY,
Acting Under Secretary,
(Per W.H.C.)

No. 68.

Caption to Depositions of Witnesses.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

THE examination of Samuel Albert Steane, of Hay, in the Colony of New South Wales, Staff Surveyor; Samuel Lindsay, of Yanga, Balranald (station manager); Walter A. Macpherson, of Paika, Balranald (station manager); and Arthur Dennis Donnelly, of Balranald (Crown Lands Agent), in the said Colony:

Whereas

Whereas it hath come before the Board whether the application for surrender and exchange of lands within Baan Baa, Cooma, Stonehenge, and Yanga pastoral holdings, by the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited) should be recommended or otherwise, and it hath been found necessary to investigate the said matter on oath, the depositions of the several witnesses are appended hereto.

Number of pages of evidence, 19 ; number of exhibits, 3.

[Enclosure.]

Samuel Albert Steane, on oath saith : I am a Staff Surveyor for the Hay Land Board ; I inspected the lands in question on the 11th, 12th, and 14th instant, under unfavourable circumstances, owing to drouthy seasons preventing my arriving at accurate conditions of the peculiar character of the country ; the land is situated at from 10 to 25 miles from the town of Balranald, and the character of the country varies very considerably from low flooded lignum to high red belar country ; the belar country has been partly rung ; a rough estimate of the area is shown in schedule* which I produce ; I also tender my report† in writing ; the lands are situated wholly within the leasehold area of Yanga holding, No. 76, and consist wholly of isolated measured portions as well as scattered unmeasured areas ; the consolidation appears to me to be as effective as possible ; the carrying capacity I have estimated at an average of about 4 acres to a sheep ; the value of the land varies from 10s. to £1 an acre ; owing to the scarcity of rainfall, which has varied from 7½ inches to 20 inches during the past twenty years, it seems impossible to consider these lands agricultural ; the mean value of the lands amounts to 15s. 2d. per acre ; the improvements consist of fencing, water improvements, and ringbarking, which are roughly estimated to be of the value of £1,507 ; I do not consider that the prospects of the land being selected—and by selection I include homestead selection and settlement leases—are very good ; considerable areas of land are available in the vicinity of Balranald ; 15,000 acres are at present designed for subdivision for settlement purposes

To the Board : The land on Yanga asked for has no natural water frontage either to rivers or lakes.

To Mr. Lukeman : There are various isolated blocks available for settlement in the vicinity of Balranald ; they are on the resumed areas, and have been available since the division of the holdings.

By Mr. Robertson : I do not know the land on Canally ; the isolated blocks I refer to average in area from less than 320 acres to 3,000 to 4,000 acres ; I have not seen the land referred to on Yanga under normal conditions.

By Mr. Malcolm : The majority of the country between the two large areas proposed to be given in exchange is mostly low-lying box country ; unless the surrender of the isolated portions was made by the station, the lands applied for could not be put in one block ; a small portion of the land proposed to be obtained, adjoins the resumed area of Yanga ; possibly an area of about 1,600 acres so adjoins ; this is at a distance of about 4 miles from the nearest selector's place ; the land under consideration is fair grazing country, under favourable conditions, and by this I mean sufficient rainfall ; about half the area in question would be suitable for agricultural purposes ; I consider that the land, if let in areas of about 4,000 acres, would be suitable for all the purposes of settlement ; I have been over some of the Yanga resumed area, and from what I have seen I consider it more suitable for settlement than that part of the leasehold under consideration, a great deal of which is flooded and lignum land ; I consider that the drought of the past two years would decidedly retard settlement in this district.

Mr. Lukeman : The two pieces, aggregating 1,713 acres, which adjoin the boundary line of the resumed area, are bound to the resumed area by purchased land.

To the Board : My valuation of the land is made on present conditions ; I have tried to arrive at the normal value of the land ; I have considered the rainfall for the past twenty years ; I estimate the value of the land on a pastoral basis, reckoning the carrying capacity of the land at about 4 acres to the sheep.

Sworn before us, at Balranald, this 21st }
day of December, 1896.— }

S. A. STEANE.

FRED. TROLLOPE, Chairman.
C. E. OSLEAR, P.M., } Members.
J. G. MENON, }

Samuel Lindsay, on oath, saith : I am managing Yanga pastoral holding ; I know the lands sought for on Yanga in exchange for lands in other parts of the Colony ; I do not think any of that land suitable for agriculture ; I consider it purely pastoral land ; the actual carrying capacity of the land, including purchased land, is 6 acres to the sheep in that part of the run ; the purchased land is decidedly better than the Crown lands on the run ; there is still an area of 14,716 acres, available for settlement on the resumed area of Yanga ; a piece of land on Yanga Lake has been available for homestead selection since the 12th November, 1896 ; another block which became available on the same date, was selected on the 10th instant ; if the exchange is completed there will be still 52,978 acres available on the Yanga leasehold area ; on the resumed area of Tala, there are 39,104 acres available for selection ; this area has been available ever since the division of the run ; on the leasehold area of Tala there will be 40,000 acres available ; I have considered the value of the improvements when reckoning the value of the land ; I consider that, on the present prices of wool and stock, such land is not worth more than 5s. an acre for pastoral purposes ; the country is all rabbit-infested, the cost of destruction of which is about 1d. an acre per annum. The average rainfall per annum, computed for nineteen years, exclusive of 1896 and 1889, is 12½ inches ; there is no natural water on any of the land in question ; I value the improvements on that land at £1,150, approximately, which improvements are station property ; if the exchange is carried through, it will tend to consolidate the freehold portions of Yanga.

By Mr. Robertson : The land at present available on the resumed area of Yanga is red soil land, and of the same character as that which is being used for agricultural purposes in that direction ; I consider this land far superior for agricultural purposes than that sought for in the exchange.

By Mr. Malcolm : The resumed area at the time of the division of the runs was 87,406 acres ; I cannot say what land has been purchased by the station ; the resumed area at present available is exclusive of travelling stock reserves, which are approximately of the following measurements, namely : 32 miles in length by 1 mile in width, and 10 miles in length by ½ a mile in width ; there are about nineteen selectors on Yanga now ; the land available still is made up of blocks varying in area from 320 acres to 3,000 and odd acres. I would favour the surrendering of isolated portions for the purpose of consolidation ; the land available for settlement in the large blocks is the kind most sought for agricultural purposes, viz., mallee and pine ridge land ; I believe the cost of rolling the mallee is 4s. per acre ; I do not think the drought for the past two years has retarded settlement on Yanga ; land has been taken up during that time.

By Mr. Lukeman : The land that is now open for selection could be cleared more cheaply than the land sought in exchange, inasmuch as the mallee on the one can be rolled down, but belar cannot.

Sworn before us, at Balranald, this 21st }
day of December, 1896.— }

SAMUEL LINDSAY.

FREDK. TROLLOPE, Chairman.
C. E. OSLEAR, P.M., } Members.
J. G. MENON, }

Walter Macpherson, on oath, saith : I am the manager of Paika Station, and have had sixteen years experience in this district ; I do not consider the land on the belar country good for agriculture ; it is good for grazing, if cleared, for two years ; after two years use I consider it very poor grazing country.

Sworn before us, at Balranald, this 21st }
day of December, 1896.— }

W. A. MACPHERSON.

FREDK. TROLLOPE, Chairman.
C. E. OSLEAR, P.M., } Members.
J. G. MENON, }

Samuel Albert Steane, recalled, saith: I consider the class of settlement would be settlement leases with a minimum area of 4,000 acres; that would provide settlement for about nine selectors, providing the area were available in one block; under prevailing conditions there would not be suitable blocks for nine; it would be very inconveniently shaped for settlement, unless an exchange was effected; I hand in tracing marked "R" as an exhibit.
 Sworn before us at Balranald, this 21st }
 day of December, 1896,—

S. A. STEANE.

FREDK. TROLLOPE, Chairman.
 C. E. OLSEAR, P.M., } Members.
 J. G. MENON,

Arthur Denis Donnelly, on oath, saith: I am Crown Lands Agent, at Balranald; according to the "Pastoral Possessions of New South Wales" the resumed area of Yanga at the time of the division of the runs was, 87,406 acres; since then about 12,099 acres have been absorbed by conditional purchase and 28,601 by conditional lease, leaving an area remaining (inclusive of reserves of all descriptions), totalling 46,706 acres; I submit these figures, however, with great diffidence; they have been hastily computed, and on a doubtful basis, much having to be taken for granted; possibly an error of importance has been made; I know there are several areas of Crown lands of over 1,000 acres in a block available for settlement on the Yanga resumed area; I know of three or four such areas: there may be more.
 Sworn before us at Balranald, this 21st }
 day of December, 1896,—

ARTHUR D. DONNELLY,
Crown Lands Agent.

FREDK. TROLLOPE, Chairman.
 J. G. MENON, Member.

No. 69.

Decision of Local Land Board.

Crown Lands Act of 1884—(Part II, Section 14, Subsection 4).

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

WHEREAS on the twenty-first day of December, 1896, it became a matter for investigation before us whether the application for surrender and exchange of lands within Baan Baa, Cooma, Stonehenge, and Yanga pastoral holdings by the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), should be recommended or otherwise; and having taken evidence and inquired into the said matter, we find that the design of the area of lands applied to be given in exchange on Yanga pastoral holding is a suitable design. We appraise the value of the lands in question at 12s. 6d. per acre.

Land Districts of Narrabri, Glen Innes, and Balranald.

We appraise the value of the improvements thereon at £1,150.

On the merits of the application to exchange the lands offered in surrender for those applied for, we report to the Honorable the Minister for Lands, that the alienation of these lands will, to an appreciable extent, be detrimental in the interests of the Balranald District, inasmuch as the area applied for would be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of from seven to ten settlement lessces; but as against this, the area offered in surrender is nearly 100 per cent. more valuable, and will satisfy many applicants for lands. In view of the above, the carrying out of this exchange may be beneficial to the general interest. It is certainly detrimental to this District.

[From the last sentence the Chairman dissents. In his view, the carrying out of this exchange will be highly beneficial in the general interest, and but slightly detrimental to the district of Balranald.]

This sentence does not form part of the Report of the Members.—FREDK. TROLLOPE, Chairman.

Survey costs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£13	13	0
Board costs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	6	0
Total costs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£19	19	0

Given under our hands, at the Court-house of Balranald, this twenty-first day of December, 1896,—

FREDK. TROLLOPE, Chairman,
 C. E. OSLEAR, P.M., } Members.
 J. G. MENON,

To District Survey Office to note.—A.J.V. (for Chairman, Hay), 29/12/96. Noted.—H.F., 29/12/96.
 Dealt with in District Survey Office.—J.G.F. (for District Surveyor), 29/12/96. The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay. The Under Secretary.—A. J. VILES (for Chairman, Land Board, Hay), 29/12/96.

No. 70.

Extract from *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 December, 1896.

THE telegram published yesterday from Balranald about a land exchange shows that these transactions are now receiving a good deal of attention. One of the banks, in order to consolidate its property at Yanga, in the Balranald Land District, has offered the Government, in exchange, three pastoral properties about Narrabri and Glen Innes. The Land Board at Narrabri has already held an inquiry into the value of the land in the north, and the Board at Balranald has now held its inquiry about the leasehold area of Yanga. The result is to ascertain the value of the properties proposed to be exchanged, leaving it for the Minister to say whether the transaction ought to be completed. Irrespective of the decision in this case, it is noticeable for the interest of the public. The Municipal Council of Balranald appeared by attorney at the Court, and the Board's finding clearly expressed a local view. The Chairman, who is the official member of the Board, dissented from the last sentence of the report, in which it was declared that though the exchange might be beneficial to the general public, by getting estates, two of which are worth £19,171, in the north, it would be injurious to Balranald by withdrawing an area that would suffice for seven selections. The interests of the town and the squatter are in this instance quite opposed. The town wants to get all the settlement possible in its vicinity; the pastoralist wants to consolidate his holding and keep the area to himself. The Minister will decide. It is also a proof of the growing value of Riverina country when a tract of land in a region considered among the best in the colony is offered in exchange for an area so far westerly as Balranald. It may be expected that the result of this inquiry will affect a number of other transactions. The great financial bodies hold so many squattages in each of the three Divisions that they are likely to take any opportunity of rounding off their belongings in the most advantageous districts by surrendering country in less valuable places. This type of transaction requires the consideration of the Boards, in order to protect the public interest, which is not opposed to any reasonable consolidation of pastoral estates, provided that the State gets the equivalent of all that it gives up.

No. 71.

J. M. Chanter, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Moama, 23 December, 1896.

Re the enclosed letter, on behalf of my constituents I beg to protest against the proposed exchange, and trust you will comply with their wishes. The land on Yanga pastoral holding is wanted for settlement, and would be readily selected if made available.

I have, &c.,

J. M. CHANTER, M.P.

Acknowledged, 29/12/96.

[Enclosure.]

Dear Sir,

Arundle, Harvey's Lake, near Balranald, 16 December, 1896.

At a meeting of the Burrawong Progress Committee, held yesterday, I was directed to write you, asking you to use your influence, and protest against the proposed exchange of land on Yanga pastoral holding, and surrender of land at Cooma, Baan Baa, and Stonehenge. I may state that the above committee have taken action in the matter, and have engaged Mr. Malcolm, of Balranald, to oppose the proposed exchange at the Land Court, to be held in Balranald on the 21st instant, also have wired Sir Joseph Abbott, asking him to use his influence in preventing the proposed exchange taking place.

I have, &c.,

W. WEBB,

Honorary Secretary, Burrawong Progress Committee.

J. M. Chanter, Esq., M.P., Moama.

P.S.—I am forwarding a copy of the *Balranald Recorder*, which will give you an account of our last meeting.—W. W.

No. 72.

Allen Lakeman, Esq., to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay.

Sir,

Hay, 23 December, 1896.

I beg to ask for a copy of the depositions in the Yanga exchange, also the decision. Please send them to Mr. S. Lindsay, Manager, Yanga, Balranald, who will forward you amount for copying on receipt of advice as to price.

I have, &c.,

ALLEN LAKEMAN.

There has not been time in this office to supply copy asked for. The papers were forwarded to head office to-day, as requested. Perhaps this matter can be attended to in Sydney.—FRED. TROLLOPE, Chairman (per A.J.V.), Hay, 29/12/96. The Under Secretary.

No. 73.

A. B. Briggs, Esq., Pastoral Inspector for the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Hay.

Re Exchange application Yanga-Baan Baa, Cooma, and Stonehenge.

The English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited),

Sir,

Sydney, 30 December, 1896.

Will you kindly supply me with a full copy of the evidence taken at the inquiry into the above case before the Local Land Board at Balranald, on the 21st instant.

I have, &c.,

A. B. BRIGGS,

Pastoral Inspector.

Papers L.B. 96/7,170 were forwarded to Under-Secretary for Lands, 29/12/96.—H.M.C., 4/1/97. Mr. Viles. Perhaps copies can be supplied from head office.—A. J. VILES, for Chairman, Hay, 5/1/97. The Under Secretary. Forward copy of evidence to the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), and ask for 13s. 1d. cost of copying.—E.A.B. (for U.S.), 15/1/97. English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), with copy, 15/1/97. Paid—*vide* receipt 634,955, dated 21st January, 1897.—W. W. CALLINAN, 22/1/97.

No. 74

Office Memorandum.

6 January, 1897.

THE reports of the Land Boards at Glen Innes, Narrabri, and Balranald, in regard to the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank's application for the surrender of lands on Stonehenge, Baan Baa South and Cooma holdings, in exchange for an equal area of land on Yanga holding, are favourable thereto.

The Glen Innes Board report that the acquirement of the lands on Stonehenge would most undoubtedly promote healthy settlement in the locality, the lands being principally very suitable for agricultural settlement under homestead selection and settlement lease provisions. They appraise the value of the land for surrender at £1 2s. 6d. per acre.

The Tamworth Board appraise the unimproved values of the Baan Baa South and Cooma Estate lands at an average rate of £1 0s. 9d. per acre, on a freehold basis. In respect of these lands, the inspecting surveyor states in his evidence before the Board, that their acquisition by the Crown will promote settlement, and the District Surveyor considers that (roughly estimated) from thirty to thirty-five independent persons could be settled on the lands that will become available by the completion of this scheme.

In regard to the Yanga lands, the Balranald Board find the design in which the land is sought by the Bank to be suitable, and they appraise the value of those lands at 12s. 6d. per acre. On the merits of the scheme, the Board by majority (the Chairman dissenting), however, report that the alienation of these

these lands will to an appreciable extent be detrimental to the interests of the Balranald District, inasmuch as the area applied for would be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of from seven to ten settlement lessees. But as against this, the area offered in surrender is nearly 100 per cent. more valuable and will satisfy many applicants for land, the carrying out of the exchange may be beneficial to the general interest, but is certainly detrimental to the Balranald District. From this view the Chairman dissents, as in his opinion the completion of the exchange will be highly beneficial in the general interest, and but slightly detrimental to the district of Balranald.

Submitted, as it is obvious from the reports to hand that the scheme clearly serves the public interests, that action be further proceeded with, and the necessary surveys made.

C. J. SAUNDERS.

I concur in the above suggestion and submit it for the Minister's approval. Special.—Wm. Housron, Under-Secretary, 6/1/97.

I think that a matter of this character requires the utmost care and publicity; and I, therefore, desire that the facts as reported be made public, and the matter may be referred to the Under-Secretary, the Chief Surveyor, and Mr. Curry, to advise fully on the proposals at an early date.—J.H.C., 7/1/97.

Submit in a fortnight after publication of notice in the newspapers.—W.H., 9/1/97. Now re-submitted.—E.A.B., 27/1/97.

No. 75:

Office Memorandum.

PROPOSED acquisition of a total area of about 36,000 acres near Glen Innes and Narrabri in exchange for an equal area near Balranald.

THE Minister for Lands has had under consideration recently the question of exchanging an area of about 36,000 acres of Crown lands on Yanga leasehold, distant about 15 miles from Balranald, for an equal area of private land owned by the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, partly on Stonehenge holding, situated about 5 miles from the Great Northern railway line, and 12 miles from Glen Innes, and on Cooma and Baan Baa South holdings, which are intersected by the railway line from Narrabri to Werris Creek, and distant about 3 miles and 22 miles respectively from Narrabri. Supplied to the Press, 8/1/97.

The case is a novel one, as it involved consideration by three separate Land Boards, and the Minister is now asked to decide whether the whole exchange is sufficiently in the public interest to warrant its being carried into effect.

The Land Board at Glen Innes has assessed the value of the land to be surrendered in that district at £20,211, or an average value of £1 2s. 6d. per acre, and it has also been estimated that at least thirty families may be established on the surrendered lands.

The Narrabri Board has assessed the value of the surrender lands in that district at £19,171, or an average price of £1 0s. 9d. per acre, and the acquisition of this land, with the adjoining leasehold, will, it is thought, provide sufficient land for the establishment of at least thirty families.

The Balranald Board has assessed the value of the land sought to be acquired by the Bank on Yanga at £22,000, or at the rate of 12s. 6d. per acre. It is also reported that this area would not be more than sufficient for ten settlement lessees.

So far as intrinsic value alone is concerned, the proposal is largely in favour of the Crown; and regarded from a settlement point of view, the surrender lands would provide for the establishment of sixty families as compared with ten on the land desired to be acquired by the Bank. The climate and geographical position of the surrendered lands are more conducive to permanent settlement than that of the lands applied for. The value of the improvements also on the land to be surrendered is considerably in excess of that on the lands applied for.

The Bank of course desires to consolidate its holdings, and is prepared to sacrifice land of greater value in order to attain that object.

The only objection to the proposal comes from Balranald; and after all it is only natural that the residents of this town should regard unfavourably any proposal which would have the effect of alienating Crown lands within a reasonable distance of the town.

Considerable areas of Crown lands are, however, available for settlement in the vicinity of Balranald, and 15,000 acres are being designed for subdivision; and it is hoped at a later date that a consolidation of all the station alienations on Yanga will be made, which will have the effect of bringing into a compact form for settlement the different areas of Crown lands remaining on that extensive holding.

It may be mentioned that the Municipal Councils at Narrabri and Narrabri West are urging the Minister to complete the exchange.

No. 76.

Extract from *The Daily Telegraph*, 9 January, 1897.

LAND FOR SETTLEMENT PURPOSES.

IN keeping with his policy of providing as much land as possible for settlement purposes within easy access of markets, the Minister for Lands (Mr. J. H. Carruthers) has had under consideration recently the question of exchanging an area of about 36,000 acres of Crown lands on the Yanga leasehold, distant some 15 miles from Balranald, for an equal area of private land, owned by the E. S. and A. Bank, partly on Stonehenge holding—situated about 5 miles from the Great Northern railway line and 12 miles from Glen Innes—and on Cooma and Baan Baa South holdings, which are intersected by the railway line from Narrabri to Werris Creek, and distant about 3 miles and 22 miles respectively from Narrabri. The case is a novel one. It involved consideration by three separate Land Boards, and the Minister is now asked to decide whether the whole exchange is sufficiently in the public interests to warrant its being carried into effect. As regards the intrinsic value alone, it is pointed out that the proposal is clearly in favour of the Crown; and, regarded from a settlement point of view, the surrender lands would provide for the establishment

establishment of sixty families, as compared with ten on the land desired to be acquired by the Bank. The climate and geographical position of the surrendered lands are more conducive to permanent settlement than that of the land applied for. The value of the improvements also on the land to be surrendered is considerably in excess of that on the lands applied for. The Bank desires to consolidate its holdings, and is prepared to sacrifice land of greater value in order to attain that object. The only objection to the proposal comes from Balranald, while the Municipal Councils at Narrabri and Narrabri West are urging the Minister to complete the exchange.

No. 77.

Extract from the *Australian Star*, 11th January, 1897.

THE land exchange transaction now pending between the Minister for Lands and the E. S. and A. Bank merits very close scrutiny. The Bank proposes to exchange certain holdings in the vicinity of the Great Northern and the North-Western lines for an equal area of Crown land in the vicinity of the town of Balranald. The several Land Boards assess the Bank's property at more than £1 per acre, while the Crown lands which it seeks in exchange are valued at only 12s. 6d. acre. As there are 36,000 acres involved, the Bank would lose in round figures about 8s. per acre, or a total of about £14,000. By this transaction the Crown would thus appear to be a material gainer. Banks, however, are not run upon such lines, otherwise their doors would be sealed hermetically, and we must look for a gain commensurate with this apparent loss. This is to be found in the fact that the Bank will consolidate its property in the Riverina, for the Crown lands sought adjoin property already belonging to the Bank. Moreover, the new estate is within 15 miles of Balranald, and a great strip of land will pass into private ownership and be closed to the independent settlers, upon whose multiplication and prosperity the town looks for its future fortune. Naturally the people object to seeing the eligible Crown lands of the district swallowed up in this way. But there is more involved. The very Government that meditates this transaction has been loud in proclaiming its desire to resume lands in the vicinity of towns for purposes of "closer settlement," and, what is still more remarkable, it came to power pledged to a system of taxation calculated to burst up "big estates" such as that it now contemplates assisting the E. S. and A. Bank to build up near Balranald. We say nothing of the *bona-fides* of the arrangement, only we want to know whether a Government pledged to "burst up big estates" and to resume land for closer settlement will dare to do this thing, and, if so, whether the already deeply forsworn Labour Party will condone and support this grossly inconsistent act.

No. 78.

The Secretary, Boggabri Progress Committee, to The Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

13 January, 1897.

I have been deputed to inform you that a public meeting of the residents of the town and district of Boggabri was held at the Centennial Hall on Wednesday night, 13th January, instant, and the following resolution was unanimously carried:—

"That the residents of this town and district, in public meeting assembled, respectfully request the Honorable the Minister for Lands to complete the exchanges of land on Baan Baa and Cooma holdings, and also those of Ghoolendaadi holding, near the town of Boggabri."

I am, &c.,

NORMAN JEFFRIES,

Secretary, Boggabri Progress Committee.

No. 79.

Extract from *The Daily Telegraph*, 15th January, 1897.

Boggabri, Thursday.

A WELL attended public meeting was held here last night, when a motion was carried that the Minister for Lands be urged to complete the contemplated exchanges of lands at Baan Baa and Cooma holdings, and also those in the district of Boggabri.

No. 80.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Manager, the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited.)

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 15 January, 1897.

Referring to your letter of the 30th ultimo, asking to be furnished with a copy of the evidence taken by the Local Land Board, Balranald, in connection with the Yanga-Baan Baa, Cooma, and Stonehenge exchange case, I have the honor to forward herewith the copy of evidence as desired, and to request that you will be good enough to transmit to this Department the sum of (13s. 1d.) thirteen shillings and one penny, cost of copying.

I have, &c.,

WM. HOUSTON,

Under Secretary

(Per W. H. C.)

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No. 81.

Extract from *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 16th January, 1897.

THE EXCHANGE OF CROWN LANDS.

Narrabri, Friday.

At a public meeting at Baan Baa last evening in reference to the exchange of Baan Baa and Cooma holdings for land situated in the Balranald district, the following resolution was proposed by Mr. A. P. Starr, seconded by Mr. John Goodyer, and carried unanimously:—"That, in view of the large number of people in this district requiring land, this meeting desires to impress upon the Minister for Lands the great benefit the district would obtain by the proposed exchange of Baan Baa and Cooma holdings being approved of and thrown open for settlement at an early date." Mr. J. V. A. Fox was appointed to interview the Minister for Lands.

No. 82.

Charles Collins, Esq., M.P., to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Legislative Assembly, Sydney, N.S.W., 18 January, 1897.

I have the honor to enclose you a letter just received from the Borough Council of Narrabri, urging me to interview you *re* the exchange of land on Baan Baa and Cooma. I am sure it is unnecessary for me to inform you how advantageous it will be to the towns of Narrabri and Boggabri if you will accede to the wishes of the people of the district, and I shall be pleased to hear that you have decided to effect the exchange.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES COLLINS.

Receipt acknowledged.—G.H., 20/1/97.

[Enclosure.]

Council Chambers, Narrabri, 14 January, 1897.

Sir,

At a meeting of this Council the following resolution was unanimously agreed to:—

"That the Minister for Lands be interviewed by the Member for the district, with the view of having an exchange of lands on Baan Baa and Cooma holdings for lands in the Balranald district, effected at once, and that the Minister be asked to throw open the land immediately for settlement."

I am now instructed to respectfully request that you will take the earliest opportunity of waiting on the Minister and lay the views of the Council before him. You are no doubt aware that all suitable land recently thrown open for close settlement in this district has been readily taken up; indeed, so great was the demand, that in the case of the Molly land, eighty applications were lodged for one block. This clearly shows that a large number of people are still waiting for land to be made available for settlement. I may point out that a large part of Baan Baa and Cooma lands are in every way suitable for agricultural purposes, and lying close to the railway line it is decidedly in the interest of the town and district that the present opportunity of acquiring these lands for settlement should be taken advantage of without delay. There can be no doubt that these lands would be eagerly competed for when open for selection by a most desirable class of permanent settlers, whereas at present these lands are occupied for grazing purposes only. According to the evidence given before the Land Boards of Glen Innes and Balranald, the land that would be acquired by the Government under the exchange are capable of supporting sixty families, while under the present occupancy it is only supporting six families. It may also be mentioned that there is no land open for selection between Narrabri and Boggabri.

Trusting you will kindly use every endeavour to have effect given to the Council's resolution.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD GUEST,

Council Clerk.

Charles Collins, Esq., M.P., Tamworth.

No. 83.

The Manager, the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

The English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited) Sydney, 21 January, 1897.

I am in receipt of your favour of the 15th instant, together with a copy of the evidence taken by the Local Land Board, Balranald, in connection with the Yanga-Baan Baa, Cooma, and Stonehenge exchange application, and now beg to inform you that I have paid the sum of 13s. 1d. to the Treasury, as requested by you.

I have, &c.,

S. G. ASHER,

(pro Manager).

No. 84.

Extract from *The Daily Telegraph*, 21st January, 1897.

Narrabri, Wednesday.

THE Borough Council, at a meeting last night, appointed a deputation, consisting of Aldermen Stopford, Collins, and Spencer, in conjunction with Mr. Charles Collins, Member for the district, to wait on the Minister for Lands, to urge the immediate acceptance of the offer of the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, of Cooma, and the Baan Baa lands in exchange for the Balranald land. The former is eminently suited for agriculture, and would furnish many families with permanent settlement. No land is available for selection between Narrabri and Boggabri.

No. 85.

No. 85.

Extract from *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 27th January, 1897.

PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF PASTORAL PROPERTIES.

Glen Innes, Tuesday.

At last night's Council meeting, the proposal of the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank to exchange the Graham's Valley and Baan Baa properties for Government land in the Balranald district was discussed. It was pointed out that the Graham's Valley property, which is 12 miles from Glen Innes, was highly adapted for small homestead holdings, and would settle about forty families. It was decided to urge the Government, through the Member for the district, to accept the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank's offer, and effect the exchange.

No. 86.

Messrs. McKenzie, Collins, Stopford, Lillyman, and Spencer, to The Secretary for Lands.

EXTRACT of Ms. Ls., 97-1,257.

Sir,

Narrabri, 28 January, 1897.

This deputation was also instructed to urge upon you the desirability of completing the exchanges asked for in the Narrabri Land District, comprising the Cooma and Baan Baa holdings, which will throw open for settlement 50,000 acres of land, for which there is a great demand.

Trusting that you will give these matters your favourable consideration.

We are, &c.,

L. N. MCKENZIE,
A. E. COLLINS,
A. STOPFORD,
J. L. LILLYMAN,
GEORGE SPENCER.

No. 87.

Extract from *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 3rd February, 1897.

LAND EXCHANGES.

DURING last week a deputation, consisting of Messrs. A. Stopford, L. N. McKenzie, and A. E. Collins, waited upon the Honorable J. N. Brunker, to ask that the proposed exchanges of land on the Cooma and Baan Baa holdings, in the Narrabri district, should be completed as soon as possible, and thus render 50,000 acres of land that is in great demand just now open for settlement. Mr. Brunker said he would refer the matter to the Lands Department.

No. 88.

Office Memorandum.

THE YANGA EXCHANGE.

Department of Lands, Sydney, February, 1897.

REFERRING to the Minister's minute of the 7th January last, requesting a report upon the proposed exchange by the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, of certain lands, viz., about 36,000 acres near Glen Innes and Narrabri, for an equal area near Balranald, with a view to consolidation of the Bank's landed properties at the last mentioned place, under provisions of the Crown Lands Act, the matter has received consideration, and the leading facts of the case are as follows:—

The land near Glen Innes comprises about 17,620 acres of the Stonehenge pastoral holding, chiefly suitable for agricultural settlement, situated about 5 miles from the Northern railway; altitude, about 3,800 feet; average rainfall, about 40 inches; appraised by the Land Board at £1 2s. 6d. per acre on a freehold basis. This tract of country would provide for settlement of thirty or thirty-five families. Total value, £20,240.

The land near Narrabri comprises about 18,500 acres of the Baan Baa South and the Cooma pastoral holdings; this tract of country is adapted chiefly for grazing purposes; situation, on the railway from Werris Creek to Narrabri; altitude, about 100 feet; average rainfall, 24 inches; it is suitable for holdings by homestead selection and settlement lease, and in conjunction with adjoining leasehold to be surrendered would provide for the settlement of from thirty to thirty-five families. The land is valued by the Land Board on a freehold basis at £1 0s. 9d. per acre. Total value, £19,170.

The tract of country near Balranald comprises about 36,125 acres of the Yanga pastoral holding, adapted for grazing; the stock-carrying capacity is estimated at 4 acres to a sheep, the altitude is about 300 feet, and the average rainfall 12 inches. To a large extent the area is broken up by alienated lands, and is thus not favourable in form for settlement in moderate holdings. This land is appraised by the Board at 12s. 6d. per acre. Total value, £22,578.

It is stated that this pastoral country might provide from seven to ten holdings for settlement lease.

The exchange is regarded as favourable to the public interest by the Board at Glen Innes; and there has been movement on the part of the residents to urge the Minister to entertain the proposal.

At Narrabri and Boggabri public meetings have been convened to represent to the Minister the desirableness of the proposed exchange.

The Land Board at Balranald reports that the exchange would be beneficial to the public interest, inasmuch as it would provide for the settlement of many families, whilst the Yanga lands would provide for but seven or ten at the most; the two local members express the opinion that the exchange would be detrimental to the interests of Balranald, in which opinion the Chairman does not concur, but admits that it might be slightly detrimental.

It

It may here be mentioned that the residue of the Yanga pastoral holding contains about 53,000 acres; also that near the town of Balranald there is a tract of country comprising about 15,000 acres now being made available for settlement.

The prominent features of the case are as follows: A banking company, in order to consolidate a pastoral holding, in a part of the country where the natural conditions are suitable only for occupation in large areas, offers to take 36,000 acres of Crown lands, appraised at £22,578—which might provide for settlement of from seven to ten families—in exchange for a like area in parts of the country where the climatic conditions are favourable to agricultural occupation, to which there is access by railway, which may enable the settlement of at least sixty families, and the value of which is appraised at £39,410.

It may be mentioned incidentally that Balranald, a municipality which is on a navigable river, is distant 75 miles from the railway at Hay, and has a population of about 800; Glen Innes and Narrabri, also municipalities, have populations of about 3,000 and 2,500 respectively, and both places have the advantages secured by railway communication.

In view of the circumstances above set forth, we are of opinion that the proposed exchange is in the public interest, and we have no hesitation in advising approval thereof.

E. TWYNAM, Chief Surveyor.
H. CURRY.

But little further information can be given in connection with this matter than is already afforded by the within memoranda and reports. As set out above, the value of the area proposed to be surrendered (36,120 acres), as appraised by the Land Board, is £39,410; while the value of the equivalent area to be granted in exchange is £22,578. This, however, is not the most material point. Looking at the exchange in the light of its probable results to the general community, the fact that sixty-five or seventy families can almost at once be provided for in close settlement is one that cannot be set aside without very strong reasons. If the exchange be abandoned, the utmost that could be done on Yanga in the interests of settlement—at the expiration of the pastoral lease in 1900—would be to provide eight or ten grazing leases on an irregular shaped area lying between or dovetailing with the freehold lands of the pastoral lessee. This area is approximately midway between the towns of Balranald and Moulamein, and if occupied at any time the settlers would no doubt in their ordinary business avocations become more intimately associated with the former than the latter place. The loss of this possible business represents, it is presumed, the detriment to the town of Balranald apprehended by the local members of the Board. It is submitted that on the broad grounds of the public interests the exchange may be proceeded with.—Wm. HORSTON, Under Secretary, 9/2/97.

I now finally approve of this exchange, after having exhausted every means of inquiry open to me to test its merits. The facts may be made public with my decision, as I consider a matter of this kind should be carried through most openly.—J.H.C., 10/2/97.

The Minister's decision should now be conveyed to applicants, who might be urged to convert the conditionally-leased lands affected into additional conditional purchases. The owners might also be asked to state their intentions regarding the selections involved, *i.e.*, whether they wish to have allotted to them land to be held under conditional purchase, or whether they intend converting the selections into freeholds. Should they decide in favour of the former, it will be necessary for them to state willingness to be bound by the provisions of Regulation 297. Payment of £300 towards final costs should also be asked for.—C. J. SAUNDERS, 17/2/96. Mr. Bronsdon.

English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited) and Treasury informed, 19/2/97.

No. 89.

Office Memorandum.

EXCHANGE of 36,000 acres of Crown lands near Balranald for an equal area of private lands near Glen Innes and Narrabri.

THIS exchange proposal has already attracted a considerable amount of attention, and the Secretary for Lands (Mr. Carruthers), after having exhausted every means of inquiry open to him, has finally approved of the exchange being given effect to. (Supplied to the Press.)

The main features of the proposed exchange are as follow:—

A banking company, in order to consolidate a pastoral holding in a part of the country where the natural conditions are suitable only for occupation in large areas, offers to take 36,000 acres of Crown land, appraised at £22,578, which might provide for settlement of ten families, in exchange for a like area in parts of the country where climatic conditions are favourable to agricultural occupation, to which there is access by railway, which may enable the settlement of at least sixty families, and the value of which is appraised at £39,410.

The land near Glen Innes comprises about 17,620 acres, including the Graham's Valley estate, chiefly suitable for agricultural settlement, situate about 5 miles from the Northern railway; altitude, about 3,800 feet; average rainfall, about 40 inches. This tract of country would provide for settlement of about thirty families.

The land near Narrabri comprises about 18,500 acres within the Baan Baa South and the Cooma pastoral holdings. This tract of country is adapted chiefly for grazing purposes. Situation, on the railway from Werris Creek to Narrabri; altitude, about 100 feet; average rainfall, 24 inches. It is suitable for holdings by homestead selection and settlement lease, and in conjunction with adjoining leasehold, also to be surrendered, would provide for the settlement of about thirty families.

The tract of country near Balranald comprises about 36,125 acres of the Yanga pastoral holding, adapted for grazing; the altitude is about 300 feet, and the average rainfall 12 inches. To a large extent the area is broken up by alienated lands, and is thus not favourable in form for settlement in moderate holdings. It is stated that this pastoral country might provide about ten holdings for settlement lease.

The exchange is regarded as favourable to the public interest by the Board at Glen Innes; and there has been a movement on part of the residents to urge the Minister to entertain the proposal.

At Narrabri and Boggabri public meetings have been convened to represent to the Minister the desirableness of the proposed exchange.

The

The Land Board of Balranald reports that the exchange would be beneficial to the general public interest, inasmuch as it would provide for the settlement of many families, whilst the Yanga lands would provide for but ten at the most. The Board, however, by a majority consider that the exchange might be detrimental to the interests of Balranald.

The Barrawang Progress Association also objected to the exchange upon local grounds.

It may, however, be mentioned that a large area of land will still remain in the hands of the Crown, near Balranald, sufficient, it is thought, to meet all legitimate demands for settlement purposes.

It may also be mentioned incidentally that Balranald, a municipality which is on a navigable river, is distant 75 miles from the railway at Hay, and has a population of about 800; Glen Innes and Narrabri, also municipalities, have populations of about 3,000 and 2,500 respectively, and both places have the advantages secured by railway communication.

No. 90.

Extract from the *Evening News*, 15th February, 1897.

THE Minister for Lands is going in for a pretty big swop in the matter of landed estate, about which it is not improbable a good deal will yet be heard. He has for some time past been on the look out for tracts of land suitable for agricultural settlement, and every acre that falls back to him, from lease or otherwise, is eagerly snapped up by intending agriculturists. As a matter of fact, anomalous as it may appear, the demand far exceeds the supply. Hence it is that he has been constrained to favourably entertain a proposal by a Banking Corporation for a deal in acres. The Bank gives him some 36,000 acres near Glen Innes and Narrabri in exchange for a similar area near Balranald. The curious part of the transaction is the fact that the Crown land is valued at much less than the Bank's land. The former is appraised at £22,578, while the latter is estimated to be worth £39,410. On paper, therefore, the Minister gets the best of the deal by £16,822. More than that, the land which the Crown is to receive will settle sixty families, while the Balranald property about to be parted with would settle only ten families. Really this looks almost too good for the Government. Usually when Government undertakes any land or property resumption transaction it gets the worst of the bargain, and neither Banks nor private individuals are in the habit of making sacrifices. In the present case the proposal for the exchange came from the Bank, which has been anxious to complete the transaction. The Minister may be credited with having taken the utmost precautions to safeguard the interest of the public, and the explanation probably is that, land speculation being well killed by the land tax, the exchange suited the Bank for business reasons, even though, according to the most careful calculations, it involved a monetary sacrifice of several thousands of pounds. But the subject is bound to be freely discussed in Parliament.

No. 91.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The District Surveyor, Tamworth.

BAAN BAA SOUTH, COOMA-YANGA EXCHANGE.

17 February, 1897.

THE Minister having approved of this exchange being proceeded with, will the District Surveyor be good enough to prepare the necessary designs, reports, &c., for the re-subdivision of the surrender and other available lands on these holdings for settlement purposes.

Papers, Alienation 96-13,337, are enclosed for perusal, and should be returned as soon as the information *in re* design, &c., has been collated.

C.J.S. (for the Under Secretary).

Mr. Crocker.—Make a copy of this minute and of the District Surveyor's and Mr. Sendall's reports enclosed. Have copy registered, and note L.B. No. thereof hereon.—R.S., 19/2/97. Necessary copies of papers made.—T.C., 26/2/97. And registered, L.B., 97-1,453, on which District Survey Office action towards survey for settlement will proceed. Now returned as requested.—R. SHELTON (for District Surveyor), 2/3/97. The Under Secretary for Lands. To await the return of the Yanga papers, at present with the District Surveyor at Hay.—R.M., 5/5/97.

No. 92.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The District Surveyor, Armidale.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

Department of Lands, 17 February, 1897.

THE Minister has approved of this exchange being proceeded with. It will therefore be necessary for the District Surveyor to furnish—

1. Particulars (roughly) of the improvements on the portions for surrender; the statement in regard to each portion to be as far as possible complete in itself
2. Prepare a design for the re-subdivision of the surrender and available Crown lands. Design, &c., should be sent under separate cover.
3. Ascertain, by reference to the Chairman, the cost of the Board's inquiry, including the District Surveyor's attendance.

C.J.S. (for the Under Secretary).

Parish maps of Fletcher, Macintyre, and Ben Lomond noted in District Survey Office, 22/2/97.

The District Surveyor requests that previous reports and a 20-chain tracing of land exchanged (as well as adjacent portions) be prepared, showing all features. Contract draftsman to fill in all writing.—M. A. MACLEAN, Draftsman-in-charge, 22 February, 1897. Mr. Kirke,—Urgent.

Compilation

Compilation at 20 chains to an inch is herewith. I completed it in accordance with verbal instructions.—S.W.K., 1 March, 1897. The Draftsman-in-charge. Tracing sent to head office for six heliographs to be made and returned with tracing. Special, 1/3/97. Six heliographs received, 9 March, 1897.—M. A. MACLEAN, 16/3/97. District Surveyor.

Mr. Surveyor Legge is requested to furnish (1) a report giving the particulars and present value of the improvements existing on each of the surrendered portions; and (2) also to prepare a design for the resubdivision of the surrendered and adjacent available Crown lands into portions suitable for settlement, reporting fully on all points connected with the subject. Although the question of primary importance is the judicious subdivision into suitable portions, irrespective of former surveys, yet fenced boundary lines should be adopted for boundaries in the resubdivision, so far as can be done without sacrificing present requirements. As the area to be disposed of is extensive, it would be advisable to consider any possible requirements that might arise under the 10th section of the Act of 1895. Two heliographs are forwarded herewith for Mr. Legge's use. Separate reports are to be furnished on the subjects indicated.—D. M. MAITLAND, District Surveyor, 17 March, 1897. Mr. Surveyor Legge, Glen Innes.

Reply by my reports, Nos. 97-51 and 52, of April 20th. Instruction 96-171 also attached.—G. H. LEGGE, Surveyor. Will the Chairman be good enough to furnish the cost of the Board's inquiry in this case, as required in paragraph 3 of memorandum of 17/2/97.—D. M. MAITLAND, District Surveyor, 4/5/97. The Chairman. I estimate the cost of dealing with this case before the Local Land Board at Glen Innes at the sum of £5 5s.—F. G. FINLEY, Chairman, Local Land Board, 4/5/97. The District Surveyor.

No. 93.

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

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 19 February, 1897.
Referring to the application dated 27th October, 1896, lodged by the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), for exchange of land within the holdings noted in the margin, I have the honor to inform you that the applicants have been requested to pay into the Treasury the sum of £300 towards costs.

Please report payment.

I have, &c.,
WM. HOUSTON,
Under Secretary,
(per W.H.C.)

Exchange—
Yanga-Stone-
henge, Baan Baa,
Cooma; Central
Division.
Cr. 30 October,
1896.

No. 94.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Manager, English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited).

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 19 February, 1897.
Referring to previous correspondence respecting the proposed exchange of land within the holdings noted in the margin, I have the honor to inform you that, in view of the reports of the Local Land Boards, the Secretary for Lands has approved of the exchange being proceeded with, and to request that you will be good enough to convert the conditionally leased lands affected into additional conditional purchases, and to state whether you intend converting the selections into freeholds, and if not, to state your willingness to be bound by the provisions of Regulation 297.

I have further to request that you will pay into the Treasury the sum of £300 towards costs.

I have, &c.,
WM. HOUSTON,
Under Secretary,
(per W.H.C.)

Exchange—
Yanga-Stone-
henge, Baan Baa,
Cooma; Central
Division.
Cr. 30 October,
1896.

No. 95.

The Manager, English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), to The Under Secretary for Lands.

EXCHANGE: Yanga-Stonehenge, Baan Baa, Cooma; Central Division.

Sir,

The English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited), Sydney, 5 March, 1897.
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, Alienation 97-1,955, of the 19th ultimo, advising me that the Secretary for Lands had approved of the above exchange being proceeded with.

In accordance with your request, applications are being lodged for the conversion of the conditionally leased lands affected into additional conditional purchases; and in reply to your inquiry, I have to state that it is not my intention to convert the selections into freeholds at the present time. I also desire to record my willingness to be bound by the provisions of Regulation 297.

As requested, the sum of £300 has been paid into the Treasury on account of costs in connection with the exchange.

Referring to my application for the exchange of lands within the Stonehenge holding, No. 108, Eastern Division, I have to request that you will allow it to be amalgamated with the Yanga-Stonehenge, &c., exchange.

I have, &c.,
FLETCHER DIXON,
Manager.

No. 96.

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

MEMORANDUM.

English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank (Limited).

THE sum of £300 was credited, 5th instant, being amount required towards costs in connection with application to surrender and exchange land on under-noted holdings:—

Central Division—Stonehenge, Cooma, and Baan Baa South.

S.R.C. (for U.S.)

Treasury, B.C., 6/3/97.

No. 97.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The District Surveyor, Hay.

27 March, 1897.

FORWARDED to the District Surveyor for the preparation of tenders and other preliminary work in connection with the measurement of the area proposed to be granted under this exchange.

It is not possible at the present time to state the actual area applicants will surrender, as a question has recently arisen as to whether they are entitled to convert certain of their conditional leases into additional conditional purchases; but it is thought that the reduction, if any, will be but slight.

The areas affected by the exchange, subject to the conversion of the conditional leases into additional conditional purchases, are—

	Freehold.			Conditional Purchase.			Conditional Lease.		
	a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.
On Stonehenge	1,094	0	0	12,508	1	0	3,931	0	0
„ Cooma	Nil.			1,466	0	0	2,880	0	0
„ Baan Baa	4,132	1	0	3,227	3	0	6,794	3	0
Totals	5,226	1	0	17,202	0	0	13,655	3	0

As applicants do not intend converting their selections into freeholds, two balances must be made in survey—i.e., (1) of an area to be granted in exchange for the freehold portions for surrender, and (2) of the area to be allowed in exchange for the selections so affected.

The former may conveniently be confined to the vacant areas interspersing applicants' freeholds, viz., portions 1, 20, 19, 3, 61, 6, &c., parish Impimi, leaving the lands to be allotted in exchange for the selections in as compact a form as possible.

Applications have already been lodged by applicants to convert all their conditional leases into additional conditional purchases, and the District Surveyor will be informed immediately on confirmation of these applications.

The usual statement of costs incurred in District Survey Office should be stated.

C. E. RENNIE,

For the Under Secretary.

English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited) informed, 29/3/97.

No. 98.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The District Surveyor, Hay.

8 April, 1897.

THE Land Board at Gunnedah has now confirmed the additional conditional purchase applications covering the following lands, under offer for surrender to the Crown, viz.:—

On Cooma holding, 2,880 acres previously held under conditional lease.

On Baan Baa holding, 6,014 acres previously held under conditional lease.

The Board has still an additional conditional purchase application to deal with in connection with the latter holding; but it has directed survey of an area of 294½ acres to meet this application, the conversion of the balance, 486½ acres, having been disallowed.

C. E. RENNIE,

For the Under Secretary.

No. 99.

Surveyor G. H. Legge to The District Surveyor, Armidale.

REPORT on the improvements on the surrender lands in the Stonehenge-Yanga Exchange, situated at Graham's Valley, Stonehenge, parishes of Clifton, Fletcher, Ben Lomond and Macintyre, county of Gough, land district of Glen Innes.

Sir,

Glen Innes, 20 April, 1897.

In accordance with instruction No. 9,744 of March 17th, to inspect and report upon the improvements standing upon the surrender lands of the Stonehenge (Graham's Valley) exchange, I have the honor to forward herewith a schedule giving particulars and values of the same, as upon each separate portion surrendered.

In fixing the prices, the value to an incoming tenant has been taken throughout, and that put as low as possible, consistent with the ordinary reductions made for deterioration by the effect of age and weather on the various items.

As will be seen, the fencing improvements are of an extensive character, and although the land is yet occupied by the surrenders, in the possible event of their complete removal from the same, the appointment of a caretaker would, in my opinion be most necessary, until such time as the land is to be thrown open for settlement.

[Enclosure.]

Portion and Parish.	Improvements.	Total Values.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
46, Ben Lomond	House, 3 rooms, slab and iron, £25; house, 4 rooms, slab and iron, £20; kitchen, £10	55 0 0
	Stable, store, and meat-house	6 0 0
	Blacksmith's shop, £3; hayshed, £15	18 0 0
	Stables and shed, £15; 2 yards, £6	21 0 0
	Fencing about houses and wire fencing	4 0 0
	95 chains old 2-rail and 1-wire fence	12 0 0
	New 6-wire fence, 25 chains	7 10 0
	" " south boundary	21 0 0
	Ringbarking, at 6d.	9 0 0
		153 10 0
92 "	New 6-wire fence, north boundary, north-west corner, 37 chains	13 10 0
	" " west and south boundaries	45 0 0
	Old 6-wire fence, adjoining portion 27, 95 chains	12 0 0
	New 6-wire fence along creek	9 10 0
	Ringbarking	11 10 0
		91 10 0
27 "	Old 6-wire fencing on south boundary	4 0 0
	16 chains new 6-wire fence on creek	6 0 0
	Ringbarking	2 10 0
		12 10 0
49, Fletcher	Old 2-rail fence on north boundary	4 6 0
	18 chains of old 7-wire fence on north boundary	4 0 0
	17 chains of old 7-wire fence, half value	2 0 0
	Ringbarking, at 6d.	8 0 0
		18 6 0
8 "	Ringbarking, at 6d.	4 0 0
9 "	Paddock, 2-rail fence and wire fence	8 0 0
	Clearing, £5; ringbarking, £4	9 0 0
		17 0 0
28 "	7-wire fence, north boundary, £5 12s.; 5-wire fence, £13	18 12 0
	7-wire fence, half value, £5 5s.; 5-wire fence, east boundary, half value, £8 5s.	13 10 0
	Ringbarking, £15; salt-shed, 15s.	15 15 0
		47 17 0
		£344 13 0
67, Fletcher	5-wire fence across portion	4 0 0
	Ringbarking, at 6d.	1 0 0
		5 0 0
7, Ben Lomond	Paddock of 5-wire and 2-rail fence (old)	11 0 0
	Saltsheds, £1 10s.; ringbarking, £16	17 10 0
		28 10 0
74, "	7-wire fence, east boundary (old), half value	9 0 0
	Ringbarking (portion)	3 0 0
		12 0 0
26, "	"	2 0 0
29, "	"	1 5 0
51, "	Old 6-wire fence	5 10 0
	Ringbarking	3 15 0
		9 5 0
155, "	Old 6-wire fence	8 15 0
	Ringbarking	1 0 0
		9 15 0
54, "	Old 6-wire fencing	4 10 0
	82 chains 6-wire fence, east boundary	16 8 0
	Saltshed, 15s.; ringbarking, £16	16 15 0
		37 13 0
56, "	Old 6-wire fence, east boundary	8 0 0
	80 chains 6-wire fence, south-east boundary, half-value	8 0 0
	62 " " south boundary, half-value	9 6 0
	Ringbarking, 6d.	16 0 0
		41 6 0
96, "	6-wire fencing	4 5 0
97, "	"	12 10 0
55, "	6-wire fencing, east boundary	5 0 0
	" " south boundary, half-value	10 0 0
	Ringbarking at 8d.	10 12 0
		25 12 0
88, "	6-wire fencing, south boundary, half-value	6 15 0
	40 chains 6-wire fencing, west boundary (old)	8 0 0
	95 chains (old), 6-wire fencing	17 15 0
	Ringbarking at 8d.	10 15 0
		43 5 0
		232 6 0
1831, Ben Lomond (Conditional Lease.)	6-wire fence, north boundary, half value	10 0 0
	134 chains old 6-wire, east boundary, £27; 90 chains old 6-wire, £20 5s.	47 5 0
	102 chains old 6-wire, east from road	11 10 0
	18 " " on west boundary	3 12 0
	Ringbarking, at 6d.	31 10 0
		103 17 0
91, "	64 chains old 6-wire fencing	12 13 0
	Half-value, 6-wire fence, north boundary	16 15 0
	Ringbarking, at 6d.	16 0 0
		45 8 0

Portion and Parish.	Improvements.	Total Values.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
33, Macintyre.....	6-wire fence on north boundary (new)..... 28 0 0	
	35 chains 6-wire fence on west boundary 8 15 0	
	Old paddock, top rail, and 5-wire 10 0 0	
	Old hut, £2; ringbarking, £8 10 0 0	56 15 0
34, ".....	50 chains 6-wire fence, east boundary, half-value 6 5 0	
	100 " (old), on south boundary..... 15 0 0	
	110 " " half-value 8 5 0	
	6-wire fence on west boundary, 37 chains 9 5 0	
	Ringbarking, at 6d..... 24 0 0	62 15 0
54, ".....	110 chains old 6-wire fence, west boundary, half-value..... 8 5 0	
	76 chains new 6-wire fence, east boundary 24 15 0	
	30 " north boundary 9 15 0	
	Ringbarking, at 6d..... 16 0 0	58 15 0
53, ".....	40 chains old 6-wire fence, north and west boundaries, half-value 3 0 0	
	40 " west boundary 6 0 0	
	106 chains new 6-wire fence, north and north-west boundaries.. 34 10 0	
	Ringbarking 11 0 0	54 10 0
16, ".....	Fencing, north boundary, old 6-wire 6 10 0	
	East and south boundaries, old 6-wire..... 2 10 0	
	Ringbarking 3 0 0	12 0 0
3, ".....	Fencing, old 6-wire, £7 10s.; ringbarking, £1 8 10 0	
71, ".....	Ringbarking 1 0 0	403 10 0
4, ".....	Old 6-wire fencing, £7; ringbarking, £1..... 8 0 0	
4303, Macintyre..... (Conditional Lease.)	" west boundary 3 15 0	
	Ringbarking, at 6d..... 6 0 0	9 15 0
52, ".....	New 6-wire fencing on east and south boundaries..... 68 5 0	
	Ringbarking, at 6d..... 16 0 0	84 5 0
1833, Macintyre..... (Conditional Lease.)	38 chains old 6-wire fence on boundary (half value)..... 3 0 0	
	20 " " " 3 0 0	
	20 " east boundary 5 10 0	11 10 0
	68 chains new 6-wire fence on north boundary 22 0 0	
	Ringbarking, at 6d..... 8 6 0	30 6 0
51, ".....	138 chains new 6-wire fence, north and south boundaries..... 44 17 0	
	Ringbarking, at 6d..... 14 0 0	58 17 0
5, ".....	40 chains new 6-wire fence, £13; ringbarking, £1 14 0 0	
17, ".....	25 " " £8; ringbarking, £1 9 0 0	
50, ".....	New 6-wire fence, south boundary, £15; 105 chains new 6-wire fence, south boundary, £34 49 0 0	
	Old 6-wire on run boundary, 106 chains (half value) 8 0 0	
	" 30 chains, £6; ringbarking, £15 21 0 0	78 0 0
1, ".....	20 chains old 6-wire fence (half value), £1 10s.; ringbarking, £1 2 10 0	
2, ".....	15 " " £3; ringbarking, £1 4 0 0	
8, ".....	55 " " £11; " £1 12 0 0	
40, ".....	37 " " £7 10s.; saltshed, 15s.; ringbarking, £14 22 5 0	
57, ".....	115 chains new 7-wire, £43; 133 chains new 6-wire, £43 10s.... 86 10 0	
	Saltshed, 15s.; ringbarking, £16 16 15 0	103 5 0
58, ".....	184 chains 7-wire fence (new) 78 0 0	
	Ringbarking, at 6d., £16; saltshed, 15s. 16 15 0	94 15 0
		£542 8 0

The total value of the improvements surrendered amounts therefore to £2,001 16s. 6d. (see next page), exclusive of a considerable quantity effected by the surrenders upon Crown lands within the holding.

The foregoing report was completed in conjunction with a design for subdivision (Report 97-51), and an account of the time occupied in the service is herewith.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE H. LEGGIE.

PORTION 90, parish of Ben Lomond, omitted from the foregoing schedule, includes improvements as follows:—

	£ s. d.
50 chains top-rail and 5-wire fence (half value)	5 10 0
93 chains good 7-wire fence, north and east boundaries.....	25 15 0
35 " " (half value) west boundary.....	4 15 0
Dam, about 25 yards square	20 0 0
	£56 0 0

For registration.—D.M.M., 22/4, 97. Parish maps of Clifton, Fletcher, Ben Lomond, and Macintyre, county of Gough, noted in District Survey Office.—M. A. MACLEAN, April, 26th, 1897.

No. 100.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The District Surveyor, Hay.

22 April, 1897.

THE applications to convert into additional conditional purchases the area of 3,981 acres (situate on Stonehenge holding), previously held under conditional lease, have now been confirmed.

The areas for surrender are, therefore:—Freehold, 5,226 acres 1 rood; conditional purchases, 30,371 acres 1 rood (of which 29½ acres 1 rood not yet confirmed but survey has been directed); total, 35,597 acres 2 roods.

C. E. RENNIE

(For the Under Secretary).

No. 101.

The District Surveyor, Armidale, to The Under Secretary for Lands.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM: "Stonehenge-Yanga" Exchange—Costs, &c.

Department of Lands, District Survey Office, Armidale, 17 May, 1897.

IN compliance with paragraph 1, in memorandum of the 17th February, 1897 (Aln., 96-13,673—L.B., 97-1,255), particulars are forwarded of the improvements at present existing on the various portions for surrender, together with the approximate present value of same (*vide* Surveyor Legge's report herewith).

For design for resubdivision of the surrendered and adjoining available Crown lands, *vide* my report of even date on L.B., 97-3,005.

The total cost of the inquiry is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Land Board expenses	5	5	0
Attendance thereto of District Surveyor and Surveyor Legge...	3	3	0
Survey, &c., including Land Board inquiry under former small exchange	68	8	0
Time of District Surveyor on field inspection, preparing report, &c. ...	7	7	0
	£84 3 0		

D. M. MITTLAND,
District Surveyor.

Charting Branch.—E.A.B. (per G.H.), 19/5/97. To await return of Yanga papers, now with District Surveyor, Hay, for measurement.—R. M'LEAN (per C.W.B.), 25/5/97. Mr. Bronsden.

No. 102.

Question and Answer, Legislative Assembly, Thursday, 24th June, 1897.

(11.) PROPOSED SURRENDER OF FREEHOLD LAND, NEAR BALRANALD:—MR. CHANTER ASKED THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS,—

- (1.) Was a proposal made to him last year by the proprietor of Yanga Station, near Balranald, for the surrender of freehold land in exchange for other land?
- (2.) What was the area of land proposed to be surrendered, and its distance from the town of Balranald?
- (3.) What was the area asked in exchange from the Crown; and in what part of the Colony is it situated?
- (4.) Was this matter submitted to the Local Land Board for inquiry and report?
- (5.) Did the Land Board report that this exchange would be detrimental in the interests of Balranald?
- (6.) Has he approved of this exchange; if not, what are his intentions regarding it?
- (7.) Has he any objection to laying upon the Table of this House all the papers connected with this exchange?

Mr. Carruthers answered,—

- (1.) Yes.
- (2.) 35,600 acres, including conditional purchase and freehold lands near Glen Innes and Narrabri, which towns are between 400 and 500 miles from Balranald.
- (3.) 35,600 acres, distant on an average about 15 miles from Balranald.
- (4.) Yes, to the Land Boards at Balranald, Glen Innes, and Narrabri.
- (5.) The Balranald Board, by a majority, did so report; but it appeared from the reports of the different Boards that the surrendered land was nearly twice as valuable as the land applied for, and would provide sufficient land for a far greater number of settlers.
- (6.) Yes.
- (7.) No.

1897.

—
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

— — — — —
REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

EXCHANGE OF LAND, CUPPACUMBALONG
RUN, QUEANBEYAN DISTRICT;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND

APPENDIX.

Printed under No. 9 Report from Printing Committee, 1 July, 1897.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPELEGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

—
1897.

1897.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 9. THURSDAY, 13 MAY, 1897.

22. EXCHANGE OF LAND, CUPPACUMBALONG RUN, QUEANBEYAN DISTRICT:—Mr. O'Sullivan moved pursuant to Notice,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the proposed exchange of land on Cuppacumbalong Run, Queanbeyan District.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Carruthers, Mr. Miller, Mr. W. H. B. Piddington, Mr. Molesworth, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Mahony, Mr. Mackay, Mr. Travers Jones, Mr. Ferguson, and the Mover.
- Debate ensued.
- Question put and passed.
-

VOTES No. 15. THURSDAY, 27 MAY, 1897.

3. EXCHANGE OF LAND, CUPPACUMBALONG RUN, QUEANBEYAN DISTRICT:—Mr. W. H. B. Piddington presented a Petition from James Orr, of the Union Bank of Australia (Limited), of Sydney, praying that Petitioner may be represented by counsel or attorney or in person before the Select Committee appointed to inquire into and report upon the exchange of land, Cuppacumbalong Run, with the right to call witnesses and adduce evidence, and to examine and cross-examine such witnesses as may give evidence before the said Committee.
- Petition received.
- Ordered to be referred to the Select Committee.
-

VOTES No. 26. THURSDAY, 24 JUNE, 1897.

3. EXCHANGE OF LAND, CUPPACUMBALONG RUN, QUEANBEYAN DISTRICT:—*Mr. Mackay*, for Mr. O'Sullivan, Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before, the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this subject was referred on 13th May, 1897, together with Appendix.
- Referred by Sessional Order to the Printing Committee.
-

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1897.

EXCHANGE OF LAND.—CUPPACUMBALONG RUN, QUEANBEYAN DISTRICT.

REPORT.

THE Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly, appointed on 13th May, 1897,—
“to inquire into and report upon the proposed Exchange of Land on Cuppacumbalong Run, Queanbeyan District,”—have agreed to the following Report:—

Your Committee having examined the witnesses named in the List,* and studied the evidence taken on the same subject by the Local Land Board at Queanbeyan, as well as the various documents submitted to them, have arrived at the following conclusions:—

1. That the offer of an exchange first made by the Union Bank was a one-sided and unfair one, as the 1,000 acres they proposed to give were not worth more than 7s. 6d. per acre, while the 945 acres at The Angle which they proposed to accept were worth 27s. 6d. per acre—both valuations being by Surveyor Halliday.
2. That the second offer by the Bank, of 1,802½ acres at Coffey's Flat, and 560 acres at Naas Creek was not an equivalent for the 1,290 acres at The Angle (several small pieces having been added to the original lot). From the evidence adduced it is clear that the 560 acres of land at Naas Creek are of little value, while the land at Coffey's Flat is not in itself a fair compensation for the 1,290 acres at The Angle.
3. It appears, however, to your Committee that an equitable transaction in the matter could be arranged upon the following basis:—The 1,802½ acres at Coffey's Flat; 222 acres out of Nos. 2, 17, and 18, adjoining Coffey's Flat; the 560 acres at Naas Creek; and an exchange of the 6 acres of village allotments at Tharwa Bridge (recently purchased by the Union Bank) for 6 acres south of the homestead,—should be given for 1,190 acres at The Angle; the remaining 100 acres of the land there being devoted to a camping reserve, which appears to be required in that locality. The Bank should also give up all right to the fencing and improvements upon the land surrendered by it. The 560 acres at Naas Creek are of little use for settlement, but would make an excellent reserve in the interests of the public. If such an exchange were made, then two, if not three, mixed farming selections might be made out of the land given up by the Bank, instead of the one grazing farm at The Angle, as originally proposed. The 6 acres of village allotments at Tharwa Bridge would again be open to the public. The Bank would also be enabled to consolidate its holding, and to carry on agriculture upon the 100 acres left of Nos. 2, 17, and 18. In order to prevent future disputes, and perhaps litigation, before any exchange of this kind is made it will be necessary to inquire into the claims of the Hon. L. F. De Salis to an equity of redemption in the land, and also with regard to the concessions of a road of access and a water-race to Mr. W. Farrer.
4. Your Committee are of opinion that, unless some concessions like those indicated in the foregoing paragraph are made by the Union Bank, it would be better to retain the land at The Angle, and again put it up for competition as a homestead selection.

In conclusion, your Committee desire to compliment Surveyor Halliday upon the stand he made against the first two proposals for exchange.

E. W. O'SULLIVAN,
 Chairman.

No. 3 Committee Room,
 Legislative Assembly,
 24th June, 1897.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

WEDNESDAY, 19 MAY, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Carroll,	|	Mr. Ferguson,
Mr. Travers Jones,	|	Mr. O'Sullivan.

Mr. O'Sullivan called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings, appointing the Committee, read by the Clerk.

Committee deliberated.

Ordered.—That A. C. Betts, Chairman of the Land Board at Goulburn, and E. J. Halliday, Surveyor, Queanbeyan, be summoned to give evidence next meeting.

[Adjourned till Wednesday next at Twelve o'clock noon.]

WEDNESDAY, 26 MAY, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. O'Sullivan in the Chair.

Mr. Carroll,	|	Mr. Travers Jones,
Mr. Mackay,	|	Mr. Miller,

Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.

Charles Bates called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Edward Arnold Bronsdon (*Clerk-in-charge, Alienation Branch, Lands Department*) called in, sworn, and examined.Witness produced the papers in connection with the Cuppacumbalong Land Exchange, and handed in plan showing the land proposed to be exchanged [*Appendix A 1*]; report by Surveyor Halliday, dated 21st September, 1896 [*Appendix A 2*]; letter from Mr. O'Sullivan, M.P., to the Secretary for Lands, dated 20th October, 1896 [*Appendix A 3*]; letter, dated 21st November, 1896, Mr. O'Sullivan, M.P., to the Chairman of the Local Land Board [*Appendix A 4*]; letter, dated 27th November, 1896, from Mr. John Gale to the Chairman of the Local Land Board [*Appendix A 5*]; report by Surveyor Halliday, dated 30th November, 1896 [*Appendix A 6*]; letter, dated 2nd December, 1896, addressed to Messrs. Cox and Gale, and signed by a number of persons protesting against the exchange being carried out [*Appendix A 7*]; undated letter, addressed to the Chairman of the Local Land Board, signed by John Commins and others, objecting to the exchange [*Appendix A 8*]; report of the Local Land Board at Queanbeyan, dated 29th January, 1897, together with the evidence taken by the Board [*Appendix A 9*]; Summary of the case, signed by Mr. C. J. Saunders on the 23rd February, 1897, on which the Minister's decision of the 8th March, 1897, was given [*Appendix A 10*].

Witness withdrew.

Edward James Halliday (*Staff Surveyor, Lands Department*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

The Chairman handed in a letter from Mr. W. Farrer, of Tharwa, in reference to the inquiry.

Ordered to be appended. [*Appendix B.*]

[Adjourned till To-morrow at Twelve o'clock.]

THURSDAY, 27 MAY, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. O'Sullivan in the Chair.

Mr. Travers Jones,	|	Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Miller,	|	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.

Charles Bates recalled, and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

Edward James Halliday recalled, and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

Charles Bates further examined.

Witness withdrew.

Re-assembling of the Committee to be arranged by the Chairman.

[Adjourned.]

TUESDAY

TUESDAY, 1 JUNE, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Carroll, | Mr. Mackay,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. W. H. B. Piddington called to the Chair *pro tem*.
Entry from Votes and Proceedings in reference to the Petition of James Orr, of the Union Bank of Australia, Limited, praying to be heard by Counsel or Attorney, or in person, before the Committee, read by the Clerk.

Original Petition before the Committee.
Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till To-morrow at Twelve o'clock noon.]

WEDNESDAY, 2 JUNE, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. O'Sullivan in the Chair.

Mr. Carroll, | Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Miller, | Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.

Arthur Charles Betts (*Chairman of the Land Board, Goulburn District*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

John Sheedy called in, sworn, and examined.

The Committee adjourned till *Quarter-past Two* o'clock, and the Chairman not being present on re-assembling, Mr. Miller called to the Chair *pro tem*.

John Sheedy further examined.

Witness withdrew.

John Bell called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Edward James Halliday recalled and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

James Harcourt Lees (*Station Manager for the Union Bank at Cuyracumbalong*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Edward James Halliday further examined.

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next at Twelve o'clock noon.]

TUESDAY, 8 JUNE, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Carroll, | Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Miller, | Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. W. H. B. Piddington called to the Chair *pro tem*.

John Gale called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

James Harcourt Lees recalled and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

Ordered,—That the Union Bank be supplied with a copy of the evidence.

Re-assembling of the Committee to be arranged by the Chairman.

[Adjourned.]

WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Carroll, | Mr. Mackay.

In the absence of a quorum the meeting called for this day lapsed.

THURSDAY, 17 JUNE, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. O'Sullivan in the Chair.

Mr. Mackay, | Mr. Miller,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.

The Chairman *handed in* a letter which had been addressed to him by Mr. W. Farrer of Tharwa.

Ordered to be appended. [*Appendix C.*]

Committee deliberated as to their Report.

[Adjourned till Thursday next at Twelve noon.]

THURSDAY,

THURSDAY, 24 JUNE, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. O'Sullivan in the Chair.

Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Miller,

Mr. Mackay,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.

Chairman submitted Draft Report, which was read a first time as follows :—

Draft Report.

The Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly, appointed on 13th May, 1897,—“to inquire into and report upon the proposed Exchange of Land on Cuppacumbalong Run, Queanbeyan District,”—have agreed to the following Report :—

See List, page 7.

Your Committee having examined the witnesses named in the List,* and studied the evidence taken on the same subject by the Local Land Board at Queanbeyan, as well as the various documents submitted to them, have arrived at the following conclusions :—

- “1. That the offer of an exchange first made by the Union Bank was a one-sided and unfair one, as “the 1,000 acres they proposed to give were not worth more than 7s. 6d. per acre, while the 945 “acres at The Angle, which they proposed to accept, were worth 27s. 6d. per acre—both “valuations being by Surveyor Halliday.
 - “2. That the second offer by the Bank, of 1,802½ acres at Coffey's Flat and 560 acres at Naas Creek, “was not an equivalent for the 1,290 acres at The Angle (several small pieces having been added “to the original lot). ‘In the opinion of Surveyor Halliday, the most competent of the witnesses “on the matter, the 560 acres of land at Naas Creek are of little value, while the land at Coffey's “Flat is not in itself a fair compensation for the 1,290 acres at The Angle.
 - “3. It appears, however, to your Committee that an equitable transaction in the matter could be “arranged upon the following basis :—The 1,802½ acres at Coffey's Flat; ‘222’ acres out of Nos. “2, 17, and 18, adjoining Coffey's Flat; the 560 acres at Naas Creek; and an exchange of the “6 acres of village allotments at Tharwa Bridge (recently purchased by the Union Bank) for 6 “acres south of the homestead,—should be given for 1,190 acres at The Angle; the remaining “‘100’ acres of the land there being devoted to a camping reserve, which appears to be required “in that locality. The Bank should also give up all right to the fencing and improvements upon “the land surrendered by it. The 560 acres at Naas Creek are of little use for settlement, but “would make an excellent reserve in the interests of the public. If such an exchange were “made, then two, if not three, mixed farming selections might be made out of the land given up “by the Bank, instead of the one grazing farm at The Angle, as originally proposed. The 6 “acres of village allotments at Tharwa Bridge would again be open to the public. The Bank “would also be enabled to consolidate its holding, and to carry on agriculture upon the 100 “acres left of Nos. 2, 17, and 18. In order to prevent future disputes, and perhaps litigation, “before any exchange of this kind is made it will be necessary to inquire into the claims of the “Hon. L. F. De Salis to an equity of redemption in the land, ‘and also with regard to the “concessions of a road of access and a water-race to Mr. W. Farrer.’
 - “4. Your Committee are of opinion that, unless some concessions like those indicated in the fore- “going paragraph are made by the Union Bank, it would be better to retain the land at The “Angle, and again put it up for competition as a homestead selection.
- “In conclusion, your Committee desire to compliment Surveyor Halliday upon the stand he made “against the first two proposals for exchange.”

Report considered.

Paragraph 1 read.

Question put,—“That the paragraph as read stand paragraph 1 of the Report.”

Committee divided.

Ayes.

Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Mackay,
Mr. Miller.

No.

Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Paragraph 2 read.

Mr. W. H. B. Piddington moved to leave out in lines 3 and 4 the words “In the opinion of Surveyor Halliday, the most competent of the witnesses in the matter,” with a view to the insertion of the words “From the evidence adduced it is clear”

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

Committee divided.

Aye.

Mr. Miller.

Noes.

Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Mackay,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.

And so it passed in the negative.

Question,—“That the words proposed to be inserted in place of the words left out be so inserted,”—
put and passed.

Question then put,—“That the paragraph as amended stand paragraph 2 of the Report.”

Committee divided.

Ayes.

Mr. Carroll,
Mr. Mackay,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.

No.

Mr. Miller.

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Paragraph

Paragraph 3 read.

Mr. Carroll moved to leave out in line 2 the figures "222" with a view to the insertion in their place of the figures "322."

Question put,—“That the figures proposed to be left out stand part of the paragraph.”

Committee divided.

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Mackay,	Mr. Carroll,
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.	Mr. Miller.

The numbers being equal, the Chairman gave his casting vote with the *Ayes*, and declared the question to have been resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Miller moved to leave out in line 6 the figures "100" with a view to the insertion in their place of the figures "200."

Question put,—“That the figures proposed to be left out stand part of the paragraph.”

Committee divided.

Ayes.	No.
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Miller.
Mr. Mackay,	
Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Miller moved to leave out all the words after the word "land," lines 16 and 17 to the end of paragraph.

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

Committee divided.

Ayes.	No.
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Miller.
Mr. Mackay,	
Mr. Piddington.	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Paragraph, as read, agreed to.

Paragraph 4 read.

Mr. W. H. B. Piddington moved to leave out all the words after the word "In" in line 4 to the end of the paragraph.

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

Committee divided.

Ayes.	No.
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.
Mr. Mackay,	
Mr. Miller.	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question then put,—“That the paragraph as read stand paragraph 4 of the Report.”

Committee divided.

Ayes.	No.
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.
Mr. Mackay,	
Mr. Miller.	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Carroll moved,—“That the Report, as amended, be the Report of the Committee.”

Committee divided.

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Carroll,	Mr. Miller,
Mr. Mackay.	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.

The numbers being equal, the Chairman gave his casting vote with the *Ayes*, and declared the Question to have been resolved in the affirmative.

Question put,—“That the Chairman report to the House.”

Committee divided.

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Carroll.	Mr. Miller,
Mr. Mackay.	Mr. W. H. B. Piddington.

The numbers being equal, the Chairman gave his casting vote with the *Ayes*, and declared the Question to have been resolved in the affirmative.

LIST OF WITNESSES.

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Betts, A. C.	18
Bronsdon, E. A.	12
Gale, J.	24
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1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

EXCHANGE OF LAND, CUPPACUMBALONG
RUN, QUEANBEYAN DISTRICT.

WEDNESDAY, 26 MAY, 1897.

Present:—

MR. W. H. B. PIDDINGTON,	|	MR. MILLER,
MR. CARROLL,	|	MR. MACKAY,
MR. TRAVERS JONES.		

E. W. O'SULLIVAN, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Charles Bates called in, sworn, and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] What are you? A farmer.
2. Where do you reside? At Williamsdale, near Queanbeyan.
3. Are you acquainted with the land on the Cuppacumbalong run which it is proposed to exchange for another piece of land near Coffey's Flat? Yes.
4. Do you consider that the land offered by the Union Bank, who own the Cuppacumbalong run, is of sufficient value for the land which the Lands Department propose to give them? It is not as good as the 945 acres at The Angle.
5. Do you remember that some time ago this land was advertised as homestead selections? Yes.
6. Were there a great number of intending applicants for that land? There were.
7. How many do you think intended to go in for it? A hundred, if not more.
8. And when the land was withdrawn from selection, and it was intimated that it would be exchanged, there was some indignation expressed? Yes; there was great work about it.
9. Was there a meeting held at Queanbeyan in regard to it? Yes.
10. Were you present at that meeting? I was not; I was away from home.
11. Can you speak, then, with any confidence as to the indignation expressed by intending applicants on the withdrawal of the land? They were all against its being withdrawn; they would rather have the 945 acres than the other land.
12. Why? Because it is better grazing land.
13. Is it only better grazing land? There is a little cultivation land on it for anybody who might get it for their own use.
14. How far would that be from Williamsdale station? 1½ mile.
15. The Murrumbidgee River intervenes? Yes.
16. Is it possible to cross that river? Yes; it always has been crossed. You can cross there when you cannot cross at Tharwa.
17. So that if anyone had taken up this land at The Angle he would be within 1½ mile of the railway station at Williamsdale, with sufficient means of crossing the river? Yes; when the river was not flooded.
18. At flood-time he would have to go round by the bridge at Tharwa? Yes.

C. Bates.

26 May, 1897.

- C. Bates. 19. Then it cannot be correct, as some advocates of the exchange assert, that this land at Coffey's Flat is nearer to a railway station than the land at The Angle? No; it is not.
- 26 May, 1897. 20. Do you know the land at Coffey's Flat well? I do.
21. What is the character of it? Some patches are very good, and some of it is very bad.
22. The area proposed to be given at Coffey's Flat was larger than the area at The Angle, was it not? Yes.
23. With an additional area, do you think it would be of the same value for selectors to take up as the land at The Angle? I do not think so.
24. From what you know of the intending applicants, do you think they would have been satisfied to have received land at Coffey's Flat for homestead selections instead of land at The Angle? Some people would have been, but the majority would not.
25. Who were the persons who would have been satisfied? Two or three persons living there.
26. Two or three residents in the immediate vicinity preferred the land at Coffey's Flat to the land at The Angle? Yes.
27. Do you think that would arise merely from the fact of their being close to it? That was it.
28. You have been a long time resident in that locality? About twenty-one years.
29. And you know the land across the Murrumbidgee as well as you do the land in your own neighbourhood? Yes.
30. I presume that you have travelled past The Angle pretty often? Yes. I suppose it is as sound a bit of ground for stock as you would find in the district.
31. Is there good water and grass up there now? There is very little now.
32. I mean in comparison with other parts? It seems to have a lot of stock on it, and the stock seem to do well.
33. Are there settlers going in that direction now, up near The Angle, and on towards Gudgenby? A great lot of people go through that way.
34. Are they settling about there now? There is not much land to settle on unless you go back.
35. But, as a matter of fact, there have been several selections made there lately, have there not? Yes; further out there is no land on the frontage of the river to be taken up.
36. Is there any other land about the angle that is open for selection? I do not think there is. There are only two or three small reserves, and I heard that they were exchanged.
37. Mr. Miller.] Can you tell us how many sheep the 945 acres would graze? One and a half sheep to the acre, when the seasons are very good.
38. How many sheep would the other land, which it is proposed to exchange, carry to the acre? It would take 5 acres to carry a sheep.
39. What is the area of the land which they propose to exchange? I do not remember.
40. It would take three or four times as much of the land that the Bank propose to exchange to be of equal value, as far as grazing is concerned, to the 945 acres? Some of the land is very scrubby on Coffey's Flat.
41. How much agricultural land is there in the 945 acres? You might get 40 acres of fair land.
42. And how much on the other land that is to be exchanged? I do not know; it is in patches.
43. How far is that from the railway station? I suppose about 6 miles.
44. And the other land is 1½ mile? Yes.
45. So that if it is agricultural land it is further removed from the railway station? Yes.
46. Mr. Mackay.] Both these pieces of land have a frontage to the river? Yes.
47. Which has the better frontage with regard to length? I could not say at present.
48. Do you think they both have about the same amount? I could not say.
49. Going away from the frontage, which is the better watered with regard to the back? I think that Coffey's Flat waters from two rivers.
50. That is the piece that the Union Bank propose to give? Yes. I have not been right out to the back.
51. With regard to the crossing, you say that the crossing at The Angle is a fair crossing? It wants a little repair done to it.
52. With regard to the crossing at the land which it is proposed to exchange for it—what is that like? They have got the bridge. On the 945 acres you have no scrubbing or ringbarking to do.
53. On the other land there would be a considerable amount of that, would there? Yes; a lot.
54. Mr. Miller.] The grazing capabilities of the land at Coffey's Flat are not as good as those of the 945 acres? No.
55. Then, in your opinion, would it be a fair exchange as between the Government and the Bank? It would not for the people.
56. Mr. Carroll.] Has this land known as The Angle been at one time scrubbed and ringbarked? No, never.
57. What class of timber grows on it? Peppermint, box, and apple-tree.
58. What kind of timber grows on Coffey's Flat? Peppermint, bastard apple-tree, gum, and every sort.
59. In your opinion, if the timber were taken off, would that land be as good then? I do not think it would.
60. Is any of it flooded? There are swamps on it.
61. Are the swamps an advantage for water? Not for sheep.
62. Is any of the land stony? Yes.
63. Is Coffey's Flat stony? Parts of it.
64. What do you mean by the land not being sound? It is fluky. On Coffey's Flat a great number of sheep have died at times.
65. How much of the land do you consider is swampy and useless? I could not say. I know that plenty of springs break out on it in wet weather.
66. Mr. Piddington.] Do you know whether this proposed exchange ever came before the Local Land Board? Yes.
67. What was their decision in the matter? I heard that it was given in favour of the Bank.
68. You say that the area of the land known as The Angle is 945 acres, and only about 40 acres of that is suitable for cultivation? Yes; but people do not want it for cultivation—they want it for grazing.
69. But the whole area is only 945 acres? That is all.
70. This land, known as Coffey's Flat, has an area of 1,802 acres, and both portions of land have a frontage to the Murrumbidgee? Yes.

71. Do you know what reason was given why the land was withdrawn from homestead selection;—was any reason given at all? I do not know.
72. How long after the land had been advertised for homestead selection was it withdrawn? About five days before it was to be open for selection. C. Bates.
28 May, 1897
73. And then the Land Board reported in favour of the exchange? As far as I know.
74. So that the whole area suitable for cultivation on The Angle is, in your opinion, only about 40 acres, and the area suitable for agriculture on Coffey's Flat consists of several patches? Yes.
75. What do you think the total area of the patches would be? I could not say.
76. What do you think would be the actual value of the 945 acres of land at The Angle? Land is very cheap now. I suppose it ought to be worth about £1 an acre. We have to pay £1 an acre to the Government.
77. Regardless of what you would have to pay the Government for land, do you consider the actual value of the 1,802 acres at Coffey's Flat to be £1 an acre? No.
78. What would it be worth? Some of it about 10s. an acre.
79. What would be the value? The land at Coffey's Flat might be worth 12s. 6d. an acre.
80. That is to say that the Bank offer 1,802 acres of land, worth 12s. 6d. an acre, for 945 acres of land, which, in your opinion, is worth £1 an acre? Yes.
81. They are practically giving a better value to the Crown? I do not consider that it is as good.
82. *Mr. Mackay.*] Do you think the land at The Angle would be worth £1 an acre? Yes; I would rather give £1 an acre for that than for the other.
83. *Mr. Miller.*] In answer to a question of mine, you said that it would take 1½ acre at The Angle to feed a sheep? No; I said that it would carry one and a half sheep to the acre in good seasons.
84. And you say that it would take 5 acres of Coffey's Flat land to feed a sheep? In places.
85. But what would it average? It will not average much more in my estimation. A lot of the Coffey's Flat land has timber on it, and you would have to keep scrubbing it every year.
86. According to your statement, the 945 acres would be worth at least three times as much as the land at Coffey's Flat, and still you say that the land is only worth £1 an acre at The Angle, and that the land at Coffey's Flat is worth 12s. 6d. an acre;—how do you reconcile your statements? I would not take land at Coffey's Flat at all.
87. *Chairman.*] Putting aside the carrying capacity of these two pieces of land and their estimated value, which would you consider would be the most valuable as a site for a selection, taking into account its surroundings and proximity to a market? I would sooner have The Angle. I never went all round Coffey's Flat, but I have been across it often enough.
88. You said that Coffey's Flat was 6 miles from the railway platform? Yes; it must be 6 miles to Tuggeranong.
89. The Angle is only 1½ mile from Williamsdale platform? That is all.
90. Therefore, as regards means of access to a market, The Angle must be a much more valuable property than Coffey's Flat? Yes.
91. When you were giving an estimate of £1 per acre, did you mean what you would give for the land, or what you might have to pay the Government for it? I would give that if I had the money to-morrow.
92. Having had time to reflect on the grazing capacity of the two pieces of land, do you think it is a fair valuation for you to give 12s. 6d. per acre for as the value of Coffey's Flat? I think that would be enough taking it all through.
93. *Mr. Mackay.*] That would be a fair average for the whole 1,800 acres? I think so.
94. *Chairman.*] That does not correspond with your statement about the carrying capacity of the two pieces of land;—are you swayed by other considerations than the carrying capacity? I do not think they could run such a great deal more sheep on the 1,800 acres than on the 945 acres.
95. According to your estimate they must run a great deal less on the 1,800 acres than on the 945 acres? The 945 acres will carry one and a half sheep to the acre in good seasons.
96. According to your estimate of one and a half sheep to the acre, the land at The Angle would carry about 1,300 sheep, whilst the land at Coffey's Flat, at the rate of 4 acres to a sheep, would only carry under 500 sheep? I do not mean that. I mean where the ground is bad on the hills. There it would take 4 acres to keep a sheep. I do not mean on the low ground; the low ground is right enough.
97. How much of the low ground is there upon which you could run more sheep? All down to the road it is all very good grazing land.
98. Would it carry a sheep to the acre? Yes.
99. How many sheep can they run on the 1,800 acres all the year round? I could not say.
100. *Mr. Mackay.*] Have you any idea how much good land there is approximately that would carry a sheep to the acre? I could not tell.
101. *Mr. Carroll.*] How much would it cost to fence the land at The Angle to make it stock-proof? About 1½ mile.
102. And that would cost how much? Wire is about £8 a ton. It would cost £16 to put it up.
103. Can you do fencing up there for £32 a mile? It can be done cheaper. You could get a mile of fencing put up, if you find the wire, for £12.
104. The wire would cost £8 placed on the ground? About £9 there.
105. How much would it cost to fence in Coffey's Flat? That I could not say.
106. You say that 1½ mile would fence The Angle;—how much would it take to fence Coffey's Flat? I could not tell.
107. Five or 6 miles? It might, or it might not; but it must be fenced in.
108. *Chairman.*] I was not quite clear about your answer as to the carrying capacity of Coffey's Flat;—would it carry 1,000 sheep? It ought.
109. And you say that The Angle would carry 1,300 sheep? With good seasons it might. I suppose there is that number on it now.
110. Then it will be a fair estimate to say that The Angle would carry 1,300 sheep all the year round, and Coffey's Flat would carry 1,000 sheep all the year round? Yes.
111. Do you know whether the Bank offered anything in addition to Coffey's Flat? I could not say.
112. *Mr. Piddington.*] This land known as The Angle is situated in the middle of the run, is it not? I suppose it is pretty well in the middle.

- C. Bates.
26 May, 1897.
113. Of course, it would be of great advantage to the Bank to have that attached to the holding? I suppose it would.
114. Do you know the number of blocks that the 945 acres was cut up into when it was to be offered for a homestead selection in the first instance? It was cut up into three blocks.
115. So that it would only be a matter of three selectors occupying that land? It was a special area first in three blocks, then it was all in one block of 945 acres.
116. So that the actual result would have been that only one person could have got the lot? Yes.
117. How many people do you think could settle on Coffey's Flat;—in answer to a question you said that several people would like to select on Coffey's Flat? People who lived right on the boundary of it spoke in favour of it.
118. *Mr. Miller.*] You are a practical farmer or grazier, are you not? I am not very practical.
119. You have some knowledge of grazing? A little.
120. As a man wanting to take up a homestead, suppose you went to the two places to-morrow morning, having seen neither of them before, which would you select to make a home for your family? I would select The Angle.
121. You could make a better living off that than off the 1,802 acres? I should select it for grazing.
122. What would you select the other for? I suppose it would be mixed.
123. Do you think that a better living could be made off The Angle than off the other land? I think so, by using it for grazing purposes.
124. *Mr. Mackay.*] If you went in for farming and grazing, you think that a better living could be made off Coffey's Flat? I do not know; I could get enough farming on The Angle to satisfy me.

Edward Arnold Bronsdon called in, sworn, and examined:—

- E. A.
Bronsdon.
26 May, 1897.
125. *Chairman.*] What position do you hold? I have charge of the Alienation Branch at the Lands Office.
126. Do you produce papers in connection with the Cuppacumbalong land exchange? Yes.
127. Do they contain the decision of the Local Land Board? Yes.
128. And all other communications relating to the matter which have been lodged with the Department? Yes.
129. Do you produce the plan of the proposed exchange? Yes; a plan (*handed in*) showing by colours the different proposals. [*Appendix A 1.*]
130. Which colours indicate the land on The Angle? The blue edging indicates all the land proposed to be granted to the Bank. It includes The Angle and other pieces.
131. What colour have you taken for Coffey's Flat? Brown hatching shows Coffey's Flat, but that is only part of the land proposed to be surrendered by the Bank. The proposal was that the land edged red (several pieces) should be given up by the Bank, in exchange for which they were to get pieces edged blue.
132. Do you know the total area of all the pieces in question? The total area proposed to be given up by the Bank is 2,362 acres, in exchange for 1,298 acres.
133. They add on 300 odd acres to The Angle? They add 353 acres to The Angle.
134. And the full terms of the exchange are 1,298 acres at The Angle for 2,362 acres elsewhere? Yes.
135. What we really ought to consider is, not an exchange of Coffey's Flat for The Angle, but the exchange of 1,298 acres, including The Angle, for 2,362 acres in various portions of the run? In two portions.—Coffey's Flat and a block to the south. That is the form of exchange upon which the Board reported.
136. Can you give the Committee a synopsis of the case? Yes. The case, according to the papers which I produce, started in 1893 with a report by the District Surveyor at Cooma, to the effect that reserve 67 was not further required in its entirety in the public interest. Nothing further was done till 1895. In May, 1895, Du Faur and Gerard made an application on behalf of the Union Bank to have the reserve offered for sale by auction. In July, 1895, the District Surveyor made a report on that application, and he recommended that the reserve should be subdivided, but that the disposal of the land be left over until after the measurements had been made. In August, 1895, Du Faur and Gerard, on behalf of the Union Bank, lodged an application for the exchange of certain land for the reserve. The land offered for exchange under that application is indicated by red hatching on the helio. On November, 1895, Mr. O'Sullivan forwarded a letter from Mr. O'Loughlin, asking that the reserve should be made available for homestead selection. In May, 1896, Surveyor Goodridge measured the reserve into four portions— one to be retained as a reserve, the other three with a view to alienation in some form. In May, 1896, the District Surveyor reported upon the measurement, and requested that a decision should be arrived at as to how the land was to be disposed of, and the Minister, after reports, approved of the three portions being made available as one homestead selection area. In August, 1896, the Executive Council approved of this course, and homestead selection area No. 225, comprising one block, was gazetted on the 15th August, 1896. Subsequently, it was decided to cancel the homestead selection area, pending consideration of the exchange application made by the Union Bank. In July, 1896, the exchange application lodged in August, 1895, was refused, it being considered that the exchange as then proposed was not desirable in the public interest. In September, 1896, the Bank modified their proposal for exchange, offering to surrender 1,802½ acres, indicated by brown hatching upon helio., in exchange for the reserve and other land, altogether about 1,300 acres. In the same month—September, 1896—the Minister referred this proposal to the Land Board for consideration. In November, 1896, the Bank still further modified the proposal by offering to surrender, in addition to the land previously offered, a further area of 510 acres. In the same month—November, 1896—the papers were recalled from the Land Board, the matter was again considered, and the amended proposal as it then stood, namely, that the Bank should surrender 2,362½ acres, indicated by red edging on the helio., in exchange for 1,300 acres, indicated by blue edging, was referred to the Board for full inquiry and report. In February, 1897, the Board reported and recommended that the exchange should be entertained. In March, 1897, the Board's report was considered by the Minister; but he decided to allow the matter to stand over, stating that he did not care very much for the exchange. That is how the matter stands.

137. Have you any papers? I hand in, at the request of the Chairman, the following papers:—

Report made by Surveyor Halliday, dated 21st September, 1896. [Appendix A 2.] Letter dated 20th October, 1896, from Mr. O'Sullivan to the Minister for Lands. [Appendix A 3.] Letter dated 21st November, 1896, from Mr. O'Sullivan to the Chairman of the Local Land Board. [Appendix A 4.] Letter dated 27th November, 1896, from Mr. John Gale to the Chairman of the Local Land Board. [Appendix A 5.] Report of the 30th November, 1896, by Surveyor Halliday. [Appendix A 6.] Letter dated 2nd December, 1896, addressed to Messrs. Cox and Gale, and signed by a number of persons protesting against the exchange being carried out. [Appendix A 7.] Undated letter received in December, 1896, addressed to the Chairman of the Local Land Board, signed by John Commens and others, objecting to the exchange. [Appendix A 8.] Report of the Local Land Board at Queanbeyan, dated the 29th January, 1897, together with the evidence taken by the Board. [Appendix A 9.] Summary of the case signed by Mr. C. J. Saunders on the 23rd February, 1897, on which the Minister's decision of the 8th March, 1897, was given. [Appendix A 10.]

E. A.
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138. Are there any records to show that when the Minister received the protest against the exchange he stopped the exchange, and proposed to put the land up again for homestead selection? No, there was no decision to that effect. The homestead selection area was cancelled with a view to the second exchange application being considered, and a final decision upon that has not yet been arrived at. The homestead selection area stands as cancelled for the time being.

139. You have a letter from myself, calling the Minister's attention to a telegram which appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*? Yes; the letter is dated 20th October, 1896.

140. Does that not go to show that the Minister at one time intended to put up the land again for selection? The telegram states that the selectors are jubilant in consequence of Mr. Carruthers stopping the exchange, and deciding to have the land submitted for settlement.

Edward James Halliday called in, sworn, and examined:—

141. *Chairman.*] What are you? Staff surveyor, Lands Department.

142. You are stationed in the Queanbeyan district? Yes, as part of the Goulburn Land Board District. My headquarters is at Cooma.

143. Your duties take you to the Queanbeyan district? Yes.

144. You gave evidence before the Local Land Board with regard to the proposed exchange of land on Cuppacumbalong run? Yes.

145. Do you still adhere to that evidence? Yes.

146. Tell the Committee briefly your opinion about this proposed exchange? I gave that evidence very shortly after the inspection, whilst everything was fresh in my mind. I think the best way would be to read my brief reports. I might say that the exchange is not at all in the way in which it was at first proposed. First of all, the Bank made a proposal for an exchange, and I was asked to report upon it. I reported that the land which the Bank wished to get was four times as valuable as the land they offered. The reason why I make that statement is because that report takes that into cognisance. The next thing the Bank did was to leave the proposal in the hands of the Department to make. Then I was instructed to make an inspection. I went to the run, and asked if they were prepared to give the land at Coffey's Flat, to the extent of 1,802 acres, for about 1,290 acres of The Angle, inclusive of three small detached areas. I said that if they would do that I was prepared to recommend it for consideration; and they did it. At the same time I pointed out certain objections to the exchange, and the Bank offered an additional area of 560 acres, making a total of 2,362 acres for an area of 1,290 acres at The Angle. My report was as follows:—

Sir,

Camp, near Yass, 30 November, 1896.

Referring to your instructions of 19th November, 1896, I have the honor, after inspection on the 26th instant, to report as follows:—

First as to the additional portions offered in surrender—5, 63, 87, and 88, parish Cuppacumbalong—about 10 acres at the north-west corner of portion 88 and about 10 acres along frontage of portions 63 and 87 is flat arable loamy land with light soil of granite formation; the balance west of road is light-soiled hilly land, rocky in parts, granite formation, moderately thickly timbered mainly with apple; the 350 acres east of road is so precipitous and rocky as to be almost, if not quite valueless, except perhaps for the oak timber on it, which may be used in time of drought when the more accessible oak elsewhere has been used up. The adjoining Crown land is of the same rocky, barren, mountainous character, and in fact is almost if not wholly inaccessible from the frontage of portions 63, 87, and 88, which taken together I value at £120 for the 510 acres as freehold value, apart from any existing fencing.

About half of portion 5 is flat, arable, light-soiled, loamy land of granite formation; the rest is undulating, fairly grassed openly timbered land, rocky in parts, the freehold value of which I estimate at £60. The adjoining Crown land, however, is almost worthless, being precipitously steep, excessively barren and rocky.

For settlement purposes this additional land offered in surrender is not of much value, and could be best worked as part of a large holding. It might of course be selected for the sake of forming a home, but it is on the fringe of settlement, and far removed from school provision, &c.

Again, as to exchanging land on south of head station on section 3, village of Tharwa, for allotments recently bought at auction by Bank, it is probable that if the same allotments were put up again after exchange they would be similarly purchased, as naturally enough, perhaps, a possible public-house may not be desired so close to the station residence. Speaking generally, it may be said that nearly all the trouble in this case has arisen through the extremely one-sided exchange proposal first made by the Bank.

Further, I am unable to see that the application of Bank is made mainly for consolidation purposes, inasmuch as the land offered in surrender leaves a small area entirely cut off from the rest of the Bank's property. This small area comprises portions 2, 17, and 18, parish Tharwa, totalling 322 acres. About 25 acres of portion 2 is under cultivation on terms, but the terms are not such, I believe, as would prevent surrender—the rest of the land is occupied by Bank. The 322 acres is not so good as the 522½ acres adjoining revoked reserve 67. It has already been pointed out that revoked reserve 67 is not wholly surrounded by the Bank's land, and should this revoked reserve pass into other hands than the Bank's, there is no reason why the 522½ acres should not be satisfactorily rented or otherwise arranged for in a give and take manner, with one or more of the four adjacent holders, especially as there is on it both water and a considerable area of good cultivation ground, and the Bank would still hold a large compact area to the south. When called upon to suggest an exchange for water reserve 67, I found it difficult, because there is not apparently in the whole of Cuppacumbalong Estate another equally compact area of equally average quality. When in locality a few days ago I had a further look at water reserve 67 and the lands offered in surrender to the north. I consider my first valuation of the latter as high rather than otherwise. There is on it certainly about 100 acres in all of fair arable land, but on the other hand there is a considerable part of it light-soiled inferior land, especially on the south-west half; some of it through neglected suckering is densely scrubby; sweetfebrary is rather thick on one part. It is not so hilly as water reserve 67; a great deal of it in fact being too level for satisfactory natural drainage in a wet time, and is not nearly so sound for sheep as water reserve 67.

My first doubts in respect to exchange are increased upon further inspection, and considering the additional offers by Bank, do not satisfactorily remove them. I would, therefore, advise, in view of the foregoing, and having regard to the expression of public opinion against the proposal, and the fact that about £2,000 worth of land on each side is involved, that the proposal be declined unless a further inspection be made, say, by some successful and level-headed grazier from another district, such as Messrs. A. J. Litchfield or J. Crisp, of Cooma district, at a probable cost of less than £10, or that the Bank give up portions 2, 17, and 18 (on the same terms as the rest) as suggested by the Minister.

Mr. L. F. De Salis, M.L.C., informed me that as owner with equity of redemption he claimed that his consent to any proposed exchange would be required to give it legal effect. This has not been given.

E. J.
Halliday.
26 May, 1897.

E. J.
Halliday.
26 May, 1896.

147. With regard to the original proposal made by the Union Bank, what were your chief objections to it? Simply that the proposal was altogether one-sided, inasmuch as the land they wished to surrender was only one-quarter of the value of the land they wished to secure. I could not understand how such a one-sided proposal came to be made.
148. Then they have extended it? Yes. The proposal was completely altered.
149. The first proposal you objected to on the ground stated? Yes.
150. Will you state what their second proposal was? It was to give 1,802½ acres at Coffey's Flat for 1,290 acres at The Angle, and land adjacent thereto.
151. And did they propose to add anything on to the land on Coffey's Flat? Yes; they then modified it by offering to give up 560 acres in addition to the 1,802½ acres.
152. And do you object to that proposal? Yes; I am not satisfied that it would be in the interest of the Crown to make the exchange, even on the modified terms.
153. What are the grounds of your objection? My grounds of objection are that the land they wish to give up is very irregular in shape for one thing. It is also, speaking generally, unsound for sheep in comparison with the land they wish to secure. Therefore, it is not nearly so valuable. Thirdly, the settlers in that locality have to depend mainly on grazing for a livelihood. It is not proved that cultivation will pay so well as grazing. The Angle land being sounder for sheep, it is, therefore, more valuable. Another reason is, that the land they wish to give up has been very much neglected, so that scrub has grown up very thickly, and it would require a certain amount of capital to bring the land into proper working condition. But The Angle land is compact in shape, and requires no improvement whatever beyond fencing. In regard to fencing, the homestead lessee would only have to pay half the fencing on the boundaries. In other words, a man with a very little capital could go on The Angle land, and make a living straight away. There are some advantages in favour of the land at Coffey's Flat. It would be better for mixed farming, inasmuch as there is considerably more agricultural land in it, and sheep would also do well on it for a time. It is slightly nearer the market.
154. I presume by the nearest market you refer to the market town of Queanbeyan? Yes, or the railway platform, Tuggeranong, by nearest practical vehicular route.
155. What is the distance from Coffey's Flat to Tuggeranong platform? The land at Coffey's Flat is 4½ miles from the centre to Tharwa Bridge, and from Tharwa Bridge to Tuggeranong platform is 6 or 8 miles. I remember it is 12 miles altogether from Coffey's Flat to Tuggeranong platform, and 15 miles from The Angle to Tuggeranong platform. The road from the land at Coffey's Flat is somewhat better than the road from The Angle. But the land at The Angle is only 1½ mile from Williamsdale railway platform on the opposite side of the river; although this road from Williamsdale station to The Angle is not practicable for wheeled traffic. It is a packing road, but it is quite good enough for the occupation of The Angle land, for the purposes of a grazing settlement.
156. Is there a passable crossing at the river? It is not a good crossing, but for eight months out of twelve it would be practicable.
157. Would it be possible to get sheep across? No; they prefer to take sheep by the bridge.
158. They will get their wool across there to Williamsdale station? They could, but they would prefer to go round by the road to the Tuggeranong platform.
159. The crossing-place would only be for passengers? Yes, and for supplies and business communications with Queanbeyan. An adjoining selector named Kelly has a grazing settlement, and he has a private boat, and works the place that way.
160. Is Kelly's place near The Angle? Yes; it adjoins it.
161. Have you any other objections to this modified proposal? Speaking of the comparative merits of the two, it is a difficult case to decide. There are about 50 acres of cultivation land in one area on the Coffey's Flat land, but, except for about 15 acres on the river bank, it is not of a rich character, and it is questionable whether it would pay to cultivate it, except for a short time. It might admit of light cultivation for two or three years. On The Angle reserve there is 25 or 30 acres of cultivation land in several patches, and quite sufficient to work the place as a sheep-grazing settlement. The Coffey's Flat land is irregular shape, and would be more costly to fence. The Coffey's Flat land would be very much more costly to improve, and owing to the unsoundness of the land it would require draining and different working.
162. Do you know if the Union Bank purchased allotments in the village of Tharwa? Yes.
163. Did they ever add these village allotments on to their proposal for exchange? They offered, I believe, to do so. I reported upon it in connection with proposed exchange, and stated that if they did surrender them, and they were offered at auction, they would naturally buy them again.
164. If they surrendered these lots and got The Angle land, and these allotments became the property of the Crown, and were put up for sale again, the Union Bank would buy them a second time? I should say that they naturally would; but the Minister would have a right not to put them up for sale, but lease them.
165. What would be their object in buying the allotment a second time? The "head station" is amongst those allotments, and if the allotments were sold there might be a public-house at their door, and perhaps they would not like it so near the head station house.
166. But do you think the public-house is the only objection? I think that the owners of all station properties of that character do not like land to be held adversely to them right against the head station.
167. Do you think the objection to the hotel is the only objection they have to a village being erected there? No; I think that the land being mainly grazing country, they would naturally wish to secure the land right against the head station.
168. Then the homestead really forms a portion of the village reserve? It is on some of the allotments.
169. And you think that the station-owners objected to settlement going there? It would certainly interfere with the convenience of working the station.
170. There is no other place about there where a village could be established? Not on Crown land.
171. And this village reserve is just at the crossing of the river by an expensive bridge, put up at a cost of £6,000? It is.
172. And that is the only spot in the locality where a village would be likely to rise? Yes; on Crown land.
173. Do you know if there is any spot about there where a village could be founded? No. There is no other Crown land about there suitable for a village site.

E. J.
Halliday,

26 May, 1897.

174. Is there any land available on the other side of the river? Not Crown land. Mr. Cunningham owns the land on the other side of the river.

175. Then if the Bank were to again buy up the village allotments no village could be established at Tharwa Bridge? Unless by permission of the Union Bank.

176. Do you know whether the Union Bank would object to a village there if an hotel was prohibited? I could not say. I have an impression that under certain conditions the owners would not have any objection to a business place being erected there. But it is very doubtful whether the settlement in the surrounding country would maintain a business place of any kind there at present.

177. But you know it is usual in the history of these villages in country towns for a blacksmith's shop, a store, and an hotel to follow in natural order? From my knowledge of the locality, I think it is doubtful whether any one of those three could be successfully established.

178. Although they added these village allotments to their previous offer, did you still consider that the proposed exchange was an unfair one? Yes; I considered the additional offer of very little use for purposes of settlement. The land was of very inferior quality. The value of 510 acres only came to £120, which amounts to about 4s. 9d. an acre. The other land across the creek is a little better, but of small area.

179. Then as the case stands, with all these modifications and additions, you still report adversely? Yes; unless some further concession be made. I mentioned the further concession on which I should be prepared to recommend the exchange. That is the giving up of three portions—No. 2, No. 17, and No. 18—adjoining Coffey's Flat. Then I think the proposal would be in favour of the Crown.

180. That is with the village lots as well? Yes; I take it in regard to the village lots that they will get their money back again. But there was nothing definitely arranged as to what further course will be taken whether, if the land were offered at auction again, they would not purchase them.

181. If the village lots were given up you would suggest that they should be retained in the hands of the Government, and only leased? Yes, only leased, in the interest of future settlement.

182. What is your opinion as to the carrying capacity of the Coffey's Flat land, and also of the land at The Angle? I estimate the carrying capacity of the Coffey's Flat land, taking an average of years, to be one sheep to 2 acres. The western part is very poor and rocky, and I do not think that is worth more than 10s. an acre. The other land is flat, and stands droughts better than the land at The Angle. The Angle land is very much sounder for sheep and has a better carrying capacity. I estimate that on the average it will carry one sheep to the acre.

183. *Mr. Mackay.*] A witness to-day has given it as his opinion that The Angle land is worth £1 an acre and the land at Coffey's Flat is worth 12s. 6d. an acre;—I would like to hear your opinion? My valuation of The Angle land, on the basis that it will carry a sheep to the acre, is £1 7s. 6d. The 1,800 acres of land at Coffey's Flat I value at £1,600. That is based on the carrying capacity, and also its capacity to respond to improvement. A great deal of that land can be very much improved. The Angle land does not admit of improvement beyond fencing.

184. *Mr. Carroll.*] Will you show me what great necessity there is for the station to exchange the land and give so much more for that small patch? Because the land at Coffey's Flat is, as a whole, inferior. The 2,362½ acres are, in money value, about the same as The Angle land.

185. I do not see where the consolidation comes in, because other parties have land all round? The map before the Committee is not, I think, now quite correct, inasmuch as some of the land tinted blue on the map, which was held adversely to the station, has since, I understand, come into the possession of the Bank.

186. How would the proposed change benefit the station in the way of consolidation? I fail to see that it does tend to consolidate the station property.

187. Do you consider it is necessary for the station to acquire that land? It would certainly be an advantage. The Angle land is the best sheep land in the whole run. The more good land they can get altogether for grazing the cheaper it will be to work it. As regards the Coffey's Flat land, an objection in the interest of settlement is that it is intercepted by two roads which carry considerable traffic; but the traffic through The Angle land is practically nil.

188. As far as you can see, the exchange is intended so as to acquire better land, not so much for consolidation? Not so much as getting land which they could work with more profitable results.

189. *Mr. Jones.*] Is your valuation of the land based on the property as a whole? I could not value the property as a whole. It is about 60 square miles in extent. I was only instructed to value the two blocks.

190. *Mr. Carroll.*] Are any of those reserves required for the public use? Yes; there is a piece of land proposed to be retained permanently at The Angle crossing—30 or 40 acres—in the interest of settlement, as a camping reserve for a turn-out, &c.

191. Is 40 acres sufficient for a camping reserve? Ample.

192. *Mr. Jones.*] There is no advantage to be gained on either side according to the report? Yes. I have stated that, in my opinion, it is not to the advantage of the Crown to accept that offer, for the reasons I have already given, unless the Bank is prepared to give something further.

193. Are the Crown lands superior to the other? They are superior for the purposes of settlement.

194. *Mr. Miller.*] Supposing the exchange were granted for the run-holders, do you think that the Coffey's Flat area would be taken up as homestead area or as selections, or would it still remain in the hands of the Crown, to be ultimately leased by the run-holder? This land would undoubtedly be taken up, because the district is a closely-settled one, and as proof I may mention that some of the land was selected as far back as 1873—some as far back as 1868 and 1867.

195. The Angle land would be equally sought after for settlement? It would be more so, for the reason that it is compact in shape, would cost less to fence, and would not require capital beyond that necessary to fence and stock it.

196. *Chairman.*] Do you think it is possible that Coffey's Flat land would maintain two families? I think so, judging by the position of Sheedy, a *bona fide* man there, and others; but I do not think it would maintain two families unless they combined other labouring pursuits with the working of the land.

197. Do you think that The Angle land would maintain two families? Certainly not, by itself. The 510 acres on Naas Creek is about 8 miles from the Williamsdale platform. The capital value of this land is only about 5s. an acre, but it being fenced in on the outside boundaries, and Crown land being so scarce, I believe it would be taken up as homestead selection by a man labouring in the locality. 198.

- E. J. Halliday.
26 May, 1897.
198. It contains how many acres? 560 acres in all.
199. Is there any cultivation? Yes; altogether about 35 acres.
200. I understand the position you take up is this: You were strongly opposed to the first proposal for an exchange, because you believed it was at a disadvantage of four to one against the public? The land which they first offered for exchange fronted Gudgenby River, and not only is The Angle land four times as valuable as that, but the road access to Gudgenby River land is bad in the extreme.
201. Then you consider that it would be unfair to the public to entertain the first offer at all? It was altogether out of the question.
202. With regard to the subsequent offer of land at Coffey's Flat and land near Naas Creek; if to this the piece of land near Coffey's Flat, marked portions 2, 17, and 18, and allotments in the village reserve, were returned to the Government, these might be considered a fair equivalent for the land asked for by the Union Bank? No; I would say then that it would be to the interest of the Crown to make the exchange.

THURSDAY, 27 MAY, 1897.

Present:—

MR. W. H. B. PIDDINGTON, | MR. MILLER,
MR. T. JONES, | MR. MACKAY.
E. W. O'SULLIVAN, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Charles Bates further examined:—

- C. Bates.
27 May, 1897.
203. *Chairman.*] You have taken a stand in opposition to this proposed land exchange? Yes.
204. I understand from your evidence that you desire that The Angle land should be retained as homestead selections? Yes.
205. Supposing the Government are determined to have an exchange of some kind, do you think it would be right in the public interest to accept the last offer suggested by the Union Bank to the Government—that is, to give the land at Coffey's Flat, and the other at Naas Valley? No, I do not think it would.
206. You do not think that these lands, put together, would be a proper equivalent for the land which the Union Bank would obtain at The Angle? I do not.
207. Suppose that, as suggested by Mr. Halliday, the Union Bank were to give in addition a piece of land near Coffey's Flat, running down towards the river, and the village allotments on the reserve near Tharwa Bridge, and the land at Naas Valley—would that be a fair equivalent for the land which they propose to take at The Angle? I do not think so. I think the land at The Angle is better than the other lot.
208. You think that the land at The Angle by itself is better for the public than all the other pieces? Yes.
209. Am I to understand that you would be opposed to the land exchange even then? Yes.
210. Supposing it was pointed out that this land on Coffey's Flat, combined with the land at Naas Valley, would form two homestead selections, instead of one, at The Angle, would that be more conducive to the public interests? It would not go in two. I expect they would split Coffey's Flat in two; but I do not think there would be as good benefit to the public then.
211. Are you guided in this answer by the quality of the land at Coffey's Flat and Naas Valley? Yes; the 1,802 acres will not run 1,802 sheep all the year round; but the land at The Angle will run a sheep to the acre if even the seasons be bad. I made a mistake yesterday.
212. Would you care to correct that mistake now? Yes; the 1,802 acres will not run 1,802 sheep all the year; but the 945 acres at The Angle will run one sheep to the acre.
213. When you gave your answer just now were you aware that in addition to the land at Coffey's Flat and the three pieces running down from there to the river, there were over 500 acres at Naas Creek to be given? I was not aware about the ground near the river.
214. I want you to thoroughly understand the question;—would you approve of the carrying out of Mr. Halliday's suggestion, which is as follows:—That 1,802 acres at Coffey's Flat, 322 acres in three pieces running down from Coffey's Flat to the river, and 560 acres at Naas Creek, as well as the allotments on the village reserve at Tharwa, should be put into one property and exchanged for the 1,200 odd acres near The Angle? The Bank then might lose the money which they have paid on the allotments. I would not like to see that done.
215. I do not think the Bank would lose their money—the Government might return it;—but suppose that were done, do you think it would be a fair exchange? I do not know. It is a lot of land—more than I thought it was yesterday.
216. It is not a proposal from the Union Bank, but simply a suggestion made by the surveyor;—with that knowledge would you consider that all these pieces combined would be a fair equivalent for the 1,200 odd acres to be taken near The Angle? I do not know what to say about it.
217. You might just give us your opinion? I think it would be fair.
218. You think that the suggestion of Mr. Halliday would constitute a fair equivalent for the land to be taken at The Angle? I think so.
219. But suppose that the Union Bank will not advance upon their offer, what would you recommend? I would recommend that the exchange should not be made.

Edward James Halliday further examined:—

- E. J. Halliday.
27 May, 1897.
220. *Chairman.*] Do you wish to make a statement? I wish to correct a wrong impression that I think I have conveyed. The Chairman asked whether I should be prepared to recommend for exchange by the Union Bank 1,802 acres at Coffey's Flat, plus 560 acres at Naas Creek, plus 322 acres adjoining Coffey's Flat, and certain village allotments. He asked would I consider that a fair exchange, and I said, yes. I did not exactly mean that. That would be asking more than we could fairly expect the Bank to give. If I were asked to make a proposal myself, I would say that if the Union Bank would give the 1,802 acres with the 322 acres, their money to be returned for the Tharwa allotments, this 560 acres at Naas Creek being

being rejected altogether, not included in the exchange, that would be my proposal. I said, of course, that I would recommend it then, because the Crown would be getting the best of it; but I think the 1,802 acres and the 322 acres would be a fair exchange. The Government would be able to settle three families on that land for homestead selection purposes—that is, three families could, by combining other pursuits, make a living there with mixed farming. This 560 acres at Naas Creek I do not think are wanted in the interests of settlement. The Bank has contracted to conditionally purchase them at £1 an acre; but the land is not worth it, and it would pay the Bank to give it up.

E. J.
Halliday.
27 May, 1897.

221. In order to make your proposal clear, I would ask you to repeat exactly what you consider a fair equivalent for the 1,200 odd acres to be taken by the Bank at The Angle? I repeat, 1,802 acres at Coffey's Flat, together with 322 acres comprised in portions No. 2, No. 17, and No. 18, to be surrendered, together with the cancellation of the recent purchase of allotments near the village of Tharwa. I should consider that a fair exchange.

222. Is there any other point that you would like to clear up? No; I would recommend that as a proposal for a fair exchange.

223. You put on one side the land at Naas Creek for settlement? Yes; which is inferior land, and far away from school provision, and not very suitable.

224. *Mr. Miller.*] Could not a family live by it? No; it is only worth about 5s. an acre.

225. *Mr. Jones.*] Has it been abandoned by a family? It is in the hands of the station.

226. *Chairman.*] Is that the land which the Bank first offered in exchange for the land at The Angle? No.

227. Which was it that they first offered? That is further removed from settlement still.

228. Was it of less value than the land you referred to just now? About the same.

229. About 5s. an acre? I should say about 7s. 6d. an acre, taking it all through.

230. How much is there in that piece? About the same area as there is at The Angle—about 1,000 acres.

231. Then, at first the Bank was virtually offering 1,000 acres, worth 7s. 6d. an acre, for 945 acres, which you value at 27s. 6d. an acre? Exactly.

232. I understand that you reported in the public interests against that proposed exchange? Yes, giving these values at the time.

233. Well, that offer appears to have disappeared altogether now? Yes.

234. What the Bank proposes now is an entirely distinct offer of land at Coffey's Flat? Yes; together with this land at Naas Creek—1,802 acres at Coffey's Flat, with 560 acres at Naas Creek. The question of the allotments, I understand, was not considered by the Land Board.

235. *Mr. Jones.*] What do you value the land at at Coffey's Flat? The 1,802 acres at £1,600; the 322 acres at £280.

236. *Chairman.*] The Committee has received a letter from Mr. Farrar, who is resident in that locality, suggesting that a road should be made from Williamsdale platform, across the river from The Angle, leading over Coolamon Plains, to the Yarrangobilly Caves;—do you think it is practicable? It depends upon what kind of a road you mean. If Mr. Farrar means a road on which a dray could travel, the expense would be out of proportion to the benefits that would arise. If he speaks of a horseback road, they have that at present.

237. Would it be possible to take a buggy over there? The expense involved in making a road fit to carry buggy traffic would be altogether incommensurate with the benefits to be received from it.

238. As a matter of fact, buggies have travelled over there? I took one over The Angle crossing myself.

239. I mean a way to the caves? Yes.

240. Then you would not recommend this as a road to be carried out? No; I think the proposal is altogether out of the question.

241. I suppose that some day such a road may be constructed when there is a very numerous body of tourists going out to the caves? No; I think the alternative route by railway to Cooma, then by the existing main road, will always be the preferable route.

242. Is there a road from Tumut to the caves? Yes; a made road, and there is a made road from Kiandra to the caves.

243. Then I understand that you do not attach much weight to this suggestion of Mr. Farrar's about a road to The Angle? No; I consider that it is impracticable, and not required.

244. *Mr. Piddington.*] Is the area of The Angle 1,280 acres or 945 acres? The area of these three portions spoken of as The Angle is 945 acres. There are three small detached areas of the same class of country, totalling 1,290 acres, and the Bank wish to secure that in exchange for land at Coffey's Flat and Naas Creek.

245. Then the value of the land known as The Angle and the other detached allotments comes to about £1,800, and the value of the land at Coffey's Flat and that other piece comes to about £1,780;—they are about the same value? £1,600 is the value of the land at Coffey's Flat, and £180 the value of the 560 acres at Naas Creek.

246. The land offered by the Union Bank in exchange is about the same value as the other three detached allotments? Yes; but in my opinion not so suitable in the interests of settlement.

Charles Bates further examined:—

247. *Chairman.*] You have heard the correction made by Mr. Halliday to the effect that what he recommends as a fair exchange would be 1,802 acres of land at Coffey's Flat and 322 acres leading down to the river, with the surrender of the allotments in the village reserve at the bridge, excluding the 560 acres which you were led to believe would form a portion of Mr. Halliday's proposal;—having heard his evidence, would you consider that a fair exchange? I think so. As long as they have nothing to do with Naas Creek, I do not believe in that. I would not fence in the Naas Creek land if I had it to-morrow.

C. Bates.
27 May, 1897.

248. I understand now that you think, although that 560 acres is taken away, what is left would make a fair exchange? Yes; I think so.

WEDNESDAY, 2 JUNE, 1897.

Present:—

Mr. MILLER,		Mr. MACKAY,
Mr. W. H. B. PIDDINGTON,	|	Mr. CARROLL.
E. W. O'SULLIVAN, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.		

Arthur Charles Betts called in, sworn, and examined:—

- A. C. Betts. 249. *Chairman.*] What position do you hold? I am Chairman of the Land Board of the Goulburn district.
 2 June, 1897. 250. You and two other members of the Board held an inquiry into this case at Queanbeyan? Yes.
 251. Who were the other two gentlemen? Alexander Dyce and John James Wright.
 252. Were you unanimous in the decision you arrived at? Yes.
 253. What was the decision? It was in favour of the exchange as heard before us.
 254. The second offer or the first? The second offer. The first never came before us.
 255. Do you know the particulars of the first offer? I cannot say that I do.
 256. In regard to the second offer, you considered that that was a fair exchange for the 1,200 odd acres at The Angle? Yes.
 257. You consider that the offer of the Union Bank of 1,802 acres at Coffey's Flat and of 560 acres at the Naas Creek is a fair equivalent for the 1,200 odd acres of land at The Angle? Yes; on the evidence before us.
 258. What would be the use of 560 acres to any man on the Gudgenby Creek? If the 50 acres could be taken in with it, as suggested, it could be made of use, I think.
 259. Do you think any man could make a living on it? I do not think he could; but there is other land around it, and with that they might, though it is very rough.
 260. You know the country there—it is very mountainous? I do.
 261. Would there be a fair monetary value in those two lots—the one near Gudgenby Creek and the other for the land at The Angle? It appeared to us so, taking the proposal as a whole, but I do not say that the land at the Gudgenby Creek is equal to the land at Coffey's Flat or at The Angle. Of course, what I say is based upon the evidence that I took as President of the Land Board.
 262. Mr. Halliday's evidence is strongly against it, is it not? I do not think it is strongly against it. The evidence is before you, I presume.
 263. Mr. Halliday estimates the value of the Gudgenby land at about 7s. 6d. per acre? There is no doubt that it is inferior land.
 264. And it would be useless for anyone to take it up? Yes; unless in connection with land adjoining it.
 265. You still adhere to your opinion that the second proposal would be a just exchange? Yes; taking the evidence that we have before us, I do.
 266. *Mr. Miller.*] Is that land at Naas Creek of the value of £1 an acre? Fifty acres of it is, undoubtedly.
 267. And if a person whose property adjoined the land took it up, would he not have to pay £1 an acre to the Government? Yes. They would have to take it up as an addition.
 268. No man would be foolish enough to take it up as an addition if it is only worth 7s. 6d. an acre? I cannot say.
 269. *Chairman.*] We have the evidence of Mr. Halliday that the land is only worth 7s. 5d. an acre? I agreed to the proposal as a whole.
 270. Have you valued the two pieces of land which it is proposed to give in exchange for The Angle? We made an estimate when treating the proposal as a whole.
 271. And you think the monetary value of the two is about equal? I think the decision was, and I am prepared to stand by that. But taking into consideration that the three isolated pieces along the river would be thrown in, the offer was a fair one.
 272. *Mr. Miller.*] Is it a fact that you have some shares in the Union Bank? No.
 273. Have you ever had any shares in that Bank? Yes.
 274. Had you any shares in this Bank while this case was pending? I had shares in the Bank; but on the first day of its sitting, and before the evidence of the first witness was concluded, I adjourned the Court, and my shares were sold a few days after.
 275. *Chairman.*] You had shares in the Bank, and you were told that that disqualified you? Yes; it was purely accidentally that I remembered it. It occurred to me that I was a shareholder, and I adjourned the Court at once. I also informed the Minister, and sold the shares a few days after.
 276. Did you inform the Minister of that? I informed him at once.
 277. And who authorised you to go on? Mr. Marsden was nominated as Chairman. Then after that I received a letter to say that as my shares were disposed of I could go on with the case. I had six shares in the Bank.

John Sheedy called in, sworn, and examined:—

- J. Sheedy. 278. *Chairman.*] What position do you hold? I am a farmer and grazier.
 279. Have you the post office also? No.
 2 June, 1897. 280. Who has the post office? A son of mine.
 281. You are a farmer and grazier, living near Cuppacumbalong? Yes.
 282. Do you know the block of land offered by the Union Bank, the proprietors of the Cuppacumbalong station, in exchange for the 1,200 odd acres of land at The Angle? Yes.
 283. Do you know Coffey's Flat well? Yes.
 284. What is your opinion of that land? It is good land.
 285. What do you mean by good land? Part of it is good grazing land, and part of it is good land for cultivation.
 286. Is it liable to fluke? Coffey's Flat alone is. It is not fit for sheep to run over.
 287. You say that the land at Coffey's Flat is good land? Yes.
 288. Yet you admit that it is a bit flukey? Coffey's Flat is not a sound pasture for sheep to run on. About 140 acres of it wants cutting off, but the remainder is really sound. 289.

J. Sheedy.
2 June, 1897.

289. Is it swamp land? It is, and that is the best for cultivation.
290. Is there not a danger whilst it is a breeding-place for fluke? If that part were fenced off and cultivated sheep could not get on to it.
291. At what would you value the 1,802 acres at Coffey's Flat per acre? It is hard to tell at present. If it was improved the same as the land at The Angle—if the timber on it was dead—it would be worth as much as the land at The Angle.
292. In your opinion the land at Coffey's Flat is as good grazing land as the land at The Angle? Yes, if it was improved; but Coffey's Flat is in its wild state.
293. What value would you put on Coffey's Flat to buy it? If I were going to buy it I should value it at 15s. an acre. I should be satisfied to take it at that.
294. Would you be surprised to hear that the land at The Angle has been valued at 27s. 6d. per acre? It may be; but that does not prove that it is worth it.
295. What makes people so anxious to get this bit of land at The Angle? I cannot make that out. It is people at the other end who are fighting for The Angle. I cannot see anything in The Angle to suit a poor family at all. If Coffey's Flat were cut into two blocks two families could make a good living on it.
296. Do you know the 560 acres of land near Gudgenby Creek? No.
297. Can you give us an opinion on this proposed exchange? If I owned Coffey's Flat I should not think of giving it for The Angle.
298. Your opinion is that Coffey's Flat by itself is quite as good as the land at The Angle? My opinion is that it is worth more than the land at The Angle without the Naas Creek land at all.
299. What would you give for the land at The Angle if you wanted to buy it? I would not give any more for it; it is only a mere sheep run.
300. *Mr. Mackay.*] You say that this land at Coffey's Flat is suitable for both grazing and farming? Yes, and for dairying. It is suitable for three purposes.
301. How much of it do you think would be suitable for farming? About 300 acres is suitable for farming, and the rest is fit for grazing.
302. You say that you know nothing whatever about this other land at Gudgenby Creek? I know nothing at all about that.
303. *Mr. Miller.*] Have you been all over the Coffey's Flat land? I have.
304. Have you been all over the land at The Angle? Yes, for twenty-eight years. I have been going backward and forward there.
305. How many sheep to the acre will The Angle land run, or how many acres will it take to carry a sheep? The Angle land in good seasons will no doubt carry a sheep to the acre.
306. And how many will Coffey's Flat carry? In good seasons Coffey's Flat will carry one sheep to the acre.
307. Then in your opinion the Bank is offering property of more value to the Government in offering Coffey's Flat by itself than the value of The Angle? Yes, in my opinion, they are offering a lot more.
308. Where do you live? I live at a place adjoining Coffey's Flat. I know both places well. I am cultivating part of Coffey's Flat.
309. *Mr. Mackay.*] Are you cultivating, or is this land you live on your own? It is my own property.
310. *Mr. Miller.*] How much do you think it would cost per acre to ringbark Coffey's Flat? The general charge for ringbarking is about 1s. an acre up there.
311. And you say that two families could live comfortably at Coffey's Flat? They should do.
312. And how many on The Angle? Only one family could make a living on the land at The Angle.
313. Then you think that Mr. Holliday is entirely wrong in estimating the value of The Angle land at 27s. 6d. per acre? I would not think of giving 27s. 6d. per acre for it.
314. I do not know the answer that you gave to the Chairman when he asked you why people are more inclined to take up The Angle land than the other? A great many of the people who are singing out about The Angle land have never seen the Coffey's Flat land at all.
315. Who are these people? I saw a man at a meeting one day who had a good deal to say about Coffey's Flat and The Angle, and I asked him if he knew those two pieces of land, and he said no, he had never seen either of them.
316. Do you know that any of the men who gave evidence before the Land Board know nothing about this Coffey's Flat or Angle land? No. I heard some give evidence on The Angle land who did not know a great deal about Coffey's Flat.
317. Have you any relatives living near Coffey's Flat besides your own family? I have not.
318. *Chairman.*] Are you a native of the Cuppacumbalong district? I am a native of Uriarra, about 20 miles from Cuppacumbalong.
319. You are inclined to adhere to what you have said, that Coffey's Flat alone, putting aside the 560 acres at Naas Creek, is a fair equivalent for the 1,200 odd acres of land at The Angle? Yes, in my opinion, it is.
320. How is it that you cannot find many people in the district to endorse that? I cannot make it out.
321. Have you read a letter that appeared in the *Queanbeyan Age* from some settlers about this exchange? No, I have not seen it.
322. *Mr. Piddington.*] You said that there were some portions of Coffey's Flat that was not fit to run sheep upon? Yes.
323. What is the area? About 140 acres.
324. Is it swampy land? There is a bit of swamp on it, not a great lot, about 2 acres altogether.
325. Is that 2 acres the only part that is not fit to run sheep on, or is it the whole area of 240 acres? It would be better to have the 140 acres cut off to make the run a sound pasture.
326. You said that there were about 300 acres fit for farming? Yes, on the 1,802 acres, but it is not all together. It is in pieces here and there.
327. What area would be suitable for dairying out of that 300 acres? Any part along the river is suitable for dairying. Any part of the 1,802 acres would be suitable for dairying.
328. You say that this 300 acres is in detached pieces? It is.
329. What is the largest piece that you could get for farming? I am cultivating 30 acres, and putting that with land in Coffey's Flat, that would come to 160 or 170 acres of cultivation land.
330. How many acres of cultivation land are there at The Angle? Not more than about 20 acres.
331. What class of cultivation is it suitable for? It is not too good. 332.

- J. Sheedy. 332. In your opinion, there are about 20 acres of land at The Angle suitable for farming, and 300 acres in detached pieces at Coffey's Flat? Yes.
- 2 June, 1897. 333. You said that The Angle would run about a sheep to the acre in good seasons? Yes.
334. And how many in ordinary seasons? Not quite a sheep to the acre. I should think that it would carry about 800 sheep in ordinary seasons.
335. Were you present at the public meeting held at Queanbeyan? I was at one public meeting.
336. Were the selectors represented there, or were the majority of people there townspeople? They were townspeople. There were very few country people there.
337. Have you heard of any selectors who would be likely to take up land at Coffey's Flat? I have heard of any number who would take up Coffey's Flat if it was thrown open to homestead selection.
338. *Mr. Carroll.*] You said that you had resided for twenty-seven years on this station? I never worked on the station, but I was backward and forward through the land. I selected on the opposite side of the river, about 2 miles from The Angle, twenty-seven years ago.
339. You do not know anything about the land at Naas Creek? I have been over it, but I cannot say that I know it.
340. *Mr. Miller.*] Then you have not lived near The Angle? I lived for nine months within 2 miles of it, on the opposite side of the river, but I used to be crossing backward and forward.
341. Have you any knowledge of the original proposal of the Bank? No; I have been called here as a witness.
342. *Mr. Carroll.*] Who called you as a witness? I was summoned by the station.
343. *Mr. Piddington.*] I suppose you are absolutely certain about your evidence in regard to the value of these two pieces of land? To the best of my knowledge.
344. You value the 1,802 acres at Coffey's Flat at 15s. an acre? Yes.
345. And you say that the 945 acres at The Angle is worth 15s. an acre also? I say that if the Coffey's Flat land was in the same state as The Angle land, with the timber on it dead, it would be as good as The Angle land.
346. Then you say that if the timber were dead on the Coffey's Flat land the Union Bank would be giving double value to the Crown for this exchange? I would say that they were giving above the value, any way.
347. *Mr. Carroll.*] In your opinion, what is the reason for the Bank or station people wanting this exchange? My opinion is that the station people want to have all their own land together. Coffey's Flat is cut off the run by selections.
348. Do you work your selection, or let it? I work it all myself.
349. *Mr. Piddington.*] You have been working Coffey's Flat land on the halves system? I have been working on halves with the Bank.
350. What area have you been working? Thirty acres.
351. Could you give us any idea of the returns that you have received from it? Yes. There were 120 bushels of wheat off the 30 acres, 16 tons of hay.
352. *Mr. Miller.*] Then you are interested in the exchange? My interest is against the exchange. If Coffey's Flat is exchanged for The Angle I shall lose my farm.
353. Have you any selections in your own name? Yes.
354. How many acres? 400 or 500 acres.
355. Is it grazing or agricultural land? It is all grazing land.
356. *Mr. Piddington.*] You said that you had got 120 bushels of wheat, 16 tons of hay, and what else? Twelve tons of potatoes, and as nearly as I can remember £3 worth of pumpkins.
357. What are the values of this produce? Wheat was 4s. 6d. a bushel. The hay I am selling at 6s. per cwt., and I am selling potatoes at 5s. per cwt. There were 6 tons of straw which should be worth £2 a ton in a year like this, and 100 bags of wheat chaff which is selling freely at 1s. a bag.

[G. T. C. Miller, Esq., in the Chair.]

John Sheedy (continued):—

358. *Mr. Mackay.*] Which of the two places, The Angle or Coffey's Flat, do you think has the best access to the market? There is a good road from Coffey's Flat to the railway station. Coffey's Flat has the easiest access to the railway station, but it is not the nearest.
359. What is the crossing of the river like at The Angle? It is rough at high water.
360. Is it possible for teams or vehicular traffic to cross? During the last twelve months light vehicles could cross very well.
361. With regard to Coffey's Flat, what means of crossing the river is there there? There is the Tharwa Bridge.
362. Then you think that as far as access to the market is concerned Coffey's Flat is in a better position than The Angle? Yes.
363. *Chairman.*] How far is The Angle from the nearest railway station? I suppose from 1½ to 2 miles.
364. How far is it from Coffey's Flat to the nearest railway station? From the centre of Coffey's Flat it is about 10 miles.
365. Still you say that Coffey's Flat has the best road? Yes; the best road, but not the shortest.
366. *Mr. Mackay.*] What are the approaches like to The Angle crossing? Very steep on one side.
367. Then it would not be good, I presume, for traffic? You could not take heavy traffic across.

John Bell called in, sworn, and examined:—

- J. Bell. 368. *Chairman.*] Where do you reside? At Booroomba.
- 2 June, 1897. 369. What are you? A station hand.
370. Where are you employed? At Mr. McKeechie's, Booroomba.
371. Did you give evidence at the Land Board inquiry in respect to a certain proposal made by the Union Bank to exchange a piece of land for Government land? No.
372. Do you know anything about the proposed exchange? Yes; I know both places.
373. There is a piece of land known as Coffey's Flat which the Bank propose to exchange for a piece of land known as The Angle? Yes.

J. Bell.

2 June, 1897.

374. In your estimation, is the proposed exchange a fair one? It is, to the best of my belief.
375. Do you know the grazing capabilities of the two lands? I know a little about it.
376. How many sheep to the acre would the land at Coffey's Flat carry? I could not say by the acre. I think that Coffey's Flat and Connell's Corner ought to carry 1,500 or 1,600 sheep in a good season.
377. And how many sheep would The Angle property carry? I think 700 or 800.
378. Can you estimate the value per acre of the land at The Angle? I could not.
379. Have you any idea of the value of the land at Coffey's Flat? I think it will be 14s. or 15s. per acre.
380. Do you know anything at all about The Angle property? I have been all over it.
381. Could you not give an estimate of the value of the land? I should say it would be worth from 18s. to £1 an acre.
382. *Mr. Mackay.*] Did you not go into Queanbeyan to give voluntary evidence before the Land Court; and were you not unable to stay to give evidence because of the Court being held over for two days? Yes; I was unable to stay.
383. Is it a fact that you inspected both these pieces of land—Coffey's Flat and The Angle—and that you decided to select on Coffey's Flat, if it was thrown open, in preference to The Angle? Yes, I did; I would not take the land at The Angle at all.
384. It did not strike you as being suitable? No.
385. *Chairman.*] For what reason was it not suitable? I thought it was too high, and I did not think there was enough cultivation land for me to make a home on it.
386. *Mr. Mackay.*] There is another piece of land here at Naas Creek that also is proposed to be given in exchange for The Angle land;—do you know anything of that land? No; I know very little about that.
387. Do you know sufficient about it to be able to say whether, in your opinion, it would afford a living for a man if he took it up? I could not say.
388. You know this land at Coffey's Flat and this land at The Angle;—do you think that the land at Coffey's Flat would be a fair equivalent in the interest of the public for the land at The Angle? To the best of my belief it would be.
389. A witness to-day said that the Coffey's Flat land is suitable for both grazing and farming;—can you tell us how much land at Coffey's Flat is fit for farming, including Connell's Corner? I should say between 200 and 300 acres.
390. How much land do you think there is at The Angle suitable for cultivation? It is so patchy that it would be hard to say.
391. To the best of your belief, boxing it all together? There may be 15 acres, but I do not think so.
392. In your opinion there would only be 15 acres fit for cultivation at The Angle? Yes.
393. What would be the largest-sized patch of cultivation land at The Angle? You might get one or two of 2 or 3 acres.
394. A witness has said that there is a lot of good dairying land at Coffey's Flat;—do you bear that out? To the best of my belief there is.
395. Land on the river frontage, I suppose? Yes; and on Coffey's Flat too.
396. *Mr. Carroll.*] Have you ever been a selector? Yes.
397. Where? At Booroomba.
398. Is that on the other side of the river? Yes.
399. Who owns the station? Mr. McKechnie.
400. Did you ever work on the station at Tharwa? No.
401. Are you a married man? Yes.
402. What induced you to go into Queanbeyan to give voluntary evidence in this case? I wanted the place to make a home for myself.
403. But if The Angle were thrown open, would you not be satisfied to go for that? No; I could not see my way clear to take that.
404. Have you ever applied for a selection before? I had a selection on the Booroomba run fourteen years ago.
405. *Chairman.*] Where is that selection now? On the run still.
406. Did you transfer it? No; I sold it out to Mr. McKechnie.
407. *Mr. Carroll.*] Did you ever give evidence at the Land Court before? Never.
408. *Mr. Mackay.*] In the event of a man taking up The Angle land, how much fencing would he require to put up to make it secure? He would want a good bit.
409. How much in your opinion would be required? Over 2 miles.
410. Would it be 3 miles? It might be.
411. *Chairman.*] How many miles would you require to enclose the Coffey's Flat property? I think it is all fenced.
412. Do you think that two selectors could make homes on Coffey's Flat? I think they should.
413. *Mr. Carroll.*] Were you asked by anybody to go into Court to give evidence? No.
414. Were there any other people who came forward and gave voluntary evidence at the Land Court? Not that I know of.
415. Could you tell me what this 560 acres at Naas Creek is suitable for? I could not.
416. *Mr. Mackay.*] What is the general feeling amongst the selecting class in the district with regard to these two pieces of land;—which of the two pieces would the majority of the farming class prefer to have? I think Coffey's Flat. There is some difference of opinion.
417. Opinion is divided, but you think the majority would prefer to have Coffey's Flat thrown open? Yes.
418. *Chairman.*] So you think it is a fair proposal by the Bank to exchange Coffey's Flat for The Angle property? Yes.
419. It is a fair exchange in the interests of the public? I think so.
420. *Mr. Mackay.*] In your opinion, would it be a fair thing for the Bank to give 2,124 acres at Coffey's Flat and that other piece for the 1,290 acres at The Angle, and those three detached areas? I think it would be.
421. You think that would be more than a fair thing from the standpoint of the Bank that they would be giving more in value than they were getting? I think they would.

- J. Bell.
2 June, 1897.
422. Do you think it would be a fair thing for the Bank to give up Coffey's Flat for The Angle without those blocks? It is a thing I could not decide.
423. You have a general idea of the character of the country? Yes.
424. Take it from the area standpoint alone;—do you think it would be a fair thing for the Bank to give up 1,802 acres at Coffey's Flat for 940 acres at The Angle? I could not decide on that very well.
425. In your opinion, would it be a fair thing? My opinion is that Coffey's Flat is the best piece in the lot.
426. *Mr. Carroll.*] Are you at present in the employ of any party? I am in the employ of Mr. McKechnie.
427. Do you think it would be a fair thing to exchange Coffey's Flat for The Angle and those three pieces? I should think it would be.
428. You think it would be a fair thing in the interests of the public? Yes.
429. Have you ever had any experience before of exchanges of land made to consolidate runs? No.
430. *Mr. Mackay.*] Do you think that those three isolated blocks would be of any use to the public, the largest being 170 acres? No, they would be too small.
431. Knowing that those three blocks are surrounded by station land, would they be of any value at all to anyone else? I do not think they would be.
432. *Chairman.*] Mr. Halliday has given evidence to the effect that The Angle property is worth 27s. 6d. per acre, and that the Coffey's Flat property, 1,802 acres, is worth £1,600;—do you think that Mr. Halliday's estimate of the value of the property is a fair one, or that he has over-estimated its value? I think the estimate is too high.
433. What is your valuation of that land? I would say from 18s. to £1 an acre.
434. And I think you said the same with regard to Coffey's Flat? I should think that Coffey's Flat is worth about 15s. an acre.

Edward James Halliday further examined:—

- E. J. Halliday.
June, 1897.
435. *Mr. Mackay.*] In your former evidence you stated that you had crossed the river at The Angle? Yes.
436. I should like to ask where it was you crossed the river—whether it was not at block No. 68, and not at reserve No. 67? I crossed at block No. 68, that being the usual crossing-place.
437. But, as a matter of fact, is not block No. 68 the private property of C. Dyball; so that there is no road through? There is no practicable dray road; but I am of opinion that a horseback road at The Angle crossing can be obtained through The Angle block, the Crown land now under consideration. I saw stock tracks leading through there.
438. You think that a crossing could be made on the public lands there? I believe that a crossing exists, so far as horseback traffic is concerned, on the public land; but I could not speak very decidedly on that point, because I never crossed there myself. I saw that stock had crossed there.
439. Do you think this particular crossing would be passable for vehicular traffic of a heavier sort, because that is what would be required? It would not be fit for drays.
440. Would it cost a large amount of money to make it fit for drays? I did not study that point closely at the time, but I believe that the approach to the river is so precipitous that a road could not be made fit for dray traffic without a very large expenditure. The difficulty is not so much in respect to the crossing.
441. Consequently, to make a road sufficiently good to allow people at The Angle to get their produce away would cost so much that, in your opinion, it would never be constructed? No. It is not so much the river crossing as the steepness of the approaches to the river.
442. Consequently the only way to get from The Angle to the market would be to go round by the bridge at Tuggeranong, and the distance would be about 13 miles? Yes; about 13 miles.
443. It would mean a distance of 13 miles? Yes; as far as heavy traffic is concerned.
444. With regard to Coffey's Flat, I understand that the distance there would only be about 10 miles? Yes. I have already said that it was in favour of Coffey's Flat by about 3 miles, using Tharwa Bridge in each case.
445. You stated in your former evidence with regard to consolidation that if the exchange were effected it would not consolidate the run? Not in my opinion. I gave the reasons at the time. I stated that in one case, if the exchange were made in accordance with the Bank's wishes, it would leave a detached area of 322 acres. On the other hand, if the exchange were not made in accordance with the Bank's wishes, it would leave a detached area of 512 acres.
446. As a matter of fact, these strips would be almost useless for the station? No. I am unable to see why a reasonable arrangement could not be made with adjoining adverse owners for the rental of those lands on fair conditions, because the land is very valuable. For one thing, there is a good deal of agricultural land—I reckon that there is 50 acres of agricultural land along portion No. 1, &c., belonging to the Bank adjoining The Angle on the west.
447. You say that there is a strip of about 50 acres of cultivation land? Yes.
448. About what breadth would that be? I think, from my recollection, in the widest part probably 30 chains wide. At all events, there is a considerable extent of cultivable land there.
449. But it is in the nature of a strip? Not altogether; not any more so than the strip at Coffey's Flat, and, in my opinion, it is richer soil. I think the Bank could come to terms with adjoining owners. The irregular shape of this land would place the Bank at a disadvantage. I should like to state that in giving the value of the Coffey's Flat land and Naas Creek land as compared with The Angle land, I have said that practically the value is about the same, but, in my opinion, it is not so desirable in the interests of settlement.
450. *Chairman.*] Still you hold the opinion that the Bank should add three detached areas to Coffey's Flat? Yes; and cancel the Naas Creek piece.
451. *Mr. Mackay.*] If the Bank were to lose The Angle, would it not practically cut them off from all their land on the southern side of the run? I understand that the land, which was originally in the name of Gray, at the time this map was prepared was held in hands adversely to the station, but is now in the hands of the station. They have only to go 10 chains by road to connect the Bank land with the land at The Angle, but if they lost the reserve at The Angle they would then have to go through this strip of land; and then, under arranged terms possibly, they would have about half a mile of private property to go through.

452. You admit that from a pastoralist's standpoint it would make it very inconvenient to work that part of the run? Yes; the shortest connection by road would be at least half a mile.

453. This land through which the Bank would have to get the road is held by people adverse to the Bank;—do you think it possible for the Bank to make an arrangement to get the road? Yes; a road is already reserved through The Angle land for access in a northerly and southerly direction.

454. Putting all these things aside, you admit that, from a station standpoint, it would be a serious matter of severance—that is, as to working the other property? Yes, decidedly. At present they have only 10 chains of road to traverse; otherwise they would have a road of considerable length along which to drive their stock.

455. *Mr. Carroll.*] I suppose you have had a good deal to do with the exchange of land on various stations? I have had to do, I think, with about half a dozen cases altogether.

456. Do you remember in your experience where the Government have got the best of any exchange? I think that only one exchange that I have been concerned with has got through. They have mostly been attempts. I cannot understand any grazier offering to make an exchange unless it would suit his interest at the same time. There are, of course, cases in which it suits the Crown also.

E. J.
Halliday

2 June, 1897

James Harcourt Lees called in, sworn, and examined:—

457. *Chairman.*] What are you? Station manager for the Union Bank at Cuppacumbalong.

458. You know about the original proposal made by the Union Bank to exchange these properties? Yes. That was land at the back of the Half Moon Creek, an area of 1,100 acres approximately.

459. That was to be exchanged for what land? For The Angle land.

460. In your opinion, was that a fair proposal by the Bank to the Government? Not taking the value of the land alone into consideration; but at the time we thought that under the Act we should be able to pay the difference in cash.

461. Did you propose to pay the difference if there was any? We were quite agreeable to do so.

462. Did you propose to do so? I do not know whether it was in the proposal or not—that was the intention.

463. That proposal, at any rate, was put on one side altogether? Yes.

464. And you next proposed to give the Coffey's Flat property in exchange for The Angle property? Yes, for the 1,290 acres.

465. Would it enable the Bank to consolidate their property more if the exchange were made? That is the only reason why we wanted to get the exchange made. It was to consolidate the holding. This Angle land is of a better class than Coffey's Flat land, but we are giving more of it.

466. What do you estimate to be the value of the Coffey's Flat land? Taking it right through with the cultivation land, 16s. an acre.

467. And The Angle land? The Angle land and those small blocks all through, 25s. an acre.

468. In your opinion, would the Coffey's Flat land maintain two families? I am quite sure it would, with mixed farming and grazing.

469. And The Angle land? It is only fit for grazing. It would carry from 700 to 800 sheep, and that is as much as will keep one man.

470. It would not carry one and a half sheep to the acre? Certainly not. All that land runs about a sheep to the acre in ordinary seasons, but you have to take into consideration the flat, which is very rich land. It will carry two sheep to the acre in ordinary seasons, or one and a half any way.

471. Then I understand that the sole desire of the Bank is to consolidate its property, and that for this reason you have proposed this exchange? Yes; that is the sole reason. If we lose this area we are severed from the southern end of the run. The 1,802 acres will also be cut off from the run.

472. Where is the station? The homestead is at the bridge.

473. You understand the suggestion made by Mr. Halliday;—in your opinion, is that a fair proposal towards the Bank? No; I think it is an unfair proposal. We are making a sacrifice now to secure this land to consolidate without the extra 322 acres.

474. Do you recognise the fact that the Bank has been forced into the position of sacrificing land on account of their original proposal being so one-sided? We have to make a sacrifice to try and secure this Angle land, because the run is already cut up in different places, and if we lose this it will be worse still. In place of having 2,000 acres on the Coffey's Flat end of the run we should only have 322 acres, and the intention is to turn that 322 acres into a farm. It is the only bit of cultivation land that we have left. We already have a farm on Coffey's Flat, and we agree to give that up.

475. What is the extent of that farm? There is 30 acres so far enclosed.

476. Is it improved? Yes; it is being stumped and cleared.

477. Are there any buildings on it? There is one building.

478. Is it fenced? Yes; and there are also two other buildings on the Coffey's Flat land that we give up all claim to as well as the fencing.

479. Would you recommend the Bank to make the exchange which Halliday proposes? Not the whole of these blocks. If we were allowed to hold 200 acres of block No. 2 I think the Bank would agree to it.

480. To have block No. 2 in addition to what they already propose to give? As long as they give us 200 acres on the river.

481. I suppose it is the cream of it? It is the only bit of cultivation land left for us.

482. As far as these Tharwa allotments are concerned, what would you recommend the Bank to do? They have agreed to give up all claim to the allotments that have been purchased near the bridge—about 6 acres—on condition that they got an equal acreage to the south of the station.

483. The Bank is prepared to make that exchange? Yes.

484. *Mr. Mackay.*] In your opinion, would that piece of land at Naas Creek keep a family? It would not altogether keep a family, but the selectors have homes on the land, and they go working on the roads contracting.

485. Then it must be very bad land indeed? It is not good land.

486. It could be taken up, I suppose, as an additional by some of the farmers round it? Yes; there are men on both sides of it.

J. H. Lees

2 June, 1897

J. Gale.

8 June, 1897.

that nothing further should be done in the matter until some inquiry was made. Whether there was any inquiry made or not I do not know; but, notwithstanding this, another notification appeared in due time announcing that it was proposed to hear before the Land Board sitting at Queanbeyan a proposal for the exchange of certain areas of land some miles north of this locality, but still on the western bank of the river, for the 960 acres of land originally offered to the public. The matter in due time came before the Land Board. Before the sitting of the Land Board the public protest assumed a more pronounced shape. Public meetings were called, and not by me, nor moved for by me; they took place voluntarily. There were two of these meetings, of which I was elected chairman, and resolutions were passed at those meetings protesting against the action of the Minister, and the resolutions were duly forwarded to the Minister, notwithstanding that the day was fast approaching when the case in regard to the proposed exchange was to be heard by the Land Board. At the latter of these two meetings, Mr. Cox, the proprietor of the *Queanbeyan Age*, and myself, were requested to attend the sitting of the Land Board, and watch the proceedings in the interest of the objectors. This we did. I presume that this Committee knows what the upshot of that hearing was, and what recommendations the Board made.

507. We have the evidence which was given before the Land Board and also the report of the Land Board? I may say that I have no interest, either personally or as a partisan, in the matter, but from my knowledge of the locality I was always of opinion that the offer for the land by the owners of the Cuppacumbalong run was not satisfactory.

508. Is that the first or second offer? I know of only one offer; there may have been a little variation in the areas. A proposal was made to give a certain quantity of land away down the river, at a place called Coffey's Flat, and, perhaps, ultimately, it was offered. There was a little modification, I think, of the offer—about 500 acres of very inferior land at Naas Creek being included. Knowing both the areas I have formed the opinion that the Bank would be very considerably the gainers by the exchange. Their object in making this overture was to consolidate their holding, and though they are offering a much larger area than that which they desired to obtain, it occurred to me that the land was not of as great value. I have not dabbled much in land, but having a great deal of knowledge of these things, if I had been asked to exchange one for the other, I should have preferred the 960 acres to the areas offered by the Bank in exchange for it.

509. You said that there were a great many people who signified their intention to apply for this 960 acres of land if it was thrown open at The Angle? Yes.

510. Do you remember how this land was divided—was it to be put up in separate lots or in one block? In one block.

511. So that only one family could get it? Only one family.

512. Who attended the public meetings held at Queanbeyan? Country people mainly. There may have been half-a-dozen townspeople who would be interested as agents in the country people, but it was a representative country meeting on each occasion.

513. How many would be present? I should think that at one meeting there would be about forty present, and at the other a less number.

514. You said that you knew this land intimately? Yes; the lower part particularly.

515. Do you know the land at The Angle? Yes; I know it is a cleaner, sweeter, better piece of land than the portion which is offered in exchange for it.

516. What do you value that land at? I do not profess to be in a position to say what is the value of it.

517. Have you ever been on Coffey's Flat land? Yes; many times—thirty years ago.

518. How much of that land is fit for agriculture? A considerable area of it in patches.

519. And what area would be available for agriculture of The Angle land? A smaller proportion, certainly.

520. Can you give us any idea of the value of the land at Coffey's Flat? Taking into account the heavily timbered and the broken, rugged, and swampy character of that land generally, I should take it to be inferior land, because it would cost a great deal of money to fit it for occupation for either agricultural or pastoral purposes.

521. You say that the land at Naas Creek is very inferior;—have you seen it? Yes; it is literally worthless. It may carry a few sheep, but it is a rugged piece of waste land.

522. Another great objection which you have to the exchange is that you think the Union Bank would be benefiting themselves very largely by it? No; I cannot say that that is my objection. It would be a very improper feeling; I think that every man has a right to strive for himself. If I were in the position of the Bank I should perhaps do as they have done, but it was clear to me from the first that the Bank meant to consolidate their Cuppacumbalong holding, and were willing to give a larger area in order that they might so consolidate it; but that larger area which they offer is, in my opinion, inferior land, and would be more expensive to bring into a fit state for occupation.

523. Do you think that the Coffey's Flat land is only half the value of the land at The Angle, because there are 1,802 acres in the one and 960 acres in the other, leaving out the land at Naas Creek? There is nearly double the area, but I hold that it is inferior land. I may say that I was surprised when I heard the decision of the Land Board that they valued the two areas respectively at about an equal amount, there being only a difference of some £5 or £7.

524. *Mr. Miller.*] You said that you knew all about this transaction from the beginning to the present time? Yes.

525. Were you aware of any previous offer being made by the Bank to the Government for the exchange of land? I do not know what private overtures may have been made.

526. You are not aware that this offer of Coffey's Flat is the second proposal made by the Bank for an exchange? I was not. My attention was called to it by a notification in the *Gazette* and the local excitement that it brought forth, much competition being promised for the possession of the land.

527. How many families do you think could live on the land, supposing that Coffey's Flat was put into a proper state for grazing or cultivation;—do you think that the 1,802 acres would be sufficient for two families to reside upon? It could be divided into three occupation holdings by the Government, but whether any one of those three would give a yield under cultivation or pasturage equal to that of the 960 acres is a question. Those who occupied those three holdings would be put to a great deal more expense than the occupant of the land at The Angle in preparing the land for use.

- J. Gale
8 June, 1897.
528. How many families do you think The Angle land would carry? Only one; but I should like the Committee not to lose sight of the fact that there were literally scores of persons interested; it was said that over 100 had expressed their intention to strive for the possession of the land at The Angle, and I have not heard of any who wanted the other land or who cared for it.
529. There is not such a public demand for the Coffey's Flat land as there is for the other? No; and never was.
530. *Mr. Mackay.*] We have been told that persons residing near the Coffey's Flat land preferred that land? That may be.
531. Then you believe that opinion is divided on the subject, and that those who are nearest The Angle land prefer that, and that those nearest Coffey's Flat prefer the land at Coffey's Flat? Naturally so; but you must bear in mind that the population near Coffey's Flat is small compared with the population near Michelago.
532. In your opinion, the Bank's proposal is not a fair proposal as regards the general public? No, bearing in mind this fact that The Angle being contiguous to a much larger settlement there would be a much larger number of persons striving for possession of it.
533. Then it is not a question of the quality of the land so much as the fact that there are more people near The Angle than at Coffey's Flat? I do not hold that at all; I merely state, as a fact, that to the southward there are a great number of persons to whom it is convenient who are anxious to possess the land. In my opinion, the land offered by the Bank is not of a monetary value more than equal to that small area which they propose to accept in exchange for the larger one.
534. You say that, in your opinion, The Angle land would only comfortably occupy one family? It would be a nice piece with plenty of elbow-room for one.
535. Would not Coffey's Flat afford room for two families? I say that Coffey's Flat and Naas Creek would settle three families, but it would not profit them so well. It would not be such a fat holding for anyone of them.
536. Suppose that the Bank offered to give this 120 acres adjoining Coffey's Flat in lieu of the 560 acres at Naas Creek, do you think then that it would be a fair thing in the interests of the public? It would enhance the value of it, because that 120 acres is better land.
537. Do you think that this proposal to give Coffey's Flat 125 acres of these three portions would be a fair exchange for The Angle? I have already said that the 125 acres adjoining Coffey's Flat is of greater value than the Naas Creek land.
538. I want to get your opinion as to whether Coffey's Flat, with that 120 acres, and those three detached blocks, would be a fair exchange for The Angle? I am asked whether I consider that a fair exchange for The Angle. This 120 acres is to be given in lieu of Naas Creek. There is more cultivation land there than there is altogether on the Naas Creek portion of holding. It will take 8 or 10 acres of Naas Creek land to maintain a sheep.
539. Putting on one side all question as to the Naas Creek land, I want to know whether you think that, in the interests of the public, it is a fair thing to exchange Coffey's Flat and that 120 acres of land for The Angle land, including the other three portions? As regards the public interests I am in doubt, because, although this modification will admit of the land being divided into three homesteads, the holder of any one portion would not be in such a good position as he would be in if he had The Angle land; but you will tell me that he is not the only one to be considered, but that there are two other persons. Then those three persons settled there will not, in my opinion, make more out of the land, if as much, as one would out of the holding of 960 acres comprising The Angle land. On Coffey's Flat you may be able to settle three persons, but the aggregate wealth which they would get out of it would not be equal to the aggregate wealth which one person would get out of The Angle land.
540. *Mr. Carroll.*] The Angle land, with the other portions, totals 1,280 acres;—suppose the Bank were to offer Coffey's Flat and those other portions, amounting to over 2,400 acres, and also to give up 6 acres at the bridge, do you think, in the interests of the public, it would be a fair exchange? The question seems to be complicated when you include an offer to surrender 6 acres of village land at the bridge for some 6 acres elsewhere. Is not that a transaction entirely independent of this one?
541. No, it is in the proposed exchange; the Bank are willing to give up 6 acres which the public require for a township;—if the Bank were to give the whole of this land and the 6 acres, do you think that would be a fair exchange? The proposal thus modified would give a greater area of land than the original proposal which came before the Land Board.
542. In your opinion, if the Bank gave up this 320 acres at Coffey's Flat, and gave the 120 acres in lieu of the land at Naas Creek, would it be a fair exchange? It approaches very much nearer to an equitable exchange than anything that has been yet considered.
543. In your opinion would it be a fair exchange? It would bring it much nearer to an equitable transaction, because it would give an added area of useful land to the public.
544. If we got land upon which three families could live, would not that be better than retaining land which would support only one family? If they could only live from hand to mouth they will be provided for; but the question is, is it better that we should have three struggling selectors at Coffey's Flat just eking out an existence, or one much more prosperous at The Angle.
545. If all that land was all given up by the Bank would it not be a fair exchange? It is a better arrangement than anything that has come before me yet.
546. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, do you think it would be a fair exchange in the interests of the public? I think that a Crown lessee holding a run like Cuppacumbalong should be encouraged to consolidate, so far as it does not prejudice the public interest; but the original overture did seem to prejudice the public interest; but now a proposal is submitted to me which is very much modified as compared with that which came before the Land Board, and which makes it, in my opinion, more advantageous to the public than was the original overture.
547. *Mr. Miller.*] Supposing that Coffey's Flat holding and the land at Naas Creek were all included, do you think that that would be a fair exchange for The Angle land? It would not be too much to give for it.
548. *Chairman.*] Then what, in your opinion, is the value of The Angle land per acre? The Angle land ought to be worth 15s. an acre, taking the good and the bad together.
549. Then what is the value of the land at Coffey's Flat? I would not give 7s. 6d. an acre for it.

550. So that shows that Coffey's Flat, 1,802 acres, is of the same value as the 960 acres at The Angle? That is what it comes to.

J. Gale.

551. In addition to that you throw in 320 acres, blocks Nos. 2, 17, and 18? Yes.

8 June, 1897.

552. What would you value that 320 acres at? If taken up by selectors, it ought to be worth 20s. an acre.

553. What do you value the 560 acres of Naas Creek land at? It is not worth 2s. 6d. an acre.

554. Is it worth 2s.? That is about its value.

555. *Mr. Mackay.*] Does that include the cultivation land? Yes; that is only a little strip down the creek.

556. How much do you think would be comprised in that strip? It is some years since I saw it, but I should think 8 or 10 acres.

557. *Chairman.*] You value the land at The Angle at £720? Yes.

558. You value the land at Coffey's Flat at 7s. 6d. an acre, and there are 1,802 acres, so that it is practically of the same value as the land at The Angle. You value the 320 acres comprising blocks Nos. 2, 17, and 18 at £1 an acre to selectors;—that is £320; and you value Naas Creek land, 560 acres, at 2s. an acre, which is about £50 altogether. Then do not the Bank get a piece of land valued at £720 and give up to the Crown land valued at £1,090? If I were in the position of the Bank I would gladly do that, and should consider myself a gainer.

559. *Mr. Mackay.*] How would that be? The Bank own Coffey's Flat, and if they find it would be more profitable to them to have a less area better consolidated, it seems to me that that ought to be taken into account. I am not a land agent or a land valuer, but I have lived upwards of forty years in the locality, and I have watched the variation in the prices of land.

560. *Mr. Miller.*] Are the Committee to understand that the Coffey's Flat proposal with the Naas Creek land, as against The Angle and those separate blocks, is not, in your opinion, a fair equivalent for the public? It is not; but with the modification since submitted to me, it becomes a more reasonable proposal.

561. *Mr. Mackay.*] Have you inspected both the portions of land to be surrendered? Not very recently. I have a knowledge of them. I have a knowledge of the main areas.

562. Could you give me any idea when you last inspected them? It is years ago; it is seven years since I saw Coffey's Flat.

563. You have not seen Coffey's Flat for at least seven years, and you have not seen the other portions for even a longer period? That is so.

564. Are you a practical man with regard to grazing and farming? Not at all; but I have lived amongst graziers and farmers all my life in the Colony.

565. You have had no practical experience? None.

566. Is there a practicable crossing-place from The Angle land to Williamsdale? People have crossed there; I have not; but I have crossed worse places. By packing, communication could be had with Williamsdale.

567. There is no crossing for heavy vehicular traffic? There is a little way down, but it is not safe.

568. Is not that on private land? It is.

569. Then as far as the public are concerned, you do not think there is a crossing suitable for heavy vehicular traffic? If I were going in for The Angle as a holding, the river and the nature of the crossing there would be no bar to me.

570. Is it not a fact that there is no crossing which would be suitable for heavy traffic? I have heard on good authority that bullock-drays have been taken across there.

571. Do you mean that bullock-drays have been taken across at The Angle? No; I do not think a bullock-dray could be taken across at The Angle, from the nature of the banks.

572. Then, as a matter of fact, it is not practicable? Except for packhorses; but it would be nearly as practicable as the crossing at Tharwa before the bridge was made.

573. How is it that when this matter came before the Land Board only two objectors came forward to give evidence? The objectors lived a long way off, and at the public meeting they said they could safely leave the matter in the hands of Mr. Cox and myself.

574. Is it a fact that the indignation meeting at Queanbeyan was composed chiefly of townspeople? Certainly not; the country people numbered two to one, and the townspeople present were people who had an indirect interest, being land agents.

575. Was not opinion divided at the meeting in reference to the proposed exchange? Yes; it was divided, in so far as there were two dissentients from the resolution.

576. There were some dissentients in favour of the exchange? Yes.

577. *Mr. Carroll.*] Who were the people who were in favour of the exchange? I said one or two. I can only distinctly remember one, and that is W. Davis Wright, auctioneer.

578. What class of people, as an agent, does Mr. Wright represent at the Land Board? I suppose he represents the grazier more than the selectors, but I am not prepared to say that positively. He has not been long in business in Queanbeyan.

579. Did he appear to you to be in the interest of the stations? I know that his antecedents were all connected with stations. His father was the original holder of Cuppacumbalong run.

James Harcourt Lees further examined:—

580. *Chairman.*] You wish to make a further statement in reference to your evidence? Yes. In my evidence I stated that in blocks Nos. 2, 17, and 18 there were between 50 and 60 acres of cultivation land. I should have said that there are 30 or 35 acres of cultivation land. With regard to the fencing, we have already stated that we give up all claim to the fencing on Coffey's Flat, and on the 560 acres of land which are all enclosed and subdivided. We give up all claim to that which will include about 15 miles of fencing, and the land proposed to be surrendered was valued by the Land Board exclusive of the improvements. That is my reason for stating that if we gave up this 560 acres plus that 120 acres it would be more than a fair exchange.

J. H. Lees.

8 June, 1897.

581. That is the 120 acres on block No. 2? Yes; that is the extra piece included with this 560 acres.

582. *Mr. Miller.*] Do you not think that the proposal of the Bank is in the Bank's interest, and that the Bank should be prepared to concede something to the Government in a matter of this sort—something for

J. H. Lees. for the concession? I think the Bank is already doing so. It is giving up Coffey's Flat, and we lose in the carrying capacity; we lose all claim to the improvements; but at The Angle we gain by consolidation, because if we were to lose that land at The Angle you can see how it would cut up that part of the run; it would leave us a long strip of 560 acres which would be practically useless. Mr. Halliday says that we could come to terms with the adjoining holders; but I do not think that they would take up that land and pay a fair rent for it. As it is, they have as much as they can do to hold what they have got without renting any more. Then we are completely severed from the southern end of the run. It would be like working six separate small pieces, owing to the way we are cut off on different sides. It is difficult to work the place when it is cut up in that manner, and we wish to try and consolidate it. That is the sole reason for the proposal to exchange this land, and we make a sacrifice in giving up what land we have.

EXCHANGE OF LAND, CUPPACUMBALONG RUN, QUEANBEYAN DISTRICT.

APPENDIX.

A 2.

[To Evidence of Mr. E. A. Bronsdon.]

CUPPACUMBALONG EXCHANGE (398, EASTERN).

Surveyor E. J. Halliday to the District Surveyor, reporting on proposed exchange of lands at Cuppacumbalong, county of Cowley, Land Board District of Goulburn.

No. 96-109.

Sir,

Cooma, 21 September, 1896.

Referring to your instructions, No. 96-147, dated 26th August, 1896, see enclosed papers, Aln. 96-8,812 (L.B. 96-4,326, C'n.), I have the honor, after inspection on the 23th August last, to report as follows:—

2. The representative of the Union Bank, Mr. Davidson, informed me that the Bank was willing to surrender an area on the northern end of the estate, and I inspected this country with him.

3. By a letter dated 7th September, 1896 (copy enclosed), I made a proposal to the Bank, which has been accepted by it. (See its enclosed letter, marked "X," dated 10th September.) The 1,802½ acres offered for surrender is hatched sienna on enclosed helio. of Cuppacumbalong. The 1,300 acres (about) desired in exchange is hatched blue on this helio. I consider the value of the 1,802½ acres to be equal to that of the 1,300 acres (about).

4. One disadvantage to the land offered in surrender is that the land is irregular in form, but not, I consider, prohibitively so. The holdings of many *bona fide* settlers are, unfortunately, more irregular than this area. Another disadvantage, which applies in a lesser degree, is that the country is not naturally so sound for sheep, and, therefore, not so valuable; but this feature can be improved by clearing and draining. There is more cultivation land in the area offered for surrender; but, with the exception of about 15 to 20 acres along part of Murrumbidgee frontage, the cultivatable land is not of a rich character.

5. Observing map it will be noticed that there is a good deal of land alienated adversely to the Bank near to, and in part, adjoining water reserve 67. P. Kelly and P. Smith, adjacent holders, are settlers of a good and *bona fide* type. If, however, water reserve 67 became alienated adversely to the Bank, a narrow strip of country, comprised within portions 66, 10, 11, 1, 12, 15, and 16, aggregating in area 522½ acres, would be injuriously severed from the rest of the Bank's lands. This 522½ acres is all excellent sheep country, and probably 50 acres in patches could be cultivated. If, therefore, water reserve 67 came under adverse occupation of a permanent character the Bank submits that it would be at a disadvantage in renting or disposing of this 522½ acres: and the area being so extremely irregular it would be too expensive to work separately. I also understand that the Bank is in treaty to secure the adjacent lands standing in the name of Dyball and Grey. The land in this locality is the most valuable part of the run for sheep, being the soundest. If the proposal suggested by me is approved of the advantage to the Crown is that the three isolated areas comprised within the vacant land north of portion 68, vacant portions 67 and 45, an aggregate area of about 330 acres, would be absorbed by the Bank. In each case, however, part of the adjoining land is held adversely to the Bank, or at least nominally so; but I do not consider the prospects of disposing of this land, except to the Bank, at all probable, at a fair value, say, 27s. 6d. or 30s. per acre. This 330 acres, as already indicated, is excellent sheep country, not requiring any improvement (beyond fencing). Another and more important advantage to the Crown is that, I consider, the 1,802½ acres will be found sufficient to support two resident settlers, by their combining sheep and cattle grazing, cultivation, and ordinary labouring pursuits in district. In the case of water reserve 67, the rock is so near the surface that the land cuts up in time of drought; the 1,802½ acres stands drought better, but, on the other hand, much of it gets what is termed "spuey" in wet seasons. But, after weighing these and other considerations, I think the proposal might fairly be considered. Owing, however, to the irregular shape of the 1,802½ acres, the comparative unsoundness of much of the land for sheep, and the comparative poorness of most of the land fitted for cultivation, I have come to this conclusion with a considerable degree of doubt.

6. The request made by the Bank in the latter part of its letter of 10th September, that it be allowed to retain the 30-acre farm, should not, I consider, be complied with. This land has been cleared at some considerable expense, say £25, and made fit for cultivation; but, on the other hand, a good deal of the country has been ringed and then allowed to sucker, so that its present state is far worse than it was in the beginning. Further, the fact of securing this small area of cultivatable land is an important factor in favour of the proposed exchange on the part of the Crown.

7. The improvements are not of a character that would benefit incoming homestead selectors, and I think the suggestion made by me in this connection (see my letter dated 7th inst.) should be followed. The improvements are indicated on helio. Except where log fencing is noted, the rest is wire fencing, all being old except that round cultivation paddock in south-east corner, which is new and worth £50 per mile. The rest is worth about £15 per mile.

8. As water reserve 67 has been proclaimed a homestead selection and will be available for applications on the 15th October next, I would respectfully suggest that the land be at once withdrawn from such pending the consideration of this proposed exchange.

9. If the proposal be accepted, then the question of roads will require to be considered before the land is made available. For instance, the main road as now in use northerly from the north-west corner of portion 83 is not provided for by survey; again, the road running southerly through portions 24, 25, and 26, &c., parallel to and a short distance from main road, is not required in its present position; a shorter road from portion 7 to main road would be required in lieu.

10. Further (if the proposal be accepted), a slight exchange might be advantageously made by adding the western part of portion 19 to conditional lease 90/72, and taking therefrom the parts of lease to the east of the Freshford Road; this arrangement has already been given effect to on the ground (see position of existing fencing). The most northern part of portion 88 might also be treated for in the same way.

11. There is also a school building on portion 27 used on sufferance (see helio.); this should also perhaps be provided for by surveying, say, 2 acres.

12. The 1,802½ acres can, I think, be best subdivided into two areas of 1,043½ acres and 759 acres, as indicated on helio. The 1,043½ acres I would estimate as being worth £1 per acre, and the 759 acres £1 2s. 6d. per acre. Each area contains a little agricultural land.

13. The opening of a road known as the Point Hut Road is now under consideration. Part of this road is surveyed through the most northern part of the 1,802½ acres.

14. The time occupied in service was at field-work one day and at office-work two days, the rest of party being at other service.

I have, &c.,

E. J. HALLIDAY,

Surveyor.

Aln. 96-8,812 (L.B. 96-4,326, C'n.) herewith.

L.B. 96-5,746. Aln. 96-8,812 enclosed. The form this exchange has now assumed appears to justify reference to the Board. It is unfortunate that the previous offer was so one-sided as to lead to the land formerly water reserve 67 being notified as a homestead selection, which will be open 15th October next. Withdrawal from homestead selection, if approved, should be effected as soon as possible, and the Land Agent at Queanbeyan informed, so as to avoid as far as practicable disappointing intending applicants.—G. H. SIEARPE, D.S., 24/9/96. The Under Secretary.

A 3.

A 3.

Dear Sir,

Legislative Assembly, N.S.W., Sydney, 20 October, 1896.

The following telegram is from the *Daily Telegraph* of Friday last:—"Queanbeyan, Thursday. The selectors here are jubilant in consequence of Mr. Carruthers stopping the exchange of the revoked homestead selection, No. 225, parish of Cuppacumbalong, and deciding to have the land submitted for settlement."

I have now to request that you will follow up your laudable action by at once declaring the area (No. 225, parish of Cuppacumbalong) again open for homestead selection.

There are nearly 200 persons waiting to apply for the area, most of them selectors' sons, and they are just the stamp of men to turn the land in the mountain country to good account.

I have, &c.,

E. W. O'SULLIVAN.

A 4.

Dear Sir,

Parliament House, Sydney, 21 November, 1896.

On behalf of nearly 200 applicants for the proposed homestead selection on Cuppacumbalong Holding, formerly water reserve 67, and now reserve 24,997, and adjoining blocks, I desire to lodge a protest against the proposed exchange of that land for 2,362 acres on Cuppacumbalong and Tharwa holdings.

The grounds of my protest are:—That the lands proposed to be given in exchange for the land formerly open to homestead selection are inferior in quality and inconveniently situated. So well understood are these facts that I have no hesitation in asserting that you will have no *bona fide* applications for homestead selections on the lands offered if the exchange should be made. The reason for this is obvious. Part of them are near Paddy's River, in mountainous country, and away from the bridge. The settlers who are in that region now complain bitterly of having to travel 7 or 8 miles to the bridge, and the same distance back, when they have to go to Queanbeyan. The land near Naas Valley offered is inferior in quality. On the other hand, the land on the old water reserve, which was first offered as a homestead selection, is of splendid quality, and lies within 2 miles of Williamsdale railway station and the main road to Cooma and Queanbeyan. The river is fordable at the locality. The block of land first offered as a selection is so highly appreciated that nearly 200 persons were prepared to take it up as a homestead selection.

Why should these 200 persons be deprived of the chance of obtaining a profitable homestead in order to oblige a Banking institution which already possesses or dominates an enormous territory in the vicinity?

Yours, &c.,

E. W. O'SULLIVAN.

A. C. Betts, Esq., Chairman of Local Land Board, Goulburn.

A 5.

Sir,

Queanbeyan, 27 November, 1896.

By a resolution passed at a public meeting of persons interested in the proposed surrender and exchange, Cuppacumbalong holding, No. 393, Eastern Division, held this day at Queanbeyan, I, the chairman of that meeting, was directed to forward to you the resolution attached hereto, also adopted by the meeting named, with a request that you will be good enough to submit the same for the consideration of the Local Land Board at its meeting to be held here on Saturday, 5th of December proximo.

I have, &c.,

JOHN GALE.

A. C. Betts, Esq., Chairman, Local Land Board, Goulburn.

Moved by Mr. J. Keefe, seconded by Mr. Timothy Keleher,—

"That this meeting is of opinion that it is against the public interest to grant to the Union Bank of Australia the land they ask for in exchange for the areas they offer, as shown on the map exhibited at the Court-house, Queanbeyan, or to appropriate to uses other than selection the homestead area near Williamsdale, recently withdrawn from selection, and being part of Cuppacumbalong holding, county of Cowley, parish of Cuppacumbalong, comprising 946 acres."

Resolution carried.

JOHN GALE, Chairman.

Referred to the District Surveyor in connection with previous papers in the case.—C. H. EMERY, 30/11/96.

A 6.

SURVEYOR E. J. HALLIDAY to the District Surveyor, reporting further as to proposed exchange of land at No. 96-115. Cuppacumbalong, county Cowley, Land Board District of Goulburn.

Sir,

Camp, near Yass, 30 November, 1896.

Referring to your instructions, No. 96-18), dated 19th November, 1896, on A.B. 96-12,404 (L.B. 96-7,699, Gn.), enclosure, I have the honor, after inspection on the 26th instant, to report as follows:—

First, as to the additional portions afforded in surrender—5, 63, 87, and 88, parish Cuppacumbalong. About 10 acres at the north-west corner of portion 88 and about 10 acres along frontage of portions 63 and 87 is flat, arable, loamy land, with light soil of granite formation; the balance west of road is light-soiled, hilly land, rocky in parts, granite formation, moderately thickly timbered, mainly with apple; the 350 acres east of road is so precipitous and rocky as to be almost, if not quite, valueless, except, perhaps, for the oak timber on it, which may be used in time of drought when the more accessible oak elsewhere has been used up. The adjoining Crown land is of the same rocky, barren, mountainous character, and, in fact, is almost, if not wholly, inaccessible from the frontage of portions 63, 87, and 88, which taken together, I value at £120 for the 510 acres as freehold value, apart from any existing fencing.

About half of portion 5 is flat, arable, light-soiled, loamy land, of granite formation; the rest is undulating, fairly grassed, openly timbered land, rocky in parts; the freehold value of which I estimate at £60. The adjoining Crown land, however, is almost worthless, being precipitously steep, excessively barren and rocky.

For settlement purposes this additional land offered in surrender is not of much value, and could be best worked as part of a large holding. It might, of course, be selected for the sake of forming a home, but it is on the fringe of settlement, and far removed from school provision, &c.

Again, as to exchanging land on south of head station on section 3, village of Tharwa, for allotments recently bought at auction by Bank, it is probable that if the same allotments were put up again after exchange they would be similarly purchased, as, naturally enough, perhaps, a possible public-house may not be desired so close to the station residence.

Speaking generally it may be said that nearly all the trouble in this case has arisen through the extremely one-sided exchange proposal first made by the Bank.

Further, I am unable to see that the application of Bank is made mainly for consolidation purposes, inasmuch as the land offered in surrender leaves a small area entirely cut off from the rest of the Bank's property. This small area comprises portions 2, 17, and 18, parish Tharwa, totalling 322 acres. About 25 acres of portion 2 is under cultivation on terms, but the terms are not such, I believe, as would prevent surrender; the rest of land is occupied by Bank. The 322 acres is not so good as the 522½ acres adjoining revoked reserve 67. It has already been pointed out that revoked reserve 67 is not wholly surrounded by the Bank's land, and should this revoked reserve pass into other hands than the Bank's there is no reason why the 522½ acres should not be satisfactorily rented, or otherwise arranged for, in a give and take manner, with one or more of the four adjacent holders, especially as there is on it both water and a considerable area of good cultivation ground, and the Bank would still hold a large compact area to the south.

When called upon to suggest an exchange for water reserve 67, I found it difficult, because there is not apparently in the whole of Cuppacumbalong Estate another equally compact area of equal average quality.

When in locality a few days ago I had a further look at water reserve 67 and the lands offered in surrender to the north. I consider my first valuation of the latter as high rather than otherwise. There is on it certainly about 100 acres in all of fair arable land; but, on the other hand, there is a considerable part of it light-soiled, inferior land, especially on the south-west half; some of it, through neglected suckering, is densely scrubby; sweetbriar is rather thick on one part. It is not so hilly as water reserve 67, a great deal of it, in fact, being too level for satisfactory natural drainage in a wet time, and is not nearly so sound for sheep as water reserve 67.

My

My first doubts in respect to exchange are increased upon further inspection and consideration, and the additional offers by Bank do not satisfactorily remove them. I would, therefore, advise, in view of the foregoing, and having regard to the expression of public opinion against the proposal, and the fact that about £2,090 worth of land on each side is involved, that the proposal be declined unless a further inspection be made (say) by some successful and level-headed grazier from another district, such as Messrs. A. J. Litchfield or J. Crisp, of Cooma district, at a probable cost of less than £10, or that the Bank give up portions 2, 17, and 18 (on the same terms as the rest), as suggested by the Minister.

Mr. L. F. De Sales, M.L.C., informed me that, as owner with equity of redemption, he claimed that his consent to any proposed exchange would be required to give it legal effect. This has not been given.

I have, &c.,
E. J. HALLIDAY,
Surveyor.

The time occupied in this service was:—At field-work, one day; and at office-work, half-day.—E.J.H.

CUPPACUMBALONG EXCHANGE.—The latest offer is to give 2,312½ acres for about 1,300 acres. Mr. Halliday has valued the 2,312½ acres at £2,077 7s. 6d. on a freehold basis, but much of the land is still incomplete conditional purchase, and portion 88, of 300 acres, part of the last offer, is only held as conditional lease 90-110. It is necessary to ascertain what the Bank proposes to do as to completing and exchanging as freehold. Mr. Halliday values portions 63, 87, and 88, in all 510 acres, at about 4s. 8½d. per acre (freehold), and portion 5, of 50 acres, at 24s. The addition last offered adds very little, therefore, to the value of the whole offered. I propose to be present at the Board meeting, and supply further particulars. At present I do not recommend the exchange.—G. H. SHEAFFE, D.S., 2/12/96. The Chairman.

A 7.

Yarralumla, 2 December, 1896.

Sirs,
Kindly oblige by entering a protest against the exchange of what is known as homestead selection on Cuppacumbalong Holding for that portion of land known as Coffey's Flat, on account of the inferior quality of latter land for grazing purposes.

By entering the protest on behalf of the undersigned, you will much oblige.

JOHN FLINT.
RODERICK McDONALD.
CORNELIUS O'ROURKE.
JOHN WARMAN.
GEORGE MORRIS.
AARON TAYLOR.
(And others.)

Messrs. Cox and Gale.

A 8.

To the Chairman and Members of the Queanbeyan Land Board,—
Gentlemen,

In the matter of the proposed surrender and exchange of land, Cuppacumbalong Pastoral Holding No. 398, county Cowley, parishes Tharwa and Cuppacumbalong, Land District of Queanbeyan, Eastern Division, by the Union Bank of Australia (Limited), for 1,300 acres of Crown lands, being part of the Cuppacumbalong Holding, including homestead area No. 225, county Cowley, parish of Cuppacumbalong, Land District, Queanbeyan.

We, the undersigned residents and intending applicants, of Micalago, Burra, and Williamsdale, strongly object to the above exchange being effected, as the same is against our interest and the public in general, which will be explained by our representatives, Messrs. Cox and Gale, and give expression to our voices.

We are, &c.,
JOHN COMMINS.
WILLIAM LENANE.
WALTER F. CRAWFORD.
PATRICK COMMINS.
MICHAEL J. COMMINS.
CHARLES SMITH.
(And others.)

A 9.

Crown Lands Act of 1884—(Part II. section 14, sub-section 4.)
Decision of Local Land Board.

New South Wales, to wit.

WHEREAS on the 5th day of December, 1896, and 28th and 29th days of January, 1897, it became a matter for investigation before us to consider an application to surrender and exchange lands within Cuppacumbalong Pastoral Holding No. 398, Eastern Division, in the Land District of Queanbeyan—the Union Bank of Australia (Limited)—and having taken evidence and inquired into the said matter, we appraise the freehold value of land proposed to be surrendered at £1,780, and of the land to be given in exchange at £1,785 7s. 6d., exclusive of improvements.

The balance of testimony adduced at inquiry is in favour of the proposal, and in this connection we desire to point out that out of the large number of objectors only two appeared in support of their objections, and these have but a very slight knowledge of the land proposed to be surrendered.

The area of 1,302 acres, fenced on exterior boundaries, appears to be sufficient for two homestead selections, and is suitable for mixed farming, part grazing and part agriculture.

The 560 acres to the south on Naas and Gudgeby Creeks embrace for the most part inferior land, but being fenced in, and containing in all about 35 acres of cultivatable land, would doubtless be taken in one block as a homestead selection.

The land to be given in exchange is good grazing, but only a few acres suitable for agriculture.

The proposal appears equitable, the lands to be surrendered being of greater area, easier of access, and more suitable for closer settlement under existing law than those to be given in exchange.

The improvements should not be disturbed.

Given under our hands at the Court-house at Queanbeyan, in the Colony of New South Wales, this 29th day of January, 1897.

A. C. BETTS, Chairman.
J. J. WRIGHT, }
ALEX. DYCE, } Members.

Charting Branch.—E.A'B. (per G.H.), 16/2/97.

Caption to Deposition of Witnesses.

New South Wales, to wit.

THE examination of Edward James Halliday, of Cooma, in the Colony of New South Wales, salaried surveyor (ten sheets); James Harcourt Lees, of Cuppacumbalong; William Davis Wright, of Queanbeyan; John Sheedy, of Cuppacumbalong; George White, of Cuppacumbalong; John Gregory, of Naas; William John Sheedy, of Tharwa; Jeremiah Keefe, of Williamsdale; and William Owens, of Taggeranong, in the said Colony.

Whereas it became a matter before the Board to consider an application for surrender and exchange by the Union Bank of Australia (Limited) in Cuppacumbalong Holding No. 398, Land District of Queanbeyan, and it hath been found necessary to investigate the said matter on oath, the depositions of the several witnesses are appended hereto.

Number of pages of evidence 30
Number of exhibits Nil.

This

This deponent, *Edward James Halliday*, of Cooma, salaried surveyor, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Sheaffe (District Surveyor): I was instructed to inspect the lands proposed for surrender and those to be given in exchange, Cuppacumbalong holding; inspected portions 5, 63, 87, and 88 on 26th November, 1896; value portion 5 of 50 acres at £60 the lot; about 25 acres of it are fit for cultivation; water permanent; the Crown lands on the west adjoining portion 5 are precipitous and excessively rocky, worthless; portions 63, 87, and 88, of 510 acres altogether; about 10 acres along frontage of portions 63 and 87 and 88 are flat arable land, with a light loamy soil of granite formation; the balance west of road, approximate area 150 acres, is light soil, hilly land, rocky in parts, granite formation, moderately thickly timbered, mainly with apple; 350 acres (about) east of road are so precipitous and rocky as to be almost, if not quite, valueless, except for some oak timber on it, which possibly might be of some value in time of drought, when the more accessible oak elsewhere has been used; value the 510 acres as a whole at £120 freehold value, as apart from any fencing; this value represents about 4s. 8½d. per acre; believe the 510 acres would be taken as a homestead selection with a capital value of 5s. an acre; value the ringing on the land at £7; no other improvements besides boundary fencing; the ringing is suckering badly; the fencing near the creek is wire; did not see the fencing on the back; estimate the carrying capacity of the 510 acres, as they are now, at 7 acres to a sheep; know reserve 67; estimate it will carry about a sheep to an acre; the 510 acres will carry very little more if ringed; the part east of the road could not be payably improved; its carrying capacity cannot be materially increased; the 510 acres are not of any value to the Crown for settlement purposes; they are on the fringe of settlement, not near any centre of population, and native dogs are bad in the locality; inspected the 1,802 acres near Farrer's offered by the Bank; this land is not as sound for sheep as water reserve 67, but there is more cultivation land in the 1,802 acres; the cultivation land, about 100 acres, is open timber; as a whole the 1,802 acres are open, parts have been ringbarked, but it has been allowed to sucker, and the scrub has become dense in places; excepting 15 or 20 acres along the Murrumbidgee River, the cultivation land is not of a rich character; the balance of cultivation land might grow oats for hay; the 20 acres are rich alluvial; it would grow any kind of cultivation suitable to the district; the 1,802 acres are not fit for dairying, the soil is too light; it is best adapted for carrying sheep for a time; it is not sound enough to breed sheep on for a series of years; the carrying capacity is one sheep to 2 acres; on the average, a sheep to 2 acres on the 1,802 acres would not do as well as a sheep to the acre on the water reserve; know the three other detached portions applied for by the Bank; they are practically the same as water reserve; know portions 2, 17, and 18; they are better than the 1,802 acres as a whole; there is more agricultural land on portion 2 in proportion; the western half of the 1,802 acres is inferior compared to the eastern half; the average value of 1,802 acres in its present condition is £1,600, exclusive of improvements; the ringing has been neglected, and the land is as bad now as if it had never been touched; the fencing through the portion has not been included in my valuation; value portions 2, 17, and 18 at £330, area 322 acres, about 24s. an acre; the water supply is good, and about equal on the lands proposed to be surrendered and those to be got in exchange; value conditional lease 15,958 at 10s. an acre freehold; the 1,802 acres are not suitable for settlement in small holdings; they would not support two families without other pursuits; the eastern part is level, spuey soil; requires draining for sheep; Mr. De Salis gave Mr. Farrer permission, about ten years ago, to run a race from about north-west corner portion 1 north-east to portion 7, parish Tharwa: the race is still in use, and does not affect the country; it drains Coffey's Flat a little; reserve 67 requires no clearing; there is a little timber, only sufficient for shelter; most of the timber is dead; naturally the land was open; the reserve only requires fencing; the river is a natural boundary; about 30 acres, in patches, could be cultivated, but no patch would contain more than 10 acres; the cultivation land would be suitable for oats for hay; wheat, perhaps, at the south-west corner; it would not grow corn; no alluvial flat; it is steep towards the river; the rest is too stony for cultivation, there being numerous outcrops of rock; it is about the best of sheep country; it would fatten sheep, or it would do for sheep-breeding; the formation is slate and schistose; at one point there is a little limestone; consider reserve 24,606 is required; there is a road reserved through reserve 67 for access to Williamsdale; value reserve 67 at 27s. 6d. per acre freehold, total 945 acres, £1,300 (about); the reserve is very compact in form; the land offered is very irregular, and is intersected by roads carrying considerable traffic; the traffic through water reserve 67 is at present almost nil; think there would be a tremendous ballot for water reserve 67 at 30s. an acre even in one or three blocks; it would be eagerly sought after; value the three detached portions edged blue at 27s. 6d. an acre, about 353 acres; they are useless for new settlement; they are only useful for adjoining holders; the proposed exchange does not appear to me as a consolidation of the station property; am extremely doubtful if the exchange is in the interest of the Crown; the last offer of 510 acres and portion 5 of 50 acres does not remove my doubts as to whether the exchange is in the interest of the Crown; do not recommend the exchange; the land offered is extremely irregular in shape, and is not such good sheep country; it would require a considerable capital to improve the land; it is doubtful whether the agricultural land is good enough to pay to cultivate; it is not rich enough; its quality is doubtful; the reserve requires no improvement beyond fencing; a selector of any of the lands would have to depend mainly on grazing for a living; valued the land on its carrying capacity and its capability of being improved; my basis of valuation is that land which will carry a sheep to an acre is worth 27s. 6d. an acre apart from improvements; the 1,802 acres could be improved considerably by ringing, scrubbing, and draining; the western portion of the 1,802 acres is not objectionably steep, it is poor sandy soil; the 1,802 acres, after ringing and scrubbing, would be increased in carrying capacity 15 per cent.; south of Farrer's the scrub is very thick, about 50 or 60 acres; mainly the large timber has been killed, but there has been a great growth from stumps and seedlings, which has been neglected.

By Mr. Garraway (solicitor): Practically the land offered for surrender is fenced on the outside boundaries with good fences; the fence will save the public the expense of fencing the land; water reserve 67 is only fenced adjoining Kelly's; it would take 4½ miles of fencing; the west of the 1,802 acres is inferior to the east; the 1,802 acres have two river frontages; water reserve 67 has only one river frontage; the greater part of the east boundary of the 1,802 acres is fair land; 30 acres, in patches, of water reserve 67 fit for cultivation—about five patches; they would require fencing; the cultivation land on the 1,802 acres contains about 50 acres in one block; saw about 25 acres under cultivation at south-east corner of portion 1; saw it 28th August; no doubt the crops would grow very well for three years; noticed where land had been cultivated previously; water reserve 67 and the 1,802 acres would carry about the same number of sheep; water reserve 67 is only 1½ mile in a straight line to Williamsdale railway station; practically the road is not fit for vehicle traffic; vehicle traffic would use Tharwa Bridge, about 6 miles distant or 7 miles—an excellent road, made by the Works Department; know road through Dyball's; a creek on the road is impassable at present; travellers use a track through Dyball's by his permission; they have to trespass; the crossing could be mended in a few days; at present travellers have to trespass through portion 66 belonging to the Bank; the 1,802 acres are 4½ miles from the centre to Tharwa Bridge—an excellent road, better access than water reserve 67; the road is always passable; the access is in favour of the Bank's proposal; the Bank will lose over 1,000 acres; doubt whether the Bank would lose in carrying capacity; the Bank will lose in cultivation land the difference between 30 and 100 acres; water reserve 67 does not cut alone into the Bank's land; Kelly adjoins it; the Bank has only 10 chains to travel from one piece to another, at present separated by the reserve; the Bank holds the three detached areas under occupation license; 25 of the 50-acre portion fit for cultivation; it could be made into a cultivation paddock; the other portions offered are together, and contain 10 acres fit for cultivation; there are oak-trees growing on the portions; believe the road from the 510 acres is good; the creek on road from water reserve 67 is avoided; the 350 acres would carry nearly three times as many sheep as the 510 acres offered; the greater part of the 210 acres on west of road will carry a sheep to 3 acres; the 560 acres will carry about 135 sheep; no land fit for cultivation on the isolated blocks belonging to the Government; the station has the lease of the blocks; there would not be a living for a man on these blocks; do not consider the exchange an advantage to the Government.

By Board. No means of adding to portion 5; the land around is very rough.

By Mr. Garraway (solicitor): Know portions 101 and 102; roughly speaking, they are same as the 510 acres; portions 101 and 102 have been selected.

By Mr. Sheaffe (District Surveyor): A homestead selector would only have to pay half the cost of fencing water reserve; the single frontage of the reserve is about as good as the double frontage of the 1,802 acres; Paddy's River is not a natural boundary; half the traffic is from the south of water reserve 67; think the road will be improved in time as far as water reserve 67; the profit on a sheep from country that will carry a sheep to an acre is greater than that on a sheep from country which only carries a sheep to 3 acres.

By Mr. Gale: Goods could be packed to Williamsdale; the approach to the river is bad.

By Mr. Cox: The internal fencing on the 1,802 acres would not be of use to a selector.

By Mr. Gale: It is 15 miles from water reserve 67 round the made road to Tuggeranong platform, and about 12 miles from the 1,802 acres.

By Mr. Garraway (solicitor): There are settlers beyond the 510 acres, adjoining; Cotter, Lenane, and Oldfield have selections on the south of the portions offered for surrender on Naas Creek; dogs are bad in that particular corner.
Sworn by Edward James Halliday, at Queanbeyan, }
this 5th of December, 1896, — } E. J. HALLIDAY.

J. J. WRIGHT, Acting Chairman.
ALEX. DYCE, }
A. C. BETTS, } Members.

This deponent, *Edward James Halliday*, of Cooma, salaried surveyor, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Garraway (solicitor): At time of inspection did not know that Gray's land belonged to the Bank; if the Bank acquired the reserve, 322 acres would be cut off; the Bank has land on three sides of the reserve; the southern end of the estate would be consolidated if the Bank obtained the water reserve; know Conlou's corner; I do not consider the soil good enough for cultivation; it is good grazing land; I am certain there are not 300 acres fit for cultivation; am aware the Bank has offered to give up the improvements on the land; the ringbarking is worse than when the land was in its natural state; consider the fencing balances the injury done to the land through the ringbarking being neglected; the fencing on the outside boundary would be an advantage; the crossing opposite the reserve is not practicable for wheel traffic; do not think that a good road could be made there.

By Mr. Sheaffe (District Surveyor): Think portions 2, 17, and 18 would work in with the land offered for exchange, and that they are more valuable than the 560 acres, Naas Creek; if portions 2, 17, and 18 are acquired by the Crown they would improve the prospects of settlement of the land offered; do not consider the land could be cultivated profitably for more than four or five years; there is a ford within the 945 acres, generally known as The Angle Crossing.

By Mr. Garraway (solicitor): The Bank has 50 acres cultivation land near the reserve; did not inspect all the estate as to land fit for cultivation; the 130 acres are not particularly good cultivation land.

By Mr. Cox: The improvements on the land about balance the injury done by the neglected ringbarking; consider the improvements of very little value.

By Mr. Garraway (solicitor): Would recommend the exchange if portions 2, 17, and 18 were offered, and the portions on Naas Creek containing 560 acres excluded.

By Board: The 50 acres, portion 5, on Gudgenby Creek, would be of no value to the Crown unless an adjoining holder bought it; the portion would be of no use by itself.

By Mr. Garraway (solicitor): The little reserves are not much good to the Government by themselves.

By Mr. Sheaffe (District Surveyor): Value the 300-acre conditional lease on Naas Creek at 4s. 8½d. an acre freehold; value the conditional lease, portion 47, on Paddy's River, at 10s. an acre freehold.

By Mr. Garraway (solicitor): Value portions 63, 87, and 88 at 4s. 8½d. per acre freehold.
Sworn By Edward James Halliday, at Queanbeyan, }

E. J. HALLIDAY.

this 28th of January, 1897, —

A. C. BETTS, Chairman.
J. J. WRIGHT, }
ALEX. DYCE, } Members.

This deponent, *James Harcourt Lees*, Manager, Cuppacumbalong Estate, for the Union Bank, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Garraway (solicitor): Am thoroughly acquainted with the lands proposed for surrender and exchange; the 1,802 acres have two frontages—1½ mile to Paddy's River, and 2½ miles to the Murrumbidgee; with fair usage I consider 300 to 350 acres fit for cultivation; the 1,802 acres will run 1,600 sheep continuously; there were 1,800 sheep in the paddock all last winter, and they did very well; the paddock includes portions 2, 17, and 18; the 1,802 acres from the centre to Tharwa Bridge is 4 miles, a good vehicle road; the Bank has had 30 acres of the 1,802 acres under cultivation this season, which has been a rather bad one; the land yielded 200 bushels of wheat, at 4s. 6d., 17 tons oat-hay, at £3; there will be about 5 tons of straw, at 25s.; 2½ acres potatoes, 12 tons, at £2 a ton; a man named John Sheedy worked the place on the halves; roughly, the 1,600 sheep will return £200 per annum; the 30 acres cultivation are in one block; expenses have to be paid out of the amount given; about 300 acres more could be cultivated; it would yield fair crops, but not quite as good as the 30 acres; about 25 acres in detached pieces of reserve 67 fit for cultivation; it is only poor cultivation land; the reserve is good grazing land; estimate it will carry about 800 sheep; the reserve and the 1,802 acres are about the same grazing capacity; estimate that the 800 sheep would return about £100 per annum; it is doubtful whether a crop would grow on the reserve; reserve 67 is 4 miles from Williamsdale station, as the crow flies; it is not fit for vehicle traffic; for ordinary traffic it is about 15 miles to the nearest platform; between reserve 67 and the Tharwa Bridge the road is not very good, it is steep in places, and there are dangerous creeks; the road from the 1,802 acres is much shorter and better; consider the 1,802 acres will produce double the reserve No. 67; the Bank is willing to give up the 1,802 acres for consolidation, and nothing else; the Bank will lose grazing area for 700 sheep and cultivation land; the Bank has agreed to surrender boundary fences and the huts; the boundary fences are in good order, and will be of service to anyone taking the land; the fence is six-wire, and 1½ mile log-fence on Paddy's River; should say that Coffey's Flat, 300 acres, is fit for dairying; dairying is carried on on the adjoining block; reserves 67 is not by any means suitable for dairying; the 1,802 acres are better for settlement—twice as productive for mixed farming as the reserve; the Bank holds the small reserves under occupation license; they are good grazing, not suitable for cultivation; they are in isolated blocks, and a settler could not make a living off them; the Bank proposes to give 560 acres on Gudgenby Creek for the reserve; 25 acres of the 50-acre block, Gudgenby Creek, is good cultivation, and the balance of the 560 acres will carry 200 sheep; should think about the same could be made by mixed farming on the 560 acres as out of the three small reserves; the nearest of the reserves is 4½ miles from Tharwa Bridge, and the farthest 13 miles; the 560 acres are about 13 miles from the bridge; the road to the 560 acres is fair and practicable; no measured road to the reserve of 103 acres after Patrick Smith's; the road to the 560 acres is more accessible.

By Mr. Sheaffe (District Surveyor): Reserve 67 is partly free from timber; ringbarking has been done on the reserve; a number of trees have died naturally; it is good grazing land, not rich; consider half the 1,802 acres will carry as many sheep as the reserve in average seasons; estimate it will cost about 1s. 3d. an acre to ringbark and scrub the 1,802 acres; probably it would require a second scrubbing; one little bit is fairly thick near Paddy's River; the whole area is not scrubby; consider Coffey's Flat will fatten sheep better than the reserve; the reserve is sounder than Coffey's Flat; about 900 acres of the 1,802 acres are as sound as the reserve, and Coffey's Flat could be made sound by draining; value the 510 acres, Naas Creek, at about 7s. an acre; know Crown land on Paddy's River; value it about 10s. an acre freehold; value the balance of the 1,802 acres, excluding the Crown land, at 17s. 6d. per acre; the land, 30 acres cultivation, had been fallow for two or three years.

By Board: Value reserve 67 at 25s. an acre, the three little reserves at 17s. 6d. an acre, and portions 17 and 18 at 12s. 6d. an acre, and portion 2 at 25s. an acre, freehold values; value portion 5 at £1 per acre; 25 acres fit for cultivation, and 25 acres stony.

By Mr. Gale: Have been managing at Cuppacumbalong two years; there has been mortality at Coffey's Flat, but not greater than on the other part of the run; daresay 100 would ballot for the reserve, but I do not think most of the objectors know the land offered by the Bank.

By Mr. Garraway (solicitor): Know that when several of the objectors heard of the land offered they withdrew all objection to the exchange.

By Mr. Cox: They do not all live near Coffey's Flat; Mr. White adjoins portions 17 and 18, also portion 1, part of the land offered; Sheedy can get 140 acres; we had not time to get more than 30 acres ready; he has not been contracting since I have been at Tharwa; Sheedy does not work all the year on the land; the sole object of the Bank is consolidation of the estate.

By Board: Williamsdale station is about 4 miles from the river; there are two fordable places on the Murrumbidgee (between Williamsdale and Micalago) that I know of; they can only be used by horsemen.
Sworn by James Harcourt Lees, at Queanbeyan, }

JAMES H. LEES.

this 28th of January, 1897, —

A. C. BETTS, Chairman.
J. J. WRIGHT, }
ALEX. DYCE, } Members.

This deponent, *William Davis Wright*, of Queanbeyan, auctioneer, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Garraway (solicitor): Am intimately acquainted with the lands proposed for surrender and exchange, Cuppacumbalong; was born and grew up at Cuppacumbalong, and since then I have been managing there for Mr. De Salis; have not the slightest interest in the land; it is immaterial to me whether the land is exchanged or not; know block of 1,802 acres and the reserve; I would not give the 1,802 acres for the reserve; there is a good road to the 1,802-acre block, and it is nearer Queanbeyan; Tiggeranong is the nearest available station to the reserve; Williamsdale station is perfectly unavailable without trespassing; the river is dangerous at the crossing to Williamsdale—not fit for vehicular traffic; it is impossible to cross with a vehicle, and it is dangerous for horsemen; the 1,802-acre block is better for a homestead; more cultivation land, and it is better watered; the reserve has only one frontage; there may be 12 to 20 acres fit for cultivation; there are 250 to 300 acres of the 1,802 acres fit for cultivation; the 1,802 acres will carry 1,500 to 1,800 sheep, the reserve about a sheep to the acre in good seasons; a portion of the 1,802 acres is fit for dairying; none of the reserve is fit for cultivation or dairying, and the frontage to the river is very precipitous; for the purpose of settlement I consider the 1,802 acres better than the reserve; half as much again; mixed farming could be carried on on the 1,802-acre block, but not on the reserve; no garden or orchard land even on the reserve; think the Bank would lose by the exchange, except that it would consolidate the estate; the public would not lose by the consolidation; know the three little reserves; they are fair grazing; know the blocks, Naas Creek, 560 acres; would have the 560 acres in preference to the reserves, as the reserves are isolated; have had a good deal of experience with land; the reserve would return from £100 to £120 a year, and I think more than £200 a year could be made from the 1,802 acres.

By Mr. Sheaffe (District Surveyor): It is two years since I crossed at Angle Crossing; know Kelly's selection; he crosses at Redbank, I believe; he has a boat there as well; the reserve has not been ringbarked; a very few trees may have been ringbarked; they mostly died naturally; would call the land open box and apple-tree; no scrub; there may be a little gum; it is sounder for sheep than the 1,802 acres.

By Mr. Cox: Remember sheep running on Coffey's Flat; Coffey's Flat was never known as "Old Help"; had applications for the 945 acres when it was open, and I should think there would be more for the 1,802 acres; remember a meeting being called to consider the exchange; there were nearly all townspeople at the meeting, and they were divided in opinion as to the exchange; perhaps those who favoured the exchange, and who were present at the meeting, lived near the 1,802 acres.

By Board: Value the 1,802 acres at 12s. 6d. an acre, freehold; the reserve at 15s. an acre; think land that will carry a sheep to the acre is only worth 15s. an acre now; value the three reserves at 10s. an acre; value the 560 acres at 7s. 6d. an acre, including the cultivation.

Sworn by William Davis Wright, at Queanbeyan, }
this 28th of January, 1897,—

A. C. BETTS, Chairman.
J. J. WRIGHT, } Members.
ALEX. DYCE, }

W. DAVIS WRIGHT.

This deponent, *John Sheedy*, of Cuppacumbalong, farmer, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Garraway (solicitor): Am a selector; live close to the 1,802 acres; farm part of it on the halves; if the Bank surrenders the land I will lose my farm; this last season I had about 30 acres under cultivation; it was only a middling season; got about 180 bushels wheat, not thrashed yet; value it at 4s. 6d. a bushel; and 17 tons oat hay, worth about £3 a ton, and there will be 4 tons wheat straw, which should be worth 25s. a ton; should get 12 tons of potatoes and £5 worth of pumpkins; total, about £125; there has been a sheep to the acre running on the 1,802 acres; they look well; reckon the wool from the sheep worth about £170; 1,500 acres of the 1,802 acres are as good as can be got for sheep; the rest is good agricultural land; one flat is too wet for sheep; 300 acres are fit for agriculture in patches; the 30 acres I cultivated are in one block, and there is more just as good—about 50 or 60 acres; the rest will grow any sort of crop, but not as heavy as the 30 acres; have been farming thirty-five years, off and on; have had practical experience; know the reserve No. 67; about 20 acres, in patches, fit for cultivation; the rest is good grazing land; have selections of my own, and do mixed farming; as far as I am concerned, I consider the 1,802-acre block as good, acre for acre, as the reserve; I am sure I would make double off the 1,802 acres than off the reserve; think the exchange in favour of the Crown; do not think I would make £100 a year from the reserve by running sheep on it; reckon the 1,802-acre block will return £200 if farmed and stocked.

By Mr. Sheaffe (District Surveyor): It would be more expensive to work the 1,802 acres; there is a good deal of timber on it, heavy in places; it would require ringing and clearing, but the reserve would not; ringing will cost 10d. to 1s. an acre for the 1,802-acre block; do not know what the scrubbing will cost; have taken four crops off the 30 acres, but it was idle for some time previous to this year; the 30 acres are on the river, not subject to floods.

By Mr. Gale: Have been living over the river fifteen years; Coffey's Flat will carry as many sheep as elsewhere; more sheep have not died on Coffey's Flat; there is a small place rather wet; the 1,802 acres will require ringbarking, but it will not cost much to improve the carrying capacity.

By Mr. Cox: Made my own estimate of the yield of the 30 acres; did not consult Mr. Lees; it would suit me better if the exchange does not take place.

By Board: Value the 1,802 acres at 20s. per acre, the reserve at about 20s. per acre; do not know the small reserves or the piece, Gudgenby Creek.

Sworn by John Sheedy, at Queanbeyan, }
this 28th of January, 1897,—

A. C. BETTS, Chairman.
J. J. WRIGHT, } Members.
ALEX. DYCE, }

JOHN SHEEDY.

This deponent, *George White*, of Cuppacumbalong, selector, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Garraway (solicitor): Live adjoining the 1,802-acre block offered by the Bank; know the 1,802 acres and reserve 67 very well; intended to apply for Coffey's Flat as a homestead selection; my land joins Coffey's Flat, and it would be more convenient for me; could make most money, twice as much out of the 1,802 acres as out of the reserve No. 67, apart from the fact that I adjoin the 1,802 acres; could use the 1,802 acres for farming, grazing, and dairying; there is only a small piece of cultivation land on the reserve; it is not fit for dairying; it could be used for grazing; mixed farming pays better than grazing; dairy on my own land, adjoining the 1,802 acres, and made butter pretty well all last winter; there are 150 acres as good and better on the 1,802 acres than on my place; there are about 250 acres fit for cultivation on the 1,802 acres; very fair land; Sheedy got a very good crop, the way the season was; the 1,802 acres will carry about a sheep to the acre, and reserve 67 a sheep to the acre; the 1,802 acres are much nearer market, a good level road; was across from the reserve 67 to Williamsdale; crossed at The Angle crossing at Dyball's land; it was a pretty rough crossing; might be able to drive across; do not know any crossing at the reserve; know the country pretty well; saw a crossing-place at the reserve; was not near it; can cross with horses, but not vehicles; the traffic comes via Tharwa Bridge; value the 1,802 acres at £1 an acre, and reserve 67 at about the same; no one has had any conversation with me as to the value of the land; I have given my own idea of its valuation; know the small reserves; no cultivation, grazing land; they are not as good as reserve 67; value the 170-acre one at 12s. an acre; value the 80 acres at 15s. an acre; value the 103 acres at 10s. an acre; know the land, Naas Creek, belonging to the Bank; there is some good land in it, and some bad; including the 50 acres, the 560 acres are worth 15s. an acre; there are about 13 to 14 acres of the 50-acre block fit for cultivation; the estate could be worked better if the Bank got the 945-acre reserve.

By Mr. Sheaffe (District Surveyor): Have been along the back lines of the 560 acres; can ride or walk the lines; it is sound sheep country; it will carry a sheep to the acre; was born on the station; have seen worse land carry a sheep to the acre.

Sworn by George White, at Queanbeyan, }
this 25th of January, 1897,—

A. C. BETTS, Chairman.
J. J. WRIGHT, } Members.
ALEX. DYCE, }

GEORGE WHITE.

This deponent, *John Gregory*, of Naas, *via* Queanbeyan, grazier, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Garraway (solicitor): Have nothing to do with the Union Bank or station; know the lands proposed to be surrendered and exchanged, Cuppacumbalong; know reserve, 945 acres; live nearer it than the 1,802-acre block; would rather have the 1,802 acres; they are nearer the market, and the land is pretty well as good as the other land, and the 1,802 acres would pay better than the 945-acre reserve; could have a mixed farm and cultivate on the 1,802 acres; no cultivation land on the reserve, or very little; the reserve is a good sheep run; it is ridgy country, slaty formation; good sheep country; do not think it would be any good for dairying; would have to go by Cuppacumbalong over the bridge to market; as a matter of fact, all the settlers in the locality travel *via* Tharwa Bridge; from the bridge to the reserve the road is rough; the road is much shorter and better from the bridge to the 1,802 acres; about 300 acres of the 1,802 acres fit for cultivation, and about 400 acres of a swamp, Coffey's Flat, fit for dairying; the rest is very good sheep country, not first-class, it is healthy; think a person should make £200 or £300 a year out of the 1,802 acres by working them as a mixed farm; have had twenty years' experience in farming in this and other districts; mixed farming pays better than grazing; consider a person may make £150 a year out of the reserve; the reserve will carry 900 or 1,000 sheep; value the reserve, 945 acres, at 25s. an acre, and the 1,802 acres at 20s. per acre freehold; know the 560 acres, Naas Creek; the 50-acre block is very good, all fit for cultivation; it is a narrow strip up the creek; the 510 acres are good sheep country; a road runs through it; one side of the road is better than the other; know some of the land runs to the top of a hill; value the 510 acres at 18s. an acre freehold; value the 50 acres at £1 per acre; the cultivation land will cost a good deal to clear; know reserve adjoining Dyball's on the south; it is good grazing country, about the same as reserve 67; value it at 25s. an acre freehold; do not know reserve joining Hamilton's; can only distinguish one of the Government reserves.

By Mr. Gale: Reside at Naas; am a free selector, not a tenant; the 510 acres, Naas Creek, will run a sheep to the acre; would give 18s. an acre freehold for the land; would be surprised to hear that the land was valued at 4s. 6d. an acre; the river crossing at the reserve is only fordable for horses; the reserve is about 2 miles from Williamsdale; have heard of sheep dying at Coffey's Flat, but not more than elsewhere; there are 300 acres fit for cultivation in the 1,802 acres; that is my own opinion.

By Board: The 1,802 acres are about the same as the reserve; parts of the 1,802 acres are heavily timbered; the reserve is ringbarked ready for use, and it will take some time before the 1,802-acre piece is brought to the same condition as the reserve as regards clearing; think the 1,802 acres would be readily taken as a homestead selection.

Sworn by John Gregory, at Queanbeyan, }
this 29th of January, 1897,—

JOHN GREGORY.

A. C. BETTS, Chairman.
J. J. WRIGHT, } Members.
ALEX. DYCE, }

This deponent, *William John Sheedy*, of Tharwa, labourer, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Garraway (solicitor): Have no land of my own; have nothing to do with Cuppacumbalong station; do not work for the station; intended to apply for reserve 67, of 945 acres; know the reserve well; know the Government stopped the land being available for selection; protested against the land being withdrawn; afterwards heard that 1,802 acres were offered for the reserve; know the 1,802 acres well; they are better than reserve 67 as a homestead selection; I am in favour of the 1,802 acres being thrown open instead of the reserve; a homestead settler could make more off the 1,802 acres than off the reserve; the 1,802 acres are easier to get at than the 945-acre reserve; the reserve is fit for grazing, slaty country, no cultivation worth speaking about; sound sheep country; it will run about 850 sheep; reserve 67 is close to Williamsdale, but one can only get to Williamsdale on horseback from the reserve; vehicle traffic is by Tharwa Bridge; that is the way the settlers in the locality go; the 945 acres are farther from the bridge than the 1,802 acres, and the road is worse; none of the 945 acres fit for dairying; crossed the river at Dyball's, but not on the reserve; the crossing at Dyball's is the only place where a dray can be taken over; took part of a threshing-machine across the river there, but I had to use ropes; about 300 acres of the 1,802 acres fit for cultivation; live alongside the 1,802-acre block, and know every inch of it; George White keeps cows near the 1,802 acres; his country is not as good as the dairying land on the 1,802 acres; mixed farming can be carried on on the 1,802 acres, but it would be impossible to dairy or farm on the reserve No. 67; this is one of my reasons for preferring the 1,802 acres; to the best of my opinion twice as much can be made off the 1,802 acres as off the reserve of 945 acres; the 1,802 acres will carry about 1,600 sheep; am used to sheep; sheep on the land now are doing well; would use Coffey's Flat for dairying; about 400 acres fit for dairying; about 12 or 20 acres are very wet; good cultivation land; the rest of the 400 acres is not too wet; it is better for cattle than sheep; the back land is good sheep country; know Conlon's Corner; it is sound for sheep, as sound as the reserve No. 67; know reserves joining Dyball on north, and Hamilton; they are good sheep country; no cultivation or dairying land; they will not carry as many sheep as the 945-acre reserve per acre; know the 510 acres and 50 acres, Naas Creek; a corner of the 50 acres fit for cultivation, not much; the whole area is not fit for cultivation; no cultivation land to speak of on the 510 acres; it is good sheep country, heavily timbered; not as good as reserve 67; the 560 acres will carry about 400 sheep.

By Mr. Gale: Live with my father; the only crossing is on Dyball's land; the crossing is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile below the reserve; my own opinion is that 300 acres of the 1,802 acres are fit for cultivation; have not spoken to Mr. Lees, Mr. Garraway, or anyone else as to the area fit for cultivation; sheep run on Coffey's Flat; have not heard of any sickness or mortality in sheep running on Coffey's Flat, not more than elsewhere.

By Board: Think the 1,802 acres would be taken as a homestead selection, also the 560 acres, Gudgenby Creek.

Sworn by William John Sheedy, at Queanbeyan, }
this 28th of January, 1897,—

WILLIAM JOHN SHEEDY.

A. C. BETTS, Chairman.
J. J. WRIGHT, } Members.
ALEX. DYCE, }

This deponent, *Jeremiah Keefe*, of Guise's Flat, Williamsdale, farmer and grazier, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Gale: Know reserve 67 perfectly well; was an intending applicant for a portion of it; did not sign a petition for the revocation of the cancellation, as I was not at home; know Coffey's Flat; have been over a good deal of the 1,802 acres; would not have anything to do with the 1,802 acres; the reserve will carry 1,000 to 1,200 sheep; I dare say 25 to 30 acres could be cropped, enough for home use, but I would not call it good cultivation land; believe there is enough cultivation land for an orchard or garden; believe there is some cultivation land on the 1,802 acres, but I would not call it payable cultivation land; as far as I have seen there are 100 acres cultivation land on the 1,802 acres, but I am not prepared to swear that there is not more; know Coffey's Flat; it is low country; if it were drained it would do for cultivation; it is a wet flat; it may do for cattle; do not believe the 1,802 acres sound country; the 1,802-acre block will require draining; do not know if there is any scrub; cannot say if any ringbarking will be necessary; reserve 67, the timber has died naturally; the country is almost open; do not know the 560 acres, Naas Creek; live near Williamsdale; can cross the river on to the reserve; there is a crossing at Dyball's, but the approaches are bad; I believe an easy road can be made from the river to Williamsdale; have had conversations about applying for the reserve 67; have spoken to twenty about applying for the reserve; have heard half a dozen say that they would apply for the 1,802 acres, but they live about the place.

By Mr. Garraway (solicitor): The reserve is about 4 miles from my place by road; the 1,802 acres are about 8 miles from me; sheep-farming is better than mixed farming; I cultivate some land of my own for my own use; do not know Sheedy's farm, of 30 acres; do not know exactly where it is; do not know any particular spot on Coffey's Flat that has been farmed; I have only been across the 1,802 acres once, and only parts of it; have not been on Paddy's River; have seen the land back of Mr. Farrer's; saw it from the road; have ridden across the 1,802 acres in two directions; did not inspect the land; formed an opinion of the land by riding over it; will not swear I saw more than 500 acres; am only speaking from casual observation; will not swear there are not 300 acres fit for cultivation; would be surprised to hear that 30 acres, Sheedy's farm, yielded £126; if it did, the land is better than I thought it was; did not inspect Coffey's Flat;

Flat; consider reserve 67 superior ground, as far as I know; the best crossing is at Dyball's; the 1,802 acres are 3 miles from Tharwa Bridge, good road; believe Tharwa Bridge would be the best road from the reserve 945; would take produce to Williamsdale platform; believe it possible to take two or three bales across the river; the 945 acres would yield about fifteen bales of wool; would take my wool to Williamsdale.

By Board: Value reserve 67 at 25s. an acre.

Sworn by Jeremiah Keeffe, at Queanbeyan, }
 this 29th of January, 1897,— }
 A. C. BETTS, Chairman.
 J. J. WRIGHT, } Members.
 ALEX. DYCE, }

JEREMIAH KEEFFE.

This deponent, *William Owens*, of Tuggeranong, labourer, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By *Mr. Gale*: Know reserve 67; was an intending applicant, and was disappointed when the land was withdrawn; know the portions proposed in exchange for reserve 67, known as Coffey's Flat; do not think I would apply for Coffey's Flat; do not think portion of the 1,802 acres as good as portion of the reserve; the reserve would require no clearing; most of the 1,802 acres has been ringbarked, but the scrub has grown up worse than it was at first; value the reserve at 20s. per acre, and the 1,802 acres at 7s. 6d. or 10s. per acre; cannot say that I know the reserve was measured for special area at 30s. per acre; if I had the money would have taken a block of the reserve at 30s. per acre.

By *Mr. Garraway (solicitor)*: Would graze on the reserve, a sheep to the acre; think they would yield £120 or £130 per year; small patches, scattered, fit for cultivation, about 30 acres; each block would have to be fenced; believe cows would do well on the land; know the 1,802 acres pretty well; 60 or 80 acres good cultivation land; 100 acres inferior cultivation land; know where Sheedy's farm is; have not seen it under cultivation; some of Coffey's Flat is fit for dairying; 60 acres are pretty moist; think parts are too damp for sheep; the moist part would do for cows; I included the 60 acres in the cultivation land; parts of the back land are good for sheep; the land will carry 700 or 800 sheep; parts of it are sour, and I do not think sheep would do well; think the reserve would be more profitable than the 1,802 acres; mixed farming would pay better than only sheep, in a good place; the 1,802 acres could be used for mixed farming; was not at meeting to protest against withdrawal of reserve 67; believe the fuss was made because the Government withdrew the land from selection; did not know at the time why the land was withdrawn; know some who were going to apply for the reserve; am not aware if they knew the reason of withdrawal; it made a difference when it was found that another place would be thrown open for homestead selection.

Sworn by William Owens, at Queanbeyan, }
 this 29th of January, 1897,— }
 A. C. BETTS, Chairman.
 J. J. WRIGHT, } Members.
 ALEX. DYCE, }

WILLIAM OWENS.

A 10.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

Cuppacumbalong Exchange (398, Eastern).

1. The Union Bank in 1895 applied to surrender the lands hatched red on the enclosed helio. "A," in exchange for water reserve 67 hatched blue, but the proposal was refused as not being in the public interests.

A representative of the Bank then interviewed the Minister, and it was decided that a report should be obtained as to what would be a suitable exchange.

Surveyor's report.

Mr. Surveyor Halliday finding that the station was prepared to surrender land from the northern part of their property, inspected the lands, with the result that the Bank was invited to lodge an application to surrender the 1,802½ acres, hatched brown, for the 1,300 acres edged blue, though Mr. Halliday admitted he had arrived at the conclusion to recommend the exchange with a considerable degree of doubt. Upon the application being lodged the homestead selection area, No. 225, covering the cancelled reserve, No. 67, was revoked. Dissatisfaction having been shown relative to the withdrawal of the area, the Bank offered to increase the extent of the surrenders so as to embrace all the lands edged red. Mr. Halliday has inspected these additional lands, and values portion 5 of 60 acres, parish of Cuppacumbalong, at £60, but reports that the Crown land to the west of it is useless. The other three additional surrender portions marked A, in area 510 acres, he values at £120, *i.e.*, 4s. 8½d. per acre, the greater part of it being precipitous and rocky; and he states that even the addition of these extra portions does not remove his doubts as to the utility of carrying out the exchange.

Area "A."

Protests.

Two protests, one bearing thirty-four signatures, and the other twenty-eight, have been put in against the proposals, and both the District Surveyor and Mr. Halliday, in view of the opposition raised, advise that the exchange be not entertained.

Concessions granted to Mr. Farrer.

With regard to the northern surrender area, Mr. Farrer, owner of portion 2, writes that concessions were granted to him by his father-in-law, the Honorable L. F. De Salis, of a road of access and a water-race over the portions as shown to a dam on his portion 2, and he also forwards a declaration signed by De Salis, to the effect that he has never considered himself at liberty to withdraw the concessions.

Village of Tharwa.

Some objections were raised to the station having purchased all the allotments sold in the village of Tharwa, and the Bank has offered to surrender all the allotments in sections 1 and 6, near the bridge, for a like area southerly of the homestead, which is on section 3. Mr. Halliday thinks that the station would repurchase the lots if surrendered, when again offered, so as to prevent the possibility of a public-house being erected at the bridge in such close proximity to the homestead. If the exchange proposals be otherwise carried out it is submitted that this town exchange should form part of the scheme.

Board's report.

The Land Board, after taking thirty sheets of closely-written evidence, concludes that the testimony adduced is in favour of the exchange proposals. The respective areas are considered as practically of equal value. The Board reports that the northern surrender area is sufficient for two homestead selections, and is suitable for mixed farming, part agriculture and part grazing; that the southern surrender area, containing 35 acres of cultivatable land, would doubtless be taken as a homestead selection; that the lands for granting are good grazing, with only a few acres suitable for agriculture; and that the surrender lands are easier of access and more suitable for close settlement than the lands for exchange.

Mr. O'Sullivan's objections.

Mr. E. W. O'Sullivan, M.P., has throughout strongly opposed the exchange, and since the case came from the Board has written asking that the exchange shall not be completed until he has had an opportunity of inquiring into the whole matter by means of a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly.

Advantages.

The advantages of the exchange seem to be that the Crown would get over 1,000 acres more land than it gives; that three selectors could be settled on the surrenders, whereas only one or two could be put upon reserve 67; and the three remaining areas edged blue, which are too small for independent occupation, would be disposed of.

Station for sale.

It is observed that the Cuppacumbalong property is advertised in Saturday's *Herald* as being in the market for disposal by order of the mortgagees.

Submission.

Attention is specially invited to Mr. O'Sullivan's objections to the exchange, but in view of the Board's very careful and lengthy inquiry into the merits of the case, it is submitted that the exchange might be proceeded with on condition that (1) applicants cancel the concessions granted to Farrer relative to the water-race and road over the surrender land; (2) they pay a further sum of £50 towards expenses; (3) now lodge the deeds of the freehold surrender portions; and (4) agree to relinquish all claim to the improvements on the surrender portions, leaving them undisturbed on the land.

Conditions.

The Under Secretary for Lands.

C. J. SAUNDERS,

23/2/97.

Having read the evidence, and especially Surveyor Halliday's reports, I agree with the conclusion arrived at by the Land Board, and submit that the exchange is in the public interests, and may be proceeded with subject to the conditions above mentioned. It is a matter for special consideration whether the operation of the law is to be deferred, to the inquiries of a proposed Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly.—J. HOSKIN, Under Secretary, 24/2/97.

Resubmit next Friday.—J.H.C., 27/2/97.

May stand over, as I do not care for this proposal.—J.H.C., 8/3/97.

B.

B.

[Appended by the Committee.]

E. W. O'Sullivan, Esq., M.L.A., Legislative Assembly, Sydney,—

Sir,

Lambrigg, Queanbeyan, 24 May, 1897.

As I see you are interesting yourself in the exchange of land applied for by the Union Bank on the Cuppacumbalong Run, I write now for the purpose of furnishing you with facts which bear on the matter.

The main reason given by the Land Board for recommending the Government to agree to this exchange is that the land at The Angle is so much less accessible than is the land offered by the Union Bank. I may point out that the land at The Angle is within less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Williamsdale platform, and that a road will shortly have to be opened between The Angle, where there is an excellent ford and that platform. My reason for saying that "a road will shortly have to be opened" is that the Roads Department has decided upon shortly making (I believe that tenders have already been called for) a road from Naas to the Rocky Crossing, on the Gudgenby River. This new road is intended to lead to both Gudgenby and Ororal. As soon as this road has been made, the only serious obstacle on a road from Williamsdale to Cooleman will have been removed.

During a recent trip to Cooleman, I took much interest in the road leading to that place from Naas—enough, in fact, to be able to furnish a fair preliminary report on it, as I had with me a theodolite which I made some use of.

I may state briefly that there is no serious obstacle to a road between the Rocky Crossing and Ororal. Between Ororal and the Cotter River, at Mr. Thomas Oldfield's, there is no obstacle which cannot be readily overcome by clearing timber and making some side-cuttings in ground which is easy for that purpose. On the Ororal side of the Waverley Gap and near the Gap there is a short and rather steep pinch of some 60 or 70 yards. This, I think, could be got over by making a slight detour and some side-cutting. Further on, the present track goes right over a conical hill, around which it could easily be taken without any climbing whatever; nothing more would be needed than the clearing away of some timber and some side-cutting. The last obstacle before reaching Mr. Thomas Oldfield's is the range east of the Cotter River. This range is neither high nor steep, but as the sides are even (little broken by gullies or creeks) and not rocky, and are covered by decomposed shale, which is easy for side-cutting and makes the best of roads, an excellent road of almost any gradient could be made at little expense over this range.

On the west side of the Cotter River the first obstacle is Bimbery Mountain. This mountain consists of two separate hills, with a slight depression or flat about half a mile wide between them. The first or lower hill consists of two parts. The lower is less steep than the upper part, and for the present would do for traffic; the upper part of this first hill is too steep for horse-drays, although bullock-drays with relatively light loads could ascend it. I dealt with this steep place, and surveyed and temporarily marked a zigzag road up it in such a manner that the ascent never exceeded an angle of $7^{\circ} 40'$ (about 1 in 7). Like the range on the east side of the Cotter, the lower hill of Bimbery Mountain is little broken by creeks and covered by decomposed shale and free from rocks; the side-cuttings, therefore, which would be required to make my road available could be made easily and inexpensively. The second hill leading to the Murray Gap on the top of the mountain is not steep, and the main work required on it would be timber clearing and a little side-cutting. The ground in the Murray Gap is springy and swampy, but I am of opinion that an open drain about 300 yards long and 3 ft. 6 in. deep would make the ground to be firm and good for a road.

On the western fall from the Murray Gap there is a steep pinch of about 100 yards, beginning some 200 or 300 yards from the Gap. I could not spare time enough to see whether this pinch could be avoided, but am of opinion that it could be considerably mitigated in such a manner that little excavation other than side-cutting would be needed. This is the only place on the whole road where, I think, excavation might be required. Proceeding down the mountain, little work beyond the clearing away of timber appeared to be needed until we came to a steep pinch about 500 yards on the east side of Murray Creek. With the object of avoiding this pinch, I surveyed and temporarily marked a detour road, on which the gradient is relatively easy. The greatest descent on it is an angle of $8^{\circ} 40'$ (or 1 in $6\frac{1}{2}$). Some clearing away of timber and a little side-cutting would be required on this deviation to make it available for use. From Murray Creek to Cooleman there is no obstacle of any importance. I am of opinion that £250 judiciously spent on the road between the Rocky Crossing and Cooleman would make a road on which travelling would be at least fairly easy for all vehicular traffic.

I will now deal with the distances between the different places which would be served by this road, and the advantages which would attend the opening of it. The distances given are approximate, but, I believe, fairly correct.

- (1) From Williamsdale platform to The Angle (where the Union Bank is desirous of acquiring land by exchange), $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
- (2) From The Angle to Naas (this road has been surveyed), $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
- (3) From Naas to Ororal, 8 miles.
- (4) From Ororal to the Cotter River (Mr. Thos. Oldfield's), 12 miles.
- (5) From the Cotter to Cooleman Homestead, 8 miles.
- (6) From Cooleman to Kiandra, 19 miles.
- (6¹) From Cooleman to Yarrangobilly Caves, 17 miles.

From this you will see that the distance from Williamsdale to Kiandra is practically the same as from Cooma Railway Station to Kiandra, while Williamsdale is 40 miles nearer to Sydney than is Cooma. Also with regard to the Yarrangobilly Caves, you will see that the distance to them from Williamsdale is actually less than from the railway at Cooma to Kiandra, which is still about 20 miles short of the Caves. In going to the Caves from Williamsdale, therefore, instead of from Cooma, 40 miles is saved by rail and fully 20 miles by road; while the scenery between Williamsdale and Yarrangobilly is much superior to that between Cooma and the same place. Good caves can also be seen at Cooleman by tourists on their way to Yarrangobilly.

When I was up at Cooleman I learnt that the settlers thereabouts would, if the road I am advocating were made practicable, greatly prefer to get their supplies from Queanbeyan than from Innut, as they have to do at present. The making also of this road would lead to a large amount of settlement taking place in the country west of Naas, and adjacent to this road. The want, in fact, of a practicable outlet from it has been the cause of this country having been left so long to be a breeding ground for dingoes.

From the above you will see why I am justified in making the statement at the beginning of this letter, that "a road will shortly have to be opened from the ford at The Angle to the Williamsdale platform"; the land, therefore, at The Angle cannot be considered to have attached to it the disadvantage advanced by the Land Board, that it is much less accessible than is the land offered by the Union Bank, which, even when the Point Hut Road has been opened, will be fully 6 miles distant from the Tuggeranong platform. The opening also of a road from The Angle to Williamsdale ought to add sufficient to the value of the land at The Angle, which the Union Bank wishes to acquire by the exchange, to more than cover the cost of opening that road.

I am, &c.,

WILLIAM FARRER.

P.S.—I have omitted to state that, as far as I can learn, the opening of the road from Williamsdale to Cooleman would require the resumption of no private land between The Angle and Williamsdale.

I need hardly point out to you that the opening of this road would add materially to the trade of Queanbeyan.

C.

C.

[Appended by the Committee.]

E. W. O'Sullivan, Esq., M.L.A., Legislative Assembly, Sydney,—

Sir,

Lambrigg, Thurwa, 7 June, 1897.

As my letter to you is to be published, I think if opportunity of doing so still remains, that two mistakes in it ought to be corrected. The first is, that I stated that Williamsdale is 40 miles nearer to Sydney than is Cooma, and that 40 miles of travelling would be saved by traffic from Kiandra to Sydney joining the railway at Williamsdale instead of at Cooma. In both instances, 50 ought to have been used instead of 40, and 70 instead of 60 miles of travelling would be saved in going to the Yarrangobilly Caves from Williamsdale. Again, I stated in a parenthesis paragraph that I understood that tenders had already been advertised for making the road from Naas to the Rocky Crossing, on the Gudgenby River. I find I have been misinformed in regard to that matter, and that the tenders advertised for are for work on another part of the same road—from Queanbeyan to Gudgenby.

I hope that you will see that a good camping and travelling stock reserve is made at The Angle. The road from Williamsdale to Coolcman is sure to be made sooner or later, and will be much used by travelling stock; and provision ought most assuredly to be made for that traffic while it can be made. I myself think that travelling stock reserves ought to be large—200 or 300 acres.

I trust you have now recovered from your illness.

I am, &c.,
W. FARRER.

[One plan.]

CUPPACUMBALONG
COUNTY OF COWLEY
QUEANBEYAN LAND DISTRICT

SCALE

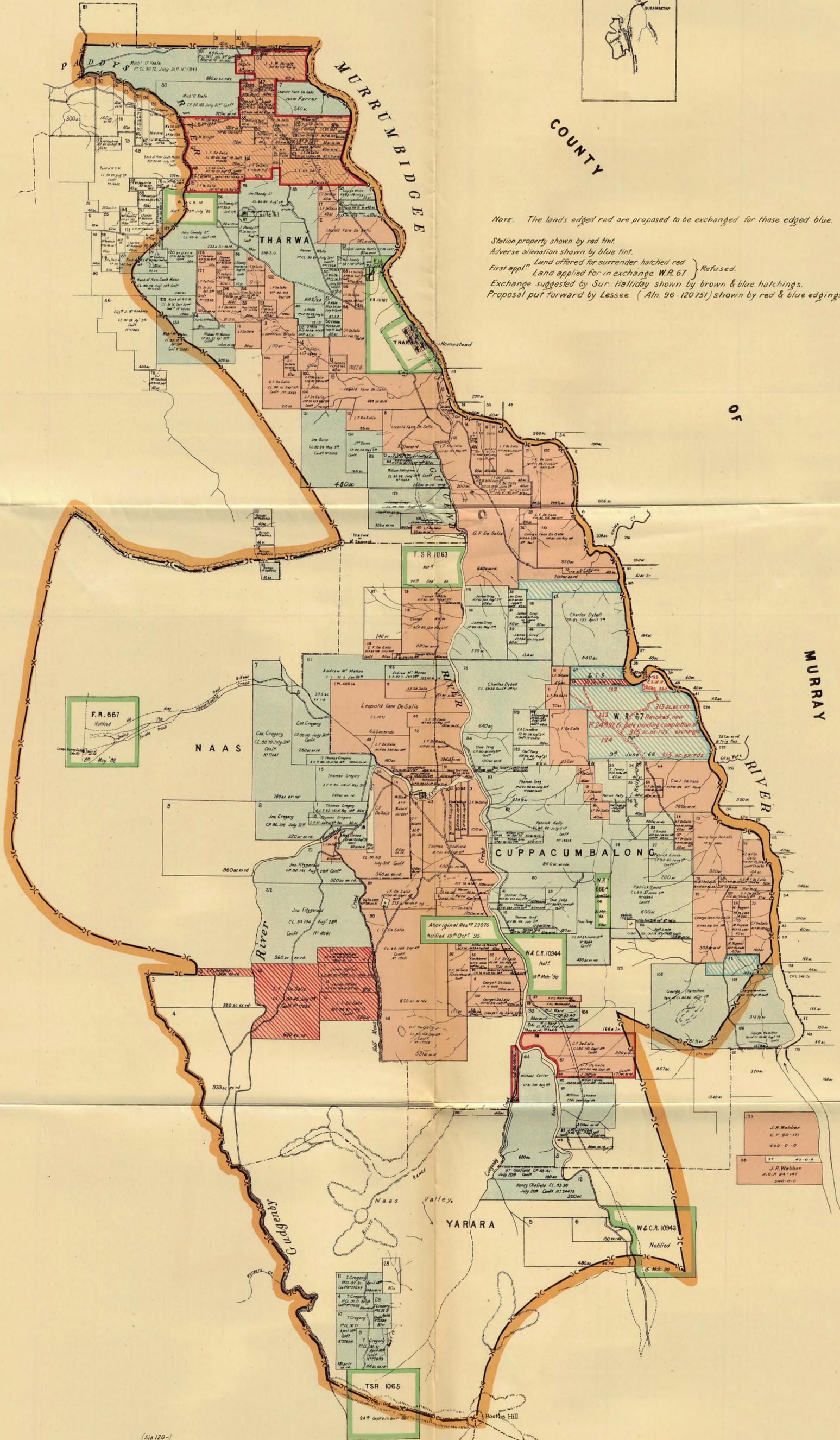


PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE,
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.



COUNTY

Note. The lands edged red are proposed to be exchanged for those edged blue.
Station property shown by red tint.
Adverse alienation shown by blue tint.
Land offered for surrender hatched red } Refused.
Land applied for in exchange W.R. 67 }
Exchange suggested by Sur. Halliday shown by brown & blue hatchings.
Proposal put forward by Lessee (Aln. 96. 120751) shown by red & blue edgings.



F.R. 667
Notified
10th May '97

TSR 1065
24th September '97

J.R. Webber
C.P. 80-171
400-0-0

J.R. Webber
A.C.R. 84-147
240-0-0

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

EXCHANGE OF LAND, CUPPACUMBALONG RUN,
QUEANBEYAN DISTRICT.

(PETITION FROM JAMES ORR, OF THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA (LIMITED), OF SYDNEY,
PRAYING TO BE REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL, OR ATTORNEY, OR IN PERSON, BEFORE SELECT
COMMITTEE ON.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 27 May, 1897.

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

The Petition of the Union Bank of Australia (Limited), of Sydney, in the Colony of New South
Wales,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH :—

That on the 13th day of May, 1897, your Honorable House appointed a Select Committee to
inquire into and report upon the proposed exchange of land on Cuppacumbalong Run, Queanbeyan
District.

Your Petitioner humbly prays that he may be represented by counsel, or attorney, or in person,
before the Select Committee appointed to inquire into and report upon the said matter, with the right to
call witnesses and adduce evidence, and to examine and cross-examine such witnesses as may give evidence
before the said Committee.

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

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA (LIMITED), by its Attorney,—
JAMES ORR.

Sydney, 27th May, 1897.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

CLAIM OF JAMES AND PATRICK GUIHEN,
OF KANGAROO VALLEY;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND

APPENDIX.

Printed under No. 20 Report from Printing Committee, 21 October, 1897.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPELGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1897.

1897.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 39. TUESDAY, 27 JULY, 1897.

8. CLAIM OF JAMES AND PATRICK GUIHEN, OF KANGAROO VALLEY:—Mr. Alexander Campbell moved, pursuant to Notice,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the claim of James and Patrick Guihen, of Kangaroo Valley, against the Government, for loss sustained through the action of the Government in disputing their title to certain land at Lower Brogher's Creek, Kangaroo Valley.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Carruthers, Mr. Robert Jones, Mr. Morton, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Pycers, Mr. Law, Mr. Rose, and the Mover.
- Question put and passed.
-

VOTES No. 60. TUESDAY, 19 OCTOBER, 1897.

9. CLAIM OF JAMES AND PATRICK GUIHEN, OF KANGAROO VALLEY:—Mr. Alexander Campbell, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before, the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this subject was referred on 27th July, 1897, together with Appendix.
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1897.

CLAIM OF JAMES AND PATRICK GUIHEN, OF KANGAROO VALLEY.

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed on 27th July, 1897, to inquire into and report upon the claim of James and Patrick Guihen, of Kangaroo Valley, against the Government, for loss sustained through the action of the Government in disputing their title to certain land at Lower Brogher's Creek, Kangaroo Valley,—have agreed to the following Report:—

Your Committee, having examined the witnesses named in the List* *See List, p. 4. (whose evidence will be found appended hereto), find:—

1. That the land in question is and was the property of James and Patrick Guihen, which conclusion is borne out by the sworn evidence given before the Local Land Board.

2. That the Crown did dispute the title of the Guihens, by informing them that unless they applied to purchase the land under section 66 of the Crown Lands Act it would be brought to auction, and subsequently by stating that the Guihens should pay rent for the land.

3. That, by the Crown so disputing the ownership of the land, the Guihens were put to much trouble and loss through want of peaceful possession, and through having to incur legal and other expenses in maintaining their right to the land.

Your Committee consider that the recommendation of the Land Board should be given effect to, and recommend James and Patrick Guihen's case to the favourable consideration of the Government.

ALEX. CAMPBELL,

Chairman.

No. 3 Committee Room,

Legislative Assembly,

14th October, 1897.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

WEDNESDAY, 4 AUGUST, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

None.

In the absence of a Quorum the meeting called for this day lapsed.

TUESDAY, 10 AUGUST, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Chapman,	|	Mr. Alexander Campbell,
Mr. Law,	|	Mr. Pyers.

Mr. Alexander Campbell called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings, appointing the Committee, *read* by the Clerk.

Committee deliberated.

William Lovegrove called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

James Guihen called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Ordered,—That the Under Secretary for Lands be summoned to give evidence next meeting.

Adjourned till Thursday next at 11 o'clock.

THURSDAY, 12 AUGUST, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Alexander Campbell in the Chair.		
Mr. Chapman,	|	Mr. Pyers.

Edward Arnold Bronsdon (*Clerk-in-charge, Alienation Branch, Lands Department*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness *handed in* Report and Evidence of the inquiry by the Local Land Board held at Nowra in November, 1889 [*Appendix A 1*]; Report by the Board of Inquiry held at Nowra in February, 1891 [*Appendix A 2*]; Tracing showing the land [*Appendix A 3*].

Witness withdrew.

Reassembling of the Committee to be arranged by the Chairman.

[Adjourned.]

TUESDAY, 24 AUGUST, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Alexander Campbell in the Chair.		
Mr. Law,	|	Mr. Pyers,

The Clerk, by direction of the Chairman, read a letter from the Under Secretary for Lands, intimating that the Department desired to offer further evidence.

Edward Arnold Bronsdon recalled and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

William Lovegrove recalled and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated as to their Report.

Reassembling of the Committee to be arranged by the Chairman.

[Adjourned.]

THURSDAY, 26 AUGUST, 1897.

MEMBER PRESENT :—

Mr. Alexander Campbell.

In the absence of a Quorum the meeting called for this day lapsed.

THURSDAY, 14 OCTOBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Alexander Campbell in the Chair.		
Mr. Robert Jones,	|	Mr. Law.
Mr. Pyers.		

Chairman submitted Draft Report.

Same read, amended, and *agreed to*.

Chairman to report to the House.

LIST OF WITNESSES.

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1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

TO INQUIRE INTO

CLAIM OF JAMES AND PATRICK GUIHAN,
OF KANGAROO VALLEY.

TUESDAY, 10 AUGUST, 1897.

Present:—

MR. ALEXANDER CAMPBELL,	|	MR. LAW,
MR. CHAPMAN,	|	MR. PYERS.

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

William Lovegrove called in, sworn, and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] Did you act as agent for the Guihan Brothers in the dispute which occurred with regard to some land at Broger's Creek? Yes.
2. When did the case arise? I was Crown Lands Agent at Shoalhaven in 1886. Towards the end of that year Guihan and Erwin both came to me, Erwin wanting to know whether the island in dispute belonged to Guihan.
3. What island do you refer to? The island which forms the subject of this inquiry and is the subject of the claim. I told them both that the land belonged to Guihan, and that there was no doubt about it. I came to Sydney, having been a candidate for Parliament in February, 1887, and shortly afterwards Guihan came to me and said that he had been directed to give up the Island, as it was Crown land. I went to the Lands Office, and saw the original plan. I saw Mr Deering, and I said, "Mr. Deering, this land belongs to Guihan, there is not a shadow of doubt about it." His answer was, "Am I speaking to Mr. Lovegrove, my friend, or to Mr. Lovegrove, the Land Agent?" I said, "The Land Agent." Then he said, "I wish to tell you that Guihan shall never have the land."
4. Has not a large amount of correspondence passed between you and the Lands Department in connection with this Island? Yes, for several years. Guihan was told he would have to apply to purchase this land.
5. You have not said whether Erwin lodged an application to purchase? He had not lodged an application at this time, but he was being urged by an unseen hand to lodge it.
6. *Mr. Chapman.*] What do you mean by an unseen hand? I am not able to identify it; but Mr. Fraser Martin sent Guihan a form application to apply for half the land, and said it was no use fighting the Government—that Erwin should have the other half. He was to apply to purchase it. It was not to be given to him.
7. Can you state, of your own knowledge, that pressure was brought to bear on him to do that? I would rather leave that to Guihan to say.
8. Do you know, as a matter of fact, that pressure was brought to bear? The pressure is best disclosed by the letters, to which I will refer. The first in date which I have here is 13th January, 1888. It is from the Department of Lands, and is as follows:—

Sir,

Referring to your letter of the 19th ultimo and previous correspondence relative to the dispute between George Erwin and James Guihan as to ownership of about 19 acres on Broger's Creek, between Mr. Erwin's incomplete conditional purchase of 128 acres and Mr. Guihan's completed conditional purchase of 199 acres 2 roods and 20 perches, parish of Wallaya, county of Camden, I am directed to inform you that, upon a close investigation of plans and deed descriptions, the

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Lovegrove.
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Lovegrove.
10 Aug., 1897.

the land in question is found to be owned by the Crown, and that Mr. Guihan should apply under section 66 for the area between his portion and the present northerly course of running water, as indicated in the accompanying tracing. I am to add that, in the event of Mr. Guihan failing to tender such application within one month, steps will be at once taken to sell the land by auction.

That is signed by the Under Secretary for Lands. I take it that that is a clear claim by the Crown. I then wrote, calling attention to the fact that the plan did not agree with the description in the application. The reply from the Department on 2nd February, 1888, says:—

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 10th instant, conveying Mr. Guihan's determination not to give up possession of the land which it is proposed to give to Mr. Erwin, I have the honor to inform you that—1. Mr. Taylor's plan does agree with the deed in description. 2. Mr. McIlwraith was put in possession of the land by the deed. Twenty-five years adverse possession is nothing as against the Crown, and rent should be paid.

I have nothing stronger to read than that the Crown actually claims rent for the land. That disposes of the Crown Solicitor's opinion, delivered afterwards, that the Crown had never claimed the land—that it was merely a dispute between Erwin and Guihan.

9. *Mr. Law.*] What is the statement about "twenty-five years adverse possession not affecting the Crown"? I did not say anything about adverse possession, but I said the man had been in possession twenty-five years, and that all their plans showed that the land was Guihan's. Then commenced what seemed to me the worst feature of the whole business. The Lands Department began altering all the maps.

10. *Mr. Pyers.*] What was the amount of land that Guihan had? 199 acres 2 roods 20 perches.

11. Has the land been surveyed again to see if he has sufficient land without the piece which is in dispute? No; the plans showed it, and the Board of Inquiry said the facts were incontrovertible, and that the land must be given back again. Mr. Deering said, "No, there cannot be a re-survey."

12. *Mr. Chapman.*] Mr. Pyers asks you whether any survey has been made since, or whether the maps show that Mr. Guihan had not his area of land without the land in dispute? There has been no re-survey. The maps show from the very first that the land was Guihan's.

13. That he has not his area without it? The maps show the island was marked as part of Guihan's land.

14. Part of his 199 acres? Yes.

15. Do you know that Mr. Guihan had not in his holding 199 acres without including the land in dispute? I am certain he had not. When I spoke to Mr. Deering about it, I said, "What will you do for the 20 acres that are short?" He said, "Oh, give him back his five shillings an acre." The land had been cleared, grassed, and in all respects it was beautiful dairy paddocks, and according to the evidence worth £16 per acre.

16. *Mr. Pyers.*] Have you any correspondence to show that he said that Mr. Guihan was to get five shillings an acre back? No; it is simply what Mr. Deering told me, and I am on my oath. The correspondence went on, and at last Mr. Erwin was urged to put in a special application for the land, and it was gazetted. I think that was some time in October, 1889. A great deal of time passed before he could be persuaded to send in an application. I immediately lodged a caveat. I was asked to withdraw this caveat, and I would not. After considering this business for some time, the matter was referred to the Land Board for trial on 13th November, 1889.

17. *Chairman.*] What decision did the Land Board arrive at? The Land Board was curiously constituted. At that time one of the local members died and had not been replaced, therefore there were only Mr. Harriott and Mr. Bice. I applied to the Lands Department for certain papers to be produced at the trial. They said they would be produced on payment of £6. There is a letter to that effect. I pointed out that the papers really belonged to the Shoalhaven district, and as they were to be produced in the Shoalhaven district, I thought no charge should be made. They replied that they would be in the hands of the Chairman, and that I could have access to them.

18. Were those plans and papers produced? When I went down there, knowing all the maps had been altered, and that probably they had forgotten I had two maps in my office, I subpoenaed the Land Agent there to produce the two maps I thought would not have been tampered with. Then I asked the Chairman to allow me to see the papers which he had brought from Sydney. He said no, he would not do that, but that if I asked for any one by its departmental number, he would produce it. That, of course, was tantamount to shutting me out altogether, because I did not know the departmental numbers. However, I was content to rest my case on the facts, and on the production of maps by Mr. Galbraith, who succeeded me as Land Agent. The maps were produced accordingly, and they showed that the land belonged to Guihan. There being only one member of the local Board, and Mr. Harriott evidently having a strong bias in favour of the Department, the judgment appeared to me to be so ambiguous that I resolved to take a bold step. I therefore wrote and said that a much more serious thing had cropped up than the mere claim of Guihan to the land; that was, that the maps were altered in the Department *pendente lite*, in a most vital point. Mr. Brunner, the Minister, thought this was so serious a charge that he ordered a Board of Inquiry.

19. *Mr. Pyers.*] What decision did the Land Board come to? That the land was Guihan's if the starting point was right, and if so-and-so and so-and-so.

20. *Chairman.*] Was it soon after that referred to a Board of Inquiry? Yes; Mr. Condor was the Chairman. He wrote a note to me asking me to appear before the Board. I appeared, but, to my surprise, he said, "I am sorry to say that we do not want you to give any evidence. The thing is too palpable. The land must be restored to the Guihans. The plans which have been altered will have to be made right again, but we should like you to say that this might have been done without malice." I was taken aback for a moment, and I said, "Well, sir, the facts having been given in our favour, it is not for me to state what the intention was. It is for the Board of Inquiry to find out what the intention was." They said, "We shall report that the deed must be made right, and the land given up to Guihan."

21. Have you any further correspondence after that? Then comes this letter:—

Referring to your letter of 19th November last and subsequent communications respecting the claim made to certain land in the parish of Cambewarra, County of Camden, by Messrs J. and P. Guihan, in connection with which you made a statement that maps are altered in this Department in their most vital point, and this is done in view of matters *pendente lite*, I am directed by the Secretary for Lands to inform you that the Board of Inquiry, after a careful investigation of the whole of the circumstances surrounding this matter, have furnished a report to the effect that in one of the instances pointed out by you no alteration whatever has been made.

It was a case in which the colour appeared to have been tampered with, but it was not very certain.

And

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And in the others the alleged alterations have been carried out clearly and legitimately, as the sequence to a Ministerial decision upon alleged facts, and in no way partakes of the character implied by you.

That is a curious paragraph.

I am to add that the Board were of opinion that the island in dispute between Messrs. J. and P. Guihan and Mr. George Erwin should be added to the grant held by the former; but upon this matter you will receive a further communication.

I did receive a further communication as to when and where to lodge the Crown grant. The grant was altered, and the land was given back to these people.

22. Have you that further letter that he refers to there? No; the Government did not deny that they had to give up the land again.

23. *Mr. Law.*] Is it on record in the report that the land was to be given up to Guihan? I have never seen that report. This letter shows a bias, in my opinion, because Mr. Morton, when quoting in the House from the report, read the following passage—

The Board are of opinion that the facts presented are incontrovertible—

That is not merely an opinion, and there is no getting away from that statement. The quotation then goes on:—

and would respectfully advise that the Crown grant be recalled, with a view to the issue of a new deed, including the island, in accordance with the original survey; also that the recent survey of the island be cancelled, the marks obliterated, and the notations referred to as having been cancelled on the plan restored.—

So you see that the Government had been actually holding these men at bay for three and a half years on a matter which the Board said and I said from the beginning there was no shadow of doubt about.

The deed of grant was recalled accordingly, with a view of including the island in the proposed new deed.

I waited for a considerable time until the deed should be altered beyond recall. I had to wait seven or eight months. At the end of that time I wrote to the Government, pointing out the losses these men had sustained, the fact that their neighbours had been invited to trespass on their land, that their fences had been cut down by the Government surveyors, that the land had been thrown open to anybody and everybody, and they themselves held up as dishonest men who had taken what they did not own, that there had already been two inquiries.

24. *Mr. Law.*] Are these inquiries on record in print? Yes.

25. In one part you said the Board report that the land must be given up to Guihan;—is that in the printed report of the Board? Yes. I then wrote, after the deed was safe, to the Government, pointing out the litigation which had lasted for four years, and I asked would they not compensate Mr. Guihan for the terrible loss and expense they had put him to. They replied by letter, saying that they would require the items.

26. *Chairman.*] Did you submit a bill? Supplying Guihan with the dates, I sent a bill down to him to fill in the amounts, and it came back to me at, I think, £591.

27. Was that the claim Guihan made? Yes. I wrote to the Government, enclosing the claim; but I said I would recommend the sum of £300 as being, in my opinion, a fair amount to cover all losses.

28. What course did the Minister then take? The Government, after a lapse of four or five months or more, replied that the Secretary for Lands had decided to refer the papers in the case to the Local Land Board for investigation, and that the papers had been sent to the Chairman, at Goulburn.

29. *Mr. Pyers.*] What was the decision of the Land Board on that? Mr. Moriarty in the first place said it was only a dispute between two private individuals, and that if the Government gave way in this case, they might as well give way in all cases, but the majority of the Board recommended that £167 4s should be paid to Guihan. I have the items which they allowed. Looking over these I saw at once that the influence of the Chairman had been devoted to a thing which he spoke of to me at the trial, that was, that he would not advise any costs of the litigation, because it was only a dispute between Erwin and Guihan, and, therefore, the Crown was not responsible. On looking over the items I saw that they had been very much cut down, and I wrote to the Minister, Mr. Brunker, saying that the Board had returned a verdict of £167 4s., and I pointed out that they had left out the charge that had been paid to me by the Guihans for the four years, which was £50. It was not a charge by me, it was a voluntary offering by the men; that was £50 for four years litigation, hundreds of letters, interviews, plans, copies, and so on. Mr. Brunker replied to me, with regard to this award of £167 4s., that he would offer £50. The Guihans said they would sooner let the £50 go to the bottom of the sea than take it, as it did not represent anything of what they had suffered. You can consider that these men were not only put out of possession of this land, but under such circumstances of ignominy as to mark them out as dishonest men. They could not even sleep at night owing to their knowledge that their neighbours were putting cattle on their land. There had already been two inquiries, this being the third, and they had to bring witnesses hundreds of miles. Considering all these circumstances, it was a very mild cost for three law suits. My view was that, besides the actual loss, they had incurred expenses up to about £150.

30. *Chairman.*] If they had not taken the course they did, do you think the Government would have sold the land? Apparently so. The whole of the letters show it. One letter says the land will be brought to auction in a month. I cannot tell what the motive was in the whole of this; but it was a very bad disgraceful piece of work for the Lands Department.

31. *Mr. Law.*] How many reports are there? Three reports.

32. What are they? One by two members of the Local Board, the second was the report of the professional men of the Lands Department who said the facts were incontrovertible, and that the land must be made over to the Guihans, then there is the third report which gives the verdict for £167 4s. You will see by the items that the Board have allowed nothing on account of the £50 which the Guihans paid to me.

33. *Chairman.*] Are the items which they have allowed independent of that amount? Yes; not only that, but it cuts down their journeyings to Sydney to four, whereas the journeyings these men made were much more numerous; at that time they were paying bank interest, and the money they were out of pocket was adding to the interest. The Bank was anxious to get the land because it was part of their security.

34. *Mr. Pyers.*] According to your showing the Department do not now make any claim to this island—they have admitted that it is Guihans? Yes; he has the deed now.

35. *Chairman.*] While this matter was in dispute did they have trouble with their neighbours putting cattle on the land? Yes. I may mention a private conversation I had with a member of the Local Board afterwards.

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afterwards. He said that that £50 was included. He said, "We gave the £50, Mr. Lovegrove," but it is not down there. I said to him, "I see you cut down the loss in grazing by one half which they charged at £2 10s. an acre for three years." He replied, "Yes, because we considered they had a sort of interrupted possession." I think it would have been better if the man had had no possession.

36. What is the quality of the land in dispute? The land has been valued by the Government Surveyor at £9 per acre and by an auctioneer down there at £16.

37. Is it first-class alluvial land? Yes; it is the best of their land. How the Crown Solicitor could report that the Crown never claimed the land I can quite understand, because by judicious selection of papers it could be made to appear that the dispute was between Guihan and Erwin, but in no other way.

38. *Chairman.*] Does the correspondence show clearly that the Crown did dispute it? Yes. Surely this man is entitled to bank interest. The bank held his deeds, and every particle of this money out of pocket was advanced by the bank.

39. *Mr. Law.*] Do you say that in the first instance they put in a claim for £591, and that then on your own account you suggested it should be brought down to £300? Yes; I suggested that because in the first place I had made up the whole thing fairly between man and man in my own mind and with a good knowledge of the locality. I thought £300 would cover it as a lump sum.

40. *Chairman.*] How did you arrive at your estimate? By the actual expenses out of pocket; by the annoyance and constant trespass; the action of the surveyor in cutting down the fences, and things of that kind. If I had been on a jury, £300 would be the amount I would be prepared to give.

41. *Mr. Pyers.*] Were you acting as agent for Guihan? Yes; but I never like to act unfairly.

42. *Mr. Law.*] Suppose you were Guihan, what would you think then? I think Guihan's estimate represents his real feelings; still I did not think it likely that the Government would take the same view, but would regard £300 as sufficient.

43. *Chairman.*] Do you still think £300 was sufficient? Yes; but I had in view the old Latin proverb, "He gives twice who gives quickly."

44. *Mr. Law.*] How long ago did they agree to take £300? In 1890 or 1891. I went again to Mr. Bruncker with Mr. Guihan, and told him they were altering the maps in the Lands Department, but some were still unaltered. He said, "Will you give me the number of one of them?" I replied, "I would rather not." He said, "You will be quite safe with me; I will see they are not altered." I gave him the number, having great doubts of his power in my mind. I called a fortnight afterwards and saw a gentleman, who I think is the chief draughtsman. I asked him for that map. He said, "I am sorry to say you will not find it in the same condition as it was." There was a sort of war going on in the Lands Office between those who were gentlemen and those who were not gentlemen, and that map was altered. It was then I made up my mind to rely on the maps in my own office. I said, "Surely they have not tampered with them."

James Guihan called in, sworn, and examined:—

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45. *Chairman.*] What is your occupation? Farmer.

46. Have you a claim against the Government for compensation over a disputed title to land? Yes.

47. How did it occur? The Sergeant of Police came there one day and said the Government had sent him as Crown Lands Agent to see about a piece of land belonging to me, and to make a report. He viewed it, and sent in a report. Bye-and-bye I got a letter from the Government, and a Government surveyor—Mr. Riley, I believe—came. I did not know how to deal with the Government, and I went to Mr. Lovegrove, who had started as land agent in Sydney. Mr. Riley measured the land, cut down the fences, and threw it open.

48. Did they say nothing about selling the land? Yes; I got a letter that the land would be sold.

49. *Mr. Law.*] Had you any title to the land? Yes; I always knew it was my land, and that the Government were wronging me.

50. *Chairman.*] How long had you been living on the farm at this time? About four or five years.

51. Had you been in occupation all that time? Yes. Mr. East had rented the place before I got it, and I agreed to allow him to take off a crop which was then on the land.

52. Did some one lodge an application to purchase the island? I believe Mr. Erwin did.

53. Did you get any notice from the Government after Erwin lodged his application? Yes; I got a notice that if there were any objections to be lodged they should be lodged within a certain time. I again came to Sydney to Mr. Lovegrove.

54. What did you do then? He lodged a caveat, and a Court was held at Nowra. I had to go about the country to get witnesses; I had to go to Moss Vale to get Mr. George Tate, and I had to go all round Sydney to find Mr. McIlwraith. I was two or three days in Sydney.

55. What did the Land Board decide? That the land was mine, and had always been mine.

56. Did the matter end there? Yes. Soon afterwards Mr. Riley went back to the land; he filled up the lock-pits which he had made; he pulled up the pegs which he had put down, and he threw them into the creek. That was after the Land Board gave their decision. He cut away the marks he made on the trees, and he destroyed everything that he had put up.

57. Were there any trees marked originally? Yes; but there were great floods which had washed them away in 1870. But I took Mr. McIlwraith's brother there, and he said that he had been there with the surveyor when the survey was made in 1861. He showed me the boundary line, and said, "That is the boundary. I was with the surveyor and helped him to mark the trees."

58. Was that one farm before you purchased the land or afterwards? It was always a kind of island, but the flood in 1870 broke through the centre and divided it into 12 acres on one side and 8 acres on the other.

59. How long was it from the time that Surveyor Riley went on to the land first until the Government officially wrote to you and told you they considered it was your property? They waited a long time—for some months.

60. Have they issued a deed to you now including the island? Yes; the same old deed. When I saw the plan with the deed it was as plain as it is now. It was charted on the plan with the deed.

61. *Mr. Law.*] Have they deprived you of any land? No; they tried to, but they could not do it.

62. *Chairman.*] Did you make a claim against the Government for compensation? Yes; after I got the deed properly fixed up.

63. *Mr. Pyers.*] What was the amount of the claim? Mr. Lovegrove advised me to send in a very low estimate, because he thought the Government might think that I was wanting to get more than my right. He advised me to say £300—whatever my expenses had been; but they were a great deal more than that. J. Guihan.
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64. Did you send in a claim for £300? Yes.
65. Did you not send in a claim for £590? When this claim for £300 went in Mr. Bruncker asked for the items, and they came to £561.
66. *Chairman.*] Did they give you that £300? No. I believe he then wrote, saying that he would have it investigated by the Land Board
67. Was that investigation held at Nowra? Yes.
68. What did the Board decide on? I think they recommended £167. I think that was in 1891. In that verdict I was not allowed Mr. Lovegrove's fees at all. That was not set down, although Mr. Byce and another member of the Board said they did allow it; that is why the amount is so small.
69. What action did the Government take upon that report? I think Mr. Moriarty began to write to the Ministry to give me nothing, that I was very well done for, and that I ought to get nothing.
70. Are you aware of that as a fact, or do you only think so? It is a fact; it is in the papers.
71. Did the Government offer you anything? Only £50.
72. Was that in full satisfaction of your claim for £300? That was for all my expenses before I got my title to the land. I made twelve journeys to Sydney, but they only allowed me for two journeys. I went to Mr. Garrett with Mr. Lovegrove. I thought he was not aware of the transactions. I asked him if he was aware of them. He said he was, and that he would sell the land inside of a month. He advised me to buy it. I said, "I have bought it already." Mr. Garrett was then Minister for Lands, and I believe he was also Land Agent at the same time. When he said that he would sell the land inside of a month, I said, "Then you will be selling my land." He said, "Well, I will refund you the money—5s. an acre—which has been paid on the selection." As I would not be entitled to anything unless it was my land, I thought he must be satisfied that it was my land.
73. Was the land cleared and in cultivation? It was under grass at the time that the surveyor threw it open. It was the best part of the land, and Mr. McIlwraith cleared that land first. It was the only cleared ground when we got the farm. When the surveyor cut down the fences the townspeople put their cattle on the land, and they used to put their working horses there on Saturday night and Sunday.
74. Was that after the surveyor threw the land open? Yes. Erwin used to threaten me with an action if I interfered with his cattle, and I had to leave them there.
75. Did you suffer annoyance by the trespass of other cattle, and through your own cattle getting out? Yes. It was troublesome for me to keep my cattle on the land, and the other people would not allow me to shift one beast of theirs.
76. Did you accept the offer made by the Government of £50? No; I would prefer that they should give me nothing rather than that. I would have been much better in pocket if they had taken the land away altogether, as it would have saved me a lot of expense.
77. *Mr. Pyers.*] Were there any fences around this land before the surveyor went there? Yes; and crops of corn had been taken off it. It was well fenced.
78. Was a great deal of the fence cut down? Yes; it was cut through in several places. It was destroyed so as to throw it open. That was before the Land Board decided it was my land. Everything was put right after the decision.
79. *Mr. Law.*] Did you have to put up the fences yourself afterwards? Yes; and the Government afterwards took away from me a road 1 chain wide, and they gave me nothing for it. That shows how very anxious they were to oblige Erwin in the matter. I have been completely robbed by them. I had to borrow money every time I got a notice from the Government. I had no money in the bank, and I had to borrow. Another loss I suffered was that I had thirteen heifers on the land, but I had to sell them to meet all these expenses. I sold them for £3 per head, and twelve months afterwards I offered the buyer £5 per head profit. If it had not been for this trouble I could have kept those cattle, but I never made any claim for that loss. I made no claim except for the borrowed money and the ready money that I spent; and I had to hire people to look after my business when I had to go away on this business.

THURSDAY, 12 AUGUST, 1897.

Present:—

MR. CHAPMAN, | MR. PYERS.

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Edward Arnold Bronsdon called in, sworn, and examined:—

80. *Chairman.*] What office do you hold? I am in charge of the Alienation Branch of the Lands Department. E. A.
Bronsdon.
12 Aug., 1897.
81. Are you acquainted with the facts of a dispute which occurred between the Government and two persons named Guihan, in the Kangaroo Valley? Yes.
82. Have you some correspondence and documents in connection with that case? Yes; I produce the official papers.
83. Have you any knowledge of the case? It has come before me officially at various times.
84. Have you the reports of the Boards of Inquiry which have been held in connection with the case? Yes.
85. Have you the reports and evidence of the first Local Land Board which was held? Yes.
86. Have you also the report and evidence of the inquiry which was held at Nowra? Yes; it was held on the 13th November, 1889. I hand in the evidence and the report. [*Appendix A1.*]
87. There was a Board of Inquiry—it was the second one;—have you got the evidence and report of that Board? Yes; there is a printed paper containing that report. I produce the Board's report and evidence. [*Appendix A2.*] The inquiry was held on the 27th February, 1891, at Nowra.
88. Have you had any intimation that the Minister wishes to have any evidence given on behalf of the Department? No; I have no express instructions on that point; but there are a few things that I wish to mention. I wish to represent the Departmental view of this case. I would submit, first of all, that

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that these men have no legal claim. That is very clear from the fact that they admit their deed did not embrace the land they have since claimed, and which has since been given to them. Further, we have the advice of the Crown Solicitor to the same effect, viz., that Guihan has no legal claim against the Department. That is shown by the fact that they have never attempted to take any civil action, although it appears they consulted a lawyer about it.

89. *Mr. Chapman.*] What admission do you refer to on their part? Because they submitted their deed and asked for an alteration, and it was altered.

90. *Chairman.*] Did they submit the deed or did the Department suggest that a fresh deed should be given? A letter sent by Mr. Lovegrove, dated 30th July, 1889, is practically a request for an alteration of the deed. He says in that letter:—

As the deed of the land includes a plan of the island, which is only excluded by colour.

That is his way of putting it.

And as the alteration of the word "south" into "north" would correct the mistake in description.

He admits a mistake there.

It would seem that a slight alteration in the deed itself would bring it in accordance with the facts, but it will be probably necessary to issue a new deed, describing the so-called island according to the latest survey (which does not correspond with the former tracings furnished to Mr. Guihan), and this deed should be delivered free of charge to Mr. Guihan, who has been put to great loss by the error.

91. *Mr. Chapman.*] I do not see an admission there. Was that letter written in answer to a request from the Department to send in the old deed? I think not. This letter was written before the Land Board inquiry. At that time the Department claimed that the island did not belong to Guihan.

92. What area has Guihan in the first deed? The area stated was 199 acres 2 roods 20 perches.

93. Is it a fact that without this island he would not have that area? Yes.

94. Did you issue a deed in the first instance for 199 acres 2 roods 20 perches? Yes; the area was stated as such, but, of course, the description in the deed is the important part.

95. *Chairman.*] If that island was formed by a flood after the first deed was issued, it would not be possible to describe the island in the first deed? There is no doubt of that, but the survey was made many years before that, and it did show the island.

96. *Mr. Chapman.*] Did the original owner of this land apply for 199 acres 2 roods 20 perches? He applied for 200 acres, but a road was taken, which reduced the area to 199 acres 2 roods 20 perches.

97. Would it be impossible to give that area without including the island? Yes; that is so.

98. Do you say that it is pretty clear that Mr. Guihan has no legal claim? Yes; I submit that.

99. As a matter of fact, in similar cases does not the Department very often recognise a moral claim? They do in certain cases, and they have to a certain extent done so here. Mr. Bruncker offered £50 in satisfaction of any moral claim Guihan might be supposed to have, but he did not admit any legal claim. I wish to submit to the Committee that, apart from the legal aspect of the case, if the Guihans are entitled to any compensation it should be limited to actual and necessary expenses—for instance, Mr. Guihan has employed an agent, he visited a solicitor, and made journeys here, there, and everywhere. It is not fair to expect the Department to pay for all these things. If a man thinks an agent can conduct his business better than himself it is hardly fair to expect the Department to pay that agent, although his case may prove successful. I would also like to call attention to the nature of the claims made on behalf of Mr. Guihan as contained in the printed document.

100. *Mr. Piers.*] Is it not a fact that if Guihan had not employed an agent the Crown would have sold the land? I do not think so.

101. Did they not threaten to sell the land? They invited an application for part of it, and they invited him to apply for the other part.

102. If he had not objected, and got an agent would they not have sold the land? If he had not objected, perhaps, but I am speaking of his engaging an agent to do his business, and then expecting the Department to pay for that. I should like to refer to the claim made by Mr. Lovegrove, which was referred to the Board for investigation only. The first item he puts down is £200 for want of possession of the land generally for three and a half years. The Crown never dispossessed Mr. Guihan, and never authorised anyone else to go into occupation of part of this island—that is a matter of importance.

103. *Mr. Chapman.*] Did you not just now state that the Crown offered part of this island to somebody else? They invited a man to lodge an application, which he did, but it was subsequently refused.

104. If the Department invited someone else to make application for portion of this land, would not that virtually be dispossessing the owner, because it would intimate to him that he could not utilise the land in a permanent way? Mr. Guihan claims that he was in possession of this island, and he disputed the correctness of the Crown's claim—so far as any evidence has yet been brought forward he has not shown that he went out of possession. I will read a letter by Mr. Lovegrove bearing on that point, dated 19th November, 1889. You will see that is only a few months before the second inquiry by the Board. He asks that the Government should refuse Mr. Erwin's application, "or have an additional deed prepared giving them the land sold to them, surveyed for them, occupied by them continuously for twenty-seven years, and whose value has been due to their money and labour." You will notice that the conditional purchase was originally taken up in 1862,—this letter was written in 1889, twenty-seven years afterwards. As Mr. Lovegrove claims that they have been in occupation twenty-seven years, it is clear they were in occupation in November, 1889, and that was after Erwin's application had been lodged, and only a few months prior to the second inquiry by the Land Board. Even if he did go out of occupation, the Crown certainly never gave Erwin the right to occupy. The lodging of an application of this sort gives no right to occupy the land until the application is approved, and this application was not approved.

105. *Chairman.*] Did not the Crown say to Guihan that if he did not apply to purchase, the land would be submitted to auction? I believe that was written with regard to one part of the island. It was divided into two parts; Erwin was invited to apply for one part, and Guihan for the other.

106. Did Guihan apply to purchase? No.

107. Did the Crown carry out their intention to sell by auction? No.

108. Can you account for that course being taken? Because, in connection with Erwin's application, charges were made by Mr. Lovegrove that certain plans had been altered. A Departmental Board of Inquiry was appointed to investigate those charges. They reported that no other alterations had been made,

made, except the alterations usual in office business; but they reported that, in their opinion, this island should have been included in the grant. That was contrary to the opinion that had been expressed by the District Surveyor previously and by the Deputy Surveyor-General; but the report of this Board was adopted. Mr. Guihan was asked to return his deed, and it was corrected so as to include the island.

E. A.
Bronson.
12 Aug., 1897.

109. The whole of it? Yes; for that reason no steps were taken to offer the land at auction. I would like to refer to the scale of charge that Mr. Lovegrove includes in the items. There is £200 (which is corrected afterwards to £210), which is stated to be at the rate of £3 per acre per annum for this island, including about 20 acres; yet the freehold value of the land as it then stood, according to the highest valuation, was £20 per acre. McIlwraith bought it for £1 per acre. It was afterwards improved, and that perhaps accounts for some of the difference; still, £3 per acre net profit on land worth only £20 per acre, to say the least of it, seems high. Then you will note that, having charged £210 for want of possession of 20 acres, later on Mr. Lovegrove charges £200 for want of possession of part of it—that is the last item of £200. He refers to the 8 acres applied for by Erwin, but that forms part of the island for which he has already charged £210. That illustrates how this claim for compensation has been made up. I would also submit that McIlwraith, the original purchaser in whose name the deed was issued, and Guihan, who purchased from him, must share the responsibility of any trouble that has arisen from this mistake. They accepted a deed, which, on the face of it, did not include this island. If they claimed that it was a mistake they should have pointed it out at the time, and possibly it might have been remedied. When years afterwards they did make a claim, the view taken by the District Surveyor, and approved of by the Minister (Mr. Garrett), was that they accepted a deed which did not cover the island; therefore the land did not belong to them, but to the Crown. I think a court of law would take that as the legal view.

110. *Mr. Chapman.*] But the Court holds that every man knows the law, while we know, as a matter of fact, everyone does not know the law? I am speaking of the interpretation that would be put upon the deed. It did not describe the island, and I think a court of law would say that, therefore, the land did not vest in McIlwraith or in Guihan. I submit that these men, by their own carelessness or something of that sort have been partly responsible for the trouble, admitting that there was a mistake. I would further point out that the subsequent action taken has vested in Guihan's land claimed to be worth £100 which was not covered by their deed. That may be considered as a set-off to the trouble they have been put to. Further, no less than three Secretaries of Lands have considered this claim for compensation, and they thought that £50 was ample. Mr. Brunner originally offered £50, and the case was afterwards reviewed by Mr. Copeland and Mr. Carruthers.

111. You say, in the first place, that you consider that if there is a claim—which evidently the Department admits—the Department should not be called upon to pay the costs of an agent or solicitor? I think not.

112. Are you aware that in all court cases where a man gains a verdict costs are awarded for a solicitor or agent? Yes, in a legal case; but, as I previously pointed out, if this claim were dealt with as a legal case he would be entitled to nothing.

113. You put it that the reason why these men should not be entitled to their claim is that their trouble is owing to their carelessness? Partly.

114. As a matter of fact, do you not know that very few men when taking a deed from the Government make any examination of it, but take it for granted that it is right? I do not think so. The deed contains not only a description, but a diagram. A man might not understand the description, but he would understand the diagram or the chart.

115. You lay stress on the fact that three Secretaries of Lands have agreed that £50 is sufficient; but is it not a fact that once a Minister makes a recommendation, it is only in very exceptional cases that his successor alters it? If a subsequent Minister thinks an injustice has been done he will alter it.

116. Is not that very rare? Possibly that is so.

117. *Chairman.*] You have stated that Guihan would not have had the area for which he paid without the inclusion of the island;—under those circumstances, was it Guihan's fault or McIlwraith's fault or the fault of the Crown that this land was not included? Of course the Department have admitted error; but I would point out that the claim of the Department was based on a report by Mr. District-Surveyor Deering, an officer of long standing, and also on a report signed by the late Mr. R. G. D. Fitzgerald, Deputy Surveyor-General. Their view was that the land did not belong to Guihan.

118. *Mr. Pyers.*] Both of them have since been proved wrong? That is a matter of opinion.

119. But you admit that he would not have his area of land if the island were excluded? Yes.

120. Then the opinion of both of those officers must be wrong? The Department have admitted that by altering the deed; but I have pointed out these facts to show that the matter was not dealt with without consideration, and it is not a case on which there are not two opinions.

121. *Chairman.*] Are you aware whether the Minister wishes any other witnesses from the Department to be examined here? I have no instructions on the subject. I am in attendance in answer to a notice sent to the Under Secretary.

122. *Mr. Pyers.*] Do you say that Guihan was never dispossessed of the land? Yes; as far as we know.

123. Did not a Surveyor go down there from the Department, cut down the fences, and divide the island into two parts? He surveyed the island into two blocks; but, as far as I know, he never cut down the fences.

124. Guihan stated that in his evidence? We have no evidence to that effect.

125. *Mr. Chapman.*] If one of your surveyors went down there and surveyed the land, would you still hold that no adverse possession of the land had taken place? The correspondence shows that he remained in possession. He said he would not go out—"this land is mine, and I will not give it up."

126. *Mr. Pyers.*] Does it not strike you that if he had not objected the land would have been sold? If he had not objected, no doubt it would have been.

127. Then, would he not have suffered a great wrong? That is the point. I may be allowed to call attention to the fact that the Board of investigation at Nowra, on 27th February, 1891, was authorised merely to collect information for the Minister. Of course, as the Committee are aware, the report of that Board was only by a majority. The Chairman of the Board (the expert member) dissenting from the finding. I put in a copy of the original plan of the land. [*Appendix A3.*]

128. Is this the oldest plan? It is a copy of it. It is the original plan.

TUESDAY, 24 AUGUST, 1897.

Present:—

MR. PYERS, | MR. LAW.

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Edward Arnold Bronsdon recalled and examined:—

- E. A. Bronsdon.
24 Aug., 1897.
129. *Chairman.*] Do you appear before the Committee to-day on behalf of the Department of Lands? Yes; I appear for the Under Secretary for Lands.
130. Have you some further evidence to advance to-day? Yes. From a question that was asked me the other day I gathered that it had been stated before the Committee that Surveyor Riley had cut down Guihens' fences. In consequence of that a letter was sent to the District Surveyor at Goulburn asking him to make inquiries from Mr. Riley on that point, and also on the question of the occupation of the land. Mr. Riley's reply is as follows:—

14 August, 1897.

I FELT that I could not send the information by that night's mail, as I was on my way to Kangaroo Valley on leave of absence. I thought it desirable to make some inquiries. I deny that when making a survey of the island I cut down Guihens' fences in several places. Whenever it has been necessary to remove a rail I have always been most careful to properly replace it in its former position. I am quite confident that the Brothers Guihen did not go out of occupation of the island. Such an action on their part would have been withdrawing their claim to the land, and they did not in any manner withdraw. If a claim for compensation for want of occupation for three and half years has been set up by the Guihens, I am quite certain they cannot sustain it. That is, they cannot prove that they abandoned their occupation of the land.

V. B. RILEY.

131. Have you any further evidence to offer? No; that is the evidence I wish to produce on behalf of the Department. I did not read the evidence that had been given before the Committee, but from Question 124 I understood that Guihen had given evidence on this subject.

William Lovegrove recalled and examined:—

- W. Lovegrove.
24 Aug., 1897.
132. *Chairman.*] Are you in possession of any proof, or are you aware that Guihens' fence was cut down by the surveyors when they were surveying the land in dispute? Only from what Guihen told me, and by his sending to me a telegram, in reply to which I wrote to him and said, "Do not interfere in any way whatever with the surveyor." I was very much afraid of violence on their part.
133. Did you see the fence? No.
134. *Mr. Pyers.*] Did you send a telegram to the effect you have just stated? Yes.
135. Can you produce a copy of that telegram? I do not know that I can; but one of the items the Guihens put down in their claim is "Shifting the fences £8, by order of the Surveyor." Here is a memorandum of 10th December, 1887, from the Lands Department: "In a few days the inquirer will be invited to apply on behalf of Guihen to purchase half the island under section 66 of the Crown Lands Act, 1884, and the other abutting proprietor the same for the remaining half." You will notice the term "invited to apply." Erwin was invited to apply for the half.
136. *Chairman.*] Will you look through the correspondence to see if you have anything bearing on the question of the fence? I am afraid I have not; I confined myself practically to the correspondence which they could not possibly deny—that was their own correspondence.
137. *Mr. Pyers.*] Have you any knowledge as to whether anyone used the land, or part of the land, during the dispute;—do you know of your own knowledge whether they put cattle there? No; but I think you will find the affidavits by Guihen submitted to the two inquiries, and they will show what was done.
138. Do you know anything about it of your own knowledge? I was not on the spot; I was in Sydney the whole time. I am prepared to leave with you the whole of the letters relative to the dispute. You will notice that the fact of the dispute prevented Guihen from impounding. The Local Court could not deal with the matter. In consequence of being invited to apply, and being told that it was Crown land, Erwin was fully persuaded that he had a right to put his cattle on the land. I know that he had been doing that from his own statement to me. I had a conversation with Mr. Bice afterwards, and I asked him if he thought my estimate for trespass was too much. He said he did not think so, if Guihen had been deprived of total possession of the land, but he had a sort of interrupted possession, and therefore they gave him half.
139. Do you know of your own knowledge that Erwin threatened Guihen with an action if he removed Erwin's cattle from this land? No; but I know from Erwin's own lips that he did put his cattle on the land. I think you will find from Guihen's affidavits at both inquiries, that his fences were cut down.
140. *Mr. Law.*] The question is whether the surveyor found it necessary to remove the fences, and afterwards left them in their original state, and whether Guihen had to erect the fences? I think the item in the claim for shifting the fences by order of the surveyor shows that that is the case—that he had to re-erect them.
141. *Mr. Pyers.*] Do you know the area of land that was taken from Guihen for a road that was made through his land? It was measured through the land but not across it. It was measured along one boundary.
142. Do you say that none of Guihens' land was taken for that road? Yes; about seven-eighths of an acre, as far as I recollect. There was at least three-quarters of an acre.
143. *Chairman.*] Can you tell the Committee whether the action of the surveyor in causing the fence to be opened was on Guihens' land, or was it on the road that crossed through the island? It was only a proposed road.
144. Had it been surveyed at that time? No. Mr. Surveyor Riley got instructions to survey the road. I do not even know whether it has been carried out.
145. *Mr. Pyers.*] Do you know whether it has been gazetted? No.

CLAIM OF JAMES AND PATRICK GUIHAN.

APPENDIX.

[To Evidence of E. A. Bronsdon, Esq.]

A1.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884—(PART II., SECTION 14, SUB-SECTION 4.)

Decision of Local Land Board.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

WHEREAS on the thirteenth day of November, 1889, it became a matter for investigation before us whether the objections raised by James and Patrick Guihan to the sale of land to George Irwin are sufficient to set aside the division of the late Secretary for Lands, that the land is Crown land, and his recommendation that the land should be sold under section 66. (Referred by the Minister, under section, for report.) And having taken evidence, looked at plans and papers, and inquired into the said matter, we report:—

1. That if the copy of description in the Deed of Grant forwarded with the papers be correct, that description is identical with the description given in the application of 7th January, 1862, by W. J. M'Ilwraith, excepting with respect to the length of lines given.
2. That the land included within the island, shown on plan of survey by Mr. Licensed-Surveyor Taylor, was measured as part of the 200 acres applied for on 7th January, 1862, and was occupied and improved by W. J. M'Ilwraith immediately after survey, but there is nothing to show that the measurement was approved by the Surveyor-General.
3. That if the position of L. Duigan's grant—named as a starting point—be correct, as shown on southern channel and not on the main, or northern, channel of Broger's Creek, it is clear that the island cannot be claimed under the description; but there is nothing to show how that point has been determined, nor what point Mr. Taylor took as his starting point.
4. That the Proclamation of 16th April, 1862, having been made after the date of application, did not render the land unavailable for that conditional purchase, even if the island, formed by flood-waters, be such an island as is contemplated in that proclamation.
5. If the position of north-east corner of L. Duigan's 560 acres be absolutely as shown, and if the description in the Deed of Grant be conclusive, then the land is Crown land, and not included in W. J. M'Ilwraith's 200 acres. (Sec. 14, 39 Vic. No. 13.)
6. We place the value of the land in portion 106 at £12 10s. an acre.

NOTE.—Any deposit lodged with objections should be refunded.

Given under our hands, at Nowra, in the Colony of New South Wales, this 13th day of November, 1889,—

T. WARRE HARRIOTT, Chairman.
Z. G. BICE, Member.

This report is submitted specially, attention being invited to the serious charge against the Department made by Mr. Lovegrove, in his letter of 19th instant.—R.H.D., 29/11/89. Special. Submitted that the charge be investigated by the Board of Inquiry, before any further action is taken on the application of George Irwin for the purchase of the land in dispute.—G.F., 2/12/89. Approved.—J.N.B., 2/12/89. Mr. Lovegrove advised.—3/12/89.

THIS deponent, *Frederic H. Galbraith*, of Nowra, Crown Lands Agent, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Lovegrove, agent for Caveator: I have charge of the registers, and produce the old register, showing a conditional purchase of William John M'Ilwraith, of 7th January, 1862; I produce a map and tracing, showing a certain road; it is a plan of survey made by Binstead, in 1871, and shows an island at the north-west corner of No. 9, M'Ilwraith's land; there is a note on it, "Portion of No. 2," being M'Ilwraith's conditional purchase of 200 acres; I produce a tracing of plan showing a road, a survey by Sheaffe, and dated 21st October, 1879; there is an island shown on it, and it is written over it, "2 over 2—W. J. M'Ilwraith, part of 200 acres."

By Mr. Blackmore, solicitor: I produce a parish plan of Cambewarra, now in use in my office; it shows the island is divided into two portions by survey; the creek forms a boundary between them; portion 106 is 8 acres, and portion 107 is 12 acres; portion 107 appears on the parish map; has marked on it the name of "Guihan," I think; it is not quite clear; this map is dated 5th June, 1896, and charted up to 22nd August, 1889, signed by G. Lewis.

By Mr. Lovegrove, agent: I produce another litho. of same parish, dated the same; they are the same editions, but it is not charted up beyond 5th June, 1896; there is no marking shown on the island—it is a blank; the island is not divided on the lithograph; there is an alteration upon additional charting made in the office map I produce, but I do not know who made the alteration; the map was sent from the Lands Department to me; the balance of money on M'Ilwraith's 200-acres conditional purchase was paid on 2nd September, 1881; the average time of issuing the deed is from 12 to 18 months; there is an entry showing when the amount of balance money was paid, in the register I produce; it is usual to mark reserves with the letter "R."

Sworn by deponent, at Nowra, this }
13th of November, 1889.— }

F. H. GALBRAITH.

T. WARRE HARRIOTT, Chairman.
Z. B. BICE, Member.

THIS deponent, *William Lovegrove*, of Sydney, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—In January, 1862, I was the Crown Land Agent for Nowra district, and in that capacity I took an application from Mr. J. M'Ilwraith, which I recognise; I see the description which I have now read; I produce the plan forwarded here as the original plan by the Lands Department; it is a plan of survey of Licensed-Surveyor Taylor's, dated 25th June, 1862; it shows the island coloured as part of the 200 acres, portion 2, and the western boundary is marked as 13 chains in length, and terminates at Broger's Creek at a point which may or may not be at north-east corner of Duguid's land, 650 acres; this termination coincides with the plan of portion shown on parish lithographs produced by the Land Agent; addition in pencil is made on this plan—a double line is along the western boundary, and the figures 935 are placed there, which I do not recollect seeing before; the plan shows that at time of survey there was an island there; I am unable to say whether the smaller island at the north was included or not; following the Broger's Creek, as I claim it, would not reach the north-east corner of L. Duguid's 650 acres; the claim of 20 chains from that point would throw this 7 x 10 chains into the conditional purchase, and add 70 acres to it; I know nothing about the description in the deed; I have never seen it or my client, as far as I know; I produce a tracing from plan marked 84/25127 87.14059; I see a plan from the Lands Department showing that it is written that the island is "part of portion of No. 2," and is crossed out; it is No. R. 1041.1603; I saw this map in custody of Colonel Wells some months ago—within six months ago, I think; the words "Part of por. No. 2" were not then struck out; I produce a plan from the Lands Department, a tracing, and No. 84/25127 and 87.14059, in which the distance from the south-east corner of M'Ilwraith's portion 2 to the south-west corner of Irwin's 120 acres is stated as 13 chains;

chains; I also produce a tracing Cat. No. C 1978.2041, which was forwarded to me as the description of portion 107, and in that the distance between the same two points appears to be 15 chains, or nearly so: on the first tracing it is stated that 13 chains is the distance, and the measurement is not carried across the creek; it is stated on first tracing that M'Ilwraith has 199 acres 2 roods and some perches, but, according to scale of the plan, he has about 20 acres less without the Island, which I find by scaling on the tracing; I am acting as agent for Mr. Guiguan in support of his claim.

By Mr. Blackmore: The tracing I produce shows that a deed was issued of 199 acres 2 roods 20 perches.

Sworn by deponent, at Nowra, this }
13th of November, 1889,— }

W. LOVEGROVE.

T. WARRE HARRIOTT, Chairman.
Z. G. BICE, Member.

THIS deponent, *William John M'Ilwraith*, agent, of Sydney, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Lovegrove: I made an application, January, 1862, and recognise it; I went into possession immediately after I selected the 200 acres, and began working on what is now called "The Island," at the north-western corner; I was there when the land was surveyed in 1862; the surveyor started from Duguid's 650 acres at Brogher's Creek; the creek divided my land from my brother's selection; I selected first; there were about 2 chains between the two points; the surveyor measured along the northernmost stream; I have not seen the land since 1882; there was running water, running more south when it was raining very hard; there was never any other channel except Brogher's Creek; there was no island when I selected, or any land surrounded by water, even in very wet weather; I began to cultivate the land in 1862, on the opposite side of the channel; I don't know the length of the west boundary, but I had to fence it; no one ever told me that the Island was not mine till within about two years ago, but I cannot exactly say when I was told; no one has ever attempted to disturb my possession; I have sold the land to Mr. Guiguan, in 1882, for about £8 an acre; I started from Duguid's side in my description, at the north-eastern corner of Duguid's land; I am certain that the Island was included in the survey by Taylor; it is worth about £10 an acre; I cleared and cultivated some of it; it is worth £6 to £7 an acre to clear it; I sold the land as an incomplete purchase of 200 acres.

By Mr. Blackmore, solicitor: I cannot tell from the charts how my land exactly laid; I don't suppose I took more land than what was surveyed; I was on the land only a few days before the survey took place.

W. J. M'ILWRAITH.

Sworn by deponent, at Nowra, this }
13th of November, 1889,— }

T. WARRE HARRIOTT, Chairman.
Z. G. BICE, Member.

THIS deponent, *George Tate*, of Moss Vale, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

Mr. Lovegrove, agent: I know the land along Brogher's Creek very well; I see the island marked on the plan; I have always known this island as belonging to Mr. M'Ilwraith; it was not considered an island when I knew it first; at dry times there was only one stream; the northern side was called Brogher's Creek; I have never known the south side called Brogher's Creek; the first land M'Ilwraith cultivated was next to the northern channel; I selected on the northern side of the river; I never heard any dispute whatever as to ownership of this Island.

By Mr. Blackmore, solicitor: I don't know the north-east corner of Duguid's land, although I leased the property for ten years; it was fenced, and I took it as fenced; the fence did not run quite to the bank of Brogher's Creek; I was present when the land was surveyed, and saw the lines along the northern creek and no other: the land is worth £15 to £16 an acre, that is, the whole block of 20 acres; it would cost £5 to £6 an acre to clear and cultivate it; the northern portion of the island, to a certain extent, has been washed away, but the south has not; the northern portion is worth from £3 to £4 an acre; it cannot be cultivated.

GEORGE TATE.

Sworn by deponent, at Nowra, this }
13th of November, 1889,— }

T. WARRE HARRIOTT, Chairman.
Z. G. BICE, Member.

THIS deponent, *George Erwin*, of Kangaroo Valley, farmer, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

By Mr. Blackmore, solicitor: I am the applicant for the land now under inquiry; I purchased my land from Mr. Angus; portion 106 Mr. Angus had let to T. Davey; Guiguan's fence was on the side of the middle channel shown on the tracing, marked "C"; it was an old fence; I continued to graze my cattle on the land for three or four years; after this Guiguan put up a fence around my north bank—that is, on the north side of the creek; four or five years ago this fence was erected; it is a log fence, and enough to prevent my cattle getting to water; Mr. Surveyor Taylor told me that he never laid a chain on the island; I apply for the land to get access to water for my cattle, and also access to the road; there may be 1 or 2 acres of the northern portion of the island that can be cultivated; I have been ten years on the land.

By Mr. Lovegrove: Guiguan never had a fence on the south bank of Brogher's Creek.

his
GEORGE x ERWIN.
mark.

Witness to mark,—W. A. MACPHEE.

Sworn by deponent, at Nowra, this }
13th of November, 1889,— }

T. WARRE HARRIOTT, Chairman.
Z. G. BICE, Member.

[To Evidence of *E. A. Bronsdon, Esq.*]

A 2.

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884—(PART II, SECTION 14, SUB-SECTION 4).

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

Decision of Local Land Board.

WHEREAS on the 27th day of February, 1889, it became a matter for investigation before us as to a claim for compensation by James and Patrick Guiguan in respect of certain land in the parish of Cambewarra, county Camden, at Broger's Creek.

Mr. Lovegrove, appearing for the claimants, addressed the Board and gave his own evidence, and called James Guiguan.

1. After considering the evidence, the Chairman stated his opinion that the claim was wholly inadmissible, the action of the late Minister, Mr. Garrett, having been in pursuance of his function as Minister determining a question between parties which came before him in the regular course, and having been in accordance with the deed of grant held by the present claimant.
2. The item connected with the late inquiry before the Land Board should have been, if properly chargeable, claimed as costs against the other party to the proceeding before the Board, who were the proper authority to settle the question of costs. As no such were applied for or allowed, clearly they cannot now be included in a claim against the Government.
3. It appears that the land in question was (whether correctly or incorrectly is for this question immaterial) not included in the deed of grant. The owner cannot claim to be compensated for not having consulted his deed, which would have shown him that the land was not included, and enabled him to take the proper steps to have the error corrected at the time of the occurrence and protect himself from disturbance of his possession.
4. The majority of the Board—Messrs. Bice and M'Intyre—decided to recommend the claim for the items indicated by them, amounting to, in all, £167 4s., inclusive of £41 4s., costs of inquiry before the Board on the 13th November, 1889.

Given under our hands, at Nowra, this 27th day of February, 1891,—

A. O. MORIARTY, Chairman.
Z. G. BICE.
LEWIS M'INTYRE.

CROWN

CROWN LANDS ACT OF 1884—(PART II, SECTION 14, SUB-SECTION 1).

Caption to Deposition of Witnesses.

New South Wales, }
to wit. }

THE examination of William Lovegrove, of Sydney, in the Colony of New South Wales, and James Guihan, of Kangaroo Valley, in the said colony.

In the matter of a claim by James and Patrick Guihan for compensation against the Government for £569 4s. Before the Local Land Board at Nowra on the 27th February, 1891, and it hath been found necessary to investigate the said matter on oath, the depositions of the several witnesses are appended hereto.

William Lovegrove, of 109, Pitt-street, Sydney, being duly sworn, saith:—My letter to the Under Secretary for Lands, dated 7th October, 1890, with its enclosure headed "Item of Claim by Messrs. James and Patrick Guihan," &c., is the claim which I make on behalf of my clients; the first item in it (£200) should have been £210, being calculated by me at the rate of £3 per acre per annum for 3½ years; the journeys to the Crown Lands Office, which form the next item, I am aware were taken by the claimant whilst I was Crown Lands Agent; passing over the two next items I find certain attendances in Sydney which I know took place; I also know that the two attendances on the Honorable Thomas Garrett took place, and that the attendance on the Honorable J. N. Brunker took place; the first item of the expenses of the trial in this district being the subpoenaing of witness for which I paid £4; I know that the local solicitor, Mr. Whittell, attended, and that I also attended, and the witnesses, Messrs. George Tate, J.P., Messrs. J. and D. M'Ilwraith, and the two caveators, Messrs. Guihan; I know that I was paid altogether during those 3½ years a sum of £50, which included cost out of pocket.

By Chairman: I lodged the caveat, and appeared for him before this Board with great inconvenience; I lodged the usual deposit of £10 with my caveat, which the Board investigated; I did not ask the Board for costs, because I thought it was not the proper time—I think this is.

W. LOVEGROVE.

Recalled: I have seen the deed; the island was in the deed, but was excluded by color.

W. LOVEGROVE.

Sworn by W. Lovegrove, at Nowra, }
27th February, 1891, before us,— }
A. O. MORIARTY, Chairman.
Z. G. BICE, }
LEWIS M'INTYRE, } Members.

James Guihan, of Kangaroo Valley, being duly sworn, saith:—I am one of the owners of 199½ acres in the Kangaroo Valley; I have been troubled in the possession of it since I got possession of it; I recollect getting a letter from the Department of Lands, through Mr. Fraser Martin, about three and a half years ago [*letter produced, marked A*], to the effect that the land did not belong to me, but that I might apply for it; I never applied to be allowed to purchase the land; I came to the land agent to see him about this land; I went to the Commercial Bank in Berry to see the deeds; the distance between Kangaroo Valley and Nowra is 16 miles, and I would lose the whole day; I have attended about twelve times in Sydney on this business; I saw Mr. Thomas Garrett in Sydney; he told me if I did not apply for half of the land he would sell it inside of a month; I went twice to Sydney in consequence of receiving notice that my land would be sold; at the inquiry here, Mr. Tate, J.P., came from Moss Vale, Mr. J. M'Ilwraith came from Sydney, Mr. D. M'Ilwraith came from here, Mr. Lovegrove from Sydney, and I and my brother from Kangaroo Valley; I was interfered with in possession of the land, and lost the profit off it for three years and a half; Erwin has been trespassing on it for ten years; a sergeant of police came there, and made a report; I remember Mr. Riley going there, and sending Mr. Lovegrove a telegram to that effect; I suffered anxiety of mind, and often did not sleep; I do not think that item of £200 is an extravagant one; it is three months since I was advised that the new deed was prepared; since then I have taken steps to divide the land; I am employing Mr. Cook, of Berry, licensed surveyor and engineer.

By Mr. Deering: I was always sure that the land was mine; my anxiety was caused by the action of the Government; I purchased the land about nine or ten years ago; I got a conveyance of the land; the transaction was arranged between Mr. M'Ilwraith and me by a solicitor.

To the Bench: Mr. M'Ilwraith paid the balance of the purchase money; he paid it before I bought it; the transaction was delayed owing to the deed not having been issued; I knew when I bought that the deed was being prepared; the agreement was that the deed was to be produced; I never saw the deed at all; it was left at the bank by M'Ilwraith.

JAMES GUIHAN.

Sworn by James Guihan, at Nowra, this }
27th February, 1891, before us,— }
A. O. MORIARTY, Chairman.
Z. G. BICE, }
LEWIS M'INTYRE, } Members.

A.

THIS is the letter, marked A, referred to in the evidence of James Guihan, before us, this 27th February, 1891.

A. O. MORIARTY, Chairman.
Z. G. BICE, }
L. M'INTYRE, } Members.

Sir,

I am directed to transmit herewith, for your information, a tracing showing area proposed to be sold to J. Guihan, as applied for by you on the 16th instant.

I have, &c.,

R. H. DE LOW,
For the Under Secretary.

W. Fraser Martin, Esq., M.P., Sydney.

[One plan.]

Surveyor General's Office
Sydney, N^o 7094/1862

[To Evidence of *A 3* E. A. Bronsdon, Esq.]

[Handed in before the Select
Committee on Claim of James
and Patrick Guihen of
Kangaroo Valley.]

PLAN OF ONE PORTION OF LAND,

County of Camden, Parish of Cambewarra,

W. E. M.
12.8.97

Situated in the Valley of the Kangaroo River

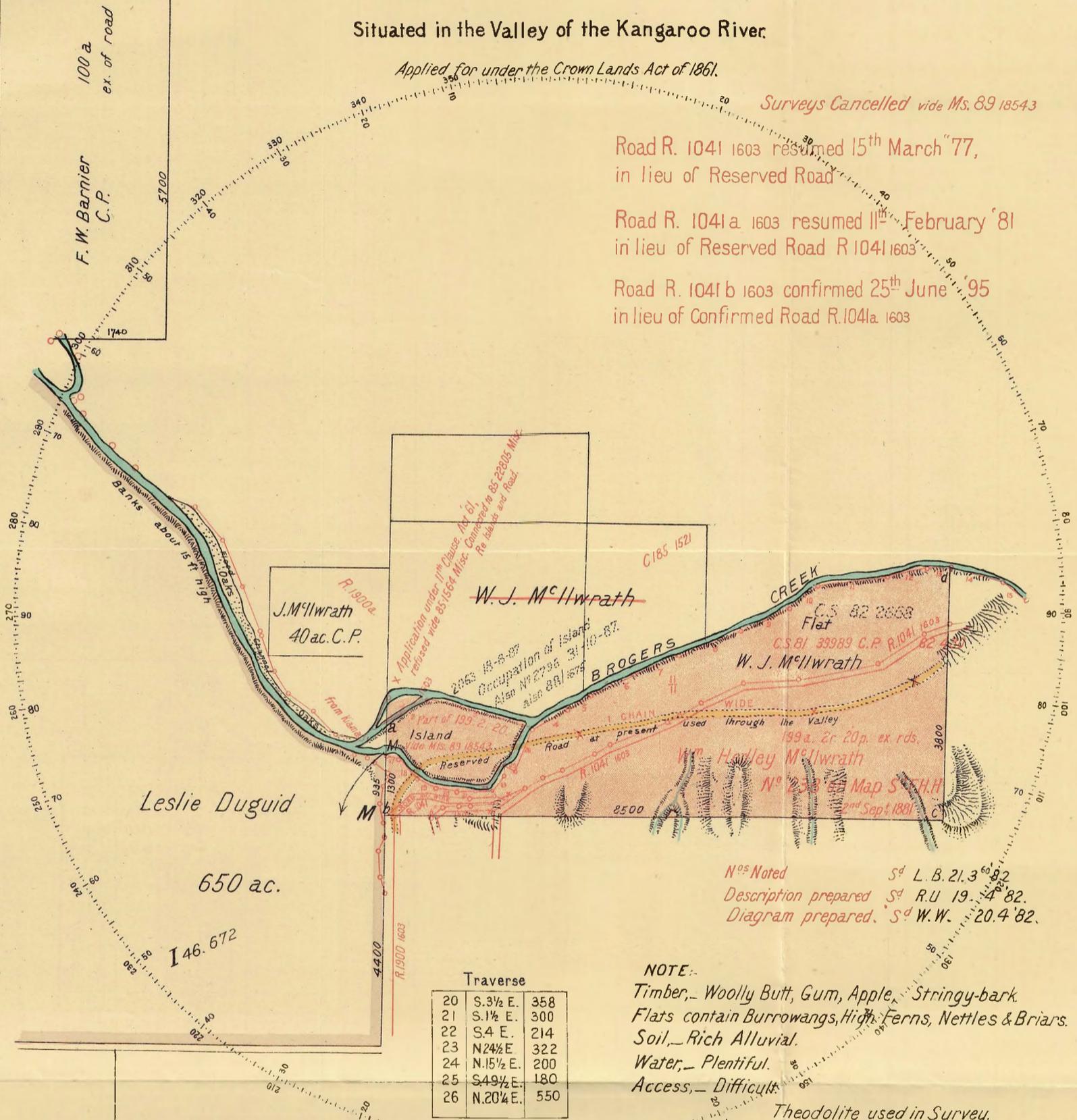
Applied for under the Crown Lands Act of 1861.

Surveys Cancelled vide Ms. 89 18543

Road R. 1041 1603 resumed 15th March '77,
in lieu of Reserved Road

Road R. 1041 a 1603 resumed 11th February '81
in lieu of Reserved Road R 1041 1603

Road R. 1041 b 1603 confirmed 25th June '95
in lieu of Confirmed Road R. 1041 a 1603



Leslie Duguid
650 ac.

J. McIlwrath
40 ac. C.P.

W. J. McIlwrath

W. J. McIlwrath

N^{os} Noted S^d L. B. 21.3⁶⁰ 82
Description prepared S^d R. U. 19. 4⁸² 82.
Diagram prepared S^d W. W. 20.4⁸².

Traverse

20	S. 3 1/2 E.	358
21	S. 1 1/2 E.	300
22	S. 4 E.	214
23	N. 24 1/2 E.	322
24	N. 15 1/2 E.	200
25	S. 49 1/2 E.	180
26	N. 20 1/4 E.	550

NOTE:-
Timber, - Woolly Butt, Gum, Apple, Stringy-bark
Flats contain Burrowangs, High Ferns, Nettles & Briars.
Soil, - Rich Alluvial.
Water, - Plentiful.
Access, - Difficult.
Theodolite used in Survey.

Reference to Corners

Corner	Bearing	From	Links	N ^o on Tree
Neil Harper				
a	North	Oak	0.20	11
b	West	Apple	0.08	11
c	S. 70° W	Do.	0.20	11
d	Mark in Creek			

Unite figure of 1862 in Corners

For Numbering see 62/16473

Reference to Traverse

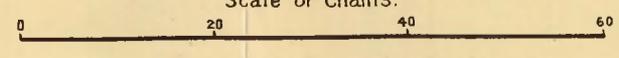
Line	Bearing	Distance
1	N. 61 3/4 E.	616
2	N. 57 E.	730
3	S. 14 1/2 E.	1650
4	N. 62 1/2 E.	580
5	N. 57 E.	444
6	N. 64 1/4 E.	708
7	N. 67 1/2 E.	772
8	N. 67 1/2 E.	1000
9	N. 63 1/4 E.	824
10	N. 47 1/2 E.	500
11	N. 82 E.	1070
12	N. 77 1/2 E.	670
13	S. 9 1/2 E.	322
14	S. 10 E.	800
15	S. 41 1/2 E.	400
16	S. 61 E.	300
17	N. 17 E.	340
18	S. 51 1/4 E.	460
19	S. 22 1/2 E.	330

I hereby certify that I in person made and on the 18 completed the survey represented on this plan on which are written the bearings and lengths of the lines measured by me, and I declare that the survey has been executed in accordance with the regulations published for the guidance of Licensed Surveyors and the practice of the Department of Lands.

S^d John Taylor, Licensed Surveyor.

Transmitted to the Surveyor General with my letter of June 25, 1862 N^o 62/16.

Scale of Chains.



Plan approved

C 175 1521

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

CONDITIONAL PURCHASE BY GEORGE VINCENT,
IN THE DISTRICT OF GUNDAGAI;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

AND

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Printed under No. 17 Report from Printing Committee, 26 August, 1897.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPEGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1897.

1897.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 45. TUESDAY, 10 AUGUST, 1897.

11. **CONDITIONAL PURCHASE BY GEORGE VINCENT, IN THE DISTRICT OF GUNDAGAI:**—Mr. Travers Jones moved, pursuant to *amended* Notice,—
- (1.) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon all the circumstances attending the conditional purchase made by one George Vincent, in the district of Gundagai, on the 22nd day of August, 1878, of 640 acres, parish of Mooney Mooney, county of Harden.
- (2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Carruthers, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Gormly, Mr. Macdonald, Mr. F. Clarke, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Affleck, Mr. Robert Jones, and the Mover.
- (3.) That the Report, Minutes of Proceedings, and Evidence of the Select Committee of Session 1894-5 be referred to such Committee.
- Debate ensued.
- Question put and passed.
-

VOTES No. 50. THURSDAY, 19 AUGUST, 1897.

9. **CONDITIONAL PURCHASE BY GEORGE VINCENT, IN THE DISTRICT OF GUNDAGAI:**—Mr. Travers Jones, as Chairman, brought up the Report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and Evidence taken before, the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this subject was referred on 10th August, 1897.
- Referred by Sessional Order to the Printing Committee.
-

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1897.

**CONDITIONAL PURCHASE MADE BY GEORGE VINCENT, IN THE
DISTRICT OF GUNDAGAI.**

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly, appointed on the 10th August, 1897, "to inquire into and report upon all the circumstances attending the conditional purchase made by one George Vincent, in the district of Gundagai, on the 22nd day of August, 1878, of 640 acres, parish of Mooney Mooney, county of Harden," and to whom was referred, on the same date, the Report, Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence, of the Select Committee of Session 1894-5, on the same subject, have agreed to the following Report:—

Your Committee having examined the witness named in the margin,* and considered the Report and Evidence referred, find,—

*W. H. Sibthorpe.

1. That on the 22nd August, 1878, George Vincent conditionally purchased, at Gundagai, measured portion No. 93 of 640 acres, parish of Mooney Mooney, county of Harden.
2. That the conditional purchase was declared void on the 23rd October, 1878, the land having been allowed to Mr. Thomas Broughton as a pre-emptive right.
3. That the Secretary for Lands (Mr. Hoskins), in a minute dated 22nd April, 1881, stated that Mr. Farnell was not justified in declaring the conditional purchase void, and that the cancellation should be reversed and Vincent's conditional purchase held to be good.
4. That after Vincent had completed his three years' residence, and made his declaration, an action was brought against him in the Supreme Court, by Thomas Broughton, for trespass, and a verdict was given against Vincent on the ground that the measured portion had been improved to the value of over £40, which the Supreme Court decided barred selection.
5. That the evidence given before your Committee shows that improvements under the value of £40 had been effected before Vincent selected, and that Mr. Broughton continued fencing and improving the land for some time afterwards, and that the improvements declared by the Court to bar selection were effected after Vincent selected.
6. That the land has been reserved pending settlement of Vincent's claim.

Your Committee consider that Vincent should be reinstated on the land, and recommend his case to the favourable consideration of the Government.

TRAVERS JONES,
Chairman.

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

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

TUESDAY, 17 AUGUST, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Affleck,	|	Mr. Anderson,
Mr. F. Clarke,	|	Mr. Gormly.

Mr. Gormly called to the Chair *pro tem*.

Resolved (*on motion of Mr. F. Clarke*),—That Mr. Travers Jones be Chairman of this Committee. Entry from Votes and Proceedings appointing the Committee, and referring the Report, Minutes of Proceedings, and Evidence of the Select Committee of Session 1894-5 on the same subject, to this Committee, *read* by the Clerk.

Printed copies of the Papers *referred* before the Committee.

Committee deliberated.

Re-assembling of the Committee to be arranged by the Chairman.

[Adjourned.]

WEDNESDAY, 18 AUGUST, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Travers Jones in the Chair.		
Mr. Affleck,	|	Mr. Barnes,
	|	Mr. Gormly.

Walter Homan Sibthorpe called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till To-morrow at *half-past Two* o'clock.]

THURSDAY, 19 AUGUST, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Travers Jones in the Chair.		
Mr. Affleck,	|	Mr. Gormly,
	|	Mr. Robert Jones.

Resolved (*on motion of Mr. Gormly*),—That the evidence taken before the Select Committee of Session 1894-5 be adopted by this Committee.

Chairman submitted Draft Report.

Same read and *agreed to*.

Chairman to report to the House.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

CONDITIONAL PURCHASE BY GEORGE VINCENT, IN
THE DISTRICT OF GUNDAGAI.

WEDNESDAY, 18 AUGUST, 1897.

Present:—

MR. AFFLECK,
MR. GORMLY,MR. BARNES,
MR. T. JONES.

TRAVERS JONES, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Walter Homan Sibthorpe called in, sworn, and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] What are you? Butcher, at Gundagai.
2. Were you in the employment of Mr. Broughton when George Vincent selected on 22nd August, 1878? Yes.
3. Do you know this particular portion of 640 acres, which he selected? Yes.
4. Do you know if there was any fence on it when he selected? Yes.
5. Can you describe what the fence was like? It was a one-rail fence; it was to be a top-rail fence with five wires, but there was no wire in the fence.
6. Was it erected with the intention of being a five-wire fence? Yes.
7. Are you sure that there was no wire in the fence when he selected? I know there was no wire in the fence.
8. *Mr. Gormly.*] What length of fence was there? A little over a mile.
9. *Chairman.*] Was the section a mile right through? Yes.
10. Did the fence go right through the section? Yes; it turned the southern corner for a few panels; it was a couple of chains, I think.
11. *Mr. Gormly.*] What sort of material was used;—was it inferior or ordinary? It was an ordinary fence; it was not a good one.
12. *Mr. Affleck.*] Was it not new? It was new, but the timber was not good.
13. *Chairman.*] Was the timber close to the fence? Yes.
14. Might it have been a better fence if they had gone further for the timber? It might easily have been a better fence.
15. You say that a few panels were turned on the south corner;—do you know if that was on the selection, or was it erected on the reserve? I do not know for a certainty. I heard a few months afterwards that the fence was moved in a few yards, but I do not know that of my own knowledge.
16. Do you know if this was a roadside fence or a boundary fence that went right through the selection? I do not think it was a roadside fence.
17. Were you on Muttama Run when that fence was cut for the teams to use the road? No; it was cut afterwards.
18. Did you remain there for some time after Vincent selected? Yes; about two years.

W. H.
Sibthorpe.
18 Aug., 1897.

- W. H. Sibthorpe.
18 Aug., 1897.
19. Did Mr. Broughton's men continue to erect that fence and complete their work? Yes.
20. *Mr. Gormly.*] Was that after Vincent selected? Yes.
21. *Chairman.*] Are you quite satisfied there was no complete paddock fenced there when Vincent selected? I am quite sure of that.
22. When did you leave Muttama station? In 1880.
23. Had Mr. Broughton's men completed a paddock fence then? They had completed about one and a half miles; I suppose it might have been a little more.
24. That is, they ran the fence down both ends of the selection towards the creek? No; there was only one end of it fenced when I left.
25. Would you consider that the creek was a secure boundary fence? Certainly not.
26. Do you remember Mr. Broughton writing to you at the time he brought an action against Vincent? Yes; some time before.
27. Was it when he was about bringing the action? Yes.
28. What did he write to you about? As to giving evidence in the Supreme Court.
29. Did he suggest any evidence? He suggested that I knew that a fence was erected before Vincent selected, or something to that effect, and that the fence was finished.
30. *Mr. Affleck.*] Have you that letter now? No; I might have it, but I do not think so.
31. *Chairman.*] Did you decline to give evidence on the suggestion he made in that letter? I told him I could not give evidence in that way.
32. Was your reason for telling him that because you knew the fence was not erected, and that no wire was in it? Yes; I knew that.
33. *Mr. Barnes.*] What was the value of the fence before Vincent selected? I could tell you the contract price.
34. *Mr. Affleck.*] Have you any idea of the value of fences? Yes; I have had a lot to do with fencing.
35. What was the value of the fence, as completed, when Vincent selected? About £18 per mile.
36. That is as it was when he selected? Yes.
37. *Mr. Barnes.*] Was that about a mile? About a mile and 3 chains.
38. *Mr. Gormly.*] Would the value exceed £20? No.
39. *Chairman.*] Did you go from Muttama to take charge as overseer of another station? Yes.
40. Did you come back to Mr. Broughton's employment afterwards? Yes.
41. Were you in charge of the station for some time? Yes; I had charge of Muttama for ten years.
42. Had Vincent erected his house when you were there? Yes.
43. *Mr. Affleck.*] Was that before the action? Yes; he had not a house; he had a hut. It was after I left that he erected the house.
44. *Mr. Gormly.*] You said the value of the fence did not exceed £20. You have had some knowledge of fencing, and will you kindly tell the Committee how you came to that conclusion? I see I have made a mistake, now that you call my attention to it. After looking at the figures, I think it would be about £30; that is the value of the fence.
45. *Chairman.*] Is that according to the material on the ground? Yes.
46. Do you judge by the part of it that was completed compared with the contract price and from your general knowledge of fencing as station manager? Yes.
47. Do you come to the conclusion that it was worth about £30 when Vincent selected? Yes.
48. *Mr. Affleck.*] Do you mean to say that with the wires and everything in it the fence would be worth £30 per mile, or do you mean that the fence with the single rail was worth £30? As it stood.
49. Do you mean £30 per mile? £30 for a mile and 2 or 3 chains.
50. What would be the total cost per mile of the fence completed with five wires? You can get a fence completed now with five wires and a top-rail for about £32 per mile.
51. Was it more expensive then? Yes; that was about thirteen years ago.
52. What would wire be worth then—£16 or £17 per ton? I am not talking of the cost of the wire, but of the erection of the fence and the wire. When you give a man a contract the wire is found for him.
53. Then actually the value of the fence on that occasion complete would be worth about £40? Not complete; it would be more than that complete. I am speaking of the fence as it was when this man selected, when he gave notice to Mr. Broughton to desist fencing; then I consider the fence was worth £30.
54. *Chairman.*] Do you recognise the plan produced as the plan of the ground? Yes.
55. *Mr. Affleck.*] Which is the road, the dotted line or the straight line, when he selected? The dotted line was the road.
56. Mr. Broughton erected the fence along the straight line, and not the dotted line? Yes.
57. *Chairman.*] When the land was selected the road was inside the paddock, and there was no surveyed road outside the fence? That was the case.
58. *Mr. Affleck.*] Now the road is outside the fence? Yes.
59. *Chairman.*] Is the fence a roadside fence now? Yes.
60. When he selected it was not a roadside fence, and it was not a boundary fence? Yes.
61. In that case it was of no value to him unless he shifted it on to the boundary? Yes.
62. Do you remember Vincent going down to give notice to Mr. Broughton to cease fencing? Yes.
63. *Mr. Affleck.*] Do you know that of your own knowledge? Yes; I was standing by at the time.
64. Were you in Mr. Broughton's employ then? Yes; I met Mr. O'Donnell going through the land.
65. *Chairman.*] Do you know that Mr. O'Donnell was in the habit of going backwards and forwards on that road to his stations? Yes.
66. *Mr. Barnes.*] Did you hear the reply that Mr. Broughton gave to Vincent? Yes; he said he would go on with his fencing, or he used words to that effect; that he would take no notice of him.
67. *Chairman.*] Do you know of your own knowledge that Mr. Broughton ever wanted to buy Vincent out? Not of my own knowledge.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

CONDITIONAL PURCHASE OF JOHN ROCHE ARDILL.
(PETITION FROM JOHN ROCHE ARDILL IN REFERENCE TO HIS CONDITIONAL PURCHASE IN THE
LAND DISTRICT OF MOLONG.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 4 May, 1897.

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

The humble Petition of John Roche Ardill,—

MOST FAITHFULLY SHOWETH—

That your Petitioner, in the year 1892, conditionally purchased 40 acres at the Land Office, Molong, and that the said land was reported to have contained improvements thereon to the value of £38 10s. sterling; that the said land was confirmed to your Petitioner by the Local Land Board at Cudal on the 30th day of October, 1893, and that the said improvements were not then and there valued in accordance with the 189th Regulation of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, nor was the land surveyed for your Petitioner, although paying £4 for such survey; and that your Petitioner called several times at the Survey Office, Orange, trying to get the land surveyed, but to no purpose; and that on the 9th day of October, 1894, the said Land Board held an inquiry as to the residence of your Petitioner on the land and valued the improvements at £12 12s., which your Petitioner protested against as being exorbitant, and that they should have been valued twelve months before; nevertheless, your Petitioner's land was declared forfeited, and your Petitioner's deposit and survey fee confiscated, although your Petitioner was at the time residing on the land and had the frame of a house on it.

Your Petitioner also made an application to lease, annually, 71½ acres of land in the Parish of Boree Nyrang, County of Ashburnham, Land District of Molong, and that your Petitioner was summoned to appear at Cudal on the 30th day of January, 1893, and that the Land Board was not then prepared to go on with the application, and adjourned the case to Molong, where it was held in January, 1894, and your Petitioner's application refused on the grounds that the land was not available for lease, but immediately after leased the said land to Thomas Joseph Keenan, although not applied for by him; my application being for 71½ acres of a travelling stock reserve, No. 659, proclaimed the 10th December, 1875, and here is Thomas Joseph Keenan's description for Annual Lease 93-10—"Eastern Division, Land District of Molong, County of Ashburnham, Parish of Boree Nyrang, 95 acres, water reserve No. 312, notified the 2nd July, 1867." So that the two portions, probably, were not near each other; and the 33rd section of the Crown Lands Act of 1889 sets forth that the first applicant shall have a right to the lease, and your Petitioner's application was about twelve months before Mr. Keenan's.

Your Petitioner therefore thinks that the land law was not administered in either case and feels aggrieved, and prays that your Honorable House may take the premises into your consideration and grant relief.

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

JOHN ROCHE ARDILL.

German's Hill, April 29th, 1897.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

HOMESTEAD LEASES IN NAMES OF W. BRADY, SENIOR, ANN E.
MORRIS, AND W. BRADY, JUNIOR, WILCANNIA DISTRICT.

(RETURN RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 4 Report from Printing Committee, 20 May, 1897.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 5th May, 1897,—

“ That there be laid upon the Table of this House, all papers in connection
“ with the surrender and the withdrawal of surrender of homestead leases
“ 886, 887, and 888, Wilcannia District, in the names of W. Brady, senior,
“ Ann E. Morris, and W. Brady, junior, respectively.”

(*Mr. Sleath, for Mr. Copeland.*)

SCHEDULE.

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No. 1.

Messrs. Brady and Mrs. Ann E. Morris to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Dear Sir,

Tilpa, Darling River, 2 February, 1892.

I hope we are not too late in sending in these forms to give up the homestead leases at the date I name in forms. I wired to the Lands Office in Bourke before I sent the letter. They followed after the wire, and I received no answer from Bourke for sixteen days after. In the wire I worded it the same as in forms, and same in letters.

We remain, &c.,

WILLIAM BRADY, SEN.
ANN E. MORRIS.
WILLIAM BRADY, JUN.

108—A

[Enclosures.]

[605 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £5 3s. 9d.]

[Enclosures.]

Form 30.

Crown Lands Acts Regulations Nos. 100, 130, and 149.

Notice of intention to surrender a Homestead Lease.

TAKE notice that I, Ann Elizabeth Morris, being the holder of homestead lease No. 90-39, Land District of Bourke, now Wilcannia, intend to surrender the same on the 17th day of February, 1892.

Signed this 16th day of January, 1892.

ANN ELIZABETH MORRIS,

Post Office, Tilpa, Darling River.

To the Under Secretary for Lands.

Form 30.

Crown Lands Acts Regulations Nos. 100, 130, and 149.

Notice of intention to surrender a Homestead Lease.

TAKE notice that I, William Brady, junior, being the holder of homestead lease No. 90-40, Land District of Bourke, now Wilcannia, intend to surrender the same on the 17th day of February, 1892.

Signed this 16th day of January, 1892.

WILLIAM BRADY, JUNIOR,

Post Office, Tilpa, Darling River.

The Under Secretary for Lands.

Form 30.

Crown Lands Acts Regulations Nos. 100, 130, and 149.

Notice of intention to surrender a Homestead Lease.

TAKE notice that I, William Brady, senior, being the holder of homestead lease No. 90-38, Land District of Bourke, now Wilcannia, intend to surrender the same on the 17th February, 1892.

Signed this 16th day of January, 1892.

WILLIAM BRADY, SENIOR,

Post Office, Tilpa, Darling River.

The Under Secretary for Lands.

No. 2.

Notices of intention to surrender Homestead Leases.

THE enclosed notices to surrender the homestead leases, noted in the margin, are dated 16th January, 1892, and the lessees desire the surrenders to take effect from the 17th instant.

Section 34 of the Crown Lands Act of 1889, and Regulation 130, provides that a homestead lease may be surrendered upon the lessee giving the Minister not less than twelve months' notice; and if any rent due thereon be not paid within the prescribed time, or if any condition attaching thereto be not fulfilled, any homestead lease shall be liable to forfeiture.

All amounts due on the leases in question have been paid up to the 18th instant.

Submitted as to whether the surrenders may be allowed, notwithstanding that the twelve months' notice required by law has not been given.—E.L., 23/2/92.

The clause seems imperative for twelve months' notice. "The lease may be surrendered by giving the Minister not less than twelve months' notice." As the rent has been paid up to 18th instant, it may, of course, be open to question whether any more will be paid. Yet the difficulty is one—Can the Minister accept a surrender with a less notice than twelve months?—R.H.D., 23/2/92. F.H.W., 24/2/92.

The words of the section (34, Act of 1889) are clear and definite, and it is evident that the notice cannot take effect for twelve months after its lodgment with the Minister. To admit Mr. Brady's proposal would be to invite lessees to evade their obligations as to rent and otherwise, and encourage loose dealings in homestead leases.—W.H., 24/2/92.

The acceptance of the surrender becomes a question of policy, and unless there is an intention of recovering future rent by process of law, for which there does not appear to be any provision. I should think the better course would be to accept the surrender and endeavour to get it reoccupied even at a lower rent. You will get no rent if you do not accept surrender, and all the lessee has to do is to walk away and take his stock with him, if he has any. I admit the legal difficulty by wording of the Act, 34th section; and perhaps it would be better to treat this as the notice of surrender, which will mature twelve months hence.—H.C., 6/4/92.

Messrs. W. Brady, senior and junior, and Mrs. A. E. Morris, informed by registered letters, and Chairman, Bourke, so informed.—30/4/92.

No. 3.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mrs. A. E. Morris, Post Office, Tilpa, Darling River.

Madam,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 30 April, 1892.

Referring to your notice of 16th January last, of intention to surrender the homestead lease mentioned in the margin, on 17th February, 1892, I have the honor to inform you that the Secretary for Lands has, in accordance with the provisions of section 34 of the Crown Lands Act of 1889, approved of the surrender being accepted, to take effect on 16th January, 1893.

I have, &c.,

WM. HOUSTON,

Under Secretary.

(Per R.H.D.)

No. 4.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Wm. Brady, jun., Esq., Post Office, Tilpa, Darling River.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 30 April, 1892.

Referring to your notice of 16th January last, of intention to surrender the homestead lease mentioned in the margin, on 17th February, 1892, I have the honor to inform you that the Secretary for Lands has, in accordance with the provisions of section 34 of the Crown Lands Act of 1889, approved of the surrender being accepted, to take effect on 16th January, 1893.

I have, &c.,

WM. HOUSTON,

Under Secretary.

(Per R.H.D.)

No. 5.

92-1488
1491
1490
Wilcannia Dis-
trict—
H.L. No. 886,
Wm. Brady,
sen;
H.L. No. 887,
Ann E.
Morris;
H.L. No. 888,
W. Brady, jun.

Wilcannia—
H. L. No. 887
Ann E. Morris]

Wilcannia --
H. L. No. 888
W. Brady, jun

No. 5.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Wm. Brady, senr., Esq., Post Office, Tilpa,
Darling River.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 30 April, 1892.

Referring to your notice of 16th January last, of intention to surrender the homestead lease mentioned in the margin, on 17th February, 1892, I have the honor to inform you that the Secretary for Lands has, in accordance with the provisions of section 34 of the Crown Lands Act of 1889, approved of the surrender being accepted, to take effect on the 16th January, 1893.

Wilcannia—
H. L. No. 886,
W. Brady, senr.

I have, &c.,

WM. HOUSTON,

Under Secretary.

(Per R.H.D.)

No. 6.

The Under Secretary for Lands to The Chairman, Local Land Board, Bourke.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 30 April, 1892.

Referring to the notices dated 16th January last, of intention of the respective homestead lessees to surrender the homestead leases mentioned in the margin, on 17th February, 1892, I have the honor to inform you that the Secretary for Lands has, in accordance with the provisions of section 34 of the Crown Lands Act of 1889, approved of the surrender being accepted, to take effect on 16th January, 1893.

Wilcannia—
H.L. No. 886,
W. Brady, senr.;
H.L. No. 887,
Ann E. Morris;
H.L. No. 888,
W. Brady, junr.

I have, &c.,

WM. HOUSTON,

Under Secretary.

(Per R.H.D.)

Please pass on to District Surveyor, Bourke.

No. 7.

John Matheson, Esq., to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Tilpa, 8 August, 1892.

Having become the purchaser from the Sheriff of the homestead lease named in the margin, without being aware that Mr. Brady had applied to surrender the said lease, I now respectfully ask that the surrender may be cancelled, as I am willing and prepared to fulfil all the conditions required by the Act.

W. Brady, senr.,
H. L. 886,
No. 90-38,
Bourke, now
Wilcannia.

I have, &c.,

JOHN MATHESON.

The surrender of the lease referred to has been accepted, *vide* Occ. 92-4,561, to mature twelve months from date of notice of surrender, viz., 16th January, 1892, and the lease is now liable to forfeiture for non-payment of rent for the current year. The transfer from the Sheriff has not yet been received, and it will, perhaps, be better to allow the matter to stand over until the transfer is received, when it can then be dealt with on its merits.—E.L., 18/8/92.

Inform Matheson fully of particulars by registered letter to-day, please.—R.H.D., 19/8/92. J. Matheson informed by registered letter, 19/8/92.

No. 8.

The Under Secretary for Lands to John Matheson, Esq., Tilpa.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 19 August, 1892.

Referring to your letter of the 8th instant, intimating your purchase from the Sheriff of the homestead lease mentioned in the margin, without being aware of its surrender by W. Brady, senior, I have the honor to inform you that the notice of surrender lodged with this Department is dated 16th January, 1892, and, having been accepted, will mature on the 15th January, 1893.

Wilcannia—
H. L. No. 886,
W. Brady, senr.

I am to add that the instrument of transfer to you from the Sheriff has not yet been received, and that the lease in question is liable to forfeiture for non-payment of the current year's rent.

Rent to 15th
February, 1893,
£70 9s. 9d.

I have, &c.,

WM. HOUSTON,

Under Secretary.

(Per R.H.D.)

P.S.—The homestead lease will expire on the 15th January, 1893.

No. 9.

Mrs. Ann E. Morris to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Care of E. J. Bloxham, Bourke, 10 October, 1892.

I respectfully ask that I may be allowed to withdraw my application to surrender the homestead lease noted in the margin.

Ann Elizabeth
Morris, H.L.
887, 80-89,
Bourke, now
Wilcannia,
10,240 acres,
county of Kil-
lara.

The disappearance of the rabbits to a great extent, and a moderate rainfall, lead me to hope that I shall now be able to fulfil the conditions required of the homestead lessee.

I believe the Honorable the Minister approved of the surrender taking effect from the 16th January, 1893.

I have, &c.,

ANN E. MORRIS.

If my application is granted, I am willing to pay any arrears that may be due on the homestead lease.—ANN MORRIS.

The

The homestead lease herein referred to was surrendered by the lessee, *vide* Occ. 92-1,491, and the surrender was accepted by the Minister to take effect from the 15th January next. This is an application to be allowed to withdraw the notice of surrender. This is one of the cases in which an action has recently been brought in No. 2 Jury Court to recover money advanced by E. M. Perrott to enable applicant to take up the lease, and the Crown Solicitor was asked on the 19th instant to obtain a copy of the Judge's minutes in this case, and also in the case of W. Brady, senr., and W. Brady, junr. Perhaps this matter had better stand over until the Judge's minutes have been received.—E.L., 29/10/92. R.H.D., 29/10/92. F.H.W., 31/10/92.

Yes. Acknowledge receipt of letter of 10th instant in usual terms.—W.H., 31/10/92. A. E. Morris informed, 4/11/92.

No. 10.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mrs. Ann E. Morris, care of E. J. Bloxham, Esq., Bourke.

Madam,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 4 November, 1892.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 10th ultimo, desiring permission to withdraw your application to surrender the homestead lease mentioned in the margin, and to inform you that the matter is now under consideration.

I have, &c.,

WM. HOUSTON,

Under Secretary.

(Per R.H.D.)

Wilcannia—
H.L. No. 887.

No. 11.

W. Brady, jun., Esq., to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Care of E. J. Bloxham, Bourke, 31 October, 1892.

I respectfully ask that I may be allowed to withdraw my application to surrender the homestead lease noted in the margin.

The disappearance of the rabbits to a great extent, and a moderate rainfall, lead me to hope that I shall be able to fulfil the conditions required of the homestead lessee.

I believe the Honorable the Minister approved of the surrender taking effect from the 16th January, 1893.

I have, &c.,

W. BRADY, JUN.

This is a similar case to that of homestead lease No. 887, Wilcannia, Ann E. Morris; *vide* Occ. 92-12,149 herewith. Submitted that the same action be taken in this case as in the former one.—E.L., 19/11/92.

Yes. If the judge's notes have not been received, remind Crown Solicitor, please. Request early reply.—R.H.D. (for the Under Secretary), 21/11/92.

William Brady,
jun., H.L. 885,
90-40, 10,233
acres, county of
Killara.

No. 12.

E. J. Bloxham, Esq., to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Bourke, 15 November, 1892.

I am desired by Mr. John Mathieson, who purchased a homestead lease from the Sheriff without being aware that the original holder had made application for the surrender of his lease, and who applied in August last that such application to surrender might be cancelled, to ask that his application may be considered with as little delay as possible, as the uncertainty of his position precludes him from carrying out the necessary fencing, &c.

Yours, &c.,

EDW. JNO. BLOXHAM.

Writer may be informed that the transfer from the Sheriff to John Mathieson has not yet been received in this Department.—E.L., 30/11/92. Yes; and register the letter in the General Post Office, and attach the receipt to this.—R.H.D., 1/12/92. E. J. Bloxham informed by registered letter.—5/12/92.

H.L. No. 886,
90-33, Bourke
(now Wilcannia),
William Brady
sen.

No. 13.

The Under Secretary for Lands to E. J. Bloxham, Esq., Bourke.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 5 December, 1892.

Referring to your letter of 15th ultimo, applying on behalf of Mr. John Mathieson for information respecting the withdrawal of the application to surrender the homestead lease mentioned in the margin, I have the honor to inform you that the transfer from the Sheriff to John Mathieson has not yet been received in this Department.

I have, &c.,

WM. HOUSTON,

Under Secretary.

(Per R.H.D.)

Wilcannia—
H.L. No. 886,
W. Brady, senr.

No. 14.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Occupation 92-12,223—Perrott v. Brady.

Sir,

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 27 October, 1892.

I have the honor to forward herewith a copy of the Judge's notes in the above case, and to return the papers sent to me with your letter of the 19th instant.

I have, &c.,

ERNEST A. SMITH,

Crown Solicitor.

(Per H.P.C.)

[Enclosures.]

[Enclosures.]

Sir, I have the honor to forward you herewith the papers in connection with the case Perrott v. Brady, senior, heard in No. 2 Jury Court, before Mr. Justice Innes, and a jury of four, in connection with certain advances made by the plaintiff in respect to the homestead leases mentioned in the margin, with the request that you will be so good as to procure a copy of the Judge's notes in these cases for refusal.

Department of Lands, Sydney, 10 October, 1892.

Wilcabin—
H.L. No. 886.
W. Brady, senr;
H.L. No. 887,
Ann E. Morris;
H.L. No. 888,
W. Brady, junr.

I have, &c.,
WM. HOUSTON,
Under Secretary.
(Per R.H.D.)

The Crown Solicitor.

Occ. 92-12,223 herewith, and to be returned.

In the Supreme Court }
of New South Wales. }

Perrott v. Brady, senior.

Money paid, £378 6s. 4d. Money lent.
Plea—Never indebted.

Gannon for plaintiff.

Sly and Rolin for defendant.

Edward Montgomerie Perrott, plaintiff:—I live at Rosedale, Tilpa, 120 miles from Bourke. The defendant lives 12 miles from me, and 130 miles from Bourke. I am a grazier. In January, 1890, while in Bourke, defendant asked me to lend him some money to take up a homestead lease. I agreed to lend it to him on conditions that he should sign the necessary papers to secure its repayment, such papers to be prepared by my solicitor. The interest was 15 per cent. per annum. I advanced money—£42 13s. 4d.—on the 19th February. The promissory note and this document (the agreement) was signed by him the same day. I also advanced him £3 3s.; legal expenses, £1 1s.; cash, £5. I paid it to defendant by cheque, which was cashed; and on June the 23rd I paid £5 to Bloxham at Brady's request. That all comes to £56 17s. 4d. I made all the advances specified in the particulars on defendant's request, for his benefit. I rendered him an account to July, 1891. He objected to one item, and to one only (£60), and £60 cost of fencing. He did not ask me to pay that specially, but I thought that under the document I was at liberty to advance any such sum for defendant's benefit on account of the homestead lease. The homestead lease was gazetted 24th July, 1891, as Brady's. About the beginning of August, 1891, I asked him to execute a legal mortgage. He refused to. I paid the rent, £117 6s. 2d., on account of the homestead lease. He did not specially request me to do it, but I thought it was authorised. His homestead lease has been sold under a writ issued by another creditor.

Cross-examined: A summons was taken out in the District Court, at Bourke, for £199 13s. 4d.; but I withdrew it to go for the whole amount, £378 6s. 4d. I had some sheep running on the homestead lease, but the defendant had much more stock on it. I was once droving for Richardson—three years before February, 1890. In February, 1890, I was not in his employ, nor have I been since 1887. Defendant did not say at any time that I was to advance the money to Brady for Richardson to enable Brady to dummy for Richardson; and I never so advanced the money. Richardson is in Sydney. He is a relation of mine. I made all these advances for defendant as I have stated. He has no place now, but is camped on the river. He has a few head of stock. His homestead lease fetched £40 odd. A man named Matheson bought it. I have some five or six homestead leases with frontage.

For defence.

William Brady, defendant:—The first time I saw plaintiff in Bourke was on the 18th February, 1891, at night. Plaintiff said, "We must give Mr. Richardson a good start; would you mind pulling your shirt off to do fencing for Richardson, and will you lend me a horse and cart; that will save Richardson about £40." No more took place that night. I said to plaintiff, "I've come to terms with Richardson to take up three homestead leases—one myself, and my son and daughter one each." Richardson told me he would give me 25s. a week, rations, and £100 bonus at the end of five years; my son £1 a week, rations, and £100 bonus at the end of five years; my daughter 15s. a week, rations, and £50 at the end of five years. Next morning after I made the three applications, plaintiff said to me, "Will you give me a lien over the country for any money I will advance you to go on with your improvements?" I said, "Yes," and so he agreed to advance me money; but I've had no money at all from him except £15, and £51 11s. 4d. as a loan to me personally (nothing to do with Richardson). No. I mean those sums were on account of wages that Richardson owed me, and Perrott said he was making me those payments acting as Richardson's agent. I took up the homestead lease as dummy for Richardson. I would rather not say whether I knew at the time it was a crime. I told Perrott that I got £10 from Richardson to pay my expenses from Willaroon, on the Bogan (200 miles off), to Richardson's place. I went on to the leases first on the 13th July, 1891. The leases were not gazetted till July, 1891. I did nothing at all during those seventeen months but wait, I and my son and daughter; but I consider that I am entitled to wages. I did work for Richardson during those seventeen months away from the homestead leases. Perrott had about 25,000 sheep on his own homestead leases. I had between eighty and ninety head of cattle, no sheep. I authorised none of these payments made for me. My daughter was a married woman of 23, or rather a widow, at the time. I said, "I won't sign that death warrant, as you call it, the promissory note, and the mortgage for £1,500, because you won't pay me the fair wages that are coming from Richardson to me." The fencing was all done before I got to the place. I never admitted to plaintiff in any way that I owed him any money. Bloxham gave me the deposit money. Whether he got it from Perrott or not I don't know, but I understood I was getting it from Richardson for the purposes of the dummying. The store charges are for the rations Perrott knew Richardson had undertaken to give me. Never till I refused to sign the mortgage for the £1,500 did Perrott or anyone else ask me for any refund. Matheson was a bushman. I saw him on the plaintiff's country doing anything he could get to do for the plaintiff. By his appearance I don't think he is worth a sixpence.

Cross-examined: The country about there is supposed to be T. L. Richardson's. I worked for Richardson for many years. During those seventeen months I was working for Brown of the Bank on Murrawamby, the station Richardson owns or did own. I do not know that the Bank has got all Richardson's property. I made a declaration in the Land Court. I swore that I was taking up the land for my own use and benefit. I am not so sure that is not true. I was not asked whether anyone else was interested with me. I did not say in Bourke that I was sorry for Perrott, as he had advanced the money, but that I would do five years if I could get Richardson in with me. My son was present when I told plaintiff that I was to dummy for Richardson. I bought five sheep from Jacobson. I never knew they were stolen, nor have I heard it since. Carrying and fencing has been my general employ. I got a refund of £10. I do not know who had advanced it. I surrendered the land because I could get no wages, and I could get no money to carry on.

In reply—

Plaintiff: I tried to find Richardson last night. I caused a subpoena to be issued for him, and tried to get him this morning. I deny absolutely all that the defendant has said about Richardson's connection with the matter. I swear positively that I never had the slightest idea that Richardson was at all mixed up in the affair—until I heard defendant swear it in the box. Matheson did not directly or indirectly buy for me.

(I ask Gannon if he wishes to apply for an adjournment on the ground that he has been taken by surprise by the defence set up, for the purpose of getting Richardson—Gannon says he does not wish for an adjournment.)

After the speeches to the jury and summing up, the jury say they wish to postpone giving their verdict until Richardson is called. By consent it is arranged that the case stands over till to-morrow at 10 o'clock. Richardson, if then in attendance, to be examined by the jury (questions to be in accordance with the law of evidence), and to be liable to be cross-examined by both counsel—Gannon first—if Richardson is not then in attendance the jury are to find their verdict (if they can agree) without further evidence.

The other two cases to stand over until then.

Tottenham Lee Richardson: There is not one word of truth in the statement of Brady that he was dummying for me. I never asked him to dummy for me. I never arranged with Perrott to advance any money to Brady in respect of any homestead lease on my account.

Cross-examined

Cross-examined by Sly: I lent Brady £10 when he was leaving Murrawamba for Tilpa; I never got it back though I tried to. He told me that he wished to better himself; and I told him that if he applied to Perrott, Perrott might be able to put him in the way of getting a homestead lease. I have helped the man and his family for fifteen years. He has been in my service during that time.

(Two letters put in evidence from Richardson to Brady, which, witness says, simply have referred to Brady's desire to take up for himself the homestead lease.)

Verdict for plaintiff, £126 13s. 9d., with interest (by consent), £135.

Perrott v. Morris.—Verdict (by consent) for plaintiff, £118 15s. 3d.

Perrott v. Brady, junr.—Verdict (by consent) for plaintiff, £106 13s. 2d.

No. 15.

Office Memorandum.

THE three homestead leases in question were taken up by members of one family—by the father, the son, and the (widowed) daughter.

Against each of these an action was brought by E. M. Perrott to recover certain moneys, and in each instance the plaintiff succeeded.

Brady, in his evidence, said that he took up the land as a dummy, on behalf of T. J. Richardson and Perrott, but Richardson denied this.

At the same time, the relationship between the parties seems very suspicious; but it scarcely seems that there is anything tangible enough at present to suggest action under section 122 of the Act of 1884.

In each case the homestead lessees sent in notices of surrender, which were accepted by the Minister, to take effect in January next. They now desire to continue in occupation, and to pay up arrears.

One of the leases was sold by the Sheriff, the purchaser from whom states he was not aware the lease had been surrendered.

It is submitted that the surrender of the leases should be insisted on, and that rent should be charged up to date the surrender will take effect.

H.A.G.C., 20/12/92.

The course suggested in the last paragraph of this memo. may be adopted. The circumstances in connection with these cases, as disclosed by the Judge's notes, are in the highest degree suspicious, but there is not, apparently, a *prima facie* case for action under the 122 section of 1884.—W.H., 22/12/92.

Course suggested approved.—H.C., 23/12/92. Mrs. A. E. Wright and W. Brady, junior, informed, 9/1/93.

No. 16.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Mrs. Ann E. Wright, formerly Morris, care of E. J. Bloxham, Esq., Bourke.

Madam,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 9 January, 1893.

Referring to your letter of 10th October last, applying for permission to withdraw your application of 16th January, 1892, to surrender the homestead lease noted in the margin, I have the honor to inform you that your request cannot be complied with, and that the Secretary for Lands having accepted the surrender on the 6th April, 1892, now insists on the surrender in question being carried out. I am to add that the rent for the year ending 18th proximo, together with fine for late payment, must be paid at once, otherwise the question of taking legal proceeding to recover the same may have to be considered.

I have, &c.,

WM. HOUSTON,

Under Secretary.

(Per R.H.D.)

No. 17.

The Under Secretary for Lands to Wm. Brady, junior, Esq., care of E. J. Bloxham, Esq., Bourke.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 9 January, 1893.

Referring to your letter of 31st October last, applying for permission to withdraw your application of 16th January, 1892, to surrender the homestead lease noted in the margin, I have the honor to inform you that your request cannot be complied with, and that the Secretary for Lands having accepted the surrender on the 6th April, 1892, now insists on the surrender in question being carried out. I am to add that the rent for the year ending 18th proximo, together with fine for late payment, must be paid at once; otherwise the question of taking legal proceedings to recover the same may have to be considered.

I have, &c.,

WM. HOUSTON,

Under Secretary.

No. 18.

The Under Secretary for Lands to John Matheson, Esq., care of E. J. Bloxham, Esq., Bourke.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 9 January, 1893.

Referring to your letter of the 8th August last, applying for the withdrawal of the surrender of the homestead lease mentioned in the margin, which was lodged by William Brady, senr., on 16th January, 1892, I have the honor to inform you that your request cannot be complied with, and that the Secretary for Lands having accepted the surrender on 6th April, 1892, now insists on the surrender in question being carried out.

I have, &c.,

WM. HOUSTON,

Under Secretary.

(per R.H.D.)

No. 18.

Wilcannia—
H.L. No. 837.

Rent for year
ending 18th
February, 1893,
£80; fine 10 per
cent., £8.

Wilcannia—
H.L. No. 838.

Rent for year
ending 18th
February, 1893,
£99 13s.; fine 10
per cent.,
£9 1s. 3d.

Wilcannia—
H.L. No. 836,
W. Brady, senr.

No. 19.

W. N. Willis, Esq., M.P., to The Under Secretary for Lands.

Sir,

Parliament House, Sydney, 27 January, 1893.

In reference to your communication of the 9th instant, addressed to Messrs. Norton, Smith, & Co. (numbered Occ. 92-14,006), on the subject of the surrender of the homestead lease No. 886, Wilcannia District, John Mathieson, holder, I would ask that the matter may be again further considered, as if the present decision to insist upon the surrender being carried out, be adhered to, a very great hardship will be inflicted on Mathieson who bought the lease in utter ignorance of the fact that W. Brady, the previous holder, had applied to surrender it.

The lease was purchased in all good faith by Mathieson at the Sheriff's sale, and having then given valuable consideration for it, it would under the circumstances appear very hard that he should now be made to suffer for the misfortune of another, or be made responsible for an act, of which he had no knowledge.

As this matter is not only of itself of serious importance to Mr. Mathieson; but is also intimately connected with the payment of the overdue rents on the homestead leases 887 and 888 (Wright and Brady), mentioned in your further letter of the 9th instant (Misc. 92 14,012); also addressed to Messrs. Norton, Smith, & Co., I would strongly appeal for a reconsideration of the Honorable Minister's decision, so that the application to surrender in each case may be withdrawn, the matter of rents adjusted, and a very serious hardship and loss to Mr. Mathieson prevented. Mr. Mathieson and Mrs. Wright, also W. Brady, senr., are all residing on their homestead leases, the two former have paid the station (when gazetted) for their improvements, and have also both just recently completed rabbit-fencing their boundaries with the adjoining stations.

Yours, &c.,

W. N. WILLIS.

Submit specially.—W.H., 30/1/93. Mr. De Low,—Submitted; the facts of the case are disclosed, *vide* Occ. 92-14,497.—E.L., 31/1/93. This asks for the homestead leases to be practically restored after having been surrendered, and the surrender accepted by the Minister.—R.H.D., 31/1/93. Special.—F.H.W. In view of the history of this and other cases referred to within, I do not think the surrender should be allowed to be withdrawn.—W.H., 6/2/93.

Considering the area of land we already have on hand, I think we may well be lenient in this matter, especially as there appear to be back rents to come in. The surrenders may, therefore, be allowed to be withdrawn.—H.C., 10/2/93.

Mr. Willis, M.P., informed, 18/2/93.

No. 20.

The Under Secretary for Lands to W. N. Willis, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Department of Lands, Sydney, 16 February, 1893.

Referring to your letter of 27th ultimo, applying for a reconsideration of the refusal to permit the withdrawal of the application to surrender the homestead leases mentioned in the margin, I have the honor to inform you that in view of the circumstances recited in support of your appeal, the Secretary for Lands has approved of the withdrawal of the respective surrenders of the subject leases. I am to add that the rent and fine paid on No. 886 to the 18th instant is lodged in the Treasury Suspense Account. The rent due on No. 887 to the 18th instant, £80, together with fine of 10 per centum of £8, and also the rent, £90 13s., and fine of 10 per centum, £9 1s 3d, on No. 888 to the same date should be paid forthwith; the respective rents on the subject leases for the ensuing year are also due on the 18th instant.

I have, &c.,

WM. HOUSTON,

Under Secretary.

(Per R.H.D.)

Wilcannia—
H.L. No. 886,
W. Brady, senr.;
H.L. No. 887,
Ann F. Morris;
H.L. No. 888,
W. Brady, jun.

Rent, £79 19s. 9d.
Fines £8.

1897.

—
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND AGRICULTURE,

NEW SOUTH WALES,

FOR THE YEAR

1896.

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

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1897.

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ANNUAL REPORT.

To The Honorable Sydney Smith, Esq., M.P., Minister for Mines and Agriculture,
&c., &c.

Sir,

I do myself the honor to submit the following report upon the working of that division of the Department under your control, which deals with mining interests, also the progress of mining and the results obtained during the year 1896.

The following statement conveys some idea of the clerical work of the Department during the year:—

STATEMENT of the Number of Papers registered and Letters despatched by the several Branches of the Department of Mines and Agriculture.

	Papers Registered.		Letters Written.	
	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.
Mines proper.....	62,799	*33,909	32,647	†20,136
Agriculture		11,680	.....	5,047
Public Watering Places		11,230	.....	4,975
Forests		7,626	.....	2,886
Stock Branch	10,982	12,836	4,548	5,172
Account Branch	14,113	15,483	.....	.....
Lease Branch, applications and plans registered	2,963	4,041	.....	.....
Geological Branch.....	2,059	2,089	3,947	4,762
Inspection of Mines.....	4,551	2,447	3,311	1,322
Diamond Drills	440	1,277	216	576
	97,907	102,623	44,663	44,876

* Exclusive of Agriculture, Forestry, and Public Watering Places papers, and Executive minutes and telegrams,

† Exclusive of Agriculture, Forestry, and Public Watering

The above statement of the work of the Department shows an increase in nearly every branch. My predecessor, Mr. Harrie Wood, who so ably filled the position of Under Secretary since the formation of the Department of Mines in 1874, retired early in the year; and consequent on the retrenchment of Mr. R. H. Ormiston, Mr. H. B. Sullivan was transferred to the position of Chief Clerk, his duties as Chief Mining Surveyor being amalgamated with that of Government Geologist, under Mr. E. F. Pittman, A.R.S.M. In view of the passing of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, which repealed the Act of 1876, and abolished the position of Examiner of Coal-fields, Mr. John McKenzie, F.G.S., retired, after completing thirty-three years zealous service. It affords me much pleasure to bear testimony to the zeal and ability with which the officers as a whole have performed their duties. They have at all times cheerfully worked after office hours when necessary, for which I take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation.

LEASE BRANCH.

Mining on Private Lands.—The number of applications for special or owners' leases, lodged in terms of section 25, during the year ending 31st December, 1896, was 183, covering an area of 3,193 acres.

The number of ordinary or general leases applied for during the same period was 307, covering an area of 3,423 acres 37 perches.

The total number of applications lodged during the year was 490.

The aggregate area applied for was 6,616 acres 37 perches, as under:—

	a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.
Gold	5,501	0	37	Silver, lead, and tin	80	0	0
Gold, silver, and antimony	10	0	0	Tin	351	0	0
Gold, silver, and lead.....	10	0	0	Leases for water rights, &c., &c. ...	82	0	0
Gold and silver	31	0	0				
Silver.....	421	0	0				
Silver and lead	130	0	0		6,616	0	37

The number of applications approved is as under, with areas:—

	a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.
213 for gold	12,510	3	5	1 for gold, silver, and lead.....	44	0	0
10 for tin	660	0	0	2 for water rights, &c.....	12	0	0
1 for silver	120	0	0				
3 for gold and silver	717	0	0		14,063	3	5

Besides these, 277 applications had to be refused for various reasons, covering an area of 10,879 acres, making a total number of 507 applications dealt with, embracing some 24,942 acres of land.

In addition to the areas shown in the above tables, a very considerable area of private lands is being worked by miners, under agreements with the owners, made and registered in terms of section 33 of the Mining on Private Lands Act of 1894, and under prospecting licenses in terms of section 40 of that Act, but the areas so worked are not readily obtainable.

On the 11th December the Governor gave his assent to the Mining Laws Amendment Act of 1896, in terms of section 2 of which Act the holder of a miner's right or mineral license may obtain an authority to enter on any private land, which is subject to the provisions of the Mining on Private Lands Act, and on payment to the owner of the rent fixed by the Warden, and to the Warden of the compensation assessed by him, may carry on mining operations without waiting for a lease to issue. Owing to the Act not coming into operation until near the middle of December only very few persons took advantage of the privileges conferred by the Act, but it is anticipated that during the coming year a large number of these authorities will be taken out, and an extensive area will be worked under them, and that in many cases leases will not be applied for until the land has been proved under the authorities to enter.

Under this Act also, provision is made for the granting by the owner, subject to the Minister's concurrence, of private leases or agreements, to the holders of miner's rights or mineral licenses to mine for gold (other than alluvial) or other minerals, which are subject to be mined under the Act, but the areas cannot exceed those which may be granted by the Governor, and each such lease or agreement must be registered with the local Mining Registrar. Up to the end of December, very few persons had attempted to take advantage of this section. Under this Act provision is made for the proclamation of conditionally leased land to be deemed to be private lands, subject to the provisions of the Mining on Private Lands Act, and as very considerable difficulty has hitherto been experienced in dealing with this class of lands, it is expected that the provision will in the near future be extensively used.

On July 31st, the Governor also assented to the Mining Act Amendment Act of 1896, under which the charges for miner's rights and mineral licenses are reduced, and which provides that a miner's right confers upon the holder all the privileges conferred upon the holder of a mineral license for the prospecting for and working of minerals other than gold, thus obviating the necessity of a miner holding a miner's right to prospect for gold, and a mineral license to prospect for other minerals.

The cost of a miner's right or a mineral license is now 5s. for twelve months, or 2s. 6d. for six months, from date of issue. The right does not necessarily expire on 31st December, as formerly.

With regard to the acquisition of Crown lands for mining purposes. The number of applications made to lease Crown lands for mining purposes during the year, was 2,449, an increase of 1,020 on the number received in 1895. Of the 2,449 applications so made, 1,931 were for auriferous land, comprising an area of 13,395 acres, 2 roods, 36 perches, and 518 were for mineral lands, embracing an area of 22,086 acres, 1 rood.

The

The number of applications dealt with during 1896, was 2,429, which shows an increase of 1,518, as compared with 1895.

Every effort is made to deal with these applications expeditiously, and with the exception of a very few applications which are the subject of litigation, none of any long standing remain to be dealt with.

Of the 2,429 applications dealt with during 1896—1,952 were for gold-mining leases, embracing an area of over 12,702 acres, and 477 were for mineral leases, embracing an area of 25,171 acres.

The area of auriferous land applied for in 1896, was more by 5,710 acres, 2 roods, 10 perches, than in 1895, and the mineral land 9,860 acres 15 perches, more during the same period.

SCHEDULE I.

TABLE showing the land applied for to be leased during 1896, and the minerals to be mined:—

	a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.
Gold	13,395	2	36	Tin and diamonds	1,257	0	0
Silver	1,530	1	0	Tin and emeralds	40	0	0
Silver and lead	4,068	0	0	Copper	1,182	0	0
Silver, lead, and copper	1,848	0	0	Limestone	5	0	0
Silver, lead, and ironstone	376	0	0	Cinnabar	80	0	0
Silver, lead, copper, and zinc	224	0	0	Emeralds	40	0	0
Silver, lead, and zinc	60	0	0	Wolfram and manganese	40	0	0
Silver, lead, copper, and iron	430	0	0	Pigments	110	0	0
Silver, lead, antimony, and copper	87	0	0	Antimony	454	0	0
Silver, lead, asbestos, and bismuth	29	0	0	Chrome and iron	40	0	0
Silver, bismuth, and cirium	149	0	0	Platinum	20	0	0
Silver, lead, iron, and lime	40	0	0	Asbestos	20	0	0
Silver and manganese	50	0	0	Opals	368	0	0
Silver and bismuth	120	0	0	Wolfram	40	0	0
Silver and tin	40	0	0	Diamonds	1,810	0	0
Silver and galena	40	0	0	Coal	616	0	0
Silver and copper	308	0	0	Coal and shale	7,114	0	0
Tin	171	0	0				
Tin, bismuth, antimony, and copper	120	0	0				
Tin, copper, and lead	160	0	0	Grand total.....	35,481	3	36

As shown in the foregoing table, the aggregate area applied for is 15,570 acres 2 roods 25 perches more than that applied for in 1895.

The increase occurs principally in gold, silver, lead, copper, antimony, opal, diamonds, and coal and shale.

AREA held under application to lease on 31st December, 1896.

	a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.
Gold	5,128	0	0	Silver and manganese	50	1	12
Coal	158	0	0	Silver, copper, and lead	437	0	0
Coal and shale	640	0	0	Diamonds	250	0	0
Antimony	100	0	0	Platinum	20	0	0
Tin	80	0	0	Tin, bismuth, antimony, and copper	120	0	0
Tin and diamonds	739	0	0	Silver, lead, and ironstone	40	0	0
Silver	380	0	0	Silver, lead, and zinc	40	0	0
Silver and bismuth	120	0	0	Opal	12	0	0
Silver and copper	60	0	0				
Silver and lead	285	0	0				
					8,659	1	12

The area of Crown lands held under application to lease on 31st December, 1896, shows a marked decrease, the area being 8,659 acres 1 rood 12 perches, as against 13,535 acres 2 roods 12 perches so held on 31st December, 1895.

This may be accounted for by the more expeditious issue of the leases applied for than was formerly the case.

The number of applications received for permits or authorities to mine (sections 27 and 28, Mining Act, 1874) on and under roads, reserves, &c., during the year was 246—24 less than in 1895.

The number dealt with was 302, an increase of 120 on the number dealt with in 1895.

As will be seen from the following table, the area of the lands embraced by the permits and authorities granted in 1896 shows the very large increase of 21,483 acres 10 perches over the area granted during the previous year. The principal increase is in coal, shale, and gold.

TABLE

TABLE showing area of reserved land comprised in permits and authorities granted during 1896 and the minerals to be mined thereunder.

	a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.
Coal	7,206	0	3	Cinnabar	81	1	25
Coal and shale	27,108	3	4	Manganese	3	0	0
Shale	1,828	2	5	Gold	287	3	25
Tin	1	0	0				
Copper	6	0	36		36,522	3	18

TABLE showing area of reserved lands comprised in sections 27 and 28, which were issued prior to 1896, in force.

	a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.
Coal	16,155	1	32	Antimony	7	1	15
Coal and shale	1,317	2	9	Silver and lead	3	0	0
Shale	19	2	32	Gold	25	1	12
Limestone	10	0	0	Gold, silver, and copper	1	3	0
Tin	143	3	3				
Copper	58	2	18		17,745	2	29
Copper and cobalt	4	0	28				

TABLE showing areas comprised in authorities, sections 27 and 28, which were in force on 31st December, 1896.

	a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.
Coal	16,406	2	28	Antimony	7	1	15
Coal and shale	5,965	0	9	Silver and lead	3	0	0
Shale	151	0	39	Gold	161	2	31
Limestone	10	0	0	Gold, silver, and copper	1	3	0
Tin	144	3	3	Cinnabar	81	1	25
Copper	58	2	18				
Copper and cobalt	4	0	28		22,995	2	36

The number of applications for authorities to dig and search for gold and other minerals on alienated and conditionally leased lands was 305, but of these only 15 were granted, and they were for authorities to search for minerals other than gold, silver, lead, tin, or antimony, which minerals are capable of being dealt with under the Mining on Private Lands Act.

The number of applications for permits in terms of section 7 of the Crown Lands Act to win and remove minerals reserved in the Crown grants was 31. Of these, 5 were granted and 23 were refused. The small number of such applications made is no doubt due to the operations of the Mining on Private Lands Acts, in terms of which, leases to mine for gold, silver, lead, tin, and antimony may be granted, and it is only with regard to minerals other than these that permits are applied for.

The foregoing tables, &c., show all lands held for mining purposes other than alienated lands which are not affected by the provisions of the Mining on Private Land laws, and Crown lands held and worked under miners' rights and mineral licenses, and private lands the subject of private leases or agreements between the owners and holders of miners' rights, or held under authorities to enter, or prospecting licenses.

The areas comprised in these exceptions are very considerable.

The investigation of titles under the Mining on Private Lands Act has, since April, 1896, been carried out in the Department. This work has been very heavy owing to the large number of applications for leases, the complicated nature of some of the titles, and the circumstance that in many cases the deeds and abstracts of title were not available. Where titles were found to be defective or incomplete, the owners had to be communicated with and the necessary steps taken to enable the proper parties to be dealt with as owners. The number of applications dealt with from the above date to the end of the year was as follows:—Titles investigated and reports made, 417; titles investigated but not in order at the end of the year, 58; awaiting particulars of title, 32.

Circulars have been issued during the year to all the Mining Wardens of the Colony, with reference to the following subjects, which are considered of sufficient importance to warrant their being brought under the notice of the mining community in this report:—

1st. *Homestead Selections.*—There being some doubt as to whether such selections came within the operations of the Mining on Private Lands Act, legal advice was sought on the question, and the Department was advised that Homestead Selections are private lands within the meaning of the Act.

2nd.

2nd. Respecting *Refunds of Deposits on Mineral and Gold Lease Applications*, which read as follows:—"With reference to the practice of refunding deposits lodged with Mineral and Gold Lease Applications, it is considered that such refunds should be refused when there is reason to believe that the land applied for has been taken up only for speculative purposes, and without intention of carrying on mining operations in a *bonâ fide* manner. In some cases persons who have held land for a lengthy period, and whose application has entailed upon the Department a considerable amount of work, expect their deposits returned.

The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture has therefore decided that in future no such refunds shall be made unless circumstances justify the concession, that is to say, when evidence is forthcoming that the land has been taken up for *bonâ fide* mining purposes, and that honest work has been done to test the ground and prove it unpayable."

The following Table shows the area of Crown and Private Lands held under Lease at 31st December, 1896, and the Minerals, &c., to be mined for:—

Minerals.	Crown Lands Occupation Act, 1861.		Mining Act, 1874.		Mining Act Further Amendment Act, 1884.		Mining on Private Lands Act, 1894.		Total.	
	a.	r. p.	a.	r. p.	a.	r. p.	a.	r. p.	a.	r. p.
Alum and alumstone			480	0 0					480	0 0
Alumstone and alunite			40	0 0					40	0 0
Alunite			2	0 0					2	0 0
Antimony			146	0 9					146	0 9
Bismuth			40	0 0					40	0 0
Chrome			40	0 0					40	0 0
Cinnabar			80	0 0					80	0 0
Coal	2,324	0 0	2,028	0 35	32,078	1 3½			36,430	1 38½
Coal and shale.....			368	2 29	6,932	2 26½			7,301	1 15½
Copper			530	0 0					530	0 0
Diamonds			1,767	0 36					1,767	0 36
Diamonds and tin			687	2 16					687	2 16
Emeralds			40	0 0					40	0 0
Graphite			80	0 0					80	0 0
Infusorial earth			10	0 0					10	0 0
Ironstone			33	3 0					33	3 0
Ironstone and limestone.....			120	0 0					120	0 0
Lead and limestone.....			20	0 0					20	0 0
Limestone.....			160	0 12					160	0 12
Manganese			45	0 33					45	0 33
Marble			194	3 38					194	3 38
Mineral pigments			10	0 0					10	0 0
Opal			801	0 26½					801	0 26½
Plumbago			40	0 0					40	0 0
Silver.....			2,026	0 30					2,026	0 30
Silver and bismuth.....			103	0 0					103	0 0
Silver, bismuth, and cirium.....			69	2 0					69	2 0
Silver and copper			88	0 25					88	0 25
Silver, iridium, platinum, and tin			100	0 0					100	0 0
Silver and lead			3,796	0 17½	40	0 0			3,836	0 17½
Silver, lead, antimony, copper, tin, & zinc			120	0 0					120	0 0
Silver, lead, asbestos, and copper			60	0 0					60	0 0
Silver, lead, and cirium.....			80	0 0					80	0 0
Silver, lead, and copper.....			1,841	2 0½					1,841	2 0½
Silver, lead, copper, and ironstone.....			529	3 11½					529	3 11½
Silver, lead, copper, and zinc			57	3 29					57	3 29
Silver, lead, and ironstone			685	2 2					685	2 2
Silver, lead, ironstone, and marble.....			480	0 0					480	0 0
Silver, lead, and limestone			864	0 0					864	0 0
Silver, lead, and tin			160	0 0					160	0 0
Silver, lead, and zinc.....			133	1 0					133	1 0
Silver and limestone			148	3 13					148	3 13
Silver, manganese, and copper.....			40	0 0					40	0 0
Silver and tin			40	0 0					40	0 0
Sulphate of alumina and potash			55	3 17					55	3 17
Tin.....			849	0 21	20	0 0			869	0 21
Tin and precious stones			40	0 0					40	0 0
Tin and wolfram.....			149	3 28					149	3 28
Turquoise			10	0 0					10	0 0
Wolfram			40	0 0					40	0 0
Not specified			20	0 0					20	0 0
Gold			11,885	2 27½	401	0 33½	5,649	1 39½	17,936	1 20½
Gold and silver							504	0 0	504	0 0
Gold, silver, lead, tin, and antimony.....							16	0 8	16	0 8
Total	2,324	0 0	32,239	1 16½	39,472	0 23½	6,169	2 7½	80,205	0 7½

The foregoing table, giving the area of Crown and private lands held under lease at the 31st December, 1896, and the minerals to be mined for, shows, I am pleased to say, a very large increase in the acreage so held—an all round increase of about 30 per cent. On comparing the table with that of the

the previous year, 1895, it will be seen that the largest increase is in gold-bearing land. On the 31st December, 1895, 6,431 acres were held under lease for gold, whereas the corresponding period in 1896 shows 17,936 acres, nearly three times the area. This is very satisfactory, and, I think, shows a growing activity in the most important class of mining. During the year a large amount of capital (mostly English) has been invested in New South Wales, and, as it is believed that a great deal of dead work has been done in connection with the various properties, it is likely that the current year will show an increased output in gold.

In silver-bearing land it will also be noticed that we have a considerable increase in the acreage held, probably owing to the fact that improved appliances for the treatment of sulphide ores are in course of erection.

Another important improvement is noticeable in the diamond-mining industry. As against 457 acres in 1895, we have an area of upwards of 2,000 acres under lease, the Bingara district specially showing a revival in this important class of mining.

During the year the leases cancelled show a decrease. 269 gold leases, representing 1,604 acres, and 81 mineral leases, representing 2,474 acres, were cancelled. This, it may be said, is evidence of a greater tendency to comply with the conditions of the leases issued.

Attention is invited to the fact that during the last six months of 1896 nearly 90 per cent. of the leases tendered were issued. Some two or three years back it was safe to say that as much as 70 per cent. of those tendered for execution were returned to the Department for avoidance. An increase is also noticeable in the number of transfers of mining properties registered in the Department, in many cases involving a large amount of capital.

The return showing the gold and mineral leases, and leases held under the Mining on Private Lands Act, 1894, is being published half-yearly with commendable punctuality. This return was until recently published at the end of each quarter, but it was considered that a half-yearly return would be sufficient to meet all requirements. It is feared that the mining community do not avail themselves of the information contained in this return to such an extent as they might do with much advantage to themselves.

THE COAL-MINES REGULATION ACT, 1896.

On the 1st October a new Act for the Regulation of Coal-mines and Collieries and certain other Mines came into operation, repealing an Act which had been in force since 1876. This Act is in many respects similar to the Imperial enactment on the same subject made in 1887. Many important changes are effected in it.

The responsibility for the management of these mines is cast upon the manager in each case, who is required to be the holder of a first-class certificate of competency, or a certificate of service as manager. To the close of the year 42 certificates of service as manager and 53 certificates of service as under-manager were issued, whilst 2 Imperial certificates of service as manager, 19 Imperial certificates of competency as manager, and 2 as under-manager were registered.

On the 1st October the following gentlemen were appointed Members of the Board for appointing Examiners in connection with the granting of certificates of competency:—

Jesse Gregson,	David Leake,
William Sandford,	Daniel Alexander Wilberforce Robertson,
Thomas Saywell,	Richard Thomas,
Adam Cook,	Louis Buckland Blackwell, and
William Thompson Philpot,	John Dixon, Esquires.

On the 7th October the Board met for the first time, subsequently meeting on three occasions before the close of the year. The Board at these meetings, after making the necessary rules for regulating the conduct of its business, made rules as to the conduct of examinations and the qualification of applicants for certificates, and appointed Messrs. W. Humble, F.G.S., H. Osborne MacCabe, J.P., and T. Cater as examiners for the first batch of examinations. The Board recommended that examinations should be held early in 1897 at Newcastle and Sydney.

The

The following information has been extracted from the rules made by the Board:—

The candidate must be twenty-three years of age, and must have had practical experience in a mine for at least five years.

A period of three years' apprenticeship to a mining engineer may be substituted by a candidate for a first-class certificate, as an alternative for an equivalent period of regular employment in a mine under the Act, if the apprentice has, in the discharge of his duties, to go down mines and obtain practical experience therein.

The subjects fixed for examination are the following:—

For First-class Certificates.

	Marks.
1. Arithmetic, including elementary rules, use of decimals and vulgar fractions and square root	8
2. Surveying and levelling, use and care of the dumpy level and theodolite, construction of plans and the use of scales, principles and practice of mine surveying	9
3. Geology, elements of, and knowledge of the coal measures in the candidate's district	8
4. Machinery, boilers, and other structures in use at coal mines, systems of haulage, pumping, and sinking	20
5. Theory and practice of ventilation, and a knowledge of the nature and properties of gases met with in mines, and of the precautions against danger from the firing of coal-dust	20
6. The winning and working of coal and shale	25
7. The Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896 (60 Vic. No. 12)	10
Total	100

The examination will be such as to ascertain, partly by written and partly by oral examination, the knowledge necessary for the practical working of mines in New South Wales.

For Second-class Certificates.

The examination and qualification for second-class certificates will be suitable for practical working miners, and will be such as to ascertain, partly by written and partly by oral examination, the knowledge necessary for the practical working of mines in New South Wales.

The following will be the heads under which the examination will be held:—

	Marks.
1. Arithmetic, the elementary rules	12
2. Theory and practice of ventilation, and a knowledge of the nature and properties of gases met with in mines, and of the precautions against danger from the firing of coal-dust	32
3. The winning and working of coal and shale	40
4. The Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896	16
Total	100

A candidate for either a first or second class certificate in order to pass must obtain at least 40 per cent. of the marks allowed for each of the subjects, and in the aggregate 66 per cent. of the total possible marks obtainable.

It will be necessary for him before his examination can be proceeded with to produce to the Examiners:—

- a. An authorisation from the Under-Secretary for Mines to appear for Examination.
- b. The prescribed evidence as to sobriety, experience, ability, and general good conduct, namely:—
 - (1) A statement of his age and of his occupation, where and by whom employed during at least the last five years, to which a statutory declaration made by him must be appended to the effect that all the allegations contained in such statement are true.
 - (2) Testimonials from his employer or two persons (whose addresses must be given) of his sobriety, experience, ability, and general good conduct. If a copy of the testimonials be forwarded along with the originals, the latter will be returned to the candidate at the examination.
- c. Satisfactory evidence that he has had practical experience in a mine for at least five years.

Candidates

Candidates appearing a second time must produce fresh evidence of their sobriety, experience, ability, and general good conduct.

A candidate for a first-class certificate of competency may not, in the event of his failure to obtain such a certificate, at the same examination obtain a second-class certificate.

Under the Act the maximum fee payable by applicants for examination for first and second class certificates is £2 and £1, respectively; but on representation being made that this would be a hardship on students and other intending candidates in receipt of small wages, you fixed the fee at 30s. and 15s., respectively. The fee admits to one examination only.

Provision is now made for the holding of a formal investigation of any explosion or accident and of its causes and circumstances when it appears expedient to the Minister to do so under the new Act.

The Minister on representation being made to him that a manager or under-manager holding a certificate, is by reason of incompetency or gross negligence unfit to discharge his duties or has been convicted of an offence against the Act, may if he think fit cause inquiry to be made into the conduct of the manager or under-manager. The Court of Inquiry thus appointed is empowered to cancel or suspend the certificate.

Payment by the standard weight system has been abolished.

Miners are not now limited in their choice of a check-weigher to the persons employed at that particular mine or at a mine belonging to the same company or proprietor. The check-weigher is by this Act authorised to require that the process of weighing shall be carried on continuously throughout the working hours during the whole time the pit is drawing coal.

The provisions of this Act in regard to single shafts are fuller than those of the Act repealed.

The size of man-holes required for travelling planes worked by machinery has been increased, and though at first some difficulty was experienced at several of the mines, full effect has now been given to this provision.

A person may not now be allowed to work alone as a coal getter in the face of the workings until he has had two year's experience of such work under the supervision of skilled workmen, or unless previously employed for two years in or about the face of the workings of a mine.

A penalty is provided for interference with the offices of check-inspector and check-weigher.

On the all important question of ventilation it is provided that pure air in quantity not less than 100 cubic feet per minute (with as much more as the Inspector shall direct) shall sweep along the air-ways and shall be forced as far as the face of and into each working-place. Some slight delay was occasioned in certain of the mines in carrying into effect this provision, but the Inspectors report that since the necessary alterations have been completed the provision has been complied with.

THE PROSPECTING BOARD.

The amount placed at the disposal of the Board for allotment this year is £25,000, an increase of £5,000 on the amount voted for 1895.

The mode of dealing with the applications received, is for a Member of the Board to visit and inspect the site for which aid is required, and make all necessary inquiries regarding the proposal, and report thereon. The reports are then considered at a meeting of the Board held in the Department every week, when each case is gone carefully into, and its prospects discussed. The rate is then fixed, not more than 50 per cent. of its estimated total cost being allowed, with a proviso that should payable minerals be discovered the amount paid is to be refunded. It will be seen therefore that each case is dealt with on its merits, and in no case is aid refused, when it can be shown that a grant from the vote is likely to benefit the district at large, by leading to the further employment of labour. So far as the Regulations will allow, the Board have offered every inducement to applicants for aid to test their reefs at a depth, but
only

only in a few instances has any serious attempt been made to carry out their proposals. In February, the Hon. the Minister offered a reward of £1,000 for the discovery of payable quartz within the Colony at a depth of 2,000 feet, but it is not known that any steps are being taken to earn it. Following is a copy of the notice referred to :—

NOTICE is hereby given that a Reward of One Thousand Pounds (£1,000) will be paid to the person who shall be the first to discover and make known to the Minister for Mines and Agriculture the discovery of payable Gold-bearing Quartz at a depth measured from the top of the shaft of 2,000 feet, the shaft may be perpendicular or follow the underlay; for the purpose of testing the reef 250 tons of stone taken from the reef at or below 2,000 feet perpendicular shall be crushed at a battery approved by the Minister; the stone shall be broken down, raised, and crushed under the supervision of officers of this Department; and if the 250 tons of stone yield an average of not less than 10 dwt. per ton it will be deemed payable.

If the Reward is not claimed within five (5) years it shall lapse.

Such Reward will be paid forthwith upon satisfactory proof being given to the Minister that the quartz is "payable," that it is from the required depth, and that the claimant is the first discoverer.

In May last operations were begun on the northern sea-beaches lying between the Esk River and Jerusalem Creek, with the object of discovering new leads of gold similar to that worked so successfully in McAuloy's Lead. In this locality 2,828 bores were put down, with an aggregate depth of 45,632 feet, and on towards the Evans' River other 187 bores were sunk, giving an aggregate of 2,782 feet. The five main lines of bores were carried from the beach due west across the heath on to the first of the sandstone ridges which form the water-shed between the Clarence and Richmond waters. The operations were ultimately extended to the Broadwater Heath, but, so far, no discovery of any great moment has been made.

Mr. Geological Surveyor Carne, in conjunction with an officer from the Victorian Department of Mines, has been engaged for some months prospecting and making a geological examination of the southern portion of the Colony, adjoining the Victorian Border. The work is still proceeding.

The diamond drill, subsidised from the Vote, is still working at Forest Reefs in search of the rich, deep lead, supposed to exist there. Very promising indications have been met with; and should the enterprise prove as satisfactory as anticipated by the projectors, the district will be vastly benefited by the opening up of a new and extensive gold-field. A considerable amount of boring work has also been done in the vicinity of Corowa, under the auspices of the Department, with a view of tracing the deep, alluvial leads, supposed to cross the Murray from Victorian territory. These leads have been worked on the Victorian side of the Murray for years, and proved very rich. So successful was the boring, that the position for a large shaft has been fixed, and sinking operations will be started at once.

Several parties of men have been aided to test the comparatively untried country beyond Wyalong and towards Lake Cudgellico, and between Condobolin and Fifield. This is considered a likely country, and the indications met with are very promising. There are large tracts of auriferous country within this Colony still untried; but the area is diminishing yearly.

The holding of regular weekly meetings of this Board was inaugurated in March last, and have been well attended by the members. The absence of the Geological Surveyors and Inspectors of Mines in the country on official duty, accounts for their non-attendance on many occasions. The number of meetings held since 13th March to 31st December, were 38. Of that number, the Chairman attended 36; Mr. Pittman, the Government Geologist, 26; Mr. Slee, the Chief Inspector of Mines, 24; Mr. Sullivan, the Chief Clerk, 21; Geological Surveyor Carne, 5; Geological Surveyor Jaquet, 16; Inspector Milne, 6; Inspector Godfrey, 2; Inspector Hooke, 1; and Mr. D. McCulloch, Secretary to the Board, 38.

Mr. E. C. Whittell, an Officer of the Geological Branch, who was engaged during the year reporting on application for prospecting aid, gave general satisfaction to the Board.

The number of applications for assistance appear to increase year by year, the number received being 1,901, as compared with 1,843 during 1895.

These were dealt with as follows :—

	1894.	1895.	1896.
Aid granted in	397 cases.	620 cases.	523 cases.
Aid refused in	584 „	818 „	985 „
Applications abandoned	27 „	42 „	39 „
Applications not dealt with	60 „	363 „	59 „
Applications for public batteries .....	.....	.....	41 „
For reward for the discovery of new gold-fields .....	.....	.....	21 „
For free treatment of ore.....	.....	.....	21 „
Miscellaneous cases .....	.....	.....	212 „
	1,068	1,843	1,901 cases.

It is very satisfactory to note from the above statement that the number of applications undealt with at the end of the year has been so materially reduced. Considering the large area of country and the number of applications received, which embrace every mining district in the Colony, it would be impossible, without augmenting the staff of Inspectors very considerably, to have each application reported upon as it is received, and so some little delay must necessarily occur, especially with regard to those applications received from a district which has just been inspected. Every effort is made, however, to have the applications disposed of with as little delay as possible. Amongst others, the following mining districts were visited by members of the Board during the year:—

Adaminaby	Canowindra	Guyra	Nundle
Adelong	Captain's Flat	Harden	Oberon
Albury	Carcoar	Hargraves	O'Connell
Alectown	Cargo	Hazelgrove	Ophir
Araluen	Casino	Hill End	Orange
Armidale	Clear Creek	Hillgrove	Pambula
Arable	Cobar	Hillston	Parkes
Back Creek	Cobargo	Holt's Flat	Peak Hill
Bald Nob	Cobbora	Home Rule	Pretty Gully
Ballina	Colinton	Inverell	Rockley
Barmedman	Condobolin	Jembaicumbene	Rylstone
Barraba	Coolac	Jindabyne	Sebastopol
Barber's Creek	Coolahie	Junction Point	Sofala
Bateman's Bay	Coolongolook	Junce	Stannifer
Batlow	Cooma	Kerr's Creek	Stockinbingal
Bear Hill	Copeland	Kiandra	Stuart Town
Bega	Corowa	King's Plain	Tamworth
Bell's Creek	Coramba	Lewis Ponds	Tarana
Bernagui	Cowra	Lincolns	Tarcutta
Bethungra	Cowra Creek	Lionsville	Tenterfield
Billy's Look-out	Crookwell	Lismore	Terminal
Bingara	Crudine	Long Creek	Tia
Blayney	Cudal	Lueknow	Tichborne
Bombala	Cudgegong	Lyndhurst	Tirghu
Bookham	Dalmorton	Macksville	Trundie
Boonoo-Boonoo	Davisville	Major's Creek	Trunkey Creek
Boro	Deepwater	Marulan	Tucklan
Bowling-alley Point	Delegate	Michellago	Tuena
Bowning	Demondrille	Milparinka	Tumut
Bowraville	Drake	Mogo	Uralla
Box Ridge	Dungog	Molong	Upper Turon
Braidwood	Eden	Moonan Brook	Wagga Wagga
Bredbo	Elsmore	Moruya	Wagonga
Brimbramalla	Emmaville	Mount Hope	Wallbundrie
Broken Hill	Essington	Mount M'Donald	Walcha
Brown's Creek	Euabalong	Mudgee	Wangat
Bull	Forbes	Murrumbateman	Warne
Bucca Bucca	Forest Reef	Muttama	Welcome Reef
Bundarra	Flyer's Creek	Nadgingomar	Wattle Flat
Bungendore	Gilgai	Narooma	Windyeyer
Bungonia	Gilgunnia	Nana Creek	Wombat
Burnt Yards	Glanmire	Narromine	Woodstock
Burrier	Glen Elgin	Narrandera	Woodgoolga
Burruga	Glen Innes	Nelligen	Wyalong
Burrowa	Goolma	Nerriga	Wyndham
Byng	Grafton	Nerrigundah	Yass
Byrock	Grenfell	Newbridge	Young
Byron Bay	Gulgong	Niangala	Yowaka
Cadia	Gundagai	Nimitybelle	
Caloola	Gundaroo	Nine-mile	
Canadian Lead	Guyong	Nowendoc	

As will be seen from the following statement the number of cases in which payable discoveries were made is sixteen, exactly the same number as the previous year, the most important of which is the finding of the Star Lead at Gulgong, which has been lost for years. Extensive machinery is now being erected on the mine:—

RETURN showing successful results from Prospecting Vote from 1st January, 1895, to 31st July, 1896.

1. *Watt, Wooderson, and Party, Pride of the Brook Claim, Stewart's Brook.*—This party were aided to continue their 40-feet shaft another 100 feet. They struck some very rich stone at the 90-feet level, and from 100 lb. weight of specimen obtained 102 oz. of retorted gold. Eighty tons of good looking stone are at grass, and the prospects of the claim are so favourable that the party intend erecting a crushing plant of their own.

2. *A. W. Cooper and Party, Star Lead, Gulgong.*—This party received aid to continue the driving from the bottom of their 200-foot shaft in the hope of striking one of the lost leads, which proved so rich in the early days of this field. The Board recognising the great importance of the work, gave every possible encouragement to the party, with the result that the lost Star Lead was struck, showing good prospects of gold. The width of the lead has already been proved to 100 feet, and when the deepest part of the lead or gutter is reached rich returns are expected.

3. *D. A. Penhall and Party, The Peak, near Cobar.*—This party received a grant in November, 1895. In April, 1896, they wrote in stating that, as they had now discovered payable gold, the aid would not be required, and thanking the Department for the assistance granted.

4. *J. M. Dodd and Party, Jones Creek, 6 miles from Gundagai.*—Owing to the discovery of payable alluvial gold by this party, who were in receipt of Government aid, a rush set in to this locality in April of this year. The sinking is from 14 to 25 feet, and the yield is from 4 to 9 dwt. per load. A large number of men are still on the ground, and prospecting work is being vigorously carried on in all directions from the discovery.

5. *Mullaney and Gough, Sally's Flat, Hill End.*—This party received aid to drive from the bottom of their 100-foot shaft, and were successful in striking a good run of 1-oz. stone. They have now a payable claim, and are still raising equally rich stone with increasing prospects.

6. *F. Fletcher, Gulgong.*—Received aid to sink and drive in search of the lost Perseverance Lead, Gulgong. The operations proved successful, as the lost lead was struck, presenting features identical with the last portion of the lead worked. The wash is 2 feet thick and prospects well for gold, but it is expected to improve as it gets away from the unsettled country where it was lost.

7. *George Stiff and Party, Native Bear Flat, Grenfell.*—This party received aid to prospect this alluvial flat, about 6 miles from Grenfell, and succeeded in striking a run of wash 1 foot 6 inches thick, which yields a little over 4 dwt. of gold per load. The party expect to make fair wages out of the claim.

8. *J. Gillan and Party, Hargraves.*—Received aid to prospect on the Mudgee line of reef, Hargraves. Some very rich stone was taken out by this party, which has led to other leases being taken up on either side of their claim.

9. *Perkins Bros., Surface Hill, Adelong.*—Received aid to continue their 56-foot shaft another 60 feet; and were successful in striking rich stone, a crushing from which of 32 tons 16 cwt. yielded 67 oz. 2 dwt. retorted gold, and other 10 oz. are expected from 2 tons of pyrites saved.

10. *J. J. Hoare and Party, Bell's Creek, Braidwood.*—Aid was granted to this party to continue their 98-foot shaft another 50 feet. At the lowest level the reef is 14 inches wide, from which a 5 ton's crushing yielded 1 oz. 5 dwt. of gold per ton; and it is expected another 15 oz. will be obtained from 1 ton of concentrates. This is the deepest shaft on Bell's Creek.

11. *The Cornish Copper Mining Company, The Gulf Creek, near Barraba.*—This company received aid to continue their shaft to a further depth of 100 feet, and were successful in opening out good ore, which during the year covered all current expenses in addition to the cost of extensive development work. It is expected that the company will be in a position to employ a large number of men at an early date.

12. *Jas. Garvan, Kangaroo Flat, about 4 miles west from Marlow.*—Aid was granted to this party to continue his 240-foot tunnel other 300 feet. He was successful in striking a vein of wash dirt 5 feet thick, yielding fully 1 dwt. to the load, with prospects of it improving. The present indications show that the party has several years work ahead of them.

13. *Martin Dunn, 2 miles south-east of the Paddy Lackey mine, Sunny Corner.*—Aid was granted to continue his shaft other 50 feet on the underlay. At the 90-foot level the reef was struck, averaging 3 feet wide, a trial crushing from which of 15 tons yielded 14½ oz. of gold. The reef is improving with depth, and the mine is now looked upon as a valuable property.

14. *Howard and Lawson, The Horse-shoe Reef, Tambaroora.*—Aid was granted to cross-cut from the bottom of their 80-foot shaft in search of the reef. They were successful in striking the reef which yields at the rate of ½ oz. of gold per ton.

15. *John M'Donough and Party.*—This party received aid to prospect for alluvial gold at Buddigower, near Wyalong. Payable gold was struck at a depth of 30 feet. From six loads they washed 13½ dwt. of gold, and a quantity of tin. The discovery resulted in a rush, and at one time 300 men were on the ground. So far the lead has not been proved to be of any great extent.

16. *John M'Leod.*—Three miles north of Brimbramulla was aided to sink on a reef discovered within his prospecting area. At 38 feet the reef widened out to 2 feet, a crushing from which yielded 12 dwt. per ton. This new find from later reports is turning out very satisfactory.

As stated in a foregoing table the Board have dealt with 21 applications for the free treatment of ore at the Government Metallurgical Works. In dealing with these applications it is the practice to enquire into the circumstances of the applicant, with a view of ascertaining whether he is in a position to bear the cost of the treatment, so that the revenue from the works may be guarded from imposition, the object of granting the concession being to assist the struggling prospectors only. The same remarks apply to free assays.

The granting of rewards for the discovery of new gold-fields is another matter which comes within the scope of the Board who, during the year, inquired into 21 applications for such discoveries, but unfortunately in no case was it found that the conditions attached to the reward had been fulfilled. An important alteration has been made in this reward, by extending it to the discovery of new mineral fields, embracing new reefing and alluvial gold or tin fields, or new deposits of silver, copper, diamonds, or precious opal. The notice is published in full for general information:—

REWARD FOR THE DISCOVERY OF NEW MINERAL FIELDS.

NOTICE is hereby given that the sums undermentioned will be paid as rewards for discovering, on and after this date, new Reefing or Alluvial Gold or Tin Fields, or new Deposits of Silver, Copper, Diamonds, or Precious Opal.

The sum of £500 will be paid to any person or persons who shall first discover a new Reefing or Alluvial Gold or Tin Field, or a new Deposit of Silver, Copper, Diamonds, or Precious Opal, provided—

- (1) That the site of the discovery be distant not less than 10 miles from the nearest mine in which similar payable mineral has been or is being obtained.
- (2) That such discovery be made known to the Minister for Mines and Agriculture within what he shall deem to be a reasonable time after such discovery.
- (3) That if it be proved to the satisfaction of the Minister that within six (6) months after he has been notified of such discovery not fewer than three hundred (300) miners have been profitably employed in mining upon such field or deposit.

In the event of the Minister being satisfied that at the expiration of twelve (12) months after he has been notified of such discovery not less than five hundred (500) miners have been profitably employed in mining upon such new field or deposit, the discoverer or discoverers shall be entitled to claim a further sum of £500.

The Minister shall be the sole judge as to any matter in dispute in regard to an application for reward.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

The time of the Government Geologist (Mr. E. F. Pittman) has been devoted to the supervision of the geological survey staff, and to practical work in the field.

Early in January he was called upon to investigate the cause of the heating of the cargo of coal on the ship "Knight of St. Michael," and to report upon the advisability of the vessel putting to sea. This report was furnished at the request of the marine surveyors who had previously inspected the cargo, and who wished for the opinion of a government expert.

During the month of January he visited Glen Innes, Inverell, Bingara, Rocky Creek, Terry-Hie-Hie, and Warialda, and traced through those districts the eastern boundary of the Triassic coal measures, which form the principal artesian water-basin of the Colony. He also visited the principal gold mines at Spring Creek, near Bingara, and reported upon the proposal to establish a government quartz crushing battery in that district.

In February he inspected the auriferous and diamantiferous deposit at Kangaloon, near Mittagong. At this spot aid from the Prospecting Vote had been granted to sink a shaft with the object of prospecting the volcanic breccia which occurs there.

Mr. Pittman reports that the encountering of a heavy body of water caused the contractor to stop work, and he was therefore unable to descend the shaft. In his opinion, however, there is reason to believe that this is a true volcanic neck, and the occurrence of diamonds in the quartz pebble drift overlying it is of considerable interest, as pointing to the possibility of their being derived from the volcanic breccia, as in the celebrated diamond mines of Kimberley, in South Africa.

In May he visited Barraba, Wood's Reef, Ironbark, and Crow Mountain, and reported on the necessity for extending the reserves for gold-mining purposes in that district. He also made an examination of a large deposit of tripolite in the Nandewar Ranges, and reported upon some applications for prospecting aid at Ti-tree Creek.

In June he made an examination of the Mount Maude gold-field, and reported upon the proposal to resume an area of alienated land there for mining purposes. He also investigated an application for prospecting aid there. On the 15th July Mr. Pittman was appointed Chief Mining Surveyor, and thereafter undertook the duties of that office in addition to his duties as Government Geologist.

In July Professor Threlfall and Mr. Pittman were appointed a Royal Commission to enquire into the causes and prevention of spontaneous combustion in coal cargoes, and the work in connection with this important matter occupied a considerable portion of Mr. Pittman's time during the remainder of the year.

In October he accompanied Mr. Boulton, the Superintendent of Public Watering Places, to Girilambone, and drove thence, *via* Willaroon, to Coolibah, for the purpose of inspecting some mudsprings which occur about 18 miles to the north-east of the latter place. Mr. Pittman reports that these mudsprings are of considerable interest, furnishing as they do evidence of the extension of the lower cretaceous artesian water-bearing beds, a considerable distance further south than they were previously known to occur.

During the month of December he visited Gilgunnia, and reported upon a number of applications for aid to further prospect the reefs in that gold-field.

During November and December he, in conjunction with Professor David, examined a number of coal outcrops in the Wollongong and Kiama districts, and subsequently gave evidence as to their value before the Public Works Committee in connection with the proposal to construct a deep-water harbour at Port Kembla.

The vacancy on the Geological Survey Staff, caused by the resignation, in 1895, of Mr. G. A. Stonier, has not yet been filled, and consequently the Branch was under somewhat of a disadvantage.

During the greater part of the year Mr. Geological Surveyor Carne has been engaged in conducting a prospecting party along the New South Wales side of the Victorian border, from Cape Howe to the head of the Murray River. A similar party was despatched by the Victorian Government to prospect on their side of the border. Prospecting operations have been completed over about half the distance. Mr. Carne has done some important geological work in identifying both Devonian and Lower Silurian rocks, the former being recognised by plant remains and the latter by graptolites. This is the first identification of Lower Silurian rocks in this Colony.

Mr.

Mr. Carne has also furnished the undermentioned reports :--

1. On the Yowaka and Panbula Gold-field.
2. On the Geology and Mineral Resources of the Coast between Port Macquarie and Cape Hawke.
3. On an Alluvial Tin Deposit, Mann River.
4. On the Wolumla Gold-field.
5. On the Timbilica reefs.
6. On the auriferous deposit at Tingy's Plains, near Rocky Hall.

Mr. Geological Surveyor J. B. Jaquet's time has to a considerable extent been occupied in inspecting and reporting upon mining reserves which the Lands Department proposed to reduce or cancel. He has also inspected a number of gold and other mineral deposits, and has furnished a number of reports, as follow :--

1. On the Wattle Flat and Sofala Gold-field.
2. On the Gold and Tin fields of Jindabyne and Kosiusco.
3. On the Little River Gold-field.
4. On the Towga Creek Copper lodes.
5. On the Cullulla Silver Mine.
6. On the auriferous drift near Laggan.
7. On the Dairy Creek Gold-field.
8. On an ironstone bed at Seaham.
9. On the Gilgunnia Gold-field.
10. On the Gooda Creek Gold-field.
11. On the Mount Blundell lode.
12. On the Sunnyside Silver-Copper lode.

A report, together with plans and a section, have been furnished by Mr. D. W. Munro, giving details of the Government prospecting operations which have been conducted under his guidance in the auriferous beach deposits of the northern coast.

The officers of the Assay Branch have been kept extremely busy during the past year. No less than 6,013 assays and analyses have been made, or 1,000 in excess of the previous year's record. This is a direct result of the increased activity in mining matters, which has been so abundantly evident in all branches of the Department during the past year.

In addition to the above a large number of determinations of rocks and minerals has been made by the Curator and Mineralogist, Mr. Card. Considerable additions have been made to the Geological Museum collection, and these have been ably arranged by the Curator.

MINING SURVEYS.

Mr. E. F. Pittman was appointed Chief Mining Surveyor (in addition to his other duties as Government Geologist) on the 15th July.

The number of mining surveys made during the year 1896 was 2,225, as against 1,163 during the year 1895. Of these, 1,445 were gold leases on Crown lands, 147 were mineral leases, 218 were mining tenements, 54 were mining permits, and 361 were leases on private land; 1,313 were made by salaried surveyors and 912 by non-salaried surveyors. One underground survey was also made for the purpose of determining to what extent the workings of the Greta Colliery encroached upon adjoining lands. Owing to the great and continued increase of applications for unsurveyed land it was found necessary in October to appoint an additional salaried surveyor; the appointment was only made a temporary one however, as it is thought probable that applications for leases, &c., will not continue to be made at the same rate, and that five salaried surveyors will after a time be sufficient to deal with the ordinary work of the Department.

CHARTING.

Mr. G. A. McKay (formerly an officer of the Lands Department) was appointed Chief Draftsman on the 15th October, and it is satisfactory to note that since he took charge excellent results have been shown by the Charting Branch. The total number of gold and mineral lease applications on Crown lands dealt with during the year 1896 was 2,261 as against 855 during the previous year; the number of 27th and 28th section applications dealt with was 257 as against 189 during the previous year; and in addition to these 481 applications for leases on private land and 251 measurements under the Mining Board Regulations were dealt with.

The number of applications in hand at the end of the year were 208 for gold and mineral leases, 39 for 27th and 28th sections, and 57 for leases under the Mining on Private Lands Act.

In addition to lease applications, Surveyor's reports, and other unregistered documents, 5,100 papers were received and dealt with; 2,909 plans were noted; descriptions of 40 reserves under Section 26, and 21 Mining Divisions were prepared, gazetted, and charted; and 48 maps were prepared in connection with the alterations in Mining Wardens districts. During the year 1896, 301 copies of mining maps were charted up to date and forwarded to Wardens, 93 to District Surveyors, 47 to Mining Surveyors, and 8 to other persons!

COMPILATIONS.

COMPILATIONS.

Thirteen locality maps, embracing 18 parishes or portions of parishes, were completed; 11 were published and 3 remained in hand in various stages. Sixty-three proofs of parish and other maps showing mining measurements were received from the Department of Lands; 60 were revised and returned. Fourteen were adopted as mining maps and put into office use. In addition to the above, 4 sheets of the map of the Mining Districts of New South Wales, embracing an area of 80,496 square miles, were completed; 3 sheets were published and 2 sheets remained on hand awaiting examination.

It will be seen that there has been a very large increase of work thrown upon this Branch during the year but it has been satisfactorily dealt with owing to the steady application of the officers.

List of New Maps and New Editions of Maps published during 1896.

Parish or part of	County.	Parish or part of	County.
Albert	Yancowinna.	Cobar	Robinson.
Sebastopol	Do	Hillston	Do
Tara	Do	Nerrimunga	Argyle.
Alma	Do	Moonee	Fitzroy.
Goba	St. Vincent.	Coventry	Clarke.
Bateman	Do	Oban	Do
Warratta	Tongowoko.	Lindhurst	Bathurst.
Milparinka	Evelyn.	Hampton	Do

Sheets 2, 3, and 6 of the map of the Mining Districts of New South Wales.

COMPLETE List of Mining Maps in use.

Parish or part of.	County.	Parish or part of.	County.
Abercrombie	Beresford.	Bolton	Westmoreland.
Adelong	Wynyard.	Bomangaldy	Yancowinna.
Ællalong	Northumberland.	Bombah	Georgiana.
Ainsley	Parry.	Bongadah	Mootwingee.
Airly	Roxburgh.	Bookookoorara	Buller.
Albert	Yancowinna.	Boooloombayt	Gloucester.
Alberta	Farnell.	Boona	Kennedy.
Albury	Goulburn.	Do East	Cunningham.
Alma	Yancowinna.	Do West	do
Do (town of)	do	Boonabah	Bland.
Alwick	Northumberland.	Boonoo Boonoo	Buller.
Anderson	Gough.	Boorongail	Bland.
Annandale	Clive.	Boorook	Buller.
Anson	Bathurst.	Bootoowaa	Gloucester.
Antimony	Buller.	Boranel	do
Araluen	St. Vincent.	Bowman	Clive.
Arkell	Bathurst.	Boyd	Gough.
Arvid	Gough.	Brangalgan	Bourke.
Aston	Harlinge.	Branxton	Northumberland.
Awaba	Northumberland.	Bray	Yancowinna.
Back Creek	Bland.	Brigstocke	Mouramba.
Badjerrigarn	Farnell.	Bringellet	Bathurst.
Bagawa	Fitzroy.	Broadmeadows	Gresham.
Bald Nob	Gough.	Broombee	Wellington.
Ballallaba	Murray.	Broulee	St. Vincent.
Ballandean	Clive.	Brundah	Monteagle.
Ballina	Rous.	Brunton	King.
Bandamora	Roxburgh.	Brymur	Bland.
Bangheet	Murchison.	Buangla	St. Vincent.
Barbingal	Bland.	Budawang	do
Baring	Westmoreland.	Buddigower	Bourke.
Barmcdman	Bland.	Bulgandramine	Narromine.
Barney Downs	Clive.	Bullongong	Murray.
Baroorangee	Young.	Bumbaldry	Monteagle.
Bateman	St. Vincent.	Bundar	Gough.
Bates	Clive.	Bundawarrah	Bland.
Belimebung	Bland.	Bundure	Blaxland.
Bena	Gipps.	Burke	Camden.
Ben Bullen	Roxburgh.	Burra	Kennedy.
Benerec	Bathurst.	Do	Selwyn.
Berendebba	Bland.	Burrabijong	Bland.
Bermagucc	Dampier.	Burrandong	Wellington.
Berrigan	Bland.	Burridgee	Georgiana.
Berrima	Camden.	Burrill	Kennedy.
Bherwerre	St. Vincent.	Byjerkerno	Farnell.
Bimbeen	Gipps.	Byng	Bathurst.
Bimbella	Bland.	Byngnano	Mootwingee.
Bindera	Gloucester.	Bywong	Murray.
Bingara	Murchison.	Cadalgulee	Gipps.
Bingham	Georgiana.	Cadgee	Dampier.
Binghi	Clive.	Calafat	Wynyard.
Blackhoath	Cook.	Callanyn	Buller.
Blackman	Georgiana.	Caloola	Mootwingee
Blain	Clive.	Canowindra	Bathurst.
Blair Hill	Gough.	Capett	Murchison.
Blake	Bathurst.	Carabagul	Gipps.
Blaxland	Mouramba.	do	Bland.
Bligh	Farnell.	Carawandool	Gipps.
Blow Clear	Gipps.	Carlisle	Mouramba.
Bloxsome	Gough.	Carroll	Wellington.
Bodalla	Dampier.	Cargo	Ashburnham.
Boduldura	Wellington.	Castleton	Roxburgh.
Boginderra	Bland.	Cataract	Buller.
Bogia	Wellington.	Cathcart	Yancowinna.
Bolagamy	Gipps.	Cavendish	Clive.
Bolaira	Yancowinna.	Cessnock	Northumberland.
Bolderogery	Gordon.	Chalmers	Durham.

Parish or part of.	County.	Parish or part of.	County.
Chigwell	Hardinge.	Gadara	Wynyard.
Churchill	Drake.	Gairdner's Creek	Mootwingee.
Clare	Hardinge.	Galbraith	Bathurst.
Clarence	Buller.	Galwadgere	Wellington.
Clear Ridge	Gipps.	Gibraltar	Clive.
Clermiston	Bourke.	Gibrigal	Gipps.
Clifford	Beresford.	Gidgingidgibung	Bland.
Clinton	Bathurst.	Giles	Farnell.
Clive	Gough.	Gilgunma	Mouramba.
Coally	Evelyn.	Do	Blaxland.
Cobar	Robinson.	Do (East)	do
Cobram	Blaxland.	Gilgurry	Buller.
Cole	Bathurst.	Gillenbine	Kennedy.
Coleridge	do	Gillendich	Georgiana.
Collett	Ashburnham.	Glenken	Selwyn.
Colongou	Buller.	Gnupa	Auckland.
Comlaroi	Fitzroy.	Goba	St. Vincent.
Condoublin	Cunningham.	Gooan	Blaxland.
Cooba	Cook.	Gooloongolok	Gloucester.
Coolamin	Wellington.	Goonumbra	Ashburnham.
Coolamigal	Roxburgh.	Gordon	Gough.
Coonbaralba	Farnell.	Gouyon (part of)	Murchison.
Cooney	Sandon.	Graeme	Macquarie.
Coorumbung	Northumberland.	Grattai	Wellington.
Copes' Creek	Hardinge.	Guapa West	Blaxland.
Copperhamia	Georgiana.	Gulgong	Phillip.
Cordeaux	Camden.	Gulph	Dampier.
Coree	Blaxland.	Gundong	Narromine.
Corella	Cunningham.	Guntawang	Phillip.
Corona	Farnell.	Gindantherie	Cook.
Corringle	Gipps.	Hall	Clarke.
Corry	Buller.	Do	Darling.
Coventry	Clarke.	Do	Murchison.
Cowal	Gipps.	Hamilton	Gough.
Cox	Cook.	Ilampton	Bathurst.
Cranbrook	Clive.	Ilaning	Inglis.
Craven	Gloucester.	Hargraves	Wellington.
Crowl	Mouramba.	Hartley	Cook.
Crudine	Roxburgh.	Haystack	Gough.
Culingera	Bland.	Heathcote	Cumberland.
Cullen Bullen	Roxburgh.	Herbert	Gough.
Cullendore	Buller.	Herborn	Raleigh.
Cullulla	Argyle.	Hexham	Northumberland.
Cummings	Wellington.	Huwatha	Gipps.
Cunninghame	Harden.	Highland Home	Gough.
Curraburra	Bland.	Hillston	Robinson.
Curragurra	Wellington.	Hughes (part of)	Yancowinna.
Currah	Gipps.	Hume (part of)	Mouramba.
Currajong	Ashburnham.	Iyandra	Gordon.
Currambenc	St. Vincent.	Ironbarks	Wellington.
Curraeki	Gloucester.	Inverary	Argyle.
Currook	St. Vincent.	Inverell	Gough.
Cutrowan	do	Jamberoo	Camden.
Dalmorton	Gresham.	Jamieson	Cook.
Danjera	St. Vincent.	Do	Mouramba.
Darby	Hardinge.	Jellore	Camden.
Derra Derra	Murchison.	Jeremy	Georgiana.
Dering	Farnell.	Do	do
Dhoon	Yancowinna.	Jerricknorra	St. Vincent.
Digby	Pottinger.	Jesse	Roxburgh.
Dinoga	Murchison.	Jingellie, East	Selwyn.
Dora	Northumberland.	Jingerrangle	Bland.
Dowling	Ashburnham.	Joadja	Camden.
Drumston	Bourke.	Jocelyn	Westmoreland.
Dumaresq	Gough.	Julong	Georgiana.
Dungree Phillip	Phillip.	Kahibah	Northumberland.
Dungowan	Parry.	Kalingan	Gipps.
Dunleary (part of)	Bathurst.	Kangaloolah	Georgiana.
Daval	Sandon.	Kangaloon	Camden.
East Gulgunnia	Blaxland.	Kedumba	Cook.
Edgar	Yancowinna.	Kembla	Camden.
Egbert	Bathurst.	Kempfield	Georgiana.
Eldon	Gloucester.	Kiandra	Wallace.
Ellerslie	Cunningham.	Kildary	Bourke.
Do	Wynyard.	Killeen	Blaxland.
Ellon	Bourke.	Do South	do
Elmsmore	Gough.	Kinchelsoa	Mouramba.
Eumore	Yancowinna.	Kingsgate	Gough.
Do	Sandon.	Kinnear	Mouramba.
Eskdale	Roxburgh.	Kirk	Yungnulgra.
Estrema	St. Vincent.	Knowla	Gloucester.
Eaadera	Wynyard.	Kruege	Mouramba.
Euglo South	Gipps.	Kullatine	Dudley.
Eumur	Darling.	Lake Macquarie	Northumberland.
Eusdale	Roxburgh.	Lands End	Gough.
Fairy Hill	Yancowinna.	Langdale	Westmoreland.
Falnash	Roxburgh.	Larras Lake	Wellington.
Fennel	Bourke.	Lennox	Bathurst.
Fitzroy	Kennedy.	Lewis	Yancowinna.
Flagstone	Gough.	Do	Wellington.
Forbes	Ashburnham.	Lidsdale	Cook.
Do	Wellington.	Livingstone	Gipps.
Fowler's Gap	Farnell.	Loftus	Parry.
Freemantle	Bathurst.	Lorne	Ararawatta.
Frazer	Gough.	Lowther	Westmoreland.
Do	Clive.	Lyndhurst	Bathurst.

Parish or part of.	County.	Parish or part of	County]
Macintyre	Murchison.	Ophara	Yancowinna.
Maharatta	Yancowinna.	Opton	King.
Maitland	Northumberland.	Orr	Evelyn.
Malongulli	Bathurst.	Pampara	Yungnulgra.
Mandamah	Bland.	Para	Yancowinna.
Mandolong	Northumberland.	Paradise North.....	Gough.
Manildra	Ashburnham.	Parkes	Ashburnham.
Marangaroo	Cook.	Picton	Yancowinna.
Marbunga	Bland.	Prospero	Durham.
March	Wellington.	Purfleet	Bathurst.
Markdale	Georgiana.	Purnamoota	Yancowinna.
Marsden	Gipps.	Purvis	Clive.
Marsh	Buller.	Reid	Buller.
Martin	Ashburnham.	Robe	Yancowinna.
Marulan	Argyle.	Rock Glen	Clive.
Maryland	Buller.	Rock Vale	do
Mayo	Hardinge.	Romney	do
Meangora	St. Vincent.	Rosebery	Bathurst.
Megalong	Cook.	Rose Valley	Beresford.
Megio	Georgiana.	Ruby	Buller.
Melrose	Roxburgh.	Rusden	Gough.
Merinda	Wellington.	Sandy Creek.....	Hardinge.
Merrigalah	Sandon.	Sara	Gresham.
Metz	do	Do	do
Micaligo	Beresford.	Sarsfield	Kennedy.
Mickimill	Kennedy.	Scone	Gough.
Middlehope	Durham.	Scott	do
Middlesex	Mouramba.	Seaham	Durham.
Mildil	Gipps.	Sebastopol.....	Clarendon.
Millah Murrah	Roxburgh.	Do	Yancowinna.
Milparinka	Evelyn.	Seeley	Clarke.
Milring	do	Sentinel	Yancowinna.
Mingelo	Narromine.	Severn	Gough.
Mininjary	Bland.	Silent Grove	Clive.
Mitchell	Gough.	Single	Hardinge.
Do	Clarke.	Sofala	Roxburgh.
Mogood	St. Vincent.	Somers	Bathurst.
Molroy	Murchison.	Somerset	Kennedy.
Mongarlowe	St. Vincent.	Soudan	Yancowinna.
Moogem	Clive.	Southend	Cumberland.
Moonam	Durham.	South Gundagai	Wynyard.
Moonee	Fitzroy.	South Peak	Blaxland.
Mooney Mooney	Harden.	South Yackerboon	do
Moora Moora	Gipps.	Springbrook	Gresham.
Moorikaie	Yancowinna.	Stanford	Northumberland.
Moqulamba	Robinson.	St. David	Bathurst.
Morrisset	Northumberland.	Stephen	Yancowinna.
Morundurey	Roxburgh.	Stockrington	Northumberland.
Moruya	Dampier.	Stockton	Gloucester.
Morangarell	Bland.	Do (town of)	do
Mouin	Cook.	Stonshenge	Gough.
Mount Allen	Blaxland.	Stowell	Gloucester.
Mount Gipps	Yancowinna.	Strachan	Gough.
Mount Hope	Blaxland.	Strathbogie	do
Muckerwa	Wellington.	Strathbogie North	do
Mugga	Bland.	Strathspey	Buller.
Muginoble	Ashburnham.	Sutton	Gloucester.
Muir	Gough.	Swinton	Hardinge.
Mulbring	Northumberland.	Talbragar	Bligh.
Mulga	Gipps.	Tallaganda	St. Vincent.
Mulgunnia	Georgiana.	Tambaroora	Wellington.
Mulwarae	Argyle.	Tange	Murchison.
Mundi Mundi	Yancowinna.	Tanja	Dampier.
Mungabarina	Goulburn.	Tara	Yancowinna.
Murga	Cunningham.	Tarcombe	Blaxland.
Murrimba	Camden.	Tareutta	Wynyard.
Myall	Murchison.	Teleraree	Gloucester.
Nadback	Yancowinna.	Temora	Bland.
Naradin	do	Tenandra	Lincoln.
Narraburra	Bland.	Tent Hill	Gough.
Narragudgil	do	Teralba	Northumberland.
Narrangarril	Argyle.	Thanowring	Bland.
Nattery	do	The Peaks	Westmoreland.
Nepean	Cook.	Therabung	Bland.
Nerang Cowal	Gipps.	Thornshope	Roxburgh.
Nerrigundah	Dampier.	Thurungly	Bland.
Nerrimunga	Argyle.	Tia	Vernon.
Newcastle	Northumberland.	Tiabundie	Darling.
Do (City and Environs)	do	Tiara	Vernon.
Do District	Durham, Northumber- land, and Gloucester.	Tienga	Hardinge.
Newry	Darling.	Timarra	Clive.
Do	Raleigh.	Tindayrey	Robinson.
Noorooma	Dampier.	Tintern	Bathurst.
Nootumbulla	Mootwingee.	Tomago	St. Vincent.
North Gundagai	Clarendon.	Tomaree.....	Gloucester.
North Nullamanna	Arrawatta.	Toogong	Ashburnham.
North Peak	Blaxland.	Topi Topi	Gloucester.
Nullama	Gresham.	Torrowangee	Farnell.
Nundle	Parry.	Torrens	Bathurst.
Nullum	Rous.	Tout	Kennedy.
Oalien	Argyle.	Trianbil	Wellington.
Oberon	Westmoreland.	Trigalana	Gipps.
Oldcastle	Durham.	Trigalong	Bland.
Olney	Northumberland.	Tuena	Georgiana.
Omadale	Durham.	Tuggarah	Northumberland.
		Tumbarumba	Selwyn.

Parish or part of.	County.	Parish or part of.	County
Udah	Gipps.	West Fairfield	Drake.
Ugalong	do	West Plains	Gipps.
Ulinarra	Wellington.	Wingdon	Roxburgh.
Umberumberka	Yancowinna.	Wilbertree	Gipps.
Umbiella	Roxburgh.	Williams	Hardinge.
Undercliff	Buller.	Willie Ploma	Wynyard.
Undoo	Beresford.	Willyama (village of)	Yancowinna.
Ungarie	Gipps.	Windeyer	Wellington.
Uralla	Sandon.	Wingello	Camden.
Urobodalla	Dampier.	Wongawilli	do
Victor	Blaxland.	Wouona	do
Waarbilla	Bland.	Wood's Reef	Darling.
Wagga	Blaxland.	Woolomombi	Sandon.
Wagonga	Dampier.	Woraro	Yungnulgra.
Walberton	Roxburgh.	Worcester	Bathurst.
Walcha	Parry.	Worra	Gresham.
Walladilly	Bland.	Wyaldra	Phillip.
Wallah Wallah	Forbes.	Wyalong	Gipps.
Wallaharah	Northumberland.	Wyalong, South	Bland.
Wallundry	Bland.	Wyanbene	Dampier.
Walters	Wellington.	Wyangle	Buccleuch.
Wamboyne	Gipps.	Wylie	Buller.
Wangalo	Georgiana.	Wyndham	Auckland.
Wangat	Gloucester.	Wyra	Bland.
Wargin	Bland.	Wellington	Wellington.
Warragamba	Cook.	Yackerboon	Blaxland.
Warralonga	Bland.	Do South	do
Warratra	Wellington.	Yalwal	St. Vincent.
Warratta	Tongowoko.	Yancowinna	Yancowinna.
Warre Warral	Clarendon.	Do North	do
Waterbench	Roxburgh.	Yarralaw	Argyle.
Waukeroo	Yancowinna.	Yetholme	Roxburgh.
Wawan	Gloucester.	Yiddah	Bland.
Wellington, North	Gough.	Young	Monteagle.
Do Vale	do	Younga Plain	Gipps.
Wells	Roxburgh.	Yowaka	Auckland.
Wertago	Yungnulgra.	Yulgilbar	Drake.

Mining District Maps.

Bathurst Mining District.
 Hunter and Macleay Mining District (part of).
 New England Mining District.
 Peel and Uralla Mining District (part of).
 Southern Mining District (part of).

Tambaroora and Turon Mining District.
 Tumut and Adelong Mining District (part of).
 Albert Mining District (part of).
 Lachlan Mining District (part of).

SCHOOL OF MINES.

The School of Mines at the University continues to do good work. This institution was started about four years ago with the assistance of the Hon. the Minister for Mines, Mr. Sydney Smith, the entire building and fittings having been paid for by the Government. One of the lecturers (viz., in Mining) at the School of Mines is also an officer of this Department. The Professors of the University deliver lectures and conduct practical classes in the different scientific subjects, such as Geology, Mineralogy, Chemistry, Engineering, Physics, Metallurgy and Assaying, Mathematics, &c., so that the teaching staff is the best that could be obtained.

In addition to six ex-students of the School of Mines who have secured lucrative employment in mines and smelting works in other Colonies, two have quite recently obtained important positions in the Geological Survey Department of Western Australia, one of them (Mr. Blatchford) having been appointed Geological Surveyor, while the other, Mr. E. S. Simpson, was chosen from a number of candidates, for the position of Analytical Chemist and Assayer.

It is extremely satisfactory to find that graduates of this school, in the foundation of which the Department has taken such an active part, are so successful in obtaining important posts in the neighbouring Colonies.

METALLURGICAL WORKS.

At the commencement of the year the machinery buildings were in course of construction by Messrs. Ritchie Bros. On completion of this contract, the machinery which had been stored in Sydney was carried to the Works, and its erection commenced.

A Tangye's Compound High-pressure Engine of 50 horse-power was fixed on a substantial concrete foundation, also a Babcock and Wilcox steam-boiler. This is nominally 45 horse-power, but is capable of developing much more power if necessary, at a maximum working pressure of 160 lb. per square inch.

The machinery for the treatment of ores consists of the following :—

Platform Weighing Machine sunk flush with the floor, so that ores are run over it and weighed as received from railway trucks in the Works siding.

No. 1 Gates' Rock Breaker, by which the ore is broken down to about $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch cubes for the purpose of sampling. This is done at the rate of a ton per hour, and this rate can be increased should it be found necessary by putting in a belt tightening pulley, so as to give the driving belt a firmer grip on the small driven pulley.

Link Belt Elevator, by which the coarsely-crushed ore is raised to the two 10-ton storage bins at the top of the building. This is capable of elevating all that the Gates' crusher can put through.

A No. 5 Clarkson's Rapid Sampler, which accurately samples a 10-ton lot in a comparatively short time. By this means every parcel is automatically sampled before it is further treated, and the miner's estimate of the value of his parcel can be verified or otherwise. Further, the loss incurred, due to the treatment, can be definitely ascertained, and the efficiency of the treatment properly determined. All ores submitted for treatment, whether reputed to be rich or poor, are subjected to this sampling process, with the result that some ores require no further treatment.

A Fraser and Chalmer's Sample Grinder reduces the sample first taken by the large sampler until it can be passed through the next machine, say to about pea-size.

A No. 1 Clarkson's Rapid Sampler takes the pea-size sample, and the second sample thus taken is ground still finer in the sample grinder, again passed through the sampler, and so these alternate operations of grinding and sampling are repeated until the final product is fine enough in grain and small enough in bulk to go to the Laboratory for final division into several identical samples by means of a Clarkson's Laboratory Divider, one of which is assayed, a second sealed for the owner, and a third sealed and kept for reference.

A large size Tustin Rotary Mill fine-crushes the ore so as to pass it through about a 26-mesh screen, finer or coarser as may be deemed necessary for the particular parcel under treatment. If the ore is to be amalgamated and concentrated it is crushed with the aid of water, but if chlorination or cyanide extraction is intended, the same machine is employed without water.

Up to this point the plant described will be employed whether the ore is to be subsequently amalgamated and concentrated, chlorinated, treated by the cyanide process, or subjected to any other lixiviation process. An amalgamation table, consisting of electro-plated and amalgamated copper plates, with mercury riffles and trap.

Two Frue Vanners, one of which is provided with an ordinary smooth rubber belt, and the other with a more recent Dick's felted belt. It is intended to introduce both a shaking copper plate and a hydraulic classifier between the plates and the vanners, with a view to improving the amalgamation and also the subsequent concentration. Some little contrivance will be required to get these in, as it is difficult to provide sufficient fall on a level site for all desirable operations without a largely increased cost for foundations and buildings.

Three tailings and slime pits. In the first of these the coarse tailings settle completely, whilst the finer slimes are largely carried over into the following pits, each of which is so arranged that the current of water entering charged with slime is reduced greatly in velocity, the water thus leaving the pit with a minimum velocity carries away the minimum amount of slime. This slowing down of the current takes place three times in the two slime pits, thus affording every opportunity to the slime to deposit in the pits. Between the vanners and the tailings pits, samples of the mixed tailings and slimes are taken at frequent and regular intervals all the time a parcel of ore is under treatment. These samples are allowed to settle, the liquid is filtered off, and the deposit is assayed. Further, the tailings and slimes are assayed. The concentrates produced by the vanners are reserved for further treatment or can be removed by the owner. The same remark holds good with respect to the tailings, each parcel being kept separate for a time.

Up to the end of the year nineteen parcels were treated. One each of argentiferous lead ore, auriferous antimony ore, and auriferous copper ore were sampled only with the view of determining their value as smelting ores. One parcel of gold ore was sampled only. The remaining parcels were gold ores, which were amalgamated and concentrated and reported on to their owners.

Now the amalgamating and fine concentrating has been got to work the erection of chlorinating and cyanide plant has been commenced, and will be in operation very shortly.

REGULATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT METALLURGICAL WORKS, CLYDE.

Bulk samples of gold ores up to 10 tons in weight from any one mine or distinctive section of a mine will be received with a view of determining the value of the ore and the best and most economical method to be adopted for its treatment. The local conditions prevailing at the mine will be a factor in any determination arrived at.

Only in cases of doubt or special difficulty, or by express sanction of the Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, will more than 10 tons be taken from the same source.

Each parcel will be weighed, passed through a rock-breaker, if necessary, accurately sampled by special machinery, and the actual value of the ore determined by assay before the extraction of the gold is commenced.

Samples will be taken at various stages during the treatment, so that the whole process can be studied, and upon the completion of the work a report will be made showing the value of the ore, the treatment to which it has been subjected, the yield of gold and the loss, and suggestions offered as to the further treatment of similar ore, in order that the loss may be reduced to a minimum.

The Government Metallurgist must be notified of the intention to forward any parcel of ore before despatch thereof to enable that officer to make the necessary arrangements.

The fee, in accordance with the scale of charges, must be remitted to the "Registrar," Department of Mines.

The ore must be delivered at the works with fees and carriage prepaid, otherwise it will not be treated.

The charge for crushing, sampling, assaying, amalgamating, and concentrating gold ores will be as follows:—

	s.	d.	
For 1 ton the charge will be	45	0	
2 tons	30	0	per ton.
3 " ..	25	0	"
4 " ..	22	6	"
5 " ..	21	0	"
6 " ..	20	0	"
7 " ..	19	6	"
8 " ..	19	0	"
9 " ..	18	6	"
10 " ..	18	0	"

Less than one ton will be charged as one ton.

For weighing, coarse crushing, and sampling only, other ores or materials, without assaying, the charges will be one-fifth of the above rates.

For weighing and sampling materials already crushed, *i.e.*, tailings, concentrates, &c., the charges will be one-tenth of the rates quoted.

The owner of the parcel of ore or his representative may attend at the works to see the parcel sampled, and watch, with the permission of the Superintendent, the further treatment of the ore, but no interference with the work in hand will be permitted.

Products held to be of value by the owner must be removed promptly after the report on the treatment has been supplied. It will not be possible to keep all parcels distinct for an indefinite period, and the Department accepts no risk or responsibility in connection with any of the samples or products.

In cases where it can be clearly shown that the owner is not in a position to pay for the cost of treatment, the work may, on the recommendation of the Prospecting Board, be undertaken at the expense of the Department.

All samples will, as far as practicable, be treated in the order in which they are received.

Regulations relating to the Assaying of Small Samples of Ores and the Examination of Minerals.

With the object of encouraging prospecting, auriferous and other ores will be assayed and minerals will be examined and named free of cost, on the following conditions:—

The samples should be addressed to the Government Geologist, Department of Mines, Sydney.

The ores or minerals must be from deposits occurring within the Colony of New South Wales.

Each sample must bear a distinguishing mark, in order that it may be identified readily.

Samples must be accompanied by a letter, in which must be stated the distinguishing mark placed upon each sample and the locality where the deposit occurs.

The samples of ore for assay should weigh about 1 lb. each, and should be fairly representative samples of the lode or deposit, and not picked specimens.

Samples of ore in which free gold is visible to the naked eye will not be assayed.

Assays for the purpose of checking the work of private assayers will not be made by the Department.

Assays of tailings or concentrates from batteries or other crushing mills will not be made, unless reasons are furnished which appear to the Secretary for Mines and Agriculture sufficient to justify such being made at the expense of the Department.

The Department reserves to itself the right to refuse to make an assay of any sample sent.

The Analysis and Assaying Staff under Mr. Mingaye has been transferred from Sydney to the Works and incorporated with the Metallurgical Branch. In view of the increased work resulting from the investigations connected with the works, an additional assistant assayer has been appointed in the person of Mr. R. Vale, who received the appointment after a searching competitive examination, both theoretical and practical.

Several new processes for the extraction of metals have been submitted for examination, but nothing of special value has been proposed, except, perhaps, a process for the treatment of auriferous antimony ores. This process will be investigated in the new leaching works, and if it prove successful it will be of great value to this Colony.

The construction of a small plant for crushing quartz, which shall be both portable and efficient, is always present to the mind of the inventor. Several attempts have been made during the past year to produce a workable plant; perhaps the most successful is Carver's hand jaw-crusher, which has, however, only a small output.

Saunders' Rapid Stamp Battery has been erected at the works by the makers, to demonstrate the value of the machine, and has done very good work, but is not quite out of the experimental stage yet. This is a light 3-stamp battery making 120 or more drops per minute, and claimed to do the work of five ordinary stamps.

Mr.

Mr. John C. H. Mingaye, F.C.S., Analyst Assayer to the Department, reports respecting the work performed in the Chemical Laboratory and progress made during the year 1896 that 6,013 numbered samples were received for assay and analysis, 123 quantitative and qualitative analyses made, and a large number of reports given, and special examinations made for the presence of the rarer elements.

The following figures show the increase of work received in the laboratory since the year 1883:—

Year.	Samples.	Year.	Samples.
1883.....	242	1890.....	3,323
1884.....	664	1891.....	4,082
1885.....	1,423	1892.....	3,570
1886.....	1,807	1893.....	3,015
1887.....	2,222	1894.....	3,816
1888.....	5,245	1895.....	4,826
1889.....	3,287	1896.....	6,013

or an increase of 1,187 numbered samples over last years.

The following assays have been made for various metals:—

Antimony.....	30	Mercury.....	4
Bismuth.....	20	Nickel.....	7
Chrome.....	24	Iron.....	22
Cobalt.....	16	Platinum.....	14
Copper.....	276	Tin.....	87
Lead.....	47	Tungstic acid.....	6
Manganese.....	24	Zinc.....	6

Gold and Silver, 5,719 assays.

The following analyses were made of waters:—

(1.)	Water from Sandy Creek Artesian Bore.
(2.)	" Brigalow Artesian Bore.
(3.)	" well at Kogarah supposed to be contaminated with sewage.
(4.)	" underground River, Imperial Caves, Jenolan Caves.
(5.)	" still water from New Caves, Jenolan Caves.
(6.)	" Bore at Nevertire.
(7.)	" well furnished for analysis if suitable for stock.
(8.)	" Woolabra Artesian Bore.
(9.)	" Euroka Artesian Bore.
(10.)	" well on Eulonga River, Parish Wallaly, County Warrigery.
(11.)	" Tinaroo Artesian Bore.
(12.)	" spring near Singleton.
(13.)	" Gil Gil Artesian Bore.
(14.)	" Warratta Artesian Bore.
(15.)	" Teuandra Artesian Bore.

The following are a few of the analyses made, which I give, as they are interesting:—

(1909.) Apatite crystals ($3\text{Ca}_3\text{P}_2\text{O}_8\text{Ca}(\text{FCl})$), from Gordon Brook. Two analyses of clean crystals carefully separated from the matrix yielded as follows:—

Chemical Composition.	(1.)	(2.)
Lime (CaO).....	48.73	48.63
Phosphoric acid (P_2O_5).....	41.22	41.11
Calcium (Ca).....	3.81	3.82
Chlorine (Cl).....	1.24	1.32
Fluorine (F).....	2.86	2.92
Magnesia (MgO).....	.19	.21
Ferric oxide (Fe_2O_3).....	.76	.72
Gangue.....	1.32	1.25
Water.....	.29	.29
	<hr/> 100.45	<hr/> 100.27

A qualitative analysis of the gangue found it to consist of silica, alumina, ferric oxide, lime, magnesia, and a minute trace of phosphoric acid.

(1593.) Telluric bismuth ore, from Shippery Creek, near Oberon. Several small pieces of this mineral were furnished for analysis. A partial analysis yielded as follows:—

	Per cent.	Per cent.
Metallie bismuth.....	70.82	70.95
Tellurium.....	19.59	
Sulphur.....	4.69	
Gangue.....	.06	

No selenium, gold, or silver detected.

On examining this mineral under the microscope, the oxidation product of tetradyrite was observed, Montanite Bi_2O_3 , $\text{TeO}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (or $2\text{H}_2\text{O}$). The sample received was too small to enable a more detailed analysis being made. This mineral has been previously recorded as occurring in fair quantity at Captain's Flat, Norongo.

(602.) Fine gem sand from the Tooloom Alluvial Gold-fields. An estimation of the rare earths yielded as follows:—

	Per cent.
Cerium oxide	6.20
Thorium oxide .....	.45
Lanthanum oxide	4.30
Didymium	
Phosphoric acid	3.07

(603.) Coarse gem sand, from the Tooloom Alluvial Gold-fields:—

	Per cent.
Cerium earths as oxides	1.96
Phosphoric acid	1.10

Both these samples consist largely of small zircons. A small quantity of chrome iron-ore is also present, and a few dwt. of gold per ton.

(5733.) Sample of gem sand from the Delegate River. This sample on examination was found to consist largely of monazite.

(1638.) Grey sandstone, from near Bulli:—

<i>Chemical composition.</i>		
Moisture, at 100° C.....		1.65
Combined water		4.02
Silica (SiO ₂).....		72.38
Alumina (Al ₂ O ₃).....		14.35
Ferric oxide (Fe ₂ O ₃)		2.42
Lime (CaO) .....		.51
Magnesia (MgO) .....		.68
Potash (K ₂ O)		2.34
Soda (Na ₂ O) .....		.69
Phosphoric acid (P ₂ O ₅)		minute trace
Sulphuric trioxide (SO ₃) .....		.09
		100.13
	(1.)	(2.)
	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.
Fine silver, at the rate of	1 3 11	1 3 0 per ton of stone
„ gold „	under 15 gr.	under 15 gr. „

(1639.) White sandstone, from near Bulli:—

<i>Chemical composition.</i>		
Moisture, at 100° .....		.49
Combined water		1.17
Silica (SiO ₂)		92.11
Alumina (Al ₂ O ₃).....		4.89
Ferric oxide (Fe ₂ O ₃) .....		.23
Lime (CaO)		absent
Magnesia (MgO).....		.15
Potash (K ₂ O)		1.29
Soda (Na ₂ O).....		absent.
Phosphoric acid (P ₂ O ₅)		„
Sulphuric acid (SO ₃)		trace.
		100.54
	(1.)	(2.)
Fine silver at the rate of.....	2 dwt. 14 gr.	2 dwt. 14 gr. per ton.
„ gold „	under 10 gr.	under 10 gr. „

The occurrence of gold and silver in this formation is one of peculiar interest, especially as the beach sands further down the coast (Shell Harbour) are known to contain gold, silver, platinum, and tin. The presence of gold and silver in these sandstones may possibly account, to some extent, for the gold found in the beach sands.

(2427.) White earthy mineral from the Jenolan Caves.

<i>Chemical Composition.</i>	(1.)	(2.)
Alumina (Al ₂ O ₃)	20.48	20.70
Potash (K ₂ O)	8.89	9.01
Ferric Oxide (Fe ₂ O ₃) .....	.18	.20
Lime (CaO)	trace.	trace.
Magnesia (MgO)	„	„
Insoluble matter (sand, &c.)	1.07	1.12
Phosphoric acid (P ₂ O ₅)	49.85	49.83
Moisture at 200° C.	9.67	9.50
„ from 200° to red heat	18.23	18.19
	99.38	99.55

No fluorine, chlorine, or sulphuric acid detected.

This mineral, if it exists in sufficient quantity, is of good marketable value for manurial purposes, the percentages of phosphoric acid and potash being high. The substance may be described as minervite, a hydrated phosphate of alumina and potash.

An analysis is in hand of the clay found close to this substance which contains a fair percentage of phosphoric acid.

Metallurgical

Metallurgical Branch. —Forty-six samples of average samples of crushed ore, concentrates, tailings, amalgam, &c., were received for assay and treatment.

INSPECTION OF MINES OTHER THAN COAL AND SHALE MINES.

Mr. Slee, F.G.S., Chief Inspector of Mines, reports 35 fatal and 36 non-fatal accidents in the metalliferous mines of New South Wales during the year, which is a decrease of 1 fatal and an increase of 8 non-fatal over the previous year.

Of the 35 fatal accidents,—12 took place in silver, 14 in auriferous quartz, 8 in auriferous alluvial, and 1 in copper mines.

The percentage of fatal accidents in 1896 is 1·14 as compared with 1·25 during 1895, and non-fatal 1·18 as against ·97 for the same period.

The number of men employed in and about the metallic mines in the Colony during the year was 30,478 as compared with 28,923 in 1895.

The undermentioned localities were visited and inspected during the year:—

By the Chief Inspector.

Broken Hill, Stringy Bark, Back Creek, Captain's Flat, Bywong, Dairy Creek, Condobolin, Cugong, Cream of Hill, Errenbendery, Mount Wilga, Carlisle, Fifield, Platina, Peak Hill, Alectown, Junee Reefs, Eurongilly, Murrumburrah, Bobadah, and numerous other places.

The Chief Inspector, while visiting said districts, also dealt with applications for aid from the Prospecting Vote, and during the year as Warden for the Colony adjudicated at several places.

By Inspector Milne.

In the South:—Bongolong, Billy's-look-out, Cootamundra, Combaning, Gundagai, Grenfell, Meragie, Paddy's River, Scrubyard, Temora, Reefton, Wyalong, and Yalgogrin;—also Bathurst, Brown's Creek, Burrendong, Balderadgery, Binni Creek, Boney's Rocks, Blayney, Burruga, Black Bullock Mountain, Cobar, Cowra, Canowindra, Cargo, Crudine, Clear Creek, Cheshire Creek, Forest Reef, Flyers Creek, Forbes, Gulgong, Galley Swamp, Hargraves, Hill End, Hill Top, Kerr's Creek, Lucknow, Lewis' Ponds, Luc, Mudgee, Mount Drysdale, Mount McDonald, Macquarie River, Mandurama, Mullion Creek, Naromine, Newbridge, Oberon, Orange, Ophir, Parkes, Peak Hill, Pinnacles, Palmer's Oakey, Sofala, Sunny Corner, Slattery's Creek, Stuart Town, Stringy Bark, Tuena, Trunkey, Tomingley, Tarana, Wattle Flat, Windeyer, and Woodstock.

The principal mining centres in the foregoing list have been inspected two or three times during the year.

The Inspector reports a general compliance with the Regulations.

While visiting the various districts Mr. Milne reported on a large number of applications for aid from the Prospecting Vote.

By Inspector Hebbard.

In addition to the frequent inspections of all the very extensive mines at Broken Hill the outlying parts of the district were also visited by Inspector Hebbard with exception of Mount Browne.

By Inspector Godfrey.

For the greater part of the year Mr. Godfrey was engaged in the Northern District inspecting the following places:—Armidale, Avery's Creek, Bucca Creek, Boggy Camp, Bowling Alley Point, Boonoo Boonoo, Barraba, Bingara, Canguai, Cell's Creek, Crow Mountain, Dalmorton, Drake, Dungog, Elsmore (twice), Grafton, Hillgrove (three times), Inverell, Melrose (twice), Monkerai, Nana Creek, Niangula (twice), Nundle, Rockvale (twice), Tilbuster (twice), Tingha, Tralla (three times), Wangat, Woods' Reef, Warialda, Wallengra, and Yarrowitch. Mr. Godfrey reports that the Regulations are generally complied with. While in the various districts, the Inspector reported on a considerable number of applications for aid from the Prospecting Vote, and from 18th September to 30th November was engaged on work in connection with the Land and Income Tax Department.

By Inspector Hooke.

During last half of the year Mr. Hooke visited the following places, viz.:—Adelong, Wyalong, Inverell, Tingha, Boggy Camp, Borah Creek, Glen Innes, Glen Elgin, Langothlin, Deepwater, Emmaville, Tenterfield, Boonoo Boonoo, Drake, Pretty Gully, Tooloom, Rivertree, Lionsville, Coramba, Orara, Hillgrove, Metz, Moonan and Stewarts' Brooks, Burrowa, Binalong, and Cowra Creek, and reports that the Regulations are generally complied with.

Inspector Hooke, while visiting the various districts, also dealt with a considerable number of applications for aid from the Prospecting Vote.

DIAMOND

DIAMOND DRILLS.

The total depth bored in 1896 (exclusive of the work at Funafuli, Ellice Group, South Pacific) was 2,142 ft. 9 in., or 1,843 ft. 9 in. more than during the year 1895.

The average cost per foot for boring as above was 11s. 4½d., as compared with 30s. 3¼d. in 1895.

The reduction of the rate per foot is owing to shallow boring and better strata.

Diamonds used in 1896 cost, per foot, 2s. 1½d., as compared with 3s. 9½d. in 1895.

The earnings of the diamond drills for the year was £1,432 7s. 3d., and the amount paid into Treasury as revenue from diamond drills was £825 3s. 9d., in addition to the sum of £937 6s. 3d. transferred from Prospecting Vote to credit of Revenue Account Drills—in all, £1,762 10s.

MINERAL PRODUCTS.

The aggregate value of the mineral products of this Colony to the end of 1896 is £118,367,234 5s. The following table will show that the value of such products for 1896 was £4,478,368 15s. 5d., a net decrease of £73,649 3s. 4d. on the value of the minerals won in 1895. The large decrease in the value of the gold won is traceable to the great scarcity of water on many of our gold-fields occasioned by the recent drought, and to the falling off in the output from the Lucknow Mines, in which extensive prospecting operations were carried on during the year. There has been a decrease of £55,340 in the value of bar-silver exported, but this has been more than compensated for by a rise of £198,120 in the value of the silver-lead bullion. The additions now being made by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company to their plant, and the extensive smelting works now nearing completion at Newcastle and Illawarra for the treatment of sulphide ores, may be expected to largely increase the silver product of the Colony. The consumption of coal at these works will amount to many thousands of tons annually, and help to sustain an increased output in that mineral. The activity displayed in the mines at Cobar is responsible for the growing increase in the output of copper, and there is every appearance that such will be maintained. The decrease in the output of tin can be traced to the low price prevailing for that metal during the year, and partly to the fact that the shallow alluvial deposits on the Tingha Tin-field are becoming worked out. The reduction in the output of shale is also in the main due to the exhaustion of the higher-class deposits.

The following table shows the aggregate value of minerals, the product of New South Wales, for the years 1895 and 1896 respectively compared:—

Minerals.	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.		Increase in Value.		Decrease in Value.			
		£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		
		1895.		1896.								
Gold	360,165·45 oz.	1,315,929	5 4	296,071·95 oz.	1,073,360	4 7	242,569	0 9	
Silver*	550,142·00 ,,	81,858	0 0	202,789·00 ,,	26,518	0 0	55,340	0 0	
Coal	3,738,589·00 tons	1,095,327	1 0	3,909,516·63 tons	1,125,280	16 7	29,953	15 7	.....	.....
Shale	59,426·00 ,,	75,218	18 8	31,839·16 ,,	34,201	18 0	41,017	0 8	
Coke	27,630·40 ,,	24,683	5 0	26,351·05 ,,	21,850	16 3	2,832	8 9	
Tin	2,276·15 ,,	138,623	0 0	1,807·15 ,,	102,117	0 0	36,506	0 0	
Copper	3,851·03 ,,	140,885	0 0	4,467·85 ,,	200,311	0 0	59,426	0 0	.....	.....
Iron†	2,403·15 ,,	15,620	8 9	4,721·00 ,,	33,283	0 0	17,662	11 3	.....	.....
Antimony	478·08 ,,	7,251	0 0	132·75 ,,	1,834	0 0	5,417	0 0	
Bismuth .....	.....	.....	.....	41·00 ,,	490	0 0	490	0 0	.....	.....
Silver-lead and Ores	219,880·95 tons	1,560,813	0 0	286,936·25 tons	1,758,933	0 0	198,120	0 0	.....	.....
Manganese	3·35 ,,	10	0 0	10	0 0	
Oxide of Iron	152·35 ,,	348	0 0	375·04 ,,	801	0 0	453	0 0	.....	.....
Chrome	4,229·45 ,,	13,048	0 0	3,851·75 ,,	11,280	0 0	1,768	0 0	
Lead (Pig)	19·80 ,,	197	0 0	23·85 ,,	259	0 0	62	0 0	.....	.....
Limestone (Flux)	104,194·00 ,,	68,160	0 0	88,924·00 ,,	54,261	0 0	13,899	0 0	
Alunite	832·00 ,,	3,328	0 0	1,372·00 ,,	4,116	0 0	788	0 0	.....	.....
The Noble Opal	333·00 lb.	6,000	0 0	1,390·00 lb.	25,000	0 0	19,000	0 0	.....	.....
Cobalt	5·50 tons	26	0 0	26	0 0	
Fireclay	19·50 ,,	55	0 0	34·15 tons	69	0 0	14	0 0	.....	.....
Platinum .....	.....	.....	.....	2,438·00 oz.	3,479	0 0	3,479	0 0	.....	.....
Sundry Minerals	4,637	0 0	68·01 tons	924	0 0	3,713	0 0	
		4,552,017	18 9		4,478,368	15 5	329,448	6 10	403,097	10 2	329,448	6 10
							Net decrease. .£		73,649	3 4		

* The greater part of the silver produced is exported in the shape of silver lead.

† Not manufactured from the ore, but old iron.

The following return shows the quantity and value of gold, coal, shale, copper, tin, silver, silver-lead ore, and the several other metals and minerals produced in the Colony of New South Wales during the last ten years:—

	1887.		1888.		1889.		1890.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£		£		£
Gold	110,288 oz.	894,579	87,503 oz.	317,100	110,759 oz.	434,070	127,760 oz.	400,284
Coal	2,922,497 tons	1,346,163	3,203,443 tons	1,455,183	3,055,632 tons	1,633,348	3,060,876 tons	1,279,093
Shale	40,010 "	87,761	84,869 "	73,612	40,561 "	77,668	56,010 "	104,103
Copper and Regulus	4,763 "	199,102	5,999 "	275,034	4,132 "	206,641	3,745-90 "	173,311
Tin and Tin Ore	4,961 "	525,420	4,809 "	582,496	4,050 "	415,171	3,693-75 "	329,841
Silver	177,307-75 oz.	32,458	375,004 oz.	66,063	416,376-35 oz.	73,001	496,552-20 oz.	95,410
Silver-lead and Ore	12,530-15 tons	541,952	29,841-60 tons	1,075,737	81,545-30 tons	1,809,107	131,039-65 tons	2,667,144
Iron	2,707-40 "	14,543	3,747-00 "	23,721	2,136-90 "	18,330	3,413-40 "	39,948
Antimony and Ore	163-35 "	1,641	190-35 "	2,013	221-40 "	3,344	1,020-00 "	20,240
Asbestos								
Bismuth	36-55 tons	0,095	18-07 tons	3,911	42-50 tons	11,349	2-10 tons	306
Oxide of Iron					489-05 "	1,329	450-30 "	834
Zinc Spelter					26-85 "	688	210-45 "	2,378
Lead (Pig)					522-30 "	6,711	120-00 "	1,587
Limestone Flux							41,430-30 "	41,989
Opal							195 lb.	15,600
Manganese							100 tons	325
Cobalt								
Coke							21,097 tons	41,147
Alumite							220 "	3,000
Fireclay								
Lime								
Marble								
Stone (Building)								
(Ballast)								
Grindstones								
Slates								
Sundry Minerals	1,431 tons	15,624	110 tons	3,435	95-75 tons	710	973-75 tons	7,252
		3,165,938		3,579,833		4,780,364		5,283,840

	1891.		1892.		1893.		1894.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£		£		£
Gold	153,396 oz.	558,206	156,870 oz.	660,178	119,258 oz.	651,286	324,787 oz.	1,166,717
Coal	4,037,929 tons	1,742,796	3,780,968 tons	1,462,359	3,278,323 tons	1,171,722	3,672,076-21 tons	1,156,673
Shale	40,349 "	78,160	74,197 "	136,079	55,060 "	101,221	21,171 "	31,781
Copper and Regulus	4,525-55 "	205,008	4,834-00 "	187,706	2,667-00 "	68,426	2,136-35 "	73,481
Tin and Tin Ore	3,144-52 "	211,412	3,492-00 "	314,114	2,785-00 "	229,743	2,801-00 "	187,197
Silver	729,690-05 oz.	134,850	350,681-00 oz.	56,984	531,972-00 oz.	73,131	346,822-00 oz.	94,150
Silver-lead and Ore	147,779-70 tons	3,484,739	133,355-00 tons	2,420,652	214,200-00 tons	2,053,589	180,326-60 tons	2,195,533
Iron	4,125-89 "	36,101	2,732-05 "	22,605	2,181-00 "	14,736	2,368 "	17,170
Antimony and Ore	914-85 "	22,057	723-00 "	14,680	1,774-00 "	26,092	1,230 "	13,744
Asbestos								
Bismuth	40 tons	600	14-00 tons	1,030				
Oxide of Iron	228-75 "	434	453-00 "	899	1,200-00 tons	1,326	432-90 "	670
Zinc Spelter	218-60 "	2,632	443-00 "	5,055				
Lead (Pig)	190-65 "	2,025	71-00 "	726	426-00 tons	4,205	31-15 "	260
Limestone Flux	74,037-00 "	65,357	103,368-00 "	93,031	120,035-00 "	111,041	89,990-00 "	69,239
Opal			42 lb.	2,000	449 lb.	12,315	193 lb.	5,684
Manganese	128-00 tons	340	10-00 tons	47			13-60 tons	44
Cobalt	1-15 "	470	76-00 "	1,110	26-00 tons	305	2-60 "	10
Coke	30,310-35 "	34,473	7,899-00 "	8,832	17,258-00 "	20,233	24,458 "	33,209
Alumite	704-00 "	1,858	821-00 "	3,284	321-00 "	3,284	822 "	3,448
Fireclay	16-90 "	55	35-00 "	50	21-00 "	46	24 "	60
Lime	410-00 "	958	493-00 "	822				
Marble	635 pkgs.	2,677					8 pkgs.	30
Stone (Building)	4,735 No.	5,205	2,478 No.	2,839	860 No.	855		
(Ballast)	619 tons	713	224-00 tons	276	132-00 tons	168		
Grindstones	471 No.	311			2 No	3		
Slates	31,234 "	351					3,034-30 tons	12,395
Chrome								892
Sundry Minerals	788-95 tons	3,217	92-25 tons	1,153	67-00 tons	557		
		6,055,030		5,305,315		5,438,532		5,056,15

	1895.		1896.		Total.		
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
		£		£		£	
Gold	360,165-15 oz.	1,315,929	296,071-95 oz.	1,073,300	1,915,827-95 oz.	6,930,809	Gold.
Coal	3,738,589 tons	1,095,327	3,009,610-63 tons	1,126,281	35,269,848-63 tons	13,466,334	Coal.
Shale	50,426 "	75,219	31,839-15 "	34,202	432,921-15 "	768,022	Shale.
Copper and Regulus	3,851-3 "	140,833	4,467-85 "	200,311	38,470-85 "	1,719,990	Copper and Regulus.
Tin and Tin Ore	2,276-16 "	138,623	1,807-15 "	102,117	24,492-15 "	3,096,112	Tin and Tin Ore.
Silver	550,142 oz.	31,858	292,739 oz.	26,513	4,677,775-50 oz.	738,023	Silver.
Silver-lead and Ore	219,830-05 tons	1,560,813	286,936-25 tons	1,758,933	1,437,394-15 tons	20,600,011	Silver-lead and Ore.
Iron	2,460-15 "	15,620	4,721 "	33,383	20,085-15 "	246,107	Iron.
Antimony and Ore	473-8 "	7,251	132-75 "	1,304	6,383-60 "	117,501	Antimony and Ore.
Asbestos							Asbestos.
Bismuth			41 tons	490	154-10 "	24,331	Bismuth.
Oxide of Iron	152-35 tons	348	375-2 "	801	3,349-29 "	6,861	Oxide of Iron.
Zinc Spelter					970 "	11,043	Zinc Spelter.
Lead (Pig)	19-30 tons	197	23-35 tons	259	1,408-85 "	15,970	Lead (Pig).
Limestone Flux	104,134-00 "	65,160	88,924 "	54,291	612,564 "	502,796	Limestone Flux.
Opal	333-90 lb.	6,000	1,390 lb.	25,090	2,607 lb.	66,539	Opal.
Manganese	3-35 tons	10			270 tons	766	Manganese.
Cobalt	5-60 "	26			110 "	1,921	Cobalt.
Coke	27,630-40 "	24,633	26,351-5 tons	21,851	175,803-5 "	184,451	Coke.
Alumite	832-00 "	3,323	1,372 "	4,116	5,032 "	22,348	Alumite.
Fireclay	19-50 "	55	34-15 "	69	145-15 "	365	Fireclay.
Lime					813 "	1,780	Lime.
Marble					643 pkgs.	2,657	Marble.
Stone (Building)					8,063 No.	8,598	Stone (Building).
(Ballast)					975 tons	1,155	(Ballast).
Grindstones					473 No.	314	Grindstones.
Slates					310,234 "	351	Slates.
Chrome	4,229-45 tons	13,048	33,351-75 "	11,250	41,114-75 tons	36,664	Chrome.
Sundry Minerals		4,637	68-1 "	924	4,063-01 "	47,057	Sundry Minerals.
		4,532,617		4,478,309		48,079,261	

GOLD.

Although there is apparently an increase of 773 men employed in the gold-mining industry, it is to be regretted that the output of the precious metal has not risen proportionately. As will be seen from the table following, there has been a decrease of 64,091 oz. and £242,569 in value as compared with 1895. As is stated elsewhere this is traceable to the recent excessive drought and to the reduction in the output from the Lucknow mines. The mines at Hillgrove and Wyalong have largely increased their yield during the year, and with the many improvements being made in the gold-saving machinery on the mines throughout the Colony the reduction is not likely to continue. The employment of suitable machinery in the treatment of our ores has been responsible for many of the failures witnessed in past years; but it is confidently asserted that with such improved appliances as will enable us to avoid the sinful waste of the past, gold-mining will become, as it ought to be, one of the leading industries of New South Wales.

TABLE showing the Quantity and Value of Gold won in the Colony of New South Wales from 1851 to 1896.

Year.	Quantity in oz.	Value.	Year.	Quantity in oz.	Value.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
1851	144,120	468,336 0 0	1875	230,882	377,693 18 0
1852	818,751	2,660,946 0 0	1876	167,411	613,100 7 9
1853	548,052	1,781,172 0 0	1877	124,110	471,418 4 4
1854	237,910	773,209 0 0	1878	119,665	430,033 2 7
1855	171,367	654,594 0 0	1879	109,649	407,218 13 5
1856	184,600	689,174 0 0	1880	118,600	441,543 7 7
1857	175,949	674,477 0 0	1881	149,627	566,513 0 0
1858	256,798	1,104,174 12 2	1882	140,469	526,521 12 5
1859	329,363	1,259,127 7 10	1883	123,805	458,508 16 0
1860	384,053	1,465,372 19 9	1884	107,198	395,291 12 5
1861	465,685	1,806,171 10 8	1885	103,736	378,665 0 3
1862	640,622	2,467,779 16 1	1886	101,416	366,294 7 7
1863	466,111	1,796,170 4 0	1887	110,288	394,578 16 3
1864	340,267	1,304,926 7 11	1888	87,593	317,099 12 0
1865	320,316	1,231,242 17 7	1889	119,759	434,070 8 4
1866	290,014	1,116,403 14 5	1890	127,760	460,284 16 2
1867	271,886	1,053,578 2 11	1891	153,336	538,305 12 3
1868	255,662	994,665 0 5	1892	156,870	539,177 17 4
1869	251,491	974,148 13 4	1893	179,288	651,285 15 8
1870	240,858	931,016 8 6	1894	324,787	1,156,717 7 7
1871	323,609	1,250,484 15 11	1895	360,165	1,315,929 5 4
1872	425,129	1,643,581 16 11	1896	296,072	1,073,360 4 7
1873	361,784	1,395,175 8 7			
1874	270,823	1,040,328 13 6		11,690,634	43,399,948 8 4

Owing to the numerous changes made by the Public Service Board among the Wardens and Mining Registrars during the latter part of the year, and the fact that those officers had barely time to make themselves sufficiently well acquainted with their districts to enable them to furnish their Annual Mining Reports as complete as formerly, I regret that my notes on the gold-mining industry this year must necessarily lack many of the details given in previous Reports. My object is to put the information in as concise a form as possible; and any noteworthy fact in connection with this very important industry is brought under notice.

THE BATHURST MINING DISTRICT.

Canowindra Division.

The gold won at Canowindra during the year amounted to 358 oz., which is a reduction of 300 oz. on the year 1895. A number of the leases have been taken over by a new company who intend to thoroughly try the ground. The indications met with so far are very encouraging.

Cowra Division.

The improvement in the output of gold from this Division reported last year has not been maintained, the yield being 1,190 oz., as compared with 1,310 oz. in 1895. The Binni Creek discoveries did not reach expectations. A large number of men are still carrying on prospecting operations in the locality, a few parties being in receipt of Government aid. The Gospel Oak Battery, near Woodstock, was, unfortunately, shut down during the greater part of the year, special appliances being required to save the very fine gold it had to deal with.

Mount M'Donald.

The gold yield from Mount M'Donald was 586 oz., as compared with 421 oz. the previous year. The Hong Kong Company are still carrying on prospecting work, and put through some stone, but the returns were not available; the Great Eastern Company, 355 tons for 157½ oz.; the All Nations Claim, 32 tons for 72 oz. 13 dwt.; and the Lord Hampden Company, 30 tons for 15 oz. At Scrubby Rush the Woodstock Gold-mining Company have erected a 10-head battery, and treated 500 tons during the year for a yield of 220 oz. A number of men are still fossicking in the Division with varying success.

Carcoar Division.

Carcoar Division, which embraces Mandurama, returned 1,913 oz., as compared with 1,165 oz. the previous year—a very satisfactory increase. At Galley Swamp, in this Division, the gold leases have been amalgamated and floated into a Company, with a capital of £300,000. Extensive machinery is in course of erection, and three shafts have been sunk. These reefs proved very rich near the surface, and the object of the Company is to work them at a depth where they are said to improve. At the present time the Company employ about 100 men, but that number will be largely increased at an early date. At Lyndhurst a number of men are employed building a dam in the Belabula River, and fixing piping to be used in hydraulic sluicing. The extensive auriferous deposits to be found here were formerly worked by tunnelling. It is now proposed to work it open cut, and crush everything from surface to 50 feet, which it is stated will yield about 10 dwt. per ton. In the neighbourhood of Burnt Yards, Flyer's Creek, and Slattery's Creek, about 120 men are vigorously carrying on prospecting work, but no discoveries of any great importance were reported during the year.

Blayney

Blayney Division.

Yield from Blayney Division 994 oz. as against 612 oz. in 1895. It is to be regretted that the expectations formed with regard to the Compagnie des Mines d'Or at Brown's Creek have not been fulfilled, the company being compelled to cease work pending its reconstruction and the raising of more capital. A splendid plant has been erected on the mines at great cost, and it is to be hoped that the stoppage is only a temporary one, their yield during the year being 694 oz. from 7,277 tons of stuff. A number of men have been at work during the year on Cowper's freehold, where a large pyritous lode occurs, which assays well for gold. A trial crushing is being sent to England for treatment. At King's Plains the Last Chance Gold-mining Company are erecting powerful pumping machinery to cope with the water at the lower levels, and it is thought, with systematic and economical management, this mine should give a good account of itself. Numerous small parties are scattered throughout this Division prospecting and fossicking, to some of whom Government aid has been granted.

Newbridge Division.

The gold won at Newbridge was 434 oz., being nearly 400 oz. less than in 1895. The principal decrease was in quartz gold, many of the reefs being left unworked awaiting the erection of a battery. One is now in course of erection on Larnach and Warren's mine, and there is a probability that the erection of another will be started shortly. Several parties received aid from the Prospecting Vote in this locality, but no important discoveries have been reported so far.

Trunkey Division.

The gold yield from Trunkey during the year is 1,447, as compared with 2,340 oz. during 1895. The Mount Gray Mine has been taken up by Mr. Clarth, who has erected a large 30-head battery on it and powerful pumping machinery. The Bathurst Gold-mine (Limited) also erected a new crushing plant during the year, and it may safely be predicted that when their plants get into full working order the yield from this Division will be largely increased. At Wilson's Reef, Messrs. Crees, Francis, and party crushed all the available mullock from the old shafts with very good results. Weir and party, prospecting on Church and School lands near Caloola Creek, discovered a large lode, which returned 1 oz. per ton when treated at the local mill. The batteries and alluvial mines, especially the sluicers, suffered somewhat during the year from the scarcity of water, and were not able to work continuously.

Tuena Division.

The returns from Tuena show that the yield for the year was 1,961 oz., as compared with 1,674 oz. in 1895, the bulk of it being obtained from alluvium. Numerous parties of three and four men are working old abandoned reefs and making good wages out of them, the average returns being about 1 oz. to the ton. A tunnel has just been completed by Goldspink and party on the Abercrombie River, which struck a large body of wash, averaging about 1 oz. to the load. At Junction Point, M'Guire and party won nearly £1,500 worth of gold from the Red Jacket Reef, and several crushings from the old Victoria Reef gave over an ounce to the ton. The owners of the Caledonian mine have just effected extensive improvements to their machinery. They have a large deposit of low-grade ore, but anticipate it will pay when large quantities of stone are dealt with. A few parties in the vicinity of Dog Trap are working under aid from the Prospecting Vote.

Rockley Division.

Rockley returned 1,306 oz., or a little over 200 oz. less than the previous year. This is essentially an alluvial district, but the discovery of payable quartz at Mount Maud has stimulated reefing considerably. Litigation as to the possession of the land retarded the development of this discovery, but the matter having been decided the ground has been taken over by the Mount David Gold-mining Company, who are proceeding vigorously with development work and the erection of winding and crushing plant. When such have been completed employment will be given to a large number of men. The principal seat of alluvial mining in this district is at Lawson's Plains, on private property, and Stony Creek, where a large number of men make a fairly good living all the year round.

Burruga Division.

Burruga produced 328 oz. only, an increase of 57 oz. on the previous year's production, the majority of the men there being employed in the copper-mines. At Golden Gully, 8 miles east of Burruga, M'Vicar and party have a very nice looking reef, from which a trial crushing of 6 tons gave the handsome return of 2 oz. 13 dwt. per ton. The reef has been proved to 130 feet, where it measures 18 inches wide, and improving with depth. The party are now sinking a shaft for ventilation, and preparing for the erection of a battery. Some long tunnels have been put in on the Isabella River, to test the wash underlying the basalt, but the heavy influx of water compelled their abandonment. A large number of men are still working the alluvial ground on Mount Werong, and appear satisfied with the results from their labours, but the quantity of gold won by them could not be ascertained.

O'Connell Division.

There are about fifty men working in the neighbourhood of O'Connell, principally engaged in fossicking, and among them they won 300 oz. of gold, valued at about £1,050. There is no other mining of importance being carried on in this Division.

Oberon Division.

The quantity of gold produced in this Division was 382 oz., which is a few ounces more than that won in 1895. A number of leases have been applied for on the Black Bullock Hill, situated about 5 miles north of Oberon, where a large pyritous lode can be traced on Crown lands, extending into private property. This Division is a favourite one with fossickers, scarcely a creek or gully being without a number of men who, apparently, make a living at the work.

Bathurst Division.

The 1,081 oz. of gold won in this Division was all from alluvial ground, and is just 134 oz. less than the quantity won the previous year. At the present time there are about 360 men at work throughout this Division, the majority engaged in prospecting work. Dewar and party are still persevering with their shaft on the Bald Hills, near the town of Bathurst, but have not yet succeeded in reaching bottom. These operations are being watched with some interest by the local mining community, as the deep ground has not yet been tested at this point. The party are in receipt of Government assistance.

Wyagdon Division.

All the mining work being carried on at Wyagdon is purely of a fossicking nature, and it is impossible to arrive at more than a rough estimate of the quantity of gold won. The returns, however, give the yield at 80 oz., which is probably a very low estimate, seeing that about the same number of men won 215 oz. the previous year.

Sunny Corner (Mitchell) Division.

This year's returns from Sunny Corner are disappointing, the figures being 1,826 oz., as compared with 3,645 oz. in 1895. It is very questionable if all the gold won is accounted for in the return, as about 300 gold-miners were constantly at work during the year. The Paddy Lackey mine is still raising good stone, but the results from the crushing are not available. Dunn Brothers struck some good stone during the year in the vicinity of Dark Corner, which led to a large area of land being taken up under lease. This party were in receipt of aid from the Prospecting Vote. A considerable number of fossickers are still employed all through this Division, and when a good supply of water is available they do fairly well.

Orange District.

This year's returns from the Orange Division are disappointing, the figures being 20,446 oz. as compared with 83,342 oz. in 1895. The decrease is traceable to the mines at Lucknow.

The Wentworth Proprietary Company are still in full work, employing about 400 men, and during the year they have been carrying out extensive prospecting work. They put through 9,368 tons, which yielded 12,048 oz.—a decrease of 46,052 oz. on their previous year's output; the Aladdin's Lamp Company, 3,052 tons, for 16,718 oz.—a reduction of 6,360 oz. on 1895. From these two mines alone the aggregate quantity of gold won was less by 62,412 oz. than the previous year, which nearly accounts for the decrease of 64,094 oz. in our total yield for the year as compared with 1895. The D'Arcy Estate Company

Company are now down 900 feet, with good prospects at that level. The Wentworth Extension (Limited) are sinking for the lode, and have reached a depth of 480 feet. A large area of land has been taken up on the supposed line of lode adjoining this company's property. On the Bletchington Estate the syndicate have their shaft down 180 feet on a similar formation to the Lucknow Mine, but yet not payable. Prospecting work is being pushed forward on Kerr and Gilmour's private land west of Lucknow, where occurs a formation similar to that so successfully worked at Lucknow. At Forest Reefs the Government diamond drill is being worked under a subsidy from the Prospecting Board to test the trend of the deep leads underlying the basalt. At Byng, the Witney Green Company is the subject of litigation, which is hindering the mining interests in this locality very much. Many prospectors are scouring this Division in every direction, both on private and Crown lands.

Molong Division.

The work carried on about Molong is purely of a prospecting nature. At Delaney's Dyke very fair indications are being obtained, but no discovery worthy of note has been made so far.

THE MUDGEES MINING DISTRICT.

Cobbora Division.

All the gold won from this Division is from alluvium, and amounted to 234 oz., taken from about 1,560 loads. This does not include the gold from the Tucklan or Stringybark Gold-field, which is now within the Denison Town Division, but relates to the yield from the Cobbora Gold-field, better known locally as Hughey's Waterhole Creek. The men have been working under serious difficulties owing to the great scarcity of water, the last rain of any consequence falling as far back as January, 1894.

Denison Town Division.

The principal seat of mining in this Division is the Stringybark Diggings, situated on Tucklan Run, between Denison Town and Gulgong. Some 250 men found profitable employment during the year; and as far as can be ascertained 4,091 loads of wash-dirt were treated for 2,220 oz. of gold, which is a very marked increase on the yield for the previous year. As in the Cobbora Division the want of water has been the great drawback to this field, as the dirt has to be carted 3 miles, then washed by the primitive method of trough and cradle. The water is drawn from wells, which the miners have to pay for.

Gulgong Division.

Gulgong contributed 7,000 oz. to the returns for the year, which is an increase of 3,000 oz. over 1895. There has been a good deal of activity in this Division during the past year, both in quartz and alluvial mining, and some very good results have been obtained from stone sent to the Clyde Works from new finds. Adams and party, of Cudjebegong, sent 6 tons which yielded 30 oz. of gold, and 24 tons sent by Hutton and party, from their lease at the Happy Valley, produced 92 oz. A small rush took place about the end of the year to Rouse's Paddock, where a few claims are on fair gold. About fifty men are working at Helvetia, situated about 3 miles from Gulgong. About 8,600 loads were washed, which averaged 3½ dwt. per load, the richest yielding 8 dwt., and the poorest 1½ dwt. per load. The Star Lead No. 1 Company are now erecting machinery to systematically work their mine, and they will shortly be in a position to employ a large number of men. Mr. W. S. Brice, the late manager of the mine, states:—

“Gulgong, 7 February, 1897.

“Important developments have occurred at the Star Lead No. 1 Mine during the year, which must be satisfactory to the gentlemen who, for the last two years, have persevered in their endeavours to find and test the deep ground of that almost unknown Star Lead. In the main eastern drive, at 195 feet level, auriferous wash was discovered in April, 1896, occurring overhead 388 feet from the shaft, and prospecting drives were tunnelled north, east, south, and west, to prove the extent of wash, and the auriferous deposit proved to extend over an area of 200 feet, with a very severe dip to the south, with strong water coming in from that direction. The whole of the eastern drive, for a distance of 400 feet, has proved interesting on account of the remarkable changes which have taken place, in tunnelling, a very hard massive diorite, in some instances, being met with; and at intervals of about 50 feet, soft decomposed diorite, thickly impregnated with very hard nodules which varied in size from about 4 inches up to 5 feet. Some of the smaller ones I submitted to the Government Geologist, Mr. Pittman, for analysis, and which proved to be nodules of a very much altered undesite occurring under the auriferous deposit; but as far as I can learn these nodules have never been found above the wash, which, I think, ought to act as a guide for any parties prospecting Gulgong for deep leads.”

Hargraves Division.

The yield from Hargraves during the year is 2,250 oz., about 1,000 oz. less than in 1895. Notwithstanding the decrease, accounted for by the large amount of prospecting and developing work in operation, mining has been carried on very successfully through the Division during the past twelve months. There are three batteries on the field, one of which put through 2,600 tons for 1,300 oz., and the other 482 tons for 245 oz., the third being idle for repairs. It is anticipated that 1897 will be a prosperous year for this field.

Mudgee Division.

It is estimated that 1,050 oz. of gold were got in the Mudgee Division during the year, won principally by fossickers, who are scattered throughout the whole of the Division. Several parties are in receipt of aid from the Prospecting Vote in this locality, but no new discovery of any moment has been made during the year.

Windeyer Division.

There is still improvement to report in the output of gold from Windeyer. In 1894 the yield was 2,000 oz., in 1895 2,400 oz., and this year 2,440 oz. The stone crushed during the year aggregated 1,300 tons, which returned 994 oz. At Long Gully, Clarke's Creek, Leffley Brothers' claim is still turning out good stone, the 500 tons raised by them yielding 540 oz. A number of parties are prospecting for a continuation of this vein. The Jubilee Mine is now in the hands of a company, who have it under offer to a London syndicate.

Peak Hill Division.

The Peak Hill Field has not improved its position during the year as a gold producer, the total yield being 6,428 oz., as compared with 8,192 oz. in 1895 and 12,231 oz. in 1894. Although no new discoveries have been made during the past twelve months, still the mines have been steadily developed, the want of water, however, being a great drawback to the crushing of the ore. The Myall United is considered a very promising mine, its value being enhanced by the discovery of large bodies of payable ore at the 320-foot level, which were hitherto unknown. With a view to the treatment of large quantities of stone the company have erected a new 40-head stamper battery. The Peak Hill Proprietary Company are now calcining their ore, and have erected a furnace for that purpose. They have also added concentrating machinery to their plant. These additions enable them to deal profitably with the pyritous ore which abounds in their mine. The new Crown of Peak Hill Company have erected a winding engine, and have their main shaft down 470 feet. There is nothing of note to report in connection with the other mines. The returns from a few of the principal mines may be of interest:—

Peak Hill Proprietary	4,246 tons	1,858 oz.
Crown of Peak Hill	1,013 "	387 "
Wythes and Mooney	836 "	304 "
Great Eastern Reformed	719 "	496 "
Bobbie Burns	440 "	106 "

Alluvial mining in this Division is almost a thing of the past, being confined to a few fossickers.

Prospecting work is still being carried on at Tomingley, and Crowhurst and party, who are in receipt of aid from the Prospecting Vote, have a very promising mine.

Wollington Division.

The only mining of any importance in this Division is carried on by the Mitchell's Creek Freehold Gold Estate Company, at Daviesville, who treated during the year 11,239 tons for 7,130 oz., valued at £26,617. With the exception of this company there is little quartz-mining going on in the Division, and alluvial mining is chiefly confined to the Macquarie River and its tributaries.

TAMBAROORA AND TURON MINING DISTRICT.

Hill End Division.

Hill End turned out 891 tons of stone for 1,319 oz., and 2,684 oz. from alluvium, which give a grand total of 4,003 oz. of gold, which is a reduction of 356 oz. on the yield for 1895. The reduction may be explained by the fact that a number of the miners were employed in sinking deep shafts at Red Hill, Tambaroora, from which place no returns were received. Many of the well known mines at Hawkins' Hill, which for the past few years have not yielded well, had first-rate crushings during the year, and it is expected that the next crushings will exceed anything in the early days of the field. Altogether, the field has not looked so well for years past. The Tambaroora Creek Gold-mining Company, at Tambaroora, are sinking their shafts and erecting extensive machinery. At Sally's Flat, Mullaney and Gough, who received aid from the Prospecting Vote, have opened up a payable mine. Their reef is 18 inches thick and yields 1 oz. per ton. At Quartz-Ridge a Sydney syndicate have taken up some leases and discovered gold which they consider payable. At the Cement Hills two companies have been formed to work the wash under the basalt, and are now busily erecting the necessary machinery.

Sofala Division.

The Sofala Gold-field shows a very decided improvement, the returns being 4,753 oz. as against 3,801 oz. the previous year. Quartz-mining especially has received quite an impetus owing to the fact that nearly every recent crushing made on the field has paid fair returns. On Bateman's Hill McCudden and party were working under aid from the Prospecting Vote, and struck a good reef from which they treated 43 tons for 102 oz. Several new reefs have also been opened up in the neighbourhood of Spring Creek which yield from 12 dwt. to 1 oz. per ton. Brailey and party at the Old Solitary are still getting good returns, and one crushing of quartz gave 230 oz. The Great Victoria Gold-mining Company have taken over the Solitary Extended, and propose expending a large sum in thoroughly opening up the mine. The last crushings from this mine were taken from the 300-foot level where the lode is 2 feet 6 inches thick, and gave a result of from $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to 1 oz. per ton. At Bullock Flat a vertical shaft is being sunk to strike Heagney's Reef at the 178-foot level, where the reef averages 16 inches. The Big Oakey Gold-mining Company are now down 600 feet on the underlay of a promising looking lode 5 feet thick. At Surface Hill the Newcastle and Stockton Company are under suspension. They propose constructing a tramway to the Turon River $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile, where extensive machinery will be erected. In the same locality the Caledonian claim received a prospecting grant and found a large lode 12 feet wide, a trial crushing from which averaged 13 dwt. per ton. The leases at Whalen's Hill are now under suspension, with a view to flotation on the English market. A trial crushing from this ground returned 100 oz. from 10 tons of stone. The Turon Gold-mining Company at Spring Creek have several shafts down, the deepest being 300 feet, and have about forty men employed getting the mine into working order. The Queenslander Gold-mining Company have done little work during the year; one cause being an insufficiency of water. They now propose to run a tramway to the Turon River, and erect machinery there. A large number of leases were taken up at Back Creek, Crudine, during the latter part of the year, owing to a trial crushing from Bosenberg's claim yielding about 2 oz. per ton. The vicinity is now being well tried. A large number of fossickers are working in the neighbourhood of Wattle Flat, but it is questionable if they average more than 3 dwt. per week. A party of them, however, averaged 25 dwt. per week for some time. The best alluvial ground at present is in the vicinity of Old Station Point, Turon Point, 8 miles from Sofala, where some men are making high wages.

Ironbarks Division.

There is a slight increase in the yield of gold from the Ironbarks Field, or better known as Stuart Town, which aggregated 3,524 oz., as compared with 2,694 oz. in 1895. The quartz-mining outlook is brighter now on this field than it has been since its opening, and has attracted outside capital, which should bear good fruit during the coming year.

LACHLAN MINING DISTRICT.

Cargo Division.

There is very little mining work being carried on around Cargo, and is chiefly confined to fossickers who won about 200 oz. of gold. The Ironclad mine, after being idle some years, has been restarted and the erection of a water-jacket furnace is being proceeded with. An English syndicate has taken up the Dalcouth mine, at Sam Flat, who have called for tenders for the construction of a large dam to conserve water. Altogether the prospects at Cargo are much better, from a mining point of view, than they have been for some years back.

Cudal Division.

Some gold was obtained near Cudal during the year, but the figures are not available. At Paling Yards a shaft has been put down 70 feet, cutting a reef 3 feet wide, but a trial crushing has not been made from it yet. A few men are carrying on prospecting work on Coats and Ready Creeks.

Forbes Division.

Prospecting and developing was the principal work carried on at Forbes during the past year, consequently very little gold was won. Nevertheless, there is a decided improvement in the prospects of the field. Close to the town, on the old Britannia lead, a good many leases were taken up, owing to some very rich stone having been found in the prospector's claim. Some very rich stone was found on the North Hill, near the trucking-yards, by Foster and party, who crushed 8 tons 15 cwt. for 45 oz. 16 dwt. 8 gr. of gold. The vein averages from 3 to 12 in. thick. North of Foster's lease Hampton and party have a shaft down 40 feet on payable stone. Several parties are at work in the vicinity of Thompson's lead, and have much difficulty in contending with the heavy water and drift sand. They were supplied by the Department with a diving dress to assist them in their efforts to bottom. Some very rich finds were made on this lead in the early days. At the Pinnacle, situated about 20 miles south of Forbes, which was virtually abandoned for years, a revival has taken place through the taking up of several abandoned leases by an English company, who have erected a 30-head battery and excavated a large dam. The reefs there are large but poor, so far as is known; but if economically worked they should pay, and the stone may become richer with depth. It is to be hoped the company's operations may prove successful, as such would probably lead to the opening up of other such reefs which occur in this district.

Parke's Division.

Parke's is one of the fields in the Colony that has for the past four years been steadily increasing its output of gold, as will be seen from the following figures:—

1893	5,178 oz.	£17,583
1894	9,746 ,,	33,997
1895	10,372 ,,	38,098
1896	12,500 ,,	44,885

The new Bushman's Hill mine has given constant employment during the year to over 100 men, who were engaged "stopping." The main shaft, now 430 feet deep, is being continued; and as the erection of a cyanide plant is contemplated by this company employment will shortly be found for a large number of extra hands. There were 5,124 tons of quartz raised from this mine during the year, which returned 5,000 oz. of gold, valued at £17,500. The Phoenix mine (late Hazlehurst's) is being worked by tributors, and yields 1½-oz. stone; but the vein is small. The Koh-i-nor is also being worked on tribute, and its prospects are improving. The Birthday mine, on Bartley's Creek, is now in the hands of a company, who are erecting a 10-head stamper battery on it. This mine has been worked for years past, but not extensively. The Dayspring mine is also in the hands of a syndicate, who are carrying out prospecting operations vigorously. Another mine of importance in this locality is that owned by Messrs. Burgess and Smith, in Reid's Gully. They are working a formation about 40 feet wide which yields 8 dwt. per load all through. An 8-head battery is now in course of erection. A great many other quartz-mines are working in this division, and the majority of them seem to be yielding fairly well. The belt of auriferous country in this district is very extensive, and the large increase in the number of payable mines at work might confidently be expected. During the year under notice cyanide works have been erected in the neighbourhood for the treatment of tailings, but the returns of gold from them are not available.

Esfield

Fifield Division.

Fifield has suffered greatly from want of water for the past few years, which has retarded operations considerably, and prevented the treatment of large heaps of wash dirt lying at grass. In face of this great difficulty, however, the miners managed to turn out 980 oz. of gold and 2,900 oz. of platinum found associated with the gold, which is a very satisfactory increase on the previous year. At Platina, 3 miles from Fifield, where the platinum is found, the same water difficulty exists, and many of the claims have been temporarily abandoned pending a sufficient supply of water. There are now about 1,500 loads of wash-dirt on the surface, which is estimated to carry 15 dwt. to 1 oz. of gold per ton.

Condoholin Division.

In May of last year payable alluvial gold was reported at Carlisle, 85 miles N.W. of Forbes, but the want of water has greatly retarded the development of the discovery. The same remarks apply to the quartz-reefs which have been discovered in this locality. Work is being carried on under aid from the Prospecting Vote with very promising indications of success.

Alectown Division.

The returns from Alectown are satisfactory, being 822 oz. as compared with 594 oz. in 1895 and 362 oz. in 1894. The returns would have been much larger had a supply of water been available for crushing purposes, and ultimately the battery was removed to Parkes and erected there by a company. This is unfortunate as the development of this field will be retarded in consequence. Several new discoveries have been made during the year, notably that made by Mead and party, and known as the Emu Reef, from which they crushed 312 tons for 1 oz. per ton. Another is the "Monte Carlo," situated midway between Alectown and Peak Hill, which returned 227 oz. from 75 tons. Another very promising reef has been found on Robertson's conditional lease, but as yet no trial crushing has been made from it. Alluvial mining will now be a thing of the past at Alectown unless some fresh discoveries are made, the only alluvial gold got during the year being washed from 1,040 loads raised from the spare blocks in the old leads, and this is now exhausted.

Grenfell Division.

There is a material increase in the returns from Grenfell this year as compared with 1895, the figures being 1895 1,377 oz., 1896 1,761 oz. George O'Brien and party are still prospecting the Lucknow mine by means of assistance from the Prospecting Vote. The shaft is now down 450 feet, and it is to be continued to 500 feet. The other quartz-claims in the locality are looking well. One noteworthy fact has been the establishment during the year of cyanide works for the treatment of tailings, and from the information procurable in connection with the operations it may be assumed that the industry is a profitable one.

Murrumburrah Division.

There were 1,637 oz. of gold won in this Division, nearly all from alluvium, being a slight decrease on the previous year's yield. Work is principally carried on along the Cunningham Creek southwards towards its confluence with the Murrumbidgee River, about 80 miles from Murrumburrah. The ground is certainly very patchy, but occasionally the men do fairly well, but in any case, if at all industrious, they can always earn sufficient to keep them in rations. A few quartz-reefs are being worked, but so far they have produced very little crushing stone. Since the passing of the Amended Mining on Private Lands Act increased activity is noticeable among the miners, and numerous applications have been lodged with the Warden for authorities to search, and it is expected that some new discoveries will be the result.

Gundagai Division.

Gundagai produced 2,000 oz. of alluvial, and 600 oz. of quartz gold, a very satisfactory increase on the previous year—which was only 1,876 oz. A good deal of prospecting is going on in this district. At Jackalass 100 men are still working the alluvial ground, and make good wages, but no large individual returns have been reported. About fifty men are working similar ground at Jones' Creek, and getting fair returns for their labour. A new lead has lately been discovered in this locality by a party working under Government aid. Some good finds were recently made on private property, near Muttama and Kino, but nothing can be said about them till they are further developed. A large increase in the gold yield is expected from this district in 1897.

Temora Division.

There were 4,066 oz. of quartz gold got in this Division during the year, but the quantity won from alluvium could not be ascertained. A large number of applications were received for permits to search on conditional leases, and ten new finds were reported, four of which are considered payable. A good deal of prospecting work is being carried on at Scrub Yards and Springdale, where crushing-machines have been erected. Altogether the prospects for Temora during the coming year are very promising.

Barmeldman Division.

Mining matters are very slack in this Division, and no crushings took place during the year. The Fiery Cross Company have their main shaft down about 185 feet, where the water has become very troublesome. A new company is erecting a cyanide plant with the object of treating the 40,000 or 50,000 tons of tailings lying in the district.

Reefton Division.

Reefton shows a slightly increased gold yield, the figures being 1,820 oz., or about 200 oz. more than won in 1895. The want of capital retards the development of the field greatly. The claims are now down to water level, but the owners have not the means to go below that depth. The Enterprise and Pioneer claims were constantly worked during the past twelve months, and the latter put through 1,191 tons for 1,485 oz. The total quantity of stone raised on the field being 2,255 tons, which gave a little under 1 oz. per ton.

Wyalong and Wyalong West Division.

The Wyalong Gold-field may now be said to hold the premier position among the gold-fields of New South Wales. Although a few hundred ounces behind the yield from the Hillgrove field, the number of men employed at Wyalong is very much greater. There are indications that the year 1897 will see the yield of gold from this field maintained, as a very large number of men were engaged during the past year in work of a developing nature, from which no immediate returns might be expected. Wyalong was first brought prominently under notice about the end of 1893, and with a view of showing the strides it has made since its discovery, the yield for the past three years is given:—

	oz.	Value.
1894	9,649	£35,946
1895	24,497	91,863
1896	33,495	130,000

It is estimated that the yield for last year, as given above, was taken from 18,279 tons of stone, a very satisfactory record indeed. Large sums have been expended in machinery and the erection of extensive chlorination and cyanide works for the treatment of the refractory ore met with below the water level, which is strong proof that the belief in the permanency of the field has been fully established. The depth reached by some of the shafts may be of interest:—

The Currajong	245 feet.	Neill's	180 feet.
Three Star	235 "	Barrier	253 "
Lucknow	243 "	Hidden Treasure.....	200 "
New South Wales	175 "	Lighthouse	310 "
Junction	270 "	Shamrock and Thistle	240 "
Mallee Bull	220 "	True Blue.....	160 "
Welcome Stranger	150 "	Holderbrandt's	250 "
Golden Fleece	212 "	White Reef	225 "
Christmas Gift.....	230 "	Princess	265 "
Lady Mary	180 "	Called Back United	170 "
Hit or Miss	168 "	Golden Gate	170 "

Notably

Notably high yields per ton were obtained from Bolte's Lucknow claim, which returned 2,506 oz. from 377 tons, or at the rate of 6 oz. 13 dwt. per ton; and the New South Wales, 352 tons for 2,338 oz., equal to over 6 oz. 12 dwt. per ton. The pioneers of the field, the Messrs. Neild, may also be congratulated on the yields from their mine, as from 738 tons put through they obtained 1,541 oz. 8 dwt. of gold. The Messrs. Neild, however, have erected chlorination works of their own, which were started on the 1st November. By the 24th December following they had treated 120 tons, which gave the splendid return of 765 oz. 18 dwt. 4 gr. of smelted gold. These gentlemen have expended a large sum on the field, and cannot be too highly commended for their individual pluck and energy under very great difficulties.

Yalgogrin Division.

Yalgogrin is situated about 28 miles south-west of Wyalong, and until a few years ago was comparatively unknown. There are now 300 men employed there. In 1894 the yield was 348 oz.; in 1895, 804 oz.; and 1896, 1,250 oz. The country is hard and expensive to work, but the reefs improve with depth, and several of them have proved highly payable. Among the deepest shafts are the

J. B. J.	174 feet	Democrat	94 feet
Black Coon	94 "	Democrat Extended	110 "
Eureka	120 "	The Piccaninny	94 "
Lady Cook	100 "		

The best crushings were taken from the Black Coon, which gave 794 oz. from 215 tons of stone, and 65 tons from the Piccaninny averaged 2 oz. per ton. Several of the other claims yielded from 9 to 18 dwt. per ton. A battery is likely to be erected on the field, but as the ore at a depth requires special treatment it will be taken to Wyalong for that purpose. As a direct main road is being opened between the two places, the development of the field should be rapid, providing the seasons are at all favourable, as this locality suffers considerably from a scarcity of water for mining and even domestic purposes.

Young Division.

Mining matters in this division have for some years past presented but little change. This is chiefly an alluvial field, and produced 3,657 oz., as compared with 2,228 oz. in 1895. The Burrangong Gold-mining Company have added a puddling machine to their plant, and were successful during the last four months of the year in saving 542 oz. of gold. It is questionable, however, if the lead is of any great extent. This district is being extensively prospected throughout, and it is said the men are doing fairly well. Work at the sluicing claims has been intermittent, insufficient rain having fallen to enable the owners to work them to much advantage. During the year fifteen agreements with owners were registered under the Mining on Private Lands Act.

TUMUT AND ADELONG MINING DISTRICT.

Albury Division.

No alluvial mining has been done in the Albury Division during the year, the whole of the 1,050 oz. won being got from the quartz reefs worked on the Black Range, Cumberoona, and Stony Park. On the Black Range there are four lines of leaders known as the Portuguese, May Day, One-tree, and Blackfellows', worked by small parties, who manage to make wages out of them. At 120 feet water stops the operations, and work is discontinued for want of capital to contend with the difficulty. At Cumberoona and Stony Park the mines are on leases held under the provisions of the Mining on Private Land Act, 1894.

About 170 miners are employed in this division.

Walbundrie Division.

Although quite recently discovered, Walbundrie has made satisfactory progress, as shown by the quantity of gold won during the year, which was 884 oz., valued at £3,050. The principal claims at work are the Lone Hand, True Blue, Welcome Find, and Show Day, and eight or ten others, but it is considered that those mentioned are likely to be fairly permanent. A large amount of prospecting is being done in this locality, which is expected to lead to fresh discoveries, as the district is considered promising for the occurrence of payable gold.

Germantown Division.

There was very little mining carried on in this division during the year, and 20 oz. would probably cover the quantity of gold won. Some leases have been applied for at Four-mile, but no work of importance has been attempted so far.

Corowa Division.

Seventy-five oz. of gold were won within the Corowa Division during the year. The Corowa Deep Lead Company have just about completed their boring operations, and it is expected that the proposed shaft will be commenced at an early date. Much importance is attached to the operation of this company, and the Department is doing everything possible in the way of assistance from the Prospecting Vote.

Adelong Division.

The return of 2,754 oz. for the year, as compared with 3,923 oz. won during 1895, would lead to the belief that mining around Adelong must be in a very depressed state. As a matter of fact, such is far from being the case. The reduction in the yield is traceable to the large quantity of stone raised but not treated; one company alone having about 3,000 tons of excellent stone at grass ready for the battery. It is estimated that 9,000 oz. of gold will be credited to 1897 from this source. This is often the cause of the fluctuations in the yearly returns from many of our gold fields. The principal mine working at Adelong is the Gibraltar Consolidated Gold-mining Company, who have expended a very large sum in putting the mine in first-class order, and erecting the best class of machinery for the treatment of their ore. The Lady Mary Company's mine on the Gap Reef is still producing fairly well, having crushed 791 tons for 580 oz. It is thought the quality of the stone in this mine will improve with depth, and the advisability of sinking is being considered by the company. The Adelong Proprietary, the Union, the Kurrangong, the Caledonian, and the Gibraltar South Companies are all carrying on prospecting work, and it is expected that work will be resumed on the Victoria and Old Hill Lease during the forthcoming year. The battery owned by Messrs. Wilson and Ritchie treated 1,656 tons for 1,330 oz. exclusive of the yield expected from concentrates. At Mount Adrah, Victorian syndicates have acquired properties and erected a battery and other machinery. With regard to alluvial mining the Adelong Creek and its tributaries still have attractions for the fossicker. More than usual industry is required to make a living now in this old ground. The scarcity of water has greatly retarded work during the last six months of the year.

Junce Division.

The slight revival in mining at Junce dates from the pegging out of the Old Dust-hole Claim by Mitchell and party in 1895. During the year under notice Mitchell and party sold out to an English Syndicate for £5,000, who have also acquired the "Just in Time" and "Doctor's Reef" properties. The mines are now being developed on a small scale preparatory to more extensive operations later on. In addition to these, work is being carried on vigorously at the Rockdale, Perseverance, Specimen Hill, and Walle's Reef mines. A scarcity of water has been a great drawback on the field. All the quartz in the surface workings is well oxidised, but sulphide ore has been met with in the Dust-hole mine at the 125-ft. level. The average width of the reefs, so far as tested, is about 2 feet, and a crushing from Walle's mine yielded as high as 4½ oz. per ton, and one from the Dust-hole 3½ oz. Rich assays have been obtained from the Rockdale mine, but no bulk trial has yet been made. In Specimen Hill a large body of quartz is to be noticed heavily impregnated with black tourmaline. Work is still being carried on at Eurongilly and Wantool, some of the parties being in receipt of prospecting aid.

Tumut Division.

The Mining Registrar reports that the quantity of gold won within the division during the past year was not obtainable, but that gold-mining seemed to be making steady progress.

Tarcutta

Tarcutta Division.

The only mine at work at Tarcutta is that owned by Best and party, who are in receipt of aid from the Department. The reef has not yet been struck in their shaft. Mining here will get a much required impetus should it prove payable when struck. Alluvial mining is confined to a few men near Humula, who make little more than a bare living.

Batlow Division.

Batlow is essentially an alluvial gold-field and is, perhaps, better known as Reedy Creek. The gold won amounted to 1,350 oz., exactly 400 oz. over the quantity won during 1895. Some good-looking reefs, however, have been lately discovered at Paddy's River, about 15 miles from Batlow, and the erection of a battery is in contemplation. A large formation, known as Walsh's Dyke, said to be 150 feet wide and of low grade, is under offer to an English syndicate, who propose erecting extensive machinery.

Tumbarumba.

It is very satisfactory to be able to report a very large increase in the gold yield from this division, which was 3,021 oz., as compared with 1,850 oz. in 1895. The principal mines at Tumbarumba are the Barra and the Tumbarumba Flat Sluicing Companies, and in quartz there is Storey and party's at Paddy's River and Henicks's at Back Creek. Some reports of sensational finds at Back Creek were circulated, which led to a mild rush, but nothing came of it, although the locality and the supposed line of reef were well prospected. It is thought that improved machinery would make Storey's reef payable, and is likely to be acquired by a Melbourne syndicate, who will erect the necessary plant. This will be a good thing for the district generally, and will certainly stimulate reef mining to a great extent. Henicks and party are now erecting a five-head battery 3 miles north of the town, which they propose driving by water-power.

Narrandera Division.

The only mining work being carried on within this Division is in the "Harry Smith" mine, Grong Grong, and its vicinity, and at Cowabbie. At the latter place Singleton and party, who are in receipt of Government prospecting aid, have sunk a shaft 172 feet deep. The gold won is estimated to be \$44 oz., valued at £3,289, which is about the quantity won the previous year.

Cooma Division.

The Cooma Division furnished 1,682 ozs. to swell the grand total for the year, 602 oz. of which were won from alluvium, the balance from reefs. Although a large amount of prospecting work has been done in this division during the last twelve months, there are no new finds to report. Cowra Creek appears the most promising part of the field, where eight leases are being fully worked, some of them by tributors. Four batteries, representing thirty-three head of stamps, are kept well employed. The fineness of the gold is a matter of some difficulty, but owners are now making efforts to obtain machinery to deal with it.

Kiandra Division.

The Kiandra gold-field returned 777 oz., or 40 oz. less than the previous year. The New Chum Hill mine has changed hands, and work is being vigorously carried on with satisfactory results. The tunnel put in by John Robyns by means of prospecting aid has now struck the wash, which prospects well. J. M. Lett has also a tunnel in about 1,000 feet long, and is now rising to tap the wash. This tunnel has also been put in by means of aid. These mines alone should now be in a position to give employment to a large number of extra hands. Moulton and party have erected a battery, and have had a few crushings, averaging $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per ton. This party experience much trouble with water in their claim. The reefs at the Eight-mile Ridge are still being worked, with results scarcely up to the average of the field. This is a favourite district with fossickers during the summer months, the abundance of water being a great inducement. The men, from their contented appearance, seem able to win sufficient gold to supply their immediate wants.

Nimitybelle Division.

This is a very extensive outlying division, and it is very difficult to get a correct record of the gold won by the men working the creeks and river-beds among the mountains, but the quantity is estimated at 150 oz. M'Court and party are still working their gold leases at Kydra, and a trial crushing sent to Sydney for treatment yielded about $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per ton.

Captain's Flat

At Captain's Flat the whole of the mining is represented by the work carried on by the Lake George United Mining and Smelting Co. This company has lately been floated on the English market for £60,000, and is now known as the Lake George Mine (Limited). The mine produces copper principally, but also large quantities of silver, and gold and lead in lesser proportions. The total value of their output for the year was £24,608 5s. 11d. The company only worked about eleven months of the year, a strike among the wood-carriers to the mine having delayed work some four weeks. At the present time about from 300 to 350 men are employed mining, and excavating sites for the erection of new furnaces and machinery for the treatment of crude ores direct from the mine. When in full work it is expected that employment will be found for over 1,000 men.

Bungendore Division.

Mining matters in this division have not been too flourishing during the past year, the output of gold being only 363 oz. as compared with 814 oz. in 1895. Contrary to anticipations very little work has been done at Bywong during the past twelve months, the principal object of the mine owners would seem to be the successful sale of their properties, leaving the work to the buyer. A great outcry was made for a village site, and when that was laid out only one application was received for an allotment. Then an agitation was got up for the erection of a battery, when it was erected the mine owners made no attempt to raise stone, and there are now three plants lying idle for want of stone to crush. Mac's Reef is again practically deserted.

Gundaroo Division.

The only payable claim in the Gundaroo Division is that owned by Kershaw and party at Dairy Creek, who treated 26 tons for 80 oz. of gold, and applications have been lodged to lease the adjoining ground. A few men fossicking on Brooks Creek manage to make a little more than a living at the work. The total quantity of gold won is said to be 195 oz.

Queanbeyan Division.

The discovery of gold at Gooda Creek on O'Rourke's prospecting area caused considerable excitement for the time being, but with the exception of the Prospectors' claim nothing of much value was found in the immediate vicinity. The prospectors sent 8 tons to Sydney for treatment, which yielded 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per ton. Prospecting work is being vigorously carried on in the locality. It is said a very promising reef has been found on private land about 2 miles south of Gooda Creek.

Wagga Wagga Division.

There is little mining of importance being carried on around Wagga Wagga. Several grants have been made from the Prospecting Vote to test some well-defined reefs in the locality, but no noteworthy discovery has been reported so far. There is only one crushing to record, and that was by Holland and party, working on the high ranges at Pullitop, who got 38 oz. from 76 tons of stone.

Welaregang Division.

This is quite a new division of the Tamut and Adelong Mining District, and is situated to the west of Kiandra. The principal mine at work is owned by "The Bogong Reefing Co.," who have 300 tons of stone at grass awaiting the completion of their machinery. This stone is estimated to go 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per ton, and should the result prove the correctness of the estimate greater attention will be given to the development of this district. Some alluvial gold is being got at Toolong, Kancholan, and O'Gilvie Creeks, but the exact quantity could not be ascertained. At Bringalong, a party are prospecting a 10-in. vein which assays 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of fine gold per ton. The returns show that 1,000 oz. of gold were won in this division during the past 12 months, valued at £3,600.

THE SOUTHERN MINING DISTRICT.

Braidwood Division.

In the Braidwood Division there was little mining work beyond fossicking carried on during the year, which resulted in 775 oz. of gold being won, valued at £2,862 7s. 3d. The Braidwood Proprietary Company's works at Colombo are nearing completion, which will probably afford employment to a large number of men. At Jembaicumbene Creek, Harness and Jelfcoat's claim on private land is turning out payable gold, and the party have the erection of modern pumping machinery in contemplation. Several other claims are being worked with fair success.

Araluen Division.

Araluen has been affected with drought during the past twelve months perhaps more than any other portion of the Southern Mining District, and was severely felt, more especially by the sluicing claims. Barrett and Wood, who received aid from the Prospecting Vote, have opened up a very promising claim on new ground. The yield of gold during the year from the whole of the Division was 2,773 oz., or 224 oz. less than 1895, which, in view of the unfavourable season, might be considered very satisfactory. With the introduction of improved appliances this field is expected to yield even better returns.

Major's Creek Division.

The Major's Creek Gold-field, it is satisfactory to say, is still increasing its output of gold; and during the year under review returned 3,720 oz., valued at £14,774, which is nearly treble the quantity won in 1895. The greater portion of the gold was won by sluicing and the returns vary according to the season and the water available for carrying on work. During the latter part of the year the puddling-machines at Long Flat were idle through scarcity of water. No new finds are reported from Snowball. About twenty-five men are still on the ground, having faith that heavy deposits of gold will still be discovered there. A small patch is discovered occasionally, which strengthens their faith in the locality; but beyond that they only make a bare living. The new find at Back Creek has given employment to a large number of men with varying success. Back Creek can hardly be considered a new gold-field; but in reality is only an extension of an old field, worked some thirty years ago. It is said that 1,746 oz. of gold from this rush were purchased during the year. This quantity would have been greatly increased if water had been available to keep the puddling-machines in full work. The Eureka Gold-mining Company's mine on Snobb's Reef, Big Hill, near Major's Creek, is being worked by tributors, who raised 1,178 tons for 863 oz. The shaft is now down about 186 feet, and the vein is 10 to 12 inches wide. Several other parties are working quartz-claims with fair results.

Little River Division.

This Division produced 2,191 oz. of gold during the year, which might be considered satisfactory when the low average rainfall is taken into account; and, owing to the drought, mining was confined principally to the banks of the river. Contrary to expectations the Day Dawn mine did not start work during the year; but arrangements are being completed to have the mine reopened.

Nerriga Division.

It is regrettable to learn that many of the companies formed to work the Shoalhaven drifts, from which so much was expected, have ceased operations, and, from present appearances, there is little hope of them resuming work. Some attention is being given to the quartz-reefs in the locality, from some of which very satisfactory results are being obtained. The gold won during the year was 971 oz., which compares favourably with 1895.

Yalwal Division.

Approximately, Yalwal produced 1,495 oz., valued at £4,530, during 1896. Litigation is still proceeding in connection with the Homeward Bound Gold-mining Company's property, and, in consequence, the mine has been idle all the year. The Pioneer Company, who employ about thirty men, raised and treated about 10,000 tons of stuff during the year; King's mine, 1,468 tons; the Eclipse Company, 551 tons; and the Caledonian Company, 400 tons. Although the ore is low grade, it can be cheaply raised and treated. Other five quartz-claims are at work, who each had several small crushings for fair yields. A few men are working in Grassy Gully and obtain a little gold.

Ulladulla Division.

Ulladulla has quite recently been created a separate mining Division of the Southern District. Several parties are prospecting in the locality, and aid has been granted in some cases. A gold lease has been taken up at Conjola Creek, 6 miles from Conjola, and work is about to start. About 20 miles south from Milton, a party of three are working the Murrumbidgee sea-beach for gold, and in six months obtained 27 oz., valued at £108. These operations extend over an area of about 9 acres. Greater attention will probably be given to these sea-beaches on the southern coast during the forthcoming year.

Nelligen Division.

The Nelligen Division yielded 324 oz. for the year, as against 190 oz. for 1895, the bulk of it being obtained from the few quartz-claims working at Brimbramalla. The Clyne Mallow reefs have not yielded as anticipated in the last report, but prospecting and developing work seems to be carried on with even greater briskness than ever. A few men are still working at Currawan with fair inducements. Several grants were made from the Prospecting Vote in this locality, and one to J. McLeod and party resulted in the discovery of a nice reef, and a battery is now being erected on the mine. The alluvial mining carried on throughout the Division is of little consequence.

Bateman's Bay Division.

The Division of Bateman's Bay was formed during 1895, when it returned 294 oz. of gold. This year the yield is 817 oz. The Big Hill Company have obtained suspension for a few months, but will shortly restart work. During the year they crushed 600 tons for 600 oz. A new line of reef was discovered on the Big Hill about the end of the year, showing gold freely, but the value of the discovery has not yet been tested. Several leases have been taken up in consequence of this find. At Stony Creek, White Bros. had a small crushing of 36 tons for 32 oz. A large quantity of genuine prospecting work is being carried on in this locality at the present time, which is expected to lead to some fresh discoveries.

Moruya Division.

At Bimbimbic, situated between Mogo and Moruya, a number of gold leases have been applied for, chiefly by the Anglo-Australian Exploration Co., who, it is stated, intend to introduce a large amount of capital into the district. At Wauban Creek, 3½ miles south of Moruya, extensive prospecting work is being carried forward, and a grant has been made to thoroughly test Donkey Hill by means of a tunnel. Further to the south of Moruya about 11 miles the Italia mine, at Turlingah, is being worked by tributors. It is satisfactory to be able to say that the gold won, throughout the Division, during the year was 1,453 oz., valued at £5,468, as compared with 330 oz., valued at £1,195, won in 1895.

Nerrigundah Division.

Nerrigundah contributed 1,003 oz. to the general total, which is very little short of the yield for 1895. Quartz-mining in this Division is nearly at a standstill, as only 43 oz. of the total yield were taken from that source. A company has been formed to work some leases at Tin-pot and Bumbo, and operations will be commenced at once. A battery is to be erected, and the ground systematically worked. This would point to a revival of quartz-mining in the locality. The alluvial gold has been won principally from those creeks and gullies said to have been worked out years ago; and it is a noteworthy fact that a majority of the men so employed made fair wages at the work.

Wagonga

Wagonga Division.

There has been a slight revival in gold-mining within this Division during the year, the quantity of gold won being 675 oz. The reefs on Mount Dromedary were given another trial but the results proved unsatisfactory. As the ground is hard and also very wet, it requires a good yield per ton to cover working expenses. Several tunnels have been put in by working miners, but the want of capital for development compelled them in some cases to abandon their holdings. The New Hope mine, near Wagonga, has a considerable quantity of stone at grass, and crushing will be started very shortly. About 2 miles westerly of this mine, near The Bluff, gold prospecting operations are being carried on. This same ground was previously taken up for turquoise, but so far it has not been found in payable quantities. In the vicinity of Bermagui and Montreal, there are only a few fossickers at work. At Coolagilite, a shaft is being sunk 100 feet, with a view of further testing this, at one time, promising field. The party are receiving Government aid for the work. This Department's attention has been repeatedly drawn to a very large quartz-lode which traverses this Division, and is traceable on the surface for some miles. With a view of having the fullest information on the subject, Mr. Taylor, the Government Metallurgist was, in October, 1894, instructed to furnish a report on the deposit, which is herewith published for the information of the miners, and the mining community generally:—

"I HAVE the honor to report that, in accordance with your instructions, I have visited the district of Mummuga Creek and Wagonga River in Dampier County, accompanied by Mr. C. L. Garland, who has spent a great deal of time in prospecting in those localities. The object of the visit was to examine the enormous quartzite deposits occurring there, and to select places from which bulk samples of 10 tons could be taken and brought to Sydney for treatment, for the purpose of ascertaining whether those deposits would yield sufficient gold to pay for extraction if worked on an economical and, therefore, necessarily large scale.

"Some eight or ten test samples had already been taken from the bluffs, which rise 200 to 300 feet above Mummuga Creek on its north bank; these were reported to yield from 2 to 9 dwt. of gold to the ton, 3, 5, 6, 8 dwt. being amounts quoted, and not a single blank crushing, the average being over 6 dwts; but trials made with mortar and dish did not confirm these results. It was only occasionally that any gold appeared in panning off a sample. Thus arose considerable doubt and perplexity. If it could be shown undoubtedly that at least 2 dwt. of gold to the ton could be extracted there would be sufficient inducement to establish an industry capable of almost infinite development, the raw material being so abundant and so advantageously situated for economical treatment.

"As practically no gold could be found by panning, it was considered to be impossible to select the stone in any way—in fact, some of the lower results obtained in the trials just mentioned were yielded by stone that seemed the most promising.

"A Huntingdon mill was erected on Mummuga Creek by the Hon. J. C. F. Johnson, M.L.A., South Australia, to thoroughly test the bluffs on that creek; this rendered the taking of samples from that locality quite unnecessary, consequently our attention was mainly directed to the similar quartzite deposits on the Wagonga River.

"On the north side of this river, from Billa Billa Creek to its mouth, a continuous deposit of quartzite is found. In places on the south side of the river are similar deposits. We walked over the hilly ground between Barlow's Bay and Mummuga Creek along the course approximately shown by the dotted line on the accompanying tracing, and found the entire route to be on quartzite, ascending to a height of 750 feet or more above sea-level. Over the whole district the stratification as observed in the quartzite, has a dip almost always vertical or nearly so, and a strike N.W. to N. by W., or approximately parallel to the upper reach of the Wagonga River.

"After going well over the ground, seven different places were selected from each of which to take 10 tons of the stone, and these parcels have been mined, brought to Sydney, and treated in the Huntingdon mill of Messrs. Parke and Lacy. The localities from which the samples were taken are indicated on the tracing by a full circle and cross (⊕) with letters which marked the sample. The same sign dotted shows where other samples have been taken by private individuals.

"In each of the seven samples gold was obtained in the mill, but in no case was there sufficient to pay for extraction, even when treating the stone on a large scale.

"Particulars of the crushings are given in the following table:—

Brand.	Weight crushed. Tons.	Retorted gold per ton.	Concentrates.		
			Per cent. of Ore.	Gold per ton conc.	Silver per ton conc.
W S	9.45	0.9 grains.	0.18	oz. dwt. gr. 0 7 6	oz. dwt. gr. 0 14 12
W N	10.59	Less than 0.54	0.21	Traces.	0 5 10.
B	9.42	13.3 grains.	0.20	0 10 21	0 5 0
C	11.00	10.0 "	0.15	0 3 6	0 4 14
O P	9.41	10.2 "	0.20	1 1 18	1 1 18
G B	9.79	6.9 "	0.20	0 3 6	0 3 6
G T	10.31	4.4 "	0.13	0 2 22	0 3 6

"It will thus be seen that the highest yield, namely, the sample marked B, from Barlow's Bay, 13.3 grains of retorted gold to the ton of ore, is only about one-fourth of the amount required for economical working under favourable conditions.

"Since these samples were taken the Huntingdon mill on Mummuga Creek has crushed 50 tons or more with unsatisfactory results, and Mr. Johnson has ceased operations there. These later trials leave unexplained the higher results mentioned at the commencement of this report. Had those earlier results been confirmed the development of the gold-mining industry in the district in question would have been phenomenal."

Cobargo Division.

The few fossickers working around Cobargo won among them about 20 oz. of gold, valued at £77, got chiefly in the vicinity of Montreal. It is questionable if they made enough to purchase their rations.

Bega Division.

With the exception of the recent discovery at Wolumba, there is little mining being carried on within the Bega Division. In the prospectors' claim the reef was struck in the main shaft at 40 feet from the surface, and proved to be 4 feet wide. A trial crushing of 55 tons was sent to Pambula and treated at the Mount Gahan battery, which gave a return of 275 oz. of gold and 392 oz. of silver; the tailings also assayed 4 oz. gold and 50 oz. silver per ton. The shaft is being continued, and the erection of a 10-head battery proceeded with. Vigorous prospecting work is being carried on, with a view of picking up a continuation of the lode, but without success so far. This is a very favourable locality for the miner, there being an abundance of timber and water.

Pambula Division.

The Pambula Gold-field returned 2,550 oz., valued at £8,879. This is a very considerable reduction on the yield for 1895, which is explained by the fact that a large quantity of the stone raised during the year was not treated. In addition to the ore put through by the Mount Gahan Company, they also treated, by the cyanide process, 3,050 tons tailings and 362 tons slimes, which yielded 617 oz. of gold, valued at £1,777. The Great Victory Company's shaft is now down 215 feet, and the 365 tons of ore treated by them returned 887 oz., valued at £3,519. It is stated that the company propose continuing their shaft to 600 feet. The Falkner Company raised 307 tons, but only treated 62 tons, which yielded 837 oz., valued at £2,845. The Hidden Treasure had one small crushing of 42 tons, which gave 52 oz. A large amount of prospecting work has been carried out in the neighbourhood of Wyndham. About the end of the year a discovery of gold was made in honeycombed quartz, and entirely different to anything previously found in the district. The discovery was made on a cancelled mineral lease, and the miners are now sinking on it. In November Sinclair and party reported the discovery

discovery of payable gold, 15 feet from the surface, in their claim situated in the parish of Nangatta. A sample of quartz sent for assay yielded at the rate of 8 oz. 16 dwt. per ton. A second discovery was made by John Laird at a depth of 50 feet which assayed 9 oz. 10 dwt. per ton, the reef being 10 inches wide. A small rush took place in consequence, and a lot of prospecting work is being done. Andrew Brown and party, the prospectors of this locality, have good ore in sight, but have no proper machinery for testing it. Several reports have gained currency of good finds having been made in the parish of Coolaugubra, situated about 35 miles from Pambula, and a few tons tested at the Mount Gaban battery yielded a little over 1 oz. per ton. This has caused a large number of men to go out prospecting, and more land is likely to be taken up. It is thought that the year 1897 will see a great revival in mining throughout the Pambula Division.

Bombala Division.

Very little mining work has been done within this Division during the year, and the gold won amounted to 52 oz. Although several parties were in the field prospecting they failed to make any new discovery worthy of note.

THE HUNTER AND MACLEAY MINING DISTRICT.

Copeland Division.

The one noteworthy fact to be recorded of the Copeland Gold-field during the year is the finding of good gold at a lower level than ever previously attempted, but more powerful machinery is required before any progress can be made. The Lady Belmore and Centennial mines are still working, but have much trouble with the water in the mine. The Old Mountain Maid is being worked by Tressider and party, who have erected a small winding engine, to raise stone from the old workings. The old Rainbow mine has been taken up by a company, who intend erecting pumping machinery. Johnson and James received aid to further test the Prince Charlie mine, but although they drove about 400 feet on the reef, they were unsuccessful in striking payable stone. Brockwell and party have started to sink on the Mechanics' line of reef, and are down about 70 feet. The bulk crushings were taken from The Lady Belmore mine, viz., 74 tons for 135 oz. The Mountain Maid Company put through 312 tons for 111 oz., and a small parcel of 25 tons from the Centennial yielded 29 oz. of gold. At Boranel, McDonald and party put through 14 tons for 23 oz., and the Gloucester River Syndicate 24 tons for 30 oz. The Mint Claim at Bowman is still raising good stone, the last crushing of 20 tons taken from it returned 28½ oz. of gold. There has been no new discovery of alluvial gold, the work being confined to a few fossickers, who won among them 108 oz. from the creeks and gullies. Mining operations at Coolongolook and Paddy's Creek are brisker now than they have been for years past, and some good returns are looked forward to from the claims now being opened out. The total yield from the Division during the year was 503 oz., a slight increase on the year 1895.

Dungog Division.

Mining has been rather dull during the past year in the Dungog District, and the gold yield shows a slight falling-off. There are now only two mines at work at Monkerai, the work done being mostly of a prospecting nature. The same state of things exist at Whispering Gully. At Upper Wangat there is nothing doing of any importance, and at Cherry-tree Hill, plant valued at about £1,500 is lying idle. Several grants from the Prospecting Vote have been made in the locality, but till outside capital is introduced into the field, and practical demonstration given that the reefs in this district will pay if economically and systematically worked, mining will probably remain in its present dormant state on this field.

Kempsey Division.

There is very little gold-mining being carried on in the Kempsey Division. The Nambucca Heads Gold-mining Syndicate raised a few tons of stone during the year, but did not treat it. Several mines are, however, being worked for copper, silver, tin, and antimony.

Taree Division.

It is estimated that this Division yielded during the year 800 oz. of gold, won principally in the vicinity of the Cella River, situated some 55 miles from the township of Taree. Some very good stone is being raised, and there is every indication that this locality will yet become a scene of great mining activity. At the present time about sixty men are on the diggings.

PEEL AND URALLA MINING DISTRICT.

Glen Innes Division.

The gold returns from Glen Innes are much the same as the previous year, the quantity being 569 oz. The principal operations in quartz-mining are carried on by the Glen Elgin Gold-mining Company at Glen Elgin. This company have a valuable and extensive plant, and are working a reef 2 feet wide, yielding about 1 oz. per ton, and may therefore be presumed to be working at a profit. Thomas and party's reef in the same locality has not been further developed owing to some misunderstanding amongst the partners, and the battery has been idle. The alluvial ground at Glen Elgin gives employment to about thirty men, but the ground is patchy and unreliable. The bulk of the miners in this Division are employed mining for tin.

Kookabookra Division.

This Division produced 620 oz. of alluvial gold, which is 15 oz. less than the quantity won during 1895. This gold was won on the old Oban Gold-field, Nowland's Creek, and on the Mitchell River, but a scarcity of water greatly reduced the usual average earnings of the men. Quartz-mining at Kookabookra is at a complete standstill, and the two batteries on the field have been idle during the year.

Armidale Division.

The mines around Armidale are steadily increasing their output of gold. In 1894 the yield was 432 oz., in 1895 554 oz., and 1896 1,700 oz. Work is chiefly confined to the localities of Tilbuster and Puddledock. Some of the mines there have been granted suspension, but are likely to resume work again shortly. A large number of men are still working the alluvial ground in the vicinity with varying success. Some very promising deposits of silver ore have been found in the neighbourhood of Rockvale, and are now being tried.

Hillgrove Division.

The returns from Hillgrove show a very satisfactory increase for the year, being 24,420 oz. as compared with 21,617 oz. in 1895. This field is divided into two Divisions, and when the 13,481 oz. returned by the Hillgrove West Division is added the aggregate total is 37,852, which is the highest yield from any gold-field in the Colony for 1896, Wyalong not excepted. The Baker's Creek mine is still the principal mine at Hillgrove, and crushed during the year 13,095 tons for 12,550 oz., valued at £43,830, which has allowed of £10,000 being paid away in dividends and a substantial sum carried forward. Woodbury's vanners have been added to the concentrating machinery with good results. Since November, 1887, this company have mined 72,352 tons of stone for 152,356 oz. of gold and have paid in dividends, £237,500. The Eleanora mine has had their 30-head stamper battery working continuously during the year and treated 13,453 tons for 8,057 oz. and 365 tons of concentrates yielded other 3,062 oz., the total value of the gold won being £40,577. This company paid £5,000 in dividends, a considerable overdraft paid off and a large sum carried forward. Ten additional Fruc vanners have been added to the machinery whereby a large quantity of valuable tailings have been profitably treated. The Garibaldi mine is now the property of an English Company who have sunk the main shaft to 260 feet, and are now cross-cutting from that level to strike the reef. Winding engines have been erected, and five Fruc vanners have added to their battery and crushing will be started at an early date. The Golden Gate Gold-mining Company treated 196 tons for 300 oz. of gold, the machinery being driven by electricity generated at the Gara Falls. The prospects of this mine have greatly improved with the extensive driving on the main lode, and it is expected that the battery will now be able to run continuously. This company were greatly assisted by means of a small grant from the Prospecting Vote. The Baker's Creek Consols mine is now held by an Adelaide Company. The main shaft has been sunk to 210 feet and driving is now being done at the 200-foot level. This mine promises well. The Baker's Creek No. 1 Extended is under suspension with a view of flotation on the London market. The tunnel is now in 400 feet, and it is thought it will have to be continued other 500 feet before the reef is struck. The want of capital has retarded the development of the Baal Gannum claim. Several

trial crushings have been taken from the Phoenix mine at Rock Vale, which have proved sufficiently good to induce the owners to proceed with its further development. The results from the trial crushings are, however, not available. J. M'Carthy and party are sinking on Surface Hill by means of aid from the Prospecting Vote, with very promising indications. Mining operations on the field have been considerably interfered with owing to a scarcity of water for mining purposes. The Baker's Creek mine was idle for three weeks, and the Eleanora Company were prevented from working a portion of their vanners used in the treatment of old tailings. The Hillgrove public crushing battery was idle for some considerable time from the same cause. This field is now attracting the attention of English investors, and it is thought that a judicious expenditure of capital will be the means of discovering yet further deposits of payable ore.

Hillgrove West Division.

As stated above, the yield for the year reached 13,431 oz., valued at £47,551, which is nearly double the quantity won in 1895. The scarcity of water proved a great hindrance to work, but the batteries were only compelled to stop for about one week. The Sunlight Gold-mining Company are now paying dividends. The Company raised and treated 13,089 tons for 8,536 oz., valued at £29,342. Their plant consists of 40-head of stamp, with the necessary concentrating machinery. The deepest level is 600 feet, and the lode averages from 1 to 10 feet wide. The West Sunlight Company crushed 7,480 tons for a yield of 4,581 oz., valued at £16,910. The East Sunlight Company are driving for the Sunlight reef, and have a tunnel in about 400 feet to intersect it. Very little work has been done on the Starlight quartz claims during the year. A party of miners worked them on tribute for a few months, and crushed 8½ tons for 27 oz. The Earl of Hopetoun mine has changed hands, and is now worked by the owners, who raised 230 tons which returned 336 oz. It is expected that the forthcoming year will see increased activity on this field, as there is a probability of outside capital being introduced into some of the mines.

Uralla Division.

Work on the Rocky River diggings was greatly retarded owing to the scarcity of water during the year. Although a large amount of prospecting was carried on, there is no discovery of note to report.

Walcha Division.

The quantity of gold won in this division is estimated at 1,070 oz. A number of miners have settled themselves in the vicinity of Nowendoc and can make fair wages. At Tia several grants have been made from the Prospecting Vote, and work is being carried on vigorously. Only one crushing has been reported, and that was from the Sleeping Beauty mine of 300 tons for 100 oz.

Swamp Oak Division.

Two new discoveries were reported in this division during the year—the first being at Eulo, on the M'Donald River, and the second on Shearin's Creek, 7 miles N.E. of Swamp Oak township. The discovery on the M'Donald River did not turn out as expected, but that at Shearin's Creek promises to be of some note. A trial crushing of 6 tons made at the Hillgrove Battery yielded 2 oz. 8 dwt. 19 gr. per ton. As the stone was taken from the surface it may be considered highly satisfactory; but another 6 tons is being taken out from a point 400 feet lower down the hill. The Highland Mary mine has been taken over by an English company, who have also acquired other properties at Niangala. Very little work is being done either at Paradise or Glen Morrison, although very good returns were at one time got at both these places. The fact that a number of cancelled leases have been applied for recently would seem to denote a revival in the mining industry in the Swamp Oak District. The gold won for the year was 2,037 oz., valued at £7,320.

Tamworth Division.

There were about 260 oz. of gold won within this division during the year, but as the bulk of it was obtained by fossickers it is difficult to arrive at an exact estimate. Efforts are still being made to develop some likely looking ground at Levy's Springs. At Spring Creek, near Moonbi, a few parties seem to be doing fairly well, and recently some very nice specimens have been obtained.

Nandlc Division.

The mines in this division, the principal ones being situated at Bowling Alley Point and Hanging Rock, produced about 2,836 oz. of gold. Some very good crushings have been made during the year, notably one by Gagley and party, the Excelsior mine, who put through 20 tons for 90 oz., and another of 19 tons from the Black Snake mine for 190 oz. Deegan and party's mine produced 300 oz. during the year, and the Peel River Prospecting Company crushed 790 tons for 530 oz. Alluvial mining is always fairly brisk in this division, the locality being a favourite one with fossickers.

Bendemeer Division.

About sixty men are working on the banks of the Congi and M'Donald Rivers, but the scarcity of water has hampered their operations severely. They, however, succeeded in winning 341 oz. of gold, valued at £1,294 15s.

Stewart's Brook Division.

This division also embraces Moonanbrook, Omadale Brook, and the Denison diggings. The principal mine in this division is the New Royal Standard, which produced 3,383 oz. of gold from 796 tons of stone. The New Stewart's Brook Company employ 31 men, and raised 650 tons for 456 oz.; The Lady Grace, 64 tons for 61 oz.; The Lady Maud, 24 tons for 51 oz.; and many other crushings, aggregating 2,243 tons, yielding 4,444 oz., valued at £23,253. The splendid results from the New Royal Standard mine have given a fresh impetus to the field, and operations have now been commenced on the other side of Stewart's Brook. Attention is being particularly directed to Castle Gully, which is considered very promising for the occurrence of payable reefs.

Barraba Division.

The Barraba Division returned 600 oz. of gold for the year, valued at £2,340. At Crow Mountain prospecting work is being carried out vigorously, and several grants of aid have been made in this locality from the Prospecting Vote. The "Dodger" mine is still producing rich stone from about the 60-ft. level. The Black Mountain mine is looking well, and work is now being carried on at the 320-ft. level. At Woods' Reef the owners of the Woods' Reef extended claim are raising rich stone from the 18-ft. level, with every appearance of it continuing. Operations at the 'old Woods' Reef mine have been much impeded owing to the scarcity of water for crushing purposes. Very rich patches are occasionally met with, and many of the veins assay up to 20 oz. per ton.

Bingara Division.

The rich finds near Top Bingara, reported in April, did not last, but pinched out at a shallow depth. These discoveries and the finding of new lodes subsequently led to the pegging out of a large area of land, but they also proved patchy. Monie & Co. are still carrying on work at Barrack Creek. Their shaft is now down 150 feet, and they have a tunnel in 300 feet. A 5-head battery and a wire rope tramway have been erected. The lode is said to be 3 feet wide. At Spring Creek, a party are working the Mountain Maid Lease, and are getting fair gold. A large number of men are still engaged fossicking among the old workings in the vicinity of Snob's Hill, Bobby Whitlow, Spring Creek, and Upper Bingara. Some nice "pockets" are occasionally met with, but it is questionable, if taken all the year around, they make more than a bare living.

NEW ENGLAND MINING DISTRICT.

Fairfield (Drake) Division.

This division produced gold to the value of £21,730 10s. during the year. The principal quartz mines in full work were the All Nations, Nil Desperandum, Rainbow, Pig and Whistle, Great Boulder, Lone Hand, American Barber, Lady Hampden, and The Lady Jersey, all of which have yielded satisfactorily. The depth of the mines referred to, with the exception of the Lady Jersey, is from 80 to 100 feet. As in all the claims, particularly those around Mount Carrington, the oxidised ore is passed through at that depth. Below that depth, the sulphide ore is met with, which is so refractory that the present machinery employed cannot deal with it. Consequently, operations are confined to the oxidised material. The "Pioneer" shaft, on the top of Mount Carrington, is now down 200 feet where the reef is 1 foot wide. About 200 tons of this refractory ore has been raised, but there is no suitable machinery on the field to treat it. The erection of works to deal

deal with the complex ores seems now to be a necessity, as the oxidised is quickly becoming exhausted. In the Lady Hampden mine a very large body of this complex ore has been proved to exist. The lode is about 50 feet wide and runs due north and south. Several parcels have been taken from this immense formation and treated in the ordinary way at a quartz-battery with satisfactory results. From 350 tons, 270 oz of bullion were obtained, containing gold to the value of £244 and silver £20. With proper machinery it is thought this body of ore could be worked very successfully.

There are about 250 Europeans and 100 Chinese profitably employed in alluvial mining throughout this district, principally on the old diggings at Timbarra, Poverty Point, M'Leod's Creek, and Tooloom. It is said that some of the Europeans earn on an average £2 10s. per week, the majority, however, from 30s. to 35s. per week. Lionsville seems to be on the eve of a mining revival. A quartz-mill has been erected near the Shellmalac Band of Hope, and other lines of reefs, which have been idle for years, and trial crushings have proved so encouraging that in all probability a large number of men will again find employment at Lionsville. Alluvial mining is not so brisk as usual at Yulgilbar, owing to the fact that no fresh discoveries have lately been made. A new line of reef has, however, been discovered in that locality—on the east side of the Clarence River. A parcel of 2 tons from the reef was treated in Sydney, and yielded 7 oz. per ton.

Tenterfield Division.

Operations on the Buck line of reef, Boonoo Boonoo, have ceased owing to heavy water in the shaft; the party had aid from the Prospecting Vote to sink to 300 feet, but stopped at 204 feet. Several other parties are in receipt of aid in this locality but no discovery has resulted so far. The quantity of gold won in the division during the year is 160 oz. valued at £520.

Wilson's Downfall Division.

Acacia Creek and locality, where a little gold-mining was carried on in former years, have now been abandoned, and mining work is now confined in this division to silver and tin, which is dealt with under their respective heads.

CLARENCE AND RICHMOND MINING DISTRICT.

Grafton Division.

There were only about 780 oz. of gold got in this division during the year, many of the miners having applied for suspension with a view of obtaining more efficient machinery for the treatment of the refractory ores to be dealt with. It is confidently asserted that many of these reefs would pay well if the mines were equipped with proper plant as they give good promise of permanency, and are of a good average width.

Nana Creek Division.

Gold-mining in this Division has made great progress during the past few years, as will be seen from the following figures:—

1894—Yield of gold	427 oz.
1895	1,554 „
1896	2,256 „

There are now no less than nine crushing plants scattered throughout this division, viz., at Coramba, Coramba Queen, Upper Bucca Creek, Lower Bucca Creek, Nymboi, Little Nymboi, Upper Orara, Nana Creek, and Tallegwah Creek. As far as can be ascertained, the quantity of stone put through by these plants was 1,980 tons, which yielded 2,256 oz. of gold. Some of the properties in this District have recently changed hands at a very satisfactory figure, which has stimulated prospecting to a great extent. There are now 350 men in the locality, and fresh discoveries are looked forward to.

Dalmorton Division.

The recent rush to Coramba and Bucca Creek, which are within easy distance of Dalmorton, drew the greater part of the miners from that place, and accounts for the falling off in the output of gold, which was only 339 oz., as compared with 572 in 1895. The Mount Rea mine has been floated into a company in London, who are erecting a 10-head stamper battery, Berdan pans, &c., at a cost of about £3,000. The mine has been well developed, and there is plenty of ore for this machinery when completed. The Little Dora syndicate on the Mann River has been working vigorously during the year, and has added a Woodbury concentrator to their machinery. The mines on the Mann River seem to be attracting the attention of outside investors, as a few of the unworked leases have been taken up, and a deposit paid on several others, with a view to purchase. The Black Snake mine is in course of flotation, and, if successful, a large number of men will find employment on this property. A tunnel is now being driven into Mount Remarkable by means of aid from the Prospecting Vote. The prospects for the coming year look much brighter for this field.

Ballina Division.

The principal seat of mining in this division is still M'Auley's lead, near Jerusalem Creek, and it is estimated that the 93,600 loads of black sand were treated for a yield of 2,437 oz., valued at £9,291. Formerly, operations were confined to the sea-beach, but during the year a large quantity of the gold has been got some distance back from the beach. During the greater part of the year a gang of men have been working, under aid from the Prospecting Vote, in testing the beaches by boring between the Esk River and Jerusalem Creek for new leads, but so far no success has attended their operations in this locality. The men have now been removed to the vicinity of Byron Bay.

Woogoolya Division.

This is a new division, and was formed consequent on the discoveries in the vicinity of Corinda. A number of gold-mining leases have been applied for, but, in the absence of crushing machinery, very little stone has been raised, as the nearest battery is at Bucca Creek, 23 miles distant. The principal claim on the field is worked by Cameron and party, who have a shaft down 65 feet on a good reef 10 inches wide. They raised 28 tons from the vein, which gave 84 oz. of gold. Other reefs have been opened up which prospect well, but work is delayed pending the erection of a local battery, as the cost of cartage to Bucca Creek is very great. It is very probable that a large number of men will yet find employment on this field. Efforts have been made to work the creeks for alluvial gold, but with little success.

THE COBAR MINING DISTRICT.

Cobar Division.

Some very good work has been carried out in some of the mines during the year, but unfortunately for about two months the batteries were hung up through want of water, and advantage was taken of the drought to enlarge some of the dams. Nevertheless the quantity of gold produced exceeds the previous year by about 16,000 oz., the total quantity won being 25,750 oz., valued at £83,525. The best yield was from Barrass and Conley's mine, who treated 1,500 tons for 3,205 oz.; the Occidental, 9,900 tons for 1,651 oz.; the Great Western, 919 tons for 1,063 oz.; the Cobar Mining Company, 2,440 tons for 436 oz.; the Cobar Gold-mine (Limited), 1,474 tons for 509 oz.; and the Young Australian Mine, 1,900 tons for 1,003 oz. Barrass and Conley are erecting new machinery, and the Cobar Gold-mine (Limited), late Fort Bourke Tunnel, has now a cyanide plant and a 100-head of stamps, with the latest improvements, working on it. A tank, with a capacity of 100,000 cubic yards, is being constructed, and the mine is shortly expected to employ over 150 men. On almost every mine on the field improvements and additions to the machinery have been made during the year—which is satisfactory proof of the future prospects of gold-mining in the Cobar District.

Mount Drysdale.

About 70 men are now working on the Mount Drysdale Field. The Mount Drysdale Gold-mining Co. are still working, and raised during the year 3,070 tons for 1,514 oz.; the New Eldorado Co., 2,891 tons for 954 oz.; and the Mount Billigue mine, 45 tons for 120 oz. These are the only mines of any note working in this division, as nearly the whole of the mining tenements were abandoned. Several grants have been made from the Prospecting Vote in this locality, and work is now being carried on, but as compared with a few years ago the field wears a deserted appearance.

Gilgunnia Division.

During the early part of the year 32 quartz-claims were at work at Gilgunnia, employing 135 men; but by the end of the year this number had been reduced to 12 employing 51 men, which does not speak well for the prospects of the field. Some of the claims at work are still being vigorously tried, and prospecting aid has been granted with a view of trying some of the reefs at a greater depth, which in some instances improve as depth is attained, more especially in the "Dream," "Rising Sun," "Last Rose," and "Tarcombe" prospecting claims. It is worthy of note that 7 tons taken from the Rising Sun claim yielded 18 oz. 6 dwt. 7 gr. of gold. The reefs average from 6 to 24 inches wide. A first-class 15-head battery has been erected on the field, but unfortunately there is not sufficient stone available to keep it employed.

Mount Hope Division.

The Mount Allen Gold Mining Co.'s mine at Mount Allen, 12 miles from Mount Hope, may be said to be the only gold-mine at work in this division of any note. During the year the company raised 3,175 tons which yielded 561 oz., valued at £2,073 12s. 2d. Very little has been done in the vicinity of Mount Dromedary, and although a lot of prospecting work has been carried on, there are no new discoveries to report.

ALBERT MINING DISTRICT.

Milparinka Division.

This division still suffers from severe drought, and, in consequence, the yield of gold is much below the average. In 1894, when water for mining was available, the output was 2,300 oz., but the drought in 1895 reduced the yield to 320 oz., and in 1896 to 977 oz. Most of the gold has been won by dry-blowing, and, where it is fine, much of it is lost. The reefs at Bendigo and Warratta could not be worked from the same cause, the nearest water supply being 7 miles east of Warratta and 5 miles north-east of Bendigo. The men were, therefore, forced to abandon their claims, although some of the trial crushings went as high as 4 oz. per ton.

Tiboobarra Division.

Some of the best reefs in this division occur in the vicinity of Evan's Gully, but the scarcity of water has retarded their development. With a good fall of rain good returns may be expected from this locality.

Broken Hill Division.

The only gold won in the Broken Hill District, so far as can be traced, was saved by the Broken Hill Proprietary Silver-mining Company in connection with their smelting operations, the quantity saved being 4,389 oz., valued at £17,117 2s.

I am indebted to J. MacDonald Cameron, Esq., F.I.C., the Deputy Master of the Royal Mint, for the following information:—

QUANTITIES of Gold, the produce of New South Wales, received into the Royal Mint, Sydney, during 1895 and 1896, compared.

District.	Division.	1895.	1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
		oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
Bathurst	Bathurst	2,086.55	1,561.36	.....	525.19
	Carcoar	5,624.86	3,031.49	.....	2,593.37
	Orange	37,339.74	2,953.46	.....	34,385.28
	Trunkey Creek	202.79	160.64	.....	42.15
	Tuena	632.32	103.26	.....	529.06
	Mount M'Donald	324.62	293.02	.....	31.60
Tambaroora and Turon	Hill End	651.95	1,112.57	460.59	.....
	Tambaroora	38.73	54.34	15.61	.....
	Sofata	3,136.60	2,178.39	.....	958.21
	Stony Creek .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mudgee	Mudgee	4,975.46	5,273.77	298.31	.....
	Gulgong .....	.....	2,495.73	2,495.73	.....
	Hargraves .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lachlan	Wellington	1,379.35	2,030.36	651.01	.....
	Parkes	9,827.97	8,881.73	.....	946.24
	Forbes .....	.....	13.35	13.35	.....
	Grenfell	1,169.38	1,245.41	76.03	.....
	Young	1,956.41	1,296.41	.....	660.00
	Temora	3,891.26	624.82	.....	3,266.44
Albert	Wilcanna	1,421.42	1,137.67	.....	283.75
	Goulburn	833.01	563.67	.....	269.34
Southern	Braidwood	2,597.21	3,226.81	629.60	.....
	Bermagui .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Araluen	81	25.92	25.11	.....
	Shoalhaven	418.51	.....	.....	418.51
	Nerrigundah	451.73	463.60	11.87	.....
	Adelong	201.36	176.82	.....	24.54
	Tumut	356.38	375.89	19.51	.....
	Cootamundra	644.06	37.42	.....	606.64
	Tambarumba	2,445.29	2,519.33	74.04	.....
	Gundagai	1,936.44	2,402.36	465.92	.....
Peel and Uralla	Coona	1,273.80	1,082.35	.....	191.45
	Kiandra	125.31	88.26	.....	37.05
	Wagga Wagga	201.80	103.02	.....	98.78
	Armidale	406.00	9,866.82	9,460.82	.....
	Rocky River	16.54	83.66	67.12	.....
Hunter and Macleay	Nundle .....	.....	11.70	11.70	.....
	Tamworth	749.37	449.39	.....	300.18
	Bingara	1,406.08	1,303.69	.....	102.39
	Copeland	47.07	126.92	79.85	.....
Clarence and Richmond	Grafton	1,543.51	1,776.26	232.75	.....
	New England	2,240.87	2,392.83	151.96	.....
Mixed	Teaterfield .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Western, Northern, and Southern	42,682.38	34,342.73	.....	8,339.65
Localities unknown .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Total	202,317.03	203,336.19	55,028.98	54,609.82

SUMMARY.

District.	1895.	1896.
	oz.	oz.
Bathurst	46,209·88	8,103·23
Tambaroora and Turon	3,827·31	3,345·30
Mudgee	6,354·81	9,799·86
Lachlan	16,845·02	12,061·72
Albert	1,421·42	1,137·67
Southern	4,306·27	4,285·00
Tumut and Adelong	7,184·44	6,785·45
Peel and Uralla	2,578·19	11,715·26
Hunter and Macleay	47·07	126·92
Clarence and Richmond	1,543·51	1,776·26
New England	2,240·87	2,392·83
Mixed—Western, Northern, and Southern	42,682·38	34,342·73
Localities unknown	67,075·86	107,463·96
	202,317·03	203,336·19

From the foregoing tables it will be seen that the quantity of gold sent to the Mint in 1896 exceeds that sent in 1895 by 1,019 oz. A satisfactory increase is noticeable from the Armidale district, due to the mines at Hillgrove; but the reduced output from the Lucknow Mine is very evident in the returns from Orange, which is less than the previous year by about 35,000 oz.

The following table is compiled from information kindly furnished by the Collector of Customs:—

EXPORT OF GOLD, 1896.

Gold.		Quartz Tailings and Pyrites.		Total.	
Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
oz.	£	packages.	£	oz.	£
82,707	283,093	22,400	97,541	26,010	380,634

The system adopted by the Department in arriving at the output of gold for the year is to add the quantity received at the Royal Mint to that exported through the Customs, deducting, of course, the quantity exported by the Mint which appears in the Customs Return. The following figures show how the yield for the year is arrived at:—

	oz.	£	s.	d.
Gold exported in bars and dust	82,707	283,093	0	0
" quartz and concentrates	26,010	97,541	0	0
	108,717	380,634	0	0
Gold received by the Mint, the product of the Colony	203,336·19	759,852	17	11
	312,053·19	1,140,486	17	11
Less the quantity exported by the Mint through the Customs	15,982·00	67,126	13	4
Estimated yield for 1896	296,071·19	1,073,360	4	7
The yield for the year 1895 was	300,165·45	valued at £1,315,929	5	4

Consequently there is a decrease of 64,094 oz., and in value £242,569 Os. 9d., as compared with the previous year. Although every care is taken, it would be difficult to prevent certain quantities of gold from being sent out of the Colony without being recorded, more especially when it is associated with other than auriferous ores and bullion. For instance, during the year the Proprietary Company, at Broken Hill, saved in connection with their silver-smelting operations 4,389 oz., and this is the only company on the Barrier who gave any return of gold saved.

RETURNS

RETURNS of Gold for 1896 from Mint and Mining Registrars compared.

District.	Mint.	Mining Registrars.	Excess.	Deficiency.
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
Bathurst	8,103·23	43,686	.....	35,582·77
Tambaroora and Turon	3,345·30	12,281	.....	8,935·70
Mudgee	9,799·86	28,925	.....	19,125·14
Lachlan	12,061·72	64,855	.....	52,793·28
Albert	1,137·67	6,323	.....	5,185·33
Southern	4,285·00	19,059	.....	14,774·00
Tumut and Adelong	6,785·45	16,157	.....	9,371·55
Peel and Uralla	11,715·26	54,003	.....	42,287·74
Hunter and Macleay	126·92	1,441	.....	1,314·08
Clarence and Richmond.....	1,776·26	6,092	.....	4,315·74
New England	2,392·83	6,360	.....	3,967·17
Cobar .....	.....	29,400	.....	29,400·00
Mixed—North, South, and West	34,342·73	.....	34,342·73	.....
Localities unknown.....	107,463·96	.....	107,463·96	.....
	203,336·19	288,582	141,806·69	227,052·50
				141,806·69
The returns from Mining Registrars exceed returns from Mint by				85,246·81

Much difficulty is experienced by the Mining Registrars in obtaining complete and correct returns from lessees, claim-holders, and others for the purpose of the above table; and the difficulty is greatly increased when dealing with the class of miners termed "fossickers," whose operations are spread over a large area, and who dispose of their gold as it is won to the nearest storckeeper for rations. Large quantities of refractory auriferous ore from the Wyalong, Pambula, Orange, Cobar, Hillgrove, and Drake gold-fields are sent out of the Colony for treatment, the yield from which is included in the returns sent in by the Mining Registrars, but not in that from the Mint. The difference of 85,246 oz. may partially be accounted for in this way. It is very gratifying to note, however, that the yield as shown by the Mining Registrars, viz., 288,582 oz., is only 7,489 oz. less than the estimated total yield for the year, thus showing that these officers had exercised some care in the preparation of their returns. Owing to the numerous changes made by the Public Service Board, many of the Registrars are new to the duties, or unacquainted with the district they have been removed to; but it is hoped by the end of the forthcoming year they will be in a position to supply still fuller information, without which some of these tables must necessarily be incomplete.

MINING Registrars' Returns of Gold for 1895 and 1896 compared.

District.	1895.	1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
Bathurst	99,632	43,686	.....	55,946
Tambaroora and Turon	10,856	12,281	1,425	.....
Mudgee	32,343	28,925	.....	3,418
Lachlan	52,583	64,855	12,272	.....
Albert	6,295	6,323	28	.....
Southern	18,799	19,059	260	.....
Tumut and Adelong	23,113	16,157	.....	6,956
Peel and Uralla	45,802	54,003	8,201	.....
Hunter and Macleay	594	1,441	847	.....
Clarence and Richmond.....	8,256	6,092	.....	2,164
New England	7,358	6,360	.....	998
Cobar	12,769	29,400	16,631	.....
	318,400	288,582	39,818	69,482
Less Decrease .....	.....	.....	.....	39,664
Decrease in yield for 1896	29,818	.....	.....	29,818

The foregoing Table compares the returns from the Mining Registrars for the past two years, and shows a decrease of 29,818 oz. on the returns for 1895.

COMPARATIVE Statement of Average Yields from Alluvial Mines for 1895-96.

1895.				1896.			
District.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Yield of Gold.	District.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Yield of Gold.
	loads.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.		loads.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.
Bathurst	1,174	0 11 7	665 0 0	Bathurst	5,228	0 11 0	131 7 0
Cobar .....	.....	.....	.....	Lachlan	317	0 4 12	184 6 0
Lachlan	4,364	0 0 4	1,354 7 22	Tumut and Adelong	120,324	0 0 6	1,465 13 0
Tumut and Adelong.....	200	0 1 12	15 0 0	Southern	350	0 0 9	0 11 22
Southern	500	0 3 14	90 0 0	Mudgee	1,560	0 3 0	231 0 0
Hunter and Macleay.....	640	0 1 0	32 0 0	Peel and Uralla	1,500	0 0 5	16 0 0
	6,878	0 6 5	2,156 7 22		129,979	0 0 7·5	2,037 17 22

Note.—The above Table only shows the yield where the quantity of stuff treated is ascertainable.

Without full and correct data a table such as the foregoing is almost worthless for the purpose of comparison, and it can be seen at a glance that the information supplied is not as complete as it should be. It is freely admitted that the Mining Registrars experience much difficulty in obtaining the necessary particulars regarding our alluvial mines, as in many cases no account is kept either of the dirt treated or the gold won. When the ground is worked by sluicing it would be almost impossible to get at the exact quantity of alluvium put through, but when the ordinary method of washing is resorted to, with very little trouble the miners could assist the Department greatly in this respect. The opinion prevails among the miners that the public have no right to know the result of their private operations; but when the benefit that reliable information of this nature would be to the mining community is considered, it might be said with truth that the opinion is an erroneous one.

COMPARATIVE Statement of Average Yields from Quartz-mines for 1895-96.

District.	1895.			District.	1896.		
	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Yield of Gold.		Quantity.	Average per ton.	Yield of Gold.
	tons.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.		tons.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.
Bathurst	17,541	4 15 17	83,953 10 0	Bathurst	18,237	1 13 15	30,301 7 15
Tambaroora and Turon	3,784	0 14 12	2,749 6 0	Tambaroora and Turon	4,232	0 13 6	2,892 13 3
Lachlan	19,223	1 8 7	27,202 0 0	Lachlan	36,787	1 6 6	48,286 4 20
Southern	9,097	0 10 21	3,273 14 0	Southern	17,025	0 6 9	5,446 3 17
Tumut and Adelong	5,438	0 18 23	5,210 1 0	Tumut and Adelong	6,160	0 8 12	2,026 12 14
Peel and Uralla	43,137	0 13 9	28,378 12 0	Peel and Uralla	47,551	0 14 11	34,383 10 0
Hunter and Macleay	449	0 14 23	336 0 0	Hunter and Macleay	470	0 17 0	401 10 0
Clarence and Richmond	3,063	0 17 7	2,652 18 0	Clarence and Richmond	1,729	0 17 17	1,589 11 0
Mudgee	15,083	0 12 7	9,109 19 0	Mudgee	21,399	0 12 11	13,319 10 0
Cobar	12,507	0 10 13	6,601 10 0	Cobar	3,129	0 9 17	1,541 11 0
New England	2,139	1 15 5	3,760 0 0	New England	2,110	0 9 14	1,018 17 0
	128,431	1 7 1	178,896 10 0		188,838	0 17 20	141,762 10 21

Note.—This Table only shows the yield of gold where the quantity of stone treated can be ascertained.

The foregoing Table, showing the average yield from our quartz mines for the year, gives rather more information than usual, and we are able to compare the returns from 158,838 tons of stone treated. The reduction in the total average yield is accounted for by the rich stone raised in 1895 from the Lucknow Mine, in the Bathurst Mining District. It is gratifying to be able to point to an improvement in the completeness of the data supplied regarding the quartz mines, but there is still much left to be desired. Instances occurred during the year where the mine-owners declined to give the figures. This is to be regretted, as a complete and reliable table of this nature would prove of the greatest benefit and interest to those engaged in mining throughout the Colony. Battery-owners who crush for the public could assist the Mining Registrars immensely in obtaining the desired result, as they are compelled to keep some record of their operations, and it is to be hoped that they will see their way to assist in this matter.

The number of miners employed in gold-mining during the year were 12,069 in reefing, 9,428 Europeans and 710 Chinese in alluvial workings, making a total of 22,207 men—an increase of 773 on the number so employed during 1895. A reduction occurs of 1,193 Europeans and Chinese on the alluvial fields, but there is an increase of 1,960 in the number of quartz-miners at work.

Taking the quantity of gold won during the year, viz., 296,071 oz., and dividing it by the number of men employed, it is found that the average earnings of each man was 13 oz. 6 dwt. 15·5 gr., valued at about £51 13s. 3d.

It must be borne in mind in regard to these estimates of earnings that a large number of the men do not work as miners all the year around. Many of the men, more especially the alluvial workers, combine farming, shearing, &c., &c., with their mining operations as opportunity offers, or when water becomes too scarce in the creeks. The figures can, therefore, be taken only as a rough approximation of the actual earnings of each man employed, but they are sufficient to show that, with ordinary energy, a man settling on one of our gold-fields can at least make a living, with the ever present prospects of striking something richer than usual.

COAL.

The output of coal for 1896 shows, as compared with that of 1895, an increase of 170,927 tons. As will be seen from the following tables, the year's output, with the exception of 1891, is the highest since the opening of the coal-fields in 1829. On the other hand, it will be seen that the average price per ton, viz., 5s. 9 0/6d., is the lowest yet recorded, and is 1·23d. per ton lower than the previous year, and fully 50 per cent. lower than the price prevailing twenty years ago. The result is that, although our output is increasing its value only increased by about £30,000. It is gratifying to note that our foreign export trade is still increasing

still increasing, and is likely to completely recover from the severe shock it received during the troubles of recent years. The coal trade, as a whole, is likely to benefit greatly from the erection of the extensive smelting works at Cockle Creek, in the Newcastle District, and on Lake Illawarra, in the Southern District. It is expected these works will consume an immense amount of coal when in full swing. The Sydney Collieries Company have at length secured a suitable site for their operations in Long Bay, Port Jackson. The site is on the Balmain side of the harbour, and has every facility for coaling ships of any size. Wharfs have been erected, and extensive surface-works are now being carried out preparatory to commencing the shaft, a contract for which has been let. At the 31st December, 1896, there were 96 coal and 5 shale mines under inspection within the Colony, which is a decrease of 3 coal and 2 shale mines as compared with 1895.

During the year 17 notices were received of new mines opening out or in course of development by sinking or adits.

QUANTITY and Value of Coal raised from the opening of the Coal-seams to 1857, inclusive :—

Year.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.	Year.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.
Prior to		£ s. d.	£			£ s. d.	£
1829	50,000	0 10 0-00	25,000	1844	23,118	0 10 8-34	12,363
1829	780	0 10 1-23	394	1845	22,324	0 7 10-27	8,769
1830	4,000	0 9 0-00	1,800	1846	38,965	0 7 0-46	13,714
1831	5,000	0 8 0-00	2,000	1847	40,732	0 6 9-01	13,750
1832	7,143	0 7 0-00	2,502	1848	45,447	0 6 3-38	14,275
1833	6,812	0 7 6-73	2,575	1849	48,516	0 6 0-45	14,647
1834	8,490	0 8 10-00	3,750	1850	71,216	0 6 6-77	23,375
1835	12,392	0 8 10-19	5,483	1851	67,610	0 7 6-51	25,546
1836	12,646	0 9 1-06	5,747	1852	67,404	0 10 11-33	36,885
1837	16,083	0 9 8-81	5,828	1853	96,809	0 16 1-51	78,059
1838	17,220	0 9 9-05	8,399	1854	116,642	1 0 5-63	119,380
1839	21,283	0 9 9-73	10,441	1855	137,076	0 12 11-96	89,082
1840	30,256	0 10 10-86	16,498	1856	189,960	0 12 4-06	117,906
1841	34,841	0 12 0-00	20,905	1857	210,434	0 14 0-97	148,158
1842	39,900	0 12 0-00	23,940				
1843	25,862	0 12 6-54	16,222				
					1,468,961	0 11 10-72	869,391

TABLE showing the Quantities and Average Value per ton of Coal exported to Intercolonial and Foreign Ports respectively, the Quantity of Coal consumed in this Colony, and the Average Price per ton of the total output of the Collieries, from 1858 to 1896 inclusive.

Year.	Exports to Intercolonial Ports.			Exports to Foreign Ports.			Total Exports.			Home consumption.	Total Output and Value.			
	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.		Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.	
1858	101,488	0 15 1-67	70,924	12,030	1 0 1-85	12,132	113,527	0 15 8-05	88,950	102,870	216,367	0 14 11-84	162,162	0 0
1859	120,580	0 14 0-67	94,512	44,549	0 17 5-27	33,672	173,935	0 15 3-49	132,984	134,273	308,213	0 13 3-14	204,371	0 0
1860	140,133	0 14 10-36	104,471	93,094	0 16 11-10	79,200	233,377	0 15 8-67	183,761	134,855	368,502	0 12 3-36	226,483	0 0
1861	157,273	0 15 2-25	119,433	50,502	0 16 5-37	41,532	207,790	0 15 5-92	160,905	134,287	342,067	0 12 9-52	218,820	0 0
1862	185,427	0 15 0-55	147,010	113,355	0 17 4-34	93,403	308,782	0 15 10-75	245,422	167,740	474,522	0 12 9-73	305,284	0 0
1863	213,909	0 13 8-40	146,532	84,329	0 17 6-10	73,649	298,038	0 14 0-30	220,181	135,351	433,889	0 10 10-66	236,230	0 0
1864	283,539	0 10 3-74	146,190	88,927	0 14 10-90	60,289	372,466	0 11 4-91	212,438	176,546	549,012	0 9 10-10	270,171	0 0
1865	292,064	0 9 11-88	146,329	90,304	0 15 0-79	68,029	382,968	0 11 2-20	214,158	202,550	585,525	0 9 4-43	274,803	0 0
1866	344,194	0 9 2-98	159,175	196,711	0 14 4-53	141,413	540,905	0 11 1-37	300,588	233,333	774,233	0 8 4-44	324,040	0 0
1867	312,101	0 9 4-35	146,111	161,256	0 13 3-47	107,148	473,357	0 10 8-40	253,259	206,055	770,012	0 8 10-79	342,655	0 0
1868	329,062	0 9 5-07	155,075	138,984	0 12 5-29	130,220	543,030	0 10 7-96	292,201	406,195	954,231	0 8 9-08	417,809	0 0
1869	342,400	0 8 9-07	149,059	255,057	0 11 8-31	149,136	595,553	0 10 0-16	298,195	324,221	919,774	0 7 6-32	346,140	0 0
1870	336,564	0 8 6-02	142,656	242,855	0 10 3-57	125,035	578,380	0 9 3-07	297,681	200,175	368,544	0 7 3-54	316,836	0 0
1871	378,891	0 8 0-91	162,470	186,588	0 10 1-22	94,220	664,420	0 9 0-95	256,000	338,355	398,784	0 7 0-47	316,340	0 0
1872	394,052	0 8 8-11	170,477	275,058	0 9 11-46	136,914	689,110	0 9 2-42	397,811	343,316	1,012,426	0 7 9-92	396,198	0 0
1873	425,937	0 12 0-32	272,110	347,142	0 14 7-59	263,973	773,079	0 13 7-32	529,059	419,783	1,192,802	0 11 1-94	665,747	0 0
1874	467,583	0 13 8-30	320,119	405,442	0 15 4-76	312,128	873,025	0 14 5-81	632,247	431,587	1,064,612	0 12 1-37	790,224	0 0
1875	518,858	0 13 7-77	354,074	408,154	0 15 6-94	317,400	927,007	0 14 5-84	671,433	492,732	1,329,619	0 12 3-89	819,429	17 2
1876	542,952	0 13 8-45	373,045	325,655	0 15 6-45	253,166	985,817	0 14 4-70	625,211	451,101	1,319,918	0 12 2-06	803,800	5 6
1877	563,757	0 13 8-64	386,740	351,870	0 14 10-81	262,237	915,727	0 14 2-08	648,977	528,544	1,444,271	0 11 10-74	868,008	8 2
1878	629,323	0 13 8-77	427,054	353,977	0 14 7-09	230,452	1,006,420	0 14 0-93	703,406	569,077	1,576,407	0 11 8-28	920,936	7 4
1879	621,087	0 13 6-75	421,198	376,962	0 14 6-13	273,509	995,049	0 13 11-05	694,707	585,832	1,683,531	0 12 0-12	950,878	18 3
1880	550,072	0 11 2-67	309,004	202,034	0 11 5-70	116,295	753,336	0 11 3-48	425,299	712,524	1,460,180	0 8 6-36	615,320	11 7
1881	657,135	0 7 9-34	255,572	372,709	0 8 8-29	101,538	1,029,844	0 8 1-30	417,530	739,753	1,769,597	0 6 9-55	603,243	5 8
1882	760,226	0 9 9-54	372,334	501,319	0 10 11-50	274,639	1,261,545	0 10 3-69	647,033	847,737	2,169,282	0 8 11-97	843,905	0 0
1883	856,701	0 10 5-75	448,356	630,741	0 11 7-34	341,306	1,612,445	0 10 11-65	829,662	1,000,012	2,621,457	0 9 6-40	1,201,941	12 13
1884	904,050	0 10 8-06	532,338	696,676	0 11 5-14	398,107	1,690,703	0 11 0-15	931,045	1,058,346	2,749,109	0 9 5-71	1,303,076	19 11
1885	991,924	0 10 7-13	525,448	764,432	0 11 6-52	441,220	1,755,356	0 11 0-09	966,063	1,122,607	2,878,508	0 9 3-72	1,340,212	13 7
1886	1,027,775	0 10 7-22	544,424	708,000	0 11 4-31	402,178	1,735,865	0 10 10-53	947,002	1,094,310	2,830,175	0 9 2-53	1,303,164	4 1
1887	1,077,270	0 10 5-89	565,034	733,172	0 11 1-08	395,455	1,790,442	0 10 8-75	960,539	1,132,055	2,922,497	0 9 2-67	1,346,440	2 7
1888	1,039,764	0 10 10-25	564,293	884,108	0 11 3-77	500,179	1,923,372	0 11 0-73	1,064,472	1,279,572	3,203,444	0 9 3-02	1,455,198	4 1
1889	1,310,228	0 10 4-24	678,200	1,077,474	0 11 1-83	601,071	2,387,702	0 10 8-58	1,279,271	1,267,930	3,655,632	0 8 11-20	1,632,648	15 6
1890	1,140,544	0 10 0-96	608,108	672,330	0 11 3-31	379,065	1,821,574	0 10 10-04	987,173	1,230,002	3,069,376	0 8 4-29	1,279,088	19 5
1891	1,307,256	0 10 3-00	700,380	847,473	0 10 10-43	460,595	2,244,729	0 10 4-12	1,160,905	1,793,260	4,037,929	0 8 7-82	1,742,795	12 6
1892	1,175,072	0 8 10-89	587,016	873,697	0 10 1-24	441,379	2,191,703	0 9 4-01	1,028,395	1,560,263	3,780,968	0 7 8-82	1,462,358	9 4
1893	1,160,232	0 8 6-05	493,372	674,852	0 9 0-35	321,557	1,835,000	0 8 10-67	814,929	1,443,238	3,278,228	0 7 1-78	1,171,722	4 6
1894	1,175,072	0 7 1-73	419,751	650,053	0 8 2-26	385,018	2,125,125	0 7 6-88	804,769	1,546,951	3,672,076	0 6 3-53	1,156,578	7 10
1895	1,196,594	0 6 9-69	407,271	909,726	0 7 0-75	366,983	2,160,230	0 7 1-74	773,954	1,572,359	3,738,589	0 5 10-31	1,095,327	1 0
1896	1,871,710	0 7 0-34	482,096	1,103,111	0 7 6-93	418,168	2,474,907	0 7 3-30	900,264	1,431,608	3,909,517	0 5 9-08	1,125,230	16 7
	25,746,089	0 10 2-22	13,115,594	17,381,037	0 11 2-84	9,765,991	43,126,126	0 10 7-33	22,881,485	27,687,176	70,813,802	0 8 8-89	30,948,940	17 6

The following comparative statement shows a decrease in the output of the Northern collieries, as compared with 1895, of 8,205 tons, and in value £10,271, whereas the output of the Western and Southern collieries show an increase as compared with 1895—the former of 87,259 tons, and £16,377 in value, and the latter to the extent of 91,873 tons in quantity, and £23,848 in value.

COMPARATIVE Statement of Output of Coal in the Northern, Western, and Southern Districts.

	1888.			1889.			1890.		
	Quantity.		Value.	Quantity.		Value.	Quantity.		Value.
	tons	cwt. qr.	£ s. d.	tons	cwt. qr.	£ s. d.	tons	cwt. qr.	£ s. d.
Output, Northern District.....	2,067,042	4 3	1,022,022 8 10	2,624,347	3 0	1,261,224 16 6	2,120,046	6 1	995,931 2 6
Increase as compared with previous year	.....		.....	557,304	18 1	239,202 7 7	.....	.....	.....
Decrease do do	176,749	15 1	74,697 11 9	.....	.....	.....	504,300	16 3	265,298 13 11
Output, Western District	339,594	9 0	95,136 3 0	329,713	3 0	81,459 1 1	343,232	3 2	65,995 3 0
Increase as compared with previous year	.....		.....	.....	.....	.....	13,519	0 2	.....
Decrease do do	37,457	9 0	16,100 2 10	9,881	6 0	13,677 1 11	.....	.....	15,463 18 1
Output, Southern District	796,806	10 0	338,039 12 3	701,572	0 0	290,164 18 0	597,598	0 0	217,162 13 11
Increase as compared with previous year	.....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Decrease do do	420,238	10 0	167,355 10 5	95,234	10 0	47,874 14 3	103,974	0 0	73,002 4 1

	1891.			1892.			1893.		
	Quantity.		Value.	Quantity.		Value.	Quantity.		Value.
	tons	cwt. qr.	£ s. d.	tons	cwt. qr.	£ s. d.	tons	cwt. qr.	£ s. d.
Output, Northern District.....	2,853,251	13 1	1,354,028 12 8	2,611,731	13 0	1,102,694 14 5	2,203,480	10 0	880,218 4 3
Increase as compared with previous year	.....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Decrease do do	733,205	7 0	358,097 10 2	241,520	0 1	251,333 18 3	408,251	3 0	222,476 10 2
Output, Western District	346,804	13 0	74,104 17 10	236,363	1 0	57,414 13 8	190,377	19 1	43,241 14 5
Increase as compared with previous year	.....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Decrease do do	3,572	9 2	8,109 14 10	110,441	12 0	16,689 4 2	46,985	1 3	14,172 19 3
Output, Southern District	837,873	0 0	314,662 2 0	932,873	0 1	302,279 1 3	884,469	18 0	248,262 5 10
Increase as compared with previous year	.....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Decrease do do	240,275	0 0	97,499 8 1	95,000	0 1	12,383 0 9	48,403	2 1	54,016 15 5

	1894.			1895.			1896.		
	Quantity.		Value.	Quantity.		Value.	Quantity.		Value.
	tons	cwt. qr.	£ s. d.	tons	cwt. qr.	£ s. d.	*tons	cwt. qr.	£ s. d.
Output, Northern District.....	2,605,142	13 1	883,174 14 7	2,631,221	11 0	813,227 15 6	2,623,015	14 2	802,956 1 0
Increase as compared with previous year	.....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Decrease do do	401,662	3 1	2,956 10 4	26,078	17 3	69,946 19 1	8,205	16 2	10,271 14 6
Output, Western District	199,869	12 0	45,463 0 7	190,864	14 1	40,260 15 3	278,124	8 0	56,638 1 8
Increase as compared with previous year	.....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Decrease do do	9,491	12 3	2,221 6 2	9,004	17 3	5,202 5 4	87,259	13 3	16,377 6 5
Output, Southern and South-western Districts.	867,063	19 0	226,935 12 8	916,502	15 0	241,838 10 3	1,008,376	10 0	265,686 13 11
Increase as compared with previous year	.....		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Decrease do do	17,405	19 0	21,326 13 2	49,438	16 0	14,902 17 7	91,873	15 0	23,848 3 8

The average price of Coal in the several districts was as follows:—

	1895.		1896.		s. d.
	s.	d.	s.	d.	
Northern	6	2·17	6	1·46	a decrease of 0 0·71 per ton.
Western.....	4	2·62	4	0·87	„ 0 1·75 „
Southern and South-western ...	5	3·32	5	3·24	„ 0 0·08 „

Colliery.	District.	Men employed.			Quantity.	Value.
		Above ground.	Under ground.	Total.		
<i>Western District.</i>						
Black Diamond	Blackman's Flat ..	1	2	3	tons cwt. qr.	£ s. d.
Cooverwull	Bowenfels	1	1	1	150 0 0	26 5 0
Cullen Bullen	Cullen Bullen	11	45	56	430 0 0	100 0 0
Esik Bank .....	.....	5	40	45	33,840 0 0	6,817 17 4
Do Old Tunnel	Cullen Bullen	2	14	16	30,000 0 0	6,000 0 0
Folly	Lidsdale	1	1	2	9,500 0 0	1,900 0 0
Hermitage	Lithgow	4	31	35	250 0 0	68 15 0
Irondale	Piper's Flat	2	2	2	31,754 17 0	6,165 5 9
Ivanhoe	"	1	6	7	687 0 0	150 0 0
Lithgow Valley	Lithgow	2	29	31	4,304 0 0	860 16 0
Oakey Park	"	5	32	37	31,316 3 0	6,133 12 5
A.K.O. & M. Co., Joadja Creek ..	Joadja	1	4	5	32,916 8 0	6,874 16 11
Retort	Hartley Vale	1	7	8	1,779 0 0	890 0 0
Vale	Lithgow	19	47	66	6,776 0 0	1,016 8 0
Vale of Clwydd	"	6	39	45	29,748 0 0	6,569 0 0
Zig Zag	"	4	35	39	32,387 0 0	6,855 4 3
		63	335	398	32,306 0 0	6,220 0 0
					278,124 8 0	56,638 1 8
<i>South-Western District (Shale).</i>						
New South Wales Shale and Oil Company	Hartley Vale	15	30	45	9,608 15 2	4,804 7 6
Australian Kerosene Oil & Mineral Company	New Hartley, Genowlan ..	21	35	56	3,301 7 3	5,364 15 6
Australian Kerosene Oil & Mineral Company	Joadja	1	30	31	3,805 0 0	5,136 15 0
Australian Kerosene Oil & Mineral Company	Ruined Castle	14	28	42	2,995 0 0	3,734 0 0
Australian Kerosene Oil & Mineral Company	Mort's	1	4	5	2,690 0 0	3,363 0 0
Australian Kerosene Oil & Mineral Company	Genowlan	14	34	48	427 0 0	534 0 0
		66	161	227	9,012 0 0	11,265 0 0
					31,839 3 1	34,201 18 0

There were 9,233 men employed in and about the New South Wales collieries during 1896, and 227 in the shale mines, making a total of 9,460 men, an increase of 438 on the previous year. I regret to say that the fatal accident list has been greatly swelled during the year, owing to the outburst of carbon monoxide gas in the Stockton Colliery early in December. This lamentable accident caused the loss of eleven lives. The total number of fatal accidents for the year were 24, and non-fatal, 62, as compared with 10 fatal and 47 non-fatal during 1895.

The following table is intended to show that the safety of our mines can bear comparison with the coal-mines in the United Kingdom:—

SUMMARY of persons employed, number of fatal accidents (deaths), and ratios of the number of persons employed, and the number of fatal accidents in and about the "United Kingdom" and "New South Wales" Coal-mines, since 1874.

Year.	United Kingdom.				New South Wales.			
	Persons employed.	Lives lost by accident.	Persons employed per life lost.	Death-rate from accidents per 1,000 persons employed.	Persons employed.	Lives lost by accident.	Persons employed per life lost.	Death-rate from accidents per 1,000 persons employed.
1874	538,829	1,056	510	1·959	.....	5	.....	.....
1875	535,845	1,244	430	2·321	3,308	8	413	2·418
1876	514,532	933	551	1·813	4,084	4	1,021	0·979
1877	494,391	1,208	409	2·443	4,657	7	665	1·503
1878	475,329	1,413	336	2·972	4,792	8	599	1·669
1879	476,810	973	490	2·040	5,035	5	1,007	0·993
1880	484,933	1,318	368	2·718	4,676	8	584	1·710
1881	495,477	954	519	1·925	4,098	2	2,049	0·488
1882	503,987	1,126	447	2·234	4,487	12	373	2·074
1883	514,933	1,054	488	2·046	5,481	15	365	2·736
1884	520,376	942	552	1·810	6,227	14	444	2·248
1885	520,632	1,150	453	2·207	7,097	11	645	1·549
1886	519,970	953	545	1·833	7,847	29	270	3·694*
1887	526,277	995	529	1·890	7,998	94	85	11·752†
1888	534,945	888	601	1·666	9,301	15	620	1·612
1889	563,735	1,064	530	1·887	10,277	41	250	3·989‡
1890	613,233	1,160	529	1·891	10,315	13	793	1·260
1891	648,450	979	662	1·509	10,820	21	515	1·940
1892	664,300	982	676	1·478	10,910	8	1,364	0·733
1893	683,008	1,060	644	1·551	9,971	13	767	1·303
1894	705,240	1,127	626	1·598	9,126	7	1,303	0·767
1895	700,284	1,042	672	1·487	9,022	10	901	1·108
1896	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,460	24	394	2·537

* Excessive number of falls of coal and Lithgow disaster caused this high death-rate.

† Bulli catastrophe and excessive falls of coal caused this high death-rate.

‡ Hamilton pit crush, excessive falls of coal, and over-winding of four men at South Burwood sinking pit caused this high death-rate.

TABLE showing the quantity and Value of Coke made in the Colony of New South Wales.

Year.	Quantity.				Total Value.	
	Northern District.		Southern and Western Districts.			
	tons	cwt.	tons	cwt.	£	s. d.
1890	15,886	2	15,211	0	41,147	3 7
1891	9,474	2	20,836	5	34,473	5 10
1892	5,245	0	2,654	0	8,852	8 6
1893	12,262	0	5,506	0	20,233	2 0
1894	13,602	5	20,855	19	33,209	5 7
1895	11,326	8	16,304	0	24,683	5 0
1896	10,398	10	15,953	0	21,850	16 3
Totals	78,194	7	97,410	4	184,449	6 9

There is a decrease of 1,279 tons in the quantity of coke manufactured during the year, as will be seen from the foregoing table. In the Northern District this industry is carried on by the Messrs. Brown, and the Purified Coal and Coke Company, at Newcastle, and the Singleton Coal and Coke Company, at Singleton. In the Southern District works are established at Mount Pleasant and South Clifton, and also at Lithgow, in the Western District. The valuable and exhaustive report furnished by Mr. E. F. Pittman, A.R.S.M., Government Geologist, on Colonial cokes, and published in the Annual Report of this Department for 1892, deals fully with this question, and proves conclusively that, by the introduction of a more perfect system of cleaning and washing the coal, and the use of a more modern type of coke oven, an article equal, if not superior, to that imported can be produced from the New South Wales coal.

The following table shows the quantity and value of Kerosene Shale produced during the years 1865 to 1896 :—

Year.	Quantity.	Average price per ton.	Total Value.	Year.	Quantity.	Average price per ton.	Total Value.
	tons.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		tons.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1865	570	4 2 5·47	2,350 0 0	1882	48,065	1 15 0·00	84,114 0 0
1866	2,770	2 18 10·48	8,150 0 0	1883	49,250	1 16 10·77	90,861 10 0
1867	4,079	3 14 9·21	15,249 0 0	1884	31,618	2 5 7·86	72,176 0 0
1868	16,952	2 17 7·11	48,816 0 0	1885	27,462	2 8 11·62	67,239 0 0
1869	7,500	2 10 0·00	18,750 0 0	1886	43,563	2 5 10·79	99,976 0 0
1870	8,580	3 4 3·18	27,570 0 0	1887	40,010	2 3 10·43	87,761 0 0
1871	14,700	2 6 3·91	34,050 0 0	1888	34,869	2 2 2·66	73,612 0 0
1872	11,040	2 11 11·91	28,700 0 0	1889	40,561	1 18 3·55	77,666 15 0
1873	17,850	2 16 6·55	50,475 0 0	1890	56,010	1 17 2·07	104,103 7 6
1874	12,100	2 5 1·48	27,300 0 0	1891	40,349	1 18 8·77	78,160 0 0
1875	6,197	2 10 2·22	15,500 0 0	1892	74,197	1 16 8·16	136,079 6 0
1876	15,998	3 0 0·00	47,994 0 0	1893	55,660	1 16 4·44	101,220 10 0
1877	18,963	2 9 0·81	46,524 0 0	1894	21,171	1 10 0·28	31,781 5 0
1878	24,371	2 6 11·40	57,211 0 0	1895	50,426	1 5 3·78	75,218 18 8
1879	32,519	2 1 1·96	66,930 10 0	1896	31,839	1 1 5·81	34,201 18 0
1880	19,201	2 6 7·03	44,724 15 0				
1881	27,894	1 9 2·59	40,748 0 0		895,834	2 0 1·22	1,795,213 15 2

The above table shows a very large decrease in the output of shale, as compared with the year 1895. This is not due to a falling off in the demand, but to the fact that some of the deposits are now partially exhausted or altogether worked out. The higher-class shale finds a ready market, at a good price, for shipment to Europe; and, in consequence, prospecting operations are constantly being carried on by the shale companies and private individuals.

SILVER AND LEAD.

The quantity of silver and lead exported during the year exceeded that in 1895 by 67,056 tons, and in value £198,120. The world-famed mines in the Barrier Ranges, Broken Hill, still produced the bulk of silver won in New South Wales. The successful treatment of the sulphide, on which the life of this field so much depended, has now been practically solved, and the mines have now immense bodies of ore at their disposal which can be profitably worked. The Proprietary Company's new works, erected for the treatment of these ores, will be ready during the forthcoming year, when a large increase in the yield of silver and lead may be expected. A further increase in these metals may be anticipated on completion of the extensive smelting-works in course of erection at Newcastle and Illawarra. The erection of these works has led to the reopening of some of our silver-mines which have been idle for years, notably the well-known White Rock mine, in the Drake District.

QUANTITY

QUANTITY and Value of Silver, and Silver-lead, and Ore exported.

Year.	Silver.		Silver-lead and Ore.				Total Value.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.		Value.		
			Ore.	Silver-lead.			
Up to	oz.	£ s. d.	tons cwt. qr. lb.	tons cwt.	£ s. d.	£	
1881	726,779-14	178,405 0 0	191 13 0 0	.....	5,025 0 0	183,430
1882	38,618-00	9,024 0 0	11 19 0 0	.....	360 0 0	9,384
1883	77,065-18	16,488 0 0	136 4 0 0	.....	2,075 0 0	18,563
1884	93,660-25	19,780 0 0	9,167 11 1 7	.....	241,940 0 0	261,720
1885	794,173-80	158,187 0 0	2,095 16 0 0	190 8	107,626 0 0	266,813	
1886	1,015,433-10	197,544 0 0	4,802 2 0 0	.....	294,485 0 0	492,029
1887	177,307-75	32,458 0 0	12,529 3 2 0	.....	541,952 0 0	574,410
1888	375,063-70	66,668 0 0	11,739 7 0 0	18,102 5	1,075,737 0 0	*1,142,405	
1889	416,895-35	72,001 0 0	46,965 9 0 0	34,579 17	1,899,197 0 0	1,971,198	
1890	496,552-80	95,410 0 0	89,719 15 0 0	41,819 18	2,607,144 0 0	2,762,554	
1891	729,590-05	134,850 0 0	92,383 11 0 0	55,396 3	3,484,739 0 0	3,619,589	
1892	350,661-50	56,884 0 0	87,504 15 0 0	45,850 4	2,420,952 0 0	2,477,836	
1893	531,972-00	78,131 0 0	155,859 1 0 0	58,401 3	2,953,589 0 0	3,031,720	
1894	846,322-00	94,150 0 0	137,813 8 0 0	42,513 2	2,195,330 0 0	2,289,489	
1895	550,142-00	81,858 0 0	190,192 19 0 0	23,687 7	1,560,813 0 0	1,642,671	
1896	202,789-00	26,518 0 0	267,363 1 0 0	19,573 4	1,768,933 0 0	1,785,451	
	7,423,525-62	1,319,356 0 0	1,108,475 14 3 7	345,613 11	21,209,906 0 0	22,520,262	

* NOTE.—In the Annual Report for 1888, 11,739 tons 7 cwt. of silver ore, valued at £164,620, was omitted from the table. The bulk of the silver is exported in the form of silver-lead.

The information for the following notes relating to silver-mining in New South Wales is gleaned from the reports sent in by the Wardens and Mining Registrars:—

THE ALBERT MINING DISTRICT.

Broken Hill Division.

Broken Hill is the only Division within the Albert Mining District where silver is found in payable quantities, and at the same time is the principal seat of silver-mining in Australasia. The famous mine owned by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited, employed on an average 2,582 men during the year, and produced 420,747 tons of ore, from which silver, lead, copper, and gold were obtained to the value of £1,354,287 9s. 6d. The Broken Hill South Company raised 66,272 tons, which produced 22,517 tons of silver-lead concentrates, valued at £180,136. Block 14 Company, 71,583 tons, valued at £278,628. The British Block Company, 53,000 tons valued at £116,000. Block 10 Company, 57,353 tons, valued at £286,762. Broken Hill Junction, 74,275 tons, valued at £395,153. The Junction North Company, 12,500 tons, valued at £100,000, and the North Broken Hill Company, 16,976 tons, valued at £33,752. Those mentioned are the principal mines working on the Barrier Silver Field:—

It is estimated that the value of the mineral product from this field during the year was as under:—

		£	s.	d.
Roasted sulphide of silver	132 tons	99,811	10	0
Matte	1,652 "	32,503	7	6
Silver lead bullion	18,987 "	870,522	12	6
Concentrates	40,736 "	325,888	0	0
Ore	331,412 "	1,635,633	10	0
Copper	570 "	29,070	0	0
Gold	4,389 oz.	17,117	2	0
		£3,010,546	2	0

These figures present a satisfactory account of the progress of the field, and should tend to inspire confidence in its stability and productiveness. The improved methods for treating the sulphide ore now being introduced will benefit the mines greatly. It is expected that the Proprietary Company's new works, which embrace the latest improvements, are likely to be completed about the middle of 1897. The output of silver from this field during the year may be set down approximately at 19,592,943 oz. As the silver is exported from the field to Europe in the form of silver-lead there is some difficulty in arriving at the exact quantity. The total quantity of ore raised on the field during the year is 828,366 tons.

THE BATHURST MINING DISTRICT.

Mitchell Division.

The only silver-mining in this district is being carried on at Mitchell. The Sunny Corner Silver-mining Company's mine is still being worked on tribute, and produced during the year 395 tons of silver, gold, and copper matte, valued at £22,396. This property is looking well, and is being systematically developed, and the machinery improved. The number of men employed still averages about 100 all the year round.

THE NEW ENGLAND MINING DISTRICT.

Fairfield Division.

Silver-mining is likely to come into prominence again in this Division—work having been resumed at the White Rock Silver-mine during the last six months. An improved winding engine has been erected, and a main shaft started 15 feet x 5 feet in the clear, with a view of testing the immense mineral formation at a depth. The shaft is now down 70 feet, and it is said that ore from that level yielded on assay 56 oz. of silver and 6 dwt. of gold per ton. The owners of the mine will shortly be in a position to offer employment to about 100 men.

Emmaville Division.

Very little work has been done in silver-mining around Emmaville during the year. A few men have been at work at Webb's mine, but no ore has been put out or despatched. There are indications, however, that an improvement is likely to take place, as arrangements are being completed for the transport of ore to the new smelting works at Illawarra.

Wilson's Downfall Division.

Silver-mining has almost been abandoned in this Division. At Rivertree there are still about a dozen men at work in the old abandoned mines making good wages. They pick their ore and send it to Aldershot, Queensland, for smelting. Of the 160 tons of ore raised only 67 tons of the best were sent which realised £1,374.

PEEL

PEEL AND URALLA MINING DISTRICT.
Hillgrove Division.

Some interest is being taken in the silver lodes which are found to occur in this Division in the neighbourhood of Rock Vale, and several parties are now sinking on very promising deposits. A parcel of 69 tons was despatched from this locality by Messrs. Wade and Baker, which realised £3,377. The lode which contains a great variety of silver-bearing minerals averages 14 inches in width. There are a considerable number of silver-bearing lodes between Wollombi and Rockvale, but none of these have yet been worked with profitable results. As a general rule the silver-bearing minerals occur in small quantities throughout the lodes, and extensive mining operations with efficient concentrating plant are necessary to give payable results.

THE SOUTHERN MINING DISTRICT.
Rye Park Division.

The Walla-Walla Silver-mining Company, near Rye Park, have about 1,000 tons of ore awaiting the completion of one of the smelting works now in course of erection within this Colony. The mine has been well opened up, and stoping can be commenced as soon as arrangements have been completed for treating the ore.

Captain's Flat Division.

The Lake George United Mining and Smelting Company, at Captain's Flat, are extending their operations, and during the year found employment for about 275 men. Their output of silver was over 70,000 oz., and the ore also contains gold, copper, and lead in considerable quantities. The company are making very extensive alterations and additions to their machinery, and it is expected that work will be found for close on 1,000 men when the new works are finished.

Queanbeyan Division.

Near London Bridge a silver and lead deposit has been found, and aid has been granted from the Prospecting Vote to test it. There are several other such deposits in this neighbourhood which have a very promising appearance.

Pambula Division.

About twenty men are still employed prospecting for silver lodes in this Division, but no discovery of note has been made so far. Several promising lodes have been opened up which assay well, but they will have to improve before they can be considered payable with silver at 2s. 6d. per oz. Applications have, however, been lodged for mineral leases in the locality aggregating 270 acres.

Kiandra Division.

The old silver-mine at Yarrangobilly has been taken up during the year in two 20-acre leases, and 10 tons of ore sent to the Clyde Works for treatment. The results were so satisfactory that this year will probably see the mine in full work again.

TIN.

The information contained in the following notes on the tin-mining industry is taken from the reports sent in by the Wardens and Mining Registrars:—

THE NORTHERN DISTRICT.
Tingha and Inverell Divisions.

The output of tin-ore from the Tingha Tin-field during the last twelve months is estimated at 500 tons, of a local value of about £16,000. A large quantity of that amount was obtained from wash-dirt raised in former years and stacked awaiting water to treat it. The opening of the tin and diamond mines at Boggy Camp, 15 miles west of Tingha, has provided employment for a number of men. It is said that some of the mines are doing very well at Boggy Camp, averaging from £3 to £6 per week each. It is considered that Dasey's and Gray's claims are the best on the field, and the former is now in course of flotation on the English market. The sinking in these mines is from 30 to 50 feet deep, and the wash averages from 2 to 7 feet thick, the width of the lead not yet ascertained. In Gray's claim the wash averages 4 feet thick, and is said to carry tin and 10 carats of diamonds to the load. The Elsmore Valley Tin-mining Company have successfully bottomed their shaft at 225 feet on rich wash, and prospecting work is now being carried on preparatory to erecting machinery on the mine. Some difficulty was experienced in getting this shaft down owing to the influx of water. The prospects of this company are so encouraging that a revival in tin-mining is looked for in the locality, notwithstanding the low price of that metal at the present time. In the immediate vicinity of Inverell there is no mining of any importance being carried on.

Glen Innes Division.

The quantity of tin won in this Division during the year was 175 tons, or 10 tons more than last year, the value of which is put down at £5,425. Thomas and party, at Shannon Vale, are vigorously carrying on prospecting work there with fair success. Moses and party, and several others in the same vicinity, have also good claims. Tin has been found under the basalt there, but so far not in payable quantities, but the wash is being followed in.

Emmonsille Division.

There is a considerable reduction in the quantity and value of the tin won from this field, as compared with previous years. The output was, in—

1894.....	1,108½ tons	£44,386
1895.....	900 "	£29,700
1896.....	723 "	£22,402

The low price still prevailing for tin-ore is no doubt accountable for the reduced output, and, unless a rise in the price takes place, an improved state of matters can hardly be expected. The Ottery Tin-mine, at Tent Hill, has been in full work all the year, and gave employment to about seventy men. The output was 10,678 tons of ore which yielded 360 tons of tin, valued at £10,981. The works are, however, now closed, but will probably be reopened about the middle of the year. Alluvial tin-mining is still going on as usual, about 300 Europeans and 270 Chinese finding constant work, and do fairly well when a good supply of water is available.

Deepwater Division.

About 200 Europeans and 30 Chinese were employed mining for tin within this Division during the past year, and the quantity won was 300 tons, valued at £9,300, an increase of about 100 tons on the previous year. The metal is won principally from alluvial ground by small parties who employ no machinery in the work. A few parties are working lode claims, with fair results, and one or two fresh deposits have been found which are now being tried.

Wilson's Downfall Division.

Tin-mining in the Wilson's Downfall Division is confined more to fossicking among the abandoned workings than to opening up new ground. The quantity won is 150 tons valued at £4,650, an increase of 52 tons on the previous year. The increase is due to the favourable season, and not due to any new find. At the present time there are about ninety men on the field.

Kookabookra Division.

A few men are employed prospecting for tin in this Division, and it is estimated that they won about 12 tons, valued at £336. More attention will probably be given to the tin deposits in this locality during the forthcoming year.

Kempsey

Kempsey Division.

There were 500 tons of tin-ore raised from the Gundle Tin-mine during the year, but the value could not be ascertained. No new discoveries have been made in this district, although a lot of prospecting work is still being carried on. A Sydney syndicate has taken up some land at Gundle for tin, and has some men employed testing its value.

Bendemeer Division.

Although some prospecting for fresh deposits of tin was carried on in this division during the latter part of the year, nothing worthy of note was discovered. Work is therefore confined to the deposit at Giant's Den, which is found at a depth of from 1 to 12 feet from the surface, the wash being about 4 feet thick, but limited in extent. The year's output was 12 tons 2 cwt., valued at £420.

SOUTHERN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS.

Tin-mining in New South Wales is solely confined to the Northern Districts of this Colony. Although good indications have been obtained in the Upper Murray Districts, at Palletop, near Wagga Wagga, in the vicinity of Tumut and Yalgogrin, still no deposits have been found, so far, in the Southern and Western Districts of this Colony that might be considered payable. At Euriovic, in the Broken Hill Division, some tin-bearing land has been recently taken up, but up to the present but little work has been done on it.

TABLE showing the quantity and value of Tin exported from, and the product of, the Colony of New South Wales, since the opening of the Tin-fields in 1872.

Year.	Ingots.				Ore.				Total.			
	Quantity.		Value.		Quantity.		Value.		Quantity.		Value.	
	tons	cwt.	£	s. d.	tons	cwt.	£	s. d.	tons	cwt.	£	s. d.
1872	47	0	6,482	0 0	849	0	41,337	0 0	896	0	47,819	0 0
1873	911	0	107,795	0 0	3,660	0	226,641	0 0	4,571	0	334,436	0 0
1874	4,101	0	366,189	0 0	2,118	0	118,133	0 0	6,219	0	484,322	0 0
1875	6,058	0	475,168	0 0	2,022	0	86,143	0 0	8,080	0	561,311	0 0
1876	5,449	0	379,318	0 0	1,509	0	60,320	0 0	6,958	0	439,638	0 0
1877	7,230	0	477,952	0 0	324	0	30,588	0 0	8,054	0	508,540	0 0
1878	6,085	0	362,072	0 0	1,125	0	33,750	0 0	7,210	0	395,822	0 0
1879	5,107	2	343,075	0 0	813	15	29,274	0 0	5,920	17	372,349	0 0
1880	5,476	6	440,615	0 0	682	6	30,722	9 0	6,158	12	471,337	9 0
1881	7,590	17½	686,511	0 0	609	6	37,492	0 0	8,200	3½	724,003	0 0
1882	8,059	0	800,571	0 0	611	0	32,890	0 0	8,670	0	833,461	0 0
1883	8,680	1	802,867	0 0	445	4	21,685	0 0	9,125	5	824,552	0 0
1884	6,315	16	506,726	0 0	349	13	14,861	0 0	6,665	9	521,587	0 0
1885	4,657	18	390,458	0 0	534	18	25,168	0 0	5,192	16	415,626	0 0
1886	4,640	18	449,303	0 0	326	18	18,350	0 0	4,967	16	467,653	0 0
1887	4,060	8	509,009	0 0	291	13	16,411	0 0	4,961	1	525,420	0 0
1888	4,562	2	569,182	0 0	247	8	13,314	0 0	4,809	10	582,496	0 0
1889	4,408	13	403,111	0 0	241	15	12,060	0 0	4,650	8	415,171	0 0
1890	3,409	11	317,117	0 0	259	4	12,724	0 0	3,668	15	329,841	0 0
1891	2,941	5½	261,769	0 0	203	5	9,643	0 0	3,441	10½	271,412	0 0
1892	3,253	0	301,541	0 0	239	2	12,573	0 0	3,492	2	314,114	0 0
1893	2,636	17	223,139	0 0	148	1	6,804	0 0	2,784	18	229,743	0 0
1894	2,611	5	179,445	0 0	190	7	7,752	0 0	2,801	12	187,197	0 0
1895	2,199	11	136,080	0 0	77	4	2,543	0 0	2,276	15	138,623	0 0
1896	1,710	4	99,212	0 0	96	19	2,905	0 0	1,807	3	102,117	0 0
Total...	112,810	7	9,594,707	0 0	18,474	18	903,883	9 0	131,582	13	10,498,590	9 0

COPPER.

A glance at the following table will show that a very gratifying revival has taken place in copper-mining within this Colony, and that this very important industry is quickly regaining the position it held in 1884, when the value of this export was £416,179. The reopening of the copper-mines at Cobar is directly responsible for the major portion of the increase, the remainder being due to the extension of operations at Captain's Flat, Nymagee, Mount Hope, and Burruga. The Great Cobar Mining Syndicate own the largest copper-mines in New South Wales, which now give employment to about 450 men. They have now two 60-ton water jacket furnaces at work, and during the year the Syndicate raised 66,431 tons of ore, which yielded 2,650 tons of smelted copper, valued at £107,200. The plant is still being added to and improved, which will permit of the output being greatly increased. The ore is converted into "matte," when it is conveyed to the refining works at Lithgow, recently erected there by the Syndicate. The New Burrumine has been purchased by a syndicate, who propose overhauling the mine and plant, and working them in a systematic manner. During the year the Nymagee Copper Mine raised 3,249 tons of ore, which yielded 380½ tons of copper, valued at £17,948. This mine has just been acquired by the Great Cobar Mining Syndicate, and water jackets are now being erected. The whole district of Cobar is to be congratulated on the progress made in copper-mining during the year just past. At Mount Hope the New Mount Hope Copper Co. raised 1,092 tons for 141½ tons refined copper, valued at £5,660 18s. 3d. The company employ on an average 36 men. The Proprietary Great Central Co., at South Mount Hope, raised 454 tons for 55 tons smelted copper, valued at £2,195. This mine was only worked for about six months during the year. Another important copper-mine is situated on the Abercrombie Mountains,

Mountains, near Burruga, and owned by the Burruga Copper-mining Co., where 150 men find constant employment. Their output during the year was 4,241 tons refined copper, valued at £19,928, or at the rate of £47 per ton. The ore is run into matte at the mine, and then sent to Lithgow for refining purposes. A new copper-lode was discovered during the year in the immediate vicinity of Blayney by Messrs. Wright and Osborne. The lode has been traced into Church and School Lands, and is being vigorously prospected. From present indications this lode is likely to rank among the best in the Colony. Another lode on Quigley's Hill is being prospected by Tibbs and party, which also looks well, and the ore is of good percentage. The locality of these mines is within 5 miles of Blayney, and is likely to develop into a large copper-producing centre in the near future. The Sunny Corner Company's mine at Mitchell is also producing copper in considerable quantities, but the yield for the year was not available. In the southern district the Lake George United Mining Co. produced 205 tons of smelted copper, valued at £10,274, and also large quantities of gold, silver, and lead. This company is making very extensive improvements and additions to their plant, and a very large increase in the quantity of copper from this source may be expected. At Rye Park a promising copper deposit known as the Mayfield lode is being developed by T. R. Rowe and party. Some of this ore on assay yielded 20 per cent. copper, 16 dwt. of gold, and 7 oz. silver per ton. In the Northern District some new and very promising copper lodes have been discovered in the neighbourhood of Barraba, and aid has been granted from the Prospecting Vote to test them. The Cornish Copper Company in the same locality are now raising payable ore and are adding to their machinery. The Broken Hill Proprietary Company at Broken Hill saved in connection with their silver-mining operations during the year copper to the value of £29,070. From the same district it is reported that the mines formerly held by the Balaklava Iron and Copper-mining Company, south of Rockwell, are being reopened by the Wallaroo Copper-mining Company, of South Australia. Several adjoining blocks have been applied for by the same Company and it is expected that work will soon be in full progress. As a whole, copper-mining in this Colony has brighter prospects at the present time than has been the case for many years past.

TABLE showing the quantity and value of Copper, the produce of the Colony, exported from New South Wales, from 1858 to 1896.

Year.	Ingots.		Ore and Regulus.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	tons cwt.	£	tons cwt.	£	tons cwt.	£
1858	.....	.....	58 0	1,400	58 0	1,400
1859	30 0	578	.....	.....	30 0	578
1860	.....	.....	43 0	1,535	43 0	1,535
1861	.....	.....	144 0	3,390	144 0	3,390
1862	.....	.....	213 0	5,742	213 0	5,742
1863	23 0	1,680	114 0	420	137 0	2,100
1864	54 0	5,230	.....	.....	54 0	5,230
1865	247 0	15,820	22 0	545	269 0	16,365
1866	255 0	18,905	23 0	1,885	278 0	20,790
1867	393 0	30,189	0 2	5	393 0	30,194
1868	644 0	23,297	172 10	4,000	816 0	27,297
1869	1,980 0	74,605	104 0	2,070	2,084 0	76,675
1870	994 0	65,671	6 0	60	1,000 0	65,731
1871	1,350 0	87,579	94 0	1,297	1,444 0	88,876
1872	1,035 0	92,736	417 0	13,152	1,452 0	105,888
1873	2,795 0	237,412	51 0	1,690	2,846 0	239,102
1874	3,638 0	311,519	522 0	13,621	4,160 0	325,140
1875	3,520 0	297,334	157 0	4,356	3,677 0	301,690
1876	3,106 0	243,142	169 0	6,836	3,275 0	249,978
1877	4,153 0	307,181	360 0	17,045	4,513 0	324,226
1878	4,983 0	337,409	236 0	7,749	5,219 0	345,158
1879	4,106 15	256,437	36 7	915	4,143 2	257,352
1880	5,262 10	359,260	131 18½	4,799	5,394 8½	364,059
1881	5,361 0	350,087	132 16	4,975	5,493 16	355,062
1882	4,865 3	321,887	93 1	2,840	4,958 4	324,727
1883	8,872 17	574,497	84 10	2,704	8,957 7	577,201
1884	7,286 6	415,601	18 18	578	7,305 4	416,179
1885	5,745 5	264,905	0 15	15	5,746 0	264,920
1886	3,968 18	166,429	57 18	1,236	4,026 8	167,665
1887	4,463 19	195,752	299 8	3,350	4,763 7	199,102
1888	3,786 1	272,110	113 6	2,924	3,899 7	275,034
1889	3,983 16	203,319	198 4	3,322	4,182 0	206,641
1890	3,165 9	163,537	580 9	9,774	3,755 18	173,311
1891	3,860 3	191,878	665 8	13,215	4,525 11	205,093
1892	3,535 0	160,473	1,299 4	27,233	4,834 4	187,706
1893	1,051 0	44,235	1,016 0	14,191	2,067 0	58,426
1894	1,556 11	61,034	580 6	12,447	2,136 17	73,481
1895	2,793 3	119,300	1,058 0	21,585	3,851 3	140,885
1896	4,453 0	200,236	14 17	75	4,467 17	200,311
	107,316 16	6,471,264	9,295 17½	212,976	116,612 13½	6,684,240

IRON.

Negotiations are still proceeding with a view to establishing works for the manufacture of iron from the crude ores which have been proved to abound in several localities within this Colony. The many natural advantages possessed by New South Wales for the establishment of such an industry have been brought prominently before English capitalists, with the result that they have promised their co-operation, and it is confidently expected that the proposal will take a practical shape during the forthcoming year. Some very promising iron-ore deposits are being tested by Mr. Thos. Adams, in the neighbourhood of Raymond Terrace, under aid from the Prospecting Vote. They are situated on Church and School Lands, and are of considerable extent. The Pioneer mine, at Thackaringa, in the Broken Hill district, is raising iron ore, to be used as flux in the smelters at Broken Hill. At the Eskbank Iron Works, Lithgow, owned by Mr. W. Sandford, over 200 men and boys find constant employment. The finished iron manufactured from scrap during the year under notice was 4,721 tons, valued at £33,253.

ANTIMONY.

The low price prevailing for this metal at the present time has reduced its output very much. The Hillgrove field, which produced 632 tons in 1895, valued at £9,480, returns 71 tons, valued at £907, as the output for 1896, and there is no prospect of the output being increased till the price is higher. About 30 tons were raised during the year at Bowraville, in the Kempsey district, and realised £7 per ton.

Several parties have taken up ground in the vicinity of Oakey Creek, near the road from Bingara to Barraba. So far they are merely prospecting, but they are said to have a very good show of antimony on the surface.

The total quantity exported during the last twelve months was 132 tons, valued at £1,834, which, as compared with 1895, was a decrease in value of £5,417.

BISMUTH.

There were 41 tons of this ore exported from the Colony during the year, the declared value being £490. This metal is found in the Glen Innes, Pambula, and Nymagee Districts, but the demand for it is limited.

PLATINUM.

The wash-dirt being raised at Platina, near Fifield, still continues to carry platinum with the gold, and the quantity saved during the year was 2,900 oz., valued at £3,915. Work on this field is carried on by individual miners or small parties of two or three, and the yield is controlled by the quantity of water available for mining purposes. Operations have been greatly retarded during the past few years from this cause, and many of the claims had to be abandoned. If any platinum was got on the northern beaches by the men working the sand for gold, the quantity could not be ascertained. The quantity exported through the Customs during the year was 2,438 oz., valued at £3,479.

CHROMIUM.

The very low price of chrome in the market has restricted its output greatly. The mines in the Gundagai Division yielded, in 1895, 5,500 tons, valued at about £20,000. This year the output is set down at 1,000 tons, valued at £3,000. In many of the northern districts prospecting work has been carried on for chrome during the past twelve months, and many samples of the ore have been sent to this Department for assay, but they have not proved sufficiently rich to warrant mines being opened up at the present time.

MANGANESE, NICKEL, AND COBALT.

There practically is no actual mining being carried on for these minerals within the Colony at the present time. The cobalt deposits near Carcoar are still lying dormant, the only work done on them being a little surface prospecting.

TUNGSTEN.

Although there was a little prospecting carried on during the year for wolfram deposits there are no new discoveries to report. The mine near Emmaville, from which a few tons of ore were taken in 1895, has now been shut down. Inquiries have been received from Germany for small parcels of wolfram, but ore of exceptional purity is required.

MERCURY.

Very large and rich deposits of this ore have been discovered on Noggriga Creek, near Yulgilbar, 8 miles from Louisville, by Messrs. T. B. Bassetti and party, who are working under aid from the Prospecting Vote. A 40-acre Mineral Lease has been secured by the party who have sunk a shaft to a depth of 100 feet, at which depth the lode carries a high percentage of metal. Two other 40-acre blocks have been taken up on the line of the lode, and two shafts sunk with very encouraging prospects. Cinnabar mining bids fair to become an industry in this locality. Some Cinnabar Leases were applied for in the Bingara District about the end of the year, but no information is to hand regarding the prospects.

DIAMONDS:

DIAMONDS.

Prospecting work has been carried out on all the leases on the Bingara Diamond-field during the year. A considerable area of the ground was taken up by a Victorian syndicate. The Monte Christo mine, through want of water, only treated 20 tons of wash. The Australian Diamond Mines Proprietary Company, No Liability, kept 16 men at prospecting work, and have sunk 1,500 feet and driven 1,200 feet in the aggregate during the past 12 months. A large sum has been expended by this Company in the erection of machinery and water conservation. Some stuff was treated, but the result is not known. The Eagle Hawk Company treated 500 tons of drift, which returned gold and diamonds to the value of £325. The Murchison Diamond and Gold-mining Syndicate are chiefly prospecting and constructing dams to conserve water. It is estimated that the output from the field was 3,000 carats, the lowest value obtained being 6s. per carat. The Boggy Camp Diamond mines, situated about 15 miles west of Tingha, employ about 60 men. The best mines on the field are said to be those owned by Dasey and party and Gray and party, and in some of their drives the wash is found 4 feet thick and yields about 10 carats to the load. The stones are of good quality and pure white. It is expected that with the advent of capital to provide good powerful pumping machinery to allow of the deep ground being worked, the mines in this locality will give a good account of themselves. The Kangaloon Gold and Diamond-mining Company, in the Berrima District, have obtained suspension and the mine is now idle. Only a few stones were obtained by the Company during the year. Several packages of supposed diamonds were received from the Hanging Rock and Nundle. These proved to be colourless zircons in every case, no diamonds being detected.

OPALS.

The White Cliffs Opal-field, situated in the Wilcannia Division of the Albert Mining District, has made very satisfactory progress during the past twelve months. The stability of the field has been fully proved by the steady increase in the population since its opening. The principal gem merchants in Europe have now agents on the field for the purchase of opal, which is a great convenience to the miners. At the present time there are 400 miners on the field, and all the claims are being fully worked. Some difficulty is experienced in obtaining complete returns from the men, but from information obtained from the buyers the value of the output for the year is estimated at £25,000.

EMERALD AND TURQUOISE.

The emerald mine in the Emuville District and the turquoise mine near Wogonga are both closed down, and there is nothing to report regarding them.

MARBLE.

Marble deposits are known to exist in several districts in this Colony, and it may be said that they have not received the attention their importance deserves. Fine samples of red brown to almost black can be obtained at Fern Bank, near Bathurst, and a beautiful grey tint from Buckeroo, near Mudgee. A nicely marked brown is obtainable in the neighbourhood of Molong, and a pure white from Caloola, near Newbridge, said to be equal to the second class marble from the famous Carrara quarries. A deposit near Rylstone is of a black colour with white streaks and gold markings. Immense deposits of green serpentine also exist in the vicinity of Lucknow, which are well worth attention.

LIMESTONE FLUX.

The Tarrawingie Flux and Tramway Company (Limited) at Tarrawingie, near Broken Hill, raised during the past year 88,924 tons of limestone flux, valued at £54,261, which was all used by the Broken Hill Company in connection with their smelting operations. Over 120 men are employed by the company in and about their quarries. The opening of the large works at Cockle Creek and Dapto has occasioned inquiry for suitable flux and led to a certain amount of prospecting in these localities.

ALUNITE.

The shipments of alunite to England by the Australian Alum Company during the year was 1,372 tons, valued at £4,116. The extensive works at Bulladelah still remain closed. There is a growing demand for this mineral, the quantity shipped in 1895 being only 332 tons.

PLUMBAGO.

The plumbago lease held by Messrs. Smith and party near Wilson's Downfall has been worked with some energy during the past twelve months, and some 80 tons have been taken out and sent as samples to various parts of the globe, and has given satisfactory results. A large sum has been expended in prospecting the adjoining lease held by Messrs. Young and Pike, with the result that a superior class of ore has been struck, but in smaller veins.

KIESELGUHR.

This substance, commonly known as "Diatomaceous, or infusorial earth," is only being worked at one place within the Colony at the present time, *i.e.*, at Wyrallah, in the Lismore District. During the year the lessee, Mr. E. Wren, of Wyrallah, sent away 676 bushels, for which he received 3s. 6d. per bushel, out of which he had to pay freight to Sydney, cost of bags, filling, &c. The deposit is a very extensive one, and very easily worked, by open cutting. The deposit at Cooma is very extensive, and a few tons have been raised for experimental purposes. An American article now being introduced as an abrasive, &c., under the name of tripoli, is a different substance altogether.

SUMMARY.

SUMMARY.

The total value of the mineral products of this Colony to the end of 1895 is £118,367,231 5s., details of which are given in the following table:—

	Quantity.	Value.	Total Values.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Quantity and value of coal raised prior to 1st January, 1896.....	68,320,705·16 tons	30,694,051 13 7	
Quantity and value of coal raised in 1896	3,909,516·63 „	1,125,280 16 7	
Totals	72,230,221·79 tons	31,819,332 10 2	31,819,332 10 2
Quantity and value of shale raised prior to 1st January, 1896.....	863,495·70 tons	1,761,016 7 2	
Quantity and value of shale raised in 1896.....	31,839·16 „	34,201 18 0	
Totals	895,334·86 tons	1,795,218 5 2	1,795,218 5 2
Quantity and value of coke made prior to 1st January, 1896.....	140,253·10 tons	162,598 10 6	
Quantity and value of coke made in 1896	26,351·20 „	21,850 16 3	
Totals	175,604·60 tons	184,449 6 9	184,449 6 9
Quantity and value of gold won prior to 1st January, 1896.....	11,394,563·36 oz.	42,326,588 3 9	
Quantity and value of gold won in 1896	296,071·95 „	1,073,360 4 7	
Totals	11,690,635·31 oz.	43,399,948 8 4	43,399,948 8 4
Quantity and value of silver, silver lead, and ore exported prior to 1st January, 1896	Ingots 7,220,736·02 oz. } Silver lead 376,067·77 tons } Ore 791,086·05 „ }	20,743,811 0 0	
Quantity and value of silver, silver lead, and ore exported in 1896	Ingots 202,789·00 oz. } Silver lead 19,573·20 tons } Ore 267,363·00 „ }	26,518 0 0 794,610 0 0 964,323 0 0	
Totals		22,520,262 0 0	22,520,262 0 0
Quantity and value of copper exported prior to 1st January, 1896	Ingots 102,698·50 tons } Ore and regulus .. 9,433·95 „ }	6,483,929 0 0	
Quantity and value of copper exported in 1896	Ingots 4,453·00 „ } Ore and regulus .. 14·85 „ }	200,236 0 0 75 0 0	
Totals		6,684,240 0 0	6,684,240 0 0
Quantity and value of tin exported prior to 1st January, 1896	Ingots 111,099·86 tons } Ore and regulus ... 18,377·40 „ }	10,396,473 0 0	
Quantity and value of tin exported in 1896	Ingots 1,710·20 „ } Ore and regulus ... 96·95 „ }	99,212 0 0 2,905 0 0	
Totals		10,498,590 0 0	10,498,590 0 0
Quantity and value of iron made prior to 1st January, 1896	59,303·60 tons	453,747 15 8	
Quantity and value of iron made during 1896	4,721·00 „	33,233 0 0	
Totals	64,116·60 tons	487,030 15 8	487,030 15 8
Quantity and value of antimony exported prior to 1st January, 1896	10,277·68 tons	181,565 8 6	
Quantity and value of antimony raised in 1896.....	132·75 „	1,834 0 0	
Totals	10,410·43 tons	183,399 8 6	183,399 8 6
Quantity and value of lead (pig) exported prior to 1st January, 1896.....	1,386·90 tons	15,711 0 0	
Quantity and value of lead (pig) exported during 1896	23·85 „	259 0 0	
Totals	1,410·75 tons	15,970 0 0	15,970 0 0
Quantity and value of bismuth exported prior to 1st January, 1896.....	182·65 tons	37,721 14 0	
Quantity and value of bismuth exported in 1896.....	41·00 „	490 0 0	
Totals	223·65 tons	38,211 14 0	38,211 14 0

	Quantity.	Value.	Total Values.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Quantity and value of oxide of iron and pig-iron exported prior to 1st January, 1896	3,471.50 tons	6,060 0 0	
Quantity and value of oxide of iron and pig-iron exported in 1896	375.40 ,,	801 0 0	
Totals	3,846.90 tons	6,861 0 0	6,861 0 0
Quantity and value of zinc-spelter exported prior to 1st January, 1896	970.45 tons	11,043 0 0	
Quantity and value of zinc-spelter exported in 1896			
Totals	970.45 tons	11,043 0 0	11,043 0 0
Quantity and value of limestone flux raised prior to 1st January, 1896	543,680.80 tons	448,868 9 11	
Quantity and value of limestone flux raised in 1896	88,924.00 ,,	54,261 0 0	
Totals	632,604.80 tons	503,129 9 11	503,129 9 11
Quantity and value of alunite exported prior to 1st January, 1896	4,260.00 tons	18,232 0 0	
Quantity and value of alunite exported in 1896	1,372.00 ,,	4,116 0 0	
Totals	5,632.00 tons	22,348 0 0	22,348 0 0
Quantity and value of manganese ore exported prior to 1st January, 1896	270.85 tons	766 0 0	
Quantity and value of manganese ore exported in 1896			
Totals	270.85 tons	766 0 0	766 0 0
Quantity and value of opals raised prior to 1st January, 1896	1,217.02 lb.	41,599 6 6	
Quantity and value of opals raised in 1896	1,390.00 ,,	25,000 0 0	
Totals	2,607.02 lb.	66,599 6 6	66,599 6 6
Quantity and value of cobalt exported prior to 1st January, 1896	111.15 tons	1,921 0 0	
Quantity and value of cobalt exported in 1896			
Totals	111.15 tons	1,921 0 0	1,921 0 0
Quantity and value of fire-clay exported prior to 1st January, 1896	116.20 tons	296 0 0	
Quantity and value of fire-clay exported in 1896	34.15 ,,	69 0 0	
Totals	150.35 tons	365 0 0	365 0 0
Quantity and value of lime exported prior to 1st January, 1896	813.00 tons	1,780 0 0	
Quantity and value of lime exported in 1896			
Totals	813.00 tons	1,780 0 0	1,780 0 0
Quantity and value of marble exported prior to 1st January, 1896	613 pkgs.	2,657 0 0	
Quantity and value of marble exported in 1896			
Totals	613 pkgs.	2,657 0 0	2,657 0 0
Quantity and value of building stone exported prior to 1st January, 1896	8,063 No.	8,898 0 0	
Quantity and value of building stone exported in 1896			
Totals	8,063 No.	8,898 0 0	8,898 0 0
Quantity and value of ballast stone exported prior to 1st January, 1896	975 tons	1,155 0 0	
Quantity and value of ballast stone exported in 1896			
Totals	975 tons	1,155 0 0	1,155 0 0
Quantity and value of grindstones exported prior to 1st January, 1896	473 No.	314 0 0	
Quantity and value of grindstones exported in 1896			
Totals	473 No.	314 0 0	314 0 0

	Quantity.	Value.	Total Values.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Quantity and values of slates exported prior to 1st January, 1896	31,234 No.	351 0 0	
Quantity and value of slates exported in 1896			
Totals	31,234 No.	351 0 0	351 0 0
Quantity and value of chrome exported prior to 1st January, 1896	7,333.70 tons	25,384 0 0	
Quantity and value of chrome exported in 1896	3,851.75 ,,	11,280 0 0	
Totals	11,185.45 tons	36,664 0 0	36,664 0 0
Value of sundry minerals exported prior to 1st January, 1896		62,927 0 0	
Value of sundry minerals exported in 1896		924 0 0	
Totals		63,851 0 0	63,851 0 0
General Total			£118,367,234 5 0

TABLE showing approximately the number of Miners employed in Gold-mining, the Quantity of Gold won, the Area of Ground worked, and the Value of Machinery employed, in the Colony of New South Wales, 1896.

Office.	Alluvial Gold.		Quartz.	Silver.	Copper.	Other.	Tin.		Total.	Quantity of Gold.			Price of Gold per oz.		Value of Gold won.	Auriferous ground worked.	Quartz reefs proved to be Auriferous.	Value of Machinery.	
	European.	Chinese.					European.	Chinese.		Alluvial.	Quartz.	Total.	From	To					
TUMUT AND ADELONG MINING DISTRICT.																			
Adaminaby	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.	s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	sq. m.	No.	£	
Adelong	6								6										
Albury	145	5	250						409	1,611 8 9	1,142 13 8	2,754 1 17	76 0	76 0	10,465 11 11	400	40	60,000	
Bungendore			103						168		1,050 11 5	1,050 11 5	63 0	80 0	3,031 17 3		6	1,500	
Bywong			60						60		363 0 0	303 0 0	77 6	82 6	1,452 0 0			2,000	
Captain's Flat					112				112	23 0 0	1,251 7 0	1,279 7 6	76 0	78 0	5,364 0 0			7,000	
Cooma	20		70						90	602 17 23	1,079 0 2	1,681 18 2	70 9	70 9	6,030 0 0			5,000	
Corowa	4		5						9	40 0 0	35 0 0	75 0 0	78 6	80 0	294 7 6	4		500	
Germanont			14						14		14 0 0	14 0 0	75 0	77 6	44 2 1	10	3	3,500	
Cundaroo	14		20						34	115 0 0	80 0 0	195 0 0	76 0	77 6	753 10 4	18	1		
Narrandera											844 0 0	844 0 0	77 0	77 0	3,289 0 0				
Jindabyne	30	10							40										
Junee			80						80		719 11 8	719 11 8			1,347 0 0			600	
Kiandra	144	20	10	6					180	737 0 0	50 0 0	777 0 0	70 0	77 6	3,162 12 0			1,000	
Nimitybello	4		16						20	123 0 0	20 0 0	143 0 0	78 10	80 0	590 16 10	30	2		
Queanbeyan	90		20		20				130										
Reedy Flat																			
Ratlow	139	10							149	1,350 0 0		1,350 0 0		77 6	5,232 0 0			500	
Tareutta	8		4						12									200	
Tamut	111	2	14			12	5		144	*	*	*							
Tumbarumba	345	5	50						400	2,317 16 2	704 0 0	3,021 16 2	50 0	76 3	11,299 15 0		2	2,600	
Walbundrie			50						50		884 0 0	884 0 0	68 0	82 6	3,050 0 0				
Wagga Wagga			13						13										
Yass			20						20										
Walaregang	100		12						112	1,000 0 0		1,000 0 0		70 0	3,000 0 0		3		
Total	1,160	52	876	6	132	12	5		2,243	7,920 2 10	8,237 3 0	16,157 5 10			59,002 2 5	462	60	83,500	
CLARENCE AND RICHMOND MINING DISTRICT.																			
Ballina	100								100	2,437 0 0		2,437 0 0	77 10	80 0	9,201 0 0			800	
Casino	10								10										
Dalnorton	25		67						88	120 0 0	219 5 0	339 5 0	68 0	77 6	1,272 2 6	600	100	3,000	
Grafton	20		90	14					124	350 0 0	430 0 0	780 0 0	50 0	82 6	2,337 0 0	00	30	10,000	
Lismore																		500	
Nana Creek	50		300						350		2,256 1 1	2,256 1 1	72 6	75 0	8,460 3 11			5,000	
Maclean																			
Murwillumbah	30		4						34	125 0 0		125 0 0	80 0	82 6	500 0 0				
Woolgoolga			100						100	29 0 0	128 0 0	155 0 0	69 0	77 6	589 6 0	700	9		
Total	235		567	14					806	3,061 0 0	3,031 6 1	6,092 6 1			22,499 12 5	1,860	139	19,300	
NEW ENGLAND MINING DISTRICT.																			
Deepwater						220	30		250										500
Emmaville						310	270		580										4,000
Fairfield																			
Lionsville	240	100	152						492	2,063 0 0	3,237 0 0	6,200 0 0	65 0	74 0	21,730 10 0			10,000	
Teutrofeld	20		15						35	160 0 0		160 0 0			520 0 0			500	
Wilson's Downfall			10			32	51	7	100										
Total	266	100	167	10		562	351	11	1,467	3,123 0 0	3,237 0 0	6,300 0 0			22,250 10 0			15,000	

* Not available.

Office.	Alluvial Gold.		Quartz.	Silver.	Copper.	Other.	Tin.		Total.	Quantity of Gold.			Price of Gold per oz.		Value of gold won.	Auriferous ground worked.	Quartz reefs proved to be Auriferous.	Value of Machinery.
	European.	Chinese.					European.	Chinese.		Alluvial.	Quartz.	Total.	From.	To.				
PERL AND URALLA MINING DISTRICT.																		
Armidale	18	83							101	609 0 0	1,100 0 0	1,700 0 0	70 0	75 0	6,100 0 0			5,000
Barraba	15	120		15					150	68	600 0 0	600 0 0	77 0	83 0	2,340 0 0		5	3,000
Bendemeer	8				60				68	241 0 0	341 0 0	341 0 0			1,294 15 0			
Bingara	162	50		5				25	232	1,300 0 0	249 0 0	1,549 0 0	70 0	76 6	5,500 0 0			2,500
Glen Innes	24	6							78	416 7 15	153 0 0	569 7 15	62 6	82 6	2,093 2 3	4	2	2,000
Hillgrove		508							718	49 0 0	24,371 11 0	24,420 11 0	70 0	77 6	87,117 15 0	15	17	63,000
Inverell		210									13,481 0 0	13,481 0 0			47,561 0 0			
Kookabooka	30	10						20	100	620 0 0		620 0 0	72 0	77 6	2,325 0 0		8	50
Moonanbrook*																		160
Nowendoc	30								30									6,300
Nundle	177	12							209	1,833 0 0	998 0 0	2,836 0 0			10,032 0 0			6,000
Stewart's Brook		163							159		4,444 6 12	4,444 6 12	60 0	77 6	22,253 5 0	26	30	2,500
Swamp Oak		80							80		2,037 9 12	2,037 9 12	68 0	73 10	7,320 10 0			
Tantworth										200 0 0		200 0 0	70 0	80 0	786 15 0	9	3	1,500
Tingha						200	120	30	350									600
Uralla	150	20							221	63 5 0	20 19 12	74 4 12	77 0	77 10	295 0 0			
Walcha	50	10							60	1,000 0 0	70 4 11	1,070 4 11	62 0	77 6	3,690 15 8			
Total	654	32	1,808		20	348	140	55	2,617	6,477 12 15	47,625 10 23	54,003 3 14			200,234 17 11	61	74	92,559

MUDGEE MINING DISTRICT.																		
Cobbara	50								50	234 0 0		234 0 0		75 0	877 10 0	1		
Denison Town	250								250	2,275 0 0		2,275 0 0			3,420 0 0			3,500
Gulgong	500	100							600	8,200 0 0	200 0 0	7,000 0 0	73 0	80 0	27,125 0 0	200	20	5,500
Hargraves	30	20	100						200	730 0 0	1,500 0 0	2,230 0 0	75 6	80 0	3,835 0 0	10	20	4,100
Mudgee	450	20	50					25	546	900 0 0	150 0 0	1,050 0 0			4,000 0 0			
Penk Hill (including Tomingley)	33		309						342	310 0 0	6,118 0 0	6,428 0 0	75 0	78 0	24,121 10 0	16	9	20,000
Wellington	40	20	150						210		7,218 0 0	7,218 0 0	74 0	77 0	20,955 0 0	10	1	32,000
Windeyer	120	40	60						220	1,446 0 0	994 0 0	2,440 0 0	77 0	79 0	9,205 11 0	20	4	1,400
Total	1,523	100	709					26	2,417	12,745 0 0	10,180 0 0	28,925 0 0			109,029 11 0	257	64	66,500

LACHLAN MINING DISTRICT.																		
Alecton	93								145	208 0 0	414 0 0	822 0 0		75 0	2,103 1 0	12	14	
Barnedman			25						25									5,000
Carro	10		20						30	50 0 0	150 0 0	200 0 0	65 0	77 6	690 0 0	2	7	26,722
Condoholin*	90		27						117									600
Cootanundra	10		30						40									
Cudal			12						12									
Cudgelico			29						29									
Diffield	100		50				60		170	950 0 0	30 0 0	980 0 0	75 0	76 0	3,704 0 0	3		
Forbes	213		214						427	33 3 2	33 3 2	66 6 4	60 0	80 0	246 12 0		4	
Garangula	20		30						50									700
Greenfell	60		140						200	519 3 9	1,242 9 19	1,761 13 4	77 0	77 6	6,827 14 6	25	30	5,000
Gundagai	300		180				20		450	2,000 0 0	600 0 0	2,600 0 0		77 6	10,075 0 0			4,000
Jugiong	15		16						30									
Marsden	20								20									
Murrumburrah	70		20						90	1,600 11 19	27 8 20	1,627 0 15	74 0	77 0	6,099 12 2	1		
Narrandera			40						40									1,000
Parke	100		500						600	2,100 0 0	10,400 0 0	12,500 0 0	69 0	77 6	44,885 0 0		300	25,000
Reefton			35						35		1,820 0 0	1,820 0 0			6,949 0 0			1,500
Temora	50		550						600		4,006 0 0	4,006 0 0	80 0	81 0	16,094 14 8	15	24	2,000
Wyalong West	20		1,297						2,177		13,847 0 0	18,847 0 0	74 0	80 0	53,503 0 0	16		75,000
Wynlong			860						860		19,048 0 0	19,048 0 0	60 0	82 6	76,137 0 0	30	30	
Yalgogin			300				3		303		1,250 0 0	1,250 0 0	45 0	80 0	4,375 0 0		7	1,200
Young	223								223	8,657 0 0		8,657 0 0		77 6	14,170 17 6			1,600
Total	1,394		4,840				3	70	5,813	11,126 18 6	53,723 1 17	64,854 19 23			247,220 12 4	116	433	149,122

CONAR MINING DISTRICT.																		
Cobar			385						735		25,750 0 0	25,750 0 0			83,325 0 0			50,000
Euaholong			4						4									700
Gilgandra			71						71		921 0 0	921 0 0	77 10	80 0	2,417 16 5	5	7	1,000
Mt. Drysdale			72						72		2,408 1 10	2,463 1 10		75 0	6,043 12 7		6	5,000
Mt. Hope			35						95		561 6 0	561 6 0	73 0	80 0	2,074 12 2	16	3	12,000
Nymagee			16						150									8,000
Total			582						1,127			29,400 7 10	29,400 7 10		94,660 1 2	21	16	70,700

HUNTER AND MACLEAY MINING DISTRICT.																			
Bulladellah			20						21										5,000
Bungwall			15						15										
Capchud	30		70						100	108 17 0	394 7 0	503 4 0	69 0	76 0	1,760 4 10			2,000	
Dungog			20						20	10 0 0	135 0 0	135 0 0		72 6	500 5 0	400	25	1,000	
Kenupsey									20									1	
Macksville			12						22										
Port Macquarie									9									500	
Raymond Terrace									6										
Turco	20		40						60	600 0 0	800 0 0	800 0 0	70 0	77 0	2,975 0 0				
Total	50		177	4			30	8	260	618 17 0	822 7 0	1,441 4 0			5,235 9 10	400	26	8,500	

TAMBAROORA AND TURON MINING DISTRICT.																		
Hill End	150	50	173						373	2,034 12 3	1,319 3 3	4,003 15 6	75 0	75 0	15,114 3 10	49	41	8,000
Ironbarks	200	20	140						300	2,317 0 0	1,207 0 0	3,524 0 0	76 0	80 0	13,622 12 0	12	30	8,000
Obley	7		7						14									
Rylstone	10								14									
Sofala	300	50	250						600	3,840 0 0	913 6 0	4,753 0 0	75 3	82 0	17,942 11 0	30		4,800
Wattle Flat	150		150						300									1,800
Total	517	120	722				4	8	1									

Office.	Alluvial Gold.		Quartz.	Silver.	Copper.	Other.	Tin.		Total.	Quantity of Gold.			Price of Gold per oz.		Value of gold won.	Auriferous ground worked.	Quartz reefs proved to be Auriferous.	Value of Machinery.
	European.	Chinese.					European.	Chinese.		Alluvial.	Quartz.	Total.	From.	To.				
BATHURST MINING DISTRICT.																		
Bathurst	335	25	25						360	1,981 0 0	694 3 22	1,081 0 0	75 0 76 0	4,190 0 0			700	
Blayney	35	20			15				70	300 0 0	27 19 4	694 3 22	74 0 77 6	2,999 2 7	16	3	20,000	
Burrage	60	20			80				160	300 0 0	27 19 4	327 19 4	75 0 84 0	1,283 8 0	25	1	6,000	
Canowindra	12	33							45	33 11 15	320 0 5	358 11 20	75 0 80 0	592 14 9		0		
Carcoar	40	273							315	13 0 0	1,900 3 20	1,913 3 20	70 0 75 0	7,745 19 6			3,300	
Cowra	50	50							100	1,190 16 0		1,190 16 0	77 0 80 0	4,601 6 0			2,000	
Mandurama	30	120							150									
Mitchell	100	30	106	84					380	596 0 0	1,230 0 0	1,826 0 0	75 0 77 6	6,410 0 0			23,000	
Molong	20	12					2		84	50 0 0	10 0 0	50 0 0	75 0 76 0	187 10 0	20	4		
Mt. Macdonald	16	64							74	104 3 0	482 9 12	580 12 12	72 0 77 6	2,215 2 9	12	14	9,000	
Newbridge	120	14	20						154	334 0 0	50 10 0	484 10 0	72 0 76 0	1,540 7 6	12	3	1,000	
O'Connell	50								50	300 0 0		300 0 0	70 0 70 0	1,050 0 0				
Oberon	120		400						165	219 10 0	164 0 0	382 10 0	75 0 77 6	1,426 11 3	5	10	300	
Orange	137		600						787	680 0 0	28,706 0 0	29,486 0 0		103,000 0 0			70,000	
Rockley	147	10			3				190	1,255 0 0	21 0 0	1,296 0 0	75 0 77 0	4,895 15 0	18	1	500	
Trunkey	140	10	100						250	750 0 0	697 0 0	1,447 0 0	70 0 80 0	5,608 0 0		10	10,000	
Tuena	285	15	50						350	1,533 14 6	378 0 0	1,961 14 6	70 0 80 0	7,300 18 7	20	25	2,900	
Wjagton	35	12							47	80 0 0		80 0 0	72 6 75 0	250 0 0			140	
Total	1,780	69	1,562	84	93	2	2	2	3,601	8,044 11 21	34,741 6 15	43,696 1 12	75 0 80 0	155,156 14 11	122	80	153,840	

SOUTHERN MINING DISTRICT.																		
District.	Alluvial Miners.		Quartz Miners.	Total Miners.	Quantity of Gold.			Price of Gold per oz.		Value of Gold won.	Auriferous ground worked.	Quartz reefs proved to be Auriferous.	Value of Machinery.					
	European.	Chinese.			Alluvial.	Quartz.	Total.	From.	To.									
														s.	d.			
Araluen	271	20	12						303	2,608 0 0	75 0 0	2,773 0 0	70 0 76 0	10,676 1 0			15,000	
Batemann's Bay	35	28							73	160 0 0	657 12 2	817 12 2	60 0 84 0	3,068 0 0	8	4	686	
Bega	25	75							100		105 0 0	105 0 0	75 0 76 0	637 0 0				
Berrima	2								25	6 11 0		6 11 0		25 9 2				
Bombala	34	12							47	52 11 0		52 11 0	77 0 77 6	190 10 6			20,000	
Braidwood	140	10							160	775 11 5		775 11 5	70 0 80 0	2,862 7 3			600	
Burrown	10		4	0					65		15 12 3	15 12 3		62 0 0			250	
Candelo		5							5									
Cobargo	10	10							20	20 0 0		20 0 0	77 0 79 0	77 0 0	3		200	
Delegate	10	50							60									
Eden		30							30									
Goulburn	39	49							70						10	1		
Kangaroo Valley	9								9									
Little River	130	40	12						182	2,130 0 0	71 0 0	2,191 0 0	78 0 80 0	8,544 18 0		30	500	
Major's Creek	171	7	26						204	2,783 5 13	946 5 10	3,729 10 23	63 0 77 6	14,774 18 2	15	15	20,000	
Milton	3		2						5	27 0 0		27 0 0		108 0 0				
Moruya		60							60		1,458 0 0	1,458 0 0	70 0 80 0	5,468 0 0	13	3	2,000	
Nelligen	10	30							40	20 0 0	344 11 0	364 11 0	80 0 82 0	1,482 0 0	25	24	1,500	
Nerriga	120	15		5					140	919 0 0	52 0 0	971 0 0		3,767 12 0			5,800	
Nerrigundah	90	60	20						170	960 8 2	43 0 0	1,003 8 2	80 0 81 0	4,106 0 0	10	5	1,500	
Pambula		130	20						150		2,560 0 0	2,560 0 0	76 0 76 0	8,870 0 0			17,000	
Uladulla										27 0 0		27 0 0	80 0 82 6	168 0 0	1	1		
Rye Park	4	10	3	4					27									
Tarago	42	10	10						62									
Tarlga	10								20									
Wagonga	34	91	80						144	230 10 19	394 5 9	675 8 4	68 4 75 0	2,449 14 2			2,000	
Wyndham		20							20									
Yatala	10		100						110	10 0 0	1,485 15 7	1,495 15 7	57 0 68 0	4,330 0 0	2	20	20,000	
Wolunga		65							65									
Total	1,223	221	859	37	15	2	2	2	2,335	10,580 6 15	8,198 4 7	19,058 10 22	75 0 80 0	71,823 10 3	624	103	87,286	

* See Cowra. † See Carcoar.

SUMMARY.

Compiled from Mining Registrars' Reports.

TABLE showing approximately the number of Miners employed in Gold-mining, the quantity and value of Gold won, the area of ground worked, and the value of machinery, in the Colony of New South Wales during 1896.

District.	Alluvial Miners.		Quartz Miners.	Total Miners.	Quantity of Gold.			Price of Gold per oz.		Value of Gold won.	Auriferous ground worked.	Quartz reefs proved to be Auriferous.	Value of Machinery.	
	European.	Chinese.			Alluvial.	Quartz.	Total.	From.	To.					
														s.	d.
Albion		320	16	84	420	1,616 0 0	4,707 0 0	6,323 0 0	77/0	80/-	24,328 7 0	20	16	1,500
Bathurst	1,780	69	1,562	3,417	3,941 14 21	24,741 6 15	43,696 1 12	73/0	81/-	155,156 14 11	122	80	153,840	
Clarence and Richmond	235		557	792	3,061 0 0	3,031 6 1	6,092 6 1	63/-	81/-	22,499 12 5	1,300	130	19,300	
Cobar			582	582		29,460 7 10	29,400 7 10	75/9	80/-	94,000 1 2	21	10	6,700	
Hunter and Macleay	50		177	227	618 17 0	822 7 0	1,441 4 0	60/6	76/6	5,235 0 10	400	26	8,500	
Lachlan	1,304		4,340	5,740	11,126 18 6	13,728 1 17	64,854 19 23	68/-	81/-	247,920 12 4	115	433	149,122	
Mudgée	1,323	100	760	2,192	12,745 0 0	16,180 0 0	28,925 0 0	73/6	79/6	109,629 11 0	257	54	66,500	
New England	266	190	167	533	3,123 0 0	3,237 0 0	6,300 0 0	65/-	74/-	22,250 10 8	288	4	11,000	
Peel and Uralla	634	32	1,368	2,054	6,477 12 15	47,525 10 23	54,003 3 14	61/8	81/10	200,234 17 11	51	74	87,550	
Tambarooma and Turon	817	120	722	1,659	8,841 12 3	3,430 3 3	12,280 15 6	75/0	81/-	46,679 7 4	82	71	23,600	
Tumut and Adelong	1,160	52	876	2,088	7,920 2 10	8,237 3 0	16,157 5 10	56/0	81/8	59,002 2 5	462	60	78,300	
Southern	1,223	221	859	2,303	10,800 6 15	8,198 4 7	19,058 10 22	65/4	83/-	71,823 10 3	624	103	87,286	
Total	9,228	710	12,063	22,007	74,335 3 22	223,247 10 4	288,582 14 2	68/-	89/-	1,059,820 16 7	3,246	1,076	683,198	

TABLE showing approximately the number of Miners employed in mining for minerals other than Gold, Coal, or Shale, at some of the principal mines, the quantity of minerals won during the year 1896, and the value of same, and the value of Plant.

Locality.	Miners employed.	Quantities.								Value.	Value of Machinery.
		Silver and Copper Matte and Copper.	Tin.	Anti-mony.	Alumite.	Chrome.	Limestone flux.	Silver.	Silver lead, ores, and concentrates.		
	No.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	oz.	tons.	£	£
Broken Hill and Silverton.	5,400	2,222	...	...	...	...	88,924	19,592,943	18,987 331,412 40,868	2,393,429	920,300
Gundagai	20	1,000		3,000	1,000
Burrage	150	424	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,928	10,000
Mitchell	100	395	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,396	25,000
Deepwater	250	...	300	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,300	2,500
Hillgrove	10	...	...	71	...	...	...	...	...	907	...
Fairfield	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,815	...	370	...
Emmaville	580	...	723	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,402	5,500
Wilson's Downfall	100	...	150	...	...	...	...	...	67	4,650	10,000
Glen Innes	50	...	175	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,425	700
Tingha and Iverell	350	...	500	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,000	750
Captain's Flat	112	205	...	...	...	...	...	69,612	35	18,975	10,750
Cobar	450	2,680	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	107,200	31,388
Mount Hope	60	141	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,660	12,000
Nymagee	135	380	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,948	8,000
Bulladelah	4	...	...	...	1,372	...	...	...	...	4,116	...

TABLE showing approximately the Machinery actually employed in Gold and Tin Mining during 1896.

District and Division.	Quartz.										Alluvial.														
	Steam-engines employed in winding, crushing, &c.		Crushing-machines.	Stamp-heads.	Concentrators.	Whims and pulleys.	Water-wheels.	Pumps.	Huntingdon mills.	Whips.	Frue vanners.	Chilian mills.	Steam-engines employed in winding, pumping, &c.		Water-wheels.	Turbines.	Whims and pulleys.	Whips.	Pumps.	Fodding-machines.	Hydraulic hoses.	Boring-machines.	Shute boxes.	Other machinery.	
	No.	Aggregate horse-power.											No.	Aggregate horse-power.											
ALBERT DISTRICT—																									
Milparinka	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
BATHURST DISTRICT—																									
Burrage	1	20	1	10	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Blayney	2	20	2	...	...	1	4	...	2	...	...	2	14	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bathurst	1	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Newbridge	1	6	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rockley	2	20	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	14	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cowra	1	24	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mitchell	8	50	2	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mount McDonald	1	24	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Oberon	2	27	2	6	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	60
Trunkay	4	60	4	35	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuona	4	36	4	40	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	1	10	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wyagdon	1	8	1	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcoar	2	20	2	30	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orange	8	110	4	...	2	1	4	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Canowindra	3	51	3	...	...	...	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
CLARENCE AND RICHMOND DISTRICT—																									
Dalmorton	5	60	5	18	3	...	3	2	2	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grafton	1	10	2	10	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nana Creek	6	59	6	34	2	...	3	...	3	...	1	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Woolgoolga	1	4	1	...	...	...	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
COBAR DISTRICT—																									
Enabalong	2	28	2	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cobar	5	200	4	75	...	...	4	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mount Hope	4	63	1	20	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gilgunnia	1	20	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mount Drysdale	2	55	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
HUNTER AND MACLEAY DISTRICT—																									
Copeland	1	16	1	10	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dungog	4	20	4	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tarce	...	...	1	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

District and Division.	Quartz.										Alluvial.														
	Steam-engines employed in winding, crushing, &c.		Crushing machines.	Stamp heads.	Concentrators.	Whims and pulleys.	Water-wheels.	Pumps.	Huntington mills.	Whips.	Face vanners.	Chilian mills.	Steam-engines employed in winding, pumping, &c.		Water-wheels.	Turbines.	Whims and pulleys.	Whips.	Pumps.	Puddling-machines.	Hydraulic hoses.	Boring-machines.	Sluice boxes.	Other machinery.	
	No.	Aggregate horse-power.											No.	Aggregate horse-power.											
MUDGE DISTRICT—																									
Gulgong	2	16	2	10									2	27					4	2	1				
Hargraves	3	40	3	22															4						
Peak Hill	8	110	5	60	2														4						
Windeyer	3	25	3	20			2					3							3						
Wellington	8	115	3	30	2			1			10								1						
LACHLAN DISTRICT—																									
Gundagai	5	49	4	25		1							2	9							1				
Wyalong	10	158	15		6	3	6	4	4	3	4														
Reelfon	1	40	1	7																					
Barnedman	2	58	1	15	1		2	1	1	1															
Alectown																									
Grenfell	4	24	2	20	2	1	2	2		1							2	4	3	2					
Cargo	6	110	1	10	1						1														
Young	1	8	1	5									4	32						4					
Fifield																				8					
Parkes	6	70	4	48			2				8														
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT—																									
Emmaville	9	87	1	10																					
Fairfield	5	90	1	31	1	1	3	4	2	4	7								3						
Tenterfield	1	6	1	5			1																		
Deepwater	1	8	1																						
PEEL AND URALLA DISTRICT—																									
Armidale	2	30	2	15			1	2											2						
Stewart's Brook	1	15	1	10			1	3																	
Barraba	3	30	2	15			1	2																	
Hillgrove West	6	170	3	70	4					7															
Hillgrove	18	538	4	120	4	1	6	2	3	15	1				1										
Kookabookra	1	10																	1						
Nundle	2	30	1	15			1	1					1	20					2		1				
Swamp Oak	4	65	4	35			2	2	2																
Walcha	2	20	2	10						3															
Bingara	1	10	1	10			1																		
Uralla													2	25					1						
TRUIT AND ADELONG DISTRICT—																									
Bugendore and Bywong	1	8	1	10				1	2																
Albury	2	25	2	9			1	1																	
Adelong	3	75	1	30	1		2	1	2																
Cooma	1	14	1	8	1				1																
Kiandra	1	12	1	10																					
Junee	2	12	1	5			1	1																	
Germanton	2	16	1	16				1																	
Tumbarumba	1	10	1	8									2	20					2		2				
Reedy Flat														9		2									
Walbundrie	1	10	1	8					2																
Corowa	1	10	1	8																					
Tarcutta	1	8	1						1																
TAMBAROOKA AND TURON DISTRICT—																									
Hill End	11	290	4	45			2	4											2						
Ironbarks	9	84	4	41			2	2					1	40					1						
Sofala	12	116	9	74			1	2											1						
SOUTHERN DISTRICT—																									
Araluen	1	12	1	5	1	1	1	2		1		1	4	39	7				2		4		20		
Little River	1	8	1	4			1						1	40	8				2	1		1	100		
Major's Creek	6	85	3	26	2	2	2		1	2	3			6	2						23				
Moruya	3	10	3	15																					
Bateman's Bay	1	15	1	10																					
Pambula	5	208	4	100	3	1	1	2	3	2	4	4													
Nerriga	1	8	1	5			1						1	40					2	1		1			
Braidwood																									
Nelligon	4	35	4	23			2	1					2	18	1				2	1					
Burrowa	1	20	1	6					1											1					
Wagonga	3	63	5	22	2	1	2	1	1	1	3														
Totals	262	4,107	196	1,462	41	12	7	87	42	68	67	26	32	409	67	1	3	56	28	52	10	2	180	1	

The value of mining plant and machinery in and about the mines of New South Wales at the 31st December, 1896, is estimated as under:—

Metalliferous mines	£1,708,098
Coal and shale mines	£1,126,855

£2,834,953

The value of railway lines to the collieries, or plant in connection with oil refineries at the shale mines, is not included in the above estimate.

THE following recapitulation for the years 1895-6 will show the largely increased amount of business transacted by the Department in the latter year.

Particulars	1895.	1896.	Increase.	Decrease.	Percentages.	
					Increase.	Decrease.
Gold leases on Crown lands applied for	1,246	1,931	685	.....	54.97	.....
" " dealt with	779	1,052	1,173	.....	150.57	.....
Mineral leases on " applied for	183	518	335	.....	183.06	.....
" " dealt with	127	477	350	.....	275.59	.....
Leases on private lands applied for	343	490	147	.....	42.85	.....
" " dealt with	71	507	436	.....	614.08	.....
27th and 28th sections applications applied for	270	246	.....	24	.....	8.88
" " dealt with	182	302	120	.....	65.92	.....
Area held under lease at end of December	62,392a.	80,205a.	17,813a.	.....	28.54	.....
Number of gold leases cancelled	613	269	.....	344	.....	56.01
" mineral leases cancelled	168	81	.....	87	.....	51.78
" mining surveys made	1,163	2,225	1,062	.....	91.31	.....
Gold and mineral leases dealt with by the Charting Branch.....	855	2,201	1,406	.....	164.44	.....
Number of miner's rights issued	26,925	27,278	353	.....	1.31	.....
" business licenses	3,604	2,285	.....	1,319	.....	36.59
" mineral licenses	1,334	1,298	.....	36	.....	2.69
" samples received for assay and analysis	4,826	6,013	1,187	.....	24.59	.....
" applications dealt with by Prospecting Board	1,843	1,901	58	.....	3.14	.....

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Department of Mines and Agriculture,
4 April, 1897.

CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MINES AND SUPERINTENDENT OF DIAMOND DRILLS' REPORT.

Chief Inspector of Mines and Diamond Drill Branch,

Sir,

Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 26 January, 1897.

In submitting my annual report for the year 1896, I have the honor to inform you that the following is a list of accidents reported to me by Wardens, Coroners, Inspectors of Mines, and Mining Registrars, as having occurred in the Metalliferous Mines in New South Wales during 1896.

Table A.—Showing fatal, serious, and minor accidents, which may be cited as true mining accidents, being exclusive of the accidents which occurred on the surface.

Table B.—Showing fatal, serious, and minor accidents, which occurred on the surface; therefore not true mining accidents.

Table C.—Number of persons who suffered through lead-poisoning in connection with the Broken Hill Mines, as given by monthly reports by the Managers of the Broken Hill Mines for 1895-96.

Table D.—Number of persons employed in the Metalliferous Mines of New South Wales; also percentage of persons killed or injured; also value of machinery up to 31st December, 1896.

Out of the total of 35 persons killed, 12 lost their lives in silver-mining, 14 in auriferous quartz, 8 in auriferous alluvial, 1 in copper. This is inclusive of the accidents which occurred on the surface, as noted in Table B.

It will be seen by the above Tables that in the Broken Hill Mines there were nine (9) fatal accidents less in 1896, and eight (8) fatal accidents more in the other mining districts than in the previous year; or one fatal accident less in all the Metalliferous Mining Districts of New South Wales than in 1895.

There were four more serious accidents in the Broken Hill mines during 1896 than the previous year, but a total of five (5) accidents less than in 1895.

The fatal accidents during the year with verdicts of coroners' juries or magisterial inquiries are as follows:—

January 24th, W. K. Manego, Green's Mine, Big Hill, working party of miners. Fell off ladder owing to bad air, while making repairs to ventilate. Verdict: Accidental death, caused by foul air.

January 24th, P. B. Kane, Native Courage Mine, Wyalong. Was being hauled up shaft in bucket, lost hold of rope and fell to bottom; supposed to have been overcome by excessive heat. Verdict: Lost his hold of rope, but how he lost it there is no evidence to show.

February 7th, W. Johnson, D'Arcy Estate, Lucknow. Fell off bucket down shaft. Known to have been subject to fits, and complained of feeling unwell. Verdict: Accidental death; no one to blame.

February 14th, John Maher, Oakey Creek, Hill End. Killed by fall of earth which he had undermined. Verdict: Accidental; no one to blame.

February 14th, T. I. A. Clark, Great Britain Mine, Tilbuster, Armidale district. Killed by bucket running down shaft; engine-driver lost control of engine. Verdict: Accidental death; no one to blame.

February 28th, J. Gordon, Big Badja Sluicing, Cooma. Buried by fall of earth in a sluicing claim. Verdict: Accidental death; no blame attached to any one.

March 21st, R. Mitchell and A. Dunford, Occidental Mine, Cobar. Charging a hole with powder while it was still hot from "bulking," the charge exploded. Verdict: Accidental death.

April 15th, J. H. Nicholls, Nymagee Copper Mine. Fell down a winze. No evidence to show how it occurred. Verdict: Accidental death; no one to blame.

August 12th, R. Flynn, Princess Mine, Wyalong. Was prising out a block of ground preparing for timber when ground fell on him. Verdict: Accidental death; no blame attachable to any one.

August 14th, J. Tickle, Congi, Bendemeer. Working alone in sluicing claim. Killed by fall of earth. Verdict: Accidentally killed in his claim by fall of earth.

September 8th, F. R. Williams, Native Dog, Hope's Creek, Rockley. Killed by fall of earth when working alone in his own claim. Magisterial inquiry. Verdict: Accidentally killed while working alone.

October 10th, Hugh Connors, Fifteen-mile, Kiandra. Working alone when his dam used for sluicing burst and drowned him. Magisterial inquiry. Accidentally killed by being overwhelmed with water while working in his own claim.

October 31st, S. Unwin and J. Butler, Prince of Wales Mine, Wyalong. Started drilling in the socket of an old hole, which had been fired two shifts back; supposed some unexploded dynamite remained in the hole. Verdict: Accidental, while drilling in an old hole; no negligence.

November 19th, John Dore, Gibraltar Consolidated, Sheppardtown, near Adelong. Fall down winze; no evidence to show cause of falling. Verdict: Died from falling down winze; no evidence to show how he fell.

November

November 23rd, W. H. Naylor, Prince of Wales, Wyalong. Man coming up shaft in bucket with drills, one of the drills fell out, fell on Naylor, who was working on the bottom of the shaft, and killed him. Verdict: Died from injuries caused by a drill falling down shaft; added a rider *re* General Rule 12.

November 24th, John Tobin, House's Claim, Enmore, Uralla District. Fell off a ladder down shaft. Verdict: Accidental.

December 2nd, S. Webb and J. Wilson, Powell's Claim, Gundagai. Working party, alluvial claim; killed by fall of earth. Verdict: Accidental death; no one to blame.

December 5th, Alfred Nicholls, Star Gully, Grenfell. Fossicking near old ground with two mates; fall of earth. Verdict: Accidental death; no blame attached to anyone.

December 12th, A. E. Gaffin, Solferino. Killed by the fall of a stump of tree under which he was tunnelling. Magisterial inquiry: Accidental death.

December 19th, S. Quetti, Democrat Mine, Cowra Creek, Cooma District. Killed by fall of earth in drive. Verdict: Accidental death.

Broken Hill District.

February 24th, Fred. Rohu, Broken Hill Proprietary. Was assisting to pull a truck out of Drew's ore bin, and fell into the tip hole, which is only 28 x 17 inches in size. Verdict: Accidental; no blame attached to anyone.

February 24th, Thomas Halls, Block 10, Broken Hill. Ascending the shaft with his mate in a cage; he stooped down to adjust some tools in the bottom of the cage and fell out. Verdict: Accidental; no blame attached to anyone.

June 12th, W. D. Reed, Broken Hill Proprietary. Jumped off a railway truck at the Chloridising Works, as he was afraid that the hot ore would fall on him; he fell under the wheels. Evidence showed no danger of ore falling. Verdict: Accidental death; no blame attached to anyone.

June 30th, Phillip Eddy, May Bell Mine, Broken Hill. Was climbing up on a rope in an old shaft which he had been examining, and for some reason fell off. There was no work being done at the mine. Verdict: Met his death accidentally by falling down a shaft at May Bell.

July 6th, M. J. Purcell, Broken Hill Proprietary. Fell off the brace of Dickenson's shaft owing to a defective temporary hand-rail, which he had altered and fixed himself. Verdict: Met his death by accident.

July 22nd, S. T. Vivian, South Broken Hill Mine. Fell into pass at South Mine. Evidence showed that everything about the place was in good order. Verdict: Died from injuries received by falling into shoot; no evidence to show by what means he fell.

July 25th, J. J. Pearce, Proprietary, Broken Hill. Fall of ground in stope; men were experienced miners, and believed the ground to be safe. Verdict: Accidental death; no blame attachable to anyone.

August 8th, Otto von der Rodda, Consols, Broken Hill. Truck running away on incline through hook becoming disconnected; the hook was a safety one, and the supposition is that it was not properly adjusted. Verdict: Accidental death; jury of opinion that hook was not properly fastened in first case.

August 29th, D. G. Pendrith, Broken Hill Central. Employed to water and sweep stopes; and went into a disused drive, when ground fell on him. He was not a miner, and evidently did not understand that there was any risk. Verdict: Accidental death; no blame attachable to any one.

November 26th, George White and E. H. Barnes, British Mine, Broken Hill. Drilling in the socket of an old hole, where probably owing to insufficient strength of detonator some unexploded explosives remained. They had drilled the former hole (in the socket of which some explosives had remained) themselves. Verdict: Accidental death; no blame attachable to any one.

December 16th, Levi Worsley, British Mine, Broken Hill. Fall of ore in stope. Verdict: Met his death accidentally by fall of ore.

I have given the cause, and juries verdicts, of the fatal accidents which have occurred in the Metalliferous Mines of New South Wales during the year 1896 with a view to give the public a correct idea how these accidents really occur; and by the perusal of the above no other reasonable conclusion can be arrived at than that, in a large majority of cases, the accidents could only have been prevented by the unfortunate persons who lost their lives, and the same conclusion can only be come to as regards the serious accidents throughout the Colony. See table noted above.

During the year I have made visits of inspection and dealt with various official matters in my capacity as Chief Inspector of Mines, Superintendent of Diamond Drills, Mining Warden, &c., &c., in the southern, northern, and western districts, including Broken Hill, which necessitated my travelling by railway 8,596 miles, and other conveyances 2,136 miles, or a total of 10,732 miles.

The Inspectors of Mines and clerks in my branch have given me considerable assistance in the multifarious duties of my office whenever it has been possible for them to do so. They have taken considerable pride in their work, and, notwithstanding some of the unpleasant work an Inspector of Mines has often to do in performing his duty without fear or favour, they have, one and all, given general satisfaction; and although the clerical work is steadily increasing, it has been kept well in hand, and the clerks have done their duties faithfully and well.

Papers registered in my Branch during the year 1896:—

Chief Inspector of Mines.....	2,447
Diamond drills	1,277
Total.....	3,724

The

The above registration is exclusive of papers received from the Record Branch of the Department, to be dealt with by the Chief Inspector of Mines on various matters connected with the Department, and which papers have to be noted in the books, on receipt and return, to prevent miscarriage; the number for the year being 4,189.

Letters written :—

Chief Inspector of Mines	1,322
Diamond drills	576
Total.....	1,898

The above letters written are exclusive of telegrams and circulars, which total 700.

The Inspectors of Mines' reports are attached herewith.

Diamond drill work for the year has been confined to Captain's Flat, the Forest Reef district, and Funafuti Island.

At Captain's Flat two bores were put down. No. 1 bore was continued from the 299 feet to the 546 feet level, and No. 2 bore to 646 feet, making a total of 893 feet. In the first bore a lode of sulphide ores was passed through; but boring operations were discontinued by the company before the lode was reached in the second bore.

At the Forest Reef district six different bores were put through the basalt, prospecting for a payable alluvial lead in that extensive tract of country stretching from the lost extended lead towards Lucknow and on to the Connobles. The first bore reached the depth of 161 feet; No. 2 bore, 218 feet 9 inches; No. 3 bore, 237 feet 5 inches; No. 4 bore, 213 feet 6 inches; No. 5 bore, 216 feet; and No. 6 bore, 202 feet 6 inches; making a total of 1,250 feet. No. 5 bore is supposed to be on the siding of the lead, as a thickness of 4 inches of wash was brought to the surface in the shape of a core, yielding prospects of gold considered payable. The diamond drill has now been removed about 340 yards north-east of No. 5 bore. Should payable gold be struck in No. 7 bore, then the boring operations may be discontinued in the neighbourhood.

The use of a diamond drill was also allowed to the Royal Society of London (but under my supervision) to gain more authentic scientific information in connection with the coral beds; for which purpose the British Government allotted the man-of-war ship "Penguin" to ship the whole diamond drill plant, the men engaged to work said drill, and members of the expedition from Sydney to Funafuti, one of the Ellice Group of islands, and return the same.

The first bore was put down to the depth of 105 feet, of which 12 feet was coral. The remainder had to be driven through sand and loose pieces of coral, making it very difficult for tubing to be driven down.

No. 2 bore, 12 feet, and No. 3 bore, 72 feet in depth, 12 feet of coral core obtained.

The time allowed to do the work was too short, and the time for preparation from the arrival of Professor Sollas, the London Royal Society's representative, and departure of the man-of-war ship, was totally inadequate; hence before the arrival of a consignment of material and appliances to overcome the drift-sand difficulty, the man-of-war ship, with drill, plant, and members of the expedition, were on their return trip. Therefore, the appliances forwarded were returned without being used.

I am in great hopes that the Australian scientific societies will not let this interesting and important matter drop, but follow up the subject determinedly and bring it to a successful issue. The last expedition, although not fully successful, has certainly proved more than was ever known before, and has gathered information which will certainly be a great guide for further operations. The knowledge gained by a further expedition and boring operations through the coral beds would be of great interest, also beneficial to the whole scientific world. Surely the small difficulties which have been encountered, and the comparatively small expenditure which has been made, will not deter the Australian scientific societies to try again, and if successful, then the Royal Society of London should be supplied with all the information gained and half of the core obtained—in fact the same condition as the said society would have given had they been more successful.

A diamond drill bore was also started a few days before the end of the year at Grassy Gully, about 18 miles from Nowra and 4 miles from Burrier, up the Shoalhaven River, to bore horizontally through a hill of felsite formation for auriferous quartz veins.

Herewith I also attach my reports (eleven in number) for various districts and on various matters. Also, the Inspectors of Mines' reports as appendices to my Annual Report, and diagram sections of bores, during the year 1896.

I may also note that 656 fossickers going to the gold-fields received letters from me for railway passes for the year 1896.

I have, &c.,

W. H. J. SLEE, F.G.S.,

Chief Inspector of Mines and Superintendent of Diamond Drills.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

TABLE A.

Showing Fatal, Serious, and Minor Accidents during 1896, as True Mining Accidents.

No.	Date.	Name of Mine.	Locality.	Person Killed.	Person seriously Injured.	Minor Accidents	Occupation.	Nature and Cause of Injury or Death.
1	9 Jan.	Reilly's Mine	Gilgannia		John Osmatho		Miner	Fell off ladder owing to foul air—general injuries
2	24 "	George Green's Mine	Big Hill	Wm. K. Manego			"	"
3	24 "	Native Courage	Wyalong West	Pat. B. Kane			"	"
4	3 Feb.	Sunny Corner	Sunny Corner			Wm. Rickard	"	Fell down shaft.
5	6 "	Proprietary Mine	Broken Hill		James Jones		"	Fall of ground, open cut—leg cut.
6	7 "	D'Arcy Estate	Lucknow	W. Johnson			"	Fall of bucket down shaft.
7	9 "	Spring Flat	Gundagai			J. Crowley	Fossicker	Fall of earth—bruised.
8	14 "	Oakey Creek	Hill End	John Maher			"	Neck broken by fall of alluvial earth.
9	14 "	Great Britain Mine	Tilbustler	T. J. A. Clark			Miner	Struck by falling bucket in shaft.
10	19 "	Central Mine	Broken Hill			Henry Bode	"	Fell into shoot—cut head.
11	25 "	Block 10 Mine	"	Thos. Halls			"	Fell out of cage.
12	28 "	Big Badja Sluicing	Cooma	Jas. Gordon			"	Buried by fall of earth.
13	2 Mar.	Central Mine	Broken Hill		F. Schelmkopf		"	Fell into ore shoot—injured hip.
14	5 "	Great Cobar Company	Cobar			F. Critcher	"	Stone rolled on finger, breaking it.
15	6 "	Mount Gahan	Pambula			Jas. Murphy	"	Premature explosion—cuts.
16	7 "	Proprietary Mine	Broken Hill			John Mathers	"	Fell through floor of stope—bruises.
17	10 "					Thos. Croxton	Trucker	Running chute—stone fell on foot.
18	10 "	Portion 15, Parish Yowaka	Pambula			Edward Leonard	Miner	Fall of ground while retimbering—leg broken.
19	20 "	Dushman's Hill G. M. Co.	Parkes			R. Hudson	"	Recharging warm hole which exploded
20	20 "					R. Wells	"	"
21	21 "	Occidental Mine	Cobar	Robert Mitchell			"	Explosion of shot while tamping.
22	21 "			Alfred Dunford			"	"
23	31 "	Proprietary Mine	Broken Hill		Fred. Rolfe		"	Barring down rock, which fell and broke his leg.
24	6 April	Nymagee Copper Mine	Nymagee			J. Copeland	"	Returned to missed hole—explosion—cuts.
25	11 "	Proprietary Mine	Broken Hill			John Hendry	"	Rock fell and displaced floor of stope—fall and bruised.
26	15 "	Nymagee Copper Mine	Nymagee	John H. Nicholls			"	Fell down shaft—injured, and died later.
27	16 "	Block 14	Broken Hill		James Wyatt		"	Fall of ground—scalp wounds and fractured knee.
28	17 "	Yamble	Gulgong		Chas. Laut		"	Fall of ground in drive—crushed.
29	18 "	Proprietary Mine	Broken Hill		James Baker		"	Clearing partly charged hole with scraper—explosion.
30	18 "					Wm. Thompson	"	"
31	18 "					Wm. Roach	Trucker	Clearing "out pass—stone" fell—scalp wounds.
32	30 "	Central Mine	"		Wm. Norris		Miner	Explosion of shot—loss of an eye.
33	5 May	Proprietary Mine	"			J. O'Loughlin	"	Fall of ground in stope—bruises and cuts.
34	23 "	Great Cobark Mine	Cobark		George Watson		"	Explosion when returning to missed hole—cuts on arms and head.
35	23 "				John Cochran		"	"
36	25 "	Tarrawongee Flux	Tarrawongee		John Holmes		Quarryman	Explosion of shot—returned too soon—thigh fractured.
37	9 June	Proprietary Mine	Broken Hill		John McLennan		Miner	Fall of ground—leg fractured below knee.
38	15 "	Great Britain Mine	Tilbustler			—Cummins	"	Fall of ground—loss of little finger.
39	19 "	Proprietary Mine	Broken Hill		George Skillbock		Trucker	Horse bolted with truck and knocked him down—broken leg.
40	25 "	Junction Point	Tuena		Jas. Miller		Fossicker	Fall of ground in old workings—internal.
41	30 "	May Bell	Broken Hill	Philip Eddy			Miner	Climbing down shaft on rope and fell off.
42	1 July	Birthday Syndicate	Yalgogrin			W. Stoppelbein	"	Windlass rope broke, fell down shaft—ankle hurt.
43	11 "	Block 7	White Cliffs		Jas. A. Orth		"	Windlass stand broke and bucket fell on head.
44	11 "	Williwa Creek	Capertee		—Lancaster		Fossicker	Fall of ground—leg broken.
45	14 "	Mount Gahan	Pambula			Chas. Lake	Miner	Explosion while breaking rock with a plug of dynamite in it.
46	14 "					Chs. Richardson	"	"
47	21 "	Cobar Mining Co.	Cobar			John Titus	"	Slab fell down shaft inflicting flesh wounds.
48	22 "	South Broken Hill	Broken Hill	Samp. T. Vivian			"	Fell into ore chute—neck broken.
49	23 "	J. B. J. Mine	Yalgogrin		Wm. Slade		"	Explosion of dynamite—loss of eye.
50	23 "					Thos. Manners	"	cuts and bruises.
51	25 "	Proprietary Mine	Broken Hill	John Pearce			"	Fall of ground in stope—general injuries.
52	27 "	Junction Mine	"			John Matters	Flatman	Fall of stone down shaft—puncturing arm.
53	5 Aug.	Consols Mine	"	Otto von der Rothe			Miner	Truck run away with him and killed him.
54	8 "	Hong Kong G. M. Co.	Mt. McDonald		Jappa Matheson		"	Stone fell down shaft injuring eye.
55	8 "	Great Cobar G. M. Co.	Cobar		Jno. Weingartner		"	Fall into pass—broken leg.
56	12 "	Princess Mine	Wyalong	Richard Flynn			"	Fall of earth—crushed.
57	14 "	Shilong Claim, Cougi	Bendemeer	James Tickle			Fossicker	Fall of earth.
58	28 "	Hill End United	Hill End			John Gayner	Miner	—bruises.
59	29 "	Central Mine	Broken Hill	Drd. G. Pendrith			"	in old workings.
60	2 Sept.					E. V. Morrow	"	Tipping ore into chute, and fell in himself.
61	8 "	Native Dog, Hope's Creek	Rockley	I. R. Williams			Fossicker	Fall of ground in sluicing claim.
62	24 "	Proprietary Mine	Broken Hill			John Ryan	Trucker	Knocked down by truck.
63	30 Oct.	Fifteen-mile Creek	Kinnabra	Hugh Connors			Fossicker	Drowned in tail race by dam bursting.
64	19 "	Central Mine	Broken Hill			Jas. Somerville	Miner	Stripping shaft and stage collapsed—shock.
65	20 "	Trunkey G. M. Co.	Trunkey Creek			Ed. Deacon	"	Fall of sapling down shaft—skull cut.
66	24 "	South Mine	Broken Hill			John Tonkin	"	Piece of stone fell from stope—scalp wound.
67	28 "	Proprietary Mine	"		Alf. Griffiths		"	Fall of rock down winze—crushed foot.
68	31 "	Prince of Wales	Wyalong	Saml. Unwin			"	Boring in old socket, which exploded.
69	31 "			James Butler			"	"
70	4 Nov.	British Mine	Broken Hill		Wm. Bray		"	Timber fell on him, breaking his thigh.
71	10 "	Black Cocu	Yalgogrin		Jas. Petel		"	Scraper fell down shaft, puncturing back.
72	12 "	Occidental Mine	Cobar			John Reece	Quarryman	Fall of earth.
73	19 "	Gibraltar Consolidated	Shepardtown	John Dore			Miner	Fell down winze—fractured skull.
74	23 "	Prince of Wales	Wyalong	W. H. Naylor			"	Drill fell down shaft—punctured back.
75	34 "	House's Claim	Enmore	John Tobin			"	Fell off ladder down shaft.
76	37 "	British Mine	Broken Hill	G. White			"	Explosion when drilling old hole.
77	27 "			Ed. Barnes			"	"
78	2 Dec.	Powell's Claim	Gundagai	Stephen Webb			"	Fall of ground—buried.
79	2 "			George Wilson			"	"
80	4 "	Proprietary Mine	Broken Hill			Thos. Hebron	"	Premature explosion—bruised.
81	5 "	Star Gully	Grenfell	Alf. Nicholls			"	Fall of ground.
82	8 "	British Mine	Broken Hill		Anthony Blozza		"	"
83	12 "		Solferino	Ernest A. Gaffin			Fossicker	Fall of stump of tree into tunnel.
84	14 "	Newbridge G. M. Co.	Newbridge		Thos. Wright		Miner	Fall of quartz—internal injuries.
85	14 "	Proprietary Mine	Broken Hill		Edwin Prior		"	Fall of ore in stope—broken ribs.
86	16 "	British Mine	"	Levi Worsley			"	Fall of ore in stope.
87	19 "	Democrat Mine	Cowra Creek	Stephen Quetti			"	Fall of rock.
88	22 "	Great Cobar Co.	Cobar			—Gibson	"	Fall of ore in chute when casing it.
89	22 "	Eleanora	Hillgrove			Josh. Chad	"	Returned to missed hole, which exploded

ABSTRACT.

Fatal—14 quartz, 8 gold alluvial, 9 silver, 1 copper. Serious—0 quartz, 2 gold alluvial, 12 silver, 1 copper, 1 limestone, 1 opal. Minor—12 quartz, 1 gold alluvial, 13 silver, 5 copper

TABLE B.

SHOWING Fatal, Serious, and Minor Accidents on Surface as distinguished from true Mining Accidents, during 1896.
Surface Accidents, 1896.

No.	Date.	Name of Mine.	Locality.	Person killed.	Person seriously injured.	Minor Accidents.	Occupation.	Nature and cause of injury or death.
1	3 Feb.	Lake George Copper Mine.	Captain's Flat.	.....	.....	M. J. Currie	Slag-wheeler	Slag spilt into water, exploded, and cut his face.
2	10 "	Proprietary Mine ..	Broken Hill	.....	.....	J. Triplett	Furnace-hand	Hit by his mate with hammer when repairing furnace.
3	13 "	Block 14 ..	"	.....	.....	Jas. Eastwood.	Trucker	While trucking tallings slipped and cut his head.
4	14 "	Proprietary Mine ..	"	.....	.....	Wm. Killaway	Surface-hand	Hand cut by circular saw.
5	23 "	Sunlight Mine ..	Hilgrove	.....	A. Cavanagh	.....	Trucker	Pulled tip truck on to leg—breaking it.
6	24 "	Proprietary Mine ..	Broken Hill	Fred Rohu	.....	.....	Platman	Fell into Drew's ore bins on surface.
7	5 Mar.	Great Cobar Co.	Cobar	.....	.....	B. Meterunc	Braceman	Toe broken by rock rolling off heap on to him
8	6 "	Proprietary Mine ..	Broken Hill	.....	.....	Thos. Marc	Quarry man	Stone rolled down batter on to his leg.
9	15 "	"	"	.....	Thos. Farley	.....	Shunter	Fell from viaduct near Wigg's shaft.
10	31 "	Block 10 ..	"	.....	.....	Chas. Berridge	Engineer	While cleaning disc of engine fingers torn off.
11	2 April	Great Cobar Copper Co.	Cobar	.....	.....	Thos. Neims	Trucker	Part of thumb cut off when spragging wheel.
12	9 "	Proprietary Mine ..	Broken Hill	.....	.....	Mich. Torpy	.....	Run into by truck at Leaching works.
13	10 "	"	"	.....	.....	W. J. Clark	Surface-hand	Fell off ladder while cleaning vats.
14	22 "	British Mine ..	"	.....	W. Elbe	.....	Electrician	Repairing wires on pole, which fell.
15	4 May	Yamble	Gulgong	.....	Rch. Strike	.....	Possicker	Removing logs from shaft, and they fell on him.
16	20 "	Proprietary Mine ..	Broken Hill	.....	.....	John Temby	Quarryman	Thrown off mullock waggon.
17	10 June	"	"	.....	.....	Jas. McGowan	Trucker	Fall of stone in open cut, while having crib.
18	12 "	"	"	Walter D. Reed	.....	.....	Shunter	Braking truck on railway, slipped, and run over.
19	4 July	Block 10 ..	"	.....	.....	Geo. Elvidge	Engineer	Adjusting Vanner belt—arm caught.
20	5 "	Proprietary	"	.....	Alf Roddey	.....	Furnace-hand	Slipped, and slag spilt over him—burns.
21	6 "	"	"	Mich. J. Purcell	.....	.....	Braceman	Fell off brace of shaft owing to rail being loose.
22	13 "	British Mine ..	"	.....	R. Boldwell	.....	Shunter	Trapped, and knocked down by truck.
23	14 "	Proprietary Mine ..	"	.....	.....	Geo. Gentle	Carter	Loading dray, stone fell and broke collar bone.
24	27 "	"	"	.....	.....	Thos. Conroy	Shunter	Braking truck—foot jambed.
25	28 "	"	"	.....	Pat. Hogan	.....	Quarryman	Filling skip, when stone rolled on him.
26	1 Aug.	"	"	.....	Wm Smith	.....	Trucker	Injured by collision of trucks.
27	2 "	Good-ya Creek	Yass	.....	Ed. Mulligan	.....	Miner	Explosion of powder when pointing picks.
28	21 "	"	"	.....	.....	Peter Knox	"	Explosion of powder when pointing picks.
29	24 "	Proprietary Mine ..	Broken Hill	.....	.....	Herman Bahm	Shunter	Jambed his thigh on truck.
30	29 "	"	"	.....	.....	Alf. Mayer	Pitfer	Fitting brasses to engine—wheel crushed him.
31	2 Nov.	Junction Mine ..	"	.....	A. P. Quick	.....	Surface-hand	Shifting machinery, and was jambed—leg broken.
32	2 "	"	"	.....	.....	Percy Phillips	"	Shifting machinery, and was jambed—small bone of arm broken.
33	2 "	Proprietary Mine ..	"	.....	.....	C. A. Walton	Trucker	Loading trucks and stone rolled on thumb.
34	10 "	Block 10 ..	"	.....	Charles Leslie	.....	Shunter	Jambed between trucks—broken pelvis.

ABSTRACT.

Fatal, 3 silver; serious, 2 quartz, 1 gold alluvial, 7 silver; minor, 1 quartz, 17 silver, 3 copper.

TABLE C.

Lead-poisoning Returns for 1895 from Broken Hill.

Name of Mine.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Central Mine	18	2	6	10	3	...	1	...	40
Proprietary Mine	2	10	3	...	3	6	5	...	29
Broken Hill South	9	1	...	...	2	3	...	...	15
Block 14	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	4
Block 10	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
A.B.H. Consols
Junction North
Junction South
British Broken Hill
Broken Hill North
Total	32	14	9	10	9	9	6	...	89

Total number of cases, 89; total number of men, 4,297; percentage of cases, 2.07.

Lead-poisoning Returns for 1896 from Broken Hill.

Name of Mine.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Broken Hill Proprietary	7	4	1	3	...	...	2	...	...	3	1	...	21
Broken Hill South	1	6	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	12
Broken Hill North	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	4
British Broken Hill .....	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sulphide Co.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
Block 14	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Block 10	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
A.B.H. Consols .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
B.H. Junction South .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
B.H. Junction North .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Silver Hill Junction S.M. ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	12	10	2	5	1	1	2	1	1	3	6	...	44

Total number of cases, 44; total number of men, 5,400; percentage of cases, .81.

TABLE D.

NUMBER of Men employed in the Metalliferous Mines of New South Wales, and value of Machinery, at 31st December, 1896; also percentage of persons killed and injured.

Mining Districts.	Alluvial Gold.		Quartz Gold.	Silver.	Copper.	Tin.		Other.	Total.	Value of Machinery.	
	Euro-pean.	Chinese.				Euro-pean.	Chinese.			£	s. d.
Albert	320	16	84	5,400	.....	.....	.....	280	6,100	931,300	0 0
Bathurst	1,768	69	1,562	84	98	2	.....	.....	3,601	153,840	0 0
Clarence and Richmond	235	.....	557	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	806	19,300	0 0
Cobar .....	.....	.....	582	545	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,127	76,700	0 0
Hunter and Macleay	50	.....	177	4	.....	8	.....	30	269	8,500	0 0
Lachlan	1,394	.....	4,346	.....	.....	3	.....	70	5,813	149,122	0 0
Mudgee	1,523	100	769	.....	.....	.....	.....	25	2,417	66,500	0 0
New England	266	100	169	10	.....	562	351	11	1,467	15,600	0 0
Peel and Uralla	654	32	1,368	.....	20	348	140	55	2,617	92,550	0 0
Tamboora and Turon	817	120	722	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	1,663	23,600	0 0
Tamut and Adelong	1,160	62	876	6	132	5	.....	12	2,243	83,800	0 0
Southern	1,223	221	859	37	15	.....	.....	.....	2,355	87,280	0 0
Total	9,428	710	12,069	5,555	810	928	491	487	30,478	1,708,098	0 0
Persons killed per 1,000 persons employed.	.....	·848	1·16	2·16	1·23	.....	.....	.....	1·148	.....	.....
Persons injured per 1,000 persons employed.	.....	·318	·911	3·42	1·23	.....	.....	4·10	1·181	.....	.....

Report of W. H. J. Sloc, Esq., J.P., F.G.S., &c., Chief Inspector of Mines, on the Broken Hill Mines.

Chief Inspector of Mines' Office, Department of Mines and Agriculture,

Sydney, 21 November, 1896.

Sir,

I do myself the honor to inform you that during my inspection of the Broken Hill Mines, in the beginning of this month, I found that great improvements had taken place in the safety, ventilation, treatment of ores, observance of lead-poisoning regulations, and other matters since the date of my last inspection.

The large bodies of sulphide ores along the whole line of the principal Broken Hill mines is such that it will take many years with present and still further improved treatment to work them out. A system of working which has always been adopted in Block 14 Mine, that is, filling in solidly between the square set timbering, is now adopted as part and parcel of the system for working the principal Broken Hill mines; hence the creeps which formerly gave so much anxiety and trouble are greatly checked, and the dangers occurring through creeps are minimised accordingly.

The Lead-Poisoning Act Regulations have been gradually but surely enforced, the effects of which I intend to show in a table to be attached to my Annual Report for 1896, where the comparison of the two years during which the Act has been in force will be clearly shown.

The following was the state of affairs at the time of my last inspection, as verified by Mr. Inspector Hebbard's Report:—

Broken Hill North Mine.

Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4 are fulfilled. No special provision has so far been made to carry out clause 5, as the ore is not of a dusty character.

Clause 6.—Bathroom, containing both plunge and shower baths, is provided, and there is also provision for separate washing apart from bathing. Clause 7 is not much observed. There are no smelting furnaces on the mine.

Broken Hill Junction North.

Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4 are fulfilled; no special provision is made for the carrying out of clause 5, the ore not being of a dusty character. Clause 6. Plunge and shower baths are provided, and workmen's clothes are dried on top of the boiler. Clause 7 is not thoroughly observed, but the majority of miners change their clothes.

Broken Hill Junction.

Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4 are fulfilled. No special provisions are made to carry clause 5 into effect, the ore not being of a dusty character. Clause 6. Bath-room is provided containing both plunge and shower baths; also a changing room; the men dry their clothes on top of boiler. Extra room and provisions have been provided owing to larger numbers of persons being employed.

British Mine.

Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4 are observed. Under clause 5, water-pipes for sprinkling water are laid throughout the mine where necessary. Under clause 6, bath and changing rooms are provided, but are only partially availed of. No furnaces are in blast.

Block 14 Mine.

Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4 are fulfilled. Under clause 5, water for sprinkling floors, &c., is provided when needful. Clause 6. Bath and changing rooms are provided; the latter is fitted with steam-pipes for drying clothes. Clause 7. Although perhaps not thoroughly observed, but it is intended to be done at an early date. There are no furnaces in blast at the mine.

Broken Hill Proprietary.

Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4 are fulfilled. Clause 5. Water-pipes have been laid throughout the mine for sprinkling water when necessary. Clause 6. Bath and changing rooms are provided on each section of the mine, and also in such places as the chlorodising works, &c., &c. Clause 7 is only partially observed owing to the workmen frequently neglecting to change their clothing; the rest of the regulations are observed as near as circumstances will at present allow.

Central Mine (Sulphide Corporation Ashcroft's Process, Limited).

All the provisions of the Act, as far as they apply to the mine, are fulfilled.

Block 10.

Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4 are fulfilled. Clause 5. The ore is not of a dusty character. The rest of the clauses are fulfilled as far as circumstances will allow.

Broken Hill South Mine.

Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4 are fulfilled. Clause 5. The ore is not of a dusty character. Clauses 7 and 8 are observed in a satisfactory manner and the rest of clauses as far as circumstances require and will allow.

As stated in the beginning of this report the ventilation in all the Broken Hill mines is better than it has been for years past. The hot stopes which gave so much trouble, especially in the Central Mine and the Broken Hill South Mine, have disappeared, and purer air now prevails throughout the stopes. Improvements for the safety of persons employed in the Broken Hill mines is the order of the day; and I have great hopes that during next year the mining accidents which may occur will be considerably below the average of these last two years.

From the general managers to the shift bosses, who have reputations to lose, the general desire is to, as far as possible, prevent accidents, because an accident occurring in any mine means extra expense, trouble, and annoyance, not only to the manager, but to the company he represents. Considering the magnitude, deep and extensive mining operations, carried on at Broken Hill, and the large number of persons employed (a considerable percentage of which perhaps never saw a mine or were in a mine until the day they were engaged at Broken Hill), the percentage of accidents are such as favourably compare with any similar mining operations or conditions in any part of the globe.

Owing to the variety of concentrating plants and the various treatments adopted for any peculiar class of ore, the sulphide problem is becoming gradually unravelled, because ores which some two or three years ago were considered almost worthless are now yielding payable returns. Tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, pounds sterling have already been spent on the sulphide treatment question, and there still remains a great deal to be learnt; nevertheless signs of the times are not wanting that in the near future the treatment of the sulphide ores will be so far advanced as to leave the loss of valuable minerals to a mere minimum.

This year's output, and the more successful treatment of the sulphides, has given fresh life to the Broken Hill district; a larger number of persons have found employment, and more confidence has been established in the permanency of the Broken Hill mines.

Having already reported on various questions and considerations in connection with the Broken Hill mining district in separate reports, I need not refer to them in this report.

I have, &c.,

W. H. J. SLEE,

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Chief Inspector of Mines.

Report on the Stringy Bark or Cobbara Rush, by W. H. J. Slec, Esq., J.P., F.G.S., &c., Chief Inspector of Mines, &c.

Sir,

Gulgong, 28 January, 1896.

I do myself the honor to inform you that I have inspected the locality known as the Stringy Bark or Cobbara Rush, which is situated about 22 miles from Gulgong, 5 miles from Tallawang, 13 miles from Cobbara, and about the same distance from Dennistown, on Mr. E. J. Rowe's Tucklan Run. The rush is an extension of the Tallawang Gold-field, and is only about 1 mile from Shuttleworth's 15 acres extended alluvial claim, which obtained aid out of the prospecting vote, and was working when the rush took place.

The prospectors, Marshall Brothers and party, washed from twelve loads of stuff 42 oz. of gold. The sinking is 15 feet in depth, and the run of gold is narrow, varying from 3 feet to 10 feet in width, with a thickness of about 1 foot of washdirt.

About twenty claims are on gold; of which six may be considered as payable, the remaining yielding "tucker." These claims are scattered over an area of about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. The gold in every instance is found either in small patches or narrow, short runs. The washdirt consists of puggy clay with small pebbles. Present population is about 150; but should heavy rains fall, so that water will be available for mining purposes, then the population is likely to increase, as there is an extensive area of country totally unprospected, in which other small runs of gold or patches may be discovered. Although Marshall Brothers obtained a rich patch, the general yield of gold on the field is from 2 dwt. to 10 dwt. of gold per load, which, with a good water supply for mining purposes, may ensure a living for numbers of persons. It would be folly for persons to come from a distance while the dry weather continues.

I have, &c.,

W. H. J. SLEE,

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Chief Inspector of Mines.

Report by W. H. J. Slee, Esq., F.G.S., &c., on the new rush at Back Creek and the Lake George Mining Company's Property at Captain's Flat.

Sir,

Captain's Flat, 29 February, 1896.

I do myself the honor to inform you that, *en route* from Braidwood to Captain's Flat, I made an inspection of the new rush at Back Creek,

This rush is situated about 8 miles from Braidwood, 4 miles from Major's Creek, and 20 miles from Captain's Flat. On my arrival (which was unexpected) fully eighty miners gathered together and pointed out several matters, which will be dealt with by me in separate reports. The sinking is easy and shallow, varying from mere surfacing to 10 feet in depth; the auriferous stuff, which varies from 3 to 6 inches in thickness, consists of a puggy clay with fine grit or wash resting on a hard bottom; the gold is of a fine scaly nature. The discovery was made on a dried-up swamp, and although by present appearances it is a run of gold trending from the swamp, about half a mile from the Shoalhaven River, through a stock reserve, into Dopping's 100 acres selection, and Mr. Roberts' freehold, I am of opinion that there is a likelihood that several short narrow runs or patches are likely to be met with by systematic prospecting parallel to each other. The country is rather flat, and presents no surface indications as a guide to assist the prospector in search of payable gold.

The miners informed me that they earned from tucker to wages, and that the yield (at per one-horse load) was from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 dwt. per load. Unless something new should be discovered, there are quite sufficient men on the ground for all purposes. I do not think it likely that any extensive and rich leads of gold will be discovered, but a living may, perhaps, be made for a number of persons between the Back Creek and Jembaicumbene Creek for some considerable time.

Captain's Flat.

The Lake George Mining Company is still employing a large number of persons. The company's able and energetic general manager and metallurgist, Mr. Trewenick, intends to erect additional machinery for the more expeditious and less costly treatment of refractory silver and copper ores. The Kohinoor shaft is now being sunk an additional 80 feet from the 300 feet level. It is intended to open a level at the 370 feet, so as to intersect the higher quality of ores known to exist southerly of the shaft, and in the meantime sinking the shaft to a still greater depth, which is really the best course to pursue in the interest of all concerned. The mining management is under Mr. Samuel Renfrey, an able, energetic, practical man.

The diamond drill is now down 522 feet, and has passed through lode stuff for some time. Some of the core which was brought up to-day in my presence looked fairly well; and although the drill has not passed through rich ore, it has certainly passed through some payable ore, and has proved beyond doubt the continuation of the lode as far as the drill has penetrated, and has thereby considerably added to the value of the company's property.

In my opinion it would be advantageous to the company to have their lode further tested by the diamond drill on one or more sites along the line of lode.

I have, &c.,

W. H. J. SLEE,

Chief Inspector of Mines.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Report by Mr. W. H. J. Slee, Esq., F.G.S., &c., on the Bywong and Dairy Creek Mines.

Sir,

Bungendore, 3 March, 1896.

I do myself the honor to inform you that I have visited the Bywong and Dairy Creeks Mines.

At Bywong, mining has almost been at a standstill owing to the late severe drought; but as there is now a good supply of water for crushing purposes, and several parcels of quartz ready for crushing, an impetus will be given.

The mines which have the largest quantity of quartz at grass are Cartright and party, and Low and party. Characteristic of the whole district the quartz occurs in lenticular blocks, and the gold in shoots; hence the failure of parties in tracing the gold from an adjoining claim.

At Dairy Creek, Kershaw and party are obtaining some very rich specimens of gold. Their last crushing yielded 8 oz. of gold per ton; and they have again bagged some rich quartz ready for crushing. Their workings are in an open cutting about 30 feet in depth by about 150 feet in length, forming a lenticular block with a strike of N. 20° W. The quartz vein is narrow, and the country rock hard slate. On the south a party named Cassidy and Company, and on the north Mr. James Tait, of Bungendore, have taken up land to mine for gold.

I beg to draw particular attention to the Creek and Valley on the right hand going from Bungendore to Bywong, say, about from 5 to 8 miles from Bungendore, which has decided auriferous appearances, and is well worthy of thorough systematic prospecting. I was informed that the land is freehold, and belongs to a Mr. Donnelly.

I have, &c.,

W. H. J. SLEE,

Chief Inspector of Mines.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Report by W. H. J. Slee, Esquire, J.P., F.G.S., &c., on Mining in the Condobolin, Cugong, Creamy Hill, Erronbendery, and Mount Wilga Mining Districts.

Sir,

Condobolin, 12 May, 1896.

I do myself the honor to inform you that I have so far completed my official work in connection with various mining matters in the Condobolin, Cugong, Creamy Hill, Erronbendery, and Mount Wilga Mining Districts.

The quartz reefs which have so far been discovered in the Condobolin district have been of a patchy nature; but there is no reason why the reefs within 3 to 4 miles of Condobolin should not be made to yield payable returns if worked with thorough system and economy. I inspected the underground workings of three of the reefs, which were the only ones I was able to examine below surface, the rest of the workings having either fallen in or there were no appliances to get below. The

The Julia Reuben reef, formerly known as the Red Paint, has a shaft down to the depth of 37 feet. There are about 30 tons of quartz at grass; very little work, if any, has been done of late. But I was informed that it was the intention of Messrs. Officer, Tough, and party to give the Julia Reuben Mine a thorough systematic test, both to a greater depth and length along the line of vein, and if this intention is carried out payable results will most likely be the consequence. I saw some very rich specimens near the surface, which taken by themselves would give very high yields, and by careful observation these patches may be successfully traced both downwards and along the fissure.

The Phoenix, or Sheppard and Party's Mine, whose main shaft is now down 86 feet, the reefs in parts being about 2 to 3 feet in width, had 6 tons crushed, yielding 13 dwt. per ton; and a crushing of 10 tons north of the large reef yielded 5 dwt. per ton. The party intend to sink to the 100 feet level and then drive along the reef. This claim is probably the best near Condobolin, and only requires a thorough system to be classed as a payable mine.

Messrs. Tough and party have lately cleared out an old shaft at the Surprise Mine, which shaft is 35 feet in depth, on the bottom of which the quartz veins largely associated with iron are rather broken and disturbed. The party, however, intend to sink the shaft 20 feet deeper and drive along the veins for about 30 feet, with the hope that the yield of gold may improve Cugong. The Cugong quartz-veins are situated about 30 miles below Condobolin, 4 miles north of the Lachlan River, and 20 miles from Euabalong.

There are several claims at work, of which the Yellow Streak and the Prospecting Claim (Linden, McClure, and party's) are the principal. Their deepest workings are 100 feet from surface, and 46 tons crushed yielded 15 dwt. per ton; and a crushing of 12 tons was put through the mill at the time of my visit, the amalgam on the copper plates showing about equal to former average.

The Yellow Streak, the deepest part of which is 120 feet, has crushed 193 tons of quartz, yielding 179 oz. 3 dwt., and there were about 120 tons at grass ready for crushing.

This is no doubt, so far, the best mine on the Cugong Gold-field.

There are a large number of other reefs, such as Bymer and party's, which crushed 54 tons, yielding about $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. per ton; the Caledonian, 14 tons, yielding $11\frac{1}{2}$ dwt. per ton; the Dry Blower, and others. In all these claims on the whole of the Cugong Field the veins occur in lenticular blocks, which necessitates a great deal of extra work of an unprofitable nature; hence, if it is intended to obtain payable returns, the system hitherto adopted to work out a block of quartz before seeking for another must be abolished, and sinking and driving for other blocks must be carried on simultaneously with working the quartz; otherwise the whole field will have to suffer by the closing up of the mines.

A 9-stamp crushing machine has been erected by Mr. J. J. Pooler on the north side of the Lachlan River, about 4 miles from the mines, and which at the time of my inspection was fully occupied in crushing, day and night, from the Cugong Reefs.

No one was at work at Creamy Hill nor at Errebandery, about 10 miles from Euabalong. The 5-stamp battery on the Lachlan River, near the road to Lake Cudgellico, belonging to the Errebandery Company, was idle.

I also inspected some gold discoveries on the south side of the river Lachlan, about 10 miles south of Mr. E. H. Moulder's Brothering Station. These discoveries were made by some energetic persevering prospectors known as Price Brothers. These are two different gold discoveries: one is known as Mount Wilga, the other as the Josephine Moulder Mine. The former consists of a large lode of quartz and quartzite, associated with iron, and iron and arsenical pyrites. The greatest depth reached is 65 feet. I saw a little gold in the lode with the naked eye; but very good prospects of fine gold were obtained by dollying. At present there is a scarcity of water; but there is a good site for a large tank in close proximity to the mine.

The Josephine Moulder Mine, which is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile westerly of the Mount Wilga, appeared to me to be the best of the two discoveries. The quartz vein, which is largely associated with iron and arsenical pyrites, has not been sunk upon more than a few feet; but the reef has been exposed for a considerable length in an open cutting. Gold could be seen with the naked eye, and excellent prospects could be obtained by crushing in a mortar. Here, like Mount Wilga, want of water supply and crushing and gold-saving machinery is the great drawback to make this, probably, one of the best-paying mines on the Lower Lachlan.

I will visit Peak Hill, Alectown, and Forbes before returning to Sydney.

I have, &c.,

W. H. J. SLEE,

Chief Inspector of Mines.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Report by W. H. J. Slee, Esq., J.P., F.G.S., &c., Chief Inspector of Mines, on the Carlisle Rush and Fifield and Platina Districts.

Sir,

Parkes, 21 May, 1896.

I do myself the honor to inform you that *en route* from Condobolin to Trundle I was requested by a miner named James Byron to make an inspection of his party's prospecting works on Carlisle Station (Messrs. Milne Bros.), about 17 miles north-east from Condobolin, 12 miles south-westerly from Fifield, and about 16 miles southerly of Trundle. The party consisted of three miners, namely, James Byron, Thomas Byron, and Neil Borrenson. I saw some gold obtained from the shallow alluvial workings, and also examined a reef about twelve (12) inches in width at a depth of 25 feet from surface. A little gold could be seen in the quartz with the naked eye, which however appeared to me not payable. Years ago I drew particular attention to the Carlisle Station as a locality likely to be auriferous, but so far nothing has been discovered to justify a rush. Nevertheless I am of the same opinion now as I was more than fifteen (15) years ago, when I first came through that district, that sooner or later payable gold discoveries will be made in an extensive area of country stretching from Dandeloo through Burra Burra, Melrose Plains, and Carlisle. Although perhaps there is very little probability of extensive rich alluvial leads, there are unmistakable indications that gold does exist, and the only drawback for the settlement of a mining population is the great scarcity of water. The country has far superior auriferous indications than the locality about Fifield and Platina, and if thoroughly prospected during rainy seasons is likely to lead to the settlement of an industrious prosperous mining population.

Fifield

Fisfield and Platina.

There are about 400 miners in this district exclusive of women and children. The majority of the miners are apparently making a living and some more than wages. A large area of the country in the vicinity of Jack's Look-out would, with a good supply of water, yield handsome returns. There are several puddling machines in the district, and as heavy rains have fallen since my inspection favourable results as to the increase in the yield of gold and platinum may be anticipated.

At Platina, where the lead of gold and platinum was lost in Simmons' late C.L., a fresh impetus has been given by the discovery of a continuation of said lead in the C.P. One piece of platinum which was shown to me (a solid nugget), weighing 28 dwt., is perhaps the largest piece ever found in New South Wales. Before closing this report, I may be permitted to draw the prospectors' attention to a tract of country about 17 miles from Trundle and about 15 miles from Parkes, where the Trundle to Parkes road passes over undulating country of tertiary formation, which is well worthy the careful attention of intending prospectors. Deep rich and probably wet leads may be discovered in that locality; but it would be almost worse than folly for parties without means to undertake such prospecting works.

I have, &c.,

W. H. J. SLEE,

Chief Inspector of Mines.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Report by W. H. J. Slee, Esq., J.P., F.G.S., &c., Chief Inspector of Mines, on Mining in the Peak Hill and Allectown Districts.

Department of Mines and Agriculture, Chief Inspector of Mines' Office,

Sydney, 2 June, 1896.

Sir,

I do myself the honor to report that on my recent visit to the Peak Hill and Allectown districts I found that although alluvial mining was rather dull, the quartz-mining industry has received quite an impetus, owing to several new discoveries. Several quartz claims were in full work at Barrabadeen. Delaney's old reef, within $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of Peak Hill, had been retaken and worked with fair prospects of success by H. Kelly and E. R. T. Bubard. At Paddy's Flat, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Peak Hill, A. C. Walker and J. H. Wardell discovered a quartz vein, rather broken, near the surface, and are now sinking, in hopes that better results will be obtained at a greater depth. The New Year's Gift (Matson, Kelly, and party), who received aid out of the prospecting vote, crushed 6 tons, yielding 24 oz. 15 dwt. of gold. The Monte Carlo Reef has had several good crushings of late, of which the following are the principal:—20 tons from the 110-foot level yielded 9 oz. of gold; 11 tons from the 150-foot level yielded 369 oz.; and a crushing, which took place during my visit, of 22 tons, yielded 222 oz. of gold, exclusive of concentrates. Several other quartz reefs, such as the "Who-would-have-thought-it," Warner's, and others, have lately been retaken, and are obtaining fair encouragement. Several quartz claims have been retaken, and others discovered near Allectown, of which William Mead and party's mine, known as the Emu Reef, on Beaseley's conditional lease, is the principal one. Several crushings have lately been taken from said reef. 15 tons quartz yielded 2 oz. 5 dwt. per ton; 18 tons, 2 oz. $2\frac{1}{2}$ dwt. per ton; and 50 tons, 82 oz. per ton. At the time of my inspection there were about 60 tons of quartz at grass, in which gold could be seen with the naked eye. The reef was about 6 feet in width at the 70 feet level. Claims were at work both north and south of Mead and party's claim, but so far they have not been successful to strike a payable reef.

The quartz crushing battery at Allectown is to be put in good order and fitted up with improved gold-saving appliances under the management of Mr. Brown, who for years had charge of the Parkes crushing battery, where he has given general satisfaction, and as there are a large number of known quartz veins between Parkes, Allectown, and Peak Hill, a large increase in the quartz-mining industry may be expected.

I have, &c.,

W. H. J. SLEE,

Chief Inspector of Mines.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Report by W. H. J. Slee, Esquire, F.G.S., &c., Chief Inspector of Mines, on the Mines at Junee Reefs and Eurongilly.

Junee, 14 August, 1896.

Sir,

I do myself the honor to inform you that I have completed inspection of the Junee Reefs and Eurongilly.

The principal mine at work at and near the Junee Reefs is the Dusthole Mine, Mr. E. Gallagher, Manager, the greatest depth of which is 200 feet from surface, and the reef varies from a narrow vein to several feet in thickness. Several crushings have been taken from this mine with highly payable results; the ore being very refractory requires special treatment; an ordinary crushing and gold-saving plant would be useless, hence the mine is placed under offer to Mr. Howell on behalf of British capitalists. Although the gold occurs in shoots, the walls are well-defined and present an appearance of permanency.

The Doctor Reef is situated about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the Dusthole; greatest depth, 105 feet; thickness of reef fully 5 feet with well-defined walls; the quartz, however, appears to be of lower quality than the Dusthole Reef. This, too, is under offer to Mr. Howell, at whose expense the sinking is at present carried on.

Should the prospecting now carried on under the guidance and at the expense of Mr. Howell prove successful, the influx of capital must do a large amount of good to the Junee district generally, and these hitherto neglected reefs may yet give profitable returns for capital judiciously invested.

There are several smaller reefs at work, such as the Shamrock, Wallett's, Specimen Hill (W. J. Doyle and Party), Allen's, and others who may be classed as prospecting.

Eurongilly.

The Eurongilly reefs are situated about 12 miles from Junee. At the time of my inspection I found about three different parties at work. The principal mine is the Pioneer, which is about 215 feet in depth, and at the lowest level has a well-defined formation consisting of two quartz veins, one about

15 inches, the other about 9 inches with a "horse" of 3 feet between. By present appearances these two veins will junction. Some very good crushings have been taken from this mine, and I think that if systematic prospecting were carried on both in depth and along the line of vein the results would probably be very satisfactory to all concerned.

Chalmers and Party and Weir and Party are also at work; the former on the Defiance Reef, and the latter on the Pioneer line.

A Huntington Mill has been erected near the reefs, but was idle at the time of my inspection. Taking a general view of the Eurongilly district, I am of opinion that by judicious and systematic prospecting at the lower levels profitable returns may be looked forward to for labour and capital expended.

I have, &c.,

W. H. J. SLEE,

Chief Inspector of Mines.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Report by W. H. J. Slec, Esq., F.G.S., &c., Chief Inspector of Mines, on the New Rush and other mining portions in the Murrumburrah District.

Department of Mines and Agriculture, Chief Inspector of Mines Branch,

Sydney, 27 August, 1896.

Sir,

Having recently returned from the Murrumburrah district, I do myself the honor to furnish you with full particulars of the New Rush at Cunningham's Creek, which is about 15 miles from Murrumburrah and about 1 mile from Marshal MacMahon's Reef. The discovery is alluvial, sinking being shallow, from 15 to 30 feet in depth. The thickness of the auriferous wash varies from a few inches to five (5) feet in thickness, resting on decomposed granite.

At the time of my inspection there were about fifteen (15) claims on gold, which may be classed from mere "tucker" to wages claims. Total number of men at the rush, about two hundred (200).

The payable auriferous deposits so far discovered seem to be confined in and near the embankment of the creek. Other parts of the creek some distance from the present rush have been worked with payable results, and indications certainly point to the probability that payable auriferous deposits will be discovered by thorough prospecting on other hitherto untried parts of said creek.

The Crown Point Gold-mining Company (Limited), late Marshal MacMahon's Reef, of which Mr. Robt. W. Ditchburn is the mining manager.—This mine during former years has produced a large amount of gold, but owing to the ore being rather refractory, and the method for the treatment of the same perhaps faulty, results have not come up to the expectation of former owners, but the mine is now being worked with British capital. The deepest part of the mine is two hundred (200) feet; twelve miners are now employed below sinking. There are two lodes, one known as the quartz and the other as the pyrites lode; the former is about 18 inches, the latter several feet in width. The total number of men at present employed in the mine and in connection with the erection of machinery is thirty-five (35), but the manager expects to increase that number very considerably in a short time.

Machinery for the treatment of ore is now in course of erection, which consists of a complete chlorination plant, a battery for crushing, Blake's powerful stone breaker, a Kropp's mill, Morton's patent furnaces, &c., &c.

Should the company's operation prove successful to their shareholders the district above referred to would greatly benefit thereby.

On the Waratah Reef, about 6 miles from Harden, several claims are at work prospecting for the continuation of the reef in Bray and Party's holding, who crushed 6 oz. of gold by pestle and mortar. One ton was tested at the Clyde Works, yielding 2½ oz.; and a picked lot sent to Climo Works, of 1 ton, yielded 11 oz. 4 dwt. The information as to the above yield was kindly furnished to me by Mr. Bray. The ore in the Waratah reef is rather refractory.

There are a few other parties prospecting for reefs, but so far without success.

I have, &c.,

W. H. J. SLEE,

Chief Inspector of Mines.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Report by W. H. J. Slec, Esq., F.G.S., &c., Chief Inspector of Mines, on the Overflow Silver Mines; township known as Bobadah.

Sir,

Nymagee, 30 September, 1896.

I have the honor to inform you that I have completed inspection and other official duties in connection with the Overflow Silver Mines.

These mines have considerably improved since my last inspection. The company's main shaft is now down 90 feet, on the bottom of which is a lode the whole width of the shaft, without touching the walls, the shaft being 9 ft. long by 4 feet 6 in. wide inside the timbers; 107 feet in length, have been driven in a north and south direction along the lode, the latter averaging from 5 ft. to 13 feet in width. The ore body contains gold, silver, copper, lead, and other minerals, and appears of higher value at the 90-foot level than on the higher levels. Only prospecting works are carried on by the primitive style of hauling with windlass. No engines nor furnaces (water jackets) have as yet been erected, nor even has any commencement been made to erect same.

In my opinion the prospects are such as to deserve more expensive development, and as soon as all the mines start to work a mining population of some hundreds ought to be able to obtain a living in the district.

A large area of this back country deserves to be more thoroughly prospected. Between Nymagee and the Overflow the whole country has certainly a decided mineralized appearance. Some very good outcrops of ironstone and quartz can be noticed along the road from 7 to 20 miles past Nymagee, which, apparently, has been overlooked, but are worthy of a thorough test.

By request of a number of persons at the Overflow, and on account of the increase of population, I marked off a street on a good eligible site west of the mineral lease, portions 1 and 2, and named the

the new township Bobadah, an aboriginal name. The blacks in former ages held large camping festivals in the vicinity, as can be seen by remaining traces, such as chips from tomahawks or war instruments in large quantities.

As stated before, I think that there is a great probability of a permanent mining settlement, of which the village or town of Bobadah will be a centre.

I have, &c.,

W. H. J. SLEE,

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Chief Inspector of Mines.

Report by W. H. J. Slee, Esq., F.G.S., &c., Chief Inspector of Mines, on Mining Accidents caused by Explosion through starting a new hole from the bottom of an old hole.

Sir,

Sydney, 1 December, 1896.

In view of the fact that an accident occurred at the British Broken Hill Mines, Broken Hill, caused by explosion, through which two (2) men lost their lives in an exactly similar manner to the accident which occurred at the Prince of Wales Mines, Wyalong, on the 31st October last, I do myself the honor to draw the attention of the Honorable the Minister for Mines and Agriculture, and, through him, the attention of the public, to the dangerous practice miners will adhere to to save a few minutes extra work, by starting drilling for blasting purposes from the bottom or remains of an exploded hole.

For years past have I drawn frequent attention to the above-mentioned dangerous practice. In the Wyalong accident above referred to I instructed Mr. Inspector Milne, by wire from Broken Hill, to inspect the site of accident, and attend the inquest to be careful to ascertain whether the explosion had or had not been caused by the injured persons having started a fresh hole from the bottom or socket of an exploded hole. My surmise was verified by the verdict given at the inquest, with the rider of the jury that a primer should be used in all cases when charging holes. In my opinion, the primer would have very little effect. These accidents have, so far, only occurred in holes where dynamite and kindred explosives have been used. Perhaps, to insufficient strength of the detonator, a small part of the explosive remained in the bottom of the hole.

The only remedy to prevent accidents of this nature is to have a rule strictly to be observed by all mining managers and miners, that in no case a new hole shall be started for blasting purposes from the bottom or remains of an old hole, and any person offending against said rule to be heavily fined and instantly dismissed from the mine.

If miners will run such risks as caused the above-mentioned accidents, and which practice has taught, ever since said explosives came into use, to be dangerous to life and limb, then the blame is their own, and Inspectors of Mines, even in large numbers, composed of the most intelligent and practical mining men, would be powerless to prevent such accidents.

I have, &c.,

W. H. J. SLEE,

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Chief Inspector of Mines.

INSPECTOR MILNE'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Sir,

Sydney, 9 January, 1897.

I have the honor to submit this, my Annual Report of the inspection of mines in the following districts for the year 1896:—

Bongalong, Billy's Look Out, Cootamundra, Combanning, Gundagai, Grenfell, Meragle, Paddy's River, Scrub Yard, Temora, Reefton, Wyalong, and Yalgogrin in the south.

Bathurst, Brown's Creek, Burrendong, Balderodgery, Binmi Creek, Boney's Rocks, Blayney, Burruga, Black Bullock Mountain, Cobar, Cowra, Canowindra, Cargo, Crudine, Clear Creek, Cheshire Creek, Forest Reefs, Flyer's Creek, Forbes, Gulgong, Galley's Swamp, Hargraves, Hill End, Hill Top, Kerr's Creek, Lucknow, Lewis Ponds, Lue, Mudgee, Mt. Drysdale, Mt. McDonald, Macquarie River, Mandurana, Mullion Creek, Narramine, Newbridge, Oberon, Orange, Ophir, Parkes, Peak Hill, Pinacles, Palmer's Oakley, Sofala, Sunny Corner, Slattery's Creek, Stuart Town, Stringy Bark, Tuena, Trunkey, Tomingly, Tarana, Wattle Flat, Windeyer, Woodstock.

The principal mining centres of this list have been inspected two or three times.

Taking the mines generally there is an improvement in the underground workings on previous years. In the larger mines where managers are employed, I usually find them ready and willing to remedy any defects that may be pointed out to them in or about their mines, and every care taken for the safety of persons under their charge; also to comply with the regulation for the inspection of mines other than coal and shale mines.

With the individual miner and fossickers the same difficulty occurs as mentioned in my last report, in getting them to secure their workings. Often where timber has been put in, it is so carelessly done that there is almost as much danger from the chance of it falling out as from the ground. This is accountable no doubt, from the fact that it is no one's particular duty to see that the work is done properly, and that each one does his own timbering as he likes.

I have been particularly careful in respect to storing and handling explosives underground, and now almost all the mines have properly constructed boxes for storing dynamite and detonators in the mine, but there is still a gross carelessness in handling and charging holes. It is surprising to note the recklessness of the miner, especially those who are in the habit of regularly using explosives. They appear to almost court accidents from explosion in charging holes by tamping with iron scrapers even when the wooden stemmer is close by.

Another very dangerous habit, and I think a very common one, especially at Wyalong. That is to start drilling in sockets left from previous shots, so as to save a little time, and few inches in drilling often in these sockets portions of unexploded fracture remains in the bottom or in a crack or joint of the rock and is exploded by contact with the drill. Again, in missed shots the miners return to the shots within a few minutes after the time they consider it should have exploded, and from this cause many accidents occur.

So long as the miners will continue to do these things and disregard the regulations set down for their own safety, so long will accidents occur from explosions, no matter how careful or strict an inspector may be, as it is next to impossible to find out any party or set of men that are so foolhardy. I

I always make it a practice, when in a mine where explosives are used, to draw the miners' attention to the liability of accidents from the abovementioned careless practices.

In the execution of my duties for the year I have travelled 7,436 miles, made up as follows :—
Train, 3,482 ; coach, 1,695 ; horse, 1,556 ; on foot, 343.

The number of mines inspected being 566 ; of this number 314 are working mines, 252 applications for aid from the prospecting vote. The number of men employed being about 5,900.

I have, &c.,

DAVID MILNE,

The Chief Inspector of Mines.

Inspector of Mines.

INSPECTOR HEBBARD'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Sir,

Broken Hill, 13 January, 1897.

I have the honor to present my Annual Report for the year 1896, as follows :—

During the year the mining industry, which received such an impetus during the year 1895 through the initiation of a successful treatment of the complex sulphide ores, has maintained its activity.

The trade in the sulphide ores, either crude or concentrated, has largely expanded, and there is now a constant and steadily increasing demand for the products of the concentrating mills.

The improvements in concentrating machinery and the experience gained by the engineers have also been factors in the present prosperity, and the results of the year's operations, I think, warrant me in stating that the industry is now established on a firm basis.

Hitherto the zinc contents of the ore have been regarded as waste, or put aside for future treatment ; but there now seems a probability of this also being added to the list of profitable products of treatment.

Large sums of money have been spent during the year in the erection of new plant and in the remodelling of the old, and there is no doubt that some of the present prosperity is due to the increased efficiency of the mills in dealing with the ore submitted for treatment.

The industry is now almost entirely dependent on the sulphide ores, as only the Broken Hill Proprietary, Block 14, and British Mines continue to mine oxidised ores.

The district now employs 5,800 men in the mining, smelting, and other operations incidental to the treatment of the ore.

With regard to underground operations, the filling up of the depleted stopes has now become recognised everywhere as part of the regular system of mining, and I have no hesitation in saying that the adoption of the system has in a very large measure added to the general stability of the mines and very much minimised the effect of creep.

The burning portion of Block 11 of the Broken Hill Proprietary Mine has been completely isolated, and there is hope that the fire has become a thing of the past, as no smoke has been seen to issue from the various vents for about three months.

As an instance of the amount of work accomplished in the district, I may mention that during the year 839,181 tons of ore have been raised, 454,720 cubic yards of mullock taken out of open cuts, 147,000 cubic yards of mullock filled into depleted stopes, 22,677 lineal feet of work in the way of shafts, crosscuts, drives, winzes, &c., accomplished, and £132,300 worth of new machinery erected.

In the underground workings alone, exclusive of all surface improvements, 14,529,000 superficial feet of timber have been used.

This does not comprise nearly all the work accomplished, as it does not include any of the operations in treatment of the ores or any railway work, which often involves the handling of the ore three times.

During the year there have been 13 fatal, 25 serious, and 28 slight accidents. Besides these, numerous cases have been reported to me, which, on investigation, I have deemed too trivial for further report.

The following is a detailed list of the fatal accidents, with a short account of the causes, and I also attach a list giving similar information regarding other accidents :—

Frederick Rohu, 24th February, at Drew's Shaft, Block 11, Broken Hill Proprietary Mine. A truck had been tipped over the bin, and was then hauled up by the "flying-fox" to level of top of bin. Rohu and another fastened a piece of hand-line to the truck to swing it on to the platform. The rope broke, and Rohu stumbled back into the tip-hole—a space of 17 inches by 28 inches—and broke his back by falling into the bin. He died on the 11th of March ensuing.

Thomas Halls, 25th February, at Block 10 Mine. Halls and his mate were ascending in a cage, having some tools in the bottom of the cage. Halls stooped to adjust the tools, and fell out, presumably at the 315 feet plat. He fell about 300 feet.

Thomas Kerr, 13th April, at North Smelter Dump, Broken Hill Proprietary Mine. Kerr was wandering about the dump in an intoxicated condition, and fell over edge of dump—a distance of about 60 feet. He was not in the employment of the company.

Walter Daniel Reed, 12th June, at Chlorodiser Railway Siding, Broken Hill Proprietary Mine. Reed was "braking down" a truck on the main line, and attempted to get out of the way of some hot ore that was being tipped by jumping off the truck. He fell and the truck passed over him. He died on the 4th July ensuing.

Phillip Eddy, 30th June, at Maybell. Eddy, with others, was exploring an abandoned mine with a view to leasing. In climbing up a rope he by some means missed his hold. He refused to be drawn up by the windlass, and the climb by the other rope was a comparatively easy one.

Michael John Purcell, 6th July, at Dickenson's Shaft, Broken Hill Proprietary Mine. A piece of the handrail around brace, about 30 feet long, had been broken by the bumping of the trucks, and the breach had been temporarily repaired by a piece of 5 in. x 2 in. timber fastened against the inner side of the stanchions. Purcell for some reason removed this to the position formerly occupied by the permanent guard rail. In leaning on this to talk to the engineer it gave way, Purcell falling on a stack of timber and breaking his neck.

Sampson Thomas Vivian, 22nd July, at third floor, 500 feet Level, Broken Hill South Mine. Vivian was missed by his mates when they returned to the third floor after firing, and was subsequently found in the ore pass. No evidence was forthcoming to show how Vivian had got there ; and the statements of the whole of the men on that floor showed that the pass was properly boarded over both before and after the accident.

John

*Section of Bore N°1
N° A Diamond Drill
at Forest Reefs*

Borehole to 41' 3" 4" Diam. remainder 3" "	Nature of Strata	Thickness of Strata		Depth from Surface	
		ft	in	ft	in
	Alluvial	14	6	14	6
	Basalt	86	3	100	9
	Basalt with clay bands	11	6	112	3
	Basalt	25	3	137	6
	Sandy Clay	24	2	161	8

Compiled from the foreman's Weekly Return Sheets

*Section of Bore N°2
N° A Diamond Drill
at Forest Reefs*

Borehole A Diam'	Nature of Strata	Thickness of Strata		Depth from Surface	
		ft	in	ft	in
	Alluvial with Basalt Boulders				
	Basalt Boulders	16	9	16	9
	Red Basalt with Clay	5	6	22	3
		11	0	33	3
	Basalt	130	9	164	0
Sandy Clay					
Granite	52	9	216	9	

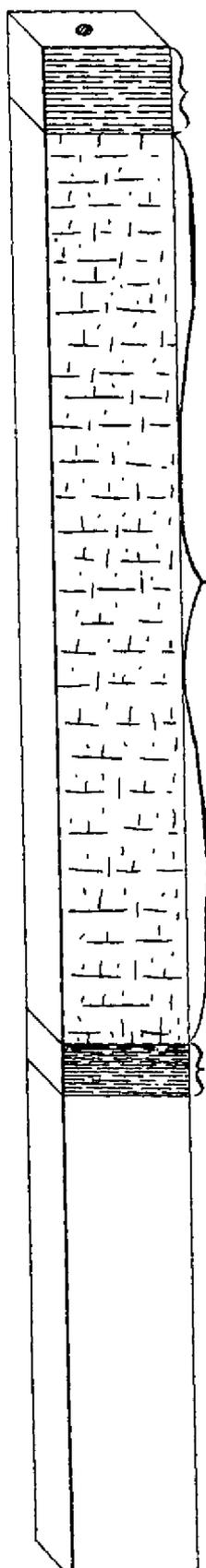
Compiled from the Foreman's Weekly Return Sheets

Section of Bore N^o 3. N^o A Diamond Drill at Forest Reefs

To 40 ft remainder	Borehole 5" Diam. 4"	Nature of Strata	Thickness of Strata		Depth from Surface	
			ft.	in.	ft.	in.
		Alluvial	20	0	20	0
		Basalt				
		Cave	138	2	158	2
		Blue Clay 6'7" Basalt 1'0" Blue Clay 0'9"	4	0	162	2
		Basalt			170	6
		Blue Clay	14	3	184	9
		Sandy Clay	9	11	194	8
		Granite	39	3	233	11
			3	6	237	5

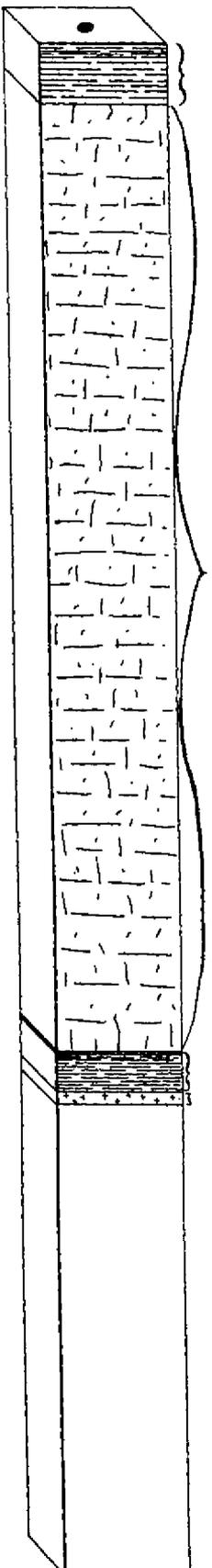
Compiled from the Foreman's Weekly Return Sheet

Section of Bore N^o 4 N^o A Diamond Drill at Forest Reef's

Borehole 4" Diam ^r	Nature of Strata	Thickness of Strata		Depth from Surface	
		ft.	in.	ft.	in.
	Alluvial	17	0	17	0
	Basalt				
	Soft Clay	189	9	206	9
		6	8	213	5

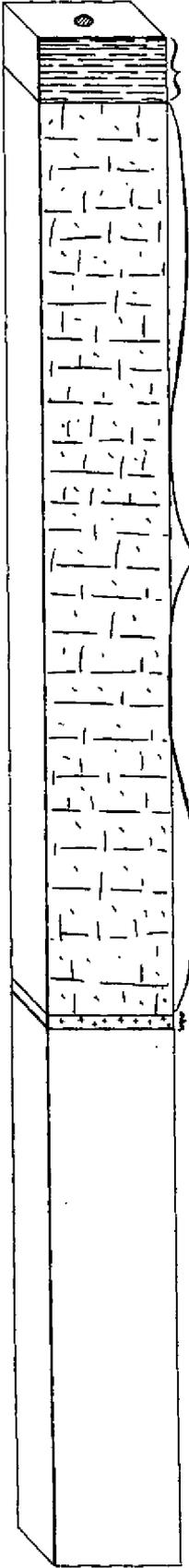
Compiled from the foreman's Weekly Return Sheets

Section of Bore N^o 5. N^o A Diamond Drill at Forest Reefs.

To 53 feet remainder	Borehole 5" Diam ^r	Nature of Strata	Thickness of Strata		Depth from Surface	
			ft.	in.	ft.	in.
		<i>Alluvial</i>	12	0	12	0
		<i>Basalt</i>				
		<i>Wash dirt 3" Soft Clay 8' 2"</i>	193	1	205	1
		<i>Granite</i>	2	6	213 216	6 0

Compiled from the Foreman's Weekly Return Sheets

Section of Bore N^o 6. N^o A Diamond Drill at Forest Reefs

Borehole To 34 feet 4" Diam. remainder 3"	Nature of Strata	Thickness of Strata		Depth from Surface	
		ft.	in.	ft.	in.
	Alluvial	13	6	13	6
	Basalt				
Granite		186	6	200	0
		2	6	202	6

Compiled from the Foreman's Weekly Return Sheet

*Section of Bore N^o 1
N^o 8 Diamond Drill
at Captains Flat*

Borehole To 123 ft 4" Diam. remainder 3" "	Nature of Strata	Thickness of Strata		Depth from Surface	
		ft	in	ft	in
	Porphyry				
	Porphyry with Quartz & Pyrites	96	6	96	6
	Porphyry	7	0	103	6
	Porphyry with Quartz & Pyrites	31	9	135	3
	Porphyry	7	8	142	11
	Porphyry	7	1	150	0
	Porphyry very much mineralised showing traces of Copper				
	Porphyry with Quartz & Pyrites	33	6	183	6
	Porphyry	11	0	194	6
	Porphyry very much mineralised showing yellow ore	13	0	207	6
	Porphyry	12	6	220	0
	Porphyry showing signs of yellow ore	15	0	235	0
	Porphyry	7	6	242	6
	Porphyry				
	Porphyry with Quartz veins	31	2	273	8
Lode stuff with Pyrites & a little Country	45	4	319	0	
Pyrites & felsite	46	0	365	0	
	17	0	382	0	
Lode stuff with sulphide & Quartz					
	138	0	520	0	
Country rock	21	0	541	0	
Soft white clay	5		546	0	

To 299 feet completed in 1895
Compiled from the Foreman's Weekly Return Sheets

*Section of Bore N° 2
N° 8 Diamond Drill
at Captains' Flat*

Borehole 3" Diam.	Nature of Strata	Thickness of Strata		Depth from Surface		
		ft	in	ft	in	
	Porphyry with Quartz veins					
			206	0	206	0
	Quartz		33	0	239	0
	Porphyry		12	0	251	0
	Porphyry with Quartz veins					
			63	6	314	6
	Diorite		42	0	356	6
	Quartz		31	6	388	0
	Diorite					
			72	0	460	0
	Lode stuff		8	6	468	6
	Diorite					
			51	6	520	0
	Quartz				523	0
Lode Stuff						
		33	0	556	6	
Diorite						
		58	6	615	0	
Quartz						
		31		646	0	

Compiled from the foreman's weekly Return Sheets

John Pearce, 25th July, at No. 3 Level, McBride's Stopes, Block 11, Broken Hill Proprietary Mine. Pearce and his mate were preparing to put up a set of timber. A piece of ore fell out of the back, which was judged strong enough to stand temporarily without securing.

Otta Vounder Rodda, 5th August, at new A. Broken Hill Consols Mine. Rodda was descending a shaft in a truck on the incline. The truck by some means became detached from the rope, and ran away to the bottom of the shaft, about 200 feet. When examined, the tumbler hook was found in perfect condition, within half an hour of the accident.

Donald Gunn Pendreth, 29th August, at fourth floor, No. 4 Level, Central Mine (the Sulphide Corporation, Ashcroft's Process, Limited). Pendreth was engaged as a sweeper and cleaner, and was sitting against some loose ground in a portion of the stope that was not being worked, which fell on him.

George White and Edward Barnes, 28th November, South-west Drive, No. 2 Level, Blackwood's Shaft, British Mine. White and Barnes were working a rock drill, and pitched a new hole in an old "bottom" in the bottom of the drive. An explosion followed through the presence of unexploded gelignite left from the previous firing. There was no evidence to show that the old bottom had been examined in any way. From the appearances it was judged that all the gelignite had been exploded.

Levi Worsley, 16th December, at North Stope, 100 feet level, British Mine. Worsley and his mate were preparing to put up timber, but had misjudged the strength of the ground, and had not put up any temporary timber or driven any laths; while Worsley was easing for the strut the ground came away.

Only three accidents of these are the results of falls of ground—one is properly a railway accident; and one, that of Thomas Kerr, should not be regarded as a mining accident at all, but is inserted because it occurred on a mineral lease. The remainder are such accidents as in my opinion no forethought would have prevented, and may be regarded as pure accidents.

Of the serious accidents, 10 were caused by falls of ground, 2 by falling away, 2 by being caught in moving machinery, 3 by premature explosions, 3 on railway line, 2 in erecting machinery, 1 by a runaway truck horse underground, and 1 by burns from slag.

Forty-four cases of lead-poisoning have been reported to me during the year. Of these, 23 were miners, and 21 smelters, &c., as against 88 cases (32 miners and 56 smelters) for the year 1895. Of the 44, 37 were certified cases, and 7 uncertified.

The provisions of the Lead-poisoning Act are now fairly well carried into effect in this district, but the workmen do not yet fully avail themselves of the provisions for changing clothes and bathing. The sprinkling of the floors, &c., in carbonate of lead stopes has, I believe, considerably decreased the number of cases of lead-poisoning.

A little activity has been shown in the taking up of claims in the outlying portions of the districts, but not much work has yet been done.

Ore is still being won at Thackaringa, and there are a few men working at such places as Rockwell, Purnamoota, Apollyon Valley, &c.

At Tarrawingee flux continues to be mined up to the requirements of the local furnaces, the output being about 70,000 tons.

The increase of the number of men now employed, 5,329, as against 4,290 at the end of 1895, clearly shows the present prosperity of the industry in this district and the proved existence of enormous bodies of sulphide ore, together with the fact of the profitable treatment of the ores in nearly all the mines, indicates a likelihood of a continuance of the present prosperity.

I have, &c.,

JAMES HEBBARD,

Inspector of Mines.

The Chief Inspector of Mines, Department of Mines, Sydney.

INSPECTOR GODFREY'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Sir,

Sydney, 5 January, 1897.

I have the honor to forward you my Annual Report for the year 1896. For the greater part of the year I was engaged in the Northern District, where I inspected the following places:—Armidale, Avery's Creek, Bucca Creek, Boggy Camp, Bowling Alley Point, Boonoo Boonoo, Barraba, Bingara, Cangai, Cell's Creek, Crow Mountain, Dalmorton, Drake, Dungog, Elsmore (twice), Grafton, Hillgrove (three times), Inverell, Melrose (twice), Monkerai, Nana Creek, Njangala (twice), Nundle, Rockvale (twice), Tilbuster (twice), Tingha, Uralla (three times), Wangat, Woods' Reef, Warialda, Wallengra, Yarrowitch.

As in previous years the managers of the larger mines usually show a desire to carry out and enforce the rules in connection with the inspection and regulation of mines other than coal and shale mines, but the small working parties of fossickers often ignore these rules and show a recklessness in working which is nothing short of foolhardy. The probable reason was pointed out in my last year's report. During the year I had three fatal accidents to enquire into—one at the Great Britain Mine at Tilbuster, one at Powell's claim at Gundagai, causing the death of two men, and one at Star Gully, Grenfell. All three accidents were preventable.

From 18th September to 30th November I was engaged on work connected with the Land and Income Tax Department, and on the completion of this work I proceeded to Gundagai and Grenfell to investigate the abovementioned accidents. I finished my inspection for the year by visiting Dungog, Wangat, and The Monkerai.

During the year I travelled a distance of 8,151 miles, made up as follows:—4,123 miles by train, 2,820 miles by horse or buggy, 1,099 miles by coach, 86 miles on foot, and 23 miles by steamer.

I inspected 230 mines during the year and reported on 112 applications for aid under the Prospecting Vote.

I also served sixteen written notices drawing attention to defects in mines where the work done was in my opinion not satisfactory or safe. The same carelessness is used in regard to explosives as was the case last year, and the most experienced men are often the worst offenders, long immunity from accident perhaps making them careless.

I have, &c.,

J. R. GODFREY,

Inspector of Mines.

The Chief Inspector of Mines, Sydney.

INSPECTOR

INSPECTOR HOOKE'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Sydney, 1 January, 1897.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit my report on the inspection of mines, &c., performed by me during the half-year ending 31st December, 1896.

During that period I examined and reported upon 252 mines, &c., in the vicinity of the following places, viz. :—Adelong, Wyalong, Inverell, Tingha, Boggy Camp, Bora Creek, Glen Innes, Glen Elgin, Llangothlin, Deepwater, Emmaville, Tenterfield, Boonoo Boonoo, Drake, Pretty Gully, Tooloom, Rivertree, Lionsville, Coramba, Orara, Hillgrove, Metz, Moonan and Stewart's Brooks, Burrowa, Binalong, and Cowra Creek.

The total number of mines which came under my notice was 252, of which 67 were in connection with applications for aid from the Prospecting Vote, and in the execution of which 4,341 miles were travelled.

I also assisted in the investigation of two fatal accidents, which were fully reported at the time. One occurred at Wyalong and one at Cowra Creek. Both were caused by falls of stone from the roof, owing to the absence of required support, and serve to accentuate the need of inspection, as in the foregoing respect there seems to be the greatest neglect.

Many of the mines visited were found to be in bad condition, and requests for betterment were made in such cases, and these have been complied with.

I have, &c.,

HENRY HOOKE,

The Chief Inspector of Mines, Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney.

Inspector of Mines.

ACTING EXAMINER OF COAL-FIELDS' REPORT.

Sir,

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 19 February, 1897.

In compliance with the provisions of section 21 of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896 (60 Vic., No. 12) I have the honor to submit the reports of Messrs. Bates and Humble, Inspectors of Collieries for Coal-mines at work, and opening out in the counties of Northumberland, Durham, Gloucester, and Pottinger, called the northern district; and that of Mr. Rowan, Inspector of Collieries for Coal and Shale (Boghead Mineral) Mines at work, and opening out in the counties of Camden, Cook, and Roxburgh, in the Illawarra or southern district, the south-western, and western districts. I may here be allowed to state, that although this report is written in compliance with section 21 of the present Act, this Act did not come into force until 1st October, 1896, therefore a period of nine months of the past year was embraced by the Act of 1876.

The information I have the honor to submit with respect to the number of accidents above and below ground, quantity and value of coal gotten, number of persons employed on the surface and underground, coal exported, and that used for home consumption, and notices received of new mines opening or in course of development, &c., during the year 1896, is as follows :—

In 1896, the year under notice, there have been 24 fatal and 62 non-fatal accidents—5 of the fatal accidents occurred through falls of coal, 2 by falls of stone (roof), 3 by an outburst of coal and gas, 1 whilst shunting waggons on surface, 1 by a waggon, 1 by a set of skips underground, 11 by inhaling noxious gas known as carbon mon-oxide gas.

Twenty-eight of the non-fatal accidents occurred by falls of coal, 5 by ignition of loose powder, 19 by skips, 1 by a locomotive engine, 1 by a stone slipping off the gob, 4 by falls of roof, 2 by a horse, 1 by a sprag whilst waggon in motion on jetty, and 1 by cage.

In 1895 the fatal accidents were 10, and the non-fatal accidents 47, 5 of the fatal accidents occurred through falls of coal, 1 by skips, 1 by a descending cage in shaft, and three by falls of stone.

Ten of the non-fatal accidents occurred by skips, 25 by falls of coal, 1 by a falling prop, 1 by a coal truck, 2 by being scalded by steam above ground, 5 by falls of stone roof, 1 by falling off a trolley, and 1 by jumping off a train of skips.

In 1894 there were 7 fatal accidents and 40 non-fatal accidents. Two of the fatal accidents happened from falls of coal, 1 by explosion of a shot, 1 by falling down an incline, 1 by falling on cage in incline, and 2 from falls of stone.

Five of the non-fatal accidents occurred by skips, 28 by falls of coal, 1 by a fall of stone, 1 by the bursting of a pin of machinery, 3 by ignition of powder, 1 by truck on surface, and 1 on engine plane underground.

Since the commencement of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, a great deal of my time has been taken up in the matter of service certificates and special rules. I have also visited several localities for the purpose of reporting upon applications to mine for coal on Crown lands, reserves, &c.; also checked and reported on royalties owing for coal gotten from Crown lands by different coal companies.

In conclusion, I have only to add that during the year 1896 there were 96 coal mines and 5 boghead mineral mines under inspection, and notices have been received of 17 new mines opening out or in course of development, such as sinking pits and driving adits, and of 5 having been abandoned altogether or suspended for a short time.

It will be seen that the year's return shows a decrease in the coal trade for 1896 in the Newcastle district of 8,205 tons of round and small coal raised, and a decrease of £10,271 in value.

In the South and South-western Districts for the same period there has been an increase of 91,873 tons of round and small coal raised and an increase of £23,848 in value. In the Western District for the year 1896 there has been an increase of 87,259 tons of round and small coal raised and an increase of £16,377 in value.

I have, &c.,

JOHN DIXON,

Acting Examiner of Coal-fields.

RETURN showing the number of fatal and non-fatal accidents; those caused by "falls of coal," stone "roof" and Lithgow, Ferndale, Bulli, A. A. Co.'s Hamilton Pit, South Burwood Sinking Pit, Metropolitan, and Stockton disasters, 1873 to 1896 inclusive.

Year.	Fatal accidents.	Remarks on fatal accidents.	Non-fatal accidents.	Remarks on non-fatal accidents.	Men above and below ground.	Tons of coal raised.	Tons of coal raised per life lost.
1873...	13	9 by falls of coal	10	4 by falls of coal, 1 by stone roof	*.....	1,192,862	91,758
1874...	5	3 by falls of coal, 2 by stone roof	13	6 by falls of coal, 4 by stone roof	*.....	1,304,612	260,922
1875...	8	4 by falls of coal, 3 by stone roof	10	6 by falls of coal	3,308	1,329,729	166,216
1876...	4	2 by falls of coal, 1 by stone roof	8	4 by falls of coal	4,084	1,319,918	329,979
1877...	7	4 by falls of coal, 1 by stone roof	21	16 by falls of coal	4,657	1,444,271	206,324
1878...	8	2 by falls of coal, 1 by stone roof	15	12 by falls of coal, 1 by stone roof	4,792	1,575,497	196,937
1879...	5	2 by falls of coal, 2 by stone roof	19	10 by falls of coal	5,035	1,553,381	316,676
1880...	8	4 by falls of coal, 1 by stone roof	19	8 by falls of coal	4,676	1,466,180	183,272
1881...	2	2 by falls of coal	33	25 by falls of coal	4,098	1,769,597	884,798
1882...	12	10 by falls of coal	33	23 by falls of coal	4,487	2,109,282	175,773
1883...	15	8 by falls of coal, 1 by stone roof	34	15 by falls of coal, 4 by stone roof	5,431	2,521,457	168,096
1884...	14	6 by falls of coal, 2 by stone roof	34	14 by falls of coal, 6 by stone roof	6,227	2,749,109	196,364
1885...	11	7 by falls of coal, 2 by stone roof	40	13 by falls of coal	7,097	2,878,863	261,714
1886...	29	10 by falls of coal, 1 by stone roof, 8 by Lithgow disaster, 1 by Ferndale flooding.	43	15 by falls of coal, 2 by fall of roof	7,347	2,830,175	97,592
1887...	94	81 killed by Bulli catastrophe, 5 by falls of coal, 2 by falls of stone roof.	45	22 by falls of coal, 5 by fall of stone roof.	7,998	2,922,497	31,690
1888...	15	5 by falls of roof	43	12 by falls of coal, 4 by stone roof	9,301	3,203,443	213,562
1889...	41	11 by crush at Hamilton Pit, 11 by falls of coal, 4 by over-winding at South Burwood.	57	24 by falls of coal	10,277	3,655,632	89,161
1890...	13	4 by falls of coal, 1 by fall of roof	36	17 by falls of coal, 3 by stone roof	10,315	3,060,876	236,145
1891...	21	7 by falls of coal, 3 by fall of roof	64	27 by falls of coal, 6 by stone roof	10,320	4,037,929	192,282
1892...	8	4 by falls of coal, 3 by fall of roof	77	38 by falls of coal, 10 by stone roof	10,514	3,780,967	472,620
1893...	13	10 by falls of coal, 1 by fall of stone ...	45	22 by falls of coal, 5 by fall stone	9,971	3,278,327	252,179
1894...	7	2 by falls of coal, 2 by fall of stone ...	40	28 by falls of coal, 1 by fall stone	9,126	3,672,076	524,582
1895...	10	5 by falls of coal, 3 by fall of stone ...	47	25 by falls of coal, 1 by fall of stone.	9,017	3,738,589	373,858
1896...	24	5 by falls of coal, 2 by fall of roof ...	62	28 by falls of coal, 4 by fall of roof	9,460	3,909,515	162,896

* Figures not available.

From this return it will be seen that the fatal accidents exceed in number those of any previous year since 1889, and the extremely heavy list for the year named was considerably augmented by the crush in the A. A. Co.'s Hamilton Pit, and the case of over-winding at South Burwood Colliery.

COMPARATIVE

COMPARATIVE Statement of Returns for 1895-96.

		Men and boys above ground.	Men and boys below ground.	Tons of round and small coal.		Value	
NORTHERN DISTRICT.				tons	cwt. qr.	£	s. d.
Australian Agricultural, Newcastle, Wallsend, Newcastle Coal, Lambton, Co-operative, Brown's, Duckenfield, Waratah, Wickham and Bullock Island, Hetton, Burwood, Stockton, West Wallsend, New Lambton, Bloomfield, Thornley, Greta, New Anvil Creek, Rix's Creek, New Park, Rosedale, Dulwich, Centenary, Ebbw Vale, South Wallsend, East Greta, Morriset, Burwood Extended, Wallarah, Elmore Vale, Denton Park, Maryland, Hillside, Marshall's, Morley, Seaham, Pacific, Rays, Rose Hill, Kyuga, Gladstone, Louisvale, Northumberland, South Hetton, Wright's, Bayley's Reward, Gunnedah, Meredith's, Oakvale, Sunderland Surprise, Side, Scanton's, Mason's, Mawk's, Morris's, Sunnyside, Jenkins, Durham, Quarry, South Greta, Northern Extended.		1,244	5,697	2,623,015	14 2	802,956	1 0
Total in 1896		1,244	5,697	2,623,015	14 2	802,956	1 0
" 1895		1,170	5,602	2,631,221	11 0	813,227	15 6
Increase in 1896		74	95	.....		.....
Decrease .....		.....		8,205	10 2	10,271	14 6
SOUTH AND SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICTS.							
Metropolitan, Coal Cliff, South Bulli, Osborne, Wallsend, Mount Kembla, Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Co., Bellambi, Corrimal, Mount Pleasant, South Clifton, Hill-end, Austimere, Erith		388	1,506	1,008,376	10 0	265,686	13 11
Total in 1896		388	1,506	1,008,376	10 0	265,686	13 11
" 1895		363	1,686	916,502	15 0	241,838	10 3
Increase in 1896		25	.....	91,873	15 0	23,848	3 8
Decrease		80		.....		.....
WESTERN DISTRICT.							
Oakley Park, Vale, Zig Zag, Vale of Clwydd, Lithgow Valley, Eskbank, Eskbank Old Tunnel, Hermitage, Coorwill, Rawdon, Irondale, Cullen Bullen, Folly, Ivanhoe, Retort (N.S.W. Shale and Oil), Black Diamond.....		63	335	278,124	8 0	56,638	1 8
Total in 1896		63	335	278,124	8 0	56,638	1 8
" 1895		49	247	190,864	14 0	40,260	15 3
Increase in 1896		14	88	87,259	13 0	16,377	6 5

From these returns we find that in the Northern District, in the year under notice, there has been an increase of 169 persons employed in and about the collieries, and a decrease of 8,205 tons of coal raised, and £19,271 in value.

In the South and South-western Districts there has been a decrease of 55 persons employed in and about the collieries, and an increase of 91,502 tons of coal raised and of £23,848 in value.

In the Western District there has been an decrease of 102 persons employed in and about the collieries, and 87,259 tons of coal raised, and of £16,377 in value.

Years.	Exports to Intercolonial Ports			Exports to Foreign Ports and United Kingdom and other British Possessions.			Total Exports.			Home consumption.
	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.	
1894.....	Tons. 1,175,072	£ s. d. 0 7 1.73	£ 419,751	Tons. 950,053	£ s. d. 0 8 1.26	£ 385,018	Tons. 2,121,525	£ s. d. 0 7 6.88	£ 804,769	Tons. 1,446,951
1895.....	1,196,504	0 6 9.69	407,271	969,720	0 7 4.75	366,833	2,166,230	0 7 1.74	773,954	1,572,286
1896.....	1,371,796	0 7 0.34	482,096	1,103,111	0 7 6.03	418,168	3,474,907	0 7 3.30	900,264	1,434,608
	3,743,372	0 6 11.03	1,300,118	3,022,890	0 7 8.38	1,169,809	6,766,262	0 7 3.93	2,478,987	4,553,018

Years.	Total output and value			Coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines.			Value of coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines.			Tons of coal raised per each life lost.		
	Quantity.	Average per ton.	Value.	Quantity.	Average tons per each person employed.	Persons employed.	Value.	Average value per each person employed.	Persons employed.	Quantity.	Average tons per each life lost.	Lives lost.
1894.....	Tons. 3,672,076	£ s. d. 0 6 3.55	£ 1,155,573	Tons. 3,672,076	402	9,126	£ 1,155,573	£ s. d. 126 12 5	9,126	Tons. 3,672,076	Tons. 524,582	7
1895.....	3,738,589	0 5 10.31	1,095,327	3,738,589	414	9,017	1,095,327	121 9 5	9,017	3,738,589	373,853	10
1896.....	4,909,517	0 5 9.08	1,125,230	3,939,516	423	9,233	1,125,230	121 17 6	9,233	3,909,515	162,396	24
	11,320,182	0 6 11.57	3,376,130	11,320,180	413	27,376	3,376,130	123 6 6	27,376	11,320,180	276,101	41

The returns of the collieries raising coal and shale (boghead mineral) which have been collected and forwarded to me by the Mining Department show the following figures for the year 1896:—

COAL RETURN.

	Northern District.			Southern and South-western Districts.			Western District.			Total.		
	tons	cwt.	qr.	tons	cwt.	qr.	tons	cwt.	qr.	tons	cwt.	qr.
Tons of round and small coal raised	2,623,015	14	2	1,008,376	10	0	278,124	8	0	3,909,516	12	2
Value of round and small coal raised	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	802,956	1	0	265,686	13	11	56,638	1	8	1,125,280	16	7
Persons employed above ground	Number.			Number.			Number.			Number.		
	1,244			388			63			1,695		
Persons employed under ground	5,697			1,506			335			7,538		

PETROLEUM OIL, CANNEL COAL OR BOGHEAD MINERAL RETURNS.

Western and Southern Districts.

Tons of boghead mineral or petroleum oil cannel coal	31,889 tons.
Value of boghead mineral or petroleum oil cannel coal raised	£34,201 18s.
Persons employed above ground	66
Persons employed under ground	161

COKE RETURN.

	Tons.	cwt.	£	s.	d.
Northern District	10,398	10	Value,	21,850	16 3
Southern and Western Districts	15,953	0			

NORTHERN DISTRICT.

Number of persons employed in and about the mines	6,941
Number of persons employed underground	5,697
Quantity of coal raised in tons	2,623,015 14 2
Number of non-fatal accidents	38
Number of lives lost by accidents	18
Persons employed per each non-fatal accident	182
Persons employed per each life lost	385
Tons of round and small coal raised per each non-fatal accident	69,026
Tons of round and small coal raised per each life lost	145,732
Tons of coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines	377
Tons of coal raised per each person employed underground	460
Value of coal raised	£802,956 1 0
Value of coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines	115 13 7
Value of coal raised per each person employed underground	140 18 10

SOUTHERN AND SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT.

Number of persons employed in and about the mines	1,894
Number of persons employed underground	1,506
Quantity of coal raised in tons	1,008,376 10
Number of non-fatal accidents	17
Number of lives lost by accidents	6
Persons employed per each non-fatal accident	111
Persons employed per each life lost	315
Tons of round and small coal raised per each non-fatal accident	59,316
Tons of round and small coal raised per each life lost	168,062
Tons of coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines	532
Tons of coal raised per each person employed underground	669
Value of coal raised	£265,686 13 11
Value of coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines	140 5 6
Value of coal raised per each person employed underground	176 8 4

WESTERN DISTRICT.

Number of persons employed in and about the mines	398
Number of persons employed underground	335
Quantity of coal raised in tons	278,124 8
Number of non-fatal accidents	7
Number of lives lost by accidents	Nil.
Persons employed per each non-fatal accident	56
Persons employed per each life lost	No life lost.
Tons of round and small coal raised per each non-fatal accident	39,732
Tons of round and small coal raised per each life lost	No life lost.
Tons of coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines	698
Tons of coal raised per each person employed underground	830
Value of coal raised	£56,638 1 8
Value of coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines	142 6 1
Value of coal raised per each person employed underground	168 18 4

The

The following table shows comparisons between the year under notice and the preceding year, as regards the proportion the accidents and deaths bear to the persons employed, and the quantity and value of the coal for each person employed in and about the mines and underground, in the Northern, Southern, and Western Districts.

	Northern District.		Southern and South-western Districts		Western District.	
	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.
Number of persons employed in and about the mines	0,772	0,941	1,040	1,304	296	398
Number of persons employed underground	5,602	5,697	1,586	1,506	247	335
Quantity of coal raised in tons	2,631,221 11 0	2,624,015 14 2	916,501 15 0	1,028,376 10 0	190,864 14 0	278,124 8 0
Number of non-fatal accidents	38	38	7	17	2	7
Number of lives lost by accident	9	18	1	6	Nil	Nil
Persons employed per each non-fatal accident	178	182	278	111	118	56
Persons employed per each life lost	752	385	1,040	315	No life lost.	No life lost.
Tons of round and small coal raised per each non-fatal accident.	69,242	69,026	130,928	59,316	95,432	39,732
Tons of round and small coal raised per each life lost	292,357	145,732	916,502	168,062	No life lost.	No life lost.
Tons of coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines.	383	377	470	532	644	698
Tons of coal raised per each person employed underground.	469	460	577	669	772	830
Value of coal raised	£ s. d. 813,227 15 6	£ s. d. 802,056 1 0	£ s. d. 241,838 10 3	£ s. d. 265,086 13 11	£ s. d. 40,260 15 3	£ s. d. 56,636 1 8
Value of coal raised per each person employed in and about the mines.	120 1 8	115 13 7	124 1 7	140 5 6	136 0 0	142 6 1
Value of coal raised per each person employed underground.	145 3 4	140 8 10	152 9 7	176 8 4	162 19 11	168 18 4

DECENNIAL RETURN.—Port of Newcastle.—Foreign and Intercolonial Ports.

Year.	Vessels cleared outwards for Foreign and Intercolonial Ports.		Total value of Imports from Foreign and Intercolonial Ports.	Quantity and value of Coal exported to Foreign and Intercolonial Ports.		Total value of Exports (inclusive of Coal) to Foreign and Intercolonial Ports.	Total amount of Revenue collected.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.		Tons.	Value.		
1885	1,388	1,076,346	£ s. d. 930,200 0 0	£ s. d. 1,552,136 0 0	£ s. d. 832,495 0 0	£ s. d. 1,927,626 0 0	£ s. d. 108,834 18 6
1886	1,335	1,097,382	843,474 0 0	1,544,694	828,189 0 0	1,398,728 0 0	119,131 15 0
1887	1,334	1,154,439	781,796 0 0	1,658,386	886,921 0 0	1,788,064 0 0	117,543 7 10
1888	949	815,516	758,586 0 0	1,580,337	852,083 0 0	2,067,460 0 0	126,036 7 9
1889	1,277	1,126,892	924,150 0 0	2,091,557	1,102,722 0 0	1,894,321 0 0	132,018 0 1
1890	916	842,180	816,694 0 0	1,628,038	875,197 0 0	1,768,379 0 0	124,782 14 10
1891	1,425	1,476,097	877,063 0 0	2,244,729	1,160,965 0 0	2,032,522 0 0	166,048 2 9
1892	1,307	1,381,318	765,083 0 0	1,894,735	879,482 0 0	1,846,953 0 0	191,394 12 10
1893	1,108	1,209,467	451,253 0 0	1,583,882	702,190 0 0	1,700,813 0 0	151,286 8 1
1894	1,255	1,415,159	427,581 0 0	1,891,674	710,341 0 0	1,485,475 0 0	158,895 12 11
1895	1,207	1,410,004	420,778 0 0	1,920,378	678,217 0 0	1,417,122 0 0	155,362 8 1
1896	1,180	1,479,033	611,872 0 0	2,070,304	729,444 0 0	1,496,687 0 0	123,280 15 3

RETURN showing the quantity raised, price per ton, and value of the boghead mineral or petroleum oil (cannel coal), commonly called kerosene shale, from 1865 to 1896 inclusive.

Year.	Tons.	Average price per ton.	Value.	Year.	Tons.	Average price per ton.	Value.
1865	570	£ s. d. 4 2 5-47	£ s. d. 2,350 0 0	1881	27,894	£ s. d. 1 9 2-59	£ s. d. 40,748 0 0
1866	2,770	2 18 10-48	8,154 0 0	1882	48,065	1 15 0-00	84,114 0 0
1867	4,079	3 14 9-21	15,249 0 0	1883	49,250	1 16 10-77	90,861 10 0
1868	16,952	2 17 7-11	48,816 0 0	1884	31,618	2 5 7-85	72,176 0 0
1869	7,500	2 10 0-00	18,750 0 0	1885	27,462	2 8 11-62	67,239 0 0
1870	8,580	3 4 3-18	27,570 0 0	1886	43,563	2 5 10-79	99,976 0 0
1871	14,700	2 6 3-91	34,050 0 0	1887	40,010	2 3 10-43	87,761 0 0
1872	11,040	2 11 11-91	28,700 0 0	1888	34,896	2 2 2-26	73,612 0 0
1873	17,850	2 16 6-55	50,475 0 0	1889	40,561	1 18 3-55	77,666 15 0
1874	12,100	2 5 1-48	27,300 0 0	1890	56,010	1 17 2-07	104,103 7 6
1875	6,197	2 10 2-22	15,500 0 0	1891	40,349	1 18 8-90	78,160 0 0
1876	15,998	3 0 0-00	47,994 0 0	1892	74,197	1 16 8-16	136,079 6 0
1877	18,963	2 9 0-82	46,524 10 0	1893	55,660	1 16 4-44	101,220 10 0
1878	24,371	2 6 11-49	57,211 0 0	1894	21,171	1 10 0-20	31,781 5 0
1879	32,519	2 1 10-96	66,930 10 0	1895	59,426	1 5 3-78	75,218 18 8
1880	19,201	2 6 7-03	44,724 15 0	1896	31,839	1 1 5-81	34,201 18 0

The following Statistical Return, furnished by the Sub-Collector of Customs of Newcastle, shows that the greatest increase in the export of coal from that port has been:—To South Australia, 102,404 tons; Western Australia, 80,515; Philippine Islands, 17,800; Peru, 15,156; Java, 13,040; India, 9,800; Sandwich Islands, 8,826; Hongkong, 8,127; New Caledonia, 7,836; Queensland, 5,239; Panama, 3,091; and United Kingdom, 2620. And the greatest decreases are:—To Victoria, 55,848; United States, 39,038; New Zealand, 26,986; Tasmania, 5,272; Mauritius, 3,348; and New Hebrides, 3,080.

NEWCASTLE.

NEWCASTLE.—New South Wales export of Coal during the years 1895 and 1896.

Countries.	1895.	1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Victoria	639,804	583,956	.....	55,848
New Zealand	154,869	127,883	.....	26,986
South Australia	127,191	229,595	102,404	.....
Queensland	20,844	26,083	5,239	.....
Tasmania	57,235	51,963	.....	5,272
Western Australia	37,960	118,476	80,516	.....
Hong Kong	21,608	29,735	8,127	.....
United States	273,693	234,655	.....	39,038
Java	23,364	36,404	13,040	.....
Ecuador	972	1,242	270	.....
New Caledonia	8,639	16,475	7,836	.....
Mauritius	11,257	7,909	.....	3,348
Biji	4,975	3,240	.....	1,735
India	38,041	47,861	9,820	.....
Philippine Islands	47,982	65,782	17,800	.....
Peru	27,225	42,381	15,156	.....
Chili	305,830	306,202	372	.....
Sandwich Islands	41,436	53,262	8,826	.....
Mexico	14,671	15,160	489	.....
South Sea Islands .....	.....	1,510	1,510	.....
Singapore	25,276	25,882	606	.....
United Kingdom	3,400	6,020	2,620	.....
New Hebrides	4,875	1,795	.....	3,080
Ceylon	2,986	5,900	2,914	.....
Panama	18,812	21,903	3,091	.....
Other Countries	4,433	9,030	4,597	.....
Total	1,920,378	2,070,304	285,233	135,307

NEWCASTLE.—Export of Coke for the year 1896.

Countries to which exported.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£
Victoria	846	1,071
New Zealand	216	266
New Caledonia	4	4
Western Australia	14	17
Peru	673	757
Total	1,753	2,115

THE following notices were received during the year of new mines opening out or in course of development, mines re-opened, sinking of pits, driving tunnels, change of ownership, and names of collieries; also, colliery management:—

Bulli.—On 24th January Mr. T. J. Evans gave notice that the ownership of the Bulli Steam Coal Colliery had changed to the firm known as the "Bulli Co-operative Steam Coal Company, Limited."

South Clifton.—Mr. Robert Wragg, on the 12th March, notified that he had been appointed manager of the South Clifton Colliery, *vice* W. Wilson, deceased.

Cardiff.—Mr. Henry Harper, on the 20th March, notified having sunk through a seam of coal on Mr. Honson's land with satisfactory results.

Waratah.—Mr. James Rutley, on March 19th, of having again opened up the Hillside Colliery.

Four-mile Creek.—Mr. James Race, on the 6th May, notified having started to draw coal from Blackett's and Brown's tunnels.

Bundanoon.—Messrs. Palmer and Coppard, on the 16th May, notified having started operations at the above colliery with six men.

Newcastle Pasturage Reserve.—Mr. D. Morris, on May 27, notified having commenced operations to mine coal on the allotments applied for. Name of colliery, "Morris."

Grovetown, Lambton.—Mr. Walter Jenkins, on the 27th May, notified having opened a colliery on his land, to be known as "Jenkins' Colliery."

Newcastle Pasturage Reserve.—Mr. William Mawks notified on June 30th of having sunk a shaft on his own land to work a little coal out.

Farley, West Maitland.—Messrs. Ralston and Morgan, on July 16th, notified having changed the name of the colliery from Font Hill to "South Greta."

Capertee.—The general manager (Mr. C. B. Roden), on July 7th, notified that the Glen Alice Coal and Shale Mining Company have commenced operations on their property at Glen Alice, near Capertee.

Charlestown.—Mr. John Waddell, on July 23rd, notified having started to open up the top seam of coal at Charlestown, on the leasehold part of the Waratah Coal Company's estate, and purpose to call it "Hillend Colliery."

Cardiff.—Mr. Archibald Gardener, notified on behalf of the Commercial Bank of Australia, Limited, of having taken over the South Wallsend Mine from the late lessee, Mr. John Johnstone, and the operations are being carried on under his supervision.

Capertee.—On the 13th August the General Manager, Mr. W. Hall, notifies, on behalf of the New South Wales Shale Oil Company, of having leased from J. W. King the property known as the "Airly" Shale Mine, situate in the parish of Airly, county of Roxburgh. The directors have appointed Mr. John Blackley to take charge of same. In future the mine will be known as the "New Hartley Shale Mine."

Greta.

Greta.—Mr. Clement Jones, on August 27th, notified that he had taken charge of the New Anvil Creek Colliery, *vice* Mr. D. Harris.

Plattsbury.—Mr. James Barr, Manager of the Co-operative Colliery, notified on 27th August that he had opened out a second coal-seam, 60 feet above that now worked, 5 feet in thickness; two adits have been completed and connected.

East Maitland.—Mr. S. Summerville, on August 31st, notified that he was prospecting for coal on land adjoining Newcastle Road, close to East Maitland; had sunk a small shaft on the crop of a seam of coal about 3 feet thick; if satisfactory, intended to work it.

Cardiff.—Mr. James Campbell, on September 7th, notified having started a tunnel to work coal out of Mr. Jones property, Cardiff.

Four-mile Creek, East Maitland.—Mr. G. Beatty, on September 7th, notified that he was driving a tunnel for coal on the Inganee Estate, and will be known as the Inganee Tunnel.

Tickhole, near Cardiff.—Mr. W. W. Johnson notified, on September 18th, of having commenced a tunnel for the purpose of proving a seam of coal inland, portion 32, at Tickhole, parish of Teralba.

West Wallsend.—Mr. James R. M. Robertson, on behalf of the Caledonia Coal Company, Limited, notified on the 26th September that the colliery and estate, formerly known as New Wallsend, situated near West Wallsend, have been purchased by this company. Operations necessary for sinking the air-shaft, so long suspended, have been resumed. The contractors are Messrs. Adam Frost & Co. Mr. Duncan McGeachie, on behalf of the company, will supervise the work. The colliery will hereafter be known as "Killingworth."

Curlwis.—Mr. John J. Poole, on the 9th September, notified having started a heading in coal crop above present workings.

Teralba.—On 10th October Mr. Andrew Sneddon notified, in accordance with Part I Clause 2 Part (B) of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, appoints William Sneddon, of Teralba, as manager of Gartlee Colliery; also gives notice that the name of the colliery has been changed to that of "Northern Extended."

Cardiff.—On 12th October Mr. James Campbell notified that the colliery being opened out by him shall be called "Cardiff Colliery."

North Lambton.—On 12th October Mr. John Russell notified having leased Rosehill Colliery, and had appointed William John Ritchie manager, in accordance with Section 2 of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896.

New Anvil Creek Colliery.—On 11th November Mr. Percy Waddy notified, on behalf of the New Anvil Creek Coal Syndicate, that Mr. Benjamin Yates has been placed in charge of the colliery on behalf of the owners.

COAL-MINES ABANDONED OR OPERATIONS SUSPENDED DURING THE YEAR 1896.

Denton Park Colliery.—Mr. John Russell on the 4th March gave notice that work in the Denton Park Colliery, West Maitland, has been temporarily suspended operations for a short time.

Pioneer Colliery, West Maitland.—Mr. James H. Paul gave notice on the 20th March that he had severed his connection with the above-named colliery, and responsibility ceased from this date.

Waratah.—Messrs. H. Keys and B. Tonks notified on the 13th July having abandoned the colliery known as "Liddle's Colliery."

Mittagong.—Mr. Robert Snowden on the 29th June gave notice that the Box Vale Mine was closed and plant taken up.

New Anvil Creek Colliery.—Mr. Daniel R. Harris notified on the 22nd August that he had given up all charge of the above colliery, all being correct at time and date.

Sunderland Colliery.—Mr. M. Tulip notified on 24th October that he would abandon and cease to work the above colliery.

New Anvil Creek Colliery.—Mr. A. Thomas on the 31st October notified that from this date he ceased to be agent and manager for the New Anvil Creek Colliery.

Rylstone.—Mr. Colliery Inspector Rowan reports that the Rawdon Colliery has been abandoned.

The Half-yearly Report on the Collieries in the Northern District of New South Wales and Accidents investigated by the Inspectors of Collieries during the six months ending June 30th, 1896.

Sir,

Newcastle, 25 July, 1896.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 26 in the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1876, we have the honor to transmit to you this our six-monthly report on the state of the various collieries in the Northern District for the half-year ending June 30th, 1896.

The total number of collieries under inspection in the Northern District during the half-year is 68.

Four collieries have been abandoned, *viz.*, Bebside, Green's, Sunlight, and Bell's. Three collieries have been added, *viz.*, Jenkins', Morris', and Mawkes'.

No work has been done at the following fifteen collieries, *viz.*, Awaba, Swansea, Young Wallsend, Summerhill, West Burwood, Fern Valley, Rotunda, Shamrock Hill, Richmond Vale, Maitland, Stamford Greta, Pioneer, Leonfield, Richmond Hill, and Nicholas' Tunnel.

PRESENT STATE OF MINES.

A. A. Co.'s No. 2 Colliery.—This mine has been completely shut down since the commencement of the labour trouble in April last, but was under inspection until that time.

A. A. Co.'s New Winning Colliery.—This colliery has been under inspection during the whole of the six months, but all work has been suspended since the commencement of the strike in April last. The workings are in good order and the Act complied with.

Wallsend Colliery.—About thirty men are employed underground repairing roads and attending to the pumps, &c., in readiness for resumption of work. As regards ventilation, the manager was, in March last,

last, proceeded against on a charge of inadequate ventilation of the No. 2 portion of the colliery, and the case decided in favour of the Crown. Against this the Company appealed to a higher court; such appeal has not yet been heard. The Act in other respects is complied with.

Newcastle Co's. Colliery.—A few men are employed in this colliery keeping the bords, &c., in repair. Everything is in good order, and the provisions of the Act carried out.

Lambton Colliery.—Only about 10 men are at present employed in this colliery, attending to the pumps and keeping the roads in repair in readiness for resumption of work. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

Co-operative Colliery.—About 230 men, &c., employed and supplied with about 40,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The face workings are divided into six separate and distinct districts. The provisions of the Act in other respects also are complied with.

Burwood Colliery.—Owing to the labour dispute this colliery is idle, with the exception of a few men who are engaged in timbering, &c. The ventilation is good, and the mine is in order for work at any time. The other provisions of the Act are also complied with.

Stockton Colliery.—There are about 180 men, &c., employed in this mine and supplied with about 26,000 cubic feet of air per minute. There are four separate and distinct districts. The Act is complied with.

Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery.—About 250 men, &c., are employed in this mine and supplied with about 35,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The face workings are divided into seven districts. The provisions of the Act in other respects also are complied with.

Hotton Colliery.—There are about 320 men, &c., employed in this mine and supplied with 75,000 cubic feet of air per minute. There are seven separate and distinct districts. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

Brown's Colliery.—About 310 men, &c., are employed in this mine and supplied with about 50,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The face workings are divided into six separate and distinct districts. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

Duckenfield Colliery.—There are about 230 men, &c., employed in this mine and supplied with about 50,000 cubic feet of air per minute. There are six separate and distinct districts. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

South Waratah Colliery.—Owing to the labour dispute, only a few men are at present engaged below ground, and the workings are kept in a good state of repair, and ready for full work at any time. The ventilation is good, and other provisions of the Act also complied with.

New Lambton Colliery.—About 110 men, &c., are employed in this colliery during the day time, and supplied with about 24,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The face workings are divided into two separate and distinct districts, and the other provisions of the Act are also fully carried out.

Ebbw Vale Colliery.—About 37 men, &c., are employed in this mine during the day time, and the quantity of air in circulation is about 10,000 cubic feet per minute. The Act is complied with in other respects also.

Hillside Colliery, Merewether.—About 8 men, &c., are at present employed in this mine. The ventilation is good, and the other provisions of the Act are also complied with.

Surprise Colliery, Lambton.—There are 3 men employed in this mine, and the provisions of the Act are fully complied with.

Sunnyside Colliery, Lambton.—Three men are employed in this mine. Everything is in good order, and the Act complied with.

Bayley's Reward Colliery, Lambton.—There are 2 men employed in this mine. Everything in good order; no cause for complaint.

Ray's Colliery, Lambton.—Only 1 man employed in this mine at present. The ventilation is good; no cause for complaint.

Meredith Colliery, Lambton.—There are 2 men employed in this mine. Everything is in good order; no cause for complaint.

Jenkins' Colliery, Lambton.—This mine has been lately opened, and 2 men are employed below ground. The ventilation is good, and everything is in good working order.

Morris's Colliery, Lambton.—This is a new mine lately opened, and at the present time 3 men are employed below ground. The provisions of the Act are fully observed.

Mawkes' Colliery, Lambton.—This is a new mine, lately opened on Mr. Mawkes' private property. There are two men employed below ground, and everything is in good working order.

Roshill Colliery, North Lambton.—At the present time there are 2 men employed in this mine. Everything is in good order, and no cause for complaint.

Jackson's Colliery, Lambton.—This mine is now completely abandoned.

Quarry Colliery, Waratah.—Only 2 men are employed in this mine. Everything is in good order, and no cause for complaint.

Mason's Colliery, Waratah.—Only 2 men are employed in this mine. Everything is in good order, and there is no cause for complaint.

Rushton's Colliery, Waratah.—This mine is now completely abandoned.

Liddle's Colliery, Waratah.—Only 2 men are employed in this mine. Everything is in good order. No cause for complaint.

Side Colliery, Waratah.—There are 5 men, &c., employed in this mine. The ventilation is good and every other provision of the Act is also complied with.

Wright's Colliery, Waratah.—This mine has been under inspection during the half year, but all work is at present suspended.

Elmore Vale Colliery, Wallsend.—There are about 40 men, &c., employed in this mine, and supplied with about 5,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The provisions of the Act in other respects also are complied with.

Maryland Colliery, Plattsburg.—About 36 men, &c., are employed in this mine, and supplied with about 9,000 cubic feet of air per minute in one current. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

Dudley Colliery, Charlestown.—After a stoppage of about three years work was resumed in May last. About 250 men, &c., are employed and supplied with 50,000 cubic feet of air per minute. There are four separate and distinct districts. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

Durham Colliery.—Only 2 men are at present employed at this mine, keeping the workings free from water accumulations. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

Burwood Extended Colliery.—Only 3 men are at the present time employed below ground at this colliery getting coal for the steam-engines, keeping the workings in repair, &c. The provisions of the Act are fully carried out.

South Hetton Colliery, Lake Macquarie.—Two men are employed in this mine. The ventilation is satisfactory and the Act complied with.

Morrisett Colliery, Lake Macquarie.—There are 6 men, &c., employed in this mine. The ventilation is satisfactory and the Act complied with.

Wallarah Colliery, Catherine Hill Bay.—About 120 men, &c., employed in this mine and supplied with about 20,000 cubic feet of air per minute in two currents. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

Northumberland Colliery, Passifern.—There are about 10 men, &c., employed in this mine and supplied with about 3,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

Pacific Colliery, Teralba.—There are about 230 men, &c., employed in this mine and supplied with about 40,000 cubic feet of air per minute. There are four separate and distinct districts. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

Garlee Colliery, Teralba.—There are about 62 men &c., employed in this mine. The quantity of air circulating is about 10,000 cubic feet per minute. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

South Wallsend Colliery, Cardiff.—About 40 men, &c., are employed in this mine, and supplied with about 8,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

West Wallsend Colliery.—There are about 260 men, &c., employed in this mine, and supplied with about 40,000 cubic feet of air per minute. There are six separate and distinct districts. The Act is complied with.

Seaham Colliery.—About 160 men, &c., are employed in this mine. The quantity of air circulating is about 25,000 cubic feet per minute in two currents. In August, 1895, a fire was discovered in the east side workings and in consequence thereof the shafts were sealed off and allowed to remain so until January, 1896, when the mine was reopened and the fire found still burning. Steps were then taken to seal off the east side workings with three brick stoppings. This was successfully accomplished on the 1st of February, 1896, and the work of coal getting resumed in the west side workings on the 17th of the same month. Since then everything has gone all right and the sealing stoppings are in good condition. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

Thornley Colliery, East Maitland.—About 15 men, &c., are employed in this mine. The ventilation is satisfactory, and the provisions of the Act complied with.

Bloomfield Colliery, East Maitland.—About 12 men, &c., are usually employed in this mine. The ventilation is good and the Act complied with.

Marshall's Colliery, East Maitland.—There are 2 men usually employed in this mine. The ventilation is satisfactory and the Act complied with.

Louis Vale Colliery, East Maitland.—Three men are usually employed in this mine. The ventilation is satisfactory and the Act complied with.

Scanton's Colliery, East Maitland.—There are 3 men employed in this mine. The ventilation is satisfactory and the provisions of the Act complied with.

Sunderland Colliery, East Maitland.—Four men, &c., are employed in this mine. The ventilation is good and the Act complied with.

East Greta Colliery, West Maitland.—There are about 180 men, &c., employed in this mine in the two shifts, and supplied with about 25,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

Denton Park Colliery, West Maitland.—About 17 men, &c., are employed in this mine, and supplied with about 3,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

Font Hill Colliery, Farley.—There are about 40 men, &c., employed in this mine, and supplied with about 7,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

New Anvil Creek Colliery, Greta.—About 18 men, &c., are employed in this mine. The quantity of air circulating is about 9,000 cubic feet per minute in one current. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

Greta Colliery, Greta.—There are about 150 men, &c., employed in this mine, and supplied with about 50,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The face workings are divided into five separate and distinct districts. The provisions of the Act in other respects also are complied with.

Ellesmere Colliery, Singleton.—No coal has been drawn at this mine during the half-year; but the mine is kept open and ready for resumption of work at any time.

New Park Colliery, Singleton.—There are 32 men, &c., employed in this mine, and supplied with about 9,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The provisions of the Act are complied with.

Elliott's Colliery, Singleton.—Two men are occasionally employed in this mine. The ventilation is satisfactory, and the Act complied with.

Rosedale Colliery, Singleton.—There are usually 5 men employed. The ventilation is satisfactory, and the Act complied with.

Oakvale Colliery, Singleton.—Only 1 man occasionally employed in this mine. The ventilation is good, and the Act complied with.

Dulwich Colliery, Singleton.—There are 10 men employed in this mine. The ventilation is satisfactory, and the provisions of the Act complied with.

Kanyga Colliery, Muswellbrook.—Only 1 man is at present employed in this mine. Everything is in good order, and no cause for complaint.

Centenary Colliery, Curlewis.—About 28 men, &c., are employed in this mine, and the total quantity of air in circulation is about 10,000 cubic feet per minute. The Act is also complied with in other respects.

Gunnedah Colliery, Gunnedah.—About 14 men, &c., are employed in this mine, and supplied with about 6,000 cubic feet of air per minute in one current. The other provisions of the Act are also complied with.

Gladstone Colliery, Gunnedah.—Only 1 person is employed in this mine at present. The ventilation is good, and everything in good order.

Morley Colliery, Gunnedah.—This mine has been worked during the half-year; but at the present time all work is suspended. The mine is in good order and condition.

ACCIDENTS.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES.

THE accidents investigated by us in the Northern district, and fully reported upon during the six months ending June 30th, 1896, are 21 in number. We also investigated several other slight accidents which are not embraced in this report.

Of the 21 accidents in the annexed tabulated list, 4 proved fatal—3 from falls of coal and 1 from fall of roof. Of the non-fatal accidents, 9 were caused by falls of coal, 5 by skips, and 3 by ignition of powder.

The first fatal accident occurred to a miner named Richard Nicholls, by a fall of coal in the A.A. Company's No. 2 colliery, on 14th January. The District Coroner (G. C. Martin, Esq.) held an inquest on the body of deceased (who died on 26th January), at Newcastle, on 27th January. The inquest was attended by Inspector Dixon, who heard all the evidence, and fully agrees with the verdict of "accidental death" as returned by the jury.

The second occurred to a miner named John Stark, by a fall of coal in Stockton Colliery, on 5th March, terminating fatally on 6th March. The District Coroner (G. C. Martin, Esq.) held an inquest on the body of deceased on 6th March, at the Junction. The inquest was attended by Inspector Humble, who heard all the evidence, and fully agrees with the verdict of "accidental death" as returned by the jury.

The third occurred to a miner named Job Sheldon, by a fall of roof—coal and stone—at Wallsend Colliery, on 26th March. The District Coroner (G. C. Martin, Esq.) held an inquest on the body of deceased at Wallsend on 26th and 27th March. The inquest was attended by Inspector Bates, who heard all the evidence, and the following verdict was returned by the jury:—"We find that the said Job Sheldon, junior, in the Wallsend Colliery, at Wallsend, in the district of Newcastle, in the colony of New South Wales, on the 26th day of March, 1896, met his death from a fall of stone and coal from the roof of the said colliery. We further find that the accident is traceable to negligence on the part of Simon Millward, the deputy-overman of the district, in not seeing that the roof was properly secured in this district."

The fourth occurred to a miner named James Moffit Jackson, by a fall of coal in Hetton Colliery, on 23rd April. The District Coroner (G. C. Martin, Esq.) held an inquest on the body of deceased at Carrington, on 24th April. The inquest was attended by Inspector Humble, who heard all the evidence, and fully agrees with the verdict of "accidental death" as returned by the jury.

An accident occurred on 4th July, 1895, to a miner named James Lever, by a fall of coal in Elemore Vale Colliery. This terminated fatally on 9th March, 1896. The District Coroner (G. C. Martin, Esq.) held an inquest on the body of deceased at Wallsend on 10th March. The inquest was attended by Inspector Bates, who heard all the evidence, and fully agrees with the verdict of "accidental death" as returned by the jury.

The first of the non-fatal accidents occurred to a miner named William Brown, at South Wallsend Colliery, on 13th January, resulting in burns on chest and hands by ignition of loose powder.

The second occurred to a wheeler named Robert Brown, at Lambton Colliery, on January 16, by a loaded skip, resulting in fracture of arm.

The third occurred to a miner named Joseph Dodds, at Wallsend Colliery, on January 21, resulting in burns on face by ignition of powder.

The fourth occurred to a miner named D. Williams, at Hetton Colliery, on February 3, by ignition of powder, resulting in severe burns.

The fifth occurred to a flat-boy named John Durie, at Brown's No. 4 Colliery, on February 5, resulting in fracture of ribs and collar-bone by skips.

The sixth occurred to a miner named James Moon, at Newcastle Company's Colliery, on February 8, by fall of coal, resulting in fracture of arm and injury to head.

The seventh occurred to a miner named Robert Kean, at Duckenfield Colliery, on February 10, resulting in severe internal injuries by fall of coal.

The eighth occurred to a miner named Lewis Andrews, at Wallsend Colliery, on February 11, by a fall of coal, resulting in fracture of leg.

The ninth occurred to a wheeler named Henry Roxby, at Wallsend Colliery, on February 12, by loaded skip, resulting in injury to head.

The tenth occurred to a miner named Fredk. Burns, at Hetton Colliery, on February 24, resulting in fracture of leg by fall of coal.

The eleventh occurred to a roadman named George Cain, at Co-operative Colliery, on February 25, by a skip, resulting in fracture of leg.

The twelfth occurred to a miner named Richard Wardle, at Wallsend Colliery, on March 3, resulting in fracture of leg by fall of coal.

The thirteenth occurred to a miner named Abraham Andrews, at Wallsend Colliery, on March 16, by a fall of coal, resulting in fracture of leg.

The fourteenth occurred to a miner named Wm. Robertson, at Newcastle Company's Colliery, on April 8, resulting in fracture of leg and severe cuts by fall of coal.

The fifteenth occurred to a miner named Christopher Kafer, at Maryland Colliery, on April 15, by a fall of coal, resulting in fracture of thigh.

The sixteenth occurred to a miner named John Harrison, at Elemore Vale Colliery, on May 2, resulting in fracture of leg by fall of coal.

The seventeenth occurred to a miner named Michael Scanlon, at Pacific Colliery, on May 21, by a loaded skip, resulting in injury to foot.

ACCIDENTS ON SURFACE.

ONE non-fatal accident occurred to a shunter named George Henry Jones, at Grota Colliery, on February 8, resulting in injury to foot by locomotive engine.

The tabulated list of accidents is hereto appended.

We have, &c.,
JOHN DIXON,
THOS. S. BATES,
WILLIAM HUMBLE, } Inspectors of Collieries.

The Examiner of Coal-fields, Sydney.

TABULATED

TABLED List of Fatal and Non-Fatal Accidents in the Northern District of New South Wales investigated by the Inspectors of Collieries during the Half-year ending 30th June, 1896.

Date.	Colliery.	Persons Killed or Injured.	Occupation.	Remarks on Nature and Extent of Injuries.	Fatal.		Non-fatal.		Total.
					Fall of Coal.	Fall of Roof.	Ignition of Powder.	Injury by Skips.		Fall of Coal.	Non fatal.
13 Jan.	South Wallsend.	William Brown	Miner	Burns on chest and hands by ignition of loose powder.			1		1
14 "	A. A. Co.'s No 2	Richard Nicholls		Fatal injury by fall of coal. Died, 26 January	1				1
16 "	Lambton	Robert Brown	Wheeler	Fracture of arm by loaded skip			1		1
21 "	Wallsend	Joseph Dodds	Miner	Severe burns on face by ignition of powder			1		1
3 Feb.	Hetton	D. Williams		Burns by ignition of loose powder			1		1
5 "	Brown's No. 4	John Durie	Flatboy	Fracture of ribs and collar bone by skips			1		1
8 "	Newcastle Co.	James Moon	Miner	Fracture of arm and injury to head by fall of coal.			1		1
10 "	Dockenfield	Robert Kean		Severe internal injuries by fall of coal			1		1
11 "	Wallsend	Lewis Andrews		Fracture of leg by fall of coal			1		1
12 "		Henry Roxby	Wheeler	Injury to head by loaded skip			1		1
24 "	Hetton	Frederick Burns	Miner	Fracture of leg by fall of coal			1		1
25 "	Co-operative	George Cain	Roadman	Fracture of leg by skip			1		1
3 Mar	Wallsend	Richard Wardle	Miner	Fracture of leg by fall of coal			1		1
6 "	Stockton	John Stark		Fatal injury by fall of coal. Died, 6 March	1				1
16 "	Wallsend No. 1	Abraham Andrews		Fracture of leg by fall of coal			1		1
20 "	Wallsend	Job Sheldon		Fatal injury by fall of roof		1			1
3 April	Newcastle Co.	William Robinson		Fracture of leg and hand and severe cuts by fall of coal.			1		1
15 "	Maryland	Christopher Kafer		Fracture of thigh by fall of coal			1		1
23 "	Hetton	James Moffitt Jackson		Fatal injury by fall of coal	1				1
2 May	Elmore Vale	John Harrison		Fracture of leg by fall of coal			1		1
21 "	Pacific	Michael Scanlon		Injury to foot by loaded skip			1		1
ACCIDENT ON SURFACE.									
8 Feb.	Greta	George Henry Jones	Shunter	Injury to foot by locomotive	3	1	3	5	9
								4	17
								4	18

The Half-yearly Report on the Collieries in the Northern District of New South Wales and Accidents investigated by the Inspectors of Collieries during the six months ending 31 December, 1896.

Sir,

Newcastle, 20 January, 1897.

In thus submitting our half-yearly report on the present state of mines in the northern district we have the honor to draw attention to the fact that on October 1 last the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, became law, and it being much more comprehensive than the Act it superseded, many alterations were rendered necessary in the several mines, notably in ventilation, refuge holes, examination of working places, keeping of report books, and that manager and under-manager must hold certificates of competency or service.

At the present time these provisions have been in many cases reasonably well complied with, and in our opinion with very satisfactory results.

The provisions for ventilation requiring that at least 100 cubic feet per minute shall be forced to the face for every man employed there, is highly appreciated and of great benefit to the men.

The total number of collieries under inspection in the northern district during the half-year is 68.

Four collieries have been abandoned, viz., Jackson's, Rushton's, Liddle's, and Sunderland.

Two collieries have been added, viz., Cardiff and Ingueene.

No work has been done at the following collieries, viz., Awaba, Swansea, Young Wallsend, Summerhill, West Burwood, Fern Valley, Rotunda, Shamrock Hill, Richmond Vale, Maitland, Stanford Greta, Pioneer, Leconfield, Richmond Hill, and Nicholas Tunnel.

PRESENT STATE OF MINES.

A. A. Co.'s No. 2 Colliery.—At the time of last inspection this mine was in good condition. About 95 men &c., were employed. The work now consists entirely of pillar extraction.

A. A. Co.'s New Winning Colliery.—On the last inspection this mine was in good condition. There are about 150 men, &c., employed. The refuge places were not quite completed, but good progress was being made with the work to comply with the new Act.

Wallsend Colliery.—On the last inspection of the main tunnel workings everything was found in good condition. There were about 550 men, &c., employed. On the last inspection of No. 2 tunnel workings the mine was in fairly good condition. About 90 men, &c., were employed, half of whom were engaged in the extraction of pillars.

Newcastle Company's Colliery.—When last inspected this mine was in fair condition, a good deal of work had been necessary with regard to refuge places, but good progress was being made with the alterations rendered necessary by the new Act. About 480 men, &c., were employed.

Lambton Colliery.—At the time of last inspection this mine was in fair condition. A large amount of work has been done on the engine planes to bring the refuge places within the requirements of the new Act. About 130 men, &c., were employed.

Co-operative Colliery.—When last inspected this mine was in good condition. About 270 men, &c., were employed. During the last year the seam (known as the Young Wallsend) has been opened out in the hills on the Wentworth Estate for the purpose of providing fuel for the boilers of one of the hauling engines.

Burwood Colliery.—When last inspected was in good condition. As firedamp is occasionally found in the working faces additional care has been given to the ventilation, almost all the bords being well ventilated right up to the face. About 240 men, &c., were employed.

Stockton

Stockton Colliery.—At the last inspection made of the working faces all were found in good condition. For some time now the entire output has been from the upper section of the No. 6 Borehole seam. About one-third of the working places are proceeding eastward under the Pacific Ocean, the remainder working back westward over the bords previously driven in the bottom coal. Advance boreholes are bored in the face of the leading or winning bords, and vertical holes are put up in the roof at intervals to a height of at least 30 feet to test the character and nature of the overlying strata. There are about 160 men, &c., employed in the mine.

Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery.—At last inspection this mine was in good condition. About 180 men, &c., were employed. In August last an extension fall of roof took place in the dip workings, stopping the mine for four weeks. The fall originated and spread over a large area of 6-yard bords and 6-yard pillars workings from which the full section of available coal had been taken. Since the accident the manager has been asked to increase the size of future pillars, and refrain, as far as possible, from extracting "top band" coal in the bords. To these requests the manager agreed, and is now making all future pillars 8 yards wide instead of 6 as heretofore, and no "top band" coal was being got during the time of last inspection.

Hetton Colliery.—At the time of last inspection this mine was in fairly good condition. About 270 men, &c., were employed. As the output from the colliery is from under the harbour of Newcastle, advance boreholes are bored in the winning or leading places. The system of working was until quite recently 6-yard bords and 6-yard pillar, but at the same time as the request was made to Mr. Fletcher, at Wickham, and Bullock Island, a similar one was made to Mr. Mathieson here. He has complied with the request, and at the time of last inspection was making pillars 8 yards wide, and intimated his intention of stopping the few bords in which "top band" was then being extracted.

Brown's Nos. 2 and 4 Collieries.—When last inspected were in fair condition, but had not then quite completed the alterations required by the new act. About 240 men, &c., were employed. A Schiele Fan is now in course of erection at the shaft last sunk to the No. 4 colliery workings which, when fixed and started, is expected to improve the ventilation of both these and the Duckenfield Colliery.

Duckenfield Colliery.—When last inspected was in fair condition. A large amount of work has been done on the engine plane to comply with the provisions of the new Act regarding refuge holes. To do this the plane was being widened out so that men and boys can travel clear of the tramway. About 200 men and boys were employed.

South Waratah Colliery.—At the time of last inspection this mine was in good condition. A considerable amount of work has been necessary on the engine plane in making the refuge places to the requirements of the new Act which work was not quite completed when last inspected. There are about 150 men and boys employed.

New Lambton Colliery.—On this last inspection this mine was in good condition; some slight alterations required to be made on the engine plane to comply with the new Act. There were about 80 men and boys employed.

Ebbw Vale Colliery.—At the time of last inspection this mine was in good condition. The alterations to the engine plane to comply with the requirements of the new Act as regards refuge places were not quite completed. There are about 30 men and boys employed in this mine.

Hillside Colliery, Merewether.—At the last inspection this mine was in good condition. Four men were employed.

Surprise Colliery.—All work at this mine is at present suspended.

Sunnyside Colliery Lambton.—This mine was in good condition when last inspected. One man is employed.

Bayley's Reward Colliery, Lambton.—At the last inspection 2 men were employed, and the mine was in good condition.

Ray's Colliery, Lambton.—At the last inspection this mine was in good condition. One man is employed.

Meredith's Colliery, Lambton.—This mine was in good condition when last inspected. Two men were employed.

Jenkins' Colliery Lambton.—At the last inspection this mine was in good condition. One man is occasionally employed.

Morris' Colliery, Lambton.—At the last inspection 2 men were employed, and the mine was in good condition.

Mauke's Colliery, Lambton.—This mine was in good condition when last inspected. One man is employed.

Rosehill Colliery, North Lambton.—At the last inspection this mine was in good condition. One man is occasionally employed.

Quarry Colliery, Waratah.—This mine was in good condition when last inspected. Two men were employed.

Mason's Colliery, Waratah.—At the last inspection of this mine 2 men were employed, and the mine was in good condition.

Side Colliery, Waratah.—At the last inspection this mine was in good condition. Three men were employed.

Wright's Colliery, Waratah.—This mine was in good condition when last inspected. One man was employed.

Blomore Vale Colliery, Wallsend.—At the time of last inspection this mine was in fair condition. There are about 40 men and boys employed.

Maryland Colliery, Plattsburg.—When last inspected was in good condition. About 40 men and boys were employed. This mine is working coal under the streets and houses in the municipality of Plattsburg, which, together with a large area of 4-yard pillars, was left many years ago by the Co-operative Colliery.

Dudley Colliery, Charlestown.—At the time of last inspection everything was in fairly good condition. About 230 men and boys were employed. This mine yields a moderate amount of firedamp, but so far the amount is not such as to render the use of naked lights dangerous, providing ordinary care is taken in the coursing and distribution of the air current. A Waddle fan, 30 feet in diameter, now producing about 70,000 cubic feet of air per minute, provides excellent ventilation for the respective districts.

Durham

Durham Colliery.—At the last inspection 2 men were employed; and the mine in good condition, the only work being to keep the workings free from water accumulations.

Burwood Extended Colliery.—At the time of last inspection the mine was in good condition. Three men were employed keeping the workings, &c., in repair.

Morrisett and South Hetton Collieries.—At the time of last inspection were in good condition. These mines are on the shores of Lake Macquarie, and supply coal to the Sydney market *via* small sailing craft. Six and 2 men respectively were employed, and were working under very favourable conditions as regards ventilation, &c.

Wallarah Colliery, Catherine Hill Bay.—At the time of last inspection the mine was in fair condition. The ventilation of the face of each working place was not so good as it should be, but Mr. Parlon promised that the desired improvement would be made in a few days. It has since transpired that the ventilation has been improved. About 170 men and boys were employed.

Northumberland Colliery, Fassifern.—This mine was in good condition when last inspected. Five men were employed.

Pacific Colliery, Teralba.—At the time of last inspection this mine was in good condition. There are about 130 men and boys employed.

Northern Extended Colliery (formerly Gavlee), Teralba.—This mine was in fair condition when last inspected. Some alterations were rendered necessary in the engine plane to comply with the provisions of the new act regarding refuge places. There were about 60 men and boys employed.

South Wallsend Colliery, Cardiff.—At the time of last inspection this mine was in fair condition. Extensive alterations were being made to the engine plane and other portions of the workings which when completed will improve the ventilation. There were about 20 men and boys employed.

Cardiff Colliery, Cardiff.—This is a new mine in process of opening out in close proximity to South Wallsend Colliery. The mine when last inspected was in good condition. There were 6 men employed.

West Wallsend Colliery.—At the time of last inspection everything was in fairly good condition. About 200 men and boys were employed. The mine yields a moderate amount of firedamp but so far not to such an extent as to render the use of naked lights dangerous providing ordinary care is taken in the coursing and distribution of the air current, and the working places are examined with a locked safety lamp every morning before the miners are admitted. A Guibal fan now producing about 70,000 cubic feet of air per minute provides good ventilation for the whole of the working places.

Seaham Colliery.—At the time of last inspection everything was in fairly good condition, the ventilation being particularly good. About 180 men and boys were employed. The stoppings sealing off a fire discovered in the east side workings in August, 1895, continue in good condition and the pit's water is regularly pumped into these workings in the hope that the seat of fire will eventually be covered by it and the fire extinguished. A relief valve is inserted in one of the stoppings in the return, the escaping gases passing directly into the upcast or fan shaft without coming anywhere near the men at work with naked lights in the west side workings. All the working places and stoppings are examined every morning with a locked safety lamp before the men are admitted. The coal yields a moderate amount of firedamp but so far not to such an extent as to render the use of naked lights dangerous providing ordinary care is taken in the coursing and distribution of the air current. A Waddle fan, 30 feet in diameter, now producing about 60,000 cubic feet of air per minute provides splendid ventilation for the whole of the working places.

Killingworth Sinking Shaft.—Some six years ago a shaft was sunk to the Borehole seam at a depth of about 640 feet, but after finding the seam all work was abandoned until the latter part of last year when the Caledonian Coal Company having acquired the property a start was made to sink a second shaft near to the first one. This shaft, 13 feet in diameter, was inspected when down 135 feet. Six men in each of the eight hours shifts were employed and everything in and about the shaft appeared to be in good condition. A contract had been let to erect the iron pulley frame at the main shaft and this work was proceeding at the time of inspection.

Thornley, Marshall, Bloomfield, Louis Vale, Sunside (formerly Scanlon's), and Ingance Collieries, East Maitland.—At the time of last inspection these mines were in fairly good condition. As there is no railway to any one of them the coal has to be taken away in carts, the principal part of it being for local consumption in East and West Maitland, and Morpeth. About 9, 8, 2, 2, and 2 men and boys respectively were employed. The latter colliery is a recent venture by Lawson and Beatty on ground owned by a Mr. De Salis. An adit has been driven from the outcrop and connected with a shaft 42 feet deep. The seam is one of the Four-mile Creek series, and, judging by a number of old shafts in the immediate vicinity, has been extensively worked in past years. The ventilation and other things were in satisfactory condition.

Sunderland Colliery.—In this same district this mine was until quite recently worked by Mr. M. Tulip, who has since gone to Western Australia. The mine is on ground owned by a Mr. Reynolds, of the Paterson River, and is now abandoned.

East Greta Colliery, West Maitland.—At the time of last inspection this mine was in good condition. The coal is drawn from two adits driven the full dip of the seam, which is 45 inches. There are about 170 men and boys employed.

Denon Park Colliery, West Maitland.—On last inspection this mine was in good condition. The coal is drawn from an adit. There are about 30 men employed.

South Greta Colliery (formerly Font Hill).—At the time of last inspection this mine was in fair condition. Some alterations were necessary with regard to the refuge places to comply with the requirements of the new act. There are about 30 men and boys employed.

New Anvil Creek Colliery.—At the time of last inspection this mine was in fair condition. A considerable amount of work required to be done in the engine plane to comply with the new Act with regard to refuge places. Very little work has been done for some time, and only 3 men are employed.

Greta Colliery.—On last inspection this mine was in good condition. Good progress was made with the alterations necessary to comply with the new act. There were about 140 men and boys employed.

Ellesmere Colliery, Singleton.—On last inspection this mine was in good condition. No coal is at present being drawn, but 1 man is employed keeping the roads, &c., in repair.

New Park Colliery, Singleton.—At the time of last inspection this mine was in fair condition. Some slight alterations were necessary in the engine place with regard to refuge places to comply with the new Act. There were about 25 men and boys employed.

Elliott's Colliery, Singleton.—This mine was in good condition when last inspected. One man is occasionally employed.

Rosedale Colliery, Singleton.—At the time of last inspection this mine was in fair condition. Alterations were necessary to refuge places in the engine plane to comply with the Act. There were about 8 men employed.

Oakvale Colliery, Singleton.—This mine was in good condition when last inspected. Only 1 man is occasionally employed.

Dulwich Colliery, Singleton.—When last inspected this mine was in fair condition. About 7 men were employed.

Kayuga Colliery, Muswellbrook.—On last inspection this mine was in good condition. One man is employed.

Centenary Colliery, Curlweiss.—At the time of last inspection this mine was in good condition. There were about 25 men and boys employed.

Gunnedah Colliery, Gunnedah.—On last inspection this mine was in fair condition. There were about 18 men and boys employed.

Gladstone Colliery, Gunnedah.—At the time of last inspection this mine was in good condition. Three men were employed.

Morley Colliery, Gunnedah.—All work at this mine is at the present time suspended.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES.

The accidents investigated by us in the Northern District and fully reported upon during the six months ending December 31st, 1896, are 33 in number. We also investigated several slight accidents, which are not embraced in this report.

Of the 33 accidents in the annexed tabulated list 13 proved fatal, 2 from falls of coal and 11 from inhaling noxious gases. Of the non-fatal accidents 9 were caused by falls of coal, 5 by skips, 2 by explosion of powder, 2 by falls of roof, 1 by cage, and 1 by horse.

The first fatal accident occurred to a miner named William Howe by a fall of coal at Wallarah Colliery on September 17th. The injured man died on September 30th, but we were informed the coroner at Wyong did not deem it necessary to hold an inquest.

The next two fatal accidents occurred at Stockton Colliery on December 2nd to Charles Smith, furnaceman, and George Patrick Curran, shiftman, who lost their lives through inhaling noxious gases. The district coroner (G. C. Martin, Esq.) held an inquest on the bodies at Stockton on December 2nd, 3rd, and 8th. The inquest was attended by Inspector Humble, who heard all the evidence, and fully agrees with the verdict of "accidental death" as returned by the jury.

A second fatality occurred at Stockton Colliery on December 3rd and 4th, by which John Cockburn, Benjamin Bailey, Sydney Sinclair McAlpin, Thomas Laidlow McAlpin, James Sweeney, William Sneddon, William Gascoigne, John Charlesworth, and Daniel Fitzpatrick also lost their lives by inhaling noxious gases. The District Coroner (G. C. Martin, Esq.) opened an inquest on the bodies, commencing on 4th December and terminating on 13th January, 1897, at Stockton. The inquest was attended by Inspector Humble, who heard all the evidence. The jury were unable to agree, and were discharged without a verdict being given.

The last fatal accident occurred to a miner named Charles Blythe, at Newcastle Company's B pit, on 23rd December, by a fall of coal. The District Coroner (G. C. Martin, Esq.) held an inquest on the body of deceased at Adamstown on 24th December. The inquest was attended by Inspector Bates, who heard all the evidence, and fully agrees with the verdict of "accidental death" as returned by the jury.

The first of the non-fatal accidents occurred to a miner named Richard Tyson, at Dudley Colliery, on 6th July, by a fall of coal, resulting in fracture of the leg and collar-bone.

The second occurred to a wheeler named John Plain, at Duckenfield Colliery, on 16th July, resulting in fracture of leg and collar-bone, by skip.

The third occurred to a water bailer named J. Higginson, at Hetton Colliery, on 23rd July, by skip, resulting in injury to arm.

The fourth occurred to a miner named James McIlvenie, on 3rd August, at Greta Colliery, resulting in fracture of leg by fall of coal.

The fifth occurred to a miner named Thomas Moroney, at Hetton Colliery, on 13th August, by a fall of coal, resulting in injury to back, chest, and shoulder.

The sixth occurred to an onsetter named Henry Kelly, at Burwood Colliery, on 17th August, resulting in fractured leg, by skip.

The seventh occurred to a miner named William Parkes, at Co-operative Colliery, on 24th August, resulting in burns, by explosion of powder.

The eighth occurred to a miner named Hugh Parkes, at Co-operative Colliery, on 24th August, resulting in burns, by explosion of powder.

The ninth occurred to a driver named William Lewis, at Hetton Colliery, on 1st September, by a skip, resulting in loss of left leg.

The tenth occurred to a miner named John Rushforth, at Wallsend Colliery, on 22nd September, resulting in fracture of leg by fall of coal.

The eleventh occurred to a miner named Dennis Hughes, at Stockton Colliery, on 23rd October by a fall of coal, resulting in fracture of leg.

The twelfth occurred to a miner named Richard Nash, at Newcastle Company's A pit, on 11th November, resulting in internal injuries, by fall of coal.

The thirteenth occurred to a wheeler named William Garside, at Stockton Colliery, on 12th November, by fall of roof, resulting in injury to head and arm.

The fourteenth occurred to a miner named Henry Abrams, at Pacific Colliery, on November 18th, resulting in injury to hand and arm by fall of coal.

The fifteenth occurred to a miner named Thomas Murphy, at Burwood Colliery, on November 23rd, by a fall of coal, resulting in injury to loins.

The sixteenth occurred to a wheeler named Reginald Ryan, at East Greta Colliery, on November 23rd, by skip, resulting in fracture of arm.

The seventeenth occurred to an onsetter named Dennis Maher, at Wickham and Bullock Island Colliery, on November 24th, resulting in fracture of ribs by cage.

The eighteenth occurred to a miner named Benjamin Kellett, at Denton Park Colliery, on November 30th, by a fall of roof, resulting in fracture of leg.

The nineteenth occurred to a miner named John Davis, at Co-operative Colliery on December 9th, resulting in fracture of thigh by fall of coal.

The twentieth occurred to an under-manager named Thomas Brown, at Lambton Colliery, on December 28th, resulting in fracture of ribs by horse.

ACCIDENT ON SURFACE.

One fatal accident occurred at Greta Colliery on July 25th to a shunter named Oscar Emil Blomdahl whilst shunting railway waggons. The district coroner, H. Crothers, Esq., held an inquest on the body of deceased at Maitland on July 25th and 27th. The inquest was attended by Inspector Humble, who heard all the evidence and fully agrees with the verdict of "accidental death," as returned by the jury.

The tabulated list of accidents is hereto appended.

We have, &c.,

THOS. L. BATES,
WILLIAM HUMBLE,

Inspectors of Collieries.

John Dixon, Esq., F.G.S., Chief Inspector of Collieries.

TABULATED LIST of Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents in the Northern District of New South Wales, investigated by the Inspectors of Collieries during the half-year ending 31st December, 1896.

Date.	Colliery.	Person killed or injured.	Occupation.	Remarks on nature and extent of injuries.	Fatal.		Non-fatal.					Total.		
					Fall of coal.	Noxious gases.	Fall of coal.	Skip.	Powder.	Fall of roof.	Cage.	Horse.	Fatal.	Non-fatal.
6 July	Dudley	Richard Tyson	Miner	Fracture of leg and collar-bone by fall of coal.			1							1
16 "	Duckenfield	John Plain	Wheeler	Fracture of leg and collar-bone by skip				1						1
23 "	Hetton	J. Higginson	Water-bailer	Injury to arm by skip				1						1
3 Aug.	Greta	Jas McIlvenne	Miner	Fracture of leg by fall of coal			1							1
13 "	Hetton	Thomas Moroney	"	Injury to back, chest, and shoulders by fall of coal.			1							1
17 "	Burwood	Henry Kelley	Onsetter	Fracture of leg by loaded skip				1						1
24 "	Co-operative	William Parkes	Miner	Burns by explosion of powder					1					1
24 "	"	Hugh Parkes	"	"					1					1
17 Sept	Hetton	William Lewis	Driver	Loss of left leg by skip				1						1
17 "	Wallarab	William Howe	Miner	Fatal injury by fall of coal	1									1
22 "	"	John Bushforth	"	"				1						1
23 Oct.	Stockton	Dennis Hughes	"	Fracture of leg by fall of coal			1							1
11 Nov.	Newcastle, A pit	Richard Nash	"	Internal injuries by fall of coal			1							1
12 "	Stockton	William Garside	Wheeler	Injury to head and arm by fall of roof					1					1
18 "	Pacific	Henry Abrams	Miner	Injury to head and arm by fall of coal			1							1
23 "	Burwood	Thomas Murphy	"	Injury to loins by fall of coal			1							1
23 "	East Greta	Reginald Ryan	Wheeler	Fracture of arm by skip				1						1
24 "	Wickham and Bullock Island.	Dennis Maher	Onsetter	Fracture of ribs by cage						1				1
30 "	Denton Park	Benjamin Kellett	Miner	Fracture of leg by fall of roof					1					1
2 Dec.	Stockton	Geo. Patrick Curran	Furnace-man	Fatal effect of inhaling noxious gases		1								1
2 "	"	Charles Smith	"	"		1								1
3-4 "	"	John Cockburn	Surveyor	"		1								1
3-4 "	"	Benjamin Bailey	Asst. Surveyor	"		1								1
3-4 "	"	Sydney Sinclair McAlpin	Miner	"		1								1
3-4 "	"	Thos. Ludlow McAlpin	"	"		1								1
3-4 "	"	James Sweeney	"	"		1								1
3-4 "	"	William Sneddon	"	"		1								1
3-4 "	"	William Gascoigne	"	"		1								1
3-4 "	"	John Charlesworth	"	"		1								1
3-4 "	"	Daniel Fitzpatrick	"	"		1								1
9 "	Co-operative	John Davis	"	Fracture of thigh by fall of coal			1							1
23 "	Newcastle, B pit	Charles Blythe	"	Fatal injury by fall of coal	1									1
28 "	Lambton	Thomas Brown	Under-manager	Fracture of ribs by horse						1				1
ACCIDENT ON SURFACE.					2	11	9	5	2	2	1	1	13	20
25 July	Greta	Oscar Emil Blomdahl	Shunter	Fatal injuries whilst shunting waggons									1	1
													14	20

The Half-yearly Report of the Inspectors of Collieries on the state of the various Collieries in the Southern and Western Districts of the Colony of New South Wales, and Accidents therein, for the half-year ending 30 June, 1896.

Sir,

In compliance with the requirements of clause 26 in the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1876, I have the honor to transmit to you this my six-monthly report on the state of the various collieries for the half-year ending 30 June, 1896.

The total number of collieries under inspection in the southern and western districts during the last six months is 39:—

Western District	17 coal mines and	5 shale mines.
Berrima	3 "	1 shale mine.
Southern	13 "	
	33	6 39

PRESENT STATE OF MINES.

Metropolitan Colliery.—About 300 men and horses are employed underground. The total quantity of air in circulation in this colliery is about 390,000 cubic feet of air per minute in six separate currents. All the headings and working places are bratticed up to within a few yards of the working faces. Every precaution

precaution is taken by the manager to see that the ventilation is properly conducted throughout the colliery, and strict discipline is exercised in carrying out the provisions of the Coal Mines Act and special rules for the conduct and guidance of the colliery. All the miners and wheelers work with locked safety lamps.

Coal Cliff Colliery.—About 30 men and horses are employed underground, and served with 18,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The Act in all matters complied with.

South Clifton Colliery.—One hundred men and horses are employed underground, and served with 70,000 cubic feet of air per minute in two separate shifts. The colliery is well ventilated throughout. The Act in all respects complied with.

Bulli Colliery.—About 68 men and horses are employed underground, and served with 22,000 cubic feet of air per minute, in two separate currents. The air currents are well conducted round the colliery, and the Act in all respects complied with.

Hill End Colliery.—Only two men are employed underground and served with 800 cubic feet of air per minute. The Act in all matters must be complied with.

Bellambi Colliery.—About 56 men and horses are employed underground and served with 23,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The in-take and return air-ways and second way to the day in good order. Act in all respects complied with.

South Bulli Colliery.—About 270 men are employed underground and supplied with 80,000 cubic feet of air per minute, in 6 separate currents. The colliery is well ventilated and the Act in all respects complied with.

Corrimal Colliery.—About 150 men and horses are employed underground and supplied with 28,000 cubic feet of air per minute. During the last six months two new air-ways have been driven into the mountain side and has greatly improved the ventilation throughout the colliery. The Act in all respects complied with.

Mount Pleasant.—About 120 men and horses are employed underground and supplied with 28,000 cubic feet of air per minute, in two separate currents. The Act in all respects complied with.

Osborne Wallsend Colliery.—About 165 men and horses are employed underground and supplied with 40,000 cubic ft. of air per minute, in four separate currents. The Act in all other matters complied with.

Mount Kembla Colliery.—About 230 men and horses are employed underground and supplied with 60,000 cubic feet of air per minute, in six separate currents. The in-take and return air-ways and second way to the day are in good order. The Act in all respects complied with. Work has been suspended at North Bulli Colliery since the middle of January last. Work has also been suspended at Bulli Steam Coal Colliery since February last.

WESTERN DISTRICTS.

Cullen Bullen Colliery.—About 46 men are in this mine during the daytime, and the total quantity of air circulated is about 16,000 cubic feet per minute. The provisions of the Act are also complied with in other matters.

Irondale Colliery.—Only two men employed and served with 4,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The Act also complied with in all other matters.

Ivanhoe Colliery.—Five men are employed underground, and served with 5,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The Act fully complied with.

Maddox's Folly Mine.—Only one man employed in this mine. The ventilation is good, and the provisions of the Act are fully carried out.

Bashforth's Mine.—During the first part of the half year one man was employed, no work has been done during the last four months. Every thing in the mine is in good order.

Wallace's Black Diamond Colliery.—This mine has been lately opened out, and an adit driven from a distance of about 40 yards into the coal seam. Only one man and one boy are employed, and the provisions of the Act are fully carried out.

Genowlan Shale Mine.—About 40 men are employed underground, and served with about 12,000 cubic feet of air per minute. This colliery is worked on the long-wall system. The Act in all matters complied with.

King's Shale Mine.—About 16 men are employed in this mine, and supplied with a current of about 4,000 cubic feet of air per minute. This colliery is worked on the long-wall system. The provisions of the Act are fully carried out.

Capertee Shale Mine (near Glen Allier).—This prospecting heading is still being driven into the mountain. Only one man is employed on the morning shift, and one man during the afternoon. The ventilation is adequate, and the provisions are also carried out according to the Act.

Crown Ridge.—Only one man occasionally employed in this mine. The mine is worked on the Longwall system. The ventilation is good, and the Act is fully carried out.

Roseden Colliery.—Only two men employed occasionally. The Act in all respects carried out.

Lithgow Valley Colliery.—About 28 men and horses employed underground, and supplied with 23,000 cubic feet of air per minute in one current. The Act in every respect complied with.

Hermitage Colliery.—About 26 men and horses are employed underground and supplied with 18,000 cubic feet of air per minute in one current. The intake and return airways and second way to the day in good order.

Esk Bank Pit.—About 26 men and horses are employed underground and served with 18,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The Act in all respects complied with.

Esk Bank Old Tunnel.—Eight men are employed, and supplied with 6,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The Act in other respects complied with.

Zigzag Colliery.—About 26 men and horses are employed underground, and supplied with about 15,000 cubic feet of air per minute. This colliery is worked on the double-stall system. The Act in all matters complied with.

Vale of Clwydd Colliery.—About 36 men and horses are employed underground, and served with 10,000 cubic feet of air per minute. This colliery is now being worked on the double-stall system. The Act in other matters complied with.

Oakey Park Colliery.—About 25 men and horses are employed underground, and supplied with 18,000 cubic feet of air per minute in one current. The Act in all other matters complied with.

Vale Colliery.—About 23 men and horses are employed underground, and supplied with 14,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The intake and return airways are in good order. The Act in other respects complied with.

New South Wales (Hartley Vale) Shale Mines.—About 45 men are employed underground, and served with about 16,000 cubic feet of air per minute. This colliery is worked on the long-wall system, and the working faces well built with pack-walls. The Act in all respects complied with.

Coal Tunnel.—Five men employed, and supplied with 5,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The Act in all respects complied with.

Coovervull Mine.—Only 1 man employed. The Act in all respects complied with.

Australian Kerosene Shale Mines (Katoomba).—About 40 men are employed underground, and supplied with 12,000 cubic feet of air per minute. This colliery is worked on the long-wall system, and the working faces built with substantial pack-walls. The provisions of the Act are fully carried out.

Mort's Shale Mines.—During the last half-year only a few men have been employed prospecting the mountain to further test the extent and thickness of the shale.

BERRIMA DISTRICT.

Australian Kerosene Shale Mines (Joadja).—About 30 men are employed underground, and supplied with 10,000 cubic feet of air per minute. This colliery is worked on the long-wall system. The provisions of the Act in all matters complied with.

Box Vale Colliery.—Only 3 men employed, and supplied with 1,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The Act complied with.

Great Southern Colliery.—During the first part of the half-year 5 men were employed. For the last three months work has been suspended.

Bundanoon Colliery.—This mine is situated about 2½ miles S.E. from Bundanoon Railway-station, and was formerly known as Erith Colliery, worked by E. Baker. It is now being re-opened by Mr. Palmer, who is manager and lessee. Six men are employed, and supplied with 2,000 cubic feet of air per minute in one current.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES.

During the last six months ending 30th June, 1896, I have investigated 16 separate accidents, 4 of which were fatal and 12 non-fatal, which were fully reported on at the time.

The first fatal accident occurred to a miner named Gilles Vickery, by a fall of stone roof at his working place in the Metropolitan Colliery on February 17th. The District Coroner, C. C. Russell, Esq., held an inquest on the body of deceased at Helensburgh on February 18th. I attended the inquest and heard all the evidence, and fully agree with the verdict of "accidental death," as returned by the jury.

The second, third, and fourth fatal accidents happened to two miners and a wheeler by an outburst of coal and gas at the Metropolitan Colliery on June 10th, named respectively Enoch Pugh (miner), James Barton (miner), H. Shipton (wheeler). The three men were working in the No. 7 west heading when an outburst of coal and gas took place, and the men were suffocated by gas (firedamp) and coal-dust before they could be rescued. This terrible accident was fully reported at the time. An inquest was held as touching the deaths of deceased at the Metropolitan Colliery Office, on 11th June, by the District Coroner, C. C. Russell, Esq. I attended the inquest and heard the evidence, and fully agree with the verdict of accidental death, as returned by the jury.

The first non-fatal accident happened on 7th January to a screenman named R. Scott, at the Metropolitan Colliery, who had two of his toes broken by a piece of coal falling off a skip at the screens.

The second occurred to a clip-boy named H. Delacea, at Metropolitan Colliery, on 21st January, who had his leg broken while coupling on a skip.

The third occurred to a miner named John Fenwick, at Bulli Colliery, on 24 January, resulting in fracture of the leg by a fall of coal.

The fourth occurred to a miner named Thomas Douse, at Wallsend Osborne Colliery, who was hurt about the back by a fall of coal.

The fifth occurred to a miner named Peter Hunter, at South Bulli Colliery, on 7th February, who was bruised about the back and arms by a fall of coal.

The sixth occurred to a clip-boy named James Browan, at Mount Kembla Colliery, on 19th February, who had his arm broken between two skips underground.

The seventh occurred to a miner named William Kerr, at Bulli Colliery, on 24th February, resulting in a broken leg by a fall of coal.

The eighth occurred to a screen-man named M. McSweeney, at the Metropolitan Colliery, on 4th April, who had his arm broken between two skips at the screens.

The ninth occurred to a miner named A. Mitchell, at Osborne Wallsend Colliery, on 28th April, who was bruised about the back by a fall of coal.

The tenth occurred to a bricklayer named A. Carter, who had his foot hurt by a skip underground, at the Metropolitan Colliery, on 13th May.

The eleventh occurred to a driver named William Coombes, at Oakey Park Colliery, on 16th May, who had his arm broken between two skips on the main road underground.

The twelfth occurred to a clip-boy at the Metropolitan Colliery, on 22nd June, who had his hand hurt while coupling on a skip underground.

The tabulated list of accidents is hereto appended.

I have, &c.,

JAMES ROWAN,
Inspector of Collieries.

John Mackenzie, Esq., Examiner of Coal-fields,
Mines Department, Sydney.

TABLED List of Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents in the Southern and Western Collieries of New South Wales investigated by the Inspector of Collieries during the half-year ending 30th June, 1896.

No.	Date.	Colliery.	Sufferer.	Occupation.	Remarks on nature and extent of injuries.	Fatal.		Non-fatal.	
						Fall of stone.	Outburst of gas and coal.	Coal falling off skip.	Hurt by skips.	Fall of coal.
1	7 January ..	Metropolitan	Robt. Scott	Screen man	Toes broken by a piece of coal .....	..	..	1	..
2	21 " ..	"	H. Delacca	Clip Boy	Leg broken by a skip .....	..	..	..	1
3	24 " ..	Bulli	John Fenwick	Miner	Scalp wound by a fall of coal .....	..	..	..	1
4	31 " ..	Osborne Wallsend	Thos. Douse	"	Hurt about the back by a fall of coal .....	..	..	..	1
5	7 February ..	South Bulli	Peter Hunter	"	Bruised back and arms by a fall of coal .....	..	..	..	1
6	17 " ..	Metropolitan	Gilles Vickery	"	Killed by a fall of stone	1	..	..	..
7	19 " ..	Mount Kembla	Jas. Brown	Clip boy	Arm broken by a skip .....	..	..	..	1
8	24 " ..	Bulli	Wm. Kerr	Miner	Leg broken by a fall of coal .....	..	..	..	1
9	5 April ..	Metropolitan	M. McSweeney	Screen man	Arm broken by a skip at the screens .....	..	..	..	1
10	28 " ..	Osborne Wallsend	A. Mitchell	Miner	Bruised about the back by a fall of coal .....	..	..	..	1
11	13 May ..	Metropolitan	A. Carter	Bricklayer	Foot hurt by a skip .....	..	..	..	1
12	16 " ..	Oakey Park	Wm. Coombs	Horse driver	Arm broken by a skip .....	..	..	..	1
13	10 June ..	Metropolitan	Enoch Pugh	Miner	Suffocated by an outburst of coal and gas .....	..	1	..	..
14	10 " ..	"	Jas. Barton .....	" .....	" .....	..	1	..	..
15	19 " ..	"	H. Shipton	Wheeler .....	" .....	..	1	..	..
16	22 " ..	"	F. Ogden	Clip Boy	Hand bruised by a skip .....	..	..	..	1

Accidents : Fatal, 4; non-fatal, 12.

The Half-yearly Report of the Inspector of Collieries on the state of the various Collieries in the Southern and Western Districts of the Colony of New South Wales, and Accidents therein, for the half-year ending 31st December, 1896.

Sir,

Wollongong, 3 February, 1897.

In compliance with the requirements of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, I have the honor to transmit to you this my six-monthly report on the state of the various collieries, for the half-year ending 31st December, 1896.

The total number of collieries under inspection in the Southern and Western Districts during the last six months is 33.

Western District.....	15	coal-mines and 4 shale-mines.
Southern	11	" "
Berrima	2	" 1 shale-mine.
	28	" 5 = 33

PRESENT STATE OF MINES.

I have much pleasure in stating that all the collieries in the Southern and Western Districts have made good progress towards carrying out the requirements of the new Coal-mines Regulation Act of 1896. At the first there was a good deal of friction and misunderstanding with the colliery managers as to the legal meaning of certain sections such as the ventilation question, &c., but now all the collieries in the Southern district have adopted the system of brattice, &c., to direct the air-current up to the working places. In the Western district the managers have adopted in a number of the collieries the "double stall" system, viz., the bords are driven 12 yards wide with a centre pack-wall whereby the air passes up the one side of the bord and returns on the other.

In some of the collieries in the Southern and Western districts new travelling roads have been made, as they considered the expense too great to form man-holes on the engine-plane, especially where it was much intersected with stone "rolls."

SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

Metropolitan Colliery.—About 260 men and horses are employed underground. The total quantity of air introduced into the mine is about 300,000 cubic feet per minute. The above volume of air is divided into eight separate currents. Each district is well ventilated, and all the bords and headings are bratticed up to within a few feet of the working faces. This is a very dry and dusty mine, but great care is taken by the manager to ensure safety. All the miners and wheelers work with locked safety-lamps, and the Act in all other matters complied with.

Coal Cliff Colliery.—About 30 men and horses are employed underground, and served with about 10,000 cubic feet of air per minute in one current. The colliery is fairly well ventilated throughout, and the Act in other matters complied with.

South Clifton Colliery.—About 90 men and horses are employed underground. The total quantity of air introduced into the mine is about 60,000 cubic feet. This amount is divided into two separate currents. Since the passing of the Act the manager has put brattice into every heading and bord in the colliery to within a few feet of the face. The ventilating currents are sweeping round every working-place in the colliery.

Bulli Colliery.—About 80 men and horses are employed underground, and supplied with about 30,000 cubic feet of air per minute in three separate currents. The colliery is fairly well ventilated throughout, and the Act in other matters complied with.

Hill End Colliery.—Only 2 men employed getting coal for local purposes. The Act complied with.

Bellambi Colliery.—About 60 men and horses are employed underground, and served with 12,000 cubic feet of air per minute in one current. The air current is fairly well directed to the working faces by means of brattice. The Act complied with.

South Bulli Colliery.—About 250 men and horses are employed underground. The total quantity of air introduced into the mine is about 49,500 cubic feet, the same being divided into five separate splits. Each district is fairly well ventilated, and the Act in other matters complied with.

Corrimal

Corrimal Colliery.—About 120 men and horses are employed underground, and served with 22,000 cubic feet of air per minute in two separate splits. Two headings have been driven out on to the mountain side at the extreme end of the workings. These headings are the intakes for the air currents which has greatly improved the ventilation throughout the colliery. The Act in other matters complied with.

Mt. Pleasant Colliery.—About 120 men are employed underground. The total quantity of air introduced into the mine is about 25,000 cubic feet diverted into two separate splits. During the last six months a new return airway has been made from the extreme end of the workings up to the furnace. Two overcasts have been put in, and with a few alterations, which the manager is pushing forward, the ventilation will be greatly improved throughout the colliery. The Act meanwhile is being complied with.

Osborne Wallsend Colliery.—About 150 men and horses are employed underground, and served with about 26,000 cubic feet of air per minute in three separate splits. The ventilating currents are fairly well conducted round the colliery, and the Act in other matters complied with.

Mt. Kembla Colliery.—About 165 men and horses employed underground. The total quantity of air introduced into this mine is about 56,000 cubic feet per minute in six separate splits. The ventilation and other requirements of the Act are complied with.

WESTERN DISTRICT.

Genowlan Shale Mine, Capertee.—Twenty-seven men are employed underground, and supplied with 8,300 cubic feet of air per minute. This colliery is worked on the long-wall system, and the air is brought in straight line with the working faces. The Act in all matters complied with.

New South Wales Shale Mine, Capertee.—About 30 men are employed underground, and served with 6,000 cubic feet of air per minute. This colliery is worked on the long-wall system, and the ventilating current brought in straight line with the working faces, and the Act in other matters complied with.

Cullen Bullen Colliery.—About 43 men and horses are employed underground. The manager is making an effort to comply with the requirements of the Act by putting in brattice to direct the air-current to the working faces; also overhauling the man-holes on the travelling roads.

Crown Ridge Shale-mine.—Very little work has been done during the last six months. Meanwhile labour conditions are suspended for three months.

Ivanhoe Colliery.—Eight men are employed underground, and served with about 4,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The manager has informed me he will put in brattice to direct the air up to the working face.

Irondale Colliery.—Two men are employed underground contracting, and supplied with 2,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The Act complied with.

Lithgow Valley Colliery.—About 30 men are employed underground, and served with 15,000 cubic feet of air per minute in one current. The ventilation currents are fairly well conducted to the working faces by means of brattice. The Act complied with.

Hermitage Colliery.—Twenty-eight men and horses are employed underground, and served with 12,000 cubic feet of air per minute. I found the intake and return airways and second-way to the day in good order. The Act in all matters complied with.

Coorwul Coal-mine.—One man employed getting a few tons of coal for local purposes.

Esik Bank Pit.—About 35 men and horses employed underground and supplied with 8,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The manager is putting in brattice to direct the air-current up to the working faces.

Old Tunnel.—Eight men employed, and served with 8,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The ventilation throughout the Colliery is good, and the Act in other matters complied with.

Zigzag Colliery.—Twenty-eight men are employed underground, and served with about 9,000 cubic feet of air per minute in one current. The ventilation is very good throughout the colliery. The manager has adopted the double-stall system. The Act in all matters complied with.

Vale of Clwydd Colliery.—About 35 men are employed underground, and served with 8,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The manager has adopted the double-stall system, which will carry the air up to the working faces. The Act complied with.

Oakey Park Colliery.—Twenty-eight men employed underground, and served with 6,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The ventilation was fairly well conducted round the workings. The manager has commenced to conduct the air currents to the working faces by means of brattice. The Act otherwise complied with.

Vale Colliery.—About 30 men and horses are employed underground, and served with 10,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The ventilating current was well conducted round the colliery, and the Act complied with.

New South Wales Shale Mines, Hartley Vale.—About 24 men are employed underground, and supplied with 10,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The colliery is conducted on the long-wall system, and the ventilation very good throughout the workings.

Retort Coal-mine, Hartley Vale.—Eight men employed, and supplied with 6,000 cubic feet of air per minute. This mine is worked on the long-wall system, and good pack-walls built along the working faces. The Act in all other respects complied with.

Black Diamond Colliery.—Only one man at work, getting coal for local purposes.

Faily Coal-mine.—One man employed getting coal for local purposes.

The Australian Kerosene Oil Company, Katoomba.—During the last half-year very little work has been done. At Ruined Castle 4 men have been employed to further test the field of shale. Mort's Shale Mine: 5 to 6 men have been employed prospecting to further test the thickness and quality of shale.

BERRIMA DISTRICT.

The Australian Kerosene Oil Company, Joadja.—About 20 men are employed underground, and supplied with 3,000 cubic feet of air per minute. This colliery is worked on the long-wall system, and the ventilating current brought in straight line with the working faces. The Act complied with.

Bundanoon Colliery.—Eight men employed underground, and served with 2,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The Act complied with.

Collins' Colliery.—One man employed getting coal. The Act complied with.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES.

During the last six months ending 31st December, 1896, I have investigated fourteen separate accidents. I also investigated several other minor accidents which are not embraced in this report. Two of the above number were fatal, and twelve non-fatal.

The first non-fatal happened to a miner named William Tait, at the Hermitage Colliery, on 1st July, who had his ear severely bruised by his head being jammed between a prop and a full skip.

The second non-fatal happened a miner named William Foster, who had his back hurt by a stone slipping from the gob on his back at Mount Kembla Colliery on 18th July.

The third happened a miner named H. Booth at Bellambi Colliery on 29th July, who was hurt about the back by a fall of stone from the roof at his working place.

The fourth happened a miner named William Shannon at the Metropolitan Colliery on 4th August, who had his leg broken by a fall of coal at his working place.

The fifth happened a miner named William Robertson on 5th August at Bundanoon Colliery, who was hurt about the back by a fall of stone from the roof of his working place.

The sixth was a fatal accident which happened to a lad named James Goldrick on 28th August, at Osborne Wallsend Colliery surface incline. The lad was going to his work in the morning, and attempted to jump on to one of the waggons as they were passing; in the act of doing so he fell under the wheels; both of his legs were nearly severed from his body. He was conveyed to the Wollongong Hospital and expired in about three hours after he was received. On the following day an inquest was held at Wollongong Court-house by the district coroner, C. C. Russell, Esq., which inquest I attended, and fully agree with the verdict of accidental death as returned by the jury.

The seventh was non-fatal, which happened to a horse-driver named John Irvine, on 29th August, at New South Wales Shale Mines, Hartley, who had his leg broken by a full skip underground.

The eighth was non-fatal, which happened to a miner named George Morris, on 3rd September, at Mount Kembla Colliery, who had his leg broken by a fall of coal at his working place.

The ninth happened to a lad named Albert Dixon, a horse-driver, on 16th September, at Zigzag Colliery, who had his arm broken while in the act of uncoupling two full skips on the main road underground.

The tenth happened to a wheeler named Alexander Price, at Bulli Colliery, on 22nd September, who had his leg broken by a kick from his horse.

The eleventh was a fatal accident, which happened to a lad named Frances Pullin, at Corrimal Colliery, on 15th October, who received fatal injuries whilst he was in the act of uncoupling a set of skips on the underground haulage incline. After receiving the injuries he only lived about an hour. On the same day an inquest was held by the district coroner, C. C. Russell, at the manager's house at Corrimal. I attended the inquest, and fully agree with the verdict of accidental death, as returned by the jury.

The twelfth happened to a labourer named O. McCluskey, at the jetty of South Bulli Colliery, on 19th October, who had his head bruised by a sprag flying out of one of the wheels of a loaded waggon.

The thirteenth happened to a labourer named John McKie, who had his leg broken on the surface incline at Katoomba shale mines on 16th November.

The fourteenth happened to a miner named Thomas Norwood, at Lithgow Valley Colliery, on 21st December, who lost one of his eyes by a piece of coal sparking out from his working face.

The tabulated list of accidents is hereto appended.

I have, &c.,

JAMES ROWAN,

Inspector of Collieries.

John Dixon, Esq., F.G.S., Acting Examiner of Coal Fields, Newcastle.

TABULATED List of Fatal and Non-Fatal Accidents in the Southern and Western Collieries of New South Wales, investigated by the Inspector of Collieries during the Half-year ending 31st December, 1896.

No.	Date.	Colliery.	Sufferer.	Occupation.	Remarks on Nature and Extent of Injuries.	Fatal.		Non-fatal.					Total.		
						Injury by waggon.	Injury by skip.	Injury by skip.	Stone shipping in the gob.	Fall of stone.	Fall of coal.	Kick from horse.	Injury by waggon.	Fatal.	Non-fatal.
1	1 July	Hermitage	William Tait . .	Miner	Bruised about the ear by a skip against a prop . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
2	18 "	Mount Kembla	William Foster	"	Back hurt by stone slipping from the gob . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
3	20 "	Bellambi	H. Booth	"	Back hurt by a fall of stone from the roof . . . . .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
4	4 Aug.	Metropolitan . .	Wm. Shannan . .	"	Leg broken by fall of coal . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
5	5 "	Bundanoon	Wm. Robertson	"	Back hurt by a fall of stone from the roof . . . . .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
6	28 "	Osborne Wallsend	James Goldrick	Horse driver . .	Fatal injuries by a waggon on the incline	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
7	29 "	N. S. W. Shale Mines.	John Irvine . . .	"	Leg broken by a skip (underground) . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
8	3 Sept.	Mount Kembla . .	George Morris . .	Miner	Leg broken by a fall of coal . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
9	16 "	Zig Zag	Albert Dixon . .	Horse-driver . .	Arm broken between skips . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
10	22 "	Bulli	Alx. Price	"	Leg broken by a kick from a horse . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
11	10 Oct.	Corrimal	Francis Pullin . .	Clip Boy	Fatal injuries by a set of skips (underground). . . . .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
12	19 "	South Bulli	O. McCluskey . .	Labourer	Head hurt by a waggon on the jetty . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
13	16 Nov.	Katoomba Shale Mines.	John McKie . . .	"	Leg broken by a skip on the surface incline . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
14	21 Dec.	Lithgow Valley . .	Thos. Norwood . .	Miner	Bruised about the eye by a piece of coal . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
						1	1	4	1	2	3	1	1	2	12

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Progress Report for 1896 by The Government Geologist.

Sir,

I have the honor to hand you the following Progress Report of the Geological Survey Branch for the year 1896 :—

A portion of my time has been devoted to practical work in the field, the balance being consumed chiefly in the supervision of the work of the Geological Survey Branch, and also of the Mining Survey Branch, my reappointment to the position of Chief Mining Surveyor having been gazetted by the Public Service Board on the 15th July last.

My duties as a member of the Royal Commission on the Heating of Coal Cargoes (appointed in July) have necessarily occupied a considerable portion of my time, and for this reason I have been unable to carry out as much geological field work as usual.

During the month of January I visited Glen Innes, Inverell, Bingara, Rocky Creek, Terry-Hie-Hie, and Warialda, and mapped a portion of the eastern boundary of the triassic artesian water basin. While at Bingara I visited the mines at Spring Creek, and reported upon the proposal to establish a Government quartz-crushing battery in this district.

In February I inspected the auriferous and diamantiferous deposit at Kangaloon, where aid from the Prospecting Vote had been granted to sink a shaft with the object of prospecting the volcanic breccia which occurs there. Unfortunately, the occurrence of a heavy body of water caused the stoppage of the work, and I was unable to descend the shaft. Judging by the depth reached in the shaft (about 80 feet) and the material excavated, there is every reason to believe that this is a true volcanic neck, and the occurrence of diamonds in the quartz pebble drift overlying it is of considerable interest as pointing to the possibility of their being derived from the volcanic breccia, as in the celebrated diamond mines of Kimberley, in South Africa. It is, therefore, to be regretted that prospecting operations were not carried to a greater depth. In April I accompanied Professor Agassiz and a party of scientists from America to the Jenolan Caves.

In May I visited Barraba, Woodsreef, Ironbark, and Crow Mountain, and reported on the necessity for enlarging the reserves for gold-mining purposes in that district. I also made an examination of a large deposit of tripolite in the Nandewar Ranges, and inspected and reported upon some applications for aid from the Prospecting Vote in the neighbourhood of Ti-tree Creek.

In June I made an examination of the Mount Maude Gold-field, and reported upon the proposal to resume an area of alienated land there for mining purposes. I also reported upon an application for aid in this district. From July to October my time was occupied principally with work connected with the Royal Commission on the Heating of Coal Cargoes.

In October I accompanied the Superintendent of Public Watering-places (Mr. Boulton) to Girilambone, and drove thence, *via* Willaroon and Crawley's selection, to Coolibah, inspecting on the road some mud-springs situated about 18 miles north-east of the latter town. These mud-springs are of considerable interest as being much farther south than any previously known, and as furnishing evidence of the extension of the lower cretaceous rocks, and probably of artesian water southwards to near Coolibah.

During the month of November I visited Nymagee and Gilgunnia, and reported upon a number of applications for aid from the Prospecting Vote to prospect the reefs in the vicinity of Gilgunnia.

During the months of November and December I attended a number of meetings of the Coal Cargoes Commission, and in company with Professor David, of the Sydney University, I inspected a number of coal outcrops in the Wollongong and Kiama districts, and gave evidence in regard to their value before the Public Works Committee in connection with the proposal to construct a deep water harbour at Port Kembla.

Appended hereto is a report on the Wombeyan Caves, written in 1885 by Mr. Geological Surveyor (now Professor) David, but never previously published.

During the year the Geological Survey Staff has been short-handed, the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. G. A. Stonier in 1895 not having been filled yet.

During the greater part of the year Mr. Geological Surveyor Carne has been engaged in conducting a prospecting party along the surveyed line from Cape Howe to the head of the Murray River, forming the boundary between the colonies of New South Wales and Victoria. A similar party was equipped by the Victorian Department of Mines, and up to the present date about 60 miles of country have been examined.

Although no discovery of payable deposits of gold or other minerals has yet been made, Mr. Carne has done good geological work on this expedition, and has made interesting discoveries of Devonian plant remains, and of Lower Silurian graptolites. He has thus been the first to identify lower Silurian rocks within the Colony of New South Wales. These rocks occupy a considerable area in the adjoining Colony of Victoria, and it is in them that the celebrated saddle reefs of Bendigo occur.

Mr. Carne has also furnished an interesting report on the Yowaka and Panbula Gold-field, as well as reports on the following :—

1. On an Alluvial Tin Deposit, Mann River.
2. On the Geology and Mineral Resources of the Coast between Port Macquarie and Cape Hawke.
3. On the Wolumla Gold-field.
4. On the Timbilica Reefs.
5. On the Auriferous Deposit at Tingys' Plains, near Rocky Hill.

Mr. Geological Surveyor Jaquet's time has been chiefly occupied in inspecting and reporting upon Mining Reserves, which the Lands Department proposed to reduce or revoke. He has also inspected a number of gold and other mineral deposits, and has furnished the following reports :—

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. On the Wattle Flat and Sofala Gold-field. | 7. On the Dairy Creek Gold-field. |
| 2. On the gold and tin-fields of Jinderbayne and Kosciusko. | 8. On an ironstone bed at Seaham. |
| 3. On the Little River Gold-field. | 9. On the Gilgunnia Gold-field. |
| 4. On the Tonga Creek Copper-lodes. | 10. On the Goola Creek Gold-field. |
| 5. On the Cullulla Silver-mine. | 11. On the Mount Blundell lode. |
| 6. On the auriferous drift near Laggan. | 12. On the Sunnyside Silver Copper-lode. |

Mr.

Mr. E. C. Whittell, Field Assistant, has been employed during the whole year in reporting upon applications for aid from the Prospecting Vote in various parts of the Colony.

Mr. D. W. Munro, the officer in charge of the prospecting operations in the beach deposits of the northern coast, has furnished a report on the work done, together with two plans and a section which are appended hereto. The plans and section are of considerable geological interest, as showing the position and extent of the raised beaches, or former coast line of this portion of the country.

Owing to increased activity in the mining industry there has been an unusual demand upon the services of the Assay Branch. During the twelve months ending 31st December, 1896, no less than 6,013 assays and analyses have been made, or one thousand in excess of the previous year. In addition to these a large number of rocks and minerals have been examined and reported upon by the Curator and Mineralogist, Mr. G. W. Card.

The museum collection has been largely increased, and much care and enthusiasm has been shown by the Curator in its arrangement.

Towards the end of the year the supervision of the Assay Branch was transferred from me to Mr. Taylor, the Government Metallurgist, and the laboratories were removed to Clyde. The office of Superintendent of Caves having been abolished, the active supervision of the limestone caves has been undertaken by Mr. Oliver Trickett, L.S., in addition to his ordinary duties as Geological Survey Draftsman. Mr. Trickett has already furnished valuable reports on a number of the caves, giving details of past expenditure, and has prepared sketch plans which will be of great use to visitors, and which it is proposed to publish.

During the year Volume V, Part 1, of the Records of the Geological Survey of New South Wales has been published, and Part 2 will shortly be issued.

The Assistant Paleontologist, Mr. Dun, has made determinations of a large number of fossils collected by the members of the staff, particulars of these will be found in his report appended hereto. He has also performed a considerable amount of very satisfactory work in connection with the departmental library.

Mr. W. D. Campbell, Licensed Surveyor, has been employed for some months in surveying the aboriginal carvings in the Hawkesbury sandstones of the coast district north and south of Sydney. These are being reproduced in plan form by Mr. O. Trickett, and will shortly be published. It is believed that they will form an extremely interesting ethnological record, and the work has not been undertaken too soon, as many of the carvings in the suburban districts are becoming obliterated as population increases.

I have, &c.,

E. F. PITTMAN,
Government Geologist.

APPENDIX I.

Report on Coal Cargo of Ship "Knight of St. Michael."

Geological Survey Branch, Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 27 February, 1896.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that I have made two inspections (on the 25th and 27th instants) of the coal cargo of the ship "Knight of St. Michael," and have to report as follows:—

Previous to my visit the cargo had been inspected several times by the Marine Surveyors, copies of whose reports are herewith. From these reports it will be seen that the ship left Newcastle on the 1st of February with a cargo of 3,216 tons of Wallsend coal. On the 2nd February the Master took the temperature at intervals between 8 a.m. and noon, and found that in No. 2 Hatch it rose from 96° to 104°. He therefore put into Sydney Harbour, and on the 4th of February the cargo was surveyed, and the temperature in No. 2 Hatch was found to be 105°. The surveyors thereupon recommended the discharge of 300 tons of coal from the hatch.

On the 6th of February the surveyors made a second inspection, after the 300 tons had been nearly discharged, and, finding the coals still much heated on the surface, they recommended the discharge of a further quantity of about 500 tons, or until the ceiling was left practically clear.

The cargo was again inspected by the surveyors on the 11th, 12th, and 14th instants, and on the latter date they were of the opinion that all the heated coal had been taken out and that the remainder was fit to be carried on.

On the 14th instant, the captain reported that the temperature of the coal in No. 3 Hatch was rising; the surveyors confirmed this on the 17th, and also found a slight increase of the temperature in the coal in No. 4 Hatch. They therefore recommended that coal be shifted from hatches Nos. 3 and 4 into No. 2 until the heated coal was reached, and that the heated portion be then removed and sold. On the 21st they reported, after another inspection, that there were no sign of heating in the remainder of the cargo, and it was therefore assumed that the difficulty had been overcome.

Subsequently, however, it was ascertained that the temperature was again rising in No. 2 Hatch, and I was then requested to report upon the matter.

At about 9:30 a.m. on the 25th instant I found a temperature of 84° Fah. in the centre of the coal immediately under No. 2 Hatch, while in the hold near the side of the vessel the temperature was only 77°. It was noticeable that the coal contained a large proportion of "smalls" and "dust."

At about 9:45 a.m. on the 27th February I found that the temperature had risen to 88° Fah. in the centre of the coal under No. 2 Hatch, while in the hold near the side of the vessel it was 76°. At the same hour the temperature of the coal in No. 3 Hatch was 79°, and in No. 4 Hatch it was 73°, while the shade temperature on deck was 69°.

It is clear, from the foregoing remarks, that the temperature of portions of the cargo is at the present time abnormally high, and there is reason for believing that, if left alone, it would continue to increase until spontaneous combustion ensued. Samples of the coal taken by me have been analysed by Mr. J. C. H. Mingaye, in the Departmental Laboratory, with the following results:—

	No. 1 Hatch.	No. 2 Hatch.	No. 4 Hatch.
Hygroscopic moisture	2.65	2.81	2.45
Volatile hydrocarbons	35.80	35.32	37.55
Fixed carbon	55.30	54.47	52.30
Ash	6.25	7.40	7.70
	100.00	100.00	100.00
Sulphur	0.535	0.453	0.508

It may be stated, therefore, that the cargo consists of semi-bituminous coal of good quality, but containing a large proportion of "dust" and "smalls." The coal was, I am informed, screened at the pit-mouth, and its present condition is, I presume, due to subsequent handling.

From the investigations of eminent European authorities, such as Richters, Fayol, Lewes, and others, there can be little doubt—(1st.) that the principal cause of spontaneous combustion in coal is the absorption of oxygen by the coal; and (2nd.) that the most favourable conditions for the self-heating of coal are a mixture of "pieces" and "dust," an elevated temperature, a large mass or volume of coal to act as a non-conducting covering, and a certain volume of air. These conditions are precisely those which exist in the "Knight of St. Michael's" cargo. The cargo was, I understand, loaded during the abnormally hot weather which prevailed at the end of January, and it is probable, therefore, that it reached the hold with an initial temperature of from 120° to 150° Fah. In loading from the trucks at Newcastle a considerable proportion of "smalls" and "dust" has been produced by the fall and by the process of trimming. By the filling up of the hold the volume of coal necessary to form a non-conducting covering has been provided, while just about sufficient air has access to the hold to complete the necessary conditions.

I am of opinion, therefore, that the heating of the cargo of the ship "Knight of St. Michael" is due, firstly, to the fact that the coal contains a large proportion of "smalls" and "dust," and, secondly, its having been loaded during abnormally hot weather.

The proportion of "smalls" and "dust" has no doubt been increased by the shifting operations which have taken place since the arrival of the ship in Port Jackson, and I am of opinion that considerable risk would be incurred if the "Knight of St. Michael" were allowed to put to sea with her cargo in its present state.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD F. PITTMAN,

Government Geologist.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

APPENDIX 2.

Report on John Hope's Conditional Lease.

Geological Survey Branch, 16 June, 1896.

I HAVE inspected John Hope's Conditional Lease, Portion 76, Parish of Mount Lawson, County of Georgiana, and particularly that part of it (containing 173 acres 1 rood 9 perches) recommended for resumption by Mr. Warden Smith on account of auriferous alluvial deposits.

The greater part of the area proposed to be resumed consists of hills of micaceous schists capped in places by basalt. The basalt covers a drift consisting of very angular fragments of quartz and schist, and containing a little gold. A small gully—shown on the sketch plan herewith—intersects the portion which has been recommended for resumption. It is in this gully that payable alluvial gold has been reported by John Hope. The drift in this gully consists of angular fragments of quartz and country rock (schist). The greatest depth of sinking in the alluvium on Hope's Conditional Lease is 12 feet, and on Warby's land (Portion 84) it is 14 feet. The total thickness of the wash is about 2 feet; but only about 2 inches of the lower part of this is auriferous. The width of the lead on Hope's conditional lease is only from 3 feet to 9 feet. The length of the auriferous gutter or lead on Hope's conditional lease is about 680 yards, and about two-thirds of this length has been pretty well worked out. The workings have only extended for a few yards into Warby's land, and the most easterly workings tend to show that the lead is widening out and becoming poorer.

It will be understood, therefore, that the lead is of comparatively insignificant dimensions, that the sinking is shallow, and the wash-dirt of no great thickness.

The gold has probably been derived, in the first instance, from Crozier's Reef—the position of which is shown upon the sketch—and, possibly, from other reefs in the neighbourhood. By the denudation of these reefs the lead under the basalt received a certain proportion of gold; and when, subsequently, the present gully was formed, intersecting the basalt-covered lead, the gold was still further concentrated in the narrow gutter in which it is now being worked.

In view of the fact that the alluvial deposit in the gully has nowhere been extraordinarily rich, I do not think that the drift under the basalt—from which the gully alluvium was concentrated—is likely to prove payable to any extent, even if it were found to contain no water, which is by no means certain.

In my opinion, fifty men would completely work the gully out in a few weeks, and in view of the limited nature of the deposit, and of the patchy nature of the deposits of the district generally, I do not feel justified in recommending the resumption of the land. In any case the area (173 acres) surveyed for resumption appears to me to be excessive.

E. F. PITTMAN,

Government Geologist.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

APPENDIX 3.

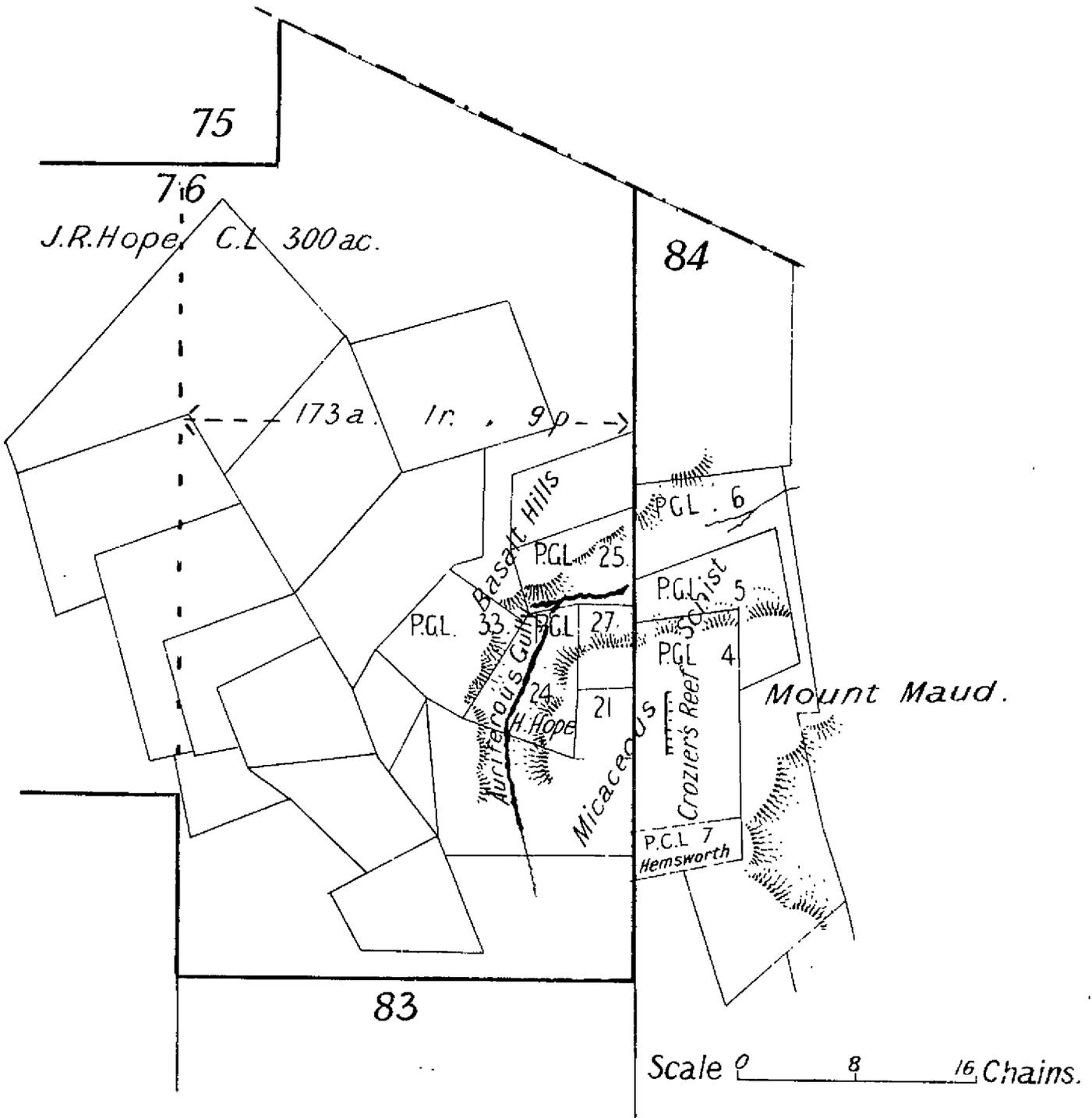
Report on Boggy Camp Diamond Field.

I INSPECTED the Boggy Camp Diamond Field in November last. It is situated near the junction of Cope's Creek with the Big River, in the Parish of Mayo, County of Hardinge. Diamantiferous drifts have been worked in the neighbourhood for years; but last year a new find was made, and this has proved extremely rich in places. I was informed that from one load of drift from Aitken, Dasey, and Party's Claim no fewer than 515 diamonds were washed, weighing in the aggregate 184 carats. At the time of my visit the total quantity of drift which had been treated was forty-two loads, for an aggregate yield of 600 carats, and the wash had also yielded tin ore at the rate of 13 lb. per load. It will be seen from the Acting Warden's report of the 13th ultimo that the deposit has been found to increase in richness since I inspected it.

The quartz pebble drift in which the diamonds occur underlies a large basalt hill, about 1¼ mile long and perhaps ½ mile wide. It appears as if the basalt had filled in what was formerly a large oval-shaped hollow or depression, for bed-rock, consisting of granite for the most part, can be traced nearly all round the base of the hill, and apparently forming the banks as well as the floor of the ancient depression.

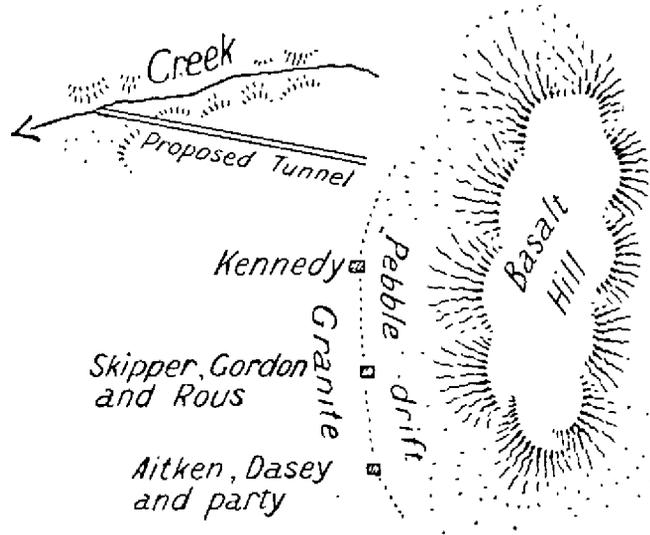
There

Sketch to accompany report by E.F. Pittman A.R.S.M.
 Government Geologist on part of portion 76
 Parish of Mount Lawson. County of Georgiana.



There was no water in Dasey and Party's working at the time of my visit ; but I was informed that a deep shaft further back on the hill had proved the existence of a considerable body of water in the deeper ground, which is what might naturally be expected.

Prior to my visit several of the claim-holders had applied for aid from the Prospecting Vote ; but it was considered by the Board that, in view of the fact that payable wash had been reported in one claim, the granting of aid to adjoining claim-holders was not justifiable ; and subsequent press notices tend to show that the miners have found a market for their diamonds and are making a good profit—at any rate, in Aitken, Dasey, and Party's Claim.



It would, I think, be possible to drive a tunnel which would drain the whole deposit ; but it would, probably, require to be about 800 feet long, and some part of it would be through hard granite, though I am of opinion that for the greater portion of the distance the granite would be found to be decomposed. Part of the tunnel would also run through alienated land, viz., Portion 371, Parish of Mayo, County of Hardinge.

E. F. PITTMAN,

Government Geologist.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture. 5/6/96.

APPENDIX 4.

Report on Chadwick and Gane's Prospecting Operations at Long Bay.

Sir, Geological Survey Branch, Department of Mines and Agriculture, 30 March, 1896.

I have the honor to report that I have inspected the workings near Long Bay, in connection with which Messrs. Chadwick and Gane are applying for aid from the Prospecting Vote.

The workings are situated in a steep gulch or inlet immediately to the north of Long Bay. A wide dyke of basalt here intersects the Hawkesbury sandstones of the coast in an east and west direction, and it is to the decomposition of the basalt, by atmospheric influences, that the inlet owes its origin ; the white clay resulting from the weathering of the basalt being soft and more easily denuded than the surrounding beds of sandstone.

The basalt dyke is similar to many others which are known to intersect the Hawkesbury rocks in the neighbourhood of Port Jackson.

In places in this dyke, portions of the Hawkesbury sandstone have been "included" or caught up by the basalt when the latter was in a molten state, and these have been so baked and metamorphosed that they now consist of a granular quartz rock, heavily charged with secondary pyrites. This rock is what the prospectors have been regarding as quartz reefs, and it is to further test this material that they now apply for aid.

I collected a number of samples of what Messrs. Chadwick and Gane regarded as the most promising of this material, and three assays were made of these in the Departmental Laboratory, twice the customary amount of stone being taken for each assay. The results were the same in all three instances, namely, neither gold nor silver.

I may mention that the statement made by Chadwick and Gane with reference to previous assays by the Department is incorrect. I have had the records of all previous assays looked up, and I find that in no case has a return of 2 dwts. per ton been given for stone from this locality.

I recommend that the application for aid be refused, as I am of opinion that there is no reason to hope that payable quantities of gold occur in these rocks.

EDWARD F. PITTMAN,
Government Geologist.

The Prospecting Board.

APPENDIX 5.

Report on Artesian Water, Town of Warialda.

Sir, Geological Survey Branch, Department of Mines and Agriculture, 18 February, 1896.

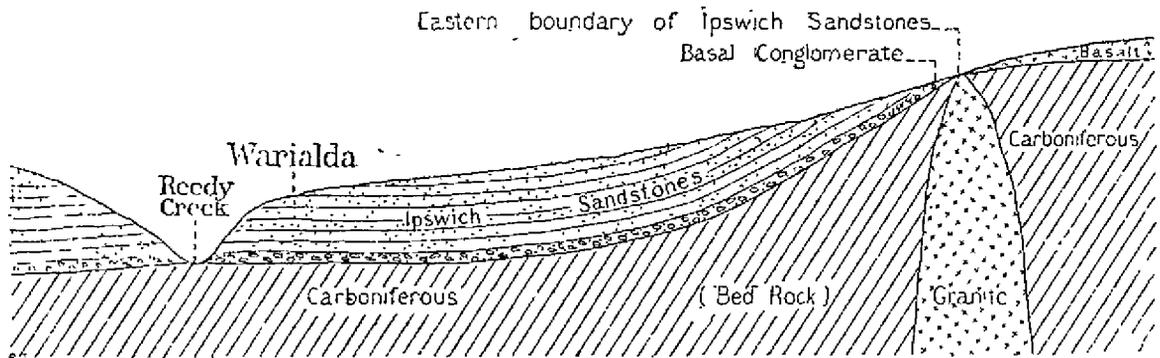
I have the honor to inform you that I have made a geological examination of the country in the neighbourhood of Warialda, in connection with the question of the occurrence of artesian water in the vicinity of that town, and I have to report as follows :—

The Ipswich Coal Measures (*i.e.*, the rocks from which the artesian water supplies of the Moree and Coonamble Bores are obtained) have been traced by me from Southern Queensland into the northern portion of New South Wales, west of the Dividing Range, where they form an artesian water-bearing basin of considerable

considerable extent. The eastern boundary of this basin crosses the Dumaresq River (the northern border of this Colony) at a point about 15 miles west of the town of Texas, and from there it trends in a general direction of about S.S.W., crossing the road between Warialda and Inverell, at a point about 6 miles to the eastward of the former town. The dip of the beds is to the west.

Approaching Warialda from Bingara these Ipswich sandstones are also met with about 6 miles south of the former town, but they occur here as a mere outlier, forming a hill, the base of which is composed of Carboniferous rocks. Two miles south of Warialda the Ipswich sandstones are again seen occupying the higher ground, and they continue right into the north of the town, which is, in fact, built upon rocks of this age.

About three-quarters of a mile west of the town the carboniferous rocks outcrop in the bed of Reedy Creek, while the Ipswich sandstones cap the higher portions of the banks. A geological section along an east and west line passing through the town of Warialda would, therefore, appear as follows:—



It will be seen by the above that the town of Warialda is situated on the Ipswich sandstones which are the water-bearing rocks of the Moree and Coonamble Bores; but its position is comparatively close to the eastern margin of the basin, and, moreover, the outcrop of the Carboniferous rocks in Reedy Creek to the west of the town indicates (firstly) that there can be no great thickness—possibly not more than 100 or 150 feet—of the water-bearing beds at Warialda; and (secondly) that the water absorbed by the Ipswich sandstones, to the east, must escape at the surface where the Carboniferous bed-rock is exposed, and this escape would probably prevent the water from rising to the surface of a bore put down on the higher ground. Even if the resistance of the beds were sufficient to cause the water to rise to the surface at any time, the flow would probably be intermittent, in view of the limited area of the intake beds to the eastward.

I am of opinion, therefore, that, on geological grounds, there is not sufficient justification for the expense of an artesian bore at Warialda.

There can, I think, be little doubt that a permanent water supply is required, not only in the interests of the townspeople, but for the purpose of travelling stock. Reedy Creek, which runs through the town of Warialda, has a very sandy bed into which the water sinks readily, and although water can always be obtained by sinking holes in the sand it frequently happens that there is little or no water flowing in the creek bed. Hence there are no facilities for watering stock. The banks of the creek are covered in many places by a thick alluvial deposit of Pleistocene age, through which wells have in a few instances been put down with satisfactory results. The best method of providing a permanent water supply for the town would probably be to put down a pumping well on the bank of the creek some distance above the town. The yield could be increased by putting in timbered drives from the bottom of the well. An engine would of course be required for raising the water to the surface.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD F. PITTMAN,
Government Geologist.

Progress Report of Mr. J. E. Carne for 1896.

Sir, Geological Survey, Department of Mines and Agriculture, 12 January, 1897.

I have the honor to briefly summarise the work performed by me during the past year.

In January I was engaged in office writing up reports of work performed, &c.

In February I inspected the auriferous beach ores at Shellharbour, and reported thereon to the Prospecting Board. Later I examined a defined site at Hillgrove, and attended the local Court at Armidale to give expert evidence in connection therewith. I inspected land for alienation within gold-field reserves near Armidale and in the Upper Hunter district, and examined and reported on sites for prospecting aid at Stewart's Brook.

In March I inspected prospecting sites at Drake, Lunatic, Pretty Gully, Tooloom, Rivertree, Boonoo Boonoo, and Sandy Creek, and examined portions of the Maryland Tin Reserve 857 (near Wilson's Downfall), Uralla and Guyra Gold-field Reserves.

In April I inspected limestone deposits near Taree, and examined and reported on the mineral resources of the coast between Port Macquarie and Cape Hawke; also on prospecting sites at Coolongoolook.

In May I was engaged in office writing reports on work performed, and preparing equipment, &c., for leading a prospecting party along the Victorian Border from Cape Howe to the head of the Murray River at Forest Hill, a distance of about 120 miles. In June a start was made from the coast district near Cape Howe, and at the close of the year a strip, nominally one mile wide, but frequently more, had been tested as far west as the Irondoon Range, near Delegate.

The

The results from a mining view have been very disappointing, and equally poor fortune has befallen the Victorian Party engaged in similar work on their side of the Border, notwithstanding that the latter party has been two months longer in the field.

As the country passed over will form the subject of a special report on completion of the work, it will, perhaps, be sufficient at the present time to briefly epitomise the main geological and mining features of the area already tested.

From the coast to the Howe Range the formations consist of Devonian sandstones, conglomerates, and clay shales. At the range, about 300 feet of conglomerate overlies the granite, which forms the base of the elevated ridge stretching northerly from Mallacoota Lake to Twofold Bay. From the Howe Range to about one and a half mile west of the Eden-Genoa road at Timbilica, the formations consist of slates, sandstone, and schists, with occasional intrusions of porphyry; from the intermediate position of these beds between the overlying Devonian and the more cleavable slates and sandstones and schists of the Monaro Tableland further west, they may be provisionally classed as Upper Silurian, though continuous search has failed to discover palaeontological evidence to definitely establish their proper geological horizon. West of the Timbilica Road granite occurs, being the southern extension of the Wyndham, Wolumla, and Bega outcrops. Stretching westerly into the Parish of Yambula it remains the surface rock. Frequent diorite intrusions were noted, but usually quite barren of quartz at the junction. A narrow belt of Upper Silurian slates and sandstones stretches northerly from the Border across Mount Waalimma. West from this belt the granite is overlaid in the Yambula and Nungatta Range by massive beds of sandstone, conglomerate, and grey and ferruginous clay shales, reaching a thickness at some points of over 1,200 feet. These beds are practically horizontal or gently dipping. From the shale bands the party were successful in securing sufficient palaeontological evidence to enable the Assistant Palaeontologist, Mr. W. S. Dun, to determine on reasonable grounds the true age of this series, which I believe is identical with beds of similar character in the Eden-Pambula district.

The Devonian beds extend west along the Border to the junction of the Bondi River and Hopping Joe Creek, in the Parish of Bondi, County Auckland. From thence to the Main Coast Range, in the same parish, granite extends to near the brow of the tableland; here a narrow belt of slate and schist is separated from the main mass by a narrow intrusive offshoot of granite which forms the eastern escarpment of the Monaro Tableland on the Border. From this point to the Irondoon Range, just west of the Little River, slates, sandstones, and schists occur. At the Irondoon a narrow intrusion of gneissic granite occurs, but pinches out a short distance north from the Border. The sedimentary formations of the tableland fortunately afforded an interesting suite of Graptolites, which were identified by Mr. Dun as characteristic Lower Silurian types. This is the first definite determination of Lower Silurian rocks in the Colony, which, however, was anticipated upon the occasion of the first geological examination of the district, opposite which in Victoria this formation had been identified.

Of the mineral resources of the area tested little can be said; gold occurs, sparingly distributed in extremely fine colours, throughout the alluvial of most of the country traversed; but nothing even affording reasonable inducement for further test was discovered. In one instance only was gold found in reefstone, viz., near Mount Buckle, in Parish Buckle, County Auckland. The matrix was quartz, occurring as veins, leaders, and bunches in granite. The gold is extremely fine, and occurs not only in drusy cavities resulting from oxidation of pyrites, but also distributed in almost microscopic particles throughout portions of the quartz. Galena is also present in very small quantity. A selected sample from the best looking stone assayed 18 dwts. 12 grs. gold per ton, but the average of the surface stone may be roughly estimated as 5 or 6 dwts. per ton. Authority was given to draw attention to the discovery through the medium of the local press, and as a result a party of prospectors were on the 10th ultimo engaged in opening up the reef.

In the Lower Silurian rocks of the Monaro Tableland better prospects were expected, but not realised. The gold deposits extensively worked along the Quinburra and Little Rivers near Delegate have undoubtedly been derived from the auriferous ranges in which they have their source in Victoria, as the gold becomes coarser as the channels are followed up, and finer as they extend into New South Wales territory.

Operations in the latter have been confined to testing the flats and gullies falling into the streams mentioned for the purpose of ascertaining whether any local sources of gold supply existed, but entirely without avail.

Traces of tinstone were obtained from the wash near Timbilica, but no lodestuff was detected. Operations will shortly be resumed between Delegate and the Snowy Ranges, where, it is hoped, better fortune will await the systematic attempt now being made by the Department to discover economic metals and minerals in this locality.

I beg to append herewith the following reports on work performed during the year:—

Report on an Alluvial Tin Deposit, Mann River.

Report on the Geology and Mineral Resources of the Coast between Port Macquarie and Cape Howe.

Preliminary Notes on the Yowaka or Pambula Gold-field.

Report on the Wolumla Gold-field.

Report on the Timbilica Reefs near Nungatta.

Report on the Auriferous Deposit at Tingys' Plains, near Rocky Hall.

I have, &c.,

JOSEPH E. CARNE, F.G.S.,

Geological Surveyor.

The Government Geologist.

APPENDIX 6.

Sir,

Report on an Alluvial Tin Deposit, Mann River.

I have examined the above site, which is situated on the bank of the Mann River, Portion 155, Parish Stonehenge, County Gough. The river just below the site (where tin-mining operations have and are being carried on) runs through a narrow rocky gorge, which when the river bed stood at a higher level formed a dam, and caused accumulations of drift and sediment to be backed up on the flanks of the sloping ground above the bar. The drift or wash now being worked is well waterworn, and has clearly been transported for some little distance; the tinstone and gemstones are all well rounded. The Applicant's
idea

idea was, I believe, that the tin drift had resulted from the neighbouring granite hill; but this view is clearly opposed to the natural evidence. Tin has been worked hereabouts, but rarely, for the past twenty-four years. At the present time steam pumping power and a puddling machine are being erected by Mr. B. Moses, of Glen Innes, who has purchased the mine from the applicant. Judging from a sample of the stream tin sand, the quality is much deteriorated by the presence of a large percentage of ilmenite. As no mining was proceeding at the time of inspection, I could not ascertain the actual thickness of the stanniferous drift, because of the presence of water; but judging from the portion exposed, the yield will be very fairly good; the vital question, however, is the purity of the tin sand.

I have, &c.,
JOSEPH E. CARNE,
Geological Surveyor.

The Government Geologist.

APPENDIX 7.

Report on the Geology and Mineral Resources of the Coast between Port Macquarie and Cape Hawke.

Sir, Geological Survey Branch, Department of Mines and Agriculture, 29 May, 1896.

I have the honor to report that, in accordance with your instructions, I have examined the coast-line between Port Macquarie and Cape Hawke, with a view of ascertaining the extent, and possibility of successful development, of the intervening beach sands, which, as the Hon. J. H. Young states in papers 96-4,967, have been more or less spasmodically worked for gold for a number of years past. Also for the purpose of endeavouring to determine the probability, from the local physical conditions, of the existence of earlier auriferous shore-lines. And finally, by careful examination of the nature and condition of the auriferous sands, to advise as to the best method of treatment.

The distance between Port Macquarie and Cape Hawke is about 60 miles; but following the contour of the shore-line it is, approximately, not far short of 100 miles. Port Macquarie lies about 150 miles south of the Esk and Jerusalem Creeks auriferous coast areas, which at the present time are attracting considerable attention.

Physical Geography.

The coast-line from Port Macquarie to Cape Hawke is destitute of any continuous cliff-sections, the few headlands which occur—such as Grant's Head, Camden Haven, Diamond and Crowdy Heads, Wallaby and Halliday Points, and Cape Hawke—are widely separated by long stretches of sandy beach fringing lowland areas.

The principal elevations adjacent to the coast are the conspicuous isolated mountains known as the North, South, and Middle Brothers, near Camden Haven and Stewart Rivers; and further west the Kere Wong or Broken Bago Range, trending north-easterly towards Port Macquarie. Between the Manning and Wollumba Rivers, Talawah and other peaks towards Tinonee and Coolongolook are conspicuous elevations above the general level.

The principal drainage channels entering the sea between the extreme points of investigation are the Hastings and Wilson Rivers, entering at Port Macquarie; the Camden Haven and Stewart Rivers at Camden Haven; the Manning River, with its divided outlet, at Harrington and Farquhar Inlets; and the Wollumba River, entering at Cape Hawke.

The above rivers, with their principal tributaries, drain a large tract of country lying between the Macleay watershed on the north, Cape Hawke on the south, and the high lands of New England on the west. Included in this area are portions of the Orara, Gyra, and almost all the Gloucester Gold-field, as well as the Gundle Tin-field on the Wilson River.

Between Tacking Point and Diamond Head are five lakes close to the sea-line, four of which are of considerable size. Lake Imes or Burrawan, Lake Swamp, and Cathie Lake lie nearest to the coast, from which they are separated only by swampy sandy areas. These lakes lie opposite the long beach between Tacking Point and Grant's Head.

Queen's Lake and Watson-Taylor Lake are tidal waters connected with Camden Haven River; they lie north and south of the North Brother, at a distance of about 3 miles apart, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ from the coast.

General Geology.

The geological formations represented in the coast section consist of Carboniferous marine beds at Cape Hawke, Halliday and Wallaby Points; fresh-water Mesozoic beds at Camden Haven, Grant's and Crowdy Heads; and Tertiary and Recent deposits in the low-lying intervening areas.

Igneous rocks are represented by serpentine and dolerite at Port Macquarie; and felsite, rhyolite, and diorite at Diamond Head.

Between Port Macquarie and Tacking Point, patches of altered sedimentary rock occur in contact with serpentine and dolerite. The Signal-station at the former, for instance, stands on a peninsula of such a rock where the junction with the serpentine is well marked. The sedimentary rock, owing to intense silicification induced by igneous intrusion, has in places assumed cherty, chalcedonic, and jasperoid characters.

At Nobbys, the South Head of Port Macquarie, across a narrow neck connecting the headland with the mainland, several shafts have been sunk in the altered rock where it is much decomposed. In one of them a mass of loose, rubbly quartz has been opened, evidently under the impression that it was a vein; but a glance at the large solid masses of similar material lying at sea-level on the west side of the neck is sufficiently convincing of its secondary character. In some instances the infiltration of the colloidal silica has converted the original rock into a homogeneous chalcedonic or jasperoid mass, in others it has reticulated it with thin seams and threads. A specially interested example of complete silicic metamorphism is represented in some isolated rocks exposed on Tacking Point beach, at the site of the "Wodonga" wreck, the bedding planes of which are distinctly preserved, striking N. 52° E., and dipping N. 38° W. at 44°.

Fragments of the silicified rocks and of true quartz occur loose or mingled with the deep red soil of the surface just above the beaches between Nobbys and Tacking Point, to which further attention will be given when the occurrences of gold are to be considered.

Owing

Owing to contact metamorphism and absence of any palæontological evidence, the correct geological horizon of the above-described sedimentary rocks cannot be authoritatively determined at the present time, but from correlative evidence there is little doubt that they will eventually prove to belong to the Carboniferous Period.

Carboniferous Marine Beds.—Rocks of this age form the headlands at Cape Hawke, Halliday and Wallaby Points, and a smaller unnamed headland just north of the latter, where these rocks are first seen in the coast section when followed southerly from Port Macquarie.

The strata consist of alternating beds of indurated sandstones and mudstones with intercalated beds of coarser grits and conglomerates.

The prevailing strike at Cape Hawke—where the largest outcrop occurs—is about 1 degree from east and west. The dip is southerly, but variable in amount, ranging from 30° to 52°. At the low headland above-mentioned, the strike is apparently nearer north-west, but here the strata have been subjected to anticlinal and synclinal folding.

Wallaby Point consists chiefly of massive beds of indurated sandstones, grits, and conglomerates. A special feature of this outcrop is the curious concretionary weathering of some of the sandstones. Hard cores of greenish-gray colour are seen embedded in weathered yellowish-brown shaly layers from $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch in thickness. The cores vary in size from small pellets to massive blocks, according to the thickness of the individual beds. The concretionary or rounded structure assumed in weathering, probably arises from a series of parallel cross-joints or shrinkage cracks at right angles to the bedding planes, which divide the rock into blocks, and allow free access of the weathering agencies to the whole surfaces, which would naturally tend to the rounding of the angles in the manner displayed by the beds in question.

From the strata exposed in the coast section, near the Signal-station at Forster, Cape Hawke, a number of fossils were collected, which have since been examined by Mr. W. S. Dun, Assistant Palæontologist, who has supplied the following descriptions:—

“The fossils collected by Mr. Geological Surveyor Carne, from near the Flagstaff, Parish of Forster, County Gloucester, indicate rocks of true Carboniferous age. They are mostly imperfectly preserved as casts and impressions.

Chonetes, sp.—(Very closely allied to *C. hardrensis*, Phillips, of the English Carboniferous).

Productus semireticulatus, Martin.

Spirifera—(A few specimens which indicate a species of the type of *S. grandicostata*, McCoy).

Gossetina australis, Eth. fil.

Fenestella.

Orthoceras—(Remains of an internal cast of a very large species, showing remains of two septa; about 7 inches wide, as preserved).

Corals—(Very abundant; occurring as internal casts, evidently of a branching dendroid form).

Bellerophon.

Entolium?

Knorrina.

From the neighbourhood of Cape Hawke Mr. Etheridge has already recorded *Cyrtina carbonaria* var. *australasica*, Eth. fil. *Productus cornu*, D'Orb., and *Leptodomus*.*

The identification by Mr. Dun of the fossils *Productus semireticulatus*, and *Gossetina australis* in abundance in the Cape Hawke carboniferous rocks is of special importance, because such forms are typically characteristic of the beds beneath the Productive Coal-Measures (Permo-Carboniferous) of New South Wales. Thin coal seams, however, do occur in the Carboniferous beds, but so far as the present state of our knowledge goes, of inferior, unworkable quality only.

Mesozoic—Clarence Measures.—The cliffs forming the headlands north and south of Camden Haven and at Crowdy Head belong to this period. At the first-mentioned the strata consists of massive conglomerates and sandstones, with fine shaly sandstones and clay shales, and are specially distinguished by general horizontality and by the highly ferruginous character of the conglomerates and sandstones. The latter feature has given rise to an erroneous belief that beds of iron ore and ochre of economic importance occur here.

Crowdy Head, situated about 8 miles north of the main outlet of the Manning River, consists of more or less horizontally bedded massive grey sandstones, in which reed-like stems (probably *Equisetum*) are occasionally exposed during quarrying operations now being carried on in connection with the construction of retaining-walls at the entrance of the Manning River at Harrington.

The dip of the Mesozoic strata is to the south-west; at Grant's Head it amounts to about 7 degrees only from the horizontal.

The conglomerates consist essentially of chalcedonic quartz and jasperoid pebbles in a cementing paste of sand and oxide of iron, the latter rendering some portions extremely compact and hard.

At the southern end of the south head of Camden Haven, where the cliffs give place to the beach which stretches to Diamond Head, the section consists of massive beds of the conglomerate overlying a thick bed of very ferruginous clay shale, which in turn overlies a grey sandy shale containing plant remains, and a few thin streaks of coal about half an inch thick.

In a collection of plant remains from the latter, Mr. Dun determined the following well-known forms:—

“(a) *Thinnfeldia odontopteroides*, Morris.

(b) *Alethopteris lindleayana*, Royle.

(c) *Equisetum*.

(d) *Cycad*. (Frond imperfectly preserved, the base of the pinnules being indistinct. Probably a *Ptilophyllum*. *P. oligoneurum*, Ten-Woods, occurs in the Ipswich Coal-Measures of Queensland.

(e) *Gleichenites?* There is also present a fern with small lobate pinnules, somewhat similar to *Didymosorus (Gleichenites) gleichenoides*, Oldham, from the Rajmahal Coal-Measures (Lower Mesozoic), of India, but differing from it in the distance apart of the pinnae and their less head-shaped and more elongate form; but it is very indistinctly preserved. This species (Indian) has been also described from the Desert Sandstone of Croydon, Queensland.

(f) *Cardiocarpum*.

(g)

* Records Geol. Survey N.S. Wales, 1892, iii, p. 60.

- (g) *Phyllothea* sp. This form is unlike any that has hitherto been described from Australia Mesozoic rocks. It is characterised by the very elongate fine leaf bracts, and the narrow stem. It is of the type of *Phyllothea deliquescens*, Schmalhausen, from the Jurassic of Western Russia, and *P. sibirica*, Heer, from rocks of similar age in Siberia."

The fossils identified establish the Mesozoic Age of the rocks on the coast at Camden Haven, and, therefore, point to the possibility of strata of the Productive (Permian-Carboniferous) Coal-Measures underlying them. This question will, however, be further considered under the head of coal.

Igneous Rocks.—I am indebted to Mr. G. W. Card, A.R.S.M., Curator of the Mining Museum for the following petrographical notes on igneous rocks from the localities mentioned:—

- [819] 53-mile peg—Port Macquarie to Taree Road. Ophitic dolerite (olivine absent).
 [820] First point south of Nobbys, near Port Macquarie. Similar to 819, but coarser in grain.
 [821] Tacking Point, (by some regarded as granite. J.E.C.) Similar to 820, but less ophitic in structure and much altered. Would appear to be of considerable geological age.

NOTE.—These three [819, 820, 821,] would be termed diabase by some. The absence of olivine brings them somewhat nearer the diorites.

- [823] Diamond Head. Diorite.

Mr. Card also confirmed my field determinations of the Diamond Head quartz felsites, and the silicified fine-grained sedimentary rock already described.

Economic Geology.

The economic metals and minerals represented in or near the coast-line between Port Macquarie and Cape Hawke consist of gold, copper, cobalt, manganese, iron and limestone, which will be dealt with in due order, and followed by reference to the reported occurrence, and probable existence of coal and kerosene shale.

Gold.—Gold naturally first claims attention, not, however, because of any importance attaching to the beach-mining operations which have hitherto been attempted. It occurs in reefs at Coolongolook, and Paddy's Creek, near Bungwall, west and a little south-west of Cape Hawke, in rocks of Lower Carboniferous age. In Bunt and Ort's Claim, at Paddy's Creek, the gold-reefs occur as thin flat-lying veins in conglomerate, which caps at this point the claystones and slates in which the neighbouring reefs occur.

At Coolongolook the gold reefs are thin and have been mostly characterised by the occasional occurrence of very rich, but extremely small shoots; a mode of occurrence usually if not invariably leading to loss and disappointment. The regular persistence of good stone with depth in the Curriki Reef should, however, encourage prospecting at lower levels.

Coming nearer to the sea-beaches, gold in the matrix, or more correctly, loose gold derived from local matrix, has been found in fairly coarse pieces, at intervals, between Nobbys and Tacking Point, near Port Macquarie, where, as before stated, igneous and sedimentary rocks occur in contact. The gold is here found in the red soil and rubble which covers the surface and accumulates as small tali at the foot of the elevated land at the back of the beaches.

In December last a local resident, Mr. A. Wade, pointed out several localities further inland where prospects were obtainable.

Both the igneous and sedimentary rocks, as before mentioned, are scamed with small veins, chiefly of a secondary or chaledonic silica, in which pyrites is rarely seen. From a few of the most favourable-looking, samples were taken, which, however, failed to reveal the presence of gold on assay.

That the gold obtained under the conditions stated differs distinctly in character and derivation from the uniformly minute particles in the beach sand, is easily apparent to those who occasionally find it when trying the latter at the junction of the red soil.

The indications in this locality point to dissemination of gold in small quantities through the country rather than concentration in defined matrices or reefs. The loose gold of the red soil probably represents the naturally concentrated yield of a large amount of weathered and denuded country.

At Diamond or Indian Head, two distinct intrusions of igneous rock occur in conjunction, the oldest consisting of diorite, and the younger of quartz-felsite. Rhyolite occurs in the latter, filling an irregular fissure, through which it has welled up in well-marked lines of viscid fluxion structure.

On the surface of the quartz felsite, crystalline quartz veins occur, having a maximum thickness of from one to one and a half inches in thickness; the apices of the crystals are free, symmetrical and perfectly transparent, hence, perhaps, the name of "Diamond" Head. Pyrites is associated with portions of the country rock and some of the veins. The discovery of the quartz veins and pyrites caused a small rush to the locality, and a number of shallow shafts and trenches were sunk on the top and western falls of the headland, but the indications are decidedly unfavourable both as regards the character and permanence of the veins.

Marine denudation has exposed the quartz felsite to a depth of 300 to 400 feet in the coast section without revealing any favourable mining indications. It is true that the felsitic intrusion in its composition is allied to the Pambula auriferous rock, more especially as regards the very thin and limited rhyolitic bands; but this approximate resemblance counts for nothing unless gold occurs in the mass itself, which there is at present no ground for assuming. This suggestion, however, is thrown out for the guidance of any further prospecting, so that attention may be directed to, perhaps, the chief point upon which any prospects, however slight, appear to rest.

It may also be stated that the most successful method of prospecting similar rocks at Pambula is "loaming," or scraping up of the loose, weathered material (soil) lying on the bed-rock on the slopes of the ridges, and panning for prospects; trails of fine shed-gold discovered in this way were in many instances followed to the outcrop of their respective matrices.

Beach Gold-mining.

So far as could be ascertained, remunerative beach-mining has only been possible in about three localities between Port Macquarie and Cape Hawke, viz., Tacking Point beach, Camden Haven, and Harrington Inlet, and even in these cases for very limited periods and yields only. The most important—Harrington Inlet—yielded about £70 worth of gold before the supply of material was exhausted.

Messrs.

Messrs. Atkinson and Hannay discovered the deposit about fifteen months ago just north of the retaining wall now being constructed. The auriferous sand extended for about 400 yards along the shoreline at and near sea-level. The bluish layer of "sniggers," averaging from 4 to 15 inches in thickness, rested on altered sandstone, and filled its numerous joints and crevices.

On Tacking Point beach, near the "Wodonga" wreck, Osbiston Brothers last year worked a "snigger" deposit of a reported yield of 20 oz., which exhausted the present supply of workable sand. The best results were obtained from the deepest layers, which averaged from 1 to 2 inches in thickness under from 5 to 10 feet of stripping. This party has just removed to Camden Haven beach, where at the most rations were formerly made.

Messrs. Woods and Partner have cut a race about 1½ mile long, taking advantage of the course of a small creek which trends northerly behind and parallel to the coast dunes, for the purpose of ground-slucing a deposit of sand close to Tacking Point. At the head of the race a small conserving dam has been constructed, from which the water had just been turned on, the volume being about equal to two sluice-heads. On the beach plates and boxes have been laid on the sand. Coir matting and blanketing are both used for lining the boxes and the bed of the race above the plates. Judging from the altogether ineffective fall of the water and its consequent gentle silting effect on the plates and boxes—which were almost entirely buried beneath the drifted sand, and the extreme liability to damage by even moderately high tides and gales, nothing but failure can be predicted for this venture, even if the deposit is a payable one, which has yet to be demonstrated.

A little of the blanketings or concentrates supplied by one of the Party—which, however, was not regarded as altogether a fair sample—yielded no trace of gold in the Departmental Laboratory. This evidence is only an indication of poverty, not of complete absence of gold, for the gold particles being free might, if few, be missed in sampling.

At Nobbys a few pot-holes have been sunk for gold amongst rounded boulders and pebbles, but with what result is not known. A noticeable feature is the association of well-worn pebbles and shingle with the auriferous black sand in almost every instance where it occurs on the beaches.

In June, 1894, a prospector named Warbrick began testing the sand inside the Old Bar, at the entrance of the south channel of the Manning River, at Farquhar Inlet. His operations attracted attention, and caused a small rush of about thirty men; few, however, remained after a short interval. The only protracted trial being that of Messrs. Crofton and Party, who worked intermittently for about seven months, their chief efforts being concentrated in a small depression about 75 yards back from the beach, close to the border of the mainland. Here the sinking is about 7 feet, in dry, clean, sand; the bottom consists of stiff pug-clay with pebbles derived from the conglomerate beds of the country.

The black sand layer exposed in the bottom of a shaft sunk at the time of inspection averaged from 10 to 13 inches in thickness.

The same party also worked for a time on the beach opposite the Recreation Pavilion. Holes sunk at this spot as deep as the water would allow revealed extremely fine thin layers of black sand, alternating with ordinary white quartz sand. In working, however, the whole available thickness of black and white layers would have to be operated on, because separation would be impossible. Shovel-panning of selected samples yielded a few very minute gold specks, but no platinum.

Methods of Working.

Carpet concentration of the extremely fine gold particles in the beach sands has not been tried in the localities mentioned, amalgam plates alone being used, usually on ordinary tables, with single or double feed hoppers. The water supply is raised by speer (jigger) pumps and generally evenly and continuously distributed from a small box reservoir, which prevents the intermittent, gushing flow from the pump direct, a source of undoubted loss if unchecked.

Crofton and Party's plates, however, were set up on a different plan, the frame being an upright stand about 4 feet high and 2 feet square, surmounted with a hopper. The plates (three in number) were set in a vertical zigzag at an angle of about 11° from the horizontal, and these were followed underneath by a bag-covered tray with a riffle at the line of discharge.

Supposed Causes of Non-successful Working.

In one locality only—viz., Old Bar, Farquhar Inlet—is the non-success of beach gold mining attributed to a cause other than the natural poverty of the sands. Crofton and Party, whose operations, extending over seven months, resulted in a net return of 2¾ oz. of amalgam, containing about 8 dwt. of gold, attributed their failure to the action of some deleterious substances in the sand which in a mysterious way caused the hard amalgam accumulated on the plates to vanish in a few moments after resumption of operations. No attempt, however, was made at any time to remove and retort the amalgam when in greatest supposed abundance, or to test the tailings for escaped particles.

The absorbent power, especially of new copper plates, is a well-known fact, but to this can hardly be attributed the sudden disappearance of accumulated amalgam. Another possible source of loss is the use of cyanide of potassium for cleaning the plates, unless followed by adequate washing.

Two samples of sand, one from the site of the main workings, the other from the thin slack sand layers of the beach, selected in the usual way by mixing and parting, were carefully assayed in the Departmental Laboratory in duplicate, with the following results in each case:—Gold, a trace (under 2 dwt. per ton).

The sand of this locality being quite clean, or but slightly discoloured, and perfectly free from percolating humic acid, or iron solutions, requires no cleansing by caustic washings as has been suggested. A careful examination of the locality, with full consideration of the facts connected therewith, leads to but one conclusion as to the cause of non-success of mining operations, viz., natural poverty of the sands in gold.

Evidences of the existence of earlier beaches landwards.

In two localities, viz., Tacking Point Beach, north of Cathie Creek, and the beach near the outlet of Khappinghat or Saltwater Creek, between Wallaby and Halliday Points, there is evidence of Recent and Tertiary sea-made areas extending inland. At the foot of the beach dunes in these localities, a hardened black sand-bed occurs about, and a little above, sea-level, consisting of ordinary quartz sand grains coloured and cemented by organic matter and iron salts. The essential differences between these and similar occurrences in the Esk River District are the extreme poverty of the present beaches opposite these outcrops, and the conspicuous rarity of the genuine black sand (titanic iron and zircon) which forms such a common and characteristic feature of the more northern auriferous beaches. In fact, this constant associate of the gold particles becomes markedly less and less discernible as the coast line is followed southwards from Port Macquarie.

It is true that Osbiston Bros. reported a yield of 20 oz. of gold for twelve months' work from a patch of natural concentrates or "sniggers" on Tacking Point Beach, just about the north end of the "black rock" outcrop; but opposite the outcrop itself no good results were obtainable.

At the other locality mentioned, near Saltwater Creek outlet, the "black rock" rises in some places to a height of 6 feet above the beach level, and through it fresh water is continuously soaking from the made ground at the back. A feature of this outcrop is the occurrence in it of large, altered sandstone pebbles, mostly in layers, which would render testing by sludger extremely difficult, if not impossible.

Iron salts play an important part in the colouration of this bed, and where such has been converted into peroxides at the exposed outcrop, the rock is of a yellowish or reddish-brown hue.

On the banks of Saltwater Creek outlet, and for a very limited distance south, thin layers of the true black sand occur. An average sample taken carefully from the surface layers—which cake as they dry in the sun—yielded a trace of gold only when tested in duplicate in the Departmental Laboratory. From the position of the true black sand at the base of the loose sand of the dunes, and its marked absence on the beach opposite the long outcrop of "black rock," it would appear as if it were derived from the former.

A large swamp closely paralled to the beach south of Old Bar was regarded by some as evidence of a former encroachment of the sea, but a very slight test was sufficient to disprove this conjecture.

I am indebted to Mr. Hannay, of Taree, for the following particulars of the nature of the sinking about 200 yards inland from the mouth of Abby Creek between Diamond and Crowdy Heads:—

Wind-blown sand	2 ft. 6 in.
Boulders and sand with fine gold particles	2 ft. 0 in.
Chocolate-coloured slimy sand	6 ft. 0 in.
Coarse gravel with coarse colours of gold regarded as bottom .....	.....

Three men at this point were engaged, partly in trying the beach sands at the creek mouth, and partly in prospecting in the neighbourhood.

Absence of Basalt-covered Drifts.

In the strip of country under consideration there is, apparently, an entire absence of basaltic outflows covering earlier drainage channels. The original richness of the sea-beaches adjacent to such phenomena in the Richmond and Tweed River Districts, and their gradually but surely increasing poverty in ratio with the distance from those localities, adds immensely to the importance of the drifts as a source of the beach gold, and to their undoubted influence on the richness of adjacent beaches.

In a previous report* I dealt with the question of origin of the beach gold. The opinion therein expressed has been strengthened by phenomena observed during recent examination of beach areas further south. Such an opinion, however, can be but a tentative one, to be confirmed or rejected by future detailed survey and observation. The tests being carried out at the present time in the Tertiary and Recent sea-made areas, under the able and careful supervision of Mr. D. Munro, should afford valuable data for future guidance.

Metals other than Gold—Cobalt Ore.

Nine or ten years ago cobaltiferous manganese oxide (Wad) was discovered by Mr. E. H. Becke, at Nobbys, Port Macquarie, which attracted some attention because of the establishment at Sydney about that date of works for treatment of ore of a similar composition from near Bungonia (where it occurs as a cementing material, and in small concretionary nodules, in a coarse grit); but the nature of the ore, its chief mode of occurrence being thin coatings, stainings, and encrustations in the joints and divisional planes of serpentine, renders it extremely doubtful whether any form of mechanical treatment could be successfully adopted. The ore was first detected in the serpentine country at Windmill Hill, and street cuttings and levelings reveal its presence in the town of Port Macquarie itself.

Iron Ores.

With the cobalt ore is associated a little magnetic iron ore, which, in some places, is altering into soft red iron ochre (red hematite), having a deceptive appearance to some of the uninitiated, who are apt to mistake it for cinnabar. The rich red colour of the neighbouring soil is most probably due to the above chemical or molecular change.

At Tacking Point, at the foot of the cliffs on the south side, magnetite occurs as a crust of no great thickness, which, when broken, reveals an altered rock highly charged with pyrites.

At Honeysuckle Flat, close to the 43-mile peg on the Port Macquarie-Taree Road, magnetite occurs as gravel, both loose and in fairly large cemented lumps. Its physical character is very deceptive, causing it to be readily mistaken for ordinary brown iron ore (limonite). The occurrence is in a low flat of serpentine country, which here has a width of about 25 chains. The iron-ore gravel has doubtless been shed from the serpentine, and concentrated and partly cemented in a swampy area; judging from the road trenches, the deposit appears to be very superficial. About

*Ann. Rept. Dept. Mines and Agric. N.S. Wales for 1895 (1896), pp. 140-160.

Copper.

About twenty-five years ago attention was directed to a deposit of copper and iron sulphides at Nobbys, Port Macquarie, and a shaft was sunk, but evidently without satisfactory result, for operations were not continued. A few broken specimens, chiefly of iron sulphide, near a later opening, is all that is now visible, hence no opinion can be offered.

Copper ore is also reported from Hanging Rock, about 3 miles west from Green Hills; but this site, through inadvertence, escaped attention.

Coal and Kerosene Shale—Reported Discoveries.

Local reports are current as to several separate discoveries of coal and kerosene shale, generally in loose pieces. About three years ago a Mr. A. McLeod reported finding loose specimens of kerosene shale on Broken Bago Range, which resulted in four sections of land being applied for by a Sydney mining agent; later, these areas were re-applied for; but in neither case does actual prospecting appear to have been done. Loose drifted specimens of kerosene shale are also reported from near Saltwater Creek, at some distance from the coast.

Coal has been reported from the headlands at Camden Haven, and substantial accounts given of burning tests. These headlands, as already stated, consist of Mesozoic rocks. Whether a coal-seam does actually outcrop beneath them at or below sea-level I am not prepared to dispute, because I did not follow the headlands completely round their sea-face, being blocked in one instance by the sea, and in the other by the approach of night. It is probable, however, under the circumstances, that the reported coal was from the thin coal-streaks near the plant-beds already described in this report.

The identification of Secondary (Clarence) Beds at Camden Haven and Crowdy Head opens up an interesting question relative to further extension of our already extensive coal-basins. Looking at the Broken Bago Range, from Wauchope, attention is at once arrested by the bold, vertical, western escarpments of the range towards Mounts Kerewong and Combine, a feature which affords reasonable presumption for the existence of horizontal beds, and which is strengthened by the later determination of Mesozoic strata on the coast at Camden Haven. The isolated Brother Mountains will also probably prove of this period. The coast outcrop is of little importance, because of its limited extent; but greater scope is afforded by the Broken Bago Range, which, if proved to belong to the same period, may overlie productive coal-measures. A special detail examination would be necessary to determine this interesting and important question.

I have, &c.,

JOSEPH CARNE, F.G.S.,

Geological Surveyor.

The Government Geologist.

APPENDIX 8.

Preliminary Notes on the Yowaka or Pambula Gold-field.

Sir,

Geological Survey, Department of Mines and Agriculture, 16 September, 1896.

I have the honor to report that, in accordance with your instructions, I visited the Yowaka or Pambula Gold-field for the purpose of reporting on its prospects and the nature of the auriferous rocks and surrounding country. The perplexing character of the gold-bearing matrix and the entire absence of any apparent distinction between it and the enclosing country rendered it imperative that careful petrological investigation should precede detailed examination of the field, and for this reason a large number of representative specimens were chosen from which a series of sections was subsequently prepared for microscopic study. Care was taken to select not only those possessing special characteristics of determinative value in the question of origin, but those also of peculiarly deceptive physical appearance when separated from their surroundings, and others again possessing broad markings which constitute easily recognisable data in field work.

The proposed sections were independently examined by Mr. G. W. Card, A.R.S.M., Curator of the Mining Museum, and Professor David of the Sydney University. The harmonious agreement in the results of their careful microscopic determinations may be accepted as practical demonstration of the origin and nature of the Pambula auriferous matrix, viz., devitrified and silicated felsites, rhyolite, and quartz felsite, or quartz porphyry, and of its complete identity with the country enclosing the gold-bearing shoots and joint fillings.

Equipped with the valuable knowledge thus obtained, field work was begun and carried on for two weeks in 1895, and further continued for a few days in August of the present year, in conjunction with an examination on behalf of the Prospecting Board for the purpose of selecting the most advantageous site for testing the field at a depth, the result of which forms a separate report.

The following preliminary notes with sections and rough sketch map embody the results of geological observations made during the periods mentioned, sufficient, perhaps, to indicate the possibilities as well as the difficulties of this unique gold occurrence, and also the desirability of a more elaborate survey, which, however, would occupy several months. The tracing, mapping, and practical testing of the apparently extensive felsite outcrop is a matter of supreme importance to the mining interests of the district, for little real prospecting has yet been attempted outside the extremely restricted limits of the proved gold-bearing area; and, in the present absence of any recognised distinction between the auriferous and non-auriferous portions of the felsite, it is but reasonable to infer that gold may be found in any part of it.

Previous Mention of Locality.

The Rev. W. B. Clarke, M.A., F.R.S., &c., in his "Southern Gold-fields," 1860,* describes in some detail the country lying between the mountain peaks of Inlay, Jingery, and Wolumla, and the sea coast from Eden north to Pambula.

Mr. E. F. Pittman, A.R.S.M., in 1880† examined the coast between the points mentioned with reference to the supposed occurrence of coal in certain approximately horizontally-bedded sandstones.

Mr. Geological Surveyor Anderson, in 1890,‡ examined the newly-discovered Yowaka or Pambula gold-field.

Mr. Danvers Power, F.G.S., in 1893,§ contributed a paper on the Pambula gold deposits to the Geological Society of London.

Discovery

* Southern Gold-fields, 1860, pp. 188.

† Ann. Rept. Dept. Mines, N. S. Wales for 1890 (1891), p. 203.

‡ Ann. Rept. Dept. Mines, N. S. Wales for 1890 (1891), p. 244.

§ Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., 1893, xlix, p. 233.

Discovery of Gold in the Pambula District.

In his Report No. XIII, dated Pambula, 10th March, 1852, the Rev. W. B. Clarke thus alludes to the vicinity of the present gold-field—"I have reason to believe that it (gold) will be found in the creeks running north-east from the Jingery Range, which is about 13 miles south-west of Pambula, as in Greig's Creek, the salt water portion of which is crossed by the road from Pambula to Eden, a noticeable specimen of gold has been found under peculiar conditions. Gold also exists at what is called Honeysuckle Flat near Eden."

Greig's Creek is identical with what is now known as Yowaka River, which flows through Greig's Flat, and is joined at this point by Pipeclay Creek, which, with its tributary gullies, forms the main drainage system of the auriferous formation at Pambula, the nearest gold workings being about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile west from the junction, though the associated felsitic rocks extend to the river.

Mr. Clarke describes Honeysuckle Flat as near Eden, but the only locality bearing that name at the present time is a creek situated between Whipstick and Wyndham, about 11 miles west from Greig's Flat, with a southerly course to the Towamba River. Notwithstanding the apparent discrepancy, it is highly probable that the localities are identical; the recent discoveries of gold at Whipstick and Jingery also tend to increase the probability.

No further allusion to the "peculiar" occurrence of gold at Greig's Flat can be traced in Mr. Clarke's publications. Amongst old residents, however, a report is current that gold was discovered at the above locality in the early days of settlement by an employee of Captain Lloyd, who occupied a Crown grant near the present Village of Pambula. Very probably this report and Mr. Clarke's reference are based on the same fact.

It was not, however, until 1889 that payable gold was discovered. In that year Messrs. James Gahan and Samuel Furner, who had been prospecting for several months in the country lying between Mount Imlay and Pambula found payable gold in the matrix about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-west of the latter on a ridge since named Mount Gahan, after one of the discoverers. In November of the same year they applied for the first lease on the new gold-field.

Mr. B. Carragher, a settler on the Pambula River, claims to have discovered alluvial gold in a small creek, since named The Crevices, on the northern fall of Mt. Gahan ridge a few months prior to the discovery reported by Messrs. Gahan and Furner, and asserts that the endeavour of the latter to trace the source of the gold in The Crevices led to the finding of gold in the matrix at the site of the Mount Gahan Mine, distant about 50 chains a little west of south. Though Mr. Carragher's discovery may have been the guide and incentive to the prospectors' subsequent efforts, still the fact remains that their exertions led to the practical opening of the field, for which they received a Government reward of £500.

The alluvial gold found in The Crevices—in all about 4 oz.—differed entirely in character from that usually occurring in the matrix of the Pambula Gold-field, being in coarse, waterworn pieces, in size up to 2 dwt. Under the head of "Alluvial gold" this subject will receive further attention.

The announcement of payable gold at Mount Gahan caused an influx of miners, and the early finding of the principal mines. About 200 old leases were surveyed, but in about ten only was payable gold bearing stone obtained in any quantity, though several others yielded more or less rich stone in very limited quantities.

The area of proved auriferous country at Pambula is very limited, not exceeding 400 acres. A rectangular block about three-quarters of a mile long by a little more than half a mile, with its longest sides in a N.N.W. direction, and its western boundary extending from Portion 59 on the south to G.L. 39 on the north, would practically enclose all the country in which gold of any importance has yet been found, with the exception of a small but rich shoot discovered by Messrs. Gahan and Conlon in G.L. 157, a few chains west of the area described.

Physical Geography.

The main physical features of the country under consideration may be briefly described as the Bimmil Range, about 500 to 800 feet high, trending north-easterly between Pambula and Eden; the Mount Gahan ridge, 400 to 700 feet high, trending easterly to the Yowaka River; and the Bald Hills trending northerly from the latter from which it is separated by the Pambula River. Westerly the country rises to the Main North and South Range, of which Mts. Imlay, Jingera, and Welnorth are conspicuous features. Lower subsidiary ridges and spurs occur between those above-mentioned.

The higher ridges, according to their geological formation, present rugged or rounded conformations, the surfaces consisting either of massive rocky outcrops and loose shingle or a superficial covering of loose conglomeritic detritus and sandy soil of poor quality. Others, again, are wholly or in part covered with rich loamy soil as the formations change from rocks poor in fertilising constituents to those possessing them in abundance. The change in the nature of the soils resulting from surface weathering and decomposition of the different rocks of the locality is not more marked or more abrupt than the change in the indigenous flora. Between the hardy stringybark eucalypt of the barren, stony habitat, and the more luxurious box eucalypt of the rich volcanic soil, the line of demarcation is sudden and distinct. So marked, indeed, is the boundary between the two timbers that it becomes quite possible, from a sufficient elevation, to follow with the eye the junction line by the white-topped branches of the box trees.

The main drainage channels are the Pambula and Yowaka Rivers, the latter being formed by the junction of Back and Old Hut Creeks. The Pambula River runs easterly, and the Yowaka north-easterly to its junction with the former near the head of Pambula Lake.

The triangle formed by the junction of these streams with its base lying between and a little west of Nethercorte and Lochiel—a distance of about 5 miles—practically contains, so far as yet ascertained, the main outcrop of rocks identical with the auriferous matrix of the field.

The country within the triangle is intersected by Pipeclay Creek and its tributary, Little Pipeclay. The main channel divides unequally the proved auriferous area to a depth of between 400 and 450 feet, the larger half lying to the north. Little Pipeclay Creek practically forms the southern boundary of the gold workings

workings, though gold in small quantity has been found as far south as near Back Creek. Pipeclay Creek joins the Yowaka River at Greig's Flat, about 2 miles above its junction with the Pambula River. At this point, and along the latter stream north of Mount Gahan, fertile alluvial flats of some extent occur. These will be considered in connection with the occurrence of alluvial gold.

Geology.

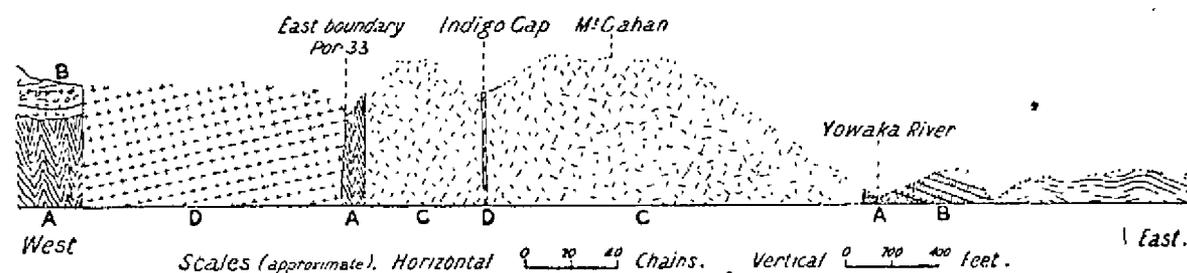
The sedimentary formations of the Eden-Pambula District have so far yielded no palæontological evidence of their true geological horizon. The Rev. W. B. Clarke regarded the whole series as belonging to one system, viz., Devonian, for reasons entered into rather fully in his report on the locality.*

Mr. Pittman regarded the lower beds exposed at Eden as of Silurian age, and the more or less horizontally-bedded sandstones, coarse grits, conglomerates, and red clay slates along the coast between there and Pambula as equally referable on lithological grounds to the Hawkesbury (Triassic) series, or to the Devonian System of North Gippsland.†

The strong Triassic facies of these beds evidently also struck Mr. Clarke, for in the work already quoted he was at some pains to point out specific differences which, happily, were thrown into relief by actual contrast, for near the mouth of the Pambula River he came on a quantity of discharged ballast of Hawkesbury (Triassic) sandstone.

Mr. Anderson regarded the whole series, with the exception of an upper conglomerate bed, as of Silurian age, the exception being assigned to Devonian.‡

The results of the observations recorded herein practically accord with Mr. Pittman's classification, for there is undoubted evidence both in the neighbourhood of Eden and Pambula of unconformability between the highly-inclined and sharply-folded beds exposed in the harbour sections west of Eden and the gently undulating series of beds which overlie the former between there and Pambula. The lowest beds exposed near Pambula are in contact with the felsite and basalts, and the alteration thereby induced prevents their identity with the lowest Eden rocks being determined. The following section represents approximately the result of recent observations:—



- A. *Silurian* (?). Best seen in Bay Section, west of Eden. Sharply folded aluminous slates, finely laminated, and massive sandstones. Colour, greenish-yellow to reddish-brown; prevailing tone, yellowish-brown. At the Gold-field a limited exposure of altered rock (brecciated), quartzite, schist, and massive conglomerate containing boulders and pebbles of granite and quartzite.
- B. *Devonian* (?). Gently undulating beds of coarse, gritty, friable conglomerate containing abundant felsite pebbles; coarse friable grits, indurated in bands, interstices filled with felspathic material, and very ferruginous, red and purple sandstones, and roughly-cleaved clay slates. Alternations of these beds very regular throughout the district.
- C. Intrusive felsite, rhyolite, and quartz porphyry.
- D. Basalt, massive, and amygdaloidal, epidote largely developed in parts. Frequently intrusive in felsite.

Silurian (?).—The sedimentary rocks, provisionally classed as Silurian, occurring in the Bay Section west of the Lighthouse at Eden, consist of fine fissile clay slates, fine-grained and laminated, and massive sandstones, folded into sharp anticlines and synclines, excellent instances of which are to be seen in the cliff sections. In colour the prevailing tones are yellowish and reddish brown. There is a noticeable absence of coarse-grained and highly ferruginous rocks such as characterise the unconformable Upper Series. A small wedge of the lower beds occurs within the felsite area just west of the Lighthouse. At Murrumbalga Point, Quarantine Ground, a narrow dyke of quartz porphyry has intruded and broken up the beds, fragments of which have been subsequently partially or wholly rounded, probably in a drainage channel resulting from the intrusion. The narrow bed of conglomerate exposed at the above point consists entirely of worn fragments of the enclosing sandstones and clay slates in a mud formed from similar materials.

At the Gold-field on the east side of the felsite on Mount Gahan Ridge a mass of highly altered, brecciated rock is seen outcropping on the upper road, and also in the bed of the Yowaka River further south. Felsite is seen intruding the outcrop on the road. This rock, which indicates the lowest exposed bed of the Upper Series at Yowaka River, viz., a gritty felsitic conglomerate, probably belongs to the Silurian System. Further north on the east side of Bald Hills, due west of Pambula, is a large outcrop of very coarse conglomerate adjoining schists and slates; and on the west of the same hills are thinner outcrops of a similar conglomerate and quartzite in contact with basalt. About $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Mount Gahan a small exposure of quartzite is seen in a creek at the junction of basalt also.

The conglomerate is distinguished by the size and composition of its boulders and pebbles which range up to a foot in diameter, and consist of quartzite and granite in a highly quartzitic paste. The conglomerates, quartzite, schist, and slate of the falls of Bald Hills are distinctly unconformable to the over-lying coarse friable grits, felsitic conglomerates, and ferruginous clay slates so largely developed to the eastward along the coast. In the sedimentary wedge on the west side of the Eden Lighthouse a thin band of a similar quartzitic conglomerate occurs close to the intrusive felsite.

Devonian

* Southern Gold-fields, 1860, pp. 191-194.

† Ann. Rept. Dept. Mines N. S. Wales 1880 [1881], p. 244.

‡ Ann. Rept. Dept. Mines N. S. Wales for 1880 [1881], p. 263.

Devonian (?).—The lowest bed of the Upper Series which has been provisionally classed as Devonian. It consists of conglomerate, and can be seen overlying the vertical beds of Silurian (?) sandstone in the Quarantine Ground, close to the junction of the Towamba and Old Hut roads. The pebbles consist chiefly of quartz porphyry, and felsite, with red slate, quartz, and chalcedony, or agate, in lesser proportions. The chalcedony or agate pebbles frequently afford undoubted evidence of derivation from septarian felsite nodules. The pebbles are embedded in coarse, friable, quartz grit. Where the Upper Series is in contact with the quartz porphyry and felsite at the back of the Church of England, Eden, the conglomerate beds consist principally of felsitic fragments, with red slate and occasional quartz pebbles, these are bedded in felspathic material exactly resembling the felsite. Several bands of conglomerate occur at this point, alternating with highly ferruginous red clay slates; the conglomerates become less coarse in the upper bands.

The red clay slates (of Mr. Clarke's "Southern Gold-fields") are very characteristic of the Upper Series, and the alternation of these with the conglomerates, grits, and sandstones is very persistent throughout the district, though more massive beds occur at intervals, as at Eden. The slates are roughly cleaved north and south; in colour they vary from deep red to purple. Where slightly hardened by contact the material from these beds forms the best road material of the district. At Yowaka River and Eden, where contact with felsitic rocks occurs, the red slates are highly saturated with felspathic material. Further research may prove them to be of tuffaceous origin, either wholly or in part.

The grits and sandstone consist of coarse quartz grains, with the interstices filled with felspathic material. The joint faces exposed in cliff sections are coated with a thin skin of quartz which imparts a particularly solid quartzose appearance to the outcrop, but its superficial character is manifest upon the lightest touch with the hammer. Fragments of cherty black slate occur in the grits and conglomerates, but felsitic pebbles are most conspicuous. The most striking feature of the sandstones, however, is the occurrence of abundant quartz veins and inclusions, which are entirely absent in the red slates. At the mouth of the Pambula River a most remarkable instance of quartz masses, veins, and threads ramifying in all directions from a centre has been described fully by Mr. Clarke. The quartz in these beds is quite barren.

At the Pinnacles, about midway on the coast between Eden and Pambula, an interesting spectacular effect is produced by sharply contrasted deep red and pure white sand, which, as the cliff section recedes under atmospheric denudation, is ornamented with spires, which have each been protected by a fragment of quartz—as miniature perched blocks in fact.

Judging from the cliff section, the site of the Pinnacles was the work of a channel, which became filled with sand and boulders, and finally covered by a pure white sand dune. The bedding of the filling is roughly horizontal, whilst the solid beds on either hand dip at about 16° across and from it. The contrasting colours are perhaps due to decomposition of existing vegetation causing precipitation of iron salts, which, as the cliff recedes, is converted into red oxide of iron by exposure, the uniform porosity of the sand allowing equal penetration of the ferruginous waters to a fairly horizontal level. The unusual whiteness of the sand beneath is perhaps largely due to kaolinization of fine particles of felspar.

The accompanying sections show the sequence of the beds of the Devonian (?) series at Yowaka River, opposite the east end of Mount Gahan Ridge, and behind the Church of England at Eden, where they occur in contact with quartz felsite and amygdaloid. The Sketch A accompanying the above illustrates a very frequent and characteristic mode of occurrence of quartz veins or inclusions in the sandstone beds.

In addition to the dips shown in the sections, the following were taken on the road between Eden and Pambula, along which the Upper Series are developed:—

South of Yowaka Bridge, strike N. 20° W.; dip N. 70° E. at 16°.

Half-way or Jiggamy Creek, strike N. and S.; dip E. at 21°.

Bell Bird Creek, strike N. 29° W.; dip N. 61° E. at 15°.

The prevailing dip on the coast at Eden where these beds occur ranges from about 12° to 17°.

Igneous.—Three distinct periods of igneous action are represented by the igneous rocks of the Pambula and Eden District, viz.:—

(a) Granite, in the Main Range.

(b) Quartz felsite (or quartz porphyry), felsite and rhyolite of the Gold-field and Eden.

(c) Basalt, at Old Hut, Lochiel, and Bald Hills. Probably the decomposed dykes (east and west cross courses of the miners) belong to this class, but are of different age.

The felsite being partly intrusive in the youngest sedimentary beds of the locality, which have evidently been largely derived from the granite, is doubtless younger than the latter, whilst the basalt is clearly intrusive in the felsite wherever they occur in conjunction.

The granite has been fully discussed by Mr. Clarke in his work, already quoted, and as it lies outside the particular area under consideration no further reference need be made of it.

The felsite, quartz felsite, and rhyolite are of special interest because of the gold occurring in portions of them.

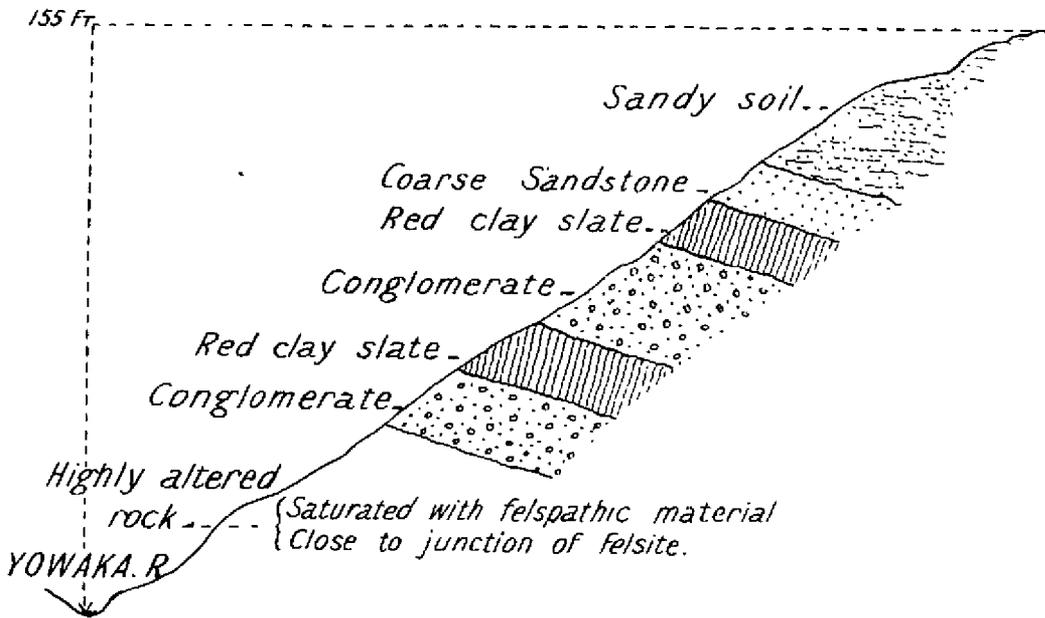
The basalt is also of great importance to the district, because it has afforded the limited patches of rich farming lands which occur at intervals amid very barren surroundings.

The quartz felsite, or porphyry, may be best studied at Eden, where it has its largest development, for on the goldfield it is more rarely developed. Peculiar features are connected with its occurrence and structural character at Eden; here it occurs intimately associated with corneous and brecciated felsite. No satisfactory evidence can be obtained as to whether it is part of the latter or an intrusion in it. It is not confined to a central position, but ramifies in several places in the felsite. At Yallungo Cove it exhibits most pronounced fluxion structure; one semi-circular floor just below the cliff affords a most realistic picture of the welling up and serpentine flow of a viscid mass. Connected with the porphyry at this point is, apparently, a thin upper layer of amygdaloid having the amygdulic cavities drawn out in the direction of flow. The amygdules consist chiefly of chalcedonic quartz.

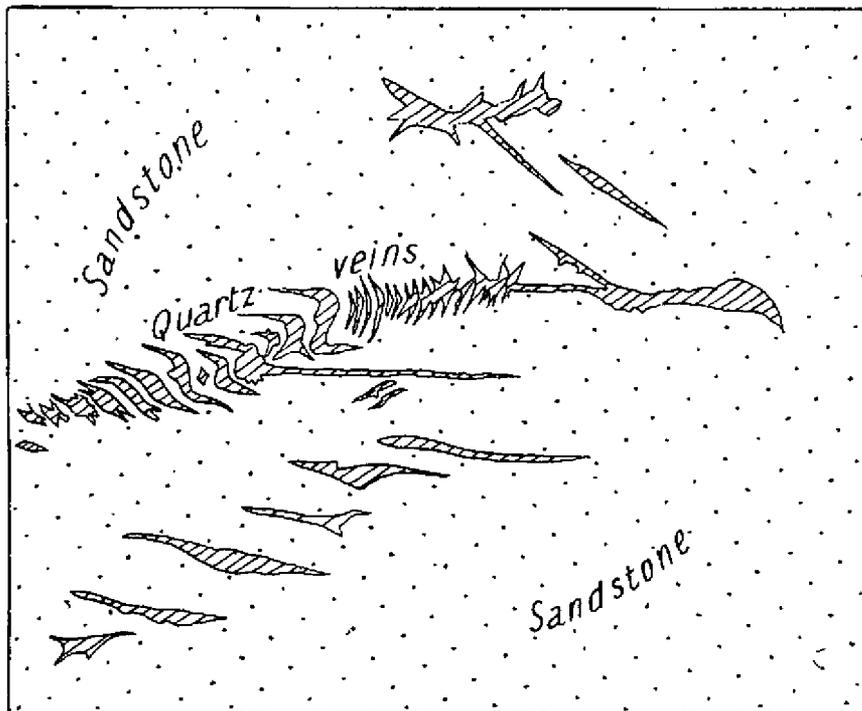
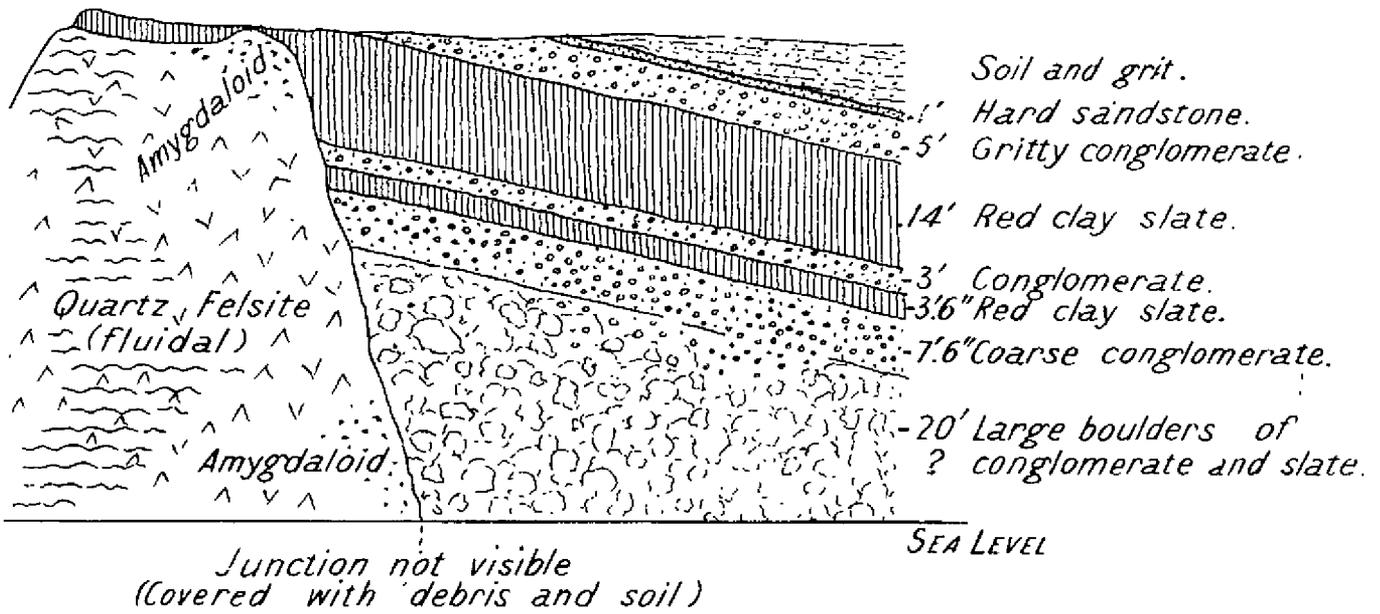
The quartz crystals in the porphyry are of small size but well developed,

The

SECTION opposite Pipeclay Road cutting along Yowaka River.

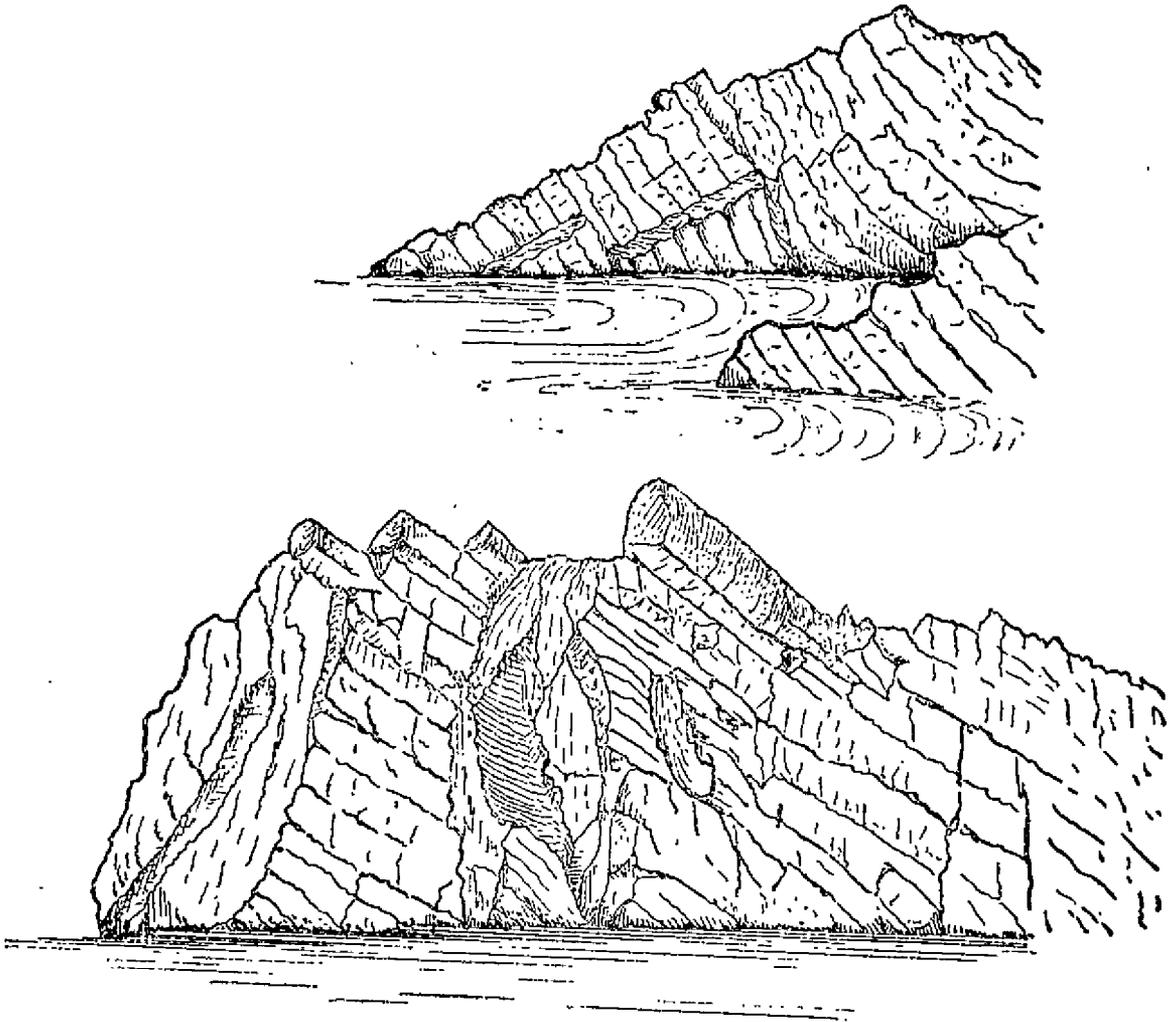


SECTION behind (east of) Church of England Church, Eden.

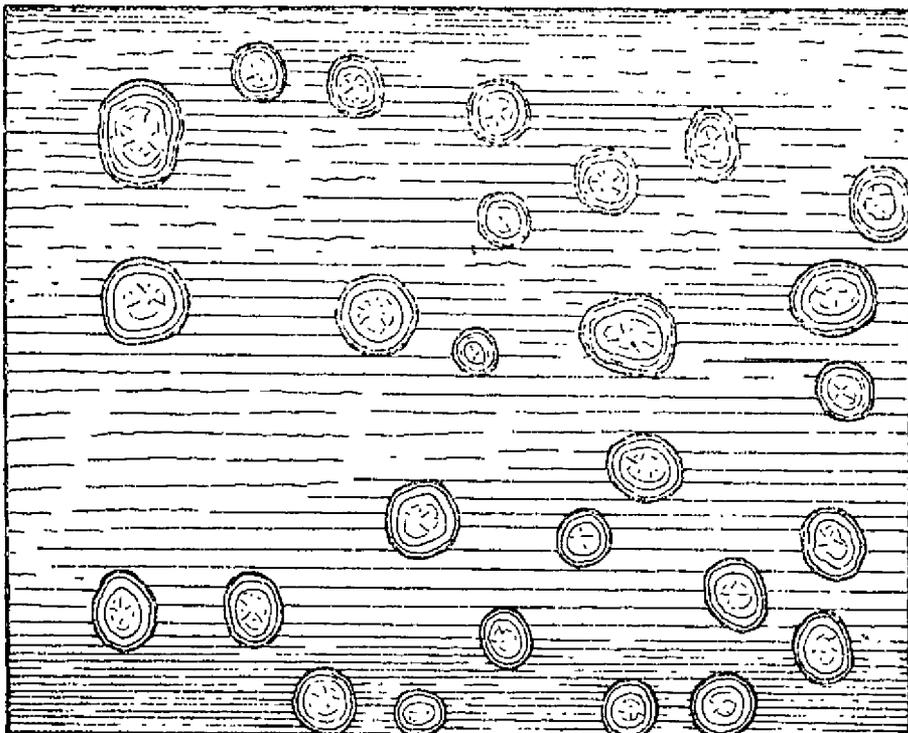


SKETCH A.

The most characteristic features of the felsite at Eden are columnar and nodular structure and brecciation. East of the Lighthouse at Lookout Point the columnar structure is most distinct as will be seen from the following sections. The texture of the columns is hard and corneous.



Perhaps the most interesting feature in the felsite, however, is the large development of the nodular structure. In some instances on the Gold-field the surface is strewn with nodules ranging from the size of a small pea to upwards of a foot in diameter; at Eden, just north of the end of the pier, some have been measured up to 14 inches in diameter. As the felsite weathers, the nodules become readily detachable. They all possess a roughly mammillary surface, and generally are lighter in colour and harder than the enclosing felsite. Internally they are frequently septarian, being either solidly filled with chalcedony or agate, or possessing cavities lined with quartz crystals. At Back Creek, nodules of a polygonal form constitute the bulk of an outcrop of felsite. The following sketches of portion of the nodular felsite at Eden illustrates the occurrence of the largest nodules observed in corneous felsite, 14 inches in diameter.



Macroscopic

Macroscopic rhyolitic structure strongly characterises the felsite in all parts of its outcrop, whilst under the microscope fluidal and perlitic structures are readily discernible even in those portions apparently devoid of it.

Between the nodular felsite opposite the Eden Pier and the junction of the sedimentary rock close by on the west is a mass of felsite decidedly highly brecciated. A similar mass occurs in Yallungo Cove, a little west of the flow structure of the porphyry; in fact, the porphyry itself near this point is brecciated.

Crushing may account for the occurrence of the breccia, but the association of such pronounced columnar and fluxion structures with massive breccias somewhat tuffaceous in character is probably unusual in an undoubted intrusive quartz porphyry and felsite.*

The felsite in parts has been greatly altered by devitrification and infiltration of secondary silica, which, under the microscope, is seen to permeate the whole mass in the form of veins and segregations, wavy chalcedonic bands and semi-crystalline aggregates.

Following is a list of the sections determined by Mr. Card and confirmed by Professor David:—

- Brecciated felsite, Hidden Treasure Mine, Yowaka.
- Brecciated fluidal rhyolite (devitrified), Bland's Tunnel, Yowaka.
- Brecciated felsite, Bland's Tunnel, Yowaka.
- Felsite (probably), hanging wall, Bland's Tunnel, Yowaka.
- Felsite, footwall, Bland's Tunnel, Yowaka.
- Fluidal rhyolite (devitrified), footwall, Bland's Tunnel, Yowaka.
- Quartz felsite (perlitic), Parson's Nob G.L. 29, Yowaka.
- Crushed quartz felsite (spherulitic), Falkner's winze shoot, Yowaka.
- Felsite, Bartley's Lease, Yowaka.
- Felsite (highly silicified), G.L. 176, Yowaka.
- Felsite (country), Falkner's, Yowaka.
- Felsite (pebble from conglomerated ore shoot), Falkner's, Yowaka.
- Quartz felsite (surface), Mount Gahan, Yowaka.
- Felsite, Mount Gahan, Yowaka.
- Felsite (highly silicified), Mount Lewisson, Yowaka.

NOTE.—Among the early slides in the collection are various felsites from Pambula, one showing perlitic structure.

The accompanying plan of portion of the Parish of Eden, and two sections across it, will illustrate the principal geological features of this interesting locality. To the north-west the quartz porphyry and felsite are covered by the grits, conglomerates, and red clay slates of the upper sedimentary series, but it is highly probable that this outcrop is connected with the main mass at Pambula Diggings. The basalt is chiefly remarkable for the abundance of epidote developed during alteration in weathering, which renders portions quite green (the epidote trap of Mr. Clarke). A specimen from the narrow intrusion in the felsite at Indigo Gap, about three-quarters of a mile west of Mount Gahan Mine, has been determined by Mr. Carne as ophitic dolerite. In several other instances in the neighbourhood tongues of basalt intrude the felsite, whilst further south, at Old Hut, the mass of it cuts through the latter. Near Lochiel the basalt splits, one portion going northerly to Boggy Creek and near Wolumla, the other north-westerly, crossing the Pambula-Wyndham Road at the Six-mile Creek Bridge.

On its western margin in Portion 83, Parish Gunpa, near Mr. Moore's residence, an excellent illustration of its intrusive character is exposed in a small creek. Here it occurs in contact with sandstone and conglomerate, to which it has imparted a semi-crystalline structure. A large block of the sandstone is seen engulfed in the basalt and baked into quartzite. On its eastern margin, on the east boundary of Portion 33, Parish Yowata, it also occurs in contact with quartzite in a manner indicative of a flow, as the quartzite appears to dip under it; but doubtless over the margin of contact the viscid intrusive mass did flow for short distances at favourable points.

In the gold workings several cross-courses (east and west) have been cut; these consist of unctuous clay, but they are too decomposed to determine their previous character or composition. It is highly probable that these "clay bars" represent intrusive dykes of earlier age than the basalt.

A mass of highly decomposed rock between the undoubted slates and the felsite on the west side of the Lighthouse at Eden, with rough ferruginous lattice jointing or veining, was thought to be probably of igneous origin; but an analysis of an average sample yielded silica only 43.22 per cent., alumina 28.16, and iron 12.85, which renders it too basic for inclusion in the contiguous felsite group.

Briefly summarising the geology of the Eden-Pambula District, it would appear that the igneous rocks are intrusive in the older Sedimentary Series (Silurian?), and partly so in the Upper Series (Devonian?), for undoubtedly the former are overlaid in parts by the latter. The Rev. W. B. Clarke remarked this in his examination of the district, for he wrote that the quartz porphyry was overlaid by the Bimmil Range, between Pambula and Eden.†

The absence of any marked alteration at apparent points of contact, and the disappearance of the intrusive rocks under beds of the Upper Series, induced the belief that portions at least of the latter were either older or contemporaneously bedded in the latter; but data recently obtained in the Bay Section (East), at Eden, in company with Mr. Smeeth, of the Sydney University, appears to point to a partial intrusion in the Upper Sedimentary Series, and subsequent exposure in places by denudation. The composition of the conglomerates in the latter beds at Eden, where they are seen dipping at a low angle (12°) off the quartz felsite is most remarkable, for they consist mostly of little worn fragments of quartz porphyry and felsite in a paste of felspathic material, the whole exactly similar to the composition of the intrusive masses. Were it not for fragments of red clay slate, they might reasonably be supposed to have been derived from the latter.

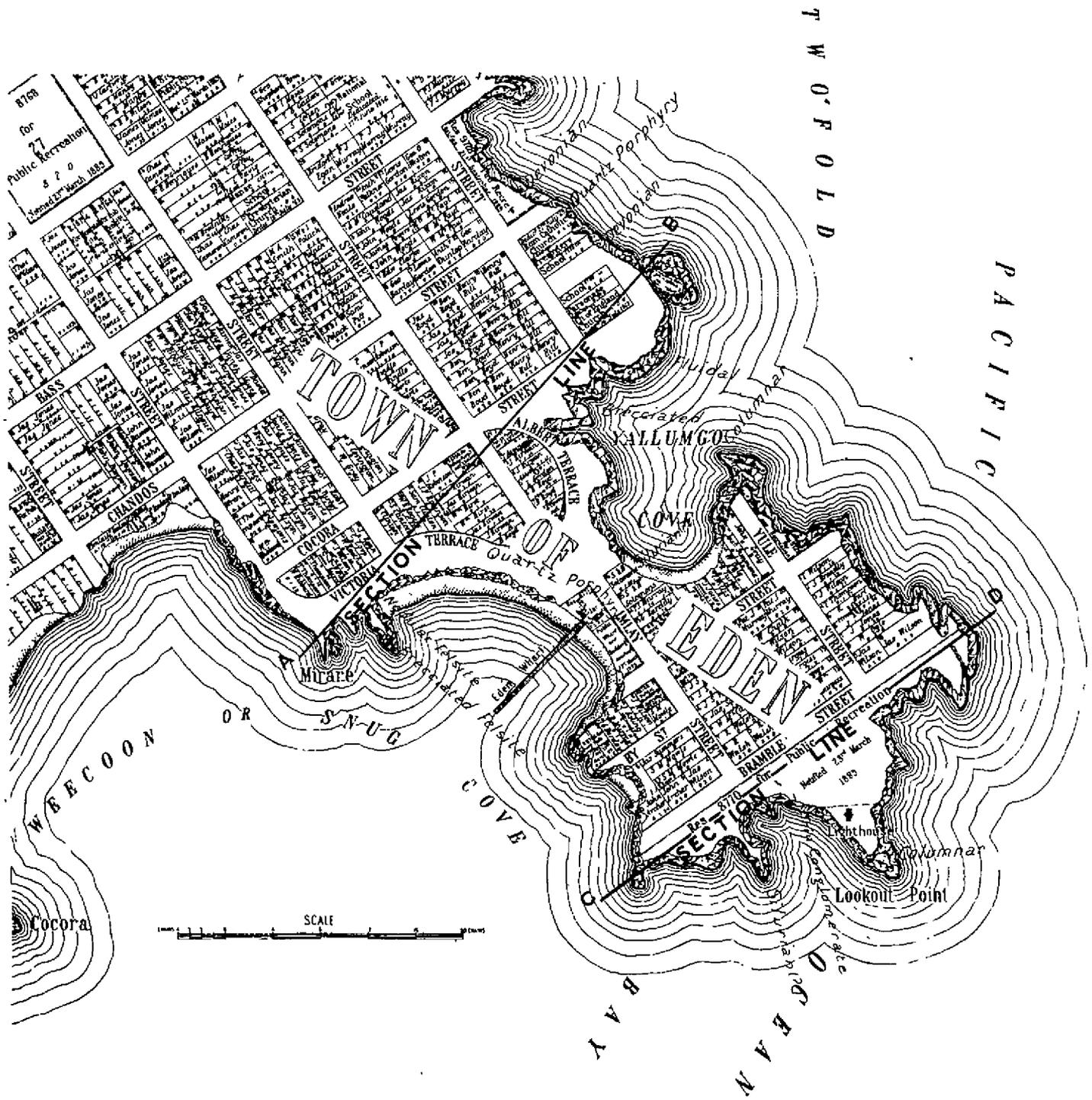
A small mass of quartz felsite occurs just near the north-east corner of the Convent ground, overlaid by the upper beds, which appear to have been shattered to some extent, though no alteration or disturbance has ensued at the point of contact of the lower intruded beds; though the next point, about 6 chains distant, exhibits anticlinal puckering; the intervening portions of the beds, however, dip uniformly without disturbance.

The determinations herein recorded must be regarded as purely tentative, pending accurate mapping and detailed examination and study of the boundaries of the intrusive rocks.‡

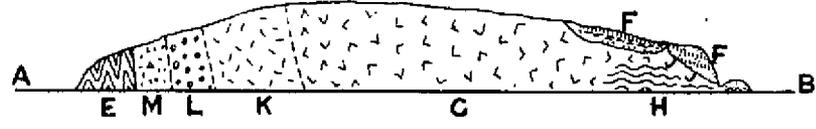
* The condition in fact point to the proximity of an original volcanic vent.—J.E.C.

† Southern Gold-fields, 1860.

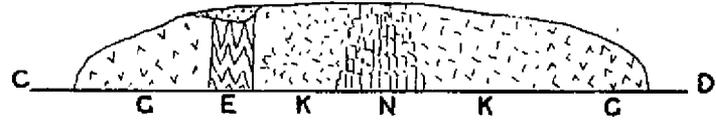
‡ Quartz porphyry and felsite occur at Tathra exactly similar to the outcrops at Eden and Pambula, and may be also gold-bearing.—J.E.C.



SECTION ON LINE A B



SECTION ON LINE C D



- E Silurian.(?)
- F Devonian.(?)
- C Quartz Porphyry.
- H .. do. - - do. - - Fluidal
- J Amygdaloid.
- K Felsite
- L... do. - Nodular.
- M... do. - Brecciated.
- N... do - Columnar.

Fig 21

PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Occurrence of the gold at Pambula.

The most puzzling feature confronting the miners attracted to the Pambula Gold-field was the total absence of two defined walls to the auriferous deposits. In every instance one main wall alone was encountered; occasionally for short distances a fairly smooth and parallel face formed a deceptive foot or hanging wall—as, for instance, at the entrance to Bland's Tunnel—but these were never persistent either vertically or horizontally; as they appeared abruptly in broken or jumbled country others were met with at intervals striking the main wall at various angles, and frequently in different vertical planes.

The determination of the true nature of the auriferous matrix and its identity with the country at once accounted for the unusual occurrence just recorded. The so-called main or single wall in each case is actually the remaining face of an original joint or crack caused by the cooling and contraction of the eruptive rock, the opposite face being broken up by subsequent movements into the present ore bodies, the limits of which have been determined by parallel joints or harder masses which have resisted the crushing and grinding stress, and formed the so-called inconstant foot or hanging walls.

The two parallel joint cracks at the entrance to Bland's Tunnel are most misleading in the nearness of their approach to the appearance of true walls enclosing a defined ore body. The supposed footwall, however, at about 30 feet from the entrance, gives place to broken country. Further in other joints make their appearance, striking at an acute angle to the main joint (hanging wall). The filling between the walls consists of a breccia, formed of fragments of felsite identical with the walls, the cementing medium being crushed felsite material and secondary silica. The brecciated character of the filling can readily be determined by the unassisted eye, and to great advantage in a polished slab. Following is a sketch of the tunnel entrance:—



ENTRANCE TO BLAND'S TUNNEL, PIPECLAY CREEK, PAMBULA.

The principal auriferous joints strike to various points of the compass between north, east, and north 30° west, and all dip easterly, though occasionally for short distances the dip may take an opposite direction, but the change is never persistent, and only occurs when the strike becomes uncertain.

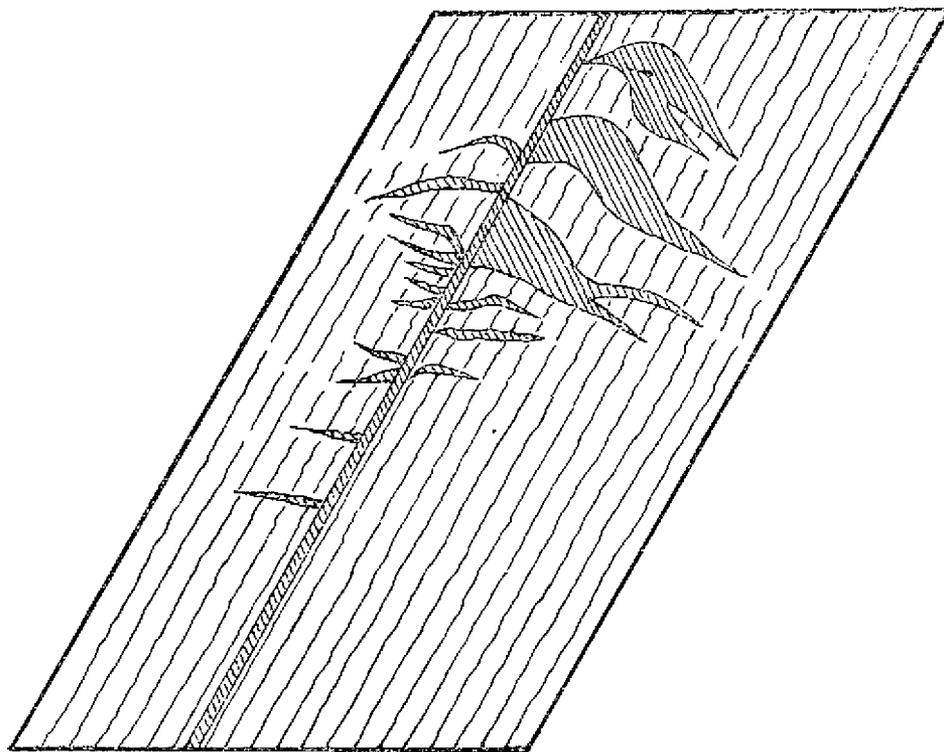
In the proved auriferous country gold has been found in numerous places other than in the main workings, in fact, alongside most of the main joint cracks within the above area it has been found, but in too limited quantities to pay. In some instances a few cwts. to a few tons have been extracted from the most promising, which yielded exceedingly high returns, but subsequent developments and trials were as disappointing as the first prospects were favourable. In Bland's Proprietary, for instance, a joint crack, showing at surface, yielded 95 oz. of gold from 10 tons of stone, but the deposit proved only 12 feet long, by 30 feet deep, and 3 inches thick.

In the Hidden Treasure Lease it is stated on the authority of one of the successful tributors—Mr. Hough, junr.—that gold-bearing stone was found in no less than two joint cracks, but in payable or workable quantity in one only.

The locally well-known "Pilot" or "Indicator" quartz vein which has been traced from the Southern Cross lease on the south to G.I. 39 on the north—a distance of about 70 chains—evidently fills the channel of a true fissure along an original line of weakness in the country, and therefore marks the only really

really defined belt as yet discovered on the field. Though the vein is now mostly bounded—at least on one side—by soft schistose material, it is evident that the quartz-filling must have originally been deposited in a clear crack in solid rock, for it is impossible to conceive of a narrow fissure inclined at an angle of about 45° (or even if vertical), remaining open during the slow process of infiltration and deposition. The absolute barrenness of the quartz in gold, even when, as frequently happens, it is highly pyritiferous, further indicates deposition prior to the introduction of the gold into the country.

In addition to the filling of the main fissure, true primary or crystalline quartz occurs abundantly in the felsite in the form of short, flat, irregular veins, bunches, and threads, and all equally barren. From the Pilot fissure lateral cracks and small cavities have been filled with quartz, after the manner shown in the following sketch of the face of the Pambula Tunnel in G.L. 15.



All the quartz associated with the gold in the felsite is of a secondary chalcedonic character, with, perhaps, a very rare exception lately noticed at the 80-foot level in the Falkner Mine, where occasional specimens have been obtained in which a thin thread of true crystalline quartz is associated with gold and zinc blende.

In the latest discovered shoot in the same mines known as the "Winze Shoot" (which dipped at 80 feet below the point of discovery into the adjoining Victory Mine on the east) the gold-bearing soft kaolinized material adjoined the Pilot quartz vein, and in one part enclosed it on both sides for a short distance, yet, notwithstanding that the gold particles invested the outer surface of the quartz, and even penetrated its rubbly cracks, the perfectly cleaned quartz yielded no trace of gold, nor when pyritiferous could gold be detected on assaying, though the pyrites of the enclosing felsite contain varying proportions of gold. These facts point as before stated to but one conclusion, viz., infiltration and deposition of the barren crystalloid quartz prior to the advent of the gold solutions and secondary or colloidal silica. This would also account for the presence of partly abraded quartz fragments in the crushed conglomeratoid portions of the felsite.

After the deposition of the barren quartz in the cracks and jointings of the felsite, great mechanical movements must have ensued, particularly along the Pilot fissure, or original line of weakness, and to a lesser extent along some of the main jointings. This movement was most probably caused by the eruption of the basalt, which closely intrudes the felsite in several places; possibly, also, the secondary silica and gold solutions followed the latter intrusion.

The Pilot quartz vein itself affords evidence which may be regarded as the result of subjection to secondary movement in its characteristic grooved or corrugated sides, and in some instances, particularly in the Killarney Lease by the splintery nature of the quartz which may be due to flattened crystals, but certainly presents more the appearance of incipient cleavage resulting from pressure.

The fillings of the original cracks or fissures in the felsite are of four kinds—(a) clayey, kaolinized; (b) schistose, kaolinized; (c) conglomeratoid, less kaolinized; (d) brecciated, kaolinized:—

- (a) *Clayey*.—This filling occurs chiefly in joint cracks, generally not more than from $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to 2 inches in thickness, between hard walls. Usually the heaviest of the gold in the productive fissures has been obtained from this soft filling, upwards of 1 lb. weight of gold being recorded from one dish of clay. Water percolates freely in the joints so filled.
- (b) *Schistose*.—This form of filling occurs in bands from a few inches to a few feet in thickness, generally extending outwards from the clayey joint filling and shading off into conglomeratoid material. Its maximum development appears to be along the Pilot fissure.
- (c) *Conglomeratoid*.—This character of filling is specially distinctive of the auriferous belt stretching along the Pilot line, but occurs freely also in other parts of the field. The wholly or partly rounded pebbles, and subangular fragments with abraded edges, consist of hard, highly-silicated felsite, and, possibly, of occasional quartz fragments embedded in a schistose paste of soft felsitic material formed from abrasion. In this form of lodestuff the gold is entirely confined to the soft material between the fragments.

- (d) *Brecciated*.—This form of filling is characteristic of all parts of the field, and occurs abundantly. The fragments consist of hard felsite, with sharp edges and angles embedded in a hard silicated felsitic cement.

The fillings above described may have resulted from the following causes:—

- (a) *Clayey*.—From slow grinding movement of two hard homogeneous walls against each other.
 (b) *Schistose*.—From more extensive crushing stress of similar faces, combined with greater vertical movement.
 (c) *Conglomeratoid*.—From grinding, crushing, and rolling of broken fragments of country (felsite) between the walls of more extensive fissures, which have resulted in abrading and more or less rounding the intervening fragments, and embedding them in a paste of their own triburated material.
 (d) *Brecciated*.—From quiet cementation, by infiltration of colloidal silica and felsitic material, of angular fragments fallen from the walls into a crack in which no subsequent movement took place.

An ordinary superficial examination of the Yowaka Gold-field is very liable to produce an erroneous impression as to the correct classification of the various conditions of the same rock, and especially so when the deceptive-looking conglomeratoid and schistose bands are under consideration, for these present macroscopical physical characteristics so closely approaching those of transmuted sedimentary rocks as to be readily mistaken for them. The pebbles of the conglomeratoid bands are frequently well rounded and very quartziferous in appearance and easily detachable from the mass, especially after exposure to the weather or heat. So closely do some of the smaller felsite pebbles in the ore at the Falkner and adjoining mines resemble waterworn quartz pebbles both in physical appearance and in hardness that a microscopic examination of prepared sections is necessary to establish their identity. The increased hardness is doubtless due to the secondary silica which has saturated the felsite.

The schistose structure of the crushed felsite which fills the spaces between the fragments or pebbles, and which, as before stated, occurs also in bands free from the latter, is identical in chemical composition and frequently in structure with the filling of the joint fissures, which has surely resulted from the movement of the walls.

True structural nodules occurs plentifully in the corneous felsite from which they separate readily on weathering. Doubtless the conglomeratoid bands contain some of these nodules; but the bulk of the pebbles are evidently crushed and worn fragments of felsite devoid of nodular structure.

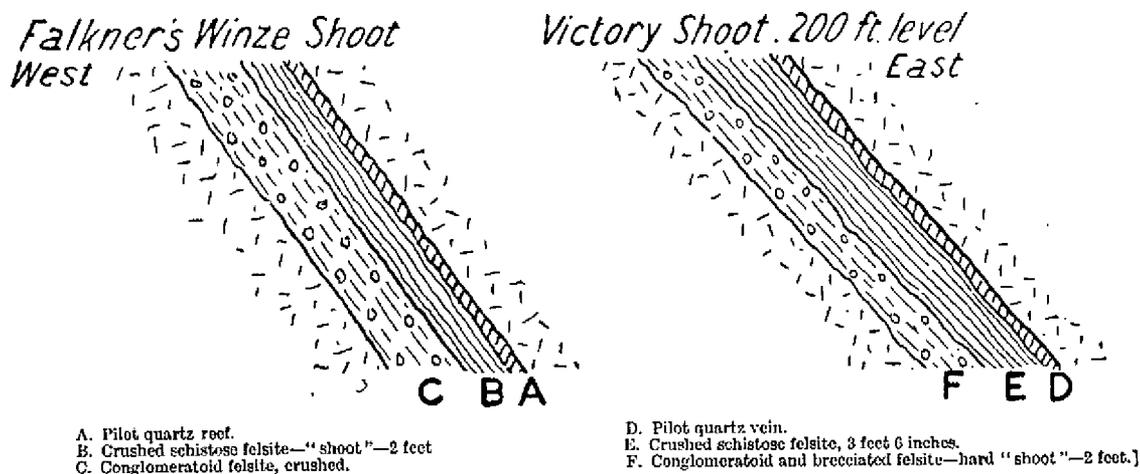
Introduction of the Gold.

The bulk of the evidence afforded by the nature and mode of occurrence of the gold in crushed felsite at Pambula favours the supposition that it was introduced in solution through a system of joint cracks, and in one instance at least through a reopened original line of true fissuring, and by soakage penetrated into the crushed and broken country on one, and sometimes both sides of the circulating channels. Generally the payable gold is confined to one side of the fissure, though, as at Mount Gahan and Hidden Treasure Mines, both sides have proved payable for limited distances. Where the walls are solid and unbroken, which is generally the case in the more corneous felsite, the gold is confined to the soft, kaolinised filling usually from $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to 2 inches in thickness; and more rarely in such cases a rich scale of gold is deposited on the solid walls, as at the Hidden Treasure and Falkner Mines, from which it was removed with chisel and mallet.

The deposition of the major portion of the gold in or near the fissure might naturally be expected from the greater permeability of the soft filling to the auriferous solutions, and from the fact that once the first particles of gold were precipitated in the free state they would by chemical attraction or affinity be continually enriched by succeeding percolations; whilst into the less permeable country bounding the fissure impoverished and gradually diminishing quantities of the percolating solutions would penetrate.

An exception to the above rule must be quoted as occurring in the Victory Mine. Here the soft schistose filling forming the west wall of the Pilot quartz vein—about 3 ft. 6 in. in thickness—is almost barren of gold, whilst the hard brecciated material adjoining it is richly auriferous. In this instance it might be that originally the crushed breccia afforded freer passage to the auriferous solutions than the more clayey schistose material, but subsequently became hardened into its present condition by deposition of secondary silica from the auriferous solutions, whilst subsequent movement of the walls and kaolinization would tend to keep the schistose material in its present condition.

The following sections of the original "Winze" shoot in the Falkner Mine, and the present shoot in the 200-ft. level in the Victory Mine will serve to illustrate the modes of occurrence.



A. Pilot quartz reef.
 B. Crushed schistose felsite—"shoot"—2 feet
 C. Conglomeratoid felsite, crushed.

D. Pilot quartz vein.
 E. Crushed schistose felsite, 3 feet 6 inches.
 F. Conglomeratoid and brecciated felsite—hard "shoot"—2 feet.]

The

The crushed, conglomeratoid, and brecciated ore bodies afford strong evidence of the deposition of the gold from solution, after or perhaps during the grinding and crushing movements, because of the constant association of the gold with the softer schistose material between the pebbles, and its invariable absence within the latter.

The cause of the precipitation of the gold from the percolating solutions may have been the formation of a neutralising solution of silicate of potash from the decomposition of the constituents of the country, which, in contact with an auriferous solution would set up the reaction quoted by Mr. A. W. Howitt as having been obtained by the great Chemist, Bischoff,* "that in adding to a solution of chloride of gold a solution of silicate of potash, if the resulting precipitate be allowed to remain undisturbed for some months under water a decomposition takes place, and in the silicate appear partly microscopical specks of gold."

The gold of the Pambula field is characterised by the uniform minuteness of the individual particles. Two analyses of lodestuff from Mount Gahan and Mount Lewisson Mines yielded 2.78 and 5.32 per cent. of potash. The stone in each case was essentially silicate of alumina, as will be seen from the following analyses made by Mr. J. C. H. Mingaye, F.C.S., Analyst to the Department of Mines.

	Mt. Gahan.	Mt. Lewisson.
Moisture at 100° C .....	.30	.40
Combined water	1.35	.70
Silica (Si O ₂)	81.40	74.00
Alumina (Al ₂ O ₃)	11.20	15.92
Ferric oxide (Fe ₂ O ₃)	1.60	.92
Ferric bisulphide..... (Fe ₂ S ) .....	.....	.82
Manganous oxide .. (Mn O)	trace.	trace.
Lime (Ca O ) .....	.50	.70
Magnesia (Mg O ) .....	.54	.83
Potash (K ₂ O)	2.78	5.32
Soda (Na ₂ O ) .....	.34	.63
Phosphoric acid (P ₂ O ₅)	trace.	trace.
Sulphuric acid..... (S O ₂)	nil.	nil.

Treatment of Pambula Stone.

As might be expected from the peculiar nature of the matrix and the extreme fineness of the gold particles, ordinary milling appliances soon proved inefficient for the extraction of even a moderate proportion of the gold contents. The best milling returns were obtained at the Mount Gahan Battery—the most complete on the field—when the stone was hard and broke under the stamps into a granular pulp. Under such conditions it was estimated that 75 per cent. of the gold could be obtained by careful treatment; the average saving, however, being about 60 per cent.

The greatest losses resulted with the softer material, which formed an abnormal quantity of slimes; but these results did not hold good at other batteries; for instance, the fairly hard stone from the rich Hidden Treasure shoot yielded only 1½ oz. of gold per ton, under milling treatment, from 1,100 odd tons of stone, whilst 327 tons of tailings resulting therefrom yielded about 3 oz. of gold per ton at Wallaroo, South Australia.

In addition to ordinary stamp batteries and Huntingdon mills, a Jordan roller-ball mill was tried, but unsuccessfully. Since the recent introduction of cyanide vats in conjunction with two of the local milling plants, the tailing-heaps have been successfully treated; and fresh material from recent workings has also been passed through the double treatment with satisfactory and hopeful results.

The excessively rich stone found in some of the shoots on the Falkner line has chiefly been disposed of by sale on assay. This class of ore, as pointed out by Mr. Pittman in 1891, † can be most advantageously treated by chlorination. Some considerable difficulty, however, was experienced in the first tests by chlorination, owing to the plastic nature of the crushed material causing it to settle as an almost impervious cement at the bottom of the filter vats. Roasting would destroy the plasticity of the felsite, and convert it into the nature of pottery or porcelain, for in composition it closely approximates to the ordinary Stonebridge clay. Mixing with coarse quartz tailings would also render filtering more easy and rapid.

With very rich ores such difficulties are not of such moment as they are with low-grade seconds and thirds. One of the chief—if not the chief—difficulties in connection with the cyanide process is the slimes. When treatment of the tailings have to be simultaneous or directly following the milling process, it will undoubtedly be best to let the bulk of the slimes escape; but where such speedy treatment is not necessary, with a tailing pit of extended area having a fall from the intake, the difficulty would be lessened by the natural gravity separation of the slimes from the tailings. The former could then be properly sampled, and, if sufficiently rich, might be judiciously mixed with the clean tailings when charging the vats. If tough and leathery, puddling, baking, and re-grinding might first be necessary.

At the present time there are three stamper batteries and three Huntingdon mills on the field. Of these Mount Gahan and Mr. Hough's are fitted with Cyanide plants.

The Pambula Mines Company (Limited) are preparing for the erection of an extensive plant on Pipeclay Creek.

Yields from the Principal Mines

It is almost impossible to ascertain the actual amount of gold won from the Pambula Gold-field. The Manager of the A.J.S. Bank at Pambula kindly supplied the following figures, under date 22/5/95, which represented all the gold he was able to trace to that date, viz., 17,249 oz.

The following returns will convey an idea of the richness of the principal shoots.

Mr. S. Solomon, of Eden, one of the leading shareholders in the Falkner Mine, states that 555 tons of stone from that mine, sold on assay, yielded 6,534 oz. of gold which realised £23,042.

The

* Prog. Rept. Geol. Survey, Victoria, 1876, p. 242.

† Mines, 01-13, 653.

The following extracts from the Falkner Company's half-yearly reports in June, 1895, and January, 1896, which happened to be at the mine at the time of recent inspection will illustrate the extreme richness of the Falkner shoots:—

Half-yearly Report, Falkner Gold-mining Company, 30th June, 1895.

	£	s.	d.
Result by trial of Sutton chlorination process	7	0	8
Sold, 8 tons 11 cwt. yield	145	0	11
„ 31 „	4,551	2	9
Total.....	£4,703	4	4

Half-yearly Report, Falkner Gold-mining Company, 29th January, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Sutton process	21	11	8
Sold in Sydney, 48½ tons..... yield	3,341	14	9
„ „ 14½ „	581	18	0
„ „ 42½ „	2,946	18	0
„ „ 17½ „	1,025	15	6
Total.....	£7,917	17	11

The parcels just recorded represent the firsts and seconds picked from the winze shoot. The thirds from all parts of the mine are stacked pending decision as to method of treatment. It is estimated that about 2,500 tons of this class of ore at surface will average not less than an oz. per ton, and it is probable that this estimate is below the average.

According to the last half-yearly report of the Mount Gahan Gold-mining Company, dated 1st August, 1896, the output from Mount Gahan from the opening of the mine to the 30th June, 1896, amounted to 11,598 tons, which, crushed and treated, yielded 9,767½ oz. of smelted gold.

This company deserves the place of honor in any description of the Pambula Mines for energy and plucky persistence against difficulties both in mining and treatment, and this without any incentive from excessively rich shoots such as were discovered in other mines on the field. Having now exhausted its visible supply of payable stone, the Company is sinking a deep shaft near its west boundary for the purpose of cutting the Pilot quartz vein on the underlay at a depth estimated at between 500 and 600 feet. It is sincerely to be hoped that success awaits their efforts, though the attempt must certainly be regarded as pure prospecting.

The following particulars of the output from the Hidden Treasure Mine, from November, 1892, to January, 1895, were supplied by the legal manager:—

	Oz.	dwt.	grs.
Nov., 1892. Treated in Sydney, 14½ tons	42	9	6
July, 1893, to Nov., 1894. Crushed in local mills, 1,119½ tons	1815	6	23
„ „ „ Tailings treated at Walleroo, S.A., 327 tons...	955	16	13
Jan., 1895. Crushed at local mills, 22½ tons.....	1	17	0
Equal to 1,156½ tons for 2,815 oz. 10 dwt. 4 grs. of gold.			

According to the Mining Registrar's Report for 1895,* in addition to the above returns, 43 tons were locally treated for 94 oz. 10 dwt.

The same authority also states that the output for the Victory Mine for the same year was 17 tons, for 119½ oz., this stone being from the upper portion of the present working shoot, which was struck about June, 1895, on the Falkner boundary.†

Mr. Davidge, mine manager for the Pambula Mines Company (Limited), states that so far as he could learn about £6,000 worth of gold was obtained from that portion of the company's property originally known as Black and Barry's.

From the Mount Lewisson Mine 10 tons of firsts, from a thin clayey joint filling, yielded 14 oz. 11 dwt. of gold per ton; and 10 tons of seconds yielded 2 oz. 14 dwt. per ton; 17 tons, crushed locally, yielded only 7 dwt. per ton. In August, 1896, 46 tons from the surface stack yielded 18 oz. of free gold in the Mount Gahan battery, and 28 tons of the tailings therefrom yielded 8 oz. by cyanide treatment, making a total of 26 oz. from 46 tons of stone. Output, 63 tons, for 204 oz. 9 dwt. of gold.

In addition to the above authentic returns, the following are currently reported:—

- Killarney Mine G.L. 25. 11 tons, 50 oz.; 28 tons, 10 dwt.; 48 tons, 3 dwt. per ton.
- Maxwell's Block G.L. 157. 14 tons for 14 oz. of gold.
- G.L. 71. 5 tons yielded 8 dwt. per ton; tailings reported rich.
- Speculation G.L. 39. Trial crushing yielded 8 dwt. per ton.
- Britannia G.L. 61. Trial crushing (15 tons) yielded 7 dwt. per ton.
- The Gem G.L. 44. Trial crushing yielded 5 dwt. per ton.
- Morning Star G.L. 21. Trial crushing (50 tons) yielded 1 oz. per ton.
- Ancient Britain G.L. 23. Trial crushing yielded 10 dwt. per ton.
- Lloyd's Grant, Portion 4½. Sydney lease, trial crushing yielded 5 dwt. per ton.
- Lloyd's Grant, Portion 4½. Melbourne lease, trial crushing yielded 5 dwt. per ton.
- Bland's Proprietary, Portion 55. Trial crushing (10 tons) yielded 9 oz. 10 dwt. per ton.
- Bland's Tunnel, Portion 55. Trial crushing (10 tons) yielded 8 dwt. per ton.
- Bland's Tunnel, Portion 55. Trial crushing (10 tons) yielded 5 dwt. per ton.
- Bland's Portion 55, behind Eureka Hotel. 100 tons yielded 1 oz. per ton.

Small trial crushings were also taken from several other leases.

Brief Descriptive Notes of Main Workings.

Mount Gahan G.L. 1.—In the Mount Gahan the greatest depth of actual sinking has been reached, viz., 373 feet from the surface. Very little gold was found below the 100 feet level, though it continued for about 30 feet lower. The gold shoot was traced horizontally for about 200 feet, and stopped from the 100 feet level to surface. The thickness of workable stone varied from 2 feet up to 24 feet. From the 40 feet level to surface the latter thickness prevailed. The joint forming the main wall strikes N. 10° E. and

* Ann. Rept., Dept. Mines, N.S. Wales, for 1895 (1896), p. 26.

† The output is 268 tons, yielding 1,114 oz. 8 dwt. 23 grs.

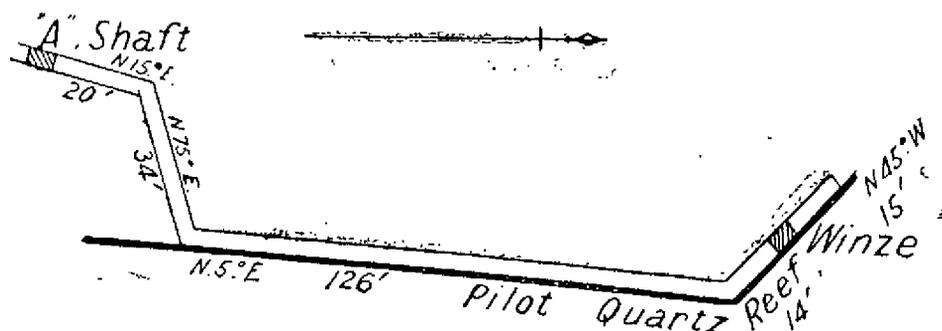
and underlays easterly at 23°. The joint was on the footwall side, and carried soft schistose felsite. At the 100 feet level conglomeratoid and brecciated felsite occur. At intervals parallel joints formed a deceptive "hanging wall" for a short distance. The gold occurred chiefly in the footwall side, but occasionally in the hanging wall, and sometimes in both. The gold-bearing stone possessed in parts all the characteristic features of the different forms of filling, viz., conglomeratoid, brecciated, schistose, and even corneous. The richest was associated with much staining of oxide of iron, due to oxidation of pyrites near the surface. The appearance of the stoping is very irregular on the hanging wall side, owing to the varying richness of the stone in that direction; the width of the workings have been determined by constant test of drillings. Haulage was performed by means of a whip, and transport to the battery on Pipeclay Creek—about three-quarters of a mile—by an aerial endless wire rope tramway, having seventy cars or buckets of a capacity of about 80 lb. each.

Falkner Mine G.L. 19.—The workings in the Falkner Mine have been carried on by a shaft, tunnel, and winze from the latter. The deepest level is 90 feet in the shaft. The main wall of the fissure above the tunnel strikes N. 30° W. At the 90 feet level, in the shaft, the footwall of the present rich shoot strikes N. 15 to 20° E., and underlays east at 20° from the vertical. The rich winze shoot followed the Pilot quartz vein, which at the winze strikes N. 45° W.; but about 14 feet southerly makes a sharp bend to S. 5° W. The underlay of the winze shoot was about 36° from the vertical. At 80 feet from the tunnel floor it passed into the adjoining Victory Mine.

The thin clay joint filling followed down from the surface in the shaft was seldom more than an inch thick; but the gold was not confined to it, but impregnated also the schistose, conglomerated, and brecciated felsite on either side, making, however, chiefly on the "footwall" side down to 60 feet, then passing to the hanging wall side, but never entirely deserting either. In sinking the payable gold was lost at 40 feet, found again at 70 feet, and again lost. At the present time rich stone is being stoped between the 90 feet and 60 feet levels, from 4 to 5 feet wide being extracted, the object being to remove all stone prospecting not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to the ton, whilst securing the workings for extraction of the lower grade remainder when required.

At 40 feet a level has been driven south 108 feet and north 20 feet. Payable stone continued southerly for about 60 feet from the north end when the wall broke and bulged out of its corner, to which, however, it returned at about 100 feet; but from the break to the present face, though the clay filling continues, colours of gold only are obtainable.

From the north end of the shoot at 60 feet level, a crosscut bearing N. 75° E. at 34 feet struck the Pilot fissure, and a level along its north course at 56 feet reached the winze shoot. The following plan will illustrate the workings and an instance of the occasional bending of the course of the Pilot vein fissure:—



Pumping and haulage in the shaft are performed with steam power. Water makes at the rate of about 700 gallons per hour. A Jordan ball-mill forms part of the plant, but was not found suitable.

Hidden Treasure G.L. 12.—This mine was originally prospected by the Hidden Treasure Company by means of a tunnel of about 300 feet, starting from the bank of Pipeclay Creek, about 145 feet below the upper workings, which consisted of a shallow tunnel, open cut, and 80 feet shaft. In the long tunnel two winzes near the entrance were sunk 25 and 30 feet. A little gold is reported to have been found in them, but nothing payable. Tributors subsequently, at 190 feet from the tunnel entrance, cross-cut 52 feet without result.

The rich shoot from which over 2,800 oz. of gold were extracted was discovered by tributors whilst "loaming" or washing prospects of the soil. Having found a trail of fine gold, they traced it up to its matrix which had actually been covered with mullock from the upper tunnel. The main joint wall of the shoot strikes N.E. The payable stone continued along the joint for about 120 feet horizontally, and 35 feet vertically; it was cut off on the south-west by a cross clay joint, and north-easterly it split up into thin strings. A winze was sunk 22 feet below the bottom of the shoot, making 50 feet from surface, but no gold was obtained from it.

At surface to a depth of 4 feet the shoot appeared as a thin clay filling from $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch to 3 in. in thickness, and of exceeding richness, gradually widening with depth it reached its maximum thickness—4 feet—and at 35 feet ended in hard pyritiferous country, the blanketings from which contained but little gold. On the face of the walls in places, as already stated, gold occurred as a thin superficial coating which was chipped off with chisels.

Pambula Mines Company's Leases.—An English company under the above name has recently been formed to develop Gold Leases 14, 15, and 303, which embrace the properties of the original Pambula (Black and Barry's) and Pambula Tunnel Companies, and the, as yet, unprospected Water Reserve G.L. 203, situated between the Victory, Falkner, Pambula Tunnel, Great Southern, and Hidden Treasure Mines.

The main shaft (on G.L. 15) is now down about 150 feet, and the present intention is to continue it to the 250 feet level. The original shoot opened by this shaft, which is situated about 20 feet south of the Falkner boundary, occurred about 24 feet west from the Pilot reef, alongside a main joint wall striking N. 15° E., which at 60 feet is almost vertical. This shoot was stoped from 90 feet to surface, for a length of 45 feet and a width varying from 6 feet to 20 feet. About £6,000 worth of gold is reported to have been obtained from the stone extracted.

The

The main shaft underlays easterly at an angle of about $16\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ from the vertical, and at 90 feet is 14 ft. 6 in. west of the Pilot, which here underlays in the same direction at an angle of about 31° from the vertical. (G.L. 14 (Pambula Tunnel) was opened by means of a cross-cut tunnel to the east boundary of G.L. 15, near which the Pilot reef was struck; but though the tunnel was continued for several hundred feet along the reef, no payable stone was struck; in fact, little gold of any kind. One or two cross-cuts were also driven west with like result. No attempt, either in this or the adjoining Mount Lewisson Lease, has been made to cross-cut eastward, though several cross-cuts have been extended fruitlessly to the west. An eastern cross-cut would certainly be advisable, for gold shoots occur eastward of the Pilot, as well as west; but no attempt has been made closer than the Great Southern and Hidden Treasure.

A clay cross-course dyke about 3 or 4 feet thick disturbed the Pilot in the Pambula Tunnel, and threw it some little distance to the west.

The present company is also sinking a shaft on the Water Reserve (G.L. 203) close to the Great Southern Shaft, and is preparing a dam and battery site for an extensive milling plant.

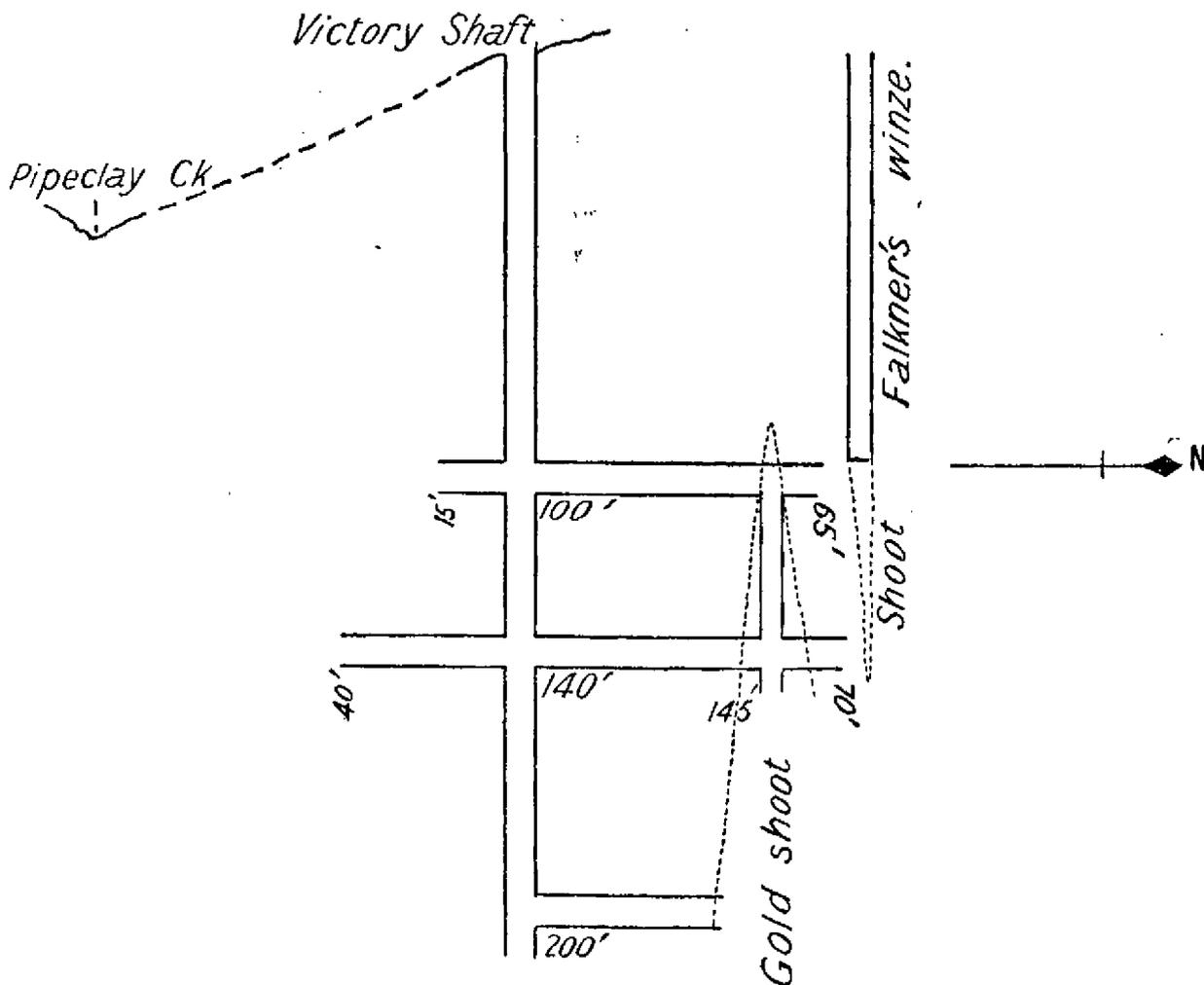
Mount Lewisson G.L. 45.—This mine was opened by means of two tunnels, several crosscuts, a winze, and a shaft. The main tunnel started from the bank of Little Pipeclay Creek, and was driven for about 200 feet along the Pilot fissure, which is here splendidly defined, and regular in strike and underlay. No gold made alongside of the Pilot Reef, but a thin joint was struck at 180 feet from the entrance; its course was at an acute angle to the Pilot. The filling consisted of about 2 or 3 inches of soft schistose crushed felsite, and was exceedingly rich; the gold being almost confined to it alone. The shoot, or payable filling, continued for 20 feet along the joint when it was cut off by a cross-joint; a winze was sunk on it 60 feet, but the gold was lost. A little gold continued for 70 feet in a rise above the tunnel-level, but nothing payable was obtained.

Victory Mine G.Ls. 20 and 38.—The two leases are known respectively as the Big and Little Victory, the former joins the Mount Gahan boundary on the north. This lease has been opened by a tunnel about 240 feet long, and a shaft (near the Mount Gahan boundary) 113 feet deep; from the shaft a crosscut was driven west for 97 feet, and a winze sunk at the end to a depth of 37 feet. A drive to the east was extended 130 feet, and subsequently connected with the surface by a shaft. From the east drive several crushings are reported, viz., about 30 tons for 3 oz. per ton; 50 tons for 15 dwt. per ton; and 15 tons for $12\frac{1}{2}$ dwt. per ton.

The present working shaft on the Little Victory (G.L. 38) was started at the east boundary of the Falkner Mine for the purpose of cutting the rich winze shoot in the latter, which was successfully accomplished at about 78 feet vertical, and the present rich shoot in a drive a few feet south along the boundary line. The surface level at the shaft is about 40 feet above the bed of Pipeclay Creek.

Following the Pilot from the 78 feet level to the 140 feet, the underlay is about 48° from the vertical, but steepens down to the 200 feet level to about 42° .

As before stated, the gold-bearing stone, instead of being soft and adjoining the Pilot vein, is hard, and separated from the latter by an almost barren wedge. The following section shows the position of the two shoots and the extent of provings. Sinking the shaft with the Pilot as the hanging wall is easy picking, but naturally wet, the present rate of bailing being equal to about 250 gallons per hour.



Diorite

Diorite Mine G.Ls. 5 and 6.—The main shaft was carried down 193 feet and stoped from 175 feet, to surface for a length of 35 feet. A tunnel, driven from the south side for about 200 feet, connects with the shaft, and extends northerly beyond it. A winze sunk at north end about 20 feet is stated to have yielded stone equal to about half an ounce to the ton, which would not pay.

To the east of the main workings a shaft was sunk 100 feet on a point striking N. 15° E., called the "New Find." At the above level a stope 32 feet long was opened, and brought to surface in the form of an inverted wedge. The yield from the stone raised is stated to have just about cleared expenses.

Another shaft on one of the leases was carried down about 60 feet on a point striking N. 30° W.; the stone from which is reported to have yielded from 5 to 9 dwt. per ton.

Ethel Mine G.L. 7.—A shaft was sunk on this lease about 160 feet on a point striking N. 10° W.; at 60 feet a level was driven 100 feet north. Some 4-oz. stone is reported from the surface, and one-ounce stone below it.

Bland's Proprietary, Portion 55, Parish of Yowaka.—Worked by an open cut on a well-defined joint striking N. and S. The auriferous clay filling forming the shoot proved 12 feet long, 30 feet deep, and 3 inches thick, and yielded 10 tons of stone, averaging 9½ oz. per ton.

Bland's Tunnel, Portion 55.—Opened by a tunnel 70 feet in length, which started from the bank of Pipeclay Creek; 20 tons yielded from 5 to 8 dwt. per ton.

Vulcan Mine G.L. 80.—Worked by an open cut 70 feet long and 20 feet deep, and later by a tunnel about 50 feet below the open cut. The tunnel was extended 100 feet, and a trial crushing from it is reported to have yielded 4 dwt. per ton.

Great Southern G.L. 13.—Opened by shaft to a depth of 70 feet; at 40 feet driven north and south for 70 feet; latest discovered shoot struck at 55 feet against hanging wall which dipped east at about 21° vertical; its length was about 30 feet, and its thickness about 1 foot 6 inches. The gold-bearing stone was cut off at 70 feet by a flat floor covered with quartz.

Killarney Mine G.L. 25.—Main shaft sunk 200 feet, and driven 134 feet at 70 feet level.

Waterworn or Alluvial Gold at Pambula.

The waterworn gold discovered by Mr. Carragher in the Crevices, about 50 chains a little east of north from the Mount Gahan Mine, presents some puzzling features because of its proximity to the auriferous lodestuff of Mount Gahan ridge, and yet complete dissimilarity to the gold contained therein. The Crevice gold consisted of coarse, waterworn pieces—the largest weighing 2 dwt. It was found for some chains along a crack in the solid rock-bed of a small creek which only runs during actual rainfall. Statements conflict as to the occurrence of any coarse gold in the surface or "leaming" tests made on the slopes between the Crevices and the discovery in the matrix at Mount Gahan; but there is no doubt that several grain-pieces have been taken out of the matrix in G.L. 204 close by, and out of the Killarney stone, from which 7 or 8 dwt. were obtained. The Great Southern Mine also yielded 3 or 4 dwt. of similar gold from the last rich shoot; but in each of these instances the gold, instead of being solid, appeared to be an aggregate of small particles which could be separated by rubbing.

Mr. Tweedie, of the Victory Mine, reports finding a specimen weighing 1 dwt. 2 grs., and several small pieces in a small creek in the Victory Lease in the southern fall of Mount Gahan ridge.

Apart from the difference in constitution between the coarse gold of the mines mentioned and that of the Crevices, there still remains the well worn condition of the latter, which could hardly have been produced in such close proximity to its source, especially when it is remembered that the Crevices only run during actual rainfall. The failure to discover an undoubted source for the Crevice gold engendered doubt in many minds as to the authenticity of the discovery; but there is no reason to doubt its genuineness. The good faith of the discoverer was exemplified at the time by the strenuous efforts of himself and party to find a lead in the deep made ground lying to the north. The exceedingly heavy water met with, however, prevented them bottoming the deepest shaft—60 feet—or driving in a shallow one. The sinking was in coarse rubble and sand which had evidently resulted from denudation of the coarse, gritty, conglomerate which originally covered the auriferous rocks at Pambula, as witnessed by the outcrops *in situ* in the neighbourhood.

Other deep shafts were sunk in similar ground near Lochiel, but without result. One of these was sunk to a depth of 240 feet under Government aid, but no gold was obtained.

A shaft was also sunk in the early days of the field at Greig's Flat, but was not bottomed owing to the heavy water.

Geological Surveyor Anderson, in his report, states "that when the Pleistocene and recent gullies draining from the conglomerate-capped ridges have been prospected, traces of gold have been obtained which have no doubt been largely derived from the denudation of the Devonian conglomerate."

No mention is made of the character of the gold thus alluded to, but it is possible that the Crevice gold may have had a similar source.

Testing the Pambula Gold-fields by Drill bores or Deep Shaft.

A desire has frequently been expressed by many connected with the Pambula mines that the Government should assist in elucidating the mysteries of the field by means of a diamond drill, or deep test-shaft, chiefly by way of determining whether payable gold exists at a depth, proof of which, it is believed, would establish confidence which at present is lacking, and encourage systematic sinking at deep levels. Any assistance likely to have the desired effect would be of special benefit to those endeavouring to cope with the unaccustomed difficulties encountered in this unique gold-field. It must, however, be pointed out that the element of chance in prospecting is rendered unusually predominant in this instance by the absence of any true connected run of auriferous matrix, and of the usual guides pertaining to normal conditions of reefing, combined with the capricious occurrence of the ore bodies as isolated shoots and thin flucan seams (or joint fillings), generally hanging to or near a joint crack, but not always in the same vertical or horizontal planes. The most important point, however, to be considered in connection with a public test is the amount of public benefit derivable from the necessarily large expenditure—in other words, how many mines or how much country would be proved by the test; and here it must be stated that, with the possible exception of the

the Pilot fissure at Pipeclay Creek, no site could be selected in which a shaft striking gold-bearing stone at a depth below the present workings would be of direct advantage to any but the individual claim in which it is situated; every other on the field would still remain an enigma to be solved only by the efforts of the owners. On the other hand, the failure to strike payable stone in a single deep test-shaft would not be regarded as conclusive evidence of its absence, whilst excessive cost would perhaps prevent the test being repeated.

Setting aside, however, all objections, the most advantageous site for a deep shaft would certainly be on the Pilot fissure close to the bed of Pipeclay Creek, in the vicinity of which the richest shoots on the field have been discovered, the latest and deepest of which is still going down strongly close to the Pilot, in the Victory Mine.

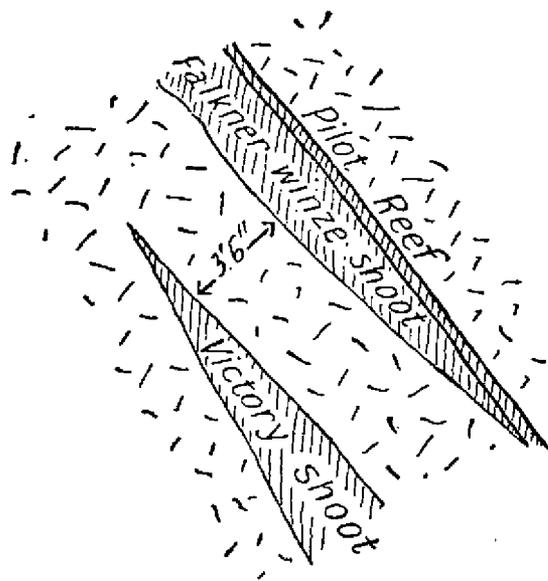
Pipeclay Creek has cut its channel through the felsite to a depth of about 450 feet below the surface of Mount Gahan Mine; hence a shaft at the site indicated, carried down about 400 feet below the lowest level yet attained—200 feet—in the Little Victory Shaft, would represent 1,000 feet below the outcrop of the Mount Gahan shoot.

In selecting a site for a deep test shaft solely for the purpose of proving the existence of payable gold at a depth of not less than 1,000 feet below the highest outcrop, questions of ownership and present richness must be disregarded; the best defined conditions of occurrence alone are to be considered in arriving at a decision.

In sinking the test shaft the underlay of the Indicator or Pilot should be followed, which in the deepest shaft amounts to about 45°. As steam-power would be necessary in sinking, the incline would not be of special consequence in connection with the water, for which a pump would be required. A vertical shaft would be objectionable, because it is imperative that the underlay of the ore shoots or the Pilot should be followed, for once the indications are left the gold is lost, and the absence of any difference between the auriferous and the barren portions of fissure fillings makes recovery of a left or lost shoot at a lower level almost a matter of chance. Hence most of the winning or exploratory work already performed presents a very irregular appearance owing to the recognised necessity of closely following the ore bodies or indications. Experience has proved that in practical working on the field the gad or drill is the only reliable guide, and that beyond the end of the drill-hole it is neither safe to calculate, or even conjecture, for the length and width of a shoot is frequently as uncertain in permanency as it is capricious in occurrences.

As an instance of the uncertain and unexpected occurrence of rich shoots the recent find in the Falkner Mine may be cited. The payable stone which occurred near the entrance of the tunnel had long been passed through, and its face in March, 1895, was in comparatively barren country. Subsequently, in fulfilling labour conditions, two men, in extending the tunnel, cut the cap of an exceedingly rich shoot, which would probably have been missed if the floor of the tunnel had been a couple of feet higher. This shoot proved about 9 feet long horizontally, and 2 feet thick, with an easterly underlay about 36° from the vertical. At 80 feet it passed into the Victory Lease, and gradually tapered off against the Pilot with increasing depth. Just outside the Victory boundary the apex of another shoot, in the form of an inverted wedge, was discovered some feet south of the upper (winze) shoot, and this is now being followed in the Little Victory Shaft.

Not only was the Victory shoot separated from the winze shoot by a barren wedge of rock, but also from the Pilot by a similar occurrence. The following sketch, cross section, will illustrate the occurrence of the neighbouring shoots:—



In, perhaps, the majority of instances the discovered shoots were found to be connected with the surface by thin clay seams or joint fillings, hence nearly all the deposits were originally discovered by surfacing or "loaming." It is, however, equally certain that shoots have been discovered without this connection.

Another feature in the occurrence of the shoots which adds to the uncertainty in working is the shifting from one vertical plane to another, perhaps several feet apart; instances could be multiplied when this has occurred. One instance may be quoted from the Great Southern Mine. The original shoot ended abruptly on the footwall side of the joint. After abandonment for some time, the same or another shoot was struck about June, 1895, against a false hanging wall at a lower level further to the east; at 20 feet it also ended abruptly on a flat floor.

In view of the proved occurrence of shoots closely approximate, yet in different vertical and horizontal planes, it is highly important in devising a deep test that provision should be made for frequent strike drives and cross-cuts, which to make a single test as adequate as conditions will allow, should be extended to their possible limits; and therein the shaft test has the advantage over the drill, and is therefore now preferred.

Perhaps

Perhaps in view of the exceptional difficulties of the field the usual regulations governing the distribution of aid should be most liberally construed, or even set aside in this case, otherwise the conditions clash with them in several important particulars.

In conclusion it is but a reasonable supposition that other rich shoots exist in the gold-field; "loaming" may lead, as in the past, to surface discoveries, but experience has furnished no guide in the deep or solid ground where pluck and hard work are largely discounted by blind chance.

I desire to record my hearty thanks to Mr. Ubric, manager of the Falkner Mine, Mr. Doridge, of the Pambula Mines (Limited), Mr. Creighton, Mr. Martin, Mr. Tweedie, of the Victory Mine, Mr. Harrison, and many others, both managers and miners, who most courteously at all times afforded me every assistance and information.

I have, &c.,

JOSEPH E. CARNE, F.G.S.,
Geological Surveyor.

The Government Geologist.

APPENDIX 9.

Report on Gold Find, Wolumla.

Sir,

Prospecting Camp, near Timbilica, 19 September, 1896.

I have the honor to report that on the 18th ultimo I paid a brief visit of inspection to the recent gold find at Wolumla, known as Momsen's, chiefly for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the gold matrix, for reports were current that it was similar to the Pambula felsite.

The discovery is on a high narrow ridge trending south-westerly to the Wolumla Peak, the distance from the village of Wolumla being about one mile, and the elevation above it about 580 feet at Momsen's Claim. A short distance west of the Prospector's Claim, the main north and south granite belt is met, whilst on the east is a narrow off-shoot from it. Between the two occurrences is a thin wedge of altered slates, sandstones, and conglomerates, which is capped unconformably by massive conglomerates and sandstones dipping gently easterly.

Momsen's Claim occurs on the west side and near the top of a portion of the ridge which has been denuded of its upper conglomerate and sandstone capping. The gold occurs in the altered slates, sandstone, and conglomerate chiefly in small nests and veins in oxidised joints and cavities, which afford clear evidence of its pyritous origin. No defined body of gold-bearing stone has yet been determined, no walls or other guides being visible. The conditions point to impregnation of the country, but to what extent prospecting alone can prove. The main shaft was down 25 feet, and an underlay towards it had been started a short distance away. The stone for the recent rich trial crushing was taken from an open cut near by, which reveals layers of decomposed clay, slate, and bands of quartzite, with ferruginous impregnations.

Closer by in the adjoining claims on the north and west a considerable amount of trenching has been done, but so far unsuccessfully.

A few chains southerly from Momsen's Claim Brady and Party are sinking alongside a large outcrop of the altered rocks mentioned. The shaft is within about 100 feet of the narrow granite intrusion on the east, hence the lodestuff is largely saturated with felspathic material as well as brecciated. In a trench close by specimens of felsite rock occur closely resembling the Pambula felsite. Fair prospects are obtainable from this claim, but the occurrence is also ill-defined. Momsen's and Brady and Party's claims are on Crown lands, being within R.R. 863, Parish of Wolumla, County of Auckland.

Gahan, McKay, and Party have a lease under agreement with the owner on private land, Portion 16, Parish Cobra, in the same county. This party's claim—the third on gold—is of special interest, as it is situated within the narrow granite belt close to the junction of basalt. The gold occurs in rotten granite, chiefly in the ferruginous joints. The only shaft on the claim was down 12 feet. A drill hole had been put down at an angle from both sides of the bottom portion of the shaft with reported good results. So far no other claim has obtained gold in the vicinity. The amount of work as yet performed on the Claim is insufficient to afford any guide as to strike, dip, or thickness; as in the case of Momsen's, the conditions point to impregnation of a portion of the country.

I have, &c.,

JOSEPH E. CARNE,
Geological Surveyor.

The Government Geologist.

APPENDIX 10.

Report on the Timbilica Reefs, near Nungatta.

Sir,

Geological Survey, Department of Mines and Agriculture, 12 January, 1897.

I have the honor to report that, in accordance with your instructions, I visited the Timbilica Reefs on the 9th and 10th December, for the purpose of reporting on their extent and prospects.

The reefs occur in granite country on the south side of the Timbilica River, in the Parish of Yambula, County Auckland, and are distant about 7 miles east from Nungatta Station Homestead and 10 miles southerly from Perico.

The Timbilica forms one of the tributaries of the Wallagaraugh River, on which the Timbilica Homestead—one of the oldest in the district—is situated, about 14 miles south-easterly from the reefs, hence confusion frequently arises as to the exact location of the latter.

The geological formation consists of granite, in which frequent diorite intrusions occur. Several are conspicuous on the track to Nungatta, and are worthy of attention, though quartz was not noticed in their vicinity.

So far as ascertainable, gold was first discovered on the Timbilica by W. Lang, who, in the early part of 1891, obtained a small quantity of alluvial gold from a creek bed about 2 miles west of the present workings. About the middle of the same year A. Brown, in following up the discovery, found gold in veinstone near by. After sinking shafts 18, 20, and 30 feet deep, and cutting short trenches, he abandoned the ground in favour of a later discovery at the site of his present claim, about 2 miles easterly. After sinking 26 feet on the reef in the latter, Government aid was obtained to continue the shaft a further depth of 60 feet, but was only availed of for 30 feet, as the prospects were not sufficiently encouraging below the 26 feet level.

Later a two-stamp (90 lb. each) battery was erected and worked by a 5 h.p. Tangye engine. The first grade stone, picked from the material stoped above the 26 feet level, was put through the battery, but the results being unsatisfactory the stamps and plates were removed. The actual yield obtained during operations

operations could not be definitely ascertained, but less than half an ounce is estimated. About 10 tons of tailings remain at the mill site, but no reliable tests have been made to ascertain loss. Assay tests have certainly been made, but the returns were misleading owing to the presence of escaped amalgam and free mercury. In fact, judging from panning tests, it would pay to run the tailings through a sluice-box to recover the quicksilver alone. Such a loss points to defect in setting up the plant or unskilful manipulation.

The plant was estimated to treat 2 tons per twenty-four hours, but the full working capacity could never be approached during the trial made, in fact it fell below half the estimate.

Reports having been periodically circulated as to the richness of the stone in this mine, and that of the alluvial in the creek beds, small rushes ensued at intervals, the latest resulting in the discovery of several other shows in the neighbourhood.

With reference to a certain class of reports which occasionally find their way into newspapers, I desire in the interests of genuine miners to urge the necessity for extreme caution in the publication of unauthenticated contributions from new or alleged new gold discoveries, because of the hardship entailed to many unfortunates who accept the reports in good faith. Frequently through misleading contributions to the local press, and repetition through the medium of exchange, men are stranded on worthless, or to them unremunerative, fields, after exhausting their means in reaching them. Such reports invariably emanate from interested parties, who unwittingly defeat their own ends by gross exaggeration or misrepresentation, for impartial official statements of actual facts following such inflation naturally have a disappointing or depressing influence, frequently solely arising from violent contrast, which detracts from even fair and legitimate prospects.

The latest local announcement of the field under description was to the effect that "over 100 leases have been taken up, many of which are on gold;" inspection a few days later discovered twenty-three men on the field holding about twelve claims under miners' rights, in about ten of which varying prospects of gold had been obtained at or near the surface. The only approach to a lease was a notice posted intimating intention to apply for one, though no work had been done on the ground.

Descriptive.

A. Brown & Son's Claim consists of a prospecting area for five men. The auriferous joint or veinstuff strikes N. 70° E. and underlays N. 20° W. at 76°. It consists of granite with several thin ferruginous quartz leaders from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick, and occasional occurrences of barren crystallized quartz of greater thickness. In the ferruginous cavities resulting from oxidation of pyrites free gold is occasionally visible. The thin quartz leaders are undoubtedly rich, but bear an infinitesimal proportion to the mass of the so-called veinstuff.

This claim has been held over four years, during which the following developmental work has been performed:—Original prospecting shaft (No. 1) sunk 26 feet; new shaft (No. 2), started 17 feet distant on strikes, sunk about 60 feet (30 feet under aid). The two shafts connected by level at about 20 feet, and level continued westerly for a reported distance of 30 feet. From the 20 feet level the veinstuff has been stoped up for a few feet. The stone raised during these operations was picked over, the firsts going to the local battery, the seconds being stacked at the claim. The firsts consisted largely of the quartz leaders, the seconds of the friable granite rubble with small fragments of the quartz leader. Lately 3 tons of stone were picked from veinstuff raised from short drives each way at the 26 feet level or bottom of No. 1 shaft for the purpose of a further test in Sydney. This consignment, according to Mr. Brown, jun., represented a picked sample of the first grade stone. The results obtained from it at the Government Metallurgical Works under the supervision of Mr. J. Taylor, Government Metallurgist, may be briefly stated as follows:

Net weight of stone crushed—2 tons 6 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lb.
Assay value—Gold, 18 dwt. 22 gr. per ton; silver, 9 dwt. 11 gr. per ton.
Smelted gold obtained—2 oz. 5 dwt. 17 gr. (practically equal to 1 oz. per ton).
Concentrates—Less than 1 per cent.
Tailings (assay value)—Gold, 3 dwt. 6 gr. per ton; silver, 1 dwt. 7 gr. per ton.

About 145 feet S. 70° E. from the above shafts gold has been found at surface in a flat-lying quartz vein, and a shaft to cut it on the underlay is now down 12 feet.

The following samples were selected for assay:—

- B¹ Picked sample from small ferruginous veins and joints in face of drive at bottom of 26-foot shaft. Yield: Neither gold nor silver.
- B² Granite rubble (seconds) from surface heap. Neither gold nor silver.
- B³ Picked sample (firsts) of small quartz leaders in surface heap. Yield: Gold, 12 dwt. 22 gr.; silver, 6 dwt. 12 gr. per ton.
- B⁴ Quartz and granitic veinstones from new find at surface near No. 3 shaft. Yield: Gold, 1 oz. 1 dwt. 18 gr. per ton; silver, 8 dwt. 17 gr. per ton.

On the west of Brown's Claim W. Douch has sunk 12 feet in soft rotten granite without any visible quartz vein. From a ferruginous joint at the bottom of the shaft a dish of material broken with a pick yielded a few minute particles of gold which had evidently been liberated from pyrites originally occupying the jointing, the oxidation of which has freed the gold and stained the enclosing granite.

To the north of the Prospector's Claim, McCloy Bros. are sinking to cut on the underlay vein cropping at surface. The party being absent at the time of inspection no particulars were available. The shaft was down about 18 feet.

Laird and Party occupy five men's ground a short distance south-easterly from Brown's Mine. Gold was found at surface in this claim about four months ago, and traced for about 100 feet along the strike of the reef. A vertical shaft was started which struck the reef channel at 28 feet, the latter then being followed for 30 feet. The strike of the reef at surface is N.E., and the underlay N.W. at 33°. The reef occurs at the junction of a narrow diorite dyke about 3 feet thick, which forms the footwall. The dyke is much decomposed, and closely resembles similar occurrences in the Tumbaramba Gold-field, locally designated "clay-bars." Its surface outcrop has been covered by loose granite soil. The quartz-vein stone in this claim is not continuous and solid, but occurs in short lenticular blocks—the longest vertical axis yet exposed being 7 feet—separated by stiff pug-clay containing rubbly quartz, which affords evidence from the partly rounded fragments of considerable movement and abrasion. On

On the footwall (dyke) a thin layer of stiff pug selvage carries fine gold particles, which are also present more or less in the rubbly clay, but blank intervals occur in the channel.

From the pug and rubble forming the present face at 30 feet on the underlay, and from similar material on the surface heap, fair tails of very fine gold were obtained from dish prospects. From the narrow quartz vein-stone in the shaft, and from surface, small dolly prospects yielded a payable proportion of gold mixed with iron pyrites. Assays of samples from the 7-foot block in the underlay shaft, and from a small surface opening on the N.E. strike from the shaft, yielded the following results:—

(1.) SHAFT.		(2.) SURFACE.	
	Oz. dwt. gr.		Oz. dwt. gr.
Gold	2 10 1 per ton.	Gold.....	3 7 12 per ton.
Silver	1 3 22 ,,	Silver	1 12 16 ,,

The occurrence of an auriferous vein or channel at the junction of an intrusive diorite dyke in granite, judged by ordinary experience, must be regarded as a favourable feature, modified, however, in this instance by the uncertain permanency of the quartz vein, which alone can be regarded as yielding payable prospects. The indications are certainly good enough to encourage further testing by sinking and driving to prove the extent of the quartz blocks upon which depends the workableness of the mine.

S. Axam and Party, holding a claim in the vicinity, had just commenced sinking on a narrow quartz vein in soft rotten granite, striking nearly east and west, and underlaying south at 61°. From surface to 9 feet (bottom of shaft) the vein varies from 3 to 6 inches in thickness, and consists of about 1½ inch of ferruginous quartz, with a selvage of soft ferruginous granite. In the drusy cavities of the quartz free gold was visible, but pyrites was also discernible, which points to probable speedy loss of the free gold in sinking. A selected sample of the ferruginous quartz veins yielded on assay—gold, 1 oz. 6 dwt. 2 gr. per ton; silver, 12 dwt. 22 gr.

The latest discovered group of claims is situated about 1½ mile easterly from Brown's Mine. Reports concerning Sinclair and Party's claim caused the most recent rush to the locality. The reef in this claim was discovered about three months ago. It strikes N. 70° W., and underlays N. 20° E. at 74° in No. 1 shaft but nearly vertical in No. 2. The vein channel is from 7 to 16 inches wide, and is filled with rotten granite traversed by a quartz vein about 6 inches at thickest, and by several thin leaders. On the footwall the granite is becoming hard. On the surface close by the shaft, solid granite outcrops, which indicates hard country at a shallow depth on the reef.

Two shafts have been sunk about 100 feet apart—No. 1 shaft to 20 feet, and No. 2 to 25 feet—and these constitute all the developmental work on the claim to the 10th December.

As some sensational yields had been reported from this claim, careful tests were made after the following manner:—The exposed faces of vein stuff in both ends of the two shafts were chipped away for a vertical depth of about 5 ft. 6 in., and the broken material removed. A cloth then being spread, a large sample was obtained from each shaft by chipping the freshly exposed faces. On a sheet of bark at the surface the selected samples were mixed, and parted after the ordinary sampling method, the selected portions being bagged for assay, and the remainder panned off. In the latter case neither sample yielded a trace of gold, though it must be stated that the harder portions were not crushed. Following are the assay results:—

- Sp. 1.—Average sample of quartz and rotten granite from face of No. 1 shaft, about 1 foot wide. Yield—Gold, nil; silver, nil.
- Sp. 2.—Quartz from vein in No. 1 shaft. Yield—Gold, nil; silver, nil.
- Sp. 3.—Average sample of quartz and rotten granite from face in No. 2 shaft, about 8 inches wide. Yield—Gold, nil; silver, nil.
- Sp. 4.—Picked sample of quartz, with undecomposed pyrites, from No. 1 shaft. Yield—Gold, 1 oz. 12 dwt. 16 gr. per ton; silver, 1 oz. 1 dwt. 18 gr. per ton.

Dolly tests of the most oxidised quartz in No. 1 shaft yielded a little fine gold. In making these preliminary tests every facility was offered by the claim-holders.

J. Smith and Party hold six men's ground a short distance southerly from Sinclair and Party's claim. Gold was found on the surface about three weeks prior to inspection by "loaming" or washing the soil. In an open cut about 8 feet deep about 1 foot of decomposing granite alongside a rotten felsite footwall is regarded as lode stuff. From the loose, friable portion broken down with a pick a tail of fine gold was obtained in the dish. The harder also yielded a fair prospect by dollying. An assayed sample of this material yielded—Gold, 8 dwt. 17 gr. per ton; silver, 14 dwt. 8 gr. per ton. The gold has evidently been liberated from pyrites disseminated through a portion of the granite. No quartz is visible in this claim. The auriferous band strikes about N. 35° W., and underlays N. 55° E. at 70°. It is doubtful, however, whether these features will be persistent, in view of the mode of occurrence.

F. Falkner and Party, Smith and Party, Gordon and Party, and Axam and Party are also engaged in surface prospecting in the vicinity.

Summary and Conclusion.

Colours of fine gold are sparsely distributed through the country traversed by the Timbilica and Wallagarough Rivers; but having regard only to those localities wherein reasonable prospects have been obtained, the auriferous area extends about 3 miles easterly from the site of the original discovery by Lang in 1891, and southerly about 6 miles to near Mount Buckle, where the New South Wales Border Prospecting Party found an auriferous reef, which is now being opened by local prospectors.

Briefly summarised, the Timbilica auriferous country is granite, much weathered and soft at surface. The gold occurs associated with very thin pyritous quartz veins and thin ferruginous jointings, and in some instances disseminated through bands of the country. Abundant evidence is available of its derivation from pyrites, which in an undecomposed or unoxidised condition is already making its appearance in the shallow workings on the field, a fact which further indicates the probable disappearance of the free gold at a shallow depth.

With its disappearance water and harder country must be expected, with their natural accompaniments of more costly extraction and treatment. In Sinclair and Party's and Brown and Sons' claims the ground is already hardening at about 25 feet from the surface.

The

The best prospects are obtainable from the thin quartz leaders ; but, as already pointed out, these bear a very infinitesimal proportion to the regarded vein material, which consists of selvages of rotten granite, decomposed and discoloured by percolation of surface water, containing soluble iron salts arising from oxidation of pyrites in the quartz vein and on the wall faces. With the encountering of water and hard country, the soft selvage with its contained free gold will disappear.

Having regard to the indications afforded by the surface conditions, no payably workable deposit has yet been proved on the field ; on the other hand, it must be borne in mind that little actual proving has yet been done, nor judging from appearances presented during inspection is vigorous prospecting being prosecuted. The erection of a battery has been advocated, but it would be premature to discuss the question until prospecting has been considerably advanced.

The conditions of the gold occurrence at Timbilica River afford indications only of possible profitable employment for small parties of working miners to such depths as the country remains soft and dry. Water and timber are abundant for all purposes. The special need of the field at the present time is vigorous prospecting, which is quite within the compass of working miners in view of the softness and dryness of the country near the surface. In deepening the present shafts timbering will be required, as the softer portions of the rotten granite are likely to be treacherous.

A small stamp battery, with Frue Vanner concentration, would be most suitable for treatment of the auriferous material ; but, as before stated, the erection of such a plant must be contingent upon the results of more extended prospecting operations, for it cannot be disguised that at the present time the visible or possible supply of crushing material is very limited.

I desire to express my thanks to Mr. Brown, jun., for kindly guiding me to the different claims.

I have, &c.,

JOSEPH E. CARNE, F.G.S.,
Government Surveyor.

The Government Geologist.

APPENDIX 11.

Report on the Auriferous Deposit at Tingys' Plains, near Rocky Hall.

Sir, Geological Survey, Department of Mines and Agriculture, 12 January, 1897.

I have the honor to report that whilst inspecting a portion of a timber reserve (T.R. 282), in Parish Burrumbucca, County Auckland, I took the opportunity of visiting the gold deposits at Tingys' Plains, in the neighbouring parish of Coolangabra.

The discovery of gold in matrix at Tingys' Plains, in 1895, by Messrs. Ellingwood and Jacobson, caused a small rush, but little work resulted therefrom. The locality is on the eastern fall of the Main Coast Range, about 14 miles E.S.E. from Bombala, and 6 miles S.W. from Rocky Hall.

The geological formation is granite, being part of the same outcrop which contains the gold at Timbilica River, and near Mount Buckle on the Victorian Border.

Shortly after the announcement of the discovery the site was inspected and reported on by Mr. Warden King, of Cooma, who recommended aid for deepening the prospecting shaft from 14 feet to 39 feet, and for cross-cutting to ascertain the width of the lodestuff. The prospectors, however, only availed themselves of part of the aid for sinking, because of the pinching out of the auriferous stone at a shallow depth. Inspection of the lowest level attained was not possible owing to removal of the ladders ; but judging from the tipstuff, there was no material which could properly be designated lodestuff. Prospects were found by "loaming" at the surface, but gave out at a depth of 15 feet.

The following results were obtained from samples selected by Mr. King at the time of his inspection :

No. 1.—Gold, 2 dwt. 4 gr. per ton ; silver, 4 dwt. 8 gr. per ton.

Nos. 2 and 3.—Neither gold nor silver.

No. 4.—Gold, 4 dwt. 8 gr. per ton ; silver, 2 dwt. 4 gr. per ton.

No. 5.—Gold, a trace (under 2 dwt. per ton).

Shortly after the pinching out of the gold-bearing stone in the prospecting shaft, Jacobson abandoned his share, and the claim is now held by Ellingwood alone.

About 450 feet S. 25° W. from the aided site a shaft was sunk on a well-defined quartz reef striking N. 55° E., to a reported depth of 19 feet. Owing to the partial collapse of the shaft, inspection could only be carried down to a depth of 10 feet. To this level the veinstone varies from 1 to 3 feet in thickness, and consists of partially oxidised pyritous quartz and granite material of a kindly appearance. Dolly tests of oxidised stone yielded fair prospects. This vein constitutes the best defined and most promising occurrence in the locality, and should, I think, have received the Government aid instead of the site further N.E. A sample taken at random from the stone at grass yielded on assay—Gold, 3 dwt. 6 gr. per ton ; silver, 3 dwt. 6 gr. per ton.

About 175 feet S. 25° E. from the shaft in the quartz reef Hagah and Party sank a shaft about 30 feet deep alongside an open cut about 12 feet long and deep. No quartz occurs in these workings, the lodestuff consisting of hard, pyritous, aplitic granite, occurring as hard floors in the ordinary rotten granite country. These bodies are not defined, but appear to have a general dip to the west. In the oxidised portions fair prospects of free gold are obtainable on crushing, but it is very doubtful whether the unoxidised stone would pay to treat. The derivation of the gold from the pyrites is readily manifested by examination of the zone of oxidation observable even in hand specimens, free gold can frequently be seen in the rusty cavities formed by decomposition of pyrites just bordering the unaltered pyrites.

It is very evident that at very shallow depths the gold will be found entirely confined to the pyrites, and unless richer shoots occur than those already discovered, it is doubtful whether the deposits will prove payable. Some of the surface stone could be profitably worked, but the quantity available is very limited. No work was being carried on at the time of inspection, Ellingwood being the only one retaining an interest in it.

I have, &c.,

JOSEPH E. CARNE, F.G.S.,
Geological Surveyor.

The Government Geologist.

Progress Report of Geological Surveyor Jaquet for 1896.

Geological Survey Branch, Department of Mines and Agriculture,

New South Wales, 13 January, 1897.

Sir,

I now have the honor to hand you a progress report of the work performed by me during the year 1896.

I left Sydney upon the 14th January for Drake, and was engaged until the 17th of the month inspecting the auriferous reefs at Lunatic in connection with a proposal to erect a Government crushing plant. My report forms Appendix 12.

Upon the 28th January I left headquarters for the purpose of making a geological examination of the Wattle Flat and Sofala Gold-fields (*vide* Appendix 13). I also, before returning to town, visited the following localities in reference to proposals to curtail or enlarge various gold-field reserves, and as a member of the Prospecting Board:—Gulgong, Hargreaves, Hill End, Kirkconnel, Newbridge, and Rockley.

Upon the 20th March I left for the Monaro district and made an examination of the gold and tin fields in the vicinity of Jinderbayne (*vide* Appendix 16). Before returning to headquarters I visited Kiandra, Michelago, Braidwood, Captain's Flat, Brimbramaila, Nelligen, Araluen, and Jingera. In conjunction with Mr. Warden Maitland, I inspected and reported upon the Little River Gold-field (*vide* Appendix 15).

I also examined the newly-discovered Back Creek Gold-field, near Braidwood, in reference to a petition from the miners asking the Department to resume certain lands. While in the Nerriga district I inspected the copper lodes at Touga Creek (Appendix 17).

Upon 15th June I left for Tarago, and made an examination of the Cullulla silver-lead mine. (Appendix 19). I afterwards visited the following localities in connection with geological work:—Cooma, Holt's Flat, Bowna, Caraboost, Junees Reefs, Wyalong, Crookwell, and Bungendore. I inspected and reported upon an auriferous drift near Laggan (Appendix 19), and the Dairy Creek Gold-field, near Gundaroo (Appendix 14).

Upon the 23rd July I left Sydney for the northern district, visiting Inverell, Armidale, Rockvale, and Yarrawitch.

Upon the 10th August I visited Raymond Terrace, and spent a few days tracing the outcrop of a newly-discovered bed of ironstone, near Seaham (Appendix 20).

Upon the 17th August I left Sydney for the purpose of making an inspection of the Gilgunnia Gold-field (Appendix 21). I also visited Peak Hill, Lewis Ponds Parkes, Forbes, Newbridge, Trunkey, Clear Creek, Oberon, Gulgong, and Rylstone.

Upon the 2nd October I left Sydney for the Southern District, visiting Yalwal, Moruya, Mogo, Wagonga, Mount Dromedary, and Queanbeyan.

I inspected the recently discovered gold deposits at Gooda Creek (Appendix 22), and also the Mount Blundell lode (Appendix 23).

Upon the 5th November I journeyed to the Hillgrove district and inspected an argentiferous copper lode upon the Wollomombi River (Appendix 22). Before returning to town I visited Tenterfield, Uralla, Nundle, and Copeland.

Upon the 7th December I started for Cooma and visited the Kydra, Kiandra, and Bogong Gold-fields.

During the year I have contributed two papers to the "Records of the Geological Survey of New South Wales," "The Intrusive and Metamorphic Rocks of Berthong, county Bland, with especial reference to the occurrence of serpentine after amphibolite," and "The Occurrence of Platinum in New South Wales."

I have, &c.,

JOHN B. JAQUET,

Geological Surveyor.

The Government Geologist.

APPENDIX 12.

Report on Lunatic Gold-field.

Geological Survey Branch, Department of Mines and Agriculture,

Sydney, 20 January, 1897.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that, in accordance with instructions received, I have made an examination of the Lunatic Reefs Gold-field, near Drake, in connection with a proposal to erect a public crushing plant.

Batteries which have hitherto been erected at Lunatic have been supplied with stone from the following lines of reef:—Lunatic, Golden Crown, Perseverance, Caledonian, Victorian, Little Victoria, Martin's Reef.

Lunatic.

Upon the southern end of the reef three shafts were sunk about twenty years ago. No bulk crushings were ever made of stone from these shafts, and they have long since fallen in.

In No. 8 Claim, about four claims north of the last-mentioned shafts, four shafts, each about 100 feet deep, have been sunk, and some driving has been carried out. One of the shafts would seem to be intact. I was informed by Mr. Curran, Mining Registrar, that a small quantity of rich stone was obtained here, and that heavy water was encountered. Claim has been abandoned for nearly twenty years.

Exhibition Claim (Phoenix) is situated immediately north of No. 8 Claim. A shaft was sunk to a depth of 150 feet by a Sydney company. It has now fallen in, and the claim has long been abandoned. Mr. Curran informed me that some small patches of good ore were obtained.

Upon the claim next in order several shafts have been sunk, and a considerable amount of driving carried out. The sides of the shaft have all fallen in.

At intervals the reef has been proved by shallow shafts between the last-mentioned claim and the Prospecting Claim, which is situated upon the southern end of the reef.

Prospector's Claim.—This is practically the only claim that was worked for any length of time. A main shaft, which is now intact, has been sunk to a depth of 283 feet, and five lesser shafts have been sunk to depths of from 50 feet to 80 feet. The claim was worked intermittently for seven years, and several hundred

hundred tons of ore raised from it. After it had been abandoned for some years it was again taken up by Ashbury and Party, who received Government aid to sink the shaft from 144 to 290 feet. No stoping was ever done by the party, and having exhausted their grant they abandoned the mine, and it has been idle ever since. The reef at the bottom of the shaft was, I am informed, only 3 inches thick.

Golden Crown.

This reef has been worked by a multitude of shafts for a distance of 700 feet along its course. It varies in width from 2 to 12 inches, and has yielded some rich stone. No claims are at present being worked. Near Mr. R. Hooton's house a tunnel has been driven into the hillside for a distance of 200 feet. It has cut the reef at a depth of 108 feet below the surface. Hooton and Party have sunk a winze to a depth of 40 feet below the floor of the tunnel upon the reef. They recently raised 4 tons of stone, which, when crushed in Drake, yielded 2 oz. of gold per ton. The reef would seem to be too narrow to pay for working, and no work is being done at the present time.

Perseverance.

This reef runs parallel to the Golden Crown Reef, and is distant from it about 600 feet. It is from 2 to 4 inches wide, and most of the stone raised from it has yielded from 2 to 4 oz. per ton. It was worked many years ago for a length of 900 feet, and to a depth of from 40 to 170 feet, and a considerable quantity of stone has been raised. I was informed that work was suspended because the reef was too narrow and too poor at a depth to pay for mining.

Caledonian.

This reef is situated about half a mile N.E. of the main workings upon the Perseverance Reef. A tunnel has been driven upon the vein into the hillside for a distance of 200 feet, and stone has been stoped out up to the surface for a distance of 90 feet in from the mouth of the tunnel. The reef is about 6 inches wide, and the stone which was treated from it averaged, so I was informed, over 1 oz. of gold to the ton.

About 3 chains south of the tunnel, upon the bank of Kangaroo Creek, a shaft has been sunk upon the reef, which is here about 6 inches wide, to a depth of 50 feet. I was informed that 10 tons of ore which were obtained from this shaft yielded gold at the rate of 18 dwt. per ton.

All the claims on the Caledonian line of reef are now abandoned.

Victoria.

Mount Hooton Claim.—About eight years ago, when a battery was upon the field, a tunnel was driven for a distance of 200 feet along the reef, which is about 4 inches wide. The stone won from this tunnel would not pay for crushing, and is now dumped upon the surface. Subsequently Mr. Richard Hooton received Government aid to sink a shaft upon the reef a little higher up the hill. No payable stone was encountered in the shaft, and upon its completion the claim was abandoned.

Upon Johnson's Claim the reef was proved by a shaft and drives to a depth of 100 feet. Several tons of quartz obtained from the workings were treated, but there is no word as to what they yielded.

About 100 yards south of Johnson's Claim a shaft has been sunk by Mr. J. K. Wear to a depth of 116 feet, with Government aid. At a depth of 80 feet a patch of payable stone was met with, but no bulk crushings seem to have been made.

Messrs. Gay, Grey, and Party, who originally owned the claim south of Wear's, proved the reef to a depth of 172 feet, and raised a considerable quantity of ore. There would seem to be no record as to what the ore yielded.

Little Victoria.

This is a short reef situated 200 feet east of Wear's shaft, upon the Victoria line. Two shafts, each 60 feet deep, and distant from one another 30 feet, have been sunk upon it, and practically the whole of the ore between them has been stoped out. I was informed that the ore, on being treated, yielded from 1 to 2 oz. of gold per ton. The reef has an average width of 6 inches.

Martin's Reef.

Upon a low hill which overlooks Mr. Richard Hooton's house from the west a short reef was discovered about fifteen years ago by Mr. Edward Martin. He worked the reef intermittently for six years, and during this period raised about £1,000 worth of gold. The rich stone having run out, Martin, in 1889, received Government aid to further prospect his claim; but he did not succeed in finding any payable quartz.

Particulars concerning Batteries which have hitherto been erected upon the Field.

The first battery (10-head) was erected in 1873 upon Gerrard's Creek. It crushed about 1,000 tons of stone from the various reefs, most of which had been raised prior to the arrival of the battery. It was removed after nine months to Boorook, because sufficient stone could not be obtained to keep so large a battery working. Just before its removal a small 3-head battery was put up upon Kangaroo Creek by Messrs. Muirstone and Giles. The smaller battery remained upon the field for thirteen years, treating from time to time small parcels of stone as they were raised from the mines. It never ran continuously for any length of time, and in 1886 was sold to Messrs. Stewart and Brown, who removed it to Fairfield. In the following year the same battery was re-erected by Mr. Cair, at Lunatic. However, only 10 tons of stone were crushed, and the battery remained idle for two years.

At the end of this period it was bought by Messrs. Wann and Son, who again removed it to Fairfield, and there has been no crushing-machine upon the field since.

Cost of treating Stone upon the Field.

The proprietors of the little 3-head battery charged 20s. per ton for crushing, and 5s. extra per ton of ore for grinding the blanketings in a Chilean mill. The average cost of carting from various claims to the battery was 5s. per ton.

Upon

Upon other gold-fields in the Colony the cost of crushing varies from 7s. 6d. to 15s. per ton, and the figures quoted above may seem excessive; but it must be remembered that enough stone could never be obtained to keep the battery running continuously for any length of time, and under these circumstances a high charge was imperative.

The charges made for crushing at Drake are as follows:—

For lots under 20 tons	15s. per ton
Chilian mill	2s. extra
For lots over 20 tons	12s. 6d. per ton
Chilian mill	2s. extra.

Cost of carting from claims at Lunatic to battery at Drake is 12s. per ton.

Comparison of cost of crushing a ton of ore at Lunatic and Drake respectively:—

<i>Lunatic.</i>	
Cost of carting from claims to battery	5s.
Cost of crushing, with use of Chilian mill	25s.
Total.....	30s.
<i>Drake.</i>	
Cost of carting from claims to battery	12s.
Cost of crushing, with use of Chilian mill.....	18s.
Total	30s.

It will be noticed that the greater cost for carting to Drake is balanced by a cheaper rate for crushing.

General Conclusion.

The reefs at Lunatic seem to have yielded small shoots of rich stone. Even during its most prosperous days the field does not seem to have produced enough ore to provide profitable employment for a battery; still less, I would submit, is success likely to be obtained now that all the claims are deserted.

It has been shown that stone can now be carted to Drake and treated there as cheaply as was formerly the case upon the field when it was supplied with a battery; so it cannot be stated that the removal of the battery has checked mining enterprise in any way.

I am of opinion that the circumstances do not warrant the erection of a public battery at Lunatic.

I have, &c.,

JOHN B. JAQUET,

Geological Surveyor.

The Government Geologist.

APPENDIX 13.

Report on Wattle Flat and Sofala.

Sir, Geological Branch, Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 16 March, 1896.

I have the honor to report that, according to instructions received, I have made a geological examination of the auriferous deposits in the vicinity of Wattle Flat and Sofala.

The geographical formations consist of Silurian (?) slate and lime-stones, intruded by dykes of felsite and basic andesite. The intrusive rocks, when examined under the microscope, are seen to be much crushed and generally altered.

Near the head of Little Oakey Creek I found fossiliferous shales and lime-stones. Mr. W. S. Dun, Assistant Palaeontologist, has identified the following forms as occurring in them:—*Helicolites*, *Rhynchonella*, *Spirifera* (?), crinoid stems, and a fragment of a gasteropod.

The auriferous deposits naturally group themselves into two divisions—igneous rocks traversed by a network of narrow and rich auriferous veins or impregnated with iron pyrites, and quartz reefs.

Queensland Mine is situated upon the left-hand bank of Spring Creek, about 1½ mile south of Sofala Township. It has been working intermittently for the last eight or nine years.

The ore deposit consists of a belt of much altered igneous rock, more or less impregnated with arsenical pyrites and of ferruginous products resulting from the decomposition of this mineral, and traversed with numerous narrow quartz veins. The gold is present both in the quartz veins and in the pyrites.

Three quarries have been carried into the hillside upon the auriferous rock. The northern quarry has only recently been excavated by the present Company, and no parcels of ore have, so far as I could learn, been crushed from it. About 130 yards south of this new quarry there is another open working, from which, I was informed, 100 or 200 tons of stone had been won, which yielded on the average 3½ dwt. of gold per ton.

The largest quarry of all is situated about 100 yards south of the last-mentioned one. From Mr. W. Brazenall, of Sofala, one of a party of tributors who worked the mine prior to its being taken over by the present Company, I received information of the yields obtained from various parcels of stone mined from this quarry in 1894 and 1895.

Date.	Quantity crushed, in tons	Yield, Gold.	
		Oz. dwt. grs.	Average per Ton.
19 May, 1894	11	2 5 0	0 2 7
1 June, 1894	27½	4 5 0	0 3 2
22 " 1894	30	3 1 4	0 2 0
27 " 1894	14	5 14 0	0 8 3
23 July, 1894	30	10 3 6	0 2 6
3 Nov., 1894	87	16 12 0	0 3 18
1 Dec., 1894	48	8 17 10	0 3 17
8 " 1894	8	1 14 0	0 4 6
17 " 1894	18	4 0 0	.....
8 April, 1895	31	5 18 6	0 3 20
25 May, 1895	27	4 12 10	0 3 10
20 June, 1895	41	7 6 6	0 3 13
5 July, 1895	17	7 11 0	0 3 0

It will be noticed that the stone gave an average yield of 3 dwt. 17 grs. of free gold. Mr. Brazenall's party crushed with a 10-head battery 60 tons of ore per week. The stone was quarried and delivered at the battery under contract for 6s. 6d. per ton. Two men were employed at the battery—an engine-driver and a feeder. The boiler furnace consumed from 11 to 12 cords of wood per week, which cost 11s. per cord. So taking the two men's wages at £5, the total weekly expense of the tributing party was as follows:—

Wages.....	£	s.	d.
Fuel.....	5	0	0
60 tons of stone, @ 6s. 6d.	6	0	0
	19	10	0
Total	£30	10	0

An inspection of the returns given above will show that the stone yielded on the average 3 dwt. 17 grs. per ton. Taking the value of the gold as £3 16s. per oz., the value of the gold obtained per week would be £42 6s.; so there should be, in round numbers, £12 per week available to provide for interest on the capital outlay, depreciation of and repairs to machinery, and profit. Besides the free gold obtained in the form of amalgam, a large quantity of blanketings was obtained, which, I was informed, yielded upon assay gold at the rate of 3 oz. per ton. The tributors used to feed the blanketings back into the battery with barren quartz. With proper concentrating machinery the concentrates obtained should form a valuable asset.

It must be remembered that the ore already treated was raised, comparatively speaking, near the surface, and it may be that, under the influence of atmospheric oxidation, it has been secondarily enriched. If such be the case, we should expect the ore obtained, as the quarries pushed further into the hillside, to yield less gold, and to be of a more refractory character. On the other hand, it should be pointed out that the ore consists of a compact rock which, when examined by me, did not appear to have undergone much decomposition; and, moreover, I was informed that the ore won from the southern quarry did not deteriorate as the face was carried forward into the hillside.

On the whole I was favourably impressed by the property. However, I am of opinion that a low-grade ore deposit of this character can only be profitably worked upon a very large scale. The present company have only a 10-head stamp battery upon the mine, whereas if the ore deposit be proved to run from the northern to the southern quarry a number of faces could be opened upon it, and 100 head of stamps could be kept running. By the adoption of a more judicious system of quarrying, and with the assistance of a tramway, I believe that the price (6s. 6d.) paid by the tributors for winning the ore and delivering it at the battery might be reduced by one-half. I would recommend that a series of short tunnels be driven into the hillside between the various cuttings. By this means the full extent and character of the ore deposit could be quickly determined. If it should be proved that a belt of rock yielding 3½ dwt. per ton of free gold runs from the southern to the northern quarry, then there would be years of profitable work in sight for a large battery.

Golconda Hill.—This name has been given to a high hill which rises abruptly from the left-hand bank of Bell's Creek, about 1½ mile S.W. of Sofala. It is composed of quartz felsite, and may be part of the formation occurring in the Queensland Mine. The quartz felsite is more or less impregnated with arsenical pyrites and traversed by thin quartz veins. In some places portions of it appear to have undergone a process of silicification. A little exploratory work has been carried out by Messrs. Herriot and Bennett, but no stone has been crushed, and I am unable to give any information as to what amount of gold the ore is likely to yield. However, I saw free gold in some of the stone which I examined, and a sample of pyritous rock which I picked out at random yielded, upon assay by Mr. J. C. H. Mingaye, Analyst to the Mines Department, gold at the rate of 6 dwt. 12 gr. per ton. I am of opinion that the circumstances warrant a thorough prospecting of the hill being undertaken, and would recommend that several parcels of 3 or 4 tons weight be taken from various parts and crushed. In any case the deposit should be worked in a manner similar to that adopted in the Queensland Mine, viz., by quarries carried in from the hillside. It will probably be found that a considerable portion of the gold is locked up in the arsenical pyrites; and it will be necessary, in order that the test may be a complete one, to treat the parcels of ore in a battery provided with fine vanners or other efficient concentrators.

Surface Hill is situated upon the right-hand side of the Wattle Flat, Sofala Road, and about midway between the two townships. It is composed of a much altered basic andesite, which would appear to have been at one time composed essentially of lath-shaped feldspars and augite. The southern portion of the hill is traversed by thin veins of auriferous pyrites, which trend in all directions. These veins vary in width from 1 inch to 3 or 4 inches. Their superficial portions have yielded in many instances fabulously rich ore. Indeed, I have reason to believe that during the last thirty-five years the aggregate gold won from them has totalled several tons. The hill is riddled with shallow shafts and trenches put down in exploiting the veins. At a certain depth below the surface, probably at the point where the gozzanous ore (coffee of the miners) gave place to pyrites, work has in each instance been stopped on account of the rich ore giving place to ore of a lower grade. In some instances the veins themselves may have "pinched out," but I have no authentic information upon this subject. An idea has long been prevalent in the district that a hill which was superficially so rich must contain still more rich ore at a depth. Imbued with this idea, a company some years ago sunk a shaft upon the hill to a depth of 170 feet without meeting with any payable ore; and I understand another company has recently been formed to drive a tunnel into the hill from its base. I am of opinion that the chances are against any of these pyrites veins being worked profitably at a depth. Their great richness at the surface is without doubt due to a natural process of concentration. The hill was originally much higher than we see it to-day. Under the ordinary processes of denudation the andesitic rock of which it is composed, and the auriferous pyrites veins ramifying through it, would be slowly worn away. The pyrites veins would succumb before the country rock and the greater portion of the gold as it was set free would fall downwards and be retained within the walls of the veins. If this process were continued for any length of time the gold contents of any particular vein might be increased a hundredfold and a low grade pyrites transformed into an ore of extraordinary richness.

The *Monarch Syndicate* have taken up a 30-acre G.L. upon the north-east side of the hill, where very little work has hitherto been effected. They have started an open face 40 feet long at a point 60 feet below the summit; and it is their intention, I am informed, to quarry away the whole of the upper portion of the hill.

hill. The rock as it is broken down will be examined, and the contents of any auriferous veins which may be met with culled out. It is proposed to construct a self-acting inclined tramway from the quarry to the Turon River, where a battery site has been procured.

Whalan's Hill is situated about midway between Wattle Flat and Sofala, upon the left-hand side of the road. Near its base Silurian (?) slates and limestones are to be found. These sedimentary rocks are, apparently, intruded by felspathic rocks, which form the summit. The igneous rocks have been much crushed and otherwise altered since their consolidation. Some of the specimens examined had a micro-crystalline ground mass, and others may have been originally holo-crystalline. Through the upper portion of the hill numerous thin veins of quartz ramify. Some of these veins have yielded small quantities of very rich gold ore, and a number of shallow shafts have been sunk upon them. An unsuccessful attempt has been made upon the western side of the hill to work these leaders upon a large scale in open quarries. I shall refer elsewhere to the large quartz vein which runs through this hill.

Wattle Flat Hill.—This hill overlooks the town of Wattle Flat from the west. It is composed in part of an exceedingly close-grained felsite, and in part of a basic andesite closely analogous to the Surface Hill rock. Both these igneous rocks have been much altered since their consolidation. The felsite is highly charged with iron pyrites, which probably has minute quantities of gold associated with it. Some very rich leaders have been worked in the andesite.

Quartz Reefs.

Big Oakey (Mini's Reef).—This reef has been worked intermittently for the last twenty years. It has frequently been abandoned and taken up again. Four years ago the Big Oakey Mine was bought by four miners, Messrs. J. Mini and Party, who had been previously working it upon tribute. I am indebted to Mr. Mini for the following particulars concerning the ore raised by his party:—

Date	Tons crushed.	Gold yield.	Average per ton.
18th July, 1891 to 28th July, 1892	688	oz. dwt. gr. 285 19 4	oz. dwt. gr. 0 8 7
28th July, 1892, to 19th Sept., 1895	1869	2,272 16 8	1 11 19

The reef underlays to the west at a very low angle; in some places it is perfectly horizontal. It varies in thickness from 6 inches to 10 feet, and has well defined walls. I believe the reef will be found to continue downwards to a great depth. The whole of the rich ore won by Mini and Party has been obtained from one shoot.

The reef has been worked by means of a tunnel 160 feet long, driven in from the side of the hill. From the end of the tunnel an underlay shaft has been carried down upon the shoot of ore to a depth of 350 feet. The rich ground on either side of the shaft has been stoped out for a length of from 25 to 40 feet; but, notwithstanding its well defined character, no levels have been driven, or other attempts made to explore the reef with a view of finding other shoots or payable stone. The system of mining which has been adopted is a most expensive one, and if the reef is to be developed and exploited upon a large scale, it will be necessary that a fresh tunnel be driven from some more convenient point, or that a working shaft be sunk. The ore is delivered by means of a shoot from the mouth of the tunnel to a ten-head battery in the gully below.

Solitary Reef.—This reef is situated about 1 mile south of Wattle Flat Township. It strikes N.E. and S.W., and can be traced for a distance of over half a mile. A few chains S.W. of the point where the reef passes across the Bathurst-Wattle Flat Road, a shaft, which is now in a dilapidated and unsafe condition, has been sunk to a depth of 390 feet. Mr. O. P. Clayton has kindly supplied me with the returns obtained by Messrs. Webb and Party, who worked the reef upon tribute during the five years ending December, 1887. It would appear that they raised 4,188 tons of ore, which yielded 2,177 ounces of gold, this being at the rate of a little over half an ounce to the ton.

A few chains north of this abandoned deep shaft Brailey and Party have sunk an underlay shaft to a depth of 80 feet upon the reef. At this depth the vein which had been dipping to the S.E. turned over and dipped N.W. Under these circumstances it was impossible to continue the underlay shaft, and a new vertical shaft was started from the surface. The new shaft has now cut the reef at a depth of 97 feet, and two short levels have been driven. The reef as seen in the levels is from 6 inches to 2 feet wide, with well defined walls. It would seem to be a "fissure vein," and will probably continue to a great depth. I was informed by Mr. Brailey that 6 tons of ore raised while sinking the underlay shaft yielded 17 dwt. of free gold per ton, and some concentrates, which assayed 12 oz. per ton.

Messrs. Ireland and Party are engaged in proving the Solitary Reef at a point distant about 400 yards S.W. of Brailey's shaft. It is here about 3 feet thick. They have sunk upon it 70 feet, and driven 25 feet each way, at a depth of 50 feet. The gold raised from these workings yielded gold at the rate of 3½ dwt. per ton.

The Solitary Extended Claim is situated a few chains N.E. of the Bathurst-Wattle Flat Road upon the Solitary Reef. Here a shaft has been sunk to a depth of 260 feet. I was unable to examine the reef in this shaft on account of the mine being closed down pending its being taken over by a new company who have recently purchased it. I was informed by Messrs. Webb and Party, who have been working the mine upon tribute, that they have raised from it between 500 and 600 tons of stone, which yielded upon the average 8 dwt. of gold per ton. The stone obtained in the lowest levels is highly charged with arsenical pyrites, and is of a refractory character.

Magenta Reef.—This reef runs parallel to the Solitary upon the east. At the time of my inspection no work was being carried out upon it; but Messrs. Webb and Party are erecting machinery with a view of pumping water from an old shaft and starting work afresh. The reef has been proved along its outcrop for a distance of 10 chains, and worked in one place to a depth of 170 ft. I was informed that the reef in this shaft had an average width of 15 inches, and that the stone raised yielded upon an average 9 dwt. per ton. Heavy water was met with in the shaft.

Riley's

Riley's Creek Reef.—The outcrop of this reef runs along the high ridge which overlooks Riley's Creek from the east. It was first worked thirty-five years ago. A level has been driven in from the hillside along the reef for a distance of 400 feet. In this level the vein is seen to be well defined, and to vary in width from 6 inches to 6 feet. Four distinct shoots of payable ore have been met with, and a considerable amount of stoping carried out upon the upper portion of them. Several shafts have been sunk, but the deepest workings, I was informed, were only 70 feet below the surface. In the lower workings a refractory ore largely composed of arsenical pyrites has been encountered. The ore already won has yielded from 8 to 15 dwt. of free gold per ton. Messrs. Grice and Party have recently been aided from the prospecting vote to drive a tunnel in from the level of the creek. This tunnel it is estimated will strike the reef at a depth of 200 feet.

Whalan's Hill Reef.—This reef underlays S.W. at an angle of 30°. An underlay shaft has recently been sunk, with assistance of aid from the Prospecting Vote, to a depth of 203 feet. The reef in this shaft has an average width of 3 feet 6 inches. The body of the reef for about 190 feet from the surface is composed of a compact barren looking quartz. A thin layer of foliated quartz is present in most places upon the hanging wall. Below the depth mentioned the general character of the quartz is changed. It becomes charged with ferric oxide, is less compact and more foliated, and it has yielded some rich specimens with coarse specks of free gold. No attempt has yet been made to prove the extent of the rich shoot.

A little work would seem to have been done from time to time upon the upper portions of the reef south of the underlay shaft, and several tons of stone have been stoped. In one place the shaft passes through these old workings.

McCudden's Reef.—Messrs. McCudden and Party, with assistance from the Prospecting Vote, have sunk a shaft to a depth of 80 ft. upon a newly discovered reef at Paling Yards, about 5 miles east of Wattle Flat. From the bottom of the shaft they have raised 17 tons of ore, which yielded upon crushing 34 ozs. of gold. The reef is made up of a series of quartz lenses, separated from one another by partings of slate. Reefs of this character are very common among the older slate rocks in the colony. The rich gold which they yield generally occurs in patches and not defined shoots.

Cox and McPeak's Claim is situated at Redbank, about 2 miles south of Wattle Flat. Two narrow and parallel leaders have been discovered which are distant from one another 2 feet. From a shaft which was only 25 feet deep over 100 oz. of gold had been won previous to my inspection. The gold is coarse and occurs for the most part not in the substance of the veins, but in a soft casing which runs between the veins and the country rock. I am informed that since my return to Sydney the country rock between the veins has been crushed and given a high return of gold.

Concluding remarks.

The gold deposits of Wattle Flat and Sofala consist of narrow veins which yield in their upper portions ore of extraordinary richness and which are now for the most part worked out. Also of large and irregular shaped masses of country rock, impregnated with gold-bearing minerals, and traversed by auriferous quartz veinlets. These formations taken *en masse* are of a low grade character, but judging from results hitherto obtained they would be payable if worked upon a large scale by a system of quarrying.

Several well defined and permanent quartz reefs occur upon the field. These reefs, as a rule, yield an ore of medium grade, though occasional rich shoots are to be found in them. It would seem to me that in a number of instances they have not hitherto been worked as they should have been. When a payable shoot of ore has been discovered the workings have been confined within its limits until it was exhausted, and no attempts made at the same time to explore the reef for other shoots. In other words exploration has not gone on simultaneously with exploitation. It is probably owing to this principle being neglected that the yields of gold have not been more regular in the past. I have, &c.,

JOHN B. JAQUET,

Geological Surveyor.

The Government Geologist.

APPENDIX 14.

Report on Dairy Creek Gold-field.

Sir,

Geological Survey Branch, Department of Mines, Sydney, 3rd June, 1896.

I have the honor to report that according to your instructions I have made a geological examination of the Dairy Creek Gold-field which is situated about 7 miles from Gundaroo in an easterly direction.

The formation in which the reefs occur consist of much indurated and highly cleaved slates, probably of Upper Silurian age.

Gold was worked upon this field twenty-five years ago. About 200 yards south of Cox and Kershaw's Claim a long open cutting is to be seen from which ore was raised at the period named.

Cox and Kershaw's Claim.

This party have excavated a cutting which at the period of my inspection was 30 yards long and 20 feet deep. The cutting runs parallel with the cleavage planes, which have a slight easterly dip. Altogether, I was informed 32 tons of stone have been raised, and the following crushings obtained:—5½ tons crushed at Bywong yielded 8 oz. of gold per ton; 5 tons crushed at Parke and Lacy's yielded 1 oz. 7 dwt. The ore was obtained from a series of short veins which vary in width from a fraction of an inch to 3 inches, and conform with the cleavage planes of the slates. Sometimes three or four of these veins all yielding gold will be found running parallel to one another for a short distance. I was shown specimens of quartz obtained which contained as much gold as stone, and at both ends of the cutting I knocked off pieces of ore which showed gold freely. The quartz in places is charged with mispickel (arsenical pyrites).

Outside of the cutting, and about 15 feet west of its southern end, another thin vein carrying gold has been struck.

A number of claims have been pegged out along a line running north and south through that one of Cox and Kershaw, and in most of them quartz veins similar to those already described have been met with. Some of these veins yield a little gold, but none of them have been shown to contain it in a payable quantity. Upon Cassidy's ground, about 30 yards south of Cox's cutting, a shaft has been sunk to a depth of 40 feet.

It

It was suggested to me that the numerous thin quartz lenses may run together and make a defined reef at depth. Auriferous veins of this description are very common in the older stratified rocks of the Colony, and in no instance am I aware of their having coalesced and formed a defined reef when sunk upon, nor do I think they are likely to do so in this instance.

The reefs were without doubt formed long before the country had, under the influence of the ordinary processes of denudation, attained its present configuration; and those portions of them which we examine at the surface to-day were probably many years ago several hundred feet below the surface. On the other hand, it should be pointed out that there is no reason why the reefs should not yield stone equally as good as that now being raised at any point along their course; but such ore, I believe, will be in scattered bunches and not defined shoots.

The cost of exploring and exploiting such narrow veins at a depth below the surface would be great, the quantity of stone which they would yield would be small, and the bunches of rich ore might be far apart; so on the whole I am of the opinion that the chances are against these reefs being mined profitably at a depth.

It is probable that future prospecting may result in other rich patches of ore being discovered upon the surface when they could be cheaply mined.

I have, &c.,

JOHN B. JAQUET,

Geological Surveyor.

The Government Geologist.

APPENDIX 15.

Report on Little River Gold-field.

Sir,

Department of Mines and Agriculture, New South Wales, 8 June, 1896.

We have the honor to report that according to instructions received, we have made a joint inspection of the Little River Gold-field, and beg to report concerning the same as follows:—

The Little River has its source in the Monga Mountains, and runs into the Shoalhaven River about 15 miles from Braidwood, in a northerly direction. The geological formations represented are much indurated Silurian (?) slates, with outliers of Devonian sandstone and conglomerate resting upon them. Near the base of the Monga Mountains there is a long sheet of basalt.

On either side of the river, for a distance back from its banks of from 100 yards to 2 miles, deposits of auriferous gravel occur. Similar drift deposits are to be found upon the banks of the various tributaries. We should roughly estimate that in the aggregate there must be at least 30 square miles of country covered with gold-bearing gravel within the watershed of the river.

The drifts are situated at various altitudes not exceeding 200 feet above the bed of the river. They vary in depth from a few inches to 10 feet.

The gold is for the most part coarse, and heavy nuggets have from time to time been obtained. It does not occur in defined leads, but is widely and irregularly distributed.

In the past the drifts have been worked with considerable success by a system of ground-slucing wherever water could be obtained for the purpose. Again, patches of ground have been rich enough to permit of their being profitably carted to the nearest water-course for treatment. The fact that large numbers of miners, notwithstanding the comparative shortage of water, have gained a livelihood upon the field is evidence of its richness. At the present time the diggings are supporting about 250 men.

The field languishes for want of a sufficient quantity of water for sluicing purposes, and it is only by supplying this deficiency that the output of gold could be largely increased.

The drifts are admirably adapted for sluicing. In nearly all instances they are upon elevated ground, so there would be no difficulty in obtaining the requisite fall for the tail-races. In this respect, and in containing upon the whole a larger quantity of gold, the Little River gravels differ from those accompanying the Shoalhaven River which were reported upon by one of the Writers in 1893.

Having regard to the altitude of the drifts, it would be necessary that any race intended to carry the waters of the Little River itself should head from near its source, where the supply during the greater portion of the year is small. The same remark applies in a lesser degree to the various tributaries.

Upon the western bank a race was constructed some years ago, which headed from the river a little below Macrae's Saw-mill. This race was found to be too low, and another one was brought higher up from the Northangera Creek, a tributary. These races were never carried far down the river, and they have long since fallen into disuse. They were only capable of delivering a small quantity of water.

A company is, we believe, now being formed to bring down another and larger race from a point above Macrae's Saw-mill and carry the same on to Bentley's and Leech's Points. It is proposed to augment the supply of water by tapping the heads of Northangera, and possibly other tributary creeks, with subsidiary races.

Upon the eastern side of the river numerous races have been constructed, which head from points high up upon the Currawang, Bob's, and Egan's Creeks respectively, and command large areas of ground. Numerous small races which cover limited areas of drift have also been made.

In conclusion, we would state that there are very large areas covered with auriferous gravel within the watershed of the Little River which could be profitably sluiced in the event of a supply of water being made available for the purpose at a not too expensive cost. We are unable, however, to point out where such water could be brought from. The amount which could be obtained by diverting the river and its affluent streams into races is, for reasons already given, very limited, and parties of miners and companies have largely made use of this source of supply in the past. It has been suggested to us that it might be possible to construct a large reservoir somewhere in the Budawang Mountains, which would conserve large volumes of storm-water. We consider that this question can only be answered by an engineer skilled in such work.

For many years to come the gold-field will probably give employment to a large number of fossickers. We believe, however, that any sudden influx of miners to the field at the present time would lead to disastrous consequences.

We have, &c.,

JOHN B. JAQUET,

Geological Surveyor.

E. L. MAITLAND,

Warden.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX 16.

Report on the Jinderbayne District.

Geological Survey Branch, Department of Mines and Agriculture,
New South Wales, 9 June, 1896.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that, in accordance with your instructions, I have made a geological examination of various mineral deposits in the Jinderbayne District.

Piper's Creek Diggings are situated high up on the Snowy Mountains, about 11 miles in a direct line from Mount Kosciusko. The gold occurs in shallow drift deposits consisting of black loam with subangular pebbles of granite and quartz. It is found in patches and not defined "runs." At the time of my inspection there were only two men mining upon the field, and I have reason to believe that they were making fair wages. During several months of the year the field cannot be approached with safety on account of the snow; and the rigorous climate and the long distance over which supplies have to be brought will always be against its advancement. There are large areas of drift deposits along the gullies in the vicinity of the workings, and I am of opinion that further prospecting may result in other payable patches being found.

From Piper's Creek I proceeded *via* Kosciusko and the Crackenback River to the Thredbo Diggings. The time at my disposal did not permit of my making an exhaustive examination of the rocks I passed over, and I have but few facts to add to those recorded by observers who had gone before me.

The dominant country rock is granite, which, under dynamo-metamorphic influences, has been changed in places into gneiss. It seemed to me that the gneissoid character became more pronounced as the summit of the range was approached. The foliation planes of the gneiss run approximately N.E. and S.W. and parallel with the main ridge.

Upon the eastern end of Boggy Plains at the head of Wilson's Valley I found dykes of basic augite andesite intruding the granite. I had a microscopic section prepared from a specimen of this rock which I collected. It consisted essentially of porphyritic crystals and rarely felspar imbedded in a micro-crystalline base.

Near the summit of Kosciusko micaceous slates and schists are to be found. These rocks possess a perfect cleavage with planes which are approximately parallel with the foliation planes of the gneiss. They have been much crumpled and contorted, and in places have undergone a process of silicification. These characteristics can be particularly well observed in the gap between the highest peak upon the Kosciusko Plateau and the Ram's Head Range. Here they include lenticular quartz veins of a character similar to those which yield gold elsewhere in the Colony. I knocked off a piece of the quartz and had the same assayed upon my return to Sydney, but it yielded neither gold nor silver. A gold reef is now being worked at the Grey Mare's, Bogong, about 17 miles north of Kosciusko, in this same belt of rocks, and in my opinion the circumstances warrant a careful prospecting of the country between these two places being undertaken.

The question as to whether evidence of a former glaciation are to be seen upon the Snowy Mountains has long exercised the minds of geologists. Dr. R. von Lendenfeld who examined the country in January, 1885, answers this query most emphatically in the affirmative.* He states that he found "rocks polished by glacial action in several places," and illustrated his report with a photograph of one of such rocks. Mr. Richard Helms, in a paper communicated by Prof. T. W. E. David to the Linnean Society,† states that he searched carefully in the Wilkinson Valley and elsewhere for striae and polished surfaces without finding them, though, he adds, the general appearance of the rocks at a distance suggested that they had been ground down by glaciers. Mr. Helms also records having found one piece of what he believes to be glacier-polished rock. In speaking of this specimen he says, "There are, however, no striae noticeable, which is rather remarkable as they are generally present on glacier-polished surfaces."

I did not see any polished surfaces or ground rocks which might reasonably be supposed to have been produced by moving ice. Upon Thompson's Flat (Tom's Flat) I was able to identify by means of the photograph which accompanies Dr. Von Lendenfeld's report the granite rock which he specially mentions as exhibiting glacier-polish. The smooth surface of this rock might well be the result of ordinary subaerial denudation. At the base of the mountain and elsewhere in the colony where granitic formations occur similar smooth surfaces are to be found. The grooves upon the rock are in section more or less V shaped. They consist of ordinary planes of parting which have been enlarged by weathering along their lines of emergence. A penknife blade can in many instances be inserted into these cracks. I agree with Mr. Helms when he states that the rocks forming the range would disintegrate too rapidly to permit of glacier-striae being retained upon their surfaces for any length of time.

Mr. Helms states that he found several terminal moraines, and he has prepared a map showing the localities where he believes glacier deposits exist. My stay upon the higher portion of the range was too brief to permit of my coming to any conclusion upon this point.

Thredbo Diggings are situated upon the Crackenback River, about 12 miles from Jinderbayne in a westerly direction. They consist of a wide alluvial flat which is covered with drift material to a depth of from 6 to 20 feet. The gold occurs in patches. At one time the field supported a number of miners, but there are now only one or two fossickers upon it.

Bark Huts and Boggy Plains Gold-fields are situated upon a granite formation near the head of the Mowambah River. Here I found between thirty and forty miners at work making from 10s. to £1 per week. The deposits closely resemble those which I have described as occurring at Piper's Creek. The drift consists of a black loam with subangular quartz pebbles. The sinking is never more than 3 feet. The gold is found in patches. It is for the most part rough and would not appear to have travelled very far. One nugget over half an ounce in weight has been obtained.

I am of opinion that the gold in the various alluvial diggings described has been probably derived from pipe-like reefs and narrow quartz veins in the granite. Near Piper's Creek several quartz reefs of unpromising appearance can be seen. Upon one of these, where the quartz had a little pyrites associated with it, a shallow shaft had been sunk. I was informed that only traces of gold were found in the stone. Upon the Bark Huts Diggings I picked up an angular fragment of highly pyritous quartz which without doubt had been shed from a vein near at hand. This specimen when assayed by Mr. Mingaye, Assayer to the Mines Department, yielded traces of gold and silver. I did not see any well-defined reefs in the vicinity.

At Mowambah, about 6 miles south of Jinderbayne, tin was discovered in quartz a few years ago. All the workings were abandoned, and I was only able to examine the lodes upon the surface. They appeared

* Government Printer, Misc. Pub., 1886. By Authority.

† Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, 1893, viii, p. 349.

appeared to me to be short and not of great extent. I picked out from the heaps some good specimens of tin-ore consisting of coarse blebs of cassiterite embedded in white quartz. I was informed, however, that this rich ore only occurred in small pockets. A few bags of alluvial tin were obtained from the creek below the reefs. It is possible that other tin lodes may be discovered in the granite.

I visited Paupong and was shown several shafts which had been sunk upon quartz reefs. No work was being carried out upon the field, and I was unable to descend any of the shafts.

I have, &c.,

JOHN B. JAQUET,
Geological Surveyor.

The Government Geologist.

APPENDIX 17.

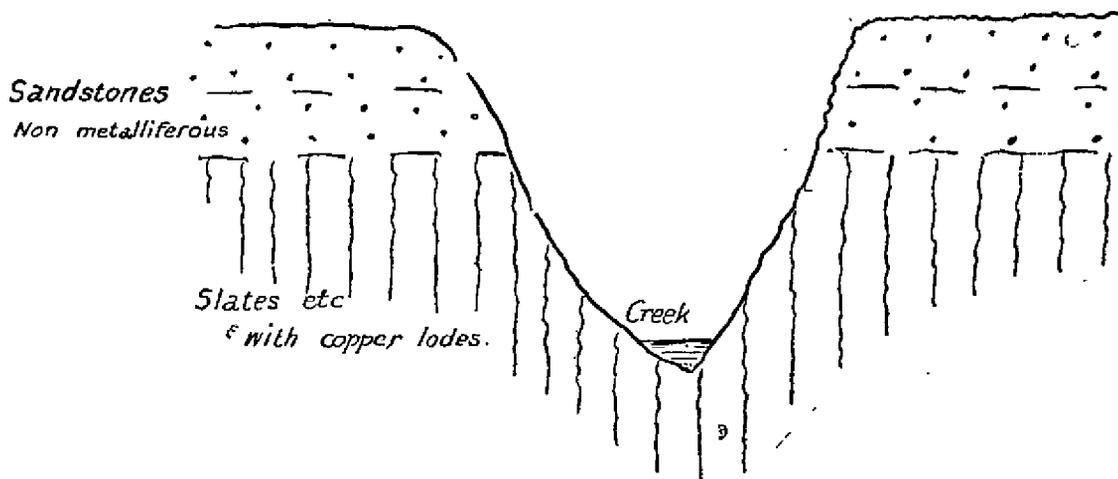
Report on Deposits of Copper Ore, Touga Creek.

Geological Survey Branch, Department of Mines,
New South Wales, 11 June, 1896.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that I have made a geological examination of the deposits of copper ore at Touga Creek, in the Parish of Touga, County St. Vincent, about 10 miles from Nerriga in a northerly direction.

The geological formations represented are horizontally bedded sandstones belonging to the Devonian or Upper Marine Series and much indurated slates and quartzites of Silurian age.



The copper lodes are confined to the slates, &c., and these rocks are only exposed along the lower portions of deep gullies which have cut through the sandstones, so the area available for prospecting is much restricted. (*Vide* sketch section .)

Messrs. Green, Wallace, & Co. have exposed the outcrop of a copper lode for a distance of 36 feet at a point distant about 100 yards below the junction of Touga and Quera Creeks. The lode is about 2 feet 6 inches wide. It does not appear to have defined walls, but like many other deposits of this metal seems to consist of country rock more or less impregnated with quartz and copper pyrites. I took three samples of the best ore, and these were assayed by Mr. Mingaye, Assayer and Analyst to the Mines Department, with the following results:—

(a) Copper	7.06 per cent.
Silver.....	2 oz. 18 dwt. per ton.
Gold	Nil.
(b) Copper	13.92 per cent.
Silver.....	15 dwt. per ton.
Gold	Nil.
(c) Copper	5.90 per cent.
Silver.....	4 dwt. per ton.
Gold	2 dwt. „

About 200 yards north of the lode last described another one has been discovered and traced for several chains upon the surface. It is about 1 foot wide. The country here is softer, and a little oxidation has taken place, the copper pyrites having a little copper carbonate (malachite) and black oxide (tenorite) associated with it. A picked specimen of this ore which I selected yielded on assay by Mr. Mingaye, as follows:—

Copper	13.16 per cent.
Silver.....	1 oz. 12 dwt. per ton.
Gold	A trace.

A little south of the junction of the two creeks the outcrop of a copper lode can be seen running up the precipitous banks of the Touga Creek.

In so far as no sinking or driving has been carried out upon these lodes, one would not be justified in expressing any opinion as to their value at the present time. However, the assays given above show that they are capable of yielding some fair ore.

I have recommended, and it has been approved by the Prospecting Board, that Messrs. Green, Wallace, and Party be assisted to sink a shaft to a depth of 50 feet, and to drive 50 feet from the bottom of the same upon the lode first described in this report.

Two circumstances will greatly increase the cost of working the lodes: one is the hardness of the country and the other the difficulty of transport to and from the top of the tableland.

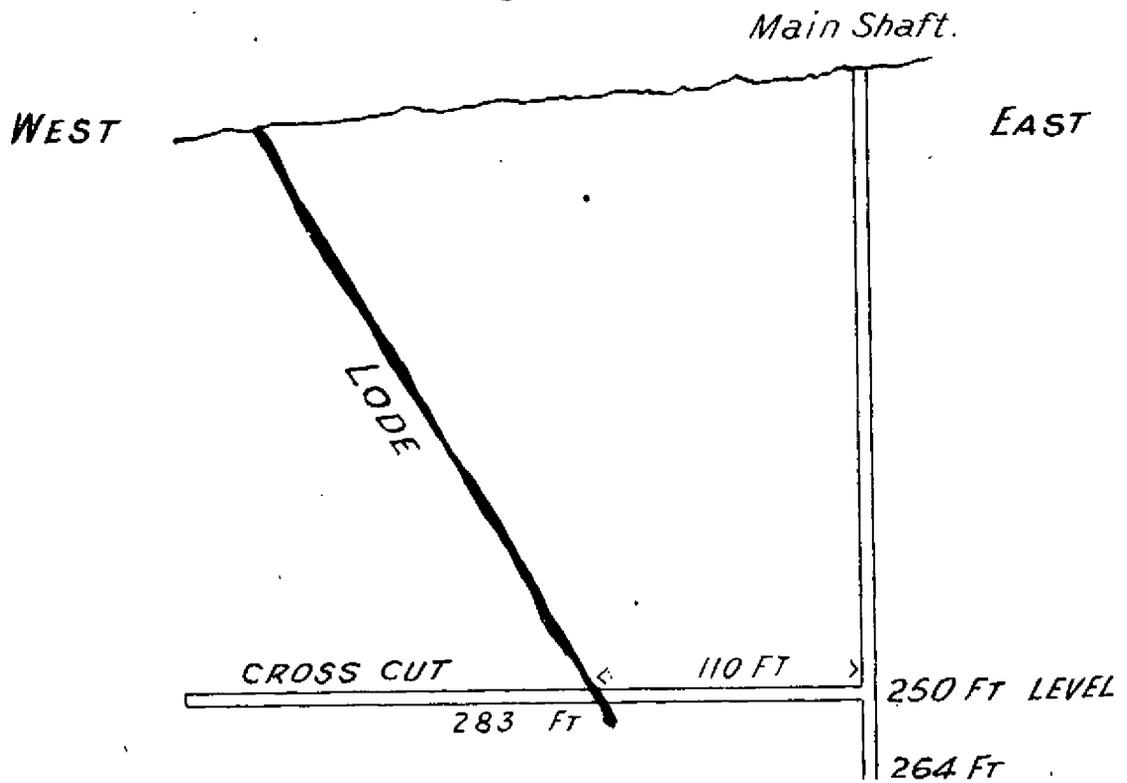
I have, &c.,

JOHN B. JAQUET,
Geological Surveyor.

The Government Geologist.

Cullulla Silver Lead Mine.
M.L.I., Parish of Cullulla, County of Argyle.

Section through Main Shaft.



Plan of the 250 Ft. Level.

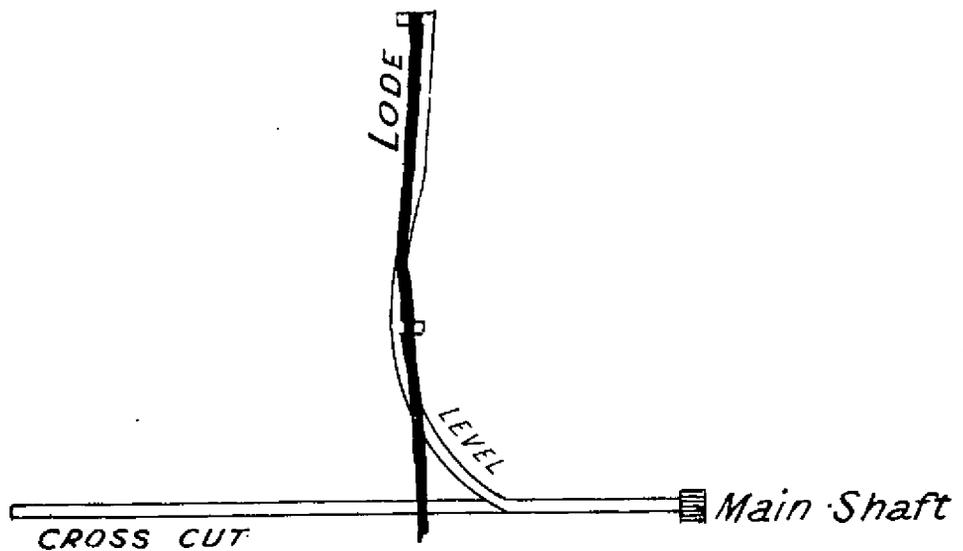


Fig 21

APPENDIX 18.

Report upon McMahon's Land, near Crookwell.

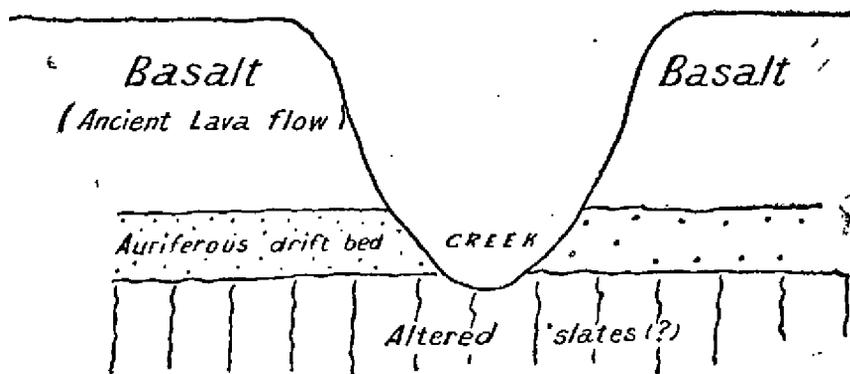
Geological Survey Branch, Department of Mines and Agriculture,
New South Wales, 21 July, 1896.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that, according to instructions received, I have made a geological inspection of the land of Mr. Murty MacMahon, near Crookwell.

I found upon the land an extensive sheet of basalt which had flowed over and covered up an ancient auriferous river bed.

In one place a creek had cut through the basalt and exposed the drift below.



A little gold has been obtained from the drift, including one nugget, which weighs 7 dwt. The precious metal would seem to occur in patches, and not defined "runs."

The drift bed could only be satisfactorily prospected by means of a tunnel. In order to provide for the bed-rock dipping downwards, it is necessary in cases of this description to start the tunnel a considerable distance below the outcrop of the bed it is intended to exploit. Now, upon Mr. MacMahon's property the floor of the deposit is sometimes below the bed of the creek, and never more than a few feet above it, hence no suitable site for a tunnel can be found.

I do not think the prospects sufficiently good to warrant the sinking of shafts through the hard basalt.

A few "fossickers" may from time to time earn a living by exploiting the drift bed along its line of outcrop.

I have, &c.,

JOHN B. JAQUET,

Geological Surveyor.

The Government Geologist.

APPENDIX 19.

Report on Cullulla Silver-lead Mine.

Geological Survey Branch, Department of Mines and Agriculture, 22 July, 1896.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that, in accordance with your instructions, I have made an inspection of the Cullulla Silver-lead Mine.

The lode which is being worked in this mine was reported upon by you in 1892.* You mention having taken a representative sample across the full width of the lode, which was found upon assay to contain 15.45 per cent. of lead and 2 oz. 9 dwt. of silver per ton.

The two shafts which you mention as having been sunk at the time of your inspection have been closed down. A new shaft has, however, been sunk about 200 yards north of the abandoned workings to a depth of 264 feet.

Upon the accompanying diagram I have shown the workings in connection with this shaft.

The level winds about and does not closely follow the lode. The end is now in country rock and apparently upon the eastern side of the lode.

The lode as seen in the level is not well defined, and I am of opinion would not pay for exploitation unless the galena contained a large quantity of silver.

I have, &c.,

JOHN B. JAQUET,

Geological Surveyor.

The Government Geologist.

APPENDIX 20.

Report on Ironstone Deposit, in Parish Wilmot.

Geological Survey Branch, Department Mines and Agriculture,
Sydney, 17 August, 1896.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that, in accordance with your instructions, I have made a preliminary geological examination of the deposit of ironstone which has been discovered by Mr. Thomas Adams, senior, in the Parish of Wilmot, County of Gloucester, near Seaham.

The ironstone consists of a compact granular rock composed essentially of magnetite with sand grains.

It occurs as a bed which is interstratified with arkose sandstones and conglomerates of Carboniferous age. In places the stratification planes can be seen in the ironstone. It is possible that a further examination may show that this bed forms an horizon of some importance in the *Rhacopteris* Beds.

Upon

Upon Portions 31, 32, and 33, and upon the land situated immediately west of these portions, the ironstone bed can be seen cropping out in places for a distance of about 60 chains. Towards the east the outcrop strikes nearly east and west, but as one travels in a westerly direction it would seem to swing round towards the north. I should mention that in view of the magnetic character of the ironstone, compass bearings taken in the vicinity may be only approximately correct.

A shallow trench has been put across the bed, but unfortunately at the period of my inspection it was full of water. I was informed by Mr. Thomas Adams, who accompanied me, that the bed was found in the trench to be 3 feet thick. It dips 1 in 2 a little east of south.

In the vicinity of Nine-mile Creek, about 3 miles distant in a north-easterly direction from the portions mentioned above, the same (?) bed of ironstone can be seen cropping up. It would seem here to dip a little west of north. Upon the attached sketch which has only been prepared tentatively, pending a further investigation of the geology of the district, I have shown how the intrusive mass of quartz-felsite forming the range east of Nine-mile Creek may have tilted the beds and brought the ironstone to the surface. If such a section be correct, then we might expect to find the ironstone bed cropping out again upon the eastern side of the range.

An analysis of the iron ore has been made by Mr. J. C. H. Mingaye, Analyst to the Mines Department. It was as follows:—

<i>Chemical Composition.</i>	
Moisture at 100° C.....	1.82
Combined Water	2.14
Silica (SiO ₂)	20.60
* Ferric Oxide (Fe ₂ O ₃)	60.72
* Ferrous Oxide (FeO)	4.73
Manganous Oxide (MnO).....	.22
Alumina (Al ₂ O ₃)	7.56
Lime (CaO).....	trace
Magnesia (MgO)	1.40
Phosphoric Acid (P ₂ O ₅) .....	.31
Sulphuric Acid (So ₃).....	.05
Titanic Acid (TiO ₂)	trace
Organic Matter	trace
	99.55

This analysis shows the stone to be a good iron ore which would compare favourably with the great majority of ores available for mining in the Colony. It differs from the ore at Ironstone Mountain in containing only a trace of that objectionable matter, Titanic acid. The percentage of silica is rather high, and the quantity of phosphorus present would probably render the pig-iron from the ore unfit for the manufacture of steel by the ordinary Bessemer process.

I have, &c.,
JOHN B. JAQUET.

NOTE.—The analyses below were made by Mr. J. C. H. Mingaye, Analyst to the Mines Department, from samples which I obtained from various points along the outcrop, and the results were not available till after the Report was submitted.

3,792	Fe. 46.48
3,793	Fe. 45.96
3,794	Fe. 47.85
3,795	Fe. 49.70
3,796	Fe. 41.50
3,797	Fe. 47.51
3,798	Fe. 53.35
3,799	3,792 to 3,798 mixed, yielded:—
Moisture at 100° C	1.45
Combined Water	1.79
Silica (Si O ₂)	16.52
Alumina (Al ₂ O ₃)	11.69
Ferric Oxide (Fe ₂ O ₃)	62.37
Ferrous Oxide (FeO)	4.29
Manganous Oxide (MnO) .....	.39
Nickel and Cobalt Oxides (Ni O Co O)	traces
Lime (Ca O)	absent
Magnesia (MgO) .....	.23
Phosphoric Acid (P ₂ O ₅) .....	.25
Titanic Acid (Ti O ₂)	1.70
Sulphur .....	.03
	100.11

The Government Geologist.

APPENDIX 21.

Report on the Gilgunnia Gold-field.

Geological Survey Branch, Department of Mines and Agriculture,

Sydney, 24 September, 1896.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that, in accordance with your instructions, I have made a geological examination of the Gilgunnia Gold-field, situated 30 miles from Nymagee, in a south-westerly direction.

Gold, I have been informed, was first discovered upon the field by an aboriginal—Jacky Owen—about eighteen months ago.

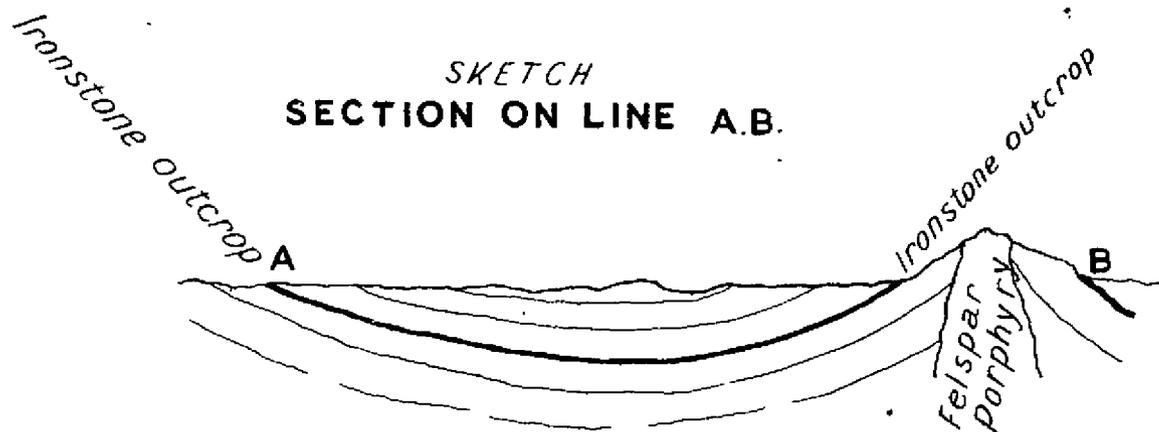
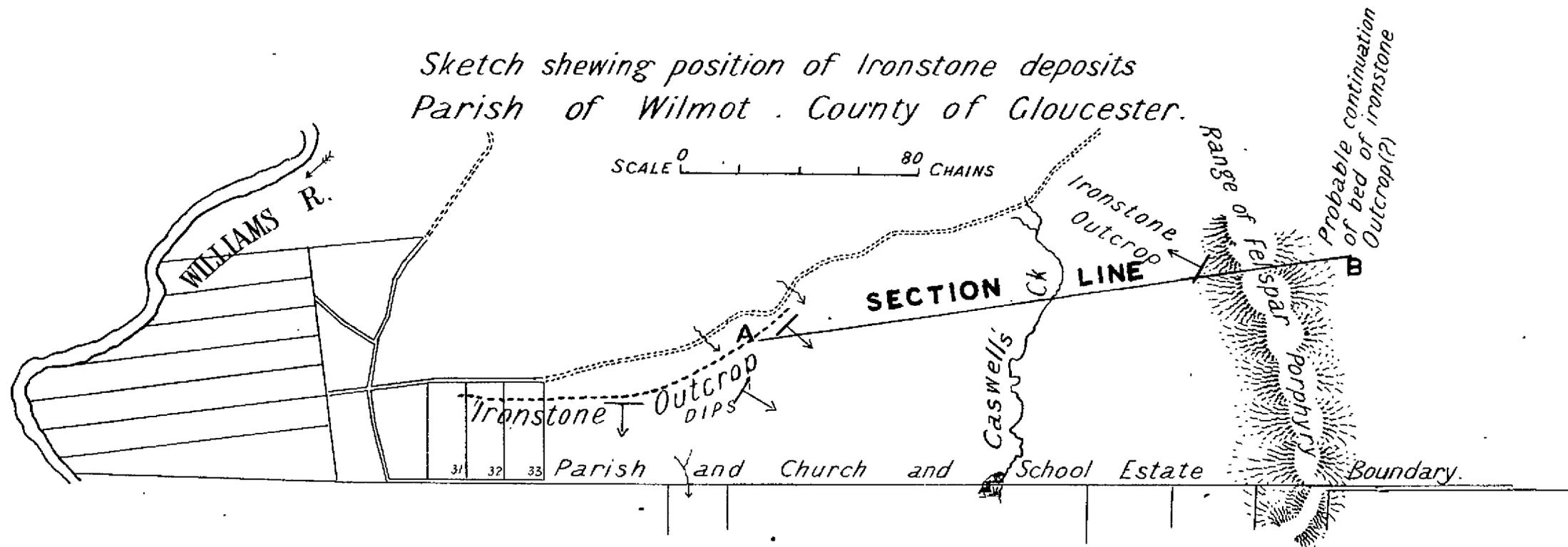
The field was reported upon by Mr. W. H. J. Slee, F.G.S., Chief Inspector of Mines, in July last year. †

The

* Metallic iron, 45.19 per cent.

† Ann. Rept. Dept. Mines and Agri. N. S. Wales for 1895, p. 84.

Sketch shewing position of Ironstone deposits
Parish of Wilmot. County of Gloucester.



The geological formations consist of highly-cleaved Silurian slates and intrusive bosses and dykes of quartz-felspar porphyry. The reefs occur in the slates. These rocks are decomposed to great depths, and this circumstance has enabled mining in the past to be carried on at a very low cost. No water has as yet been encountered in any of the shafts.

There are two distinct fields: one near the surveyed township and the other 4 miles east of it.

The working upon the former field are for the most part grouped along two lines of reef, which are approximately parallel and half a mile distant from one another. They are known respectively as Tarcombe line and Finn's line.

Tarcombe Reef.

This reef trends approximately north and south, and has a slight underlay to the west. It is from 2 to 18 inches thick, and closely follows the cleavage planes of the slate containing rock. At the present time there is but little payable stone available for exploitation, and in my opinion the chances are against the reef yielding any regular supply of ore in the future.

Upon the accompanying plan I have shown the various workings. I have also noted as closely as possible the positions occupied by the various parcels of stone which have been crushed and the yields which were obtained from the same.

Tarcombe Prospector's Claim.

Shaft 107 feet deep. At 50 feet, drive 120 feet north to boundary and 18 feet south. From the stopes north of the shaft and above this level parcels of ore which crushed as follows have been obtained:—

No. of tons crushed.	Yield of Gold per ton.
6	3 oz. 10 dwt.
11	2 „ 11 „
35	1 „ 15 „
30	0 „ 15 „
8	2 „ 10 „
30	1 „ 11 „

At 107 feet a drive has been carried north for a distance of 80 feet, and so far has encountered very low grade stone. It has yet to be driven 40 feet before reaching the boundary of the adjoining claim.

Great Tarcombe Claim.

This is situated upon the same reef and immediately north of the last mentioned claim. A shaft has been sunk to a depth of 160 feet. At 50 feet a level has been driven 40 feet south to boundary of the Prospector's Claim and 48 feet north. At 100 feet levels have been driven to the boundary upon the south and 90 feet north. The reef has been stoped for a height of 18 feet above the 50 feet level south, and 10 tons of this ore, together with 50 tons raised from the shaft, and 40 tons raised from the No. 2 shaft, yielded on being crushed at Mount Allen 6 dwt. of gold per ton. From the stopes situated between the 50 and 100 feet levels 50 tons of ore have been raised, which yielded on being crushed at Mount Allen 6 dwt. of gold per ton. No. 2 shaft is about 200 yards north of the main shaft, and apparently upon another line of reef. It has been sunk to a depth of 100 feet, and 40 tons of ore have been raised from stopes in the back of the 80 feet level.

No. 3, North Tarcombe.

This claim is situated to the north-east of the Great Tarcombe. A shaft has been sunk to a depth of 80 feet, and a crosscut driven from the bottom 80 feet in an easterly direction, with a view of cutting the Tarcombe Reef. Whether this reef runs through the claim or not could be definitely settled by means of a deep east and west costeaning trench. There is no more chance of its being struck at a depth of 80 feet than in the slate rock a few feet below the surface.

The Slanter.

This is situated about 30 chains south of the Prospector's claim. It is being worked by Messrs. Polonaise and Parry. A shaft has been sunk to a depth of 160 feet upon a well-defined reef, which has an average width of 9 inches. At 80 feet a level has been driven 60 feet north and 60 feet south. Gold has been found in some of the stone, but none of it has been considered rich enough to warrant a parcel being sent to the battery.

South Slanter.

This adjoins the claim last mentioned. Two shafts have been sunk upon the vein, which are 80 and 110 feet deep respectively. No crushings have been obtained, and the reef would seem to contain but little gold.

Finn's Line of Reef.

The ore deposits worked upon this line differ altogether from those occurring in the Tarcombe and adjoining claims. They consist of bunches and anastomosing veins of highly ferruginous quartz. The auriferous lodestuff, on the whole, trends N. 20° E. with the cleavage planes of the slate, but has no defined walls. A mass of quartz 2 or 3 feet wide, when followed a few feet either in a vertical or horizontal direction, will suddenly split up into a number of leaders; further on again these leaders may reunite, or they may cut out altogether. Very coarse gold is present in some of the stone. Should any stone be obtained from a depth—beneath the oxidised zone—it will probably be heavily charged with pyrites. Some patches of very rich ore have been obtained; but a consideration of the general character of the deposit, and the results of the exploratory work already carried out as detailed upon the accompanying plan, has made me of opinion that the payable ore-bodies are not of great extent.

Her Dream—(Finn and Party).

A shaft has been sunk upon the lode to a depth of 107 feet. At 55 feet a level has been driven 50 feet south and 38 feet north. At 107 feet two parallel levels 80 and 125 feet long respectively have been driven. A winze has been sunk between the upper and lower levels along the boundary of Mullen's Claim. I did not examine this winze. In the back of the 55 feet level the lode splits into two branches, and in the bottom of the shaft these branches are separated from one another by 12 feet of barren rock.

The following crushings have been obtained :—

No. of tons.	Where crushed.	Yield per ton. oz. dwt. gr.
6.....	Clyde Works	6 0 0
25.....	Clyde Works	3 10 0
35.....	Mort's Dock	4 10 0
12.....	Cobar	2 10 0

At the time of my inspection about 200 tons were being crushed, which, having regard to amalgam obtained, would yield 2 oz. per ton.

Mullen's Claim.

This adjoins that of Finn and Party upon the north, and exploits the same lode. Two shafts have been sunk which are 105 and 150 feet deep respectively. The lode is to be seen in the southern shaft to a depth of 60 feet. Here it appears to pass to the east; and at a depth of 80 feet a crosscut has been driven 60 feet in an easterly direction with a view of cutting it, but did not encounter any lode. The deeper shaft has cut a network of quartz leaders at a depth of 150 feet, some of which carry gold.

The following returns have been obtained from stone raised from the stopes which abut against Finn's Claim, and are above the 60 feet level :—

No. of tons.	Where crushed.	Yield per ton. oz. dwt. gr.
30.....	Clyde Works	2 0 0
35.....	Gilgunnia	0 17 0

Riley's Claim

Is situated about 350 yards from the last-mentioned claim in a north-easterly direction. The lode is from a few inches to 3 feet wide. The average width of the ore stoped is about 2 feet. A shaft has been sunk to a depth of 100 feet. From the bottom of the shaft a crosscut has been driven 20 feet in an easterly direction. Neither in the bottom of the shaft nor in the crosscut has any ore been found, and all the circumstances seem to indicate that the deposit is of a most uncertain character, and does not extend continuously to any great depth.

The Four-mile.

Upon this field a very large amount of work has been done with the most disappointing results. Altogether I went down about a dozen shafts upon various claims which have been sunk to depths of 100 feet. It would serve no useful purpose were I to describe in detail the work which has been done. The various reefs are identical in character, and the remarks which I am going to make are applicable to all of them. They vary in thickness from a few inches to 2 feet; have for the most part a very slight underlay, and follow the cleavage planes of the slate, swelling out in some places and pinching in others. Reefs of this character are very common in the Silurian rocks of the Colony. The gold which they contain almost invariably occurs in irregularly distributed patches and not defined shoots.

Parcels of stone have been crushed at the Gilgunnia battery with the following results :—

Name of claim.	No. of tons crushed.	Yield per ton. oz. dwt. gr.
No. 1 East	25	0 2 12
Cripples' Reward	12	under 1 0
Collin's Claim.....	20	0 9 0
Silver Ray	20	0 7 0
Keep it Dark	37	under 1 0

It seems extraordinary, having regard to the little gold contained in the stone as evidenced by the above returns, that the claims should have been so vigorously prospected. It is only recently, however, that a battery has been erected upon the field, and that the claim-owners have had an opportunity of testing their stone in bulk.

An idea appears to be generally prevalent upon the field to the effect that as a greater depth from the surface was reached the stone would increase in richness. Neither theoretical considerations, nor evidence derived from other gold-fields in the Colony where similar reefs occur, support this theory. There is nothing to indicate that the patches of golden stone are more often arranged vertically underneath one another, and one is as much likely to cut them in a drive as in a shaft. Again, a deep longitudinal trench carried along the outcrop of the reef is, for prospecting purposes, equally as valuable as a level driven at a depth of several hundred feet below the surface, and it is ten or more times less costly.

A 15-stamp battery has been erected near the Gilgunnia township. The field cannot produce enough payable stone to keep this battery working, and it will probably be idle before long.

I have, &c.,

JOHN B. JAQUET,

Geological Surveyor.

The Government Geologist.

APPENDIX 22.

Report on Gold Discovery 14 miles S.E. of Yass.

Geological Survey Branch, Department of Mines and Agriculture,

New South Wales, 23 October, 1896.

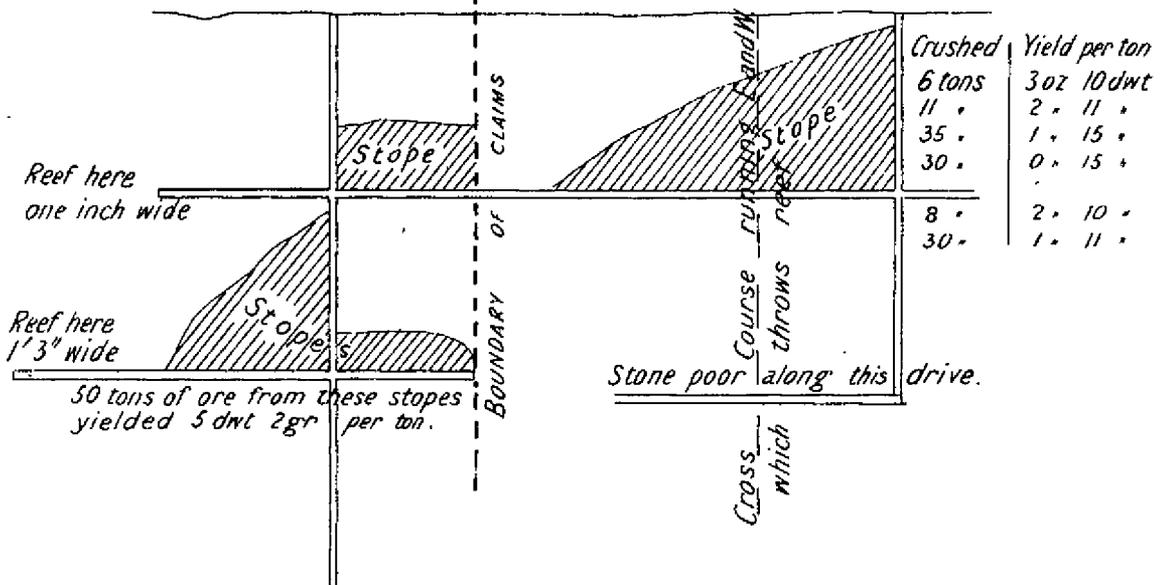
Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that, in accordance with your instructions, I have made a geological examination of the cupriferous gold deposits recently discovered upon Portion 180, Parish of Jeir, County Murray, about 14 miles S.E. of Yass, near the head of Gooda Creek. The

GILGUNNIA GOLD FIELD

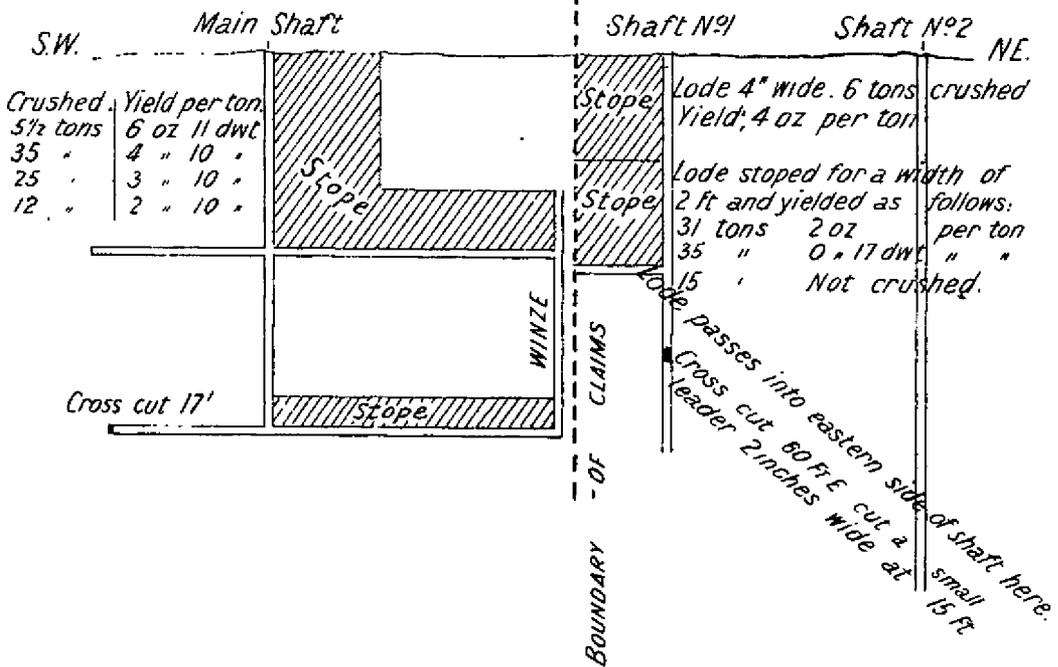
LONGITUDINAL SECTION THROUGH TARGOMBE REEF

Great Tarcombe Claim *Tarcombe Prospecting Claim.*

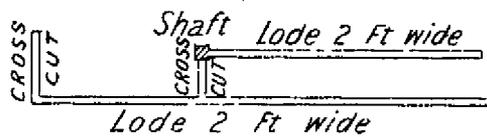


LONGITUDINAL SECTION THROUGH FINNS REEF

Finn's Claim "Her Dream." *Mullen's Claim.*

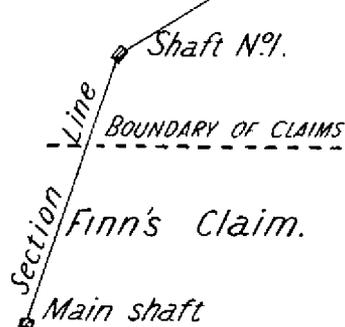


Plan of 107 Ft. Level.
Finn's Claim



Ground Plan

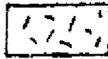
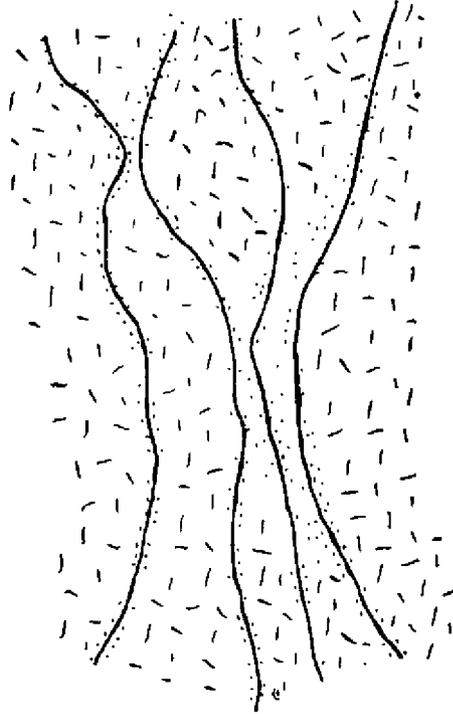
Mullen's Claim.



Scale 0 40 80 feet

The accompanying diagram explains the character of the ore deposits. The gold occurs in thin veins, from one-eighth to one-half inch thick, composed of quartz, iron oxide (limonite), and copper carbonates (malachite and azurite). For a distance of from 1 to 2 inches on either side of the veins the country rock is impregnated with gold, and in places where they approach one another bodies of ore up to two feet wide are to be seen. At a depth of 18 feet the oxidised ores give place to iron and copper pyrites. The deposit as a whole trends N.W. and S.E.

Diagram illustrating the occurrence of gold on portion 180:—



Quartz Felsite. (Country rock).



Thin veins ($\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch) of auriferous limonite with copper carbonates passing below into iron and copper pyrites.



For a distance of from 1 to 2 inches on either side of the veins the country rock is more or less impregnated with gold. The dots represent this impregnation.

Messrs. Rook and Party, the prospectors of the field, have sunk an underlay shaft to a depth of 18 feet upon "the lode," and put down several excavations for a distance of about 4 chains along its course. In the shaft a cross-course (wall) exhibiting slicken sides, and coated with a clay dig, is to be seen. The ore seems to accompany this plane of faulting, and I would advise the prospectors to endeavour to trace it through their property, since it might be found an indicator of great value in guiding them from one ore body to another.

To the east of the northern extension of the lode a block of land has been taken up by a Syndicate, who have started a vertical shaft with a view of cutting the lode upon its underlay. Having regard to the general character of the ore deposit, I am of opinion that the chances are greatly against its being met with in this shaft.

From the discoveries already made, and referred to above, small parcels of very rich ore will probably be obtained, but the ore bodies are too small and irregular to permit of any large output being made. As a depth is reached some very hard rock will be encountered, and it is probable that the ore will yield less gold beneath the zone of oxidation. Gold in small quantities has been found in many places around the field, and it is possible that other discoveries of payable ore may shortly be made.

I have, &c.,

JOHN B. JAQUET,
Geological Surveyor.

The Government Geologist.

APPENDIX 23.

Report on Mount Blundell, Uriarra, Queanbeyan District.

Geological Survey Branch, Department of Mines and Agriculture,

Sydney, 31 October, 1896.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that, in accordance with your instructions, I have made a geological examination of the mineral deposits upon Mount Blundell, about 2½ miles N.E. of Mount Coree, and 30 miles from Queanbeyan in a westerly direction.

The deposits were discovered by Mr. J. Blundell, junior, as the result of a systematic prospecting of the district undertaken by him. Having found small and not payable quantities of alluvial gold in the creeks, he devoted considerable time to tracing the precious metal to its source, and was rewarded by finding it *in situ* upon the mountain since called Mount Blundell.

Upon the western slope of the mountain, about 250 feet below its summit, a wide lode has been discovered and traced for a distance of 60 chains. The exact width of the outcrop at any one place is very difficult to determine, since one is unable to distinguish between masses of the lode *in situ* and those which have

have fallen from their original position. The northern end of the outcrop is composed of a more or less spongy gossan, mainly composed of limonite, but also containing variable quantities of quartz, oxidised lead ores, and in places a little gold. As one travels southward the general character of the outcrop changes. The gossan and lead minerals disappear, and give place to a compact white quartz, with which is associated a little auriferous pyrites. I saw several samples of this quartz crushed, and all of them yielded small quantities of gold. About

About 40 yards west of the main lode another outcrop has been discovered (Wombat Lode) and exposed in a shallow trench. It consists of quartz, with a small quantity of galena and blende, and yields, I have been informed, a little gold.

About 25 chains south of the camp, at a point 60 feet below the outcrop, which consists here of quartz, a tunnel has been driven into the hill for a distance of 140 feet. At the period of my inspection this tunnel had just entered the footwall of the lode, some samples from the same which I saw crushed yielded a little gold. A short distance north of the camp a tunnel has been started at a point about 110 feet below an outcrop of spongy gossan. A large amount of trenching has been carried out in various places upon the outcrop.

I took away with me several samples for assay, but on account of the removal of the Laboratory to Clyde I have reason to believe that a considerable period must elapse before I get the returns. The following results have from time to time been obtained from samples of the lode which have been tested in the Laboratory of this Department:—

1. Neither gold nor silver.
2. Silver, 9 oz. 2 dwt. per ton. Gold, a trace.
3. Silver, 2 oz. 16 dwt. per ton. Gold, 4 dwt. per ton.
4. Neither gold nor silver.
5. Silver, 1 oz. 10 dwt. per ton. Gold, a trace.
6. Silver, 118 oz. 15 dwt. per ton. Gold, 10 dwt. per ton.
7. Silver, 1 oz. 8 dwt. per ton. Gold, 8 dwt. per ton.
8. Gold, a trace (under 2 dwt. per ton).
9. do do do
10. Gold, 8 dwt. per ton. Silver, 9 dwt. per ton.
11. Silver, 4 oz. 18 dwt. per ton. No gold.

The lode in my opinion represents a wide belt of country rock which has been replaced by ore. In many places the cleavage planes of the slate containing rock have not been altogether obliterated, and can be seen in the gossan.

Three great problems presents themselves in connection with the lode, and prospecting operations should be directed towards their solution. They are as follows:—

1. Does a considerable portion of the gossan contain sufficient gold to permit of its being profitably extracted by the cyanide process, and, if so, are there any minerals present which would be detrimental to this method of treatment?
2. Does the ore beneath the gossan contain enough lead, silver, gold, and copper to permit of its being profitably smelted?
3. Does the large body of quartz upon the southern end of the lode contain enough gold to permit of its being treated in an ordinary battery?

Under favourable circumstances a bulk yield of from 3 to 5 dwt. of gold per ton should enable the gossan to be cyanided at a profit. The ironstone has, however, a considerable quantity of oxidised lead ores associated with it, and is possible that this circumstance might militate against its treatment by this method. I have not been able to obtain any definite information upon this point. Mr. C. W. Merrill, in his paper concerning the present limitations of the cyanide process, states* "that trustworthy information is still lacking in regard to the behaviour towards cyanide solutions of ores containing galena, zinc blende, or oxidised lead compounds."

The amount of gold in the gossan, I need hardly add, can be determined by systematically sampling the outcrop and assaying the samples obtained.

Underneath the gossan large quantities of iron-pyrites will undoubtedly be found together with some galena. The ore below may contain a little copper; but, in so far as no carbonates of this metal can be seen in the oxidised ore, I think the chances are against such being the case. On the other hand, it should be pointed out that at Captain's Flat and elsewhere copper has been found in payable quantities beneath oxidised ores which are entirely free from the metal. The gold is not likely to increase in quantity as a greater depth is reached, and if the upper and oxidised ore does not contain it in payable quantities it will certainly not pay to work the pyrites below for this metal alone, though, even if present in small quantities, it would considerably enhance the value of the ore for smelting purposes.

I would recommend that the tunnel which has been started a little north of the camp be continued until it has passed through the lode, and that samples of the ore be sent to this Department with a view of determining whether they could be treated at a profit.

I would also recommend that a sample of, say, 10 tons of quartz, be obtained either from the southern tunnel or the outcrop above this tunnel, and that the same be treated in an ordinary battery.

The ore which I saw exposed in the outcrop of the "Wombat Lode," north of the camp, is of no value, since it contains too much zinc-blende and too little galena to permit of its being concentrated and smelted, while at the same time these minerals would prove an obstacle in obtaining the little gold which the ore may contain by means of a battery.

The prospectors have, in my opinion, acted wisely in devoting considerable attention to trenching upon the outcrop and testing by means of the mortar and dish the various ores they encountered.

Upon the west of Mount Blundell there is a large area of mountainous country, for the most part composed of palaeozoic slates, which is likely to contain mineral deposits, and which, as far as I could learn, has hitherto received but little attention from prospectors.

I have, &c.,

JOHN B. JAQUET,
Geological Surveyor.
Assay

* Trans. Am. Ins. Mining Eng., Florida Meeting, March, 1896.

A.

Assay of Three Samples from Mount Blundell, Queenbeyan, for G. F. Litchfield.

1. Coarsely crushed average sample, yielding :—

Silver	oz. dwt. gr.	17 0 19 per ton.
Gold		0 8 16 „
Metallic lead		2·21 per cent.

2. Same as No. 1, yielding :—

Silver.....	oz. dwt. gr.	0 13 0 per ton.
Gold		A trace (under 2 dwt.) per ton.
Metallic lead		2·63 per cent.

3. Same as No. 1, yielding :—

Silver.....	oz. dwt. gr.	1 17 13 per ton.
Gold		A trace (under 2 dwt.) per ton.
Metallic lead		13·39 per cent.

1. Near Camp, Gossan, yielding :—

Neither gold nor silver. Lead present, less than 50 per cent.

2. Bluff, No. 2 Tunnel, Gossan, yielding :—

Gold	dwt. gr.	4 8 per ton.
Silver		2 4 „

No lead present.

3. Silver ore.—No. 1 Ridge, south of Camp, Gossan—pyritous, yielding :—

Silver.....	oz. dwt. gr.	2 17 16 per ton.
Gold		0 3 6 „

4. No. 1 Tunnel, south of Camp—quartz and ironstone, yielding :—

Gold	dwt. gr.	2 4 per ton.
Silver		A trace (under 2 dwt.) per ton.

APPENDIX 24.

Report on Sunnyside Argentiferous Copper Lode, Wollomombi River.

Geological Survey Branch, Department of Mines and Agriculture,

24 December, 1896.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that, in accordance with your instructions, I have visited the recently discovered argentiferous copper lode, situated upon the bank of the Wollomombi River, about 12 miles below the falls, and about an equal distance in a direct easterly direction from Hillgrove.

Copper, I have been informed, was first discovered in this locality by a prospecting party sent out by the Government. The party, however, failed to trace the "shode stones" to their source, and nothing further was done in the matter until the Messrs. Keys, of Hillgrove, commenced a systematic search and were rewarded by finding the lode.

The dominant formations are slates and quartzites of Silurian age, which are intruded by dykes and bosses of quartz-felsite. The copper lode would seem to be situated in the sedimentary rock close to a line of contact with the intrusive.

Unfortunately heavy rains had fallen a short time prior to my visit, and a large mass of rock had slipped from position and carried away the short tunnel wherein the copper lode had been exposed. Under the circumstances I am unable to give any information concerning the character of the lode, the position of which was indicated by the copper charged waters issuing from the rock in its vicinity, and must confine my remarks to a description of a few tons of ore which had been stacked upon the surface.

This ore was of a very valuable description. It consisted of copper pyrites with a small and variable admixture of malachite and azurite.

The following returns, which were obtained by Mr. J. C. H. Mingaye, Analyst and Assayer to the Mines Department, upon testing five samples which I selected at random from the heap, speak for themselves as to the great richness of the ore :—

1. Copper	39·38 per cent.
Silver.....	10 oz. 4 dwt. 16 gr. per ton.
Gold	A trace (under 2 dwt. per ton).
2. Copper	39·93 per cent.
Silver	12 oz. 12 dwt. 14 gr. per ton.
3. Copper	47·51 per cent.
Silver.....	10 oz. 5 dwt. 18 gr. per ton.
4. Copper	43·94 per cent.
Silver.....	13 oz. 13 dwt. 6 gr. per ton.
5. Copper	43·22 per cent.
Silver.....	12 oz. 16 dwt. 22 gr. per ton.

One of the worst features in connection with the profitable working of the lode is the fact of its being situated at the bottom of a deep gorge about 1,500 feet below the New England Tableland. However, this is not altogether an unmixed evil, in so far as the lode could be exploited by means of tunnels driven into the hillside, and the cost of mining reduced in consequence to a minimum.

This discovery would seem to be an important one, and should direct the attention of prospectors to the large area of unexplored mineral country situated between Hillgrove and the coast.

I have, &c.,

JOHN B. JAQUET.

The Government Geologist.

Progress Report of the Curator and Mineralogist.

Sir,

Mining and Geological Museum, 13 January, 1897.

I have the honor to present the following report of work done during the past year. In accordance with your instructions, a detailed statement of the assays made will not be prepared, but the more important results will be noted herein. The numbers attached to analyses are in all cases the registration numbers for the year 1896, and the localities are those given by the senders of the samples. The whole of the analyses and assays were made in the chemical laboratory, under the direction of the Assayer and Analyst, Mr. J. C. H. Mingaye.

Owing to the very large number of samples received, the time of two of the assistants (Messrs. M. Morrison and J. E. Dobson) and myself have been principally devoted to their examination and the clerical work in connection therewith. This and other correspondence has necessitated the writing of 4,154 letters. Although primarily engaged in the preparation of collections of minerals and registration of specimens, the senior assistant, Mr. L. F. Harper, has frequently been required to assist in the sample work.

The total number of samples exhibited has been far in excess of any previous year. Of these it was necessary to send 6,013 to the chemical laboratory for analysis; this number being 1,000 in excess of last year, and nearly 15 per cent. higher than in the previous record year—1888. The number would have been greater still had it not been for the repeated removal of the office, and the consequent difficulty in finding it. Owing to the accumulation of work in the laboratory, a most regrettable delay occurred in dealing with the samples assayed. The work has now, however, been overtaken, and frequently not more than five or six days elapse between the receipt of a sample and the despatch of the assay return in the ordinary course. The removal of the chemical laboratory to Clyde has rendered it necessary to send the samples there by rail. The method adopted is to enclose each sample, after examination, in a sealed package. Every evening a box (also under seal) is sent to Clyde by passenger train.

This duty of examining minerals submitted by the public having to take precedence over everything else, there is but little progress to report in the Mining and Geological Museum and with other work. As the Museum will shortly attain its majority, having been opened in March, 1876, it had been hoped to mark the occasion by the preparation of a small popular guide-book; but this has now had to be postponed. The Museum space was increased during the year by the removal of the heavy material in the stores to the Naval Depôt at Circular Quay. The increased accommodation—some 600 square feet—has enabled the Assistant Palaeontologist, Mr. W. S. Dun, to continue his arrangement of New South Wales fossils, and rendered possible a more satisfactory display of rocks. The ravages of the silverfish grub upon labels made the question of the re-registration of the rock specimens collected by the field—officers and others one of great urgency. This work is now well in hand, the method considered most suitable to the conditions being to register each specimen consecutively as it is received by means of a painted number. The registers are fully indexed and the specimens kept in covered wooden trays for ready reference. When time permits a selection will be made for exhibition in the Museum, where a geographical classification will be adopted. In this way the igneous rocks characterising a well-defined district such as the New England Tableland or the area occupied by the Hawkesbury Formation will be placed together. This is supplemented by the display of a collection of type rocks from foreign localities. The re-labelling of the mineral and fossil collection, which is so very necessary, has had to be entirely suspended. The collections are being increasingly used by students whose special needs will be met by the reservation of carefully selected specimens that can be freely handled. To this class of visitors the opening of the building on Saturday afternoons, which is now being tried, should prove a boon. It is satisfactory to note that there is an increasing tendency to apply at the Museum for information about minerals. The interest aroused by the definite establishment of the occurrence of a glacial epoch in the Southern Hemisphere in Permo-Carboniferous times suggested the arrangement of a small series of erratic and scratched pebbles from Australian localities, with a few from the Swiss and North American moraines for comparison. This has now been done.

Through the instrumentality of the Agent-General some useful exhibits were presented by a number of English firms. By the aid of these it has been possible to show the raw material used in the manufacture of Portland and other cements, and many other substances in the crude condition or in the early stages of utilization. These exhibits will be found in detail in the list of donations to the Museum appended hereto. To the numerous donors of these our thanks are due; their assistance being of the greatest value. Specimens have also been procured from America to complete our series illustrating the occurrence of petroleum oil and other hydro-carbons there. Early in the year a number of samples of ochres from various localities in New South Wales, sent from the Museum, were valued by Sir W. Rose & Co., London. The prices quoted for the best of these showed them to be of excellent quality. Duplicates of the whole series are now on view. When once the work of bringing the labelling up to date and the preparation of a handbook is completed it should be possible to materially extend the educational usefulness of the Museum, if only by the giving of demonstrations in simple methods of distinguishing the commoner minerals. That even a modicum of such knowledge is lacking to many prospectors is very evident. Very noticeable during the year has been the case of a prospector who is persistently prospecting a granite area, notwithstanding that his "gold" always proves to be bronze-coloured mica. Other instances were those in which a boss of rotten granite was prospected—apparently because it differed from the surrounding country and was consequently novel—and a bed of carboniferous clay-shale that was for some time believed to be silver-ore.

Six collections of minerals have been prepared for local schools of arts and public schools. An exhibit was sent to the Ballarat Exhibition early in the year, and two show cases of minerals and ores to the Albury Industrial Exhibition in September.

The examination of the New South Wales meteorites in the Museum collection by Prof. A. Brezina, of Vienna, shows that we are in possession of some unusual types. This matter is referred to fully in the Geological Survey Records, Vol. v, Part ii.

Some very interesting mineral determinations were made during the year. Phosphatic substances, so largely required in the manufacture of superphosphate for agricultural purposes, have been discovered, both in an earthy form and as rock phosphate. The rock phosphate—apatite—is said to occur as a small vein in granite at Gordonbrook. Crystals can be readily detached from the mass. An analysis will be found in the Appendix.

An

An earthy phosphate of alumina and potash was found by Mr. Wiburd, guide at Jenolan, in beds of clay in a new cave there. The exact chemical nature and manurial value of this substance are now being worked out by Mr. Mingaye. American and Algerian phosphates are obtainable at so low a price that it is doubtful whether these discoveries will ever be of much economic importance.

Two more localities for telluride of bismuth have been noticed. Tetradyomite was detected in some specimens collected from Slippery Creek, near Tarana, by Mr. E. C. Whittell, field-assistant, and a telluride, probably tetradyomite, in a gold-bearing quartz from Kentucky. In both instances the mineral was associated with free gold, but tellurides of the latter have not yet been noticed. A partial analysis of the Tarana mineral will be found in the Report of the Assayer and Analyst.

In addition may be noted the following:—

Cupro-scheelite, collected by Mr. Whittell, from Yeoval. This mineral has hitherto been recorded only from Peelwood, near Yass.

Martite, the octahedral red oxide of iron in a soft yellowish matrix, from near Byng.

Rutile and Cyanite, from Tumberumba.

Tin pyrites (stannine), associated with zinc blende, in quartz, from near Torrington, New England.*

The existence of zircons at the Hanging Rock, in the Nundle district, had long been known. During the year, consequent on reports that diamonds had been found, numerous parcels of stones from there were examined. No diamond was found in any of these, they consisting almost entirely of zircons.

About 200 thin sections of rocks have been registered during the year. Of the examinations made by myself the following may be referred to:—

Basalt, from a depth of nearly 2,000 feet, from the Woolabra bore.

Basaltic rocks, associated with the diatomaceous earth at Barraba, and a chrome-bearing felsite from Crow Mountain, collected by yourself. The presence of chromite in the felsite was found to be due to the absorption of chrome-bearing serpentine by the intruding acid magma.

Felsites (nodular) and tufts from Eden, and rocks from Port Macquarie and the northern coast, collected by Mr. Geological Surveyor Carne.

A series of rocks from the Evening Star Mine, Coramba, to obtain evidence as to the nature of the country rock, this having a bearing on the method of working to be pursued.

Gold-bearing rocks from Wolumla; these were found to be in part crushed granite.

Hypersthene-diorite, from Kiandra; interesting from the alteration of hypersthene into hornblende as in the case of the norite from Wyalong.

A number of rocks from the East Maitland Council for report as to their suitability for macadamising.

The following remarks may be offered on some of the more interesting results obtained from the examination of the ore samples:—

Gold and Silver.—Numerous samples have been received from Hazlegrove, near Oberon. It would appear from these that the silver is contained principally in the pyritous stone, two such samples yielding 60 oz. of silver to the ton (166,2574). Several gossans yielded over 1 oz. of gold, while one sample of pyrites (312) gave 3 oz. One sample of ferruginous material (2,572), stated to come from a depth of 50 feet, contained 50 oz. of silver and 2½ oz. of gold.

Some extremely rich stone was received from Wolumla, the peculiarity being that little or nothing was visible to the unaided eye. A sample of ferruginous material (2,758) contained 27½ oz. of gold and 315 of silver; a ferruginous quartz (2,782), 211 oz. of silver and 74½ of gold; one of quartz (2,903), 267 oz. of silver and 24 of gold; while an iron-stained quartz from Momson's claim (4,474) gave 11½ oz. of gold. A brief microscopic study of the country rock showed it to be a crushed granite in part. A number of tests were made from deep levels at Wyalong; the results, being of interest, are tabulated below. A number of such yields were obtained from ferruginous or pyritous stone from various parts of the Wyalong district.

1078. Pyritous quartz	from the Welcome Stranger Mine, 150 feet level,	4½ oz. of gold.
1079. "	" Victory Mine,	154 " 16½ "
1080. Ferruginous quartz	" Mallee Bull Line,	100 " 22½ "
1082. Pyritous quartz	" Pine Ridge Line,	100 " 4½ "
1823. Pyrites	" Boltes Mine	200 " 34½ "
1824. "	" "	230 " 16½ "
1825. "	" White Reef	210 " 20½ "
1826. "	" Pine Ridge Line	100 " 2½ "

The Yass District supplied a number of good samples, most of these coming from Gooda Creek. A ferruginous pyromorphite (4,695) from near Yass contained 130 oz. of gold.

An assay was made of the concentrated pyrites from the Bell's Creek Mine, Braidwood (4,557), the concentrates were found to contain 7 oz. of gold to the ton (of concentrates). From the northern district were received a large number of rich silver ores. These consisted principally of arsenical pyrites, and were derived from the area included within a triangle formed by joining Glen Innes, Armidale, and Inverell. In some of these pyrrargyrite—antimonial sulphide of silver—could be readily detected. More than twenty of these ores gave silver varying from 50 to 700 oz. per ton; gold being either absent or present in traces only. An arsenical pyrites from a depth of 180 feet at Deep Creek, Nambucca, gave 15 oz. of gold (5,477). A specimen of galena and quartz from Jenolan (5,692) contained 65 oz. of silver and 43 per cent. of lead. Several samples of quartz from Waratta gave good results; 388, gold 20½ oz.; 389, gold 3 oz.; and 3485 (milky quartz), gold 64 oz.

Manganese and Limestone.

The possibility of the establishment of iron and steelworks in the Colony has given an impetus to the search for these substances. Numerous specimens of wad or pyrolusite have been received, but these have generally been evidently picked samples, and often came from distant or inaccessible localities. Some of the limestones were of very poor quality, being merely calcareous tufts, or even stalagmitic incrustations. Some assays and analyses are appended. The

* On assay (4,617) a sample of this ore yielded 4.81 per cent. of copper, 2.75 per cent. of tin, and 4½ oz. of silver to the ton.

Copper.

The improved outlook for copper has led to much activity in prospecting for ores of that metal. Owing to the common occurrence of copper ores in metalliferous lodes, and the frequent practice of collecting picked specimens, it is difficult to form an idea of the value of the finds made. From Molong district argentiferous fahlerz has been received, one assay (3,000) resulting in a return of 6.54 per cent. of copper and 14 oz. of silver. A massive copper glance from Burra Burra, Cobar (3,853) contained 48 per cent. of copper and 3 dwt. of gold. A ferruginous carbonate ore, 7 miles north-west of Deepwater (5,066), gave 10½ per cent. copper and 53 oz. silver. From Bingera (5,520-1) a massive copper pyrites gave 49 per cent. of copper, and a carbonate ore from Barraba (5,701) contained 34 per cent. of metal.

Nickel and Cobalt.

An ironstone, from 8 miles south of Adelong, was found to contain about 4 per cent. of nickel. The ore consisted of magnetite and hematite, and Mr. Mingaye showed the nickel to be associated with the latter. Manganese wads from Port Macquarie yielded from 3 to 4 per cent. of metallic cobalt, and one from the Maclean district contained 4½ per cent. of that metal.

Monazite.

The increasing use of the oxides of the rare earths for illuminating purposes has occasioned many inquiries after Monazite. A sand from the Tooloom River, near Rivertree (602), contained a good proportion of Monazite, but the percentage of Thorium oxide—the most valuable constituent—was only 0.45. Monazite sand has also been received from the Delegate River, but it probably came from the Victorian side of the border where deposits are already known.

Ochres, &c.

An amber from Barber's Creek (1,247) contained 43.93 per cent. of ferric oxide in the washed material. Some splendid yellow ochre from Dubbo has been presented to the Museum by Mr. Hibble, manager of the Longnose Point Paint Works, at which works it is being regularly used. The pricing in London of some New South Wales ochres, &c., has been already referred to.

Plumbago is still being searched for at Wilson's Downfall. Of the samples examined during the year the best contained only 43 per cent. of carbon. This, however, closely approximates to the lower grades of Bohemian graphite, which fall to 50 per cent. But little interest appears to have been taken in chromite, wolfram, and tin. The search for marketable chrome iron ore along the belt of serpentine stretching from Bingara to Tamworth is still unsuccessful. Requests from Germany for a periodical supply of wolfram were reported; but the ore was required of almost theoretical purity, and the quantity required was but small.

The Junior Assistant, Mr. J. E. Dobson, has spared no pains to qualify himself for the technical portion of the work. His studies at the Technical College were rewarded by an Honours pass in the second year's course in geology.

At the moment of writing it is my sad duty to report the death of our late Museum Caretaker, Mr. W. Wass. During his short two years of service, Mr. Wass gained the respect and liking of all his colleagues.

Several short contributions have been made to the Geological Survey Records.

Further details will be found in the form of appendices.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE W. CARD,

Curator and Mineralogist.

APPENDIX A.

DONATIONS to the Mining and Geological Museum.

Donor.	Donation
Adams, T., sen.	Iron ore, rhyolite.
Adams, G. F.	Apatite.
Anselm, Odling, and Sons	Collection of foreign marbles.
Ashworth, J. W.	A quantity of ilmenite.
Australian Museum	Cast of the Nocoliche Meteorite.
Barton, Faithful J.	Complete set of pigments, foreign marbles, ores, &c.
Bailey, W.	Auriferous pyrites.
Baker, R., Son, & Co.	Mica.
Beasley, W. S.	Auriferous conglomerate.
Bell, W. R.	Crocoisite, zaratite, and other minerals.
Bensusan, A. J.	Tin ore, native mercury, rhyolite, and other specimens.
Blackwell, Sons, & Co.	Bauxite.
Blakemore, ———	Copper ore, copper ore showing native bismuth, and other specimens.
Blakemore, G. H.	Prehnite.
Boswell, A.	Copper ores, &c.
Bowman, Thompson, & Co.	Crude rock salt and brine, and bye-products from salt manufacture.
Brice, W. S.	Zircon sand, auriferous wash-dirt, and alluvial gold.
Brandram Bros. & Co.	Sulphur (crude and prepared).
British Aluminium Coy.	Aluminium articles.
Brow, Westhead, Moor, & Co.	Materials used in the manufacture of Staffordshire Clinkware.
Burke & Co.	Marbles.
Campbell, J.	Rock specimens.
Cameron, J. Swan, & Co.	Witherite.
Cleaver, R.	Auriferous arsenical pyrites in quartz.
Clayton, L. F.	Auriferous stone.
Cock, Captain	Epidote.
Collins, H. F.	Iodide of mercury and other specimens.
Colchester, Wemyss, & Co.	Building stone.
Crosier, Stephens, & Co.	Aluminium articles.
Croncban and Tigroacy Mineral Co (Ireland).	Ochres, iron ore, and copper—sulphur ore.

Donor.	Donation.
Dobson, Rev. J. S.....	Sulphate of copper, lode tin, rock specimens, gold nugget.
East Darren Mining Co.	Galena (argentiferous and non-argentiferous).
Easdown, W. R.	Gold-bearing quartz.
Ellern, Jones, & Co.	Emery.
Elliott Metal Co.	Stourbridge fire-clay and brick, copper (metal, alloys, &c.).
Ennis, J.	Quartz showing gold and tetradymite.
Francis & Co.	Cements and plasters (raw material and manufactured article).
Gibson, R. M.	Gold-bearing quartz.
Glasgow Ironfounders Blacking Co.	Graphite.
Gordon, J.	Diamond in ferruginous cement.
Graham Bros.	Limonite possessing cone-in-cone structure.
Hales (Warden).....	Auriferous stone.
Hassall & Dowel, Messrs.....	Galena with jamesonite.
Hazelton, W. H. (Warden's Clerk)...	Alluvial gold.
Hanoverian Kieselguhr Co.	Diatomaceous earth.
Hedworth Barium Co.	Barium compounds.
Heather, W. D.	Quartz showing gold.
Higgins, T. E.	Argentiferous massive iron pyrites.
Hibble, W. G.	Collection of crude and manufactured pigments and kalsomines.
Kerr-McKell (Warden)	Argentiferous lead and copper ores.
Larnach, ———	Gold-bearing granite.
Lloyd-Price, R. J.	Rhivlas earth.
Lock, Lancaster, & W. W., and R. Johnson & Sons.	Aluminium.
Loveridge and Hudson.....	Granite and trachyte (syenite).
Long Meg Manufacturing Plaster Company, Cumberland, England	Ochres.
Maitland (Warden)	Auriferous stone.
Mareh, C.	Tourmaline rock.
Martin (Warden)	Copper ore, quartz crystal, rock crystal, &c.
Mackenzie, Dr.	Cobaltiferous stream tin.
McGlew, C. S.	Massive arsenical pyrites, fluor spur.
McDonald, ———	Ore and rock specimens.
Mining Registrar, Glen Innes	Rock crystal.
Mills, J., & Sons	Aluminium articles.
Mills, W.	"
Monteith, W.	Crystal of rutile.
Montgomery, A.	Tin ore containing rare cerium minerals.
Mt. Gabriel Barytes and Umber Co.	Barytes.
Munro, D. W.	Sludger cores.
Newman, H. W. (M.P.)	Octahedral crystals of martite.
Oldbury Aluminium Co.	Bauxite.
Orme, J. & McDonnell, S.	Concretionary nodules and volcanic glass.
Pascoe, Grenfell, & Co.	Copper ores and matte.
Pickford & Winkfield, Messrs.	Phosphates.
Powor, F. D.	Allanite, garnet, and other minerals; also photographs "surveyor's shield," &c.
Ramsay, S. F.	Kyanite and Andalusite.
Rae, W.	Auriferous pyrites.
Rienits, H. G.	Diorite and graphitic granite.
Salt Union (Limited).....	Salt (products, &c.).
Scheerer, J. M.	Quartz showing gold.
Shaw and party, Messrs.	Iron-stained quartz showing gold.
Smith, G.	Stolzite and native silver, cerussite, calamine, pyromorphite, and other minerals.
Stuart, T.	Specimens from Major's Creek.
Sissons Bros. & Co.	Ochres.
Tonkin, J. E.	Sulphur.
Tout, J.	Auriferous pyritous quartz.
United Asbestos Co.	Asbestos (crude and manufactured).
Warden, Wyalong	Auriferous stone.
Warden, Wagga	Auriferous ores.
Warden's Clerk (Grenfell)	Quartz, &c.
Wescott, J.	Ferruginous oxide of manganese.
Winslett, Purcell, and party	Quartz showing gold freely.
Wilson, H.	Native copper.
Williams, W.	Rock and ore specimens.
Williams, Foster, & Co.	Copper ores and matte.
Wilson, Pease, & Co.	Cleveland iron ore, &c.
Wright, C. C., & Co.	Graphite (crude and prepared).

APPENDIX B.

INSTITUTIONS and Individuals to whom Collections of Minerals have been sent during the year:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| * Alexandria (Sydney), Grills, ———. | Marrickville, Smith, L. |
| Bega, School of Arts. | * New Caledonia, Reichenbach, S. |
| * Berry, McLennan, Rev. D. | Newtown, Cluim, S. |
| * Broken Hill, Smith, G. | Newcastle-on-Tyne, School of Mines. |
| Eugowra, School of Arts. | Oberon, Public School. |
| * Germany, Vogelsang, Dr. | Parramatta, The King's School. |
| Globe Point, Wood, Harrie. | * Rochester, N.Y., Prof. H. Ward. |
| * Georgetown (British Guiana), Institute of Mines and Forests. | Sydney, Superior Public School, Cleveland-street. |
| Harden, School of Arts. | * Vienna, The Natural History Museum. |
| London, Imperial Institute. | |

* Those marked with an asterisk were in exchange.

APPENDIX C.

Results of the more important analyses.

NOTE.—Other results will be found in the reports of the Geological Surveyors, and of the Assayer and Analyst.

Manganese.

268—Armidale	61.29	per cent. binoxide.
385—Thirty miles west of Bundarra ..	86.30	" "
643—Canberra	78.23	" "
753—(Pyrolusite) Alectown.....	58.87	" "
1452—(Wad) Queanbeyan	69.20	" "
1458—(Wad)	71.14	" "
2066—Wallendbeen	43.55	" "
2257—Armidale—silica, 6.26; metallic iron, 2.30; metallic manganese, 52.73; phosphoric acid, 0.02.		
2273—Back Creek, Rockley	62.11	per cent. binoxide.
2274—	79.86	" "
2510—(Very compact ore) Warialda ..	89.70	" "
3737—(Wad) Molong	77.82	" "
4833—Queanbeyan	75.10	" "
5041—Tamworth	71.90	" "

Tin.

258—Parish Murray, Shoalhaven (gold bearing).....	26.90	per cent.
3823—Warialda	71.5	"
4198—Glen Innes	65.2	"
4270—Back Creek, near Bucca Creek	72.62	"
4320—Gilgar, Inverell	44.84	"
5567—(A slightly copper-stained garnet rock) Molong ..	95	"
5687—(Iron-stained quartz) near Dubbo.....	16.60	"

Iron.

5136—Bulli Ranges—ferric oxide, 76.57; gangue, 6.50 per cent.	
5214—(Hematite) Dungowan—ferric oxide, 30.13; gangue, 68.70 per cent.	
5627—(Dark limonite) Portion 261, parish Wallaya, county Camden; metallic iron, 51.16; silica, 10.95; phosphoric acid, 0.268 per cent.	
5623—(Lighter limonite) same locality—metallic iron, 33.48; silica, 37.61; phosphoric acid, 0.128 per cent.	
5629—(Bog iron ore) Jervis Bay—ferric oxide, 62.36.	

2247—West Maitland District—

Limestone.

Carbonate of lime	87.32
Carbonate of Magnesia	1.71
Alumina and ferric oxide	2.04
Gangue (mainly silica)	7.55

Diatomaceous Earth.

	Wantialable Creek, Warrumbungle Mountains. 1089.	Nandewar Range, Barraba District. 2290.	Cooma. 5009.
Moisture, at 100° C	7.88	7.33	5.40
Combined water.....	3.08	5.67	5.84
Silica (SiO ₂)	72.94	71.13	83.30
Alumina (Al ₂ O ₃)	4.57	13.06	3.84
Ferric oxide (Fe ₂ O ₃)	0.87	0.91	0.86
Carbon dioxide (CO ₂)	9.53	0.95	absent.
Lime (CaO)		0.31	0.30
Magnesia (MgO)	(carbonate in part) 1.39	0.87	0.36
Sodium chloride (NaCl)	trace.		0.25
Potash and soda (K ₂ O, Na ₂ O)		traces.	
	100.26	100.23	99.65

Clay.

	China Clay.			Fire Clay.					
	Peak Hill 1086.	Barrowa. 1087.	Dalton. 1088.	Dorrego, Bellingen. 2583.	Bulli. 4368.	Bulli. 4369.	Bullh. 4370.	Bulli. 4371.	Mtawarra District. 5554.
Moisture at 100° C.	1.19	1.10	1.94	2.96	1.49	1.15	1.70	1.94	1.42
Combined Water	6.00	6.15	6.64	4.83	2.46	4.06	3.57	1.60	4.25
Silica (SiO ₂)	69.82	59.70	58.51	71.13	62.22	61.30	60.19	59.92	76.80
Alumina (Al ₂ O ₃)	20.66	27.87	27.86	17.15	20.96	19.55	19.76	26.26	13.97
Ferric Oxide (Fe ₂ O ₃)	0.41	0.68	1.30	2.02	2.82	2.45	1.59	2.03	1.58
Ferrous Oxide (FeO)		0.50			*	*	*	*	*
Lime (CaO)	absent.	0.40	0.24	traces.	0.11	0.25	0.50	0.13	trace.
Magnesia (MgO)	0.30	1.33	0.61	0.85	0.56	2.73	1.11	0.23	0.61
Potash (K ₂ O)	1.75	2.89	2.29	0.35	3.01	2.69	2.14	1.99	1.54
Soda (Na ₂ O)	0.04	traces.	0.29	0.98	0.03	absent.	absent.	trace.	trace.
Phosphoric Anhydride (P ₂ O ₅)		traces.		0.05					trace.
Sulphuric Anhydride (S O ₃)				traces.					trace.
Organic matter					6.69	6.39	10.03	5.55	†
	100.17	100.62	99.68	100.27	100.35	100.57	100.50	99.65	100.17

* Traces of inorganic oxide present.

† Trace of titanous acid.

Coal.

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Coal.

Registered No.	Locality.	Substance.	Hygroscopic moisture.	Volatile Hydrocarbons.	Fixed carbon.	Ash.	Sulphur.	Specific gravity.	Calorific power.
1642	Gunnedal	Coal	2.80	38.33	54.66	4.21	0.343	1.303	...
2193	Jondja, 12 miles from	"	1.94	25.53	50.09	22.44	...	...	...
2860	Lonsdale, near Wallerawang	Coke	4.64	1.86	82.43	10.33	0.74	1.814	...
3472	Parish Cox, county Cook	Coal	3.40	30.49	52.70	18.41	0.55	1.376	12.1
3473	Lidsdale, county Cook	"	3.15	28.75	55.24	12.86	0.44	1.390	12.2
4272	Blackman's Flat, near Wallerawang	"	2.97	40.68	53.01	3.34	0.80	1.273	...
4273	"	Coke from 4272	5.57	2.60	82.31	9.00	0.52	...	...
5153	Dapto (Lower measure)	Coal	0.75	19.00	61.25	19.00	0.645	1.463	11.08
5154	"	"	0.85	20.00	63.05	15.20	0.590	1.416	12.07
5155	"	"	0.70	28.55	61.50	9.25	0.645	1.328	12.67
5156	"	"	0.65	28.85	62.40	8.10	0.740	1.311	12.67
5157	"	Coke from 5155-6	0.15	0.40	84.31	14.55	0.590	1.915	...
5278	South Clifton—New Ovous	Coke	0.50	0.15	84.87	13.95	0.530	1.878	...
5450	Mt. Pleasant Colliery, Wollongong	Coal	0.66	13.77	62.08	23.49	...	...	...
5555	Dapto—Illawarra Smelting Co.'s Land— First, 2 feet descending	"	0.72	17.04	61.45	20.19	0.590	1.478	11.3
5556	Dapto—Illawarra Smelting Co.'s Land— Second, 2 feet descending	"	0.69	18.69	65.72	14.90	0.494	1.418	11.9
5557	Dapto—Illawarra Smelting Co.'s Land— Third, 2 feet descending	"	0.70	18.40	61.25	19.65	0.892	1.444	11.5
5558	Dapto—Illawarra Smelting Co.'s Land— Fourth, 2 feet descending	"	0.60	18.80	59.35	21.25	0.727	1.470	11.1
5623	Portion 525, parish Kiama, county Camden; first tunnel.	"	4.58	9.86	59.71	26.85	...	...	...
5624	Portion 525, parish Kiama, county Camden; second tunnel.	"	2.92	16.97	56.06	24.05	...	...	...
5625	Jamberoo, Broger's Creek Tunnel. Upper thick seam, lower 4½ feet.	"	0.90	23.65	53.65	21.80	...	...	...
5626	Jamberoo, Broger's Creek Tunnel. Upper thick seam, upper 2 ft. 9 in.	"	0.80	17.05	38.85	43.30	...	...	...
5744	Albion Park, Tongarra, Brownlea's Tunnel. Lower half of seam.	"	0.85	20.85	59.10	19.20	0.563	1.422	11.6
5755	Albion Park, Tongarra, Brownlea's Tunnel. Upper half of seam.	"	0.90	23.50	60.50	15.10	0.659	1.398	11.7
321	Head of Clyde River	Boghead mineral.	0.50	44.25	13.55	41.70	...	...	...
372	Capertee	"	0.37	55.83	14.15	29.65	...	...	...
764	"	"	0.56	60.09	20.51	18.84	0.61	1.207	...
806	"	"	1.14	61.06	13.27	24.53	0.453	1.234	...
903	Lawson	"	1.35	75.34	11.88	11.43	0.412	1.130	...
949	Katoomba	"	1.60	29.50	14.80	54.00	...	...	...
962	Wulgan River, Benby's Pinch	"	0.27	64.11	9.98	25.64	0.343	1.190	...
1151	Wallerawang	"	0.30	74.21	15.90	9.59	0.790	1.100	...
1531	" 14 miles from	"	0.75	51.26	15.95	32.04	...	...	...
2434	Rylstone	"	0.58	64.39	12.16	22.87	0.540	1.158	...
1751	Argdlen, Murrurundi	"	1.90	63.35	6.45	28.21	0.658	1.245	...
2859	Wolgan Valley	"	0.88	59.01	13.18	26.93	...	...	...
2879	Katoomba	"	0.95	35.25	10.80	53.00	...	...	...
3880	Bundanoon	"	1.15	47.70	21.55	29.60	...	...	...
4484	Rylstone	"	0.51	66.23	8.21	25.05	0.768	1.173	...
888	Singleton, near	Lignitic material.	4.45	48.80	21.70	25.05	...	...	...
1998	Nandewar Range	"	4.04	34.55	17.24	44.15	...	...	...
2682	Katoomba, Isolated Mountain	"	6.26	19.12	38.74	35.88	...	...	...
2991	Tamworth	"	1.10	47.82	26.02	25.06	...	...	...

Water from Jenolan Caves.

1841.			1842.		
Total solid matter (dried at 220° F.)	13.160 grains per gallon, (0.1880 grs. per 1,000 parts)	10.640 grains per gallon, (0.1520 grs. per 1,000 parts).			
Free ammonia	0.0186 grs. per 1,000,000 parts	Nil.			
Albuminoid ammonia	Nil.	0.001 grains per 100,000 parts.			
Solid matter.	Carbonate of lime	9.949 grs. per gal. | 0.1421 grs. per 1,000 parts	8.599 grs. per gal.	0.1228 grs. per 1,000 parts.	
	Carbonate of magnesia	1.165 do do | 0.0166 do do	0.572 do do	0.0081 do do	
	Carbonate of strontia	traces.	traces.	traces.	
	Sodium chloride	0.405 grs. per gal. | 0.0057 grs. per 1,000 parts	0.659 grs. per gal.	0.0094 grs. per 1,000 parts.	
	Silica	1.092 do do | 0.0156 do do	0.420 do do	0.0060 do do	
	Nitrates, sulphates, &c.	0.549 do do | 0.0078 do do	0.390 do do	0.0056 do do	
Total	13.160	0.1878	10.640	0.1519	

A water from Eulonga Run (3012), in the Hay district, proved to be strongly saline, and quite unfit for use. It had the following composition:—

Total solid matter (dried at 220° F.)	979.104 grains per gallon (13.987 grains per 1,000 parts).
Chlorine in combination	560.700 do do (8.010 do do do).
Sulphuric acid in combination	81.755 do do (1.168 do do do).

The solid matter consists mainly of soda and magnesia, with lesser amounts of potash and lime combined with chlorine and sulphuric and carbonic acids. A small amount of silica, alumina, and oxide of iron are also present.

95—A light coloured shale from the Orange District, which it was proposed to use in the manufacture of cement:—

Moisture at 100° C.	0.50
Combined water	3.34
Silica (SiO ₂)	68.79
Alumina (Al ₂ O ₃)	17.31
Ferric Oxide (Fe ₂ O ₃)	4.77
Lime (CaO)	absent.
Magnesia (MgO)	1.18
Potash (K ₂ O)	4.26
Soda (Na ₂ O)	absent.
Sulphuric anhydride	0.11
Phosphoric anhydride	minute trace.
Organic matter	trace.
	<hr/>
	100.26

7—Siliceous nodule, found half-a-mile from Puddledock, county Sandon:—

Moisture and combined water	9.90
Silica	84.82
Ferric oxide and alumina	4.40
Lime .....	.84
Magnesia .....	.54
	<hr/>
	100.50

468—Ferruginous calcite, somewhat resembling ankerite in appearance, from Onkey Creek, between Bingara and Warialda:—

Carbonate of lime	71.69
Carbonate of magnesia	1.32
Carbonate of strontia	strong trace.
Carbonate of manganese	1.12
Carbonate of iron	9.83
Alumina	3.30
Gangue	12.66
	<hr/>
	99.92

1065—Felsite, from a rich shoot in Faulkner's Mine, Pambula:—

Moisture and combined water	1.80
Silica (SiO ₂)	83.18
Alumina (Al ₂ O ₃)	6.77
Iron di-sulphide (FeS ₂)	5.70
Lime (CaO)	absent.
Magnesia (MgO)	0.26
Potash (K ₂ O)	1.86
Soda (Na ₂ O)	absent.
	<hr/>
	99.57

Gold, 7 oz.; silver, nearly 2 oz. to the ton.

9501—A compact, translucent, pearl-grey mineral from Adjinbilly, near Gundagai. This mineral occurs in large masses, and closely resembles a massive form of Grossularite (lime-alumina garnet).

Moisture at 100° C.	0.10
Combined water (H ₂ O)	5.22
Silica (SiO ₂)	32.75
Alumina (Al ₂ O ₃)	22.40
Ferric oxide (Fe ₂ O ₃)	0.85
Manganose oxide (MnO)	absent.
Lime (CaO)	38.25
Magnesia (MgO)	0.90
Potash and Soda (K ₂ O, Na ₂ O)	traces.
Phosphoric anhydride (P ₂ O ₅)	traces.
Specific Gravity 3.315	
	<hr/>
	100.47

Sir, Geological Branch, Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 16 January, 1897.

I have the honor to submit the following Progress Report on the Caves for the year 1896:—

The following improvements have been authorised:—

Opening up of the new cave, Jenolan.

Building of a caretaker's cottage at Bungonia.

Preparation of a Bathing-place at the Thermal Spring, Yarrangobilly Caves.

Erection of ironwork to protect "The Altar" at the Wellington Caves.

Sundry improvements at the Wombeyan and Abercrombie Caves of a minor character.

Sketches of the surface features and improvements at the various caves are in course of preparation with a view to publication.

Jenolan Caves.

A road through the Grand Arch has been completed. The road improvements include a handsome stone bridge over the creek. Visitors are now able to drive right up to the Caves House.

In order to provide for the better accommodation of visitors, men are now employed excavating for the foundations of a new Caves House, for which designs have been prepared by the Government Architect.

The

The electric lighting of the Lucas and Imperial Caves has been improved under the able supervision of Mr. Fitzmaurice, of the Electric Telegraph Department.

Mr. Jeremiah Wilson was temporarily appointed as Explorer at the Jenolan Caves on the 1st August, 1896.

Number of visitors to the Abererombie Caves during the year 1896.....	962
" " " Bendithern Caves " " 	54
" " " Bungonia Caves " " 	313
" " " Jenolan Caves " " 	1,816
" " " Wellington Caves " " 	1,548
" " " Wombeyan Caves " " 	330
" " " Yarrangobilly Caves " " 	616
Total	5,569

Some of these caves take more than one day to examine. If the above return were calculated on the basis of separate visits, the total would be very much larger; for instance, 841 visits were made to the Jenolan Caves during the month of December.

Magnesium ribbon issued to caretakers, 630 oz., cost.....	£	s.	d.
" amount collected for use of	118	2	6
	209	1	2

I have, &c.,

The Government Geologist.

O. TRICKETT.

Report on the Wombeyan Caves, by T. W. E. David, Geological Surveyor.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 22 June, 1885.

THE Wombeyan Caves are situated in the parishes of Bouverie and Guineacor, county Westmoreland, 5 miles east of the water-parting of the Cordillera, and about 33 miles, in a direct line north north-east from Goulburn, on the Wombeyan and Mare's Forest Creeks, tributaries of the Wollondilly River. The caves may be reached by two routes, either from Goulburn, on the south south-west, or from Mittagong, on the east south-east. The former route is the one generally preferred by tourists. A coach drive of 30 miles along a good road brings the tourist to the town of Taralga. From Taralga there are three ways to the caves, two being buggy roads, and the third a bridle-path.

The best buggy road is that which passes through Richlands, making the distance from Taralga to the caves 19 miles. The second buggy road, which is rough and hilly, must shorten the distance by about 4 miles, while the bridle-path reduces it to about 12 miles.

The Wombeyan Caves were inspected by the late Mr. Lamont H. G. Young, F.G.S., in 1879; and I have little to add to the report then furnished by him to the Department, beyond a brief description of some parts of the caves, which he was unable to explore owing to their being flooded with water, or the discovery of which has been subsequent to the time of his visit.

At a distance of about 8 miles west of the caves the two buggy tracks converge on the summit of the Main Coast Range, at an elevation of about 3,200 feet above sea-level.

From this point the track descends easterly, passing over a coarse, much water-worn pebble gravel more than 20 feet thick in places. I am informed that colours of gold can be got all through this gravel, which has been derived chiefly from the waste of an adjoining bed of coarse pebble conglomerate, of paleozoic age. At a distance of about 2 miles from the caves, the track reaches the top of the steep hill called the "Queen's Gap." This was formerly the nearest point to which visitors could drive, the remainder of the distance to the caves having to be performed on foot or horseback. At the time of my visit, however, a buggy road had just been finished by the Government down this hill, which enables tourists to drive to within half a mile of the caves. In places, where the road has been terraced out of the rock, a rather rare variety of syenite granite may be observed, of a pink colour mottled with green. This stone, which is fairly durable, might be used for ornamental purposes; but it would be difficult to obtain large blocks free from cracks.

A sharp turn in the road brings into view a deep, rocky gorge on the left opening into a wide undulating valley, the low hills covered with red soil, and rich grass marking the commencement of the limestone country.

At the point where the syenitic granite and limestone join, the latter has been altered into a coarsely crystalline white marble. This formation continues, with the exception of a small intrusive patch of syenitic granite, to within one quarter of a mile of the Basin Cave. The entrance to this cave is situated on a steep slope above the bed of the Mare's Forest Creek. It is about 6 feet high by 12 feet wide; the cave slopes steeply downwards for about 20 feet into a chamber about 20 feet high, from the roof of which hang long ropy stalactites, nearly touching slender pillars of dripstone, rising to meet them from the floor. A second descent leads on to a small cupola in the marble, the roof ornamented as before by clusters of stalactites, and the floor with small rounded bosses of stalagmite. A further descent, past a mass of pendent calcite resembling a frozen waterfall, brings the visitor into a large chamber, the floor of which is traversed by ridges of stalagmite about 6 inches in height, ranged in wavy lines, like crumpled ribbons. From the remarkable evenness of their surfaces it is evident that they have once formed the margins of tiny ponds, now dry. Here the cave bifurcates. Following the left branch through a fissure 4 feet wide for about 40 yards, the visitor, after a slight ascent, enters a dome-shaped chamber about 40 feet wide, and as many high.

Following a gallery in the rock for about 100 yards past a stalactite known as the "Kangaroo's Tail," one of the most interesting objects in the caves is reached.

This is a large pocket of stalagmite, which has grown by chemical action on the steeply sloping side of the passage, so as to form a perfectly water-tight tank, 5 feet deep by 3½ feet square. The wall of stalagmite, which constitutes three sides of this tank, is firmly cemented to the rock, has a perfectly level rim, and varies in thickness from a thin crust one ¼-inch in diameter at the rim to a strong wall of 6 inches or more through, at its base. Passing on, and still ascending, the principal feature of the cave comes into view, a staircase, in which the place of steps is taken by a number of stalagmitic pockets, similar to the one just described, moulded out of the sloping rock. These vary in size from the smallest, about the size of a watch-pocket, to the largest, measuring 10 feet long by 4 feet wide, and 5 feet deep. Climbing to the top of the "Basins," a second small series of stalagmite tanks is seen, plastered against the rock like swallows' nests. The height at which the water last stood in these cisterns is marked by a sparkling white film of calcite, studded with small tufts and rosettes of crystals of the same mineral. The

The origin of the "Basins" was probably the following:—The sloping rock on which they stand once formed the bed of an underground stream, which had dissolved and worn a passage for itself through the marble, and descended at this point through a series of small cascades into its channel below. At the bottom of each cascade a small basin would be scooped out, by the mechanical action of the falling water, and a ridge of stalagmite would form at the outer rim, where the water being shallow and exposed to air currents, would be most ready to part with its lime. These ridges, once formed, would grow faster at their summits than at their sides, because the rim, over which the water trickled, would still be the point of greatest evaporation, and consequently of greatest precipitation of stalagmite; and in this way they would be gradually built up into the delicate walls now constituting the "Basins."

Returning from the "Basins" to the chamber with the wavy ridges crossing its floor, where the cave was described as bifurcating, the visitor on taking the right hand branch finds it leads into the "Ball-room," a large vaulted hollow in the rock with a tolerably even floor.

From the "Ball-room" a narrow gallery leads to the "Bullock's Caul," a small chamber about 12 ft. x 10 ft. x 10 ft., containing a variety of beautiful snow-white stalactites of every shape and size, from the straw-like shaft to the broad thin transparent curtain. There is a freshness and lustre about these stalactites which is rather wanting in other parts of the cave.

Leaving the new cave the tourist is conducted, by a somewhat rough track over the limestone hills, to the old cave, one half mile distant. A short distance above the entrance to this cave, the Wombeyan Creek opens into a small, well grassed alluvial flat. Just below this the valley is hemmed in by steep limestone walls, and ends abruptly at the mouth of the old cave. The entrance to this cave is through a wide tunnel in the hill communicating with a large "pot-hole" at its further end. The whole has the appearance of a massive marble arch spanning the creek, sloping with the hill slope from left to right, and supported by a strong pillar towards its lower end.

Its measurements are about 90 yards long by 40 yards wide, and the roof in places must be from 50 to 60 feet high.

The floor is strewn with large masses of marble, which had evidently fallen from the roof, and is covered in places with pebbles of metamorphic and igneous rocks, and fantastic pedestals of dripstone.

The best view of this part of the cave is to be obtained by ascending by means of a ladder, placed against the right side of the cavern, to a rocky platform about 25 feet above the floor.

The sunlight streaming through the arches brings out fine contrasts of colour, from the pale pink and white of the recesses of the roof, to the dark green and brown of the dripstone on the floor. Close to the edge of this platform stands a white canopy of stalagmite supported on dripstone pillars; and a little further back in a small branch cave on the same level, some curiously curved stalactites may be studied. Some groups show evident traces of having been naturally broken and re-cemented while still hanging to the roof, for the older stalactites are not parallel with the newer, and the course of the crack where the original break occurred can be plainly traced.

Descending the ladder to the floor of the main cave, a dark chasm is seen extending to the right, forming one of the underground courses of the creek. In winter time, when the creek is running strongly, entrance by this passage is impracticable, owing to the depth of the water. At the time of my visit, however, the creek was dry; and the only water in this subterranean channel was to be found lying in nearly circular basins hollowed by the creek out of the white marble.

This marble channel appeared to me to be one of the finest sights in the caves, with the clear water lying in the smooth white rock basins at one's feet, and the high terraced walls above winding in exquisite curves.

Near the lower end of this channel the tourist has to cross some water-holes on saplings laid across them.

In accordance with the recommendations made in Mr. Young's report, the lowest of these water-holes, which used to bar further progress, has now been drained sufficiently to allow visitors to pass by without getting wet.

The marble channel opens at its lower end into a large vaulted chamber, in which, as the guide informed me, the water stands 10 feet deep in flood time. The outlet for this water is through a tunnel about 80 yards long, from 5 to 10 feet wide, and 30 to 40 feet high at the far end of this chamber. The water is carried out by this means, at the side of the hill, into the head of a rocky gully. Excepting in flood time this part of the cave is practically dry, and the waters of Cave Creek find their way into the Wombeyan Creek, as the guide told me, by a deeper underground channel, commencing in the floor of the main cave, and having its point of discharge in the banks of the Wombeyan Creek, half a mile distant, just below the Basin Cave.

Returning from the outlet up the channel, and climbing a ladder, a second series of galleries and chambers is disclosed leading to the "Sounding-board." This is a fine transparent curtain stalactite, 9 feet long, 1 foot wide, and one-sixth of an inch thick, the top and one of the sides being attached firmly to the rock. The free side is deeply notched, and the whole fabric, where it hangs vertically, is barred with horizontal lines, resembling the woof of a coarsely woven material; but where it overhangs the lines have a downward curve. When tapped, it gives out musical notes. Some very beautiful stalactites are to be seen in an adjoining passage, and also some pretty little pedestals of dripstone, like branching coral 2 or 3 inches high, standing in shallow basins. Judging from their rough, spongy appearance, they have been formed, I think, partly in water. A detailed description of all the complicated ramifications of the Old Cave would be too tedious; the exploration of them alone occupying more than a whole day.

Two groups of stalactites, however, deserve special notice—the "Organ" and the "Trophy." The "Organ" is a huge compound stalactite which has become united with the dripstone on a ledge overlooking a large vaulted chamber. The column measures 10 feet by 5 feet, and is from 15 to 20 feet high. Fringes of stalactites encircle it at a short distance above the ledge, their points not quite reaching the floor. When struck, these ring like a chime of hand-bells.

There are many other musical stalactites in these caves, some so delicately hung that they were set ringing by the bats flying against them.

The "Trophy" was characterised by Mr. Young as "a group of the largest stalactites he had ever seen," and may be described as a beautiful cluster of ropy and curtain stalactites, about 15 feet high.

On the whole, there is far more to be seen at the Old Cave than at the new.

Mr.

Mr. Young mentions in his report that "the formations in these caves are as a rule of a snowy whiteness, and generally opaque, as compared with those of the Fish River Caves." I noticed that, as Mr. Young remarked, many parts of the caves, while preserving their beauties of shape, have lost much of their freshness through exposure to the atmosphere.

From their shapes and positions it is evident that these caves, like nearly all similar hollows in limestone rocks, are deserted subterranean watercourses. The chain of evidence connecting the past with the present is in this case perfect. In the present underground channel of the Cave Creek a water cave with all its elaborate system of passages and chambers is no doubt now being excavated. The old marble channel, which acts as a bywash for the flood-waters of the creek, is just the link that was needed to connect the old with the new; and standing here, the observer is led on by insensible gradations to speculate with tolerable certainty as to the origin of the flats and stories of passages and chambers, now high and dry, at various levels above the present creek. There can be little doubt that they are what might be termed fossil underground channels, just as many of our deep leads are fossil river beds.

Of all minerals forming large rock masses in the earth's crust, limestone, next to gypsum and rocksalt, is most soluble in the ordinary water which drains from a land surface. Rain-water, charged with carbonic acid absorbed from the atmosphere, as it passes over limestone beds dissolves for itself underground passages, chiefly along lines of natural joints in the rock. As these become widened the creek abandons its subaerial bed for one of the largest of these fissures; and the erosion of its underground channel is now assisted by the mechanical action of pebbles and sand swept down by the increased current.

In the course of ages, as the general deepening of the valley proceeds below the lower outlet of the underground stream, so the latter is constantly deepening its channel to adapt itself to the increased fall, leaving its old bed high and dry to form caves.

Such caves have from prehistoric, and probably early geological, time been used as sheltering places and habitations by various animals.

Hitherto few fossil bones have been discovered in these Wombeyan Caves, so there is little clue as to their age, excepting that to be obtained by a comparison of the level of the highest suite of passages and chambers with that of the general line of drainage of the present valley. If the thickness and height of some of the masses of dripstone are to be taken as a test of age, the commencement of the excavation of these caves must date far back into the past.

At the celebrated Ingleborough Cave in Yorkshire, England, careful measurements of a boss of stalagmite, called the "Jockey Cap," show that it is increasing at the rate of about 1 foot in forty years; and this amount of growth is exceptionally rapid. From this may be inferred the great age of such ponderous masses of dripstone as the "Organ" and the "Trophy."

The belt of limestone in which the caves occur is estimated by Mr. Young to be $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long by 1 mile wide. The rock is composed of a coarsely crystalline white marble veined with yellow. The coarsely crystalline varieties are less suitable for lime-burning or building purposes than the more compact. Almost every kind, however, from the coarsely crystalline white marble to the blue limestone, can, I am informed, be obtained in the district. Mr. Young noticed fossils in one place only, namely, just below the New Cave. These fossils show that the limestone bed is an old coral reef of palæozoic age. Buried beneath massive accumulations of clay, sand, and quartz pebble conglomerates, and subjected for vast periods of time to intense heat and pressure, nearly all traces of the original organic structure of the corals and shells have been obliterated, and the old atoll has been converted into a bed of more or less crystalline limestone. The whole of these sedimentary strata with the underlying limestone bed have subsequently been slowly raised above the sea-level by those oscillations of the earth's crust which, as geology shows, have prevailed throughout all the past of which we have any record, and are even now in progress. Exposed to the denuding influences of air and water, the overlying rocks have been worn down until at last, at a point far inland, the fossil coral reef, now changed into limestone, is again laid bare.

Then commences the process of cave-making already described. The lime dissolved out by the acidulated water in the course of the formation of caves is partly deposited in the beautiful and fantastic forms of stalactites and dripstones, but chiefly carried away in solution down the Wombeyan Creek, into the Wollondilly River, on to the Nepean and Hawkesbury, and so out to sea at Broken Bay. Arrived in the waters of the Pacific, it is partly absorbed by fish, crustacea, shell-fish, and tiny organisms on our own coasts and partly carried southwards by the east Australian current, and later northwards into waters warm enough to support the life of the coral polyp, as at Lord Howe Island. Here it is taken up by the polyp and converted into beautiful coralline structures. Thus history repeats itself, and the coral polyps of to-day construct their stony skeletons out of the material which formed the bones of their Silurian ancestors.

The Wombeyan Caves are, therefore, interesting in many ways, as much from a scientific point of view as from the natural beauty of their scenery.

I have, &c.,

T. W. E. DAVID.

Sir,

Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 2 March, 1896.

I have the honor to report that, during my recent visit to the Wombeyan Caves, in connection with improvement works, I inspected a new discovery made by the keeper, Mr. M. Chalker. The cave, which is comparatively small, but very interesting, is situated about 1 mile south of the Accommodation House, on the right bank of Marc's Forest or Wombeyan Creek, 20 chains north-west of the Basin Cave, and about 40 chains west of the Fig-tree Cave.

The entrance, which is triangular in shape, being 7 feet wide at the base and 5 feet high, is about 100 feet above the level of the creek, on the face of hill topped with a rugged limestone bluff. After traversing a narrow sloping passage a distance of 30 feet, a conical-shaped chamber, about 30 feet wide by 25 feet high, is entered. The walls are bare of calcareous depositions, and the floor is strewn with large boulders. On the left-hand side of this chamber is another passage or outlet, leading to the surface, about 5 feet wide, the downward winding course of which is followed about 50 feet. Groups of pure white stalactites and columns of various sizes are met with at intervals, and the walls for the most part have a thick stalagmitic coating, which in places projects and assumes irregular buttress-like forms. On emerging from the passage into daylight one finds himself on a flat ledge of rock or natural balcony—a space scooped out of the southern face of the precipitous limestone—overlooking and about 40 feet directly above the
bed

bed of the creek. Immediately to the right of this, and separated by a massive column, which apparently supports the overhanging roof, is an immense cavity running at least 50 feet back into the limestone face, and down to the level of the creek, the waters of which, flowing in, form a small subterranean branch channel.

The walls of this opening or archway are richly ornamented with a dripstone coating of various colours and shades, some protruding portions of which, of a yellowish-green tint and foliage-like in appearance, bear a striking resemblance to "The Willows" in the Nettle Cave at Jenolan.

Doubtless, when it is found convenient to further explore this cavity, other passages will be met with which may probably lead to larger chambers in the heart of the limestone.

Although an inspection of this cave alone might not warrant a special journey from the Accommodation House, yet visitors to the Basin Cave in its immediate vicinity would be well repaid for the little extra trouble entailed in traversing its rather intricate passages to gain the ledge of rock referred to, overlooking the creek and archway, which also commands a good view of extensive picturesque scenery beyond.

Owing to the arch-like shape of the two cavities on the southern face of the limestone, it was suggested that the cave be named "The Arches."

I have, &c.,

W. S. LEIGH,

Superintendent of Caves.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Geological Branch, 20 July, 1896.

I have the honor to report, as requested, on the new caves discovered by Mr. R. J. Wilson, near Stuart Town. The caves are situated on portion 93 of 40 acres, parish of Cooper, county of Wellington, the property now being in the possession of Mr. M. Brady, and occur in an outcrop of limestone about 2 miles square in extent, one of a series in a belt running between Molong and Wellington, about 6 miles distant by road from Stuart Town. The limestone is of the same nature as the Wellington but not so flat, more bluffs and peaks being noticeable, which has a more promising aspect as regards the discovery of good caves.

Access to the main cave is effected through a vertical fissure about 5 feet long by 18 inches wide, the floor of the cave being reached after a descent of 15 feet. This cavity is about 40 feet square, the floor being strewn with large boulders and detached stalactites. Very pretty drapery-like stalactic formations are met with at intervals on the walls, under which the floor has a fine crystallised coating. Descending circuitously to the left from the main chamber, one or two small grottoes, profusely decorated with miniature stalactites and coral-like growths are passed through. About 40 feet below the surface it is found necessary to crawl through a very small opening, when a lofty but narrow fissure is entered. The floor of this cavity, which is known as the Bone Cave, is coated with a muddy composition and bears evidence of being frequently under water. Branching from this cavity is another fissure in the limestone averaging 3 feet wide, filled with a reddish clay, which is literally packed with the fossilised bones of both herbivorous and carnivorous marsupials, specimens of which have been submitted for examination. The cave has not been made accessible beyond this point, but other cavities have been noticed and will probably soon be entered as Mr. Brady has two men engaged in opening up same.

Both from a spectacular and scientific point of view I consider the caves quite equal to those at Wellington; but to make them easy of access to the public it will be necessary to expend, say, about £50 in improvement works.

I have, &c.,

W. S. LEIGH.

The Government Geologist.

Annual Report of the Assistant Palæontologist and Librarian for the Year 1896.

Sir, Geological Survey Branch, Department of Mines and Agriculture, 6 January, 1897.

I have the honor to submit to you the following summary of the Palæontological work and work connected with the Library performed by myself during the past year:—

Records and Memoirs.—Volume V, Part 1, of the *Records* has been published and distributed, and Part 2 will shortly be issued. No *Memoirs* have been published during the year.

Miscellaneous Determinations.—These determinations have been made principally for members of the staff. The more important are:—

1. Carboniferous Fossils from near "The Fort," County Courallic, collected by yourself, including *Zaphrentis*; *Spirifera*; *Orthis australis*, M'Coy; *Orthocheles crenistria*, Phill; *Enomphalus*; *Pleurotomaria*.
2. Siluro-Devonian Fossils from the Wellington Caves, collected by the Keeper, Mr. T. Sibbald:—*Stromatoporoidea*; *Favosites*; *Dania*, *Heliolites*; *Halysites catenularius*, Linn.; *Tryplasma wellingtonensis*, Eth. fil.; *Syringopora*; portion of the calyx of a crinoid; Trilobite (indeterminable); *Spirifera*; *Spirifera cf. sulcata*, Hisinger; *Cyrtina*; *Rhynchonella*; *Chonetes*; *Leptæna rhomboidalis*, Wilckens; *Atrypa reticularis*, Linn.; *Orthis cf. turgida*, M'Coy; *Hyolithes*; *Murchisonia*, two species; *Orthoceras*.
3. Carboniferous Fossils from the Rawden Vale, County of Northumberland, collected by Mr. Forester Rudder, comprising:—*Spirifera convoluta*, Phillips; *Productus cf. hemisphaericus*, Spy.; *Reticularia lineata*, Martin; *Orthis australis*, M'Coy; *Rhipidomella*; *Athyris*; *Chonetes*; *Fenestella*; *Platyceras* (?); *Aviculopecten*, two species; *Sanguinolites*.
4. Carboniferous and Lower Mesozoic Fossils collected by Mr. Geological Surveyor Carne, from the Port Macquarie District.—*See antea*, pp. 103—104.
5. Upper Silurian Corals, from Yass, presented by J. K. Hume, Esq., and interesting as showing the large size attained by *Cyathophyllum Mitchellii*, Eth. fil., and *Photidophyllum Lonsdalei*, Eth. fil.

6. A collection of Lower Silurian, Permo-Carboniferous, and Mesozoic Fossils from Tasmania, presented by Mr. Montgomery, M.A., late Government Geologist:—(a) Lower Silurian, from the Tasmania Mine, Beaconsfield—*Orthis*, sp. This is a small costate form of the type of *Orthis testudinaria*, Dalman, which is especially characteristic of the Llandeilo of Europe and the Hudson and Trenton Groups of North America. The structure is very poorly preserved, but this form appears to fall into Hall and Clarke's sub-genus *Dalmanella*, which, though it extends into the Upper Silurian, is more characteristic of the Lower. Worm-burrows, indeterminate. (b) Permo-Carboniferous:—Tasmanite Shale from near Latrobe. From Henty River—*Glossopteris ampla*, Dana; *Glossopteris browniana*, Brong. From Middle Arm Creek, Beaconsfield—*Stenopora ovata*, Lonsdale; *Stenopora tasmaniensis*, Lonsdale; *Protoretepora* (2 species); *Spirifera Strzeleckii*, De Koninck; *Martiniopsis subradiata*, G. Sby; *Aviculopecten*. From north face of Western Tiers, near Westbury—*Stenopora tasmaniensis*, Lonsdale; *Strophalosia*; *Martiniopsis subradiata*, G. Sby.; *Spirifera*, *Platyschisma oculum*, J. de C. Sby.; *Aviculopecten* (? *limiformis*, Morris). From North Cliff, Maria Island—*Stenopora ovata*, Lonsdale; *Strophalosia Clarkei*, Eth. fil.; *Spirifera tasmaniensis*, Morris; *Productus*. (c) Lower Mesozoic, from Mount Nicholas Coal-mine—*Alethopterus australis*, Morris; *Alethopterus serratifolia*, Johnston; *Zugophyllites elongatus*, Morris; *Baiera*, sp. (This form is abundant; I do not think that this is the form referred to by Feistmantel (*Uhlenosne Utvary v Tasmani*, t. 10, ff. 4 and 5) to *Trichopitys Johnstoni*, Feistmantel, and considered by him as synonymous with *B. tenuifolia*, Johnston); *Sagenopteris tasmanica*, Feistmantel; *Sagenopteris* sp.: a large form, different to *S. rhoifolia*, Presl.
7. Silurian Fossils from Stuart Town. In July, 1896, it was reported to the Department that limestone caves had been discovered at Stuart Town, on Portion 93, Parish of Cooper, County of Wellington. While on a visit of inspection, Mr. W. S. Leigh collected bones of *Thylacinus spelaeus*, Owen, *Dasyurus*, and *Macropus* and specimens of *Favosites gothlandica*, Lam., and *Dania*. Shortly after Mr. C. Cullen, Collector to the Survey, got together a larger number of forms from the limestone beds, among which are some interesting forms. The general facies of the collection points to the limestone being of Upper Silurian age, it includes *Favosites gothlandica*, Lam; *Favosites*, 2 species indet; *Tryplasma*—this is a more elongate form than *Tr. wellingtonensis*, Eth. fil. of the Wellington Caves limestone; *Pachypora*, a species similar to an undescribed form occurring commonly at Tarago; *Tryplasma Lonsdalei*, Eth. fil., a form very common in the Yass District, but this is the first specimen we have had from the Western District. *Amplexus*, *Heliolites*, *Cyathophyllum*, a new species of an astriform *Cyathophyllum* after the style of *Mitchelli*, Eth. fil. of the Yass and Murrumbidgee limestone, but differing from it in the much greater size of the corallities and the relative proportions of the tabulate area. *Cyathophyllum*, a large simple form with a strongly marked tabulate area. *Orthoceras*, two species, one of which is similar to an undescribed form very common in the Murrumbidgee limestones. *Cyrtoceras*, *Murchisonia*, *Strophomena*, *Spirifera multiplicatus*, De Koninck.
8. From the Woolahra Bore—*Teniopteris Daintreei*, M'Coy and a conifer.
9. From Waratta Bore, at a depth of 1,050 feet, a young specimen of *Pseudovicula* of Lower Cretaceous age.
10. Some indistinct fossils of Upper Silurian age, collected by Mr. J. B. Jaquet, at Wattle Flat, consisting of *Spirifera*, *Rhynchonella*, *Heliolites*, and crinoid stems.
11. Fossils from the Wellington Caves, limestone collected by Mr. W. S. Leigh:—Stromatoporoid, *Heliolites cf. porosa*, Goldfuss, *Favosites*, *Orthis*, *Rhynchonella*, *Atrypa reticularis*, *Cyrtia* (?), *Loxonema*, *Worthenia*, *Cyclonema*, *Macrochilina* (?), *Bellerophon*, *Orthoceras*.
12. A small collection of Permo-Carboniferous fossils from Gerringong, collected by Mr. J. E. Dobson, were named for him. It comprised *Stenopora crinita*, Lonsdale; *Stenopora tasmaniensis*, Lonsdale; *Fenestella*; *Protoretepora*; *Martiniopsis subradiata*, G. Sby.; *Spirifera Strzeleckii*, De Koninck; *Spirifera 12 costata*, M'Coy; *Dielasma hastata*, and vars; *Nuculana*; *Astartila polita*, Dana; small *Pachydomus*; *Pleurophorus*; *Aviculopecten*; *Ptycomphulina morrisiana*, M'Coy.
13. From the Genoa River, Parishes of Genoa and Nangatta, County of Auckland, Mr. J. E. Carne, collected plant remains comprising a *Pecopterid* fern and a *Sphenopteris* of Devonian age. These will be described in detail shortly.
14. From parish of Lawson, county of Wellesley, Mr. J. E. Carne has collected undoubted Lower Silurian graptolites. They occur in a black slate, and are mostly preserved as shiny films. The following forms are represented:—*Didymograptus (Cladograptus) furcatus*, Hall; *Dicranograptus cf. ramosus*, Hall, sp.; *Didymograptus*; *Diplograptus, cf. mucronatus*, Hall; *Diplograptus*, sp.; *Phyllograptus*; *Didymograptus extensus*, Hall.
15. Several small collections were named for the Curator of the Technological Museum.

Collections.—Small collections of fossils were prepared for the following:—The King's School, Parramatta; St. Stanislaus' College, Bathurst; Mr. Benjamin Dunstan; the Minister for Mines and Agriculture; Rev. D. M'Lennan, Berry.

Collector.—Mr. C. Cullen made collections of Permo-Carboniferous fossils from the Macleay River and Gerringong, and brought together a large series of Upper Silurian forms containing many new forms from various localities in the Yass and Murrumbidgee Districts.

Museum.—The cases at the disposal of the fossil collection are now all filled, and it has been found necessary to still keep stored a large proportion of the Post-Tertiary bones, and impossible to display any of the fossils from the Marine Tertiaries of Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand, of which we have a fairly large series. During the year the Department has received from Mr. C. Holeroff, of Dudley, England, a very generous donation of a large series of Upper Silurian fossils from the Dudley district. These fossils are very well preserved, and will prove most valuable for purposes of comparison. A series of Pliocene Invertebrata from Wanganui was also received as an exchange from the Wanganui Museum, N.Z. The Jurassic Fish from the Talbragar River have been returned by Mr. A. Smith Woodward, who described them in a recent memoir of the survey (No. 6). The types and co-types are now on view.

Library.

During the past year 1,446 publications have been registered and placed in the Departmental Library, consisting of societies transactions, reports of state departments, and separate works and pamphlets. This total is made up of 1,207 volumes, parts of volumes, and pamphlets, and that have been presented or sent in exchange for the departmental publications, and 226 that have been purchased.

The Library is now in correspondence with 186 Institutions and State Departments, from which exchanges are regularly received, and there are also numerous personal exchanges.

The principal additions to the Exchange List are:—

Geological Commission, Capetown.
 Academie des Sciences, Cracow.
 Naturwissenschaftlicher Verein, Frankfort-a-Oder.
 Denison University, Granville, Ohio.
 Yorkshire Geological and Polytechnic Society.
 Societ  Imperiale des Naturalistes, Kasan.
 La Plata Museum.
 Society of Natural History, Portland, Maine.
 Societa Geologica Italiana.
 Illinois State Museum and Geological Survey.
 Gross. Badischen geologischen Landesanstalt.
 St. Petersburg—Section geologique, Cabinet du Maison de l'Empereur.

The following publications have been distributed to correspondents:—

- (1.) Records Geological Survey, Vol. V, Part 1.
- (2.) Index to Records, Vol. IV.
- (3.) Annual Report for 1895 to Institutions.
- (4.) Numerous miscellaneous lots.

The Library Catalogue has been kept to date.

I have, &c.,
 W. S. DUN,
 Assistant Palaeontologist and Librarian.

LIST OF Fossils registered (436 Lots) during 1896.

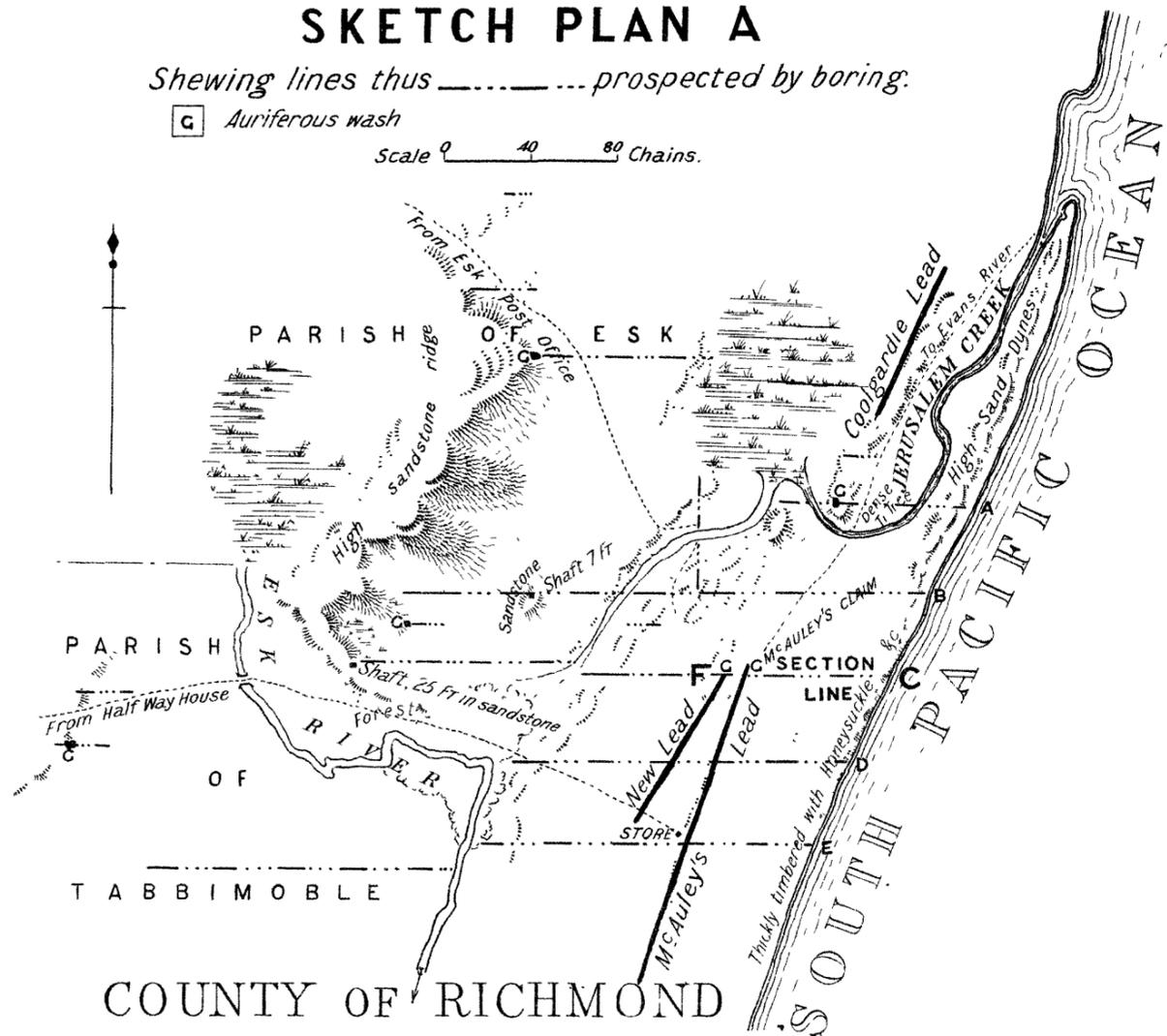
Name.	Locality.	Donor or Collector.
SILURIAN AND SILURO-DEVONIAN.		
Stromatoporoidea and Gasteropoda.....	Gordon River, Tasmania	Hobart Museum.
Large miscellaneous collections	Pl. Taemas, Co. Cowley; Pl. Warroo, Hume, Co. Murray; Pl. Yass, Co. King.	C. Cullen.
Corals	Moor Creek, near Tamworth.....	T. W. E. David.
„	Parish Woolomol, near Tamworth	„
Miscellaneous collection	Dudley, England	C. Holcroft.
„ „	Stuart Town.....	C. Cullen.
<i>Orthis</i> and <i>Annelida</i>	Beaconsfield, Tasmania	A. Montgomery.
CARBONIFEROUS.		
<i>Lezidodendron australe</i> , McCoy	Goonoo Goonoo	D. A. Porter.
PERMO-CARBONIFEROUS.		
Miscellaneous	Blackhead and Gerringong.....	C. Cullen.
<i>Glossopteris</i> and Invertebrata	Mersey River, Tasmania	Hobart Museum.
Permo-Carboniferous Plantæ and Invertebrata...	Tasmania	A. Montgomery.
<i>Productus brachythærus</i>	Macquarie Rivulet, Albion Park	E. F. Pittman.
<i>Glossopteris</i> , &c.	„ „ „	„
<i>Spirifera</i> , <i>Martiniopsis oviformis</i>	Kangaroo Valley	G. M. Scott.
<i>Gangamopteris</i>	Wingen.....	T. W. E. David.
MESOZOIC.		
Plantæ	Mount Nicholas, Tasmania.....	A. Montgomery.
TERTIARY AND POST-TERTIARY.		
<i>Diprotodon australis</i> , Owen.....	Near Forbes	Dr. McDonell.
„ „ „	Cunningham Creek	Technological Museum.
<i>Eucalyptus</i> , sp.	Barraba.....	E. F. Pittman.

SKETCH PLAN A

Shewing lines thus prospected by boring.

G Auriferous wash

Scale 0 40 80 Chains.



SECTION ON LINE C F

SCALES
HORIZONTAL 0 200 400 FEET
VERTICAL 0 20 40 FEET

Indurated black sand.

G Auriferous wash

Prospected from H to F to an average depth of 18 feet by bores, 25 feet apart.

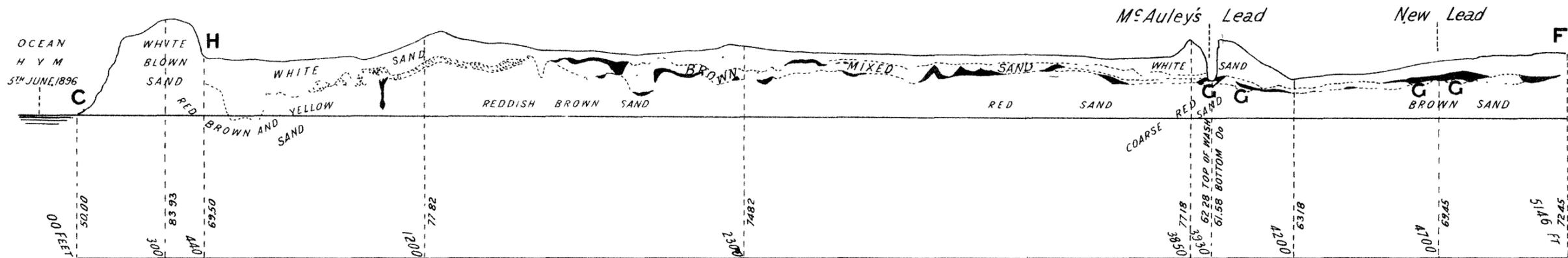
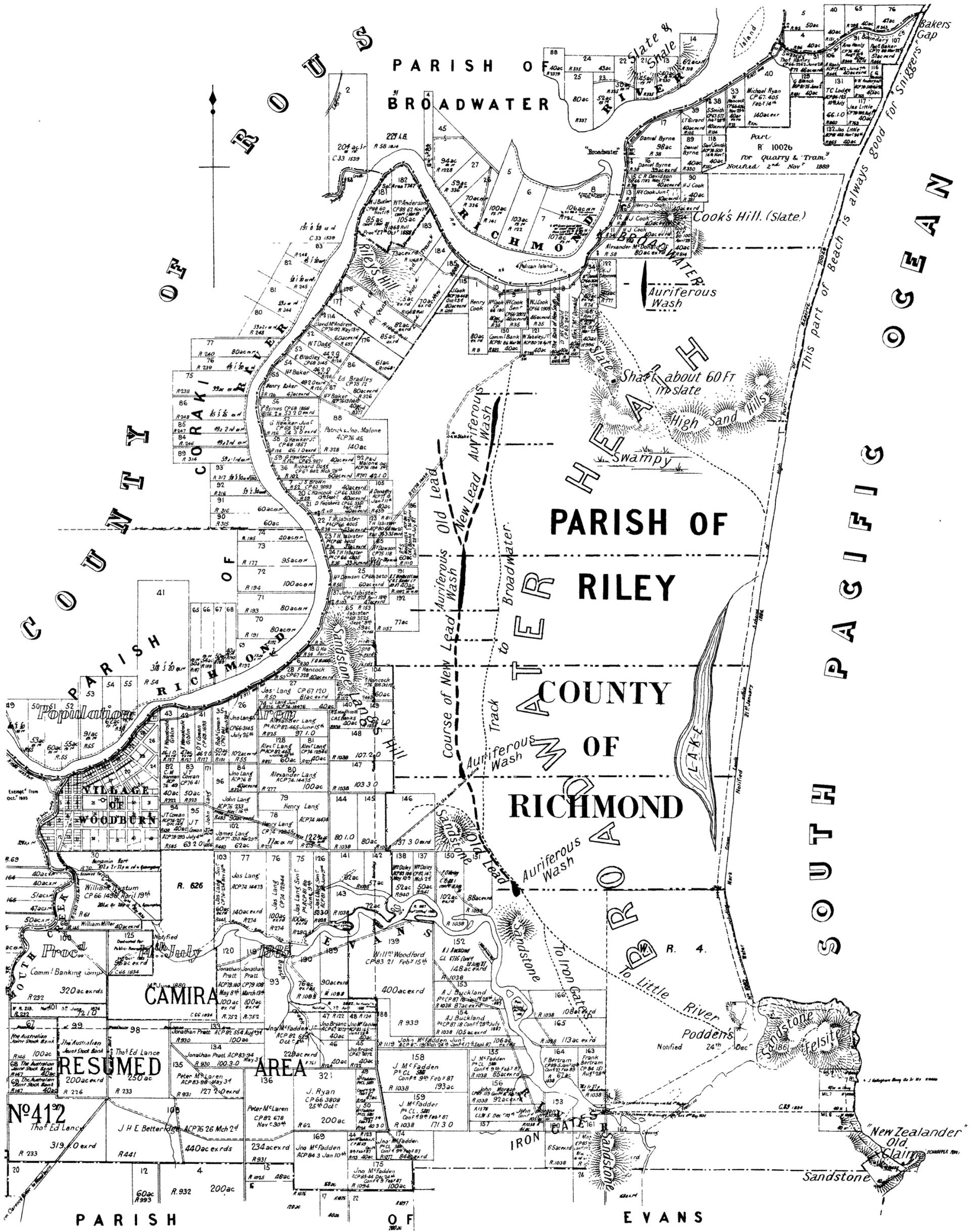
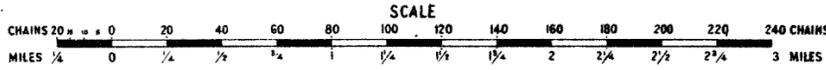


Fig 21

SKETCH PLAN B

Shewing lines thus ----- prospected by boring.

PARISH OF
STH BALLINA



Report by Mr. D. W. Munro on Prospecting Work done on the Northern Beaches.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward herewith rough plan, section, and tracing explanatory of Prospecting work done on Northern beaches to end of 1896.

At McAuley's, between Esk River and Jerusalem Creek, 2,828 bores, with aggregate depth of 45,632 feet, were put down, and on and also towards Evans River, 187 bores of 2,782 feet, making a total in this locality of 3,015 bores, with a total depth of 48,414 feet 4 inches.

The five main lines at McAuley's, as will be seen by Sketch Map A, were carried from the beach due west across the Heath on to the first of the sandstone ridges, forming what is locally known as "the Mainland," being lateral spurs from the watershed between the Clarence and Richmond waters.

The centre line of bores "C" crosses McAuley's Prospecting Claim at about three-quarters of a mile from the beach. Along this line the section was taken for 5,146 feet to base line; and a check line of levels along base line half a mile south to next line D; and thence along that line to high-water mark. This line was practically the same as the one plotted.

These levels prove that the top or upper side of the auriferous wash, in centre of McAuley's Claim, is 12.28 feet above high-water mark.

The bores show the sands much disturbed and jumbled up for the first portion of the line; but the different layers of sand—white, brown, black, and reddish-brown—become more compact and regular as they recede from present coast line towards main land, and the black, indurated sand becomes very hard and gritty.

In many of the bores quantities of gas were met with, and in one place a cobra-eaten log was passed through at 12 feet from the surface. On the western side of McAuley's lead numerous pieces of sharp-edged quartzite were found at various depths, similar to the quartzite found near Byron Bay, and under Lennox Head (40 miles north of McAuley's), the only places I know of in this district where this particular quartzite is found *in situ*.

Below the wash in McAuley's Claim a bore was put down 14 feet to 3 feet below high-water mark. Coarser reddish-brown sand only was met with; and, even if longer tubes had been available, the influx of water at this depth would render sludging useless.

On the new lead found west of McAuley's, and proved to extend for a mile, some claims have been taken up and worked, but, at the time this was struck, many of the men were leaving the field attracted by the accounts from Bucca Creek. But, no doubt, this lead will eventually be worked, as it will at least pay wages, and richer patches may be found as it is opened up.

On Broadwater Heath (*see* sketch map B), 2,644 bores of an aggregate depth of 38,912 feet 6 inches have been sunk. A back lead was worked here formerly, and some rich patches obtained, and is still being worked by a few parties. The auriferous wash here, however, is not found, as at McAuley's, in or below the "black rock," but above it at comparatively shallow depths, and on the western side of the "Terrace." A lead nearly parallel with the inland track across the heath from Broadwater extends for about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles, but is very patchy; still, as the stripping is only from 4 to 13 feet, and portions are very favourably situated for working, I think this place should provide "tucker" for a fair number of men, and no doubt it will be opened out when the cane season is over and regular work becomes scarce. The best portion of this has been marked out with flags. It is probable that another lead may exist to the eastward of this, but all efforts to bottom on the supposed line were futile owing to the great influx of water and quicksand after the heavy rains in the beginning of November.

Immediately behind Broadwater and south-west of Cook's Hill 3 to 5 feet of very good wash was found carrying fair prospects, and extending for (as far as traced) about 500 feet, but stripping would be heavy—13 to 17 feet.

The beach between Broadwater Gap and Baker's Gap has always been a favourite locality with beach-miners for "sniggers," and at the former place gold is stated to be found in small soakage streams running over the "black rock" from under the terraces. This place was well tried, a line of bores being put in on top of the terrace 20 feet deep in places, and also along the beach above high-water mark. At the Broadwater Gap 15 feet was sunk through the indurated sand at a spot where gold was seen trickling over the black rock from under the terrace, and an average of only two colours to the sludger was obtained: the bottom of this bore was 36 feet below the top of the terrace.

The number of bores put down from 4th May to 24th December totals 4,659, of an aggregate depth of 87,326 feet 10 inches.

The men have worked well, and to the great interest they have displayed must in a great measure be attributed the amount of work accomplished.

I have, &c.,

D. W. MUNRO.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF MINING SURVEYOR FOR THE YEAR 1896.

Sir,

I have the honor to hand you the following report on the Mining Survey and Charting Branch for the year 1896.

On the 15th July last I was appointed to the position of Chief Mining Surveyor, in addition to that of Government Geologist previously held by me; I have, therefore, resumed the supervision of the mining survey work after an interval of over five years.

The year just ended has been characterised by greatly increased activity in mining matters, and as a consequence the work of this branch has been about doubled. The number of mining surveys made during the year 1896 was 2,225, and of these 1,313 were dealt with by surveyors who were paid partly by salary and partly by fees, while 912 were made by surveyors who were remunerated by fees alone. During the previous year (1895) the total number of surveys made was 1,163. Until the 20th October last only five salaried mining surveyors were employed, namely, Messrs. R. H. Cambage, J. Thomas, E. Thomas, J. T. Gray, and E. G. Sewell; but it then became apparent that these were not able to deal rapidly enough with the increasing work of the department, and accordingly a sixth surveyor, Mr. A. E. Hall, was appointed temporarily. It is probable that not more than five salaried surveyors will be required permanently, as the rush of work last year was exceptional. On the 31st December only 360 instructions for surveys remained unacted upon, and almost all these related to very recent applications for leases. The 2,225 surveys made during the year comprised 1,445 gold leases on Crown lands, 147 mineral leases, 218 mining tenements, 54 mining permits, and 361 leases on private land. One underground survey was also made with the object of determining to what extent the workings of the Greta Colliery encroached upon adjoining land.

On the 15th July Mr. G. A. McKay (previously of the Lands Department) was appointed to the position of Chief Draftsman. Under his immediate supervision the charting branch is showing excellent results, the record of work for 1896 being a most satisfactory one. The draftsmen have ably seconded Mr. McKay in his efforts to cope with the increased work of the branch, and they have also been aided by the improved methods which he has been able to introduce. There is no doubt whatever that the charting branch is now in a much more efficient state than it has ever been previously, and will, I think, compare favourably with any similar branch in the service. During the year 1896 no less than 2,999 gold and mineral applications of all descriptions were charted and dealt with, as against 1,234 in the previous year, and on the 31st December, 1896, there were only 304 applications undecanted in the branch.

The Chief Draftsman has adopted the heliographic process for making copies of mining plans, and this has resulted in a great saving of time as well as of expense. He is now introducing the same process for the preparation of maps for the information of the mining warden and of the public.

The accompanying report by the Chief Draftsman gives detailed information in regard to the work of the Charting Branch

I have, &c.,

EDWARD F. PITTMAN,
Chief Mining Surveyor.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

ANNUAL RETURN, 1896.

Mining Surveys.

THE number of mining surveys made during the year 1896 was 2,225. Of these 1,313 were made by surveyors on salary and 912 by surveyors remunerated by the fees paid by mining applicants. These numbers represent a very large increase on the returns for 1895, when only 1,163 surveys were made. Five mining surveyors on salary were employed on the work until 20th October, when a sixth surveyor was temporarily appointed to assist in the survey of leases scattered over wide areas of country. At the close of the year only 360 instructions remained to be dealt with, and almost all these related to very recent applications for leases. The 2,225 surveys made comprised 1,445 gold leases, 147 mineral leases, 218 mining tenements, 54 mining permits, and 361 leases on private land. One underground colliery survey was also made to determine the extent of encroachment of coal workings upon land adjoining the Greta Colliery.

Charting.

The total number of gold and mineral lease applications on Crown land dealt with in the Charting Branch during the year was 2,261, against 855 in the previous year; the number of 27th and 28th section applications 257, against 189 dealt with in 1895. In addition to the foregoing, 481 applications for leases on private land and 251 measurements under the Mining Board Regulations were dealt with.

At the close of the year there remained undecanted with 208 gold and mineral lease applications, 39 applications under 27th and 28th sections, and 57 applications for leases under the Mining on Private Lands Act.

Two hundred and sixty-eight applications for authorities under the Mining Act of 1889 were received and dealt with.

Descriptions of 40 reserves under Section 26, and 21 mining divisions, were prepared in the branch, gazetted, and charted.

Forty-eight maps were prepared in connection with alterations in Mining Wardens' districts.

Two thousand nine hundred and nine notations of transactions relating to leases, &c., were made on plans.

In addition to lease applications, surveyors' reports, and other unregistered documents, 5,100 papers were received and dealt with.

Plan-drawing.

Up till the end of July plans were drawn from surveyors' field notes by contract draftsmen paid by results. After reorganisation of the Department by the Public Service Board this practice ceased, and plans have since been drawn by a draftsman attached to the branch. 954 plans were produced since the alteration in practice was made. (Saving of £60).

Heliographic

Heliographic Printing.

As a more expeditious and economical means of securing copies of mining plans, the heliographic process was introduced on 18th August, 1896. Since that date 3,933 copies of plans have been printed for departmental use. The change in practice has already effected a saving of £200.

Maps for Information of Mining Wardens, &c.

During the year charted up copies of maps were forwarded as follows:—To Wardens, 301; to District Surveyors, 93; to Mining Surveyors, 47; and to other persons, 8; making a total of 449.

It will be seen from the particulars furnished that there has been an abnormal increase in almost every department of the work, but notwithstanding this the staff has by steady application succeeded in preventing the work from falling into arrear.

The Chief Mining Surveyor.

G. A. MCKAY,
Chief Draftsman, 15/1/97.

Compilations.

During the year 13 locality maps, embracing 18 parishes or parts of parishes, were completed, 11 were published and put into office use and 3 remained in hand in various stages; 63 proofs of parish and other maps, showing mining measurements, were received from the Department of Lands, 60 were revised and returned, 14 were adopted as mining maps and put into office use.

In addition to the above 4 sheets of the map of the Mining Districts of New South Wales, embracing an area of about 80,496 square miles, were completed; 3 sheets were published and 2 sheets remained on hand awaiting examination.

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1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL COMMISSION

APPOINTED ON THE 7TH JULY, 1897,

TO INQUIRE INTO THE

WORKING OF MINES AND QUARRIES IN THE ALBERT MINING DISTRICT;

TOGETHER WITH

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AND EVIDENCE,
AND APPENDICES.

Printed under No. 24 Report from Printing Committee, 2 December, 1897.



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1897.

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APPENDICES.

COMMISSION.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen,
Defender of the Faith, and so forth.

To Our Trusty and Well-beloved

CHARLES EDWARD ROBERTSON MURRAY, Esquire, one of the Judges of the District Court, appointed
in and for the Metropolitan, Suburban, and Hunter District, in Our Colony of New South Wales.

Greeting :—

KNOW YOU, That We, reposing great trust and confidence in your ability, zeal, industry, discretion, and integrity, do, by these presents, authorise and appoint you, the said CHARLES EDWARD ROBERTSON MURRAY, to make a diligent and full inquiry :—

- I. Into the cause or causes of accidents which have recently taken place in certain mines and quarries in the Albert Mining District.
- II. Whether the provisions of the Mining Act, 1874, and the Regulations relating to the inspection of mines other than coal or shale made thereunder, are sufficient to secure the safe working of the mines and quarries in the said district, especially in regard to the use of explosives and the system of timbering and of working large lodes adopted. And, if they are not sufficient, to suggest in what respect and to what extent they should be added to or amended.
- III. Into the truth of the statement that the number of accidents in such mines and quarries has largely increased, and the cause of such large increase.
- IV. Whether the open-cut system of work is specially dangerous; and, if so, whether this is due to such work being carried on at night; and whether such system should be prohibited; and, if necessary, to suggest regulations for the purpose of safeguarding the lives of the miners and other persons employed in that class of work.
- V. Whether the risk to the persons employed in the said mines and quarries is increased by reason of incompetency on the part of managers and subordinate officials.
- VI. Whether the services of additional inspectors are necessary.
- VII. As to the best means of making known, to all persons employed in and about the said mines and quarries, the statutory enactments and regulations relating to the inspection of such mines and quarries; and to make any recommendation which you may deem advisable in the premises.

And We do, by these presents, give and grant to you full power and authority, with all proper or necessary assistants, at all times, to enter into and upon any land, mine, quarry, or premises; to survey and examine the state and condition thereof; and, for the purposes aforesaid, to descend all pits and shafts, and to enter into and to use all adits, levels, galleries, drives, and excavations; and to use all roads, ways, engines, ropes, machinery, gear, appliances, materials, labour, and other things, in or on any such land, mine, or quarry, which shall be by you deemed necessary; so that in so doing no unnecessary interference is caused: and to call before you all such persons as you may judge necessary, by whom you may be better informed of the truth in the premises; and to require the production of all such books, papers, writings, plans, sections, and all other documents, as you may deem expedient; and to visit and inspect the same at the offices or places where the same or any of them may be deposited; and to inquire of the premises by all lawful ways or means: And Our further will and pleasure is that you, after due examination of the premises, do and shall, within the space of three months after the date of this Our Commission, or sooner if the same can reasonably be done, certify to Us, in the Office of Our Chief Secretary, under your hand and seal, what you shall find touching the premises: And We hereby command all Government Officers and other persons whomsoever within Our said Colony that they be assistant to you in the execution of these presents: And We do give you power at your discretion to procure such clerical and other assistance as you may deem necessary for enabling you duly to execute this Our Commission; which said Commission We declare to be a Commission for all purposes of the Act 44 Victoria No. 1, intituled "*An Act to regulate the taking of evidence by Commissioners under the Great Seal.*"

In testimony whereof, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of Our said Colony of New South Wales to be hereunto affixed.

(L.S.) Witness Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Cousin, HENRY ROBERT, VISCOUNT HAMPDEN, Our Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Our Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies, at Government House, Sydney, in New South Wales aforesaid, this seventh day of July, in the sixty-first year of Our Reign and in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven.

By Deputation from His Excellency,
JOHN LACKEY,
Deputy Governor.

By His Excellency's Command,
JAMES N. BRUNKER.

Entered on record by me, in REGISTER OF PATENTS, No. 19, page 19, this seventh day of July one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven.

For the Colonial Secretary and Registrar of Records,
CRITCHETT WALKER,
Principal Under Secretary.

ROYAL COMMISSION APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE WORKING OF
MINES AND QUARRIES IN THE ALBERT MINING DISTRICT.

REPORT.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable HENRY ROBERT, VISCOUNT
HAMPDEN, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of New
South Wales and its Dependencies.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

Your Commissioner was directed by Your Excellency's Commission, dated the seventh day of July last, to make a diligent and full inquiry:—

1. Into the cause or causes of accidents which have recently taken place in certain Mines and Quarries in the Albert Mining District.
2. Whether the provisions of the Mining Act, 1874, and the Regulations relating to the inspection of mines other than coal or shale made thereunder, are sufficient to secure the safe working of the Mines and Quarries in the said district, especially in regard to the use of explosives and the system of timbering and of working large lodes adopted. And, if they are not sufficient, to suggest in what respect and to what extent they should be added to or amended.
3. Into the truth of the statement that the number of accidents in such Mines and Quarries has largely increased, and the cause of such large increase.
4. Whether the open-cut system of work is specially dangerous; and, if so, whether this is due to such work being carried on at night; and whether such system should be prohibited; and, if necessary, to suggest regulations for the purpose of safeguarding the lives of the miners and other persons employed in that class of work.
5. Whether the risk to the persons employed in the said Mines and Quarries is increased by reason of incompetency on the part of Managers and Subordinate Officials.
6. Whether the services of additional Inspectors are necessary.
7. As to the best means of making known to all persons employed in and about the said Mines and Quarries the statutory enactments and Regulations relating to the inspection of such Mines and Quarries; and to make any recommendation which Your Commissioner may deem advisable in the premises.

Your Commissioner having, for the purpose of prosecuting such inquiry, proceeded to Broken Hill—where the great bulk of the mining operations of the Albert Mining District is carried on—and having there examined thirty-one witnesses, the minutes of whose evidence are annexed to this Report, and having made certain personal examinations of the working of the mines and quarries at Broken Hill, and also at Tarrawingee, has now the honor to present his Report.

Seeing that the questions with which Your Commissioner had to deal affected the safety of all workmen and others employed in and about the mines in the Albert Mining District—of whom by far the greater number live at Broken Hill—Your Commissioner not only publicly requested all persons having any information to give in the matter to come forward as witnesses, but especially sought the assistance of the Amalgamated Miners' Association, to which body about half of the whole number of miners employed in the Albert District belong. The Association, through
their

their local President, Mr. Polkinghorne, expressed their willingness to be represented, thereby furthering the object of the inquiry to a most valuable extent. Your Commissioner, when communicating, through the secretary, Mr. Wright, before the taking of evidence, with the officers of the Amalgamated Miners' Association, acted under what afterwards proved to be a mistaken impression; namely, that the Association, which Your Commissioner then assumed to include a larger proportion than it actually does of the miners employed at Broken Hill, had taken an active—in fact, the principal—part in moving for this inquiry. Being under that belief, Your Commissioner spoke—as appears in the Minutes of Proceedings, page 2—of the Amalgamated Miners' Association as standing in the position of promovents, and requested Mr. Polkinghorne to begin the proceedings by calling his witnesses. It was only during the course of the third day's sitting that your Commissioner was made aware, by Mr. Polkinghorne, as a witness (Minutes of Evidence, page 47, Q. 1358), that the assumption was a mistake. Your Commissioner wishes to express his indebtedness to Mr. Polkinghorne for his valuable and courteously tendered aid in producing and eliciting evidence. The mine-owners also, appearing by Mr. Edwards, their Solicitor, gave very substantial assistance. Although Mr. Hebbard, the Inspector appointed, under the provisions of the Mining Act, 1874, for the Albert Mining District, was not deputed to appear on behalf of the Department of Mines, yet Your Commissioner invited him, and he elected, to be present at the inquiry, and to examine witnesses. In addition to Mr. Polkinghorne, whose experience of mining was confined to underground work, Your Commissioner, during the course of the inquiry, allowed Mr. Williams, an officer of the Association, who had a personal knowledge of the "open-cut" or quarrying operations, to appear on behalf of the Association. In response to Your Commissioner's invitation, publicly given, no other person or body of persons asked to be represented; though a few, whose attendance was not requested either by the Association or the mine-owners, came forward and gave their testimony. Having heard all the evidence procurable at Broken Hill, Your Commissioner deemed it neither necessary nor expedient in the public interest to search further, and returned to Sydney only in time to resume his duties as District Court Judge. The continued performance of these duties, of late rather unusually heavy, and the fact that the printing of the large body of evidence, taken with great expedition and accuracy on twelve days—all, with the exception of two, afternoon, as well as morning, sittings—by the shorthand-writer, Mr. Little, has only just been completed, have prevented Your Commissioner from presenting his report before this; at the very extreme limit of the time—three months from the 7th of July—fixed by Your Excellency's Commission.

Although Your Commissioner was careful, in accordance with his duty, to keep reasonably within the limits fixed by the terms of the Commission, he still, being anxious not to omit anything which might even indirectly bear upon the questions involved, allowed very full latitude in the selection and in the examination and cross-examination of witnesses. If, however, some of the issues that arose had been followed out to the extent to which it would be possible, before arriving at an absolutely certain conclusion—if that could ever be reached—to pursue them, the limit intended, in the opinion of Your Commissioner, to be imposed on the inquiry would have been very far exceeded, and the time necessarily taken up would have been unduly protracted. As it stands, the evidence is amply sufficient to enable Your Commissioner to determine with reasonable certainty the several questions to which an answer is sought.

The first of these questions requires the discovery of the cause or causes of accidents which have recently taken place in certain mines and quarries in the Albert Mining District. Your Commissioner takes the words "cause or causes" in this question to mean, not the immediate cause or set of circumstances which led to an accident, but the general conditions which preceded and conduced to it; such, for example, as a negligent or ignorant course of control, a faulty mechanical system, or recklessness or incompetency on the part of the workmen concerned.

A perusal of the depositions taken on inquests held in all cases of fatal accidents connected with mining which took place in the Albert District between September, 1894, and the end of 1895, and of the reports of all similar casualties, whether fatal or otherwise, of anything like a serious nature which occurred there during 1896 and the former half of 1897, has satisfied Your Commissioner that there is no such general similarity in the various accidents—the immediate causes of which

are

are remarkably diverse—as to make it possible to reduce them to a few heads of immediate causation; unless it be that there are three kinds of accident which are rather more frequent than others—namely, falls of ore in stopes, falls of workmen through floors of sets or into shoots, falls, or the flying from blasts, of stones in “open cuts.” Considering the accidents which do not fall under one of these classes, each by itself, and regarding them in the light of the evidence given, Your Commissioner has been unable to discover any general course of mismanagement or negligence on the part of the mines or their officers, or faulty construction or mechanism, conducing to these casualties.

Many of them seem to have been pure accidents, practically unavoidable: in some of them the injured man brought the trouble on himself by want of care or by error of judgment. In a few cases perhaps the judgment of a mine officer was at fault; but, certainly, the prevailing condition, without which the accident would not have happened, was want of care or skill on the part of the victim. As to the three classes of accident which appear rather more prevalent, those due to falls of ore or mullock are often quite unavoidable. No system of mining can absolutely prevent their occurring; no experience can certainly guard against them. The evidence points to remarkable care on the part of the mines, and ample provision in the supply of timber, in working the various forms and modifications of the “square-set” system in use at Broken Hill; and Your Commissioner is satisfied that no reasonable means are left unused for securing the safety of the working faces and roofs in stoping out the enormous masses of ore of varying nature and stability that form the lode at Broken Hill. But in some cases it is clear that the exercise of ordinary discretion by the injured man would have prevented the accident.

The witnesses were practically unanimous in their approval of the “square-set” system; though experience is gradually showing that improvements may be made upon it to suit new developments of the lode. Reflections were cast by some witnesses on what are called by the miners “open cuts underground,” but are more properly described as underground chambers, made in the hard sulphide ores. It was said that some of these were carried out to an undue extent in all three dimensions. Your Commissioner is, however, satisfied that every proper precaution is used in the making of these excavations—and before they are timbered or filled—both to ensure the stability of the roof by the erection of “pig-styes,” and to enable constant inspection of it, to prevent the risk of falls by flaking. It is possible that, in the excitement of winning large quantities of very rich and easily-smelted ores, there was at one time a neglect in following up stoping with filling as closely as would have been proper: the error of such a course is now, however, fully recognised: and seeing how deeply impressed Mr. Inspector Hebbard has become with the danger of allowing stopes to remain open longer than necessary, Your Commissioner feels that this risk has practically disappeared. The working of the surface open-cut system has been a most valuable adjunct to underground mining, by supplying abundant material for filling. At page 184 of the Minutes of Evidence, Mr. Hebbard gives a very interesting account of the development of the system of stoping at Broken Hill.

An apparently dangerous crushing of timbers, spoken of especially by the witness Kelly (Minutes of Evidence, page 106, Q. 2950), as being in existence at the 415-foot level of Kelly’s shaft, on Block 10 Mine, was satisfactorily explained by Mr. Thomas, Underground Manager (Minutes of Evidence, page 119, Q. 3327), and by Mr. Warren, General Manager (Minutes of Evidence, page 127, Q. 3596). The place was seen by Your Commissioner, Mr. Polkinghorne being present, and Your Commissioner has no doubt of the truth and reason of the explanation, and of the absence of any real danger. In the light of other evidence dealing with matters spoken to by the witnesses Shinnick and Kelly (Minutes of Evidence, pages 99 and 106, Q. 2704, 2955), Your Commissioner also feels assured that the extraordinary risks said to have been run by men riding in the cage at the same shaft, in consequence of the use of another compartment as a mullock shoot, were grossly exaggerated, if even the history of them had any foundation in fact. No accident happened from this cause. But, in the investigation of the general causes of accidents that did happen, all these matters became incidentally material.

So far as falls through the floors of sets and down shoots are concerned, there is no doubt that these accidents are generally caused by disobedience of orders on the part of miners. The evidence proves that it is a rule universally adopted by the mines that, in all places where work is going on, or where men have to pass,
 floor’s

floors of sets, consisting of "laths" of Oregon pine 10 inches wide and 2 inches thick, shall be left undisturbed, and that, when displaced by blasting, they shall be at once replaced by the miners whose shots have affected them; or that, where they have to be stripped for any necessary purpose, such as the making of a "shoot" or "pass" for sending down ore or mullock, the opening shall be kept securely railed off by pieces of scantling spiked to the Oregon pine uprights of 10 inches square section which form the legs of the sets. It is also a rule that if one or more laths have to be raised for any temporary purpose they shall be replaced as soon as that purpose is served, so that a trap shall never be left for the unwary. And it is proved that one of the commonest offences committed by miners, for which they are frequently dismissed, is a neglect of these rules, sometimes through carelessness or indifference to their own safety and that of others, sometimes in order to save themselves, when requiring laths to replace broken ones or in the erection of new sets, the trouble of procuring them from the proper place, generally at no great distance.

With regard to accidents caused by falls of stone in open cuts or quarries, it appears that every care is taken by the contractors to keep the "permanent batter" on which work is not being done—rising in some parts to a height of about 150 feet—in a safe condition by constant inspection, and by "barring down" any piece of rock that may appear likely to fall. The angle of safety is carefully considered: and the risk of falls is reduced almost to nothing. On the working faces the batter is necessarily in a continually changing state: but undermining is, for a very good reason, strictly prohibited by the Inspector; and Your Commissioner is satisfied by the evidence that all reasonable care is exercised by the Contractors, under whom the work is carried out, and is insisted upon by the Proprietary Company, with whom they contract, to avoid accidents. This question will be dealt with more particularly under the fourth head of inquiry. Your Commissioner finds that, generally, accidents of the nature now dealt with have been either practically unavoidable, or due to want of care or of judgment on the part of workmen.

And, therefore, on the whole, Your Commissioner is of opinion that, so far as it can be said that there has been any prevailing cause of these accidents, they have been largely due to the neglect of the workmen, generally the victims themselves, of the means of securing their own safety, and to their want of judgment in carrying out their work. At the same time it is true that very many of the casualties that have occurred have been purely accidental, and such that no care or foresight on the part of any person concerned could have prevented them.*

The second head of inquiry is as follows:—

Whether the provisions of the Mining Act, 1874, and the Regulations relating to the inspection of mines other than coal or shale made thereunder, are sufficient to secure the safe working of the Mines and Quarries in the said district, especially in regard to the use of explosives and the system of timbering and of working large lodes adopted. And, if they are not sufficient, to suggest in what respect and to what extent they should be added to or amended.

In the Mining Act, 1874, the only power to make regulations for the safe management of mines appears to be that contained in Subsection 3 of Section 64, which reads, or should be read, as follows†:—

For enforcing, under a penalty (in any case of default) of a sum not exceeding fifty pounds, the proper ventilation and safe construction and timbering or supporting of all mining shafts tunnels drives or other mining workings used in mining for gold or any other mineral or metal: for prescribing the mode of inspection for all such shafts tunnels drives or workings and the powers and duties to be exercised by the persons authorised to act as inspectors in that behalf: and for determining and enforcing the distance at which all such shafts and other mining workings are to be kept from public and private roads ways and passages and from private land dwellings and other buildings.

This section, in Your Commissioner's opinion, authorises only the making of regulations—quasi-penal—controlling the action of the management of mines, and fails to provide any power to deal with miners or others committing improper acts in relation to mining.

It

* The question of competency of miners is alluded to later, on pages 19, 20, under the third head of inquiry.

† There appear to be two mistakes in the copy issued (in book form) from the Government Printing Office—the omission of the word "of" after "default," in the first line, and the misplacing of the word "for" in the ninth.

It is, moreover, so limited in its extent to the matters of ventilation, and the construction, timbering, and supporting, of workings, as to fall far short of what is required; inasmuch as many other matters—of which several purport to be dealt with by the Regulations of July 12, 1889—should obviously come within the scope of the power conferred by statute on His Excellency the Governor for the time being, if that power is to be beneficially exercised.

The section, therefore, appears to Your Commissioner to be insufficient in two respects—first, because of its failing to give power to make Regulations dealing with all persons, as well those owning or managing, as those employed or being in, mines; second, by reason of the undue limitation of its scope in relation to the phases of the subject matter: and therefore Your Commissioner is of opinion that the provisions of the Mining Act, 1874, are *not* sufficient to secure the safe working of *any* mines or quarries. At the same time, seeing that doubts have been raised on the subject, Your Commissioner deems it proper to express his opinion that open cuts and quarries used in connection with mining are in fact included in the words of subsection 3 of section 64 of the Act, as well as underground workings.

The Regulations referred to, dated July 12, 1889, read as follows:—

Interpretation of Terms.

1. In the construction of these Regulations the following terms in inverted commas shall have the respective meanings hereby assigned to them, unless there is anything in the subject matter or context repugnant to such construction (that is to say):—

- (a) "Inspector." The person appointed by the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, or the person authorised by the Secretary for Mines, to inspect any mine or mines.
- (b) "Mine." Any land or claim demised or occupied and used for mining purposes other than coal or shale mining; and shall include any place, pit, shaft, tunnel, drive, level, or other excavation, drift, gutter, lead, vein, lode, or reef, wherein or whereby any operation for or in connection with mining is or shall be carried on.
- (c) "Machinery." Steam or other engines, boilers, furnaces, stampers, or other crushing apparatus, winding or pumping gear, chains, trucks, tramways, tackle, blocks, ropes, or tools; and shall include all appliances of whatsoever kind used in or about or in connection with the mine.
- (d) "Owner." In respect of claims occupied in virtue of miners' rights, the registered owner, or, where the title to such claim is not registered, the person in actual possession and working the claim; in respect of land demised for mining purposes, the lessee; in respect of any mine worked on tribute, the tributor for the time being of such land; in respect of machinery used in connection with mining, the person claiming or in charge of such machinery; in the case of incorporated companies or of companies registered under the Act to limit the liability of mining partnerships, the managers of such company; and, in every other case, the person having the management of the mining operations carried on in any mine.

The singular shall, unless inconsistent with the subject matter, include the plural; and "person" shall include any incorporated company.

Inspector of Mines.

2. The Secretary for Mines may, by writing under his hand, authorise any person to inspect any mine or mines or to act temporarily as an Inspector of Mines.

Powers of Inspector.

3. An inspector shall have power to do all or any of the following things, namely:—

- (1) To make such inspection, examination, and inquiry, as may be necessary to ascertain whether in the case of any mine the provisions of these Regulations relating to matters above or below ground are complied with.
- (2) To enter into at all times by day and night, and inspect, examine, and inquire, respecting the state and condition of any mine to which these Regulations apply, or any part thereof, and the ventilation of such mine, and the sufficiency of the special rules (if any) for the time being in force therein, and all matters and things connected with or relating to the safety of the persons employed in or about the mine or any mine contiguous thereto.
- (3) To exercise such other powers as may be necessary for carrying these Regulations into effect.

Penalty for obstructing Inspector.

Every person who wilfully obstructs any inspector in the execution of his duty under these Regulations, and every owner of a mine who refuses or neglects to furnish to the inspector the means necessary for making any entry, inspection, examination, or inquiry, under these Regulations, in relation to such mine, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds.

Notice to be given of cause of danger.—Penalty for neglecting to comply with notice.

4. If any inspector find any mine or any part thereof, or any matter, thing, or practice, in or connected with such mine, to be dangerous or defective, so as in his opinion to threaten or tend to the bodily injury of any person, such inspector may give notice thereof verbally or in writing to the owner or Mining Manager of the mine, and shall state in such notice the particulars in which he considers such mine or any part thereof, or any matter, thing, or practice, to be dangerous or defective, and require the same to be remedied within a period of time named in such notice; and, unless the cause of danger be removed

removed or such defect be remedied within the time named, the owner or Mining Manager shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds, and to a further penalty of one pound for every day thereafter during which the owner shall fail to comply with such notice.

5. A copy of every written notice as aforesaid shall forthwith be transmitted by the inspector to the Secretary for Mines.

Disqualification of Inspector.

6. No person shall be appointed or authorised or be qualified to act as an inspector who practises or acts, or is a partner of any person who practises or acts, as a mining agent, or who is employed by the owners of, or is interested in, any mine.

Penalty on Inspector divulging information.

7. Any inspector who shall, without the consent of the owner, divulge or make known to any person, otherwise than as a witness in a court of justice, or to the head of his department, any information obtained by him in the discharge of his duties, respecting any drift, gutter, lead, vein, lode, reef, or other metalliferous or mineral deposit, in any mine, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds, and shall be disqualified for the office of inspector.

Duties of mine-owners, &c.

8. It shall be the duty of every owner to enforce the proper ventilation and safe construction and timbering or supporting of all shafts, tunnels, drives, or other excavations, in his mine, and to see that such mine and the machinery are in such a state as shall not injure or endanger the health or life of any person employed on such mine or any mine contiguous thereto, or employed in or about such machinery. And any accident occurring in any mine or in or about any machinery shall be *prima facie* evidence that such accident occurred through some neglect or default on the part of the owner thereof.

Liability of owner in case of accident.

9. If any person employed in or about any mine or machinery suffer any injury in person, or be killed, owing to the default or neglect of the owner thereof, his agents, or servants, the person so injured or his personal representatives, or the personal representatives of the person so killed, may recover from the owner compensation by way of damages as for a tort committed by such owner; and the amount of such compensation with the costs of recovering the same shall be a charge on the mine or machinery or both in or about which such person was employed. If there be more than one owner, and the person so injured or killed be* one of such owners, and the accident be not wholly due to the neglect or default of such person, the compensation and charges shall be borne and paid ratably by the owners.

General Rules.—Penalty for contravention of.

10. The general rules in the Schedule hereto shall apply to such mines or mining districts as the Secretary for Mines shall from time to time upon the report of an inspector direct; and any owner of any such mine who contravenes any such general rule shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds; and any person (other than the owner) employed in any such mine who contravenes any such rule shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding two pounds.

Penalties, &c., how recovered.

11. Penalties, charges, and sums of money, under these Regulations shall be recovered in the manner prescribed by the "Mining Act, 1874."

SCHEDULE.

General Rules.

1. An adequate amount of ventilation shall be constantly produced in every mine to dilute and render harmless noxious gases to such an extent that the working places of the shafts, levels, stables, and workings, of such mine, and the travelling roads to and from such working places, shall be in a fit state for working and passing therein.

2. If at any time it is found by the person in charge of a mine, or any part thereof, that such mine or part is dangerous, every workman shall be withdrawn therefrom; and in every such case a true report of the condition of such mine or part thereof shall be forthwith made to the Secretary for Mines; and no workman shall (except in so far as is necessary for inquiry into the cause of danger, or for the removal thereof, or for exploration) be readmitted into the mine, or such part thereof as was so found dangerous, until the same is stated by the Manager, or by an inspector, to be safe. Every such report shall be recorded in a book which shall be kept at the mine for the purpose, and shall be signed by the person reporting.

3. Gunpowder or other explosive or inflammable substances shall only be used underground in the mine as follows:—

- (a) It shall not be stored in the mine in any quantity exceeding what would be required for use during six working days.
- (b) It shall not be taken into or kept in the mine except in a case or canister.
- (c) A workman shall not have in use at one time in any one place more than six pounds.
- (d) In charging holes for blasting, an iron or steel tamping bar shall not be used; and no person shall have in his possession in the mine underground any iron or steel tamping bar, rod, or stemmer, unless mounted with at least four inches of copper.
- (e) A charge of powder or other explosives which has missed fire shall not be unrammed or drawn.

4. Every mine shall be provided with proper and sufficient machinery and appliances for keeping such mine free from water, the accumulation or flowing of which might injuriously affect any other mine.

5. Every shaft which is out of use or used only as an air-shaft, and the top and all entrances between the top and bottom of every working or pumping shaft, shall be securely fenced or otherwise secured; but if proper precautions are used such fences may be removed for repairs or other operations.

6. Every working and pumping pit and shaft where the natural strata are not safe shall be securely cased or lined, or otherwise made secure.

7.

* This is evidently the correct reading: The printed copies contain the word "by" for "be," which is absurd.

7. Where one portion of the shaft is used for the ascent and descent of persons by ladders or by a man-engine and another portion of the same shaft is used for raising material, the first-mentioned portion shall be cased, or otherwise securely fenced off from the last-mentioned portion.

8. *Every working shaft shall be provided with means of communicating from the bottom of the shaft, and from every entrance for the time being in work between the surface and the bottom, to the surface, and from the surface to the bottom of the shaft, by such distinct and definite signals as shall be prescribed by the Minister or approved of by him; and all shafts used for raising or lowering persons shall be provided with guides.*

9. A proper footway or ladder, inclined at the most convenient angle which the space in which the ladder is fixed allows, shall be provided in every working shaft where no machinery is used for raising or lowering persons; and every such ladder shall have substantial platforms at intervals of not more than 30 feet; and no such ladder shall be fixed for permanent use in a vertical or over-hanging position unless in shafts used exclusively for pumping.

10. In every mine in which vertical or over-hanging ladders shall be in use in the shaft at the time when these rules shall be applied to it, they may be retained, provided securely fixed platforms be constructed at intervals of not more than 20 feet from each other, and such ladders have sufficient spaces for foot-holds of not less than 6 inches; but in no case shall new vertical or over-hanging ladders be constructed either in substitution for old ones or otherwise.

11. A sufficient cover overhead shall be used when lowering or raising persons in every working shaft, except where it is worked by a windlass, or where the person is employed about the pump or about some work or repair in the shaft.

12. *No single-linked chain (except the short coupling chain attached to the cage or load) shall be used for lowering or raising persons in any working shaft; and no material shall be lowered or raised in the same cage with or in the opposite cage against any person.*

13. *To the drum of every machine used for lowering or raising persons, such flanges or horns, or such other appliances, as shall be sufficient to prevent the rope from slipping, shall be attached.*

14. *A proper indicator, in addition to any mark on the rope, to show the position of the load in the pit or shaft, and also an adequate break, shall be attached to every machine worked by steam or water power used for lowering or raising persons.*

15. *If more than twelve persons are ordinarily employed in the mine below ground, sufficient accommodation shall be provided above ground, near the principal entrance of the mine, and not in the engine-house or boiler-house, for enabling the persons employed in the mine to conveniently change and dry their dresses.*

16. *Wherever any entrance to any mine, or any communication within any part of any mine to any other part thereof, shall be by means of a vertical shaft, or pit, or inclined plane, no person, other than a properly competent person, of the full age of eighteen years, shall have charge of any engine, windlass, or gin (whether driven or worked by manual labour or any other power), or of any part of the machinery, ropes, chains, or other tackle, by or by means of which persons are brought up or passed down any such vertical shaft, or pit, or inclined plane. And no person in charge of machinery in connection with the working of any mine shall, under any pretext whatever, unless relieved by a competent person, absent himself or cease to have continual supervision of such machinery during the time it is used in working the mine. No person in charge of steam machinery shall be employed more than eight hours in any one day.*

17. *Every steam boiler shall be provided with a proper steam-gauge, water-gauge, and safety-valve; and at least once in every six months every boiler shall be subjected to a hydraulic test.*

18. *The fly-wheel of every engine, and all exposed and dangerous parts of the machinery, used in or about the mine, shall be securely fenced.*

19. Sufficient boreholes shall be kept in advance and on both sides, at least 4 feet in length, to prevent inundations in every working approaching a place likely to contain a dangerous accumulation of water or noxious gases.

20. The roof and sides of every travelling road and working place shall be made secure; and no person, unless appointed for the purpose of exploring or repairing, shall travel or work in any such road or place until it is made secure.

21. On the occasion of any examination or inspection of a mine, the owner shall, if required so to do, produce to the inspector or any other person duly authorised by the Secretary for Mines an accurate plan of the workings thereof; and if the inspector or such other authorised person finds that any part of any plan is withheld or any part of the workings of the mine is concealed from his inspection, or that any plan produced is imperfect or inaccurate, he may require an accurate plan of the actual workings of such mine to be made within a reasonable time by and at the expense of the owner, on a scale of not less than two chains to the inch, or on such other scale as the plan then in use in the mine is constructed on. And every such plan as aforesaid shall show the workings of the mine up to within six months of the time of the inspection; and the owner shall, if required by such inspector or other authorised person, cause to be marked on such plan the progress of the workings of the mine up to the time of such inspection, and shall also permit the inspector to take a copy or tracing thereof. Every such copy or tracing shall be deposited in the principal office of the Department of Mines; and no copy or tracing thereof shall be furnished nor information given, nor shall such plans or tracings be open to inspection, without the sanction of the owner or of the Secretary for Mines.

22. *A printed copy of these Rules shall be posted in the office and on a building or board in some conspicuous part of the mine to which they shall apply.*

The parts printed in italics appear, in the light of the limitations of Section 64, to be clearly *ultra vires*, and so of no avail.

It follows that a substantial portion of the Regulations still remains effective, while, as a whole, so far as they derive their power from the Act—and so far as any Regulations are really of service—they are not sufficient to secure the safe working of mines and quarries.

In dealing with the last clause of the second head of inquiry, in relation to this effective remnant of the present Regulations, Your Commissioner will now consider what alterations in or additions to these Rules are advisable.

In Regulation 4 (which, of course, Your Commissioner thinks can only legally apply to questions of ventilation, construction, &c.) the elimination of the words "verbally or" after the words "notice thereof" would be advisable, inasmuch as it is essential that a record of such notices should always be kept; and it is not expedient that the Inspector should have the option of making them verbal. Your Commissioner would also recommend the addition of a direction that a special book be kept in the office of the mine, in which should be entered a record of all such notices and of all acts done in conformity therewith, signed by the manager; such book to be produced to the Inspector when required.

The first of the "General Rules," the Schedule to the Regulations, appears to be unduly vague in the use of the expression "adequate amount of ventilation." Although the conditions of mineral mines and coal mines differ essentially, in this, that the former are generally free in themselves from dangerous gases, such as the inflammable hydrocarbons and the poisonous oxides of carbon, given off or engendered in the latter, and therefore it may not be necessary to provide so high a minimum of ventilation for mineral as for coal mines, still the air of the former is constantly being vitiated by respiration and the use of explosives, and it would be safer, and would leave a less onerous and invidious responsibility on the Inspector, if some minimum amount of pure air—such, for instance, as 50 cubic feet per man per minute—were made compulsory, as in General Rule 1, section 47, of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896. At the same time, a full discretion would have to be left with the Inspector, and, in case of sudden emergencies, in the unavoidable absence of the Inspector, with the officer in charge of the mine, to permit men to work for a limited time in a shorter supply of air. But it should be made a condition of such action on the part of the officer in charge that he should use reasonable diligence in communicating with the Inspector before adopting such course, and should as soon as practicable inform him of the fact, and should afterwards furnish a report in writing of his action, and of his reasons for taking such action. It would have involved undue delay to Your Commissioner to inquire exhaustively into the question of the theoretically proper minimum of air to provide. The amount of 50 cubic feet was merely put forward as a suggestion by Mr. Hebbard. By inquiry of acknowledged experts in England, America, or the continent of Europe, a satisfactory conclusion could probably be easily arrived at. The means to be adopted in each mine for the supply of air may well, as in the present Regulations, be left to the management, acting, no doubt, generally after consultation with the Inspector; but Your Commissioner is strongly of opinion that the providing for a substantial minimum supply of ventilation will be of great benefit to the mines and to the miners, as it appears that, though the mines at Broken Hill are generally very well ventilated, there has been an absence of any regular system of ventilation. Seeing also that much heat is given off in some parts of the lode by chemical action, Your Commissioner would suggest that a certain standard, which might be fixed at 85° Fahrenheit, should be made compulsory as the maximum temperature of the air in any working part of a mine. This would compel an improvement in conditions, by means of an increased supply of air above the minimum of 50 cubic feet, a deviation in currents, a sealing off of the hot place, or otherwise.

Still keeping within the powers given by the Mining Act, 1874, Your Commissioner would suggest the addition to the General Rules of one providing for the safety of miners in relation to floors of sets. This Rule should compel—in conformity with the practice in fact now generally adopted and sought to be enforced on miners by the mine managements—the leaving properly covered with laths all floors of square-sets or other analogous constructions used in stopping ore, downwards from the floor immediately over, to at least two floors under, any working floor, unless and until the sets of which they respectively form the roofs be completely filled; and the railing-off securely of all unfloored sets or other open places, whether used as passes, shoots, or otherwise, in the neighbourhood of working places, or by or near which workmen may have to pass in the performance of or in going to or from their work, or that may be in any way dangerous to any person lawfully being in the mine,

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The Regulations—General Rule 9—deal with ladders in shafts, but omit all mention of ladder-ways in stopes. This omission might be cured by directing that proper footways or ladders should be provided, securely guarded, and inclined at an angle of not less than 30° from the perpendicular (with discretion in the Inspector to approve of any existing ladders already fixed more steeply) to connect floors of sets in stopes, and other places requiring such communication, in mines.

Another question to which attention was directed in the course of the evidence was the providing of conditions of safety for men engaged in sinking or deepening shafts. There was much difference of opinion among experts on this matter. Your Commissioner has concluded that it would be well to make a Rule to the following effect:—That, before the sinking of any shaft or winze, or the deepening of any shaft, a written notice shall be given to the Inspector of the intention of the mine management to carry out the work, setting out the mode in which it is to be performed: and that no such work shall be begun until the Inspector shall have signified his approval in writing.

Finally, Your Commissioner is of opinion that a Rule should be framed compelling the management of every mine to provide at least one ladder-way, in addition to the regular hauling shaft, connecting each level with the one above it, for every 40-acre block over which the workings extend; the sufficiency, for furnishing means of escape, of such ways, in regard to their position in the mine, to be determined in each case by the Inspector.

The next question that presents itself for consideration is this:—What amendments are required, in relation to providing for the safety of mines and the persons employed in working them, in the Mining Act itself? Your Commissioner, feeling it his duty to interpret Your Excellency's Commission in a wide and beneficial sense, has dealt with this matter, as well as with the narrower question of the sufficiency of the present Regulations. Finding, as Your Commissioner has found, that the Act is insufficient, he feels that he is required to suggest how it should be amended. It appears to Your Commissioner that the amendments required should extend:—1st, To give power to Your Excellency to make Regulations dealing, not only with the ventilation and construction of mines and mining works—as in section 64, subsection 3, of the present Act—but also with the questions of management and supervision, including the qualifications of engine-drivers; with drainage; with the storage and use of explosives; with the nature and maintenance of all machinery, including steam and other engines; with provisions for the safety, comfort, and health, of employees; and, generally, with all matters whatsoever involved in or connected with the control and working of mines; and of works immediately connected therewith, in which the ores, minerals, or metals, won in such mines are reduced, smelted, refined, or otherwise treated. It should also be expressly provided that these Regulations may be directed, not only to the enforcing of conditions to be imposed on owners and officers of mines, but also to the coercing of employees and all other persons whose actions might require to be controlled thereby: The power to impose a substantial fine, with a maximum of (say) £50, for breach of such Regulations, and, in default of payment or as an alternative, a term of imprisonment not exceeding three months, should, Your Commissioner thinks, be given to the Warden of the District, or to a Stipendiary or Police Magistrate, or two Justices of the Peace.

In addition to the power to make such general Regulations, Your Commissioner would also suggest that, by analogy to the provisions contained in sections 49 to 56 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, an Amending Act should provide for Special Rules, to have effect in each mine, non-compliance with which should be punishable. In fact there seems no reason why these sections should not be transferred as they stand, with such verbal alterations as are necessary to make them appropriate, into an Act Amending the Mining Act, with the addition of a section providing a penalty for breach, the limit of which might be fixed at £10, or one month's imprisonment. Such a penalising of acts now only punishable by dismissal would be a very wholesome deterrent in checking indulgence in reckless conduct endangering the safety of the wrongdoers and of others.

The Rules and Regulations of the Broken Hill Proprietary Mine [*Appendices 1 and 2*] would—with some modifications—become the Special Rules of the mine, and would, as such, have the force of law. Some of the other mines have adopted these

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printed Rules : some depend upon oral instructions only. The suggested change in the law would probably result in a conference of the mines, with the object of settling a code, applicable, with variations to suit different conditions, to all the mines at Broken Hill.

Some of the matters referred to as proper to be dealt with by Regulation might possibly be more appropriately made the subject of direct legislation ; such, for instance, as the qualification of engine-drivers*. As to the latter, there was a general consensus of opinion among the witnesses that engine-drivers employed in working hauling engines, by which miners are raised and lowered, should be required to hold certificates of competency : the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, whether used as a basis of direct legislation, or as an assistance in framing Regulations, under a power to be conferred by an Amending Act, may fairly be suggested as a guide in this relation. But, in dealing with the question whether it is expedient to legislate directly or by means of a power to make Regulations, Your Commissioner would point out that there is so much of a tentative nature in ore-mining, that so many improvements and alterations are continually being made in the various systems adopted, and that the advance of chemical and mechanical science—notably, in the discovery of new explosives—is so rapid, that there is a substantial advantage in the elasticity of a power to make Regulations, as compared with the slowness and difficulty incidental to change by legislation.

Lastly, assuming the creation of a power to make Regulations to operate in the directions suggested by Your Commissioner as requisite for the purpose of securing the safe working of mines and quarries, and, therefore, regarding the present Regulations and General Rules which appear to be *ultra vires* as if they were valid, Your Commissioner will deal with the question of the manner in which the Regulations and Rules printed in italics on pages 6 and 7 of this Report seem to be in need of alteration, and with the further inquiry—what additional Regulations or Rules Your Commissioner would, on the same assumption, suggest : necessarily, the two questions will be considered together.

Passing over Regulations 8 and 9, which Your Commissioner deems to be outside of the intention of any statutory power to make Regulations, and to be partly enunciations of the general law, and partly ineffective attempts to modify it, Your Commissioner comes to the schedule of "General Rules." As to No. 2 of these General Rules, a modification, generally thought advisable by the witnesses on the inquiry, might be made. It is of this nature :—that, if men be withdrawn by the person in charge, he should be allowed the discretion of ordering them back ; but, if the Inspector has directed them to be withdrawn, or has intervened in any way, then this discretion should rest with him only ; though he may be allowed expressly to depute it—in writing—to an officer or officers of the mine ; for he may be unavoidably called away before the danger is removed : that no workman, appearing to have an honest belief in the continued existence of the danger, shall in any event be compelled, by threats or otherwise, to return, or be liable to be treated as in any way in default for refusing to do so : and that a substantial proportion—Your Commissioner would suggest one-fourth—of the men affected shall have the right to require the Inspector to be called in to decide on the question of safety ; the refusal of the person in charge to communicate this order to the manager, or of the latter to comply with it, to be an offence.

On the questions raised under the head of Rule 3 there was much diversity of opinion among the witnesses. The conclusions at which Your Commissioner has arrived are as follows :—

- (a) No question was raised as to this : there seems no need of modification.
- (b) To this might be added the words " of a pattern and make approved by the Inspector."

It has been proved that miners persist in using as watercans canisters made and supplied by their employers for the purpose of holding explosives. This may be checked by a vigorous enforcement of the penalty for keeping explosives improperly, when and if that penalty becomes legally enforceable. And an effort should be made to contrive a safe and easily moved receptacle for explosives which shall be unsuitable for holding water. (c)

* The qualification of managers, under-ground managers, &c., was hardly touched upon. Probably an unrestricted selection may safely be left with the Companies.

- (c) This rule is inapplicable to present conditions: the weight of explosive used in a set of machine holes generally largely exceeds 6 lb. The rule might stand thus:

“A workman shall not have in his possession at one time in any one place more explosive than is likely to be required for use on the shift on which he is employed: and, except when actually in use for purposes of charging, explosives shall be placed in a safe position at a distance of not less than thirty feet from the face to be blasted, and so that they cannot be struck by any material thrown out from the face in a direct line.”

- (d) Taking the evidence of all the experts who depose to the question of tamping, Your Commissioner has come to the conclusion that the safest form in which to re-model this rule is as follows:—

“In charging holes for blasting, no metal tamping bar shall be used; nor shall any person have any such bar in his possession in the mine.”

- (e) There was not much difference of opinion, except as to details, on the question arising in connection with this rule. Your Commissioner would suggest that it should read thus:—

“An accurate record of some kind shall be kept, by every man who is charging a hole for blasting, of the distance from the outer end of the charge to the collar of the hole.* A charge of powder or other explosive which has missed fire shall not be drawn; but the tamping shall be carefully removed to a depth distant not more than twelve, and not less than six, inches† from the outer end of the charge; and a fresh charge, or fresh charges, shall be inserted for the purpose of exploding the original charge, till the same be exploded; and no hole shall be bored in the neighbourhood of an unexploded charge for the purpose of exploding it by means of the explosion of a charge in the new hole.‡

“In the event of the bottom of a hole in which a blast has been exploded remaining in any working place, then, unless or until it can be clearly seen by two persons, one of whom, at least, is an official of the mine, that no explosive remains unexploded in such bottom, no work, whether of boring, barring down—except so far as may be absolutely necessary in order to make it safe to approach such bottom—picking, or otherwise, shall be done in such place, until such bottom has been broken away and completely exposed by a further charge or further charges inserted therein; but, for the purpose of inspection, such bottom may—and shall—be carefully cleaned out, water being freely used therein, before being finally proved to contain no explosive. This rule shall apply to all “old bottoms”, wherever found.

“In the event of a “miss-fire”, no person shall return to within a distance from the charge which would be unsafe in the event of its exploding until the expiration of one hour and a half from the time of the lighting of the fuse: provided that, if the person whose duty it was to light the fuse has good reason to believe, and does in fact believe, that he omitted to light it, then he—but he only—may return within thirty minutes. A “bulled” hole shall not be recharged within two hours of the time of explosion of the “bulled” charge, unless it be thoroughly washed or swabbed out with water, and unless, after the hole is cleaned out, a metal rod inserted and left therein for at least five minutes shall be at no point hot to the touch; in which case the hole may be recharged within thirty minutes.

“Explosives shall not be carried in the cage when workmen are descending or ascending at change of shifts.” In

* Mr. Horwood's suggestion is in point. (Minutes of Evidence, page 70, Q. 1953.)

† Mr. Hebbard's opinion, however (Minutes of Evidence, page 174, Q. 5602), would suggest a variation of the rule when gunpowder is used.

‡ The plan of exploding a charge by percussion through part of the tamping appears to apply as well to gunpowder as to the high explosives: Mr. Hebbard's statement (Minutes of Evidence, page 174, Q. 5600.)

In addition to the mention of the matter in the special rules of each mine, perhaps—seeing of how universal an application the subject is, and that the fear of consequences looked upon as remote and improbable, though involving possibly a charge of manslaughter, does not always deter men from running risks—it would be well to make a General Rule—with, of course, a sharp penalty attached—absolutely prohibiting the firing of blasts under such circumstances that any person may be endangered thereby. This would extend to meet the case mentioned by Mr. Polkinghorne in his evidence (Minutes of Evidence, page 40, Q. 1202 : page 49, Q. 1410). The discretion given to the Company's surface foreman in No. 8 of Surface Rules and Regulations (Appendix 2) must have been improperly exercised in the case spoken of by Mr. Polkinghorne—if the permission was given at all. Some one was clearly at fault. Your Commissioner inadvertently omitted to insist upon an explanation of this matter. No accident actually happened as a result of the firing when men were in the changing-house ; but the action was very reprehensible.

Rule 4 appears to admit of the insertion of a few words, making it read thus :—“ Every mine shall be provided with proper and sufficient machinery and appliances for keeping such mine free from water, the accumulation or flowing of which might imperil the health or safety of the workmen therein, or might injuriously affect any other mine.”

In Rule 12, before the word “ material,” the words “ tools or,” and, after the word “ material,” the words “ except explosives, accompanied by one man only,” appear to be required.

In Rule 14, it would be expedient to substitute the word “ other ” for the word “ water ” : this will save any question, in case engines worked by electricity, compressed air, or other vehicles of power, should be used.

Passing to Rule 16, the question of the advisability of requiring an engine-driver to be certificated comes to be considered. An opinion was expressed by most of the witnesses examined that engine-drivers in charge of winding engines, by which miners are lowered and raised, should be required to hold certificates, granted by some authority, to be constituted either directly by Statute or by Regulations under statutory powers. With this view Your Commissioner agrees : if it is thought proper to carry out the suggestion, then, instead of the words “ a properly competent person,” some such words as “ a properly qualified and competent person ” will have to be used. The management must still be under the obligation of employing only competent persons, as competency—involving real practical ability, sobriety, and steady nerve—will not necessarily be presumed from the possession of a certificate, which will at best be only *prima-facie* evidence of sufficient knowledge and intelligence to justify a man's employment as an engine-driver upon whom a serious responsibility rests. In fact, when the question of the value of certificates was mooted, it was proved by the evidence of some of the witnesses, undoubtedly correct in their statements, that certificates are of doubtful value, because of their being not infrequently transferred, the name of the original holder being assumed by the transferee. An easy and fairly effective means of checking such frauds would be to attach to every certificate a photograph of the holder, to be taken on behalf of the office granting the certificate, a duplicate being annexed to the record of registration, and the negative being kept for at least five years ; the photograph itself to be so officially stamped or punctured on its margin as to make it easy to detect the substitution of another on the same mounting ; on which mounting the certificate would be engraved. The holder should have a right to require, on payment of a small fee, covering cost of photographing, &c., to be re-photographed, and to have a fresh certificate issued to him, at any time ; the former certificate to be given up, or satisfactory proof of its loss or destruction to be produced : each renewal to bear its own date, as well as to show the original date of issue : the issuing office to have a right to refuse to issue a fresh certificate, unless satisfied of the identity of the holder, where, through lapse of time or otherwise, his appearance fails to establish his identity by comparison with the recorded likeness. Every certificate should on the face of it contain a conspicuously printed caution advising the holder not to allow more than three years to pass without the taking out of a fresh certificate.

The last sentence in Rule 16 incidentally introduced a question that was dwelt upon at some length in the course of the inquiry. It is this :—Whether at change of shift it is expedient that there should be a second engine-driver in the engine-house,

to meet the risk of sudden illness of the man working the engine. In the intense heat which frequently prevails at Broken Hill it would appear as if such a danger might well be more pronounced than in less extreme climates; and the suggestion seems to have a fair foundation. On the other hand, the opinion of several experts was that the presence of two men would rather, on the whole, increase the risk, because of their inclination to talk—especially if one were coming on fresh from the town, while the other had been for eight hours in the engine-house. And the frequent improvements in winding engines, together with the use of safety gear and hooks to prevent overwinding—to be dealt with later on in this Report—continually reduce more and more the risks arising from negligence in or failure of the engine-driver. On the whole, Your Commissioner thinks it is not necessary that such double attendance should be made compulsory. But, inasmuch as, on mines that work three shifts, it is a simple matter for the management, if it be thought advisable, to arrange that the attendance of the engine-drivers shall overlap for from fifteen to thirty minutes while the shifts are changing, it is not expedient that there should be any obstacle in the way of such a course. If, however, this be done, the engine-drivers must remain in the engine-house, and therefore practically be employed, more than eight hours in one day. Therefore to the last sentence of the Rule should be added the words “except—should it be deemed expedient—for the purpose of enabling the engine-drivers respectively leaving and coming on shift to be both present in the engine-room during the change of shift of the workmen underground.”

The next Rule—No. 17—is too vague, in Your Commissioner’s opinion, to be of much use as it stands. If a Land Boilers Act is passed—which may possibly happen before the enacting of any authority to make these Rules effective—the question will be settled, and presumably the Rule may be struck out. Otherwise a rule might be framed upon the basis of the conditions imposed by insurance companies. Evidently the existence of an unlocked safety-valve is no sufficient safeguard: and the provision for subjecting a boiler to an undefined hydraulic—or, rather, hydrostatic—test is equally useless. The practice deposed to by Mr. Hebbard (Minutes of Evidence—p. 177, Q. 5664, &c.) of testing up to one-third over working pressure appears reasonable; but something more definite by way of direction is required. Inspectors cannot be supposed to be necessarily experts in boiler-testing: one might require only a test so low as to be quite ineffective: another might insist on an unduly high one, destructive in the present, or dangerous in its results in the future. The question cropped up incidentally: and Your Commissioner did not think it expedient to go into it more fully than it appears in Mr. Hebbard’s evidence already alluded to.

Rule 18 calls for no comment.

The last Rule—No. 22—appears to require amplification. In order to give workmen a full opportunity of reading all printed directions, Your Commissioner would suggest that it be made compulsory that Government Regulations and Rules in force in mines, as well as Special Rules, be printed clearly in black ink on a white ground in large type, so as to be easily readable by a person with ordinary sight at a distance of 6 feet: that they be framed, or stretched on boards, and kept fixed up vertically in a clearly legible condition, outside the office of the mine, at every brace and plat, and in such other positions as the Inspector may from time to time direct: that, if kept in a plat which is lit, they shall be so placed as to be illuminated while being read by a man standing opposite them. Copies, of a convenient size, in book form, clearly printed and strongly bound in paper, of all such Regulations and Rules, should also be kept in the office of every mine. Every workman, when engaged, should be supplied with one copy; and, thereafter, he should have the right to purchase a copy, at a sum, to be from time to time fixed by the Minister, not exceeding 3d.

Wilful defacing of, or injury to, copies of Regulations or Rules posted up should be an offence.

The sheet and book forms, as approved by the Minister, should be issued by the Government Printing Office, and supplied on request to all mine managers, at a cost representing, in the opinion of the Government Printer (subject only to the revision of the Public Service Board), the actual cost of production.

In further addition to the Rules that have been considered, there are some which appear to Your Commissioner to be clearly required.

1st. It should be compulsory to provide all cages with safety appliances, to check their descent in case the rope breaks or anything else happens to let them go. These are in fact universally, or almost universally, in use at Broken Hill; but there should be no option in the matter.

2nd. Every cage also should have a safety hook to prevent accident in case of over-winding. These are not in general use at Broken Hill; but there are now so many contrivances used in other countries that their adoption should be enforced.

In each case it might be left to the Inspector to approve of the particular pattern of safety-grip or hook to be used.

Bearing upon the question of inspection of mines, a Regulation providing for the keeping, in the office of every mine, of a book has been proposed; and the suggestion appears to be a good one. A book should be kept, in the nature of a diary, in which should be entered all orders given or suggestions made by the Inspector, and a statement of what has been done in conformity with them. These entries should be signed by the manager. A special boiler record for each boiler or set of boilers should also be kept, with a history of every test and of every repair or alteration, whether ordered by the Inspector or not. These entries should be signed by the engineer in general charge of the engines on the mine; the boiler test being countersigned by the Inspector. All entries in these books should be dated. The Inspector should have access to them at any time when the mine is working.

Rules similar to General Rules 35 and 36 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, might with advantage be embodied in rules for other mines. The hospital at Broken Hill is a considerable distance from any of the mines; and the need for a proper ambulance waggon has been felt on several occasions. One ought certainly to be available, stationed in a central position. Your Commissioner is informed that it is the intention of a local committee of citizens to procure the waggon: if that is done, then Your Commissioner would strongly urge upon your advisers the propriety of taking steps to provide a station, with a horse and driver, necessary for making the scheme effective.

Two simple matters, rather in the nature of details, but still put forward by one of the most intelligent of the witnesses as proper to be made universally compulsory—an opinion in which Your Commissioner concurs—were these: That no open hook, but only some form of grip- or shackle-hook, to be approved by the Inspector, shall be used with a bucket in hoisting; and that, where men are travelling up and down in a bucket, a proper safety-rope or loop shall be provided, to prevent accident in case of dizziness, and to leave a man's arms free to check spinning, &c.

A question which came up for consideration, and to which much attention was directed, with the view, apparently, of inducing Your Commissioner to recommend the making of a Regulation to enforce certain action on the part of both the employers and miners, was that of the place at which the shifts of miners engaged in stopping should change. A probable cause of accidents—certainly a likely source of danger—is the coming on of a shift in ignorance of how matters stand at the "face." Cases have even been known, resulting in the discharge of miners, of men going off shift and leaving a miss-fire—a charge of explosive the fuse of which had been lit shortly before change of shift, but which had not exploded, and which might, therefore, be hanging fire—without informing their mates coming on shift. This is an act which might cause a fatal accident. Again, the results of a shot fired just before the change may have been to loosen rock or ore and to leave it in a dangerous state, easily discernible by a man who has put in the charge and who has been working in the mine for hours, but likely not to be perceived in time to avoid an accident through a fall by one who has just come down from the glare of daylight. A conscientious miner will always take measures to inform the on-coming shift of any special danger, being careful that he or his mate shall meet one of their number; but not only may men miss one another altogether, one going up in one cage while the other is coming down in the other cage, but, through a change in the *personnel* of the shift, a miner may not know who the men on the next shift are. Thus, though a man is really careful, he may find it impracticable to give the necessary information. In the case of a careless miner the probability of his not going out of his way to do so increases the chance of his not giving it. Of course, it is only an utterly unscrupulous man who will allow any risk to the next shift of their coming on unaware of the danger in the case of a miss-fire; as he will wait, or see that some one waits, in the neighbourhood to give warning. The

The natural remedy for all this uncertainty is obviously to make a hard and fast rule that the shift shall change in the face, instead of at the brace as at present; or near to the face, in the event of a miss-fire. And this is the rule that was suggested. It would entail a loss of time to miners, variously estimated, according to the locality, at as little as a few minutes and as much as half an hour. And, unless the ventilation is very good, inasmuch as it is a common practice to fire blasts shortly before the change, so as to utilise for the clearing of the air the time taken in changing, there would appear to be some further loss of time, as shots would have to be fired earlier, so that the air might be clear for the next shift, and men would be compelled to remain off work during the whole interval of clearing. This, however, really means that the men towards the end of the shift would spend underground, waiting for the air to clear, the time otherwise used by the two shifts, the one in getting up to, and the other in coming down from, the brace. And the question resolves itself into this:—Is it worth while to keep the men underground a little longer in order more effectually to secure their safety? The natural answer is, most assuredly, that it is worth while. But, having heard all the evidence given in relation to this matter, and knowing the enormous force of ingrained prejudice, well expressed by Mr. Hebbard when he said, in answer to Q. 5988 (p. 187 of Minutes of Evidence), “There are certain prejudices you cannot prize out of a miner’s heart with a crowbar; and it is little things of this sort that go to inflame him, and create much irritation, though in reality there are no substantial grounds for it”; and noting also the next question and answer—“Do you know of any mines where it is the rule to change in the face? No; but I know of plenty where it has been tried, but has always had to be dropped on account of its not working properly”—Your Commissioner has come to the conclusion that the making of such a rule would be injudicious, and that the best way to meet the difficulty, and to induce miners to use their utmost endeavours to communicate with their mates at change of shift, would be to make a rule that, before leaving at relief of shift, and after the last firing, one member at least of a party of miners shall carefully inspect the face, except in case of a miss-fire; and that any danger found to exist, or a miss-fire, shall be communicated to the relieving shift before they come to the face; and that for failure to so inspect, or so communicate a danger, each member of the party going off shall be liable to a severe penalty, a substantial minimum fine of (say) £2 being payable by each in any event—on proof only of the failure to inspect, or of the actual existence of the danger and of the failure to communicate, and even though that failure be the wrongful act of one of the party only, to whom the other or others have entrusted the duty. There would be no real hardship in such a rule, because it is always within the power of a miner, if he chooses, to wait for the relieving shift at or near the face, and so, at the expense of a little loss of time, to ensure the communication; and it would only occasionally happen that such communication would be essential. No miner who takes any interest in his work will fail to run in—even before the air has cleared enough for working—and see the effect of his shot: the fear of the penalty suggested would, it is to be hoped, outweigh the selfish desire of the indifferent workman to get away from his work as soon as possible.

At the same time, seeing that miners are always liable to be placed at a disadvantage through ignorance of the composition of the on-coming shift, a rule should be made, disobedience of which should be also severely punishable, that, immediately on its being known at the office of the mine that any such change has been made, or how any uncertainty in that respect has been settled, the full particulars of such change or settlement shall be communicated, with all possible despatch, to the members of the party underground.

A suggested compromise between changing at the brace and at the face—namely, changing at the plat—did not seem to be satisfactory: it omits the most valuable element in the latter of the two alternatives—the opportunity for actual pointing out of dangers and peculiarities.

Although it does not appear on the rules, Your Commissioner was informed of an order actually recognised in the district, which gave rise to some discussion; an order to the effect that no hole for blasting should be put down to a greater depth than 15 feet. This would apply really only to open-cut work. On the evidence, Your Commissioner is satisfied of the inexpediency of any such order: it may often happen that a deeper hole is necessary; and to leave full discretion to the miner in
this

this respect is rather in the interests of safety than tending to danger. Mr. Horwood's evidence (page 72 of Minutes of Evidence, Q. 2005, and page 85, Q. 2294) puts the matter very clearly.

Each mine appears to have its own system of serving out explosives. It would appear to be better not to make any general rule on this subject, but to leave it to be dealt with, if necessary, by Special Rules.

The last suggested additional regulation that calls for comment is one to strengthen the hands of the Inspector in respect to the reporting of accidents, a subject which will be again alluded to in connection with the next head of inquiry. It is a regulation compelling the person in charge of a mine to immediately report to the Inspector every accident that happens, on a form to be supplied by the Department or in substantial conformity with it. The system is now carried out, in effect, at Mr. Hebbard's request; but it should be a matter of compulsion. The duties of the Inspector in relation to the Department need not be fixed, except by the Department itself.

Although no mention was made of the subject, Your Commissioner, on looking through the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, observes that general rules 14 and 15 appear to be applicable to all mines, with a slight alteration in technical terms, &c. In framing regulations, Your Commissioner recommends a careful perusal of these rules. No doubt there are other matters in the Coal Mines Regulation Act which would be suggestive to the mind of an expert in drawing regulations for the control of mineral mines.

The third head of inquiry directs Your Commissioner to examine—

Into the truth of the statement that the number of accidents in such Mines and Quarries has largely increased, and the cause of such large increase.

A comparison of the number of accidents that took place during the first half of the year 1897 with the number which occurred in 1896* certainly fails to bear out the suggestion that the number of accidents had at the time of the issuing of the Commission largely increased: the number during the six months from January to June, 1897, was 30, involving more or less serious injury to 31 men; of these, 9 accidents proved fatal to 10 men. These numbers include surface and true mining accidents. During 1896 the total number of accidents was 59, causing injury to 62 men: 12 of these proved fatal.

During the year 1895, inquests were held in the district in 14 cases on the bodies of 21 men.†

Comparing the first half of the year 1897 with the whole of 1896, and considering the fact that—according to Mr. Hebbard's evidence (Minutes of Evidence, page 173, Q. 5575)—during eighteen months, say from about the beginning of 1896, the mines had shown an increase of 1,600 or 1,800 workmen—an addition of about 40 per cent., the present number being about 6,000—the total numbers for the first half of 1897 would be relatively considerably less than those for 1896: though the number of fatal accidents in 1896 was proportionally lower, in relation to the time only during which they occurred, than the numbers which happened in the first half of 1897, still it is to be observed that there had been only five up to the end of May, 1897; this would agree with the average for 1896: then came the four almost concurrent casualties which brought the number up to nine, and the number of men killed to ten.

Again, assuming the number of miners at work in 1895 to be 4,500, and to average during the first six months of 1897, 6,000 (see Mr. Hebbard's evidence—Minutes of Evidence, page 183, Q. 5883), then the ratio of 14 fatal accidents for 12 months among 4,500 men is a shade higher than that of 9 for 6 months among 6,000 men. And, if the total number killed in each case be taken, then 21 men among 4,500 for 12 months is a number higher by 40 per cent. than 10 men among 6,000 for 6 months.

If, however, as a more correct basis, the accidents which occurred at Broken Hill only are considered—for, practically, Broken Hill is the scene of this inquiry—
and

* From the records in the Mines Department.

† According to depositions supplied by Department of Justice.

and if, as the best approximation that can be made, the average number of men be taken as 4,500 for 1895, 5,500 for 1896, and 6,000 for 1897, then the figures stand thus :—

Fatal Accidents at Broken Hill Mines.

	Number of Accidents.	Rate per 1,000 Men per Annum.	Number of Men Killed.	Rate per 1,000 Men per Annum.
1895	11	2.4	17	3.7
1896	10	1.82	11	2.0
1897 (1st half) ...	7	2.3	7	2.3
1897 (1st five months)	4	1.6	4	1.6
		mean 2.13	mean 2.8	

Accidents of all kinds (including fatal) at Broken Hill Mines.

	Number of Accidents.	Rate per 1,000 Men per Annum.	Number of Men Affected.	Rate per 1,000 Men per Annum.
1896	57	10.36	60	10.9
1897 (1st half) ...	28	9.3	29	9.6

The truth is that, during 1897, up to the time when one of those apparently strange concurrences of misfortune arose—generally known as a chapter of accidents—beginning with the deaths of Ryan and Taylor, there had been an unusually small number of fatal, or, indeed, of serious, accidents connected with mining in the district. The spurt—as Mr. Hebbard puts it in his evidence (page 173, Q. 5571)—of fatal accidents that followed was remarkable, and, naturally, attracted attention, while, in fact, it proved nothing; nor did it suggest any connected course of conduct anywhere. Ryan and Taylor both met with their deaths on Friday, June 4, in the open cuts, by distinct causes—Ryan, in Smith's cut, from being struck by a falling stone that had probably been shaken loose from the slope above the working face by the vibration of blasting; and Taylor, on the evening of the same day, by a run of stone in Harry's open cut, after all apparently loose or suspicious ground had been barred down. In the former case, the Coroner's Jury attached no blame to anyone; in the latter, they censured the ganger, Humphries, for allowing Taylor to work in what appeared to them a dangerous place; though the evidence indicated that proper care had been taken, and that the run of ground was such as could not have been foreseen.

On the 5th of June, Kennedy and Sawyer were killed at Tarrawingee, over 40 miles away, in a totally different manner; the shift-boss in that case being certainly to blame for a, perhaps, not unnatural piece of carelessness in using an iron bar to force down a piece of bagging that had jammed in a "bulled" hole, partly recharged with powder. Whether the explosion that followed and killed the two men, by causing them to fall backwards into the quarry, was the result of a spark from friction, or heat from sudden compression of air, is uncertain. On the 8th of June, Andrewatha was killed at Block 10 by a most extraordinary—and, it seems, unprecedented—mishap, the sudden running out of a flat wire winding-rope that was being turned end for end, the bight of which was left hanging, in a loop, down the shaft, one fall being attached to the brace, and the other clamped between two pieces of 10 in. by 10 in. Oregon timber laid across the shaft, and bolted together through and through. After being suspended thus for some two hours, the rope suddenly slipped between the timbers. The rush and increase of weight in the bight caused the other end also to carry away; the part of the rope coiled at the surface caught Andrewatha as it ran down the shaft, and killed him. Whether it was that the nuts of the bolts had not been screwed up tightly enough, or that the tension on them, and the compression on the wood and rope and the hessian with which it was served, gradually acting, had loosened work at first properly secured, can only be conjectured: it seemed—from the fact that the rope hung immovable for two hours, and that the plan had been successfully, with a much longer bight, adopted before—that the mishap was a pure accident.

Looking at the disconnected nature of these accidents, especially in the light of the history that preceded them and the pause in similar occurrences that followed, Your Commissioner can see in them no significance—nothing to suggest any peculiar relaxation of human care or increase in human perversity, to account for their concurrence. They seem simply to deserve the name of coincidences. But they

evidently intensified an idea, curiously, though illogically, founded on the very care which has been taken to prevent accidents, by scrupulous investigation of every one that happens, that the Broken Hill mines are peculiarly liable to casualties. At page 173 of the Minutes of Evidence, beginning with Q. 5561, Mr. Hebbard has described the system which he has adopted of reporting all accidents of any consequence. Again, at page 183, Q. 5883, he alludes to the subject: and, in answer to Q. 5888, he explains how it comes about that miners in the Albert district, as compared with those in other parts of the Colony, unfairly appear to the public to be peculiarly liable to injury, when in point of fact they are probably, by comparison, remarkably safe in that respect. In answer to Q. 5883, Mr. Hebbard gives his conclusion, drawn from his own experience, that the annual average of fatal accidents in the district is about 2·4 per 1,000 men employed. On the Proprietary mine—by far the largest in the district—employing at Broken Hill alone about 2,500 men—Mr. Stewart says (page 93 of Minutes of Evidence, Q. 2522) that the number of fatal accidents on that mine has been under 2 per 1,000 per annum, while, considering the kind of work to be done, three would not be excessive. A table showing, approximately, the dealings of this mine at Broken Hill only (see Mr. Stewart's evidence, page 93 of Minutes of Evidence, Q. 2517 &c.), will give a practical idea of the work done by the company in connection with which so small a proportion of fatal accidents has occurred:—

Tonnage of Material Handled.

	In open cut.	Underground.
	Tons.	Tons.
Ore, per annum	100,000	300,000
Waste „	400,000	.....
Filling „ ... ..	.....	150,000
Coke, per month ... ..	.....	3,500
Coal „ ... ..	.....	3,000
Timber „ ... ..	.....	800
Flux „ ... ..	.....	7,500
Bullion „ ... ..	.....	2,200
Slag „ ... ..	.....	22,000

Quantity of Explosives Used.

	Tons.
Nitro-glycerine explosives, per month	5
Gunpowder and low explosives „	7

Payments Made.

	£
Wages, per month	30,000
General Stores, per month	4,500
Timber, per month	3,500
Coke „	11,000
Coal „	4,500

Men Employed.

	Men.
Underground	1,000
In open cut	350
On surface works	1,150
Total, employed by the Company	2,500

The evidence of other managers bears out fully the same conclusion—that very few deaths have occurred in proportion to the number of men employed.

Mr. Polkingborne, in his evidence (page 47 of Minutes of Evidence, Q. 1364) deposed that (according to a report which he accepted as correct), among 1,650 members of the Amalgamated Miners' Association working at Ballarat in 1896, there had been 5 fatal accidents: this is equivalent to 3·03 per 1,000.

Although some of the witnesses called, who had no data to go by, and whose minds were evidently impressed by the sensational concurrence of fatal accidents in June, expressed an opinion that casualties had increased of late—as they certainly had, to a remarkable extent, in those few unfortunate days; yet all those who exercised any reflection on the matter agreed that there had been no general noticeable increase, in proportion to the number of men employed.

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The effect of so many fatal accidents taking place about the same time was no doubt heightened by the fact that during the months of May and June the total number of casualties, including those that resulted in death, was above the average; though the significance of this fact disappears when the whole of the accidents for the eighteen months beginning on January, 1896, are tabulated. They stand thus:—

Month.	1896.		1897.			
	Broken Hill only. (Probable average number of men—5,500.)		Whole District. (Number of men uncertain.)		Broken Hill only. (Probable average number of men—6,000.)	
	Number of accidents.	Number of men affected.	Number of accidents.	Number of men affected.	Number of accidents.	Number of men affected.
January	0	0	6	6	6	6
February	7	7	1	1	1	1
March	7	7	3	3	3	3
April	8	9	3	3	3	3
May	3	3	8	8	7	7
June	5	5	9	10	8	9
July	10	10	.....	.....	.....	.....
August	3	3	.....	.....	.....	.....
September	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....
October	6	6	.....	.....	.....	.....
November	4	6	.....	.....	.....	.....
December	4	4	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total for 12 months ...	59	62	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total for 6 months ...	.....	.....	30	31	28	29
Monthly average ...	4.9	5.2	5.0	5.2	4.6	4.8

N.B.—The irregularities in this list show how accidents apparently come in spurts.

As to the cause of the accidents that had occurred, there was hardly any difference of opinion among the witnesses that the incompetency of men representing themselves as miners, and having no real knowledge of the work, had contributed very largely. There has of late years been an exodus of many of the best men to Western Australia; and their places have been taken by men, principally from South Australia, drawn from all classes of labourers. A return given by Mr. Stewart seems to indicate that it is due to the vigilance of the mine managements that the number of accidents has not increased considerably within the last twelve months. It gives the actual numbers of men discharged for misconduct or incompetency from the Proprietary mine from June, 1895, with the reasons; and the numbers of men passing through the books (page 93 of Minutes of Evidence, Q. 2517, &c.). The return is as follows:—

Causes of discharge of men.	For twelve months ending	
	June 30, 1896.	June 30, 1897.
Drunkenness on works	24	34
Smoking underground	39	27
Lighting fires underground	2	0
Leaving undischarged holes in "face"	0	8
Leaving shoots uncovered	0	4
Sleeping underground	2	9
Quarrelling underground	2	2
Total	69	84
Incompetency*	210	461
Total number discharged	279	545
Total movement of men (including men re-engaged)	2,104	3,138

* Mr. Thomas, underground manager on Block 10 Mine, says about 50 per cent. of miners now employed are incompetent (Minutes of Evidence, page 116, Q. 3249).

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The first total shows an addition to the number of such acts as steady, competent, miners would not be likely to indulge in; the second shows more than a doubling of cases of want of ability in itself calling for dismissal; and the third indicates an increase, by nearly 50 per cent., in an unsettled or migratory tendency; all these changes suggesting a falling-off in the proportion of experienced men, of settled habits.

In accounting for accidents—assuming, incorrectly, that there had been a substantial increase of late—several of the witnesses insisted upon the idea that the contract system was responsible for them, in that it created a tendency among miners to rush their work, in order to get through as many sets as possible within the fortnight, whereas, on the day-labour system, they were naturally inclined to do everything to secure their own safety. On the other hand, it was urged by the witnesses who stood in a favourable relation to the management that the contract system, by placing men in a more independent position and making good work an element of personal success, improved the tone of the miners, and tended both to make them more competent and to attract better men to the mines. It was conclusively proved that the average wage earned under the contract system is in advance—and in some cases very much in advance—of the ruling wage upon which the prices offered by the management are based, at so much a set, in stopping on the square-set principle: this ruling wage is 9s. per man per shift; and it is clearly proved that, without running undue risks, or working unduly hard, men can make at least that amount. In fact the average paid by the Proprietary mine has been about 10s. 6d. or 11s. (Mr. Horwood's evidence, page 68 of Minutes of Evidence, Q. 1916). At page 66, Q. 1876, Mr. Horwood explains the system, and gives the reason for reducing the duration of contracts from a month to a fortnight. And, on the whole evidence, Your Commissioner is satisfied that it is absurd to attribute accidents to the contract system, which has so largely increased the efficiency of the work on the mines.

The general agreement, however, in the belief that the incompetency of the men was the prevailing cause of accidents led to the expression of an opinion, to which there was no exception, that a system of apprenticeship of boys, not under sixteen, would, if it could be instituted, be of great service to the mining industry. It is curious that absolutely nothing of the kind exists, though there are youths apprenticed to the mine management in surface work. This is a matter that cannot be touched by any regulation: perhaps it might be helped by legislation: it lies largely with the miners themselves; whose object it should be to have their sons, if intended to follow their fathers' calling, properly and systematically instructed: and it is also essentially a question that the Miners' Association can assist or hinder. Your Commissioner does not feel justified in going further into it here.

Finally, therefore, as to this head of inquiry, Your Commissioner finds that the statement that the number of accidents in the mines and quarries in the Albert Mining District has largely increased is not true: and it follows, therefore (though the question of the causes of accidents generally has been touched upon) that there is no large—nor is there any—increase requiring explanation.

The fourth head of inquiry runs thus:—

Whether the open-cut system of work is specially dangerous; and, if so, whether this is due to such work being carried on at night; and whether such system should be prohibited; and, if necessary, to suggest regulations for the purpose of safeguarding the lives of the miners and other persons employed in that class of work.

Although the open-cut system of mining seems to be a new one in Australia, it has been carried on in other parts of the world to very much greater depths than that to which it extends at Broken Hill. Mr. Stewart gives an account of large works in Spain in existence for at least thirty years (page 87 of Minutes of Evidence: and page 115, Q. 3198.) Although one witness, O'Brien, whose demeanour indicated very strong animus—possibly the result of his having been dismissed for refusing to obey orders, given to secure his own safety—and who was conclusively contradicted on many important points, gave evidence which, if it is to be believed, would show
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the utmost recklessness on the part of the manager and gangers employed by Baxter and Saddler, the principal contractors under the Proprietary Company for their open-cut work; still, from the whole of the evidence taken together, Your Commissioner is satisfied that there is no foundation for the allegation that open-cut work is specially dangerous. Certainly two men, Ryan and Taylor, were both fatally injured on the same day, June 4 last, in two adjoining open cuts, or sections of the same cut: their cases have been already mentioned: but it is remarkable that, before these accidents, there appear to have been none of any kind in the open cuts during 1897, except one causing the death of a man named Gainey* in a peculiar manner, through an accident to the skip hoisted by means of the "flying fox," a truck running on a rope tramway, and only two—both from falling stones—neither of them fatal, in 1896. Mr. Shaw, who has been in charge of Baxter and Saddler's open-cut works since October 1, 1892, and who has had under him an average of 300 men, who have moved 2,000,000 tons of material and have used nearly 500 tons of explosives, explained the four fatal accidents which had occurred under him during the four years and three quarters. It is noticeable that only one of these accidents resulted from the peculiarity, upon which the special risk is supposed to depend, of the open cuts, as such; namely the danger of falls of stone, either loosened by "barring down," or coming away unexpectedly. (Minutes of Evidence, pages 144-145). William Harry, contractor on the open cut on Block 11, proved that Taylor's accident was the only fatal one that had occurred on his contract, and that he had never had one of any kind at night except that which befel Taylor, or any other serious accident by day or night. (Minutes of Evidence, page 154). William Smith, another contractor on the open cut in Block 11, described Gainey's and Ryan's accidents. (Minutes of Evidence, pages 157-158). Gainey was killed on January 28, 1897. Between the accidents to Gainey and Ryan no serious casualties had happened on Smith's contract. There is always an element of danger in the use of over-head hoisting gear of all kinds, such as has to be employed on open cuts, except where the spoil is passed directly down to the stopes below for filling; the open cuts being excavations made for the purpose of winning the upper part of the lode, taken out below by stoping; but the evidence proved that strict orders were given to the men to "stand from under," and that the main difficulty was to enforce this rule; and that every possible care was taken, both by the company and by the contractors, to secure the safety of all gear used in vertical hoisting, and in hauling trucks up inclined lines of rails to the surface, or to intermediate levels, to pass through tunnels to the tips, &c. Although both Harry and Smith had a most unfortunate experience, there was nothing to show that any relaxation of care or changed conditions had led to the fatal accidents in their cuts; taking Baxter and Saddler's experience together with theirs, the excessive risk of open-cut work seems to disappear entirely.

Among the incidents of open-cut work, in which it is almost entirely used, the system of "bulling"—consisting of the enlargement of the bottom of a hole by exploding a small charge in it, in order to enable it to hold a large charge concentrated at one point, giving to the explosion a more effective lifting power—was gone into at considerable length. By far the larger balance of testimony was in favour of its utility and safety, if only a fair amount of knowledge and care is applied to its use. It involves some peculiar risks, the main one being the possibility of there being left in the hole to be charged, which must frequently be surrounded by radiating cracks, some smouldering matter or rock dangerously heated by the concussion. Your Commissioner would not recommend that the practice of "bulling" be forbidden: its regulation has been touched upon in the suggested alterations of the rules concerning explosives.

A mode of excavation, connected with open-cut work, in use long before Broken Hill was named or even known,† has come in for much abuse—partly, it seems, by reason of a name. A heading, or tunnel, is driven into a face to be worked down, in any excavation deep enough to make the plan appropriate. The tunnel extends outside of the face, where it is, in fact, a built covered-way. It is logged or slabbed across on the top, being, of course, timbered on the sides in the usual manner. A truck runs on rails within. Wherever it is suitable to the state of the face

* This name appears as Gaynor in the Minutes of Evidence.

† Mr. Shaw, Engineer-in-charge for Baxter and Saddler, says the plan has been "in existence from time immemorial" (Minutes of Evidence, p. 146, Q. 4122).

face to do so, a sort of hatchway is opened in the roof; and the truck is run under the opening and filled by a man standing on the side of the kind of hopper formed by the material as it is barred or shovelled down from the face. He is not surrounded by a bank on all sides, one, at least, being open. Another man, down below, regulates the filling of the truck; another, or others, are working down the spoil from above. One of the logs in use on the edge of the hatch, to which various uncomplimentary names have been given by navvies, came to be called at Broken Hill the "Chinaman"—no doubt an unintentional compliment to a steadily useful and long-suffering race. (Mr. Horwood's evidence: Minutes of Evidence, page 76, Q. 2116.) After a time the whole contrivance was known by this, to the average European, opprobrious title. And—partly, perhaps, from this accident; partly, it may be, because the use of the "Chinaman" is an enormous saving in labour—this mode of working has acquired an evil name. The evidence, and the nature of the contrivance, convinced Your Commissioner that it is not only a serviceable, but a safe, mode of working; much safer, in fact, than the plan of filling from a bank under the face into a line of trucks. Before it came into use, according to Mr. Hebbard's evidence (Minutes of Evidence, page 182, Q. 5858), minor accidents were much more numerous.

In the past, although care was taken to light the open cuts effectively, electric arc lights being used for the purpose, it was found that the plan adopted was not quite satisfactory. Yet experience has from the first shown that in fact accidents were less common at night than in the day-time; partly, no doubt, because of the fact that fewer men were at work at night than by day. On the principal open cut, Baxter and Saddler's contract, it was proved by their engineer that there had actually been no accidents at night. (Minutes of Evidence, page 146, Q. 4432.) This contract, however, had not been working at night for about thirteen months. But now, and for some time back, incandescent burners are in use, so contrived as to be easily moved. Their light is very steady and diffused; more so, and easier to work by, than that of the arc lights. Altogether the change is a great improvement. The practice is to bar down all loose stuff before the night-shift comes on, unless it is then broad daylight: on Block 11 they come on at about 4:30 p.m. (Mr. Horwood's evidence: Minutes of Evidence, page 76, Q. 2100). Your Commissioner is satisfied that no extra risk is practically involved in night-work; of which, however, very little is being done at present. During the summer months the comparative ease and comfort of working in the open cuts by night must be very great, seeing the intense heat which prevails at Broken Hill—so far inland, in latitude 32° S., about 1,000 feet only above sea-level—from November to March: though the conditions under which miners have to attempt to sleep in the day-time largely discount the advantage of working by night. What are really required are well ventilated underground dormitories, in the silence and coolness of which miners would be able to secure the true sleep they need to fit them for their hard work.

As to the necessity for regulations to be applied to open cuts. In the first place, although, as appears in a former part of this Report, Your Commissioner is of opinion that the word "mine" in the interpretation section of the Mining Act, 1874, and the words "other Mining Workings" in subsection 3 of section 64 of the Act, include open cuts, and that such excavations are also covered by the definition of the word "mine" in subsection 5 of Regulation 1, still, seeing that in fact no such thing as an open cut of the nature of those in question was apparently contemplated by the framers of the Mining Act, 1874, and that there is a doubt on the question of construction, it would be expedient, both in legislating and in drawing regulations, to express clearly the intention to include, where it is proper that they should be included, open cuts and quarries.

As to any special rules to be made in relation to open cuts, it was pressed upon Your Commissioner to suggest the providing of a minimum batter, instead of leaving this question in the absolute discretion of the Inspector. Considering the infinite variations in conditions—in hardness of rock or solidity of soil—in their susceptibility to chemical or mechanical change—in cleavage and strike, in relation to line of excavation—and in numerous other ways, resulting in a limit of the difference in the angle of safety of, probably, not less than 60 degrees at least, Your Commissioner is of opinion that it would be worse than useless to provide for a

minimum

minimum angle from the perpendicular at which the side of an excavation should stand; inasmuch as such rule might tend to unsafely weaken the sense of responsibility of an Inspector, who, if he felt that his authority to determine the angle was absolute, would always be careful to keep well on the side of caution. The only rule that Your Commissioner can suggest is that no undermining of a face shall be allowed unless the ground from the bottom of the excavation to a depth of at least 100 feet be absolutely solid for a distance horizontally in every direction of at least 200 yards from the ground undermined.

There are so many varieties of mechanism used for raising material out of open cuts—such as inclined planes, with rails and trucks; cranes of various patterns; wire-rope travelling hoists, like the “flying fox”—that it is impracticable to suggest any general rules to control these. The “Special Rules” of each mine would cover various matters connected with this kind of work. Rules dealing with open-cut work, in the book form suggested in connection with underground mining, should be similarly supplied to men engaged in this kind of excavation. Regulations and rules affecting open cuts should be set up at the office, and in conspicuous places on the work. All the duties and powers of an Inspector should be made to apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to open cuts.

The fifth head of inquiry is this—Whether the risk to the persons employed in the said Mines and Quarries is increased by reason of incompetency on the part of Managers and Subordinate Officials.

As to managers and officials generally of mines at Broken Hill, there was an almost unanimous opinion expressed by the witnesses that they are thoroughly competent men. Mr. Polkinghorne’s evidence on this point was very emphatic. (Minutes of Evidence, p. 40, Q. 1193–4.) Shinnick (Minutes of Evidence, p. 100, Q. 2717) and Kelly (p. 107, Q. 2956) certainly spoke in a disparaging way of the subordinate officials—shift-bosses; but Your Commissioner does not attach much weight to the evidence of these witnesses, whose animus was too apparent. Finan, a shift-boss himself in the Central mine, who seemed an able and intelligent man, scrupulous not to conceal his honest convictions (Minutes of Evidence, p. 141, Q. 4276), said he had known of four, in his opinion, incompetent shift-bosses. Two, however, had been discharged for not being capable (Q. 4281); another, the witness believed, was no longer in the position of shift-boss. Naturally, and properly, Finan was very reluctant to name the officers in question; when compelled, he did so in writing, under a pledge of secrecy imposed by Your Commissioner (page 142, Q. 4300). The evident anxiety of the management, expressed through their solicitor, Mr. Edwards, to arrive at the truth, was only consistent with the clearly pervading strong desire shown by all the mines to purge their lists of officers of any whose ability they doubted, and to get rid of workmen whose want of intelligence or of care imperilled the safety of the men or of the mines. It is possible that, by mistake, or through favour leading to the absence of a sufficient test of competency, a man may now and then be injudiciously appointed; but, taking the matter broadly and fairly, it can be safely asserted that incompetency in mine officers is a non-existent factor in producing accidents.

O’Brien, a very prejudiced witness, whose positive statements—as to care of ropes, machinery, &c.—were as positively, and, Your Commissioner believes, truly, contradicted, spoke strongly of the carelessness, and more strongly of the severity, of the gangers employed by the contractors on the open cuts, whom he described as “those sweating, slave-driving, gangers” (Minutes of Evidence, p. 59, Q. 1631); W. J. Williams, of whose accuracy—as far as intention goes—Your Commissioner has no doubt, deposed to having seen a “powder-monkey”—the man employed by the contractors to charge and fire holes—drunk on the work (Minutes of Evidence, p. 10, Q. 300), and (p. 11, Q. 302) to general looseness in management by the gangers. Although Your Commissioner attaches little weight to O’Brien’s statements, still it appears, taking the evidence of the witness Williams, that there have been gangers employed whose conduct has been reprehensible; but it is two years since Williams worked on the open cuts; and at present Your Commissioner is satisfied that due care is taken, and successfully, by the contractors, over whom the very strict management of the Proprietary Company exercises a full control, to have competent and careful officers.

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The limestone quarries at Tarrawingee, situate over 40 miles from Broken Hill, were visited by Your Commissioner; but, without the expenditure of time urgently required for the purpose of continuing the taking of evidence at Broken Hill, it was impracticable to examine witnesses at the former place. Everything there bore the appearance of care and good management. A serious accident, causing the death of two men, Kennedy and Sawyer, had recently happened (this has already been alluded to); the ganger, Lawson, who was to blame in that case for allowing an iron bar to be used in a partly charged hole, to cut away some bagging that had got jammed about 12 feet above the powder, acted against general orders, and deserved to be, as he was, severely reprimanded by the jury at the inquest; though certainly the occurrence was one that no one would have anticipated; but, beyond Lawson's improper act, there was nothing in this, or the former casualty, by which Williamson was killed, on the 7th of May last—evidently a pure accident, except, perhaps, for some want of care on Williamson's part—to suggest incompetency on the part of any official employed at the quarries. Work will soon be discontinued there altogether: and Your Commissioner did not think it expedient, either to bring a number of witnesses, who could hardly be spared, from their work, or to go there again himself for the purpose of taking evidence.

To the question put under this head, 5, Your Commissioner finds an answer in the negative.

As to the sixth head of inquiry—whether the services of additional Inspectors are necessary—Your Commissioner, having carefully considered this question, and being at first inclined to think that, over such an enormous area as that of the Albert district, the supervision of at least two Inspectors is essential, has, on reflection, come to the conclusion that the appointment of another Inspector is at present quite unnecessary. Mr. Hebbard's description of the nature of the outlying mining patches (Minutes of Evidence, p. 172)—one of which, Tarrawingee, so far as the work done there can be called mining, will very shortly cease to exist, as the smelting of ore, for which the limestone won at Tarrawingee is required, is shortly to be transferred from Broken Hill to Port Pirie—and of his duties in relation thereto, leaves it quite evident that he is practically resident Inspector at Broken Hill. And another Inspector would have nothing to do if Mr. Hebbard continued to attend to his work as he has in the past. Your Commissioner had a good opportunity of forming an opinion of Mr. Hebbard: and the opinion—which Your Commissioner thinks it material in this relation to express—is that he is a gentleman most thoroughly suitable for his office; conscientious, intelligent, energetic, and determined; with good sound practical experience; taking a steady interest in his work; continually aiming at improvement in all he has to do with; absolutely independent; with a manner that conciliates those whom he has to direct and control. Your Commissioner may be allowed to suggest that an office of such responsibility, involving much physical risk and labour, often entailing unpleasant and invidious action, and requiring special training and knowledge, should, in justice and in the public interest, be well remunerated: a salary of £500 per annum would, in Your Commissioner's opinion, be the very lowest fairly attachable to the appointment.

The seventh and last head of inquiry is as follows:—

As to the best means of making known to all persons employed in and about the said Mines and Quarries the statutory enactments and Regulations relating to the inspection of such Mines and Quarries; and to make any recommendation which Your Commissioner may deem advisable in the premises.

Your Commissioner has already dealt with and made suggestions in relation to the question of making known to miners and others all material rules and regulations: it is improbable that any actual statutory enactments would be so worded as to require publication, as all matters affecting workmen would probably be contained either in the General Regulations and Rules or in the Special Rules of each mine.

Your Commissioner would, however, again urge the adoption of the suggestion as to regulations, &c., in pamphlet form: it is probable that—especially if, as it should be, the type is clear, and not too small—many men, who are ashamed to acknowledge

acknowledge their slowness in reading by standing in the presence of others spelling out a copy posted up, will quietly, at their leisure, read their little books and learn therefrom the most useful parts.

Various subjects cropped up in the course of the inquiry; and various suggestions were made. Some of these may be dismissed in a few words. One was a plan of certificating—(1) shift-bosses—(2) miners. Neither of these ideas seems to Your Commissioner to be practicable. Then it was indirectly suggested that cognisance should be taken of the one-sided nature of the contracts (Appendices 3–4) made by the Proprietary Company with the men. This was a matter clearly beyond the scope of regulations or of this Commission: the form is, no doubt, the result of long experience and careful study; and any attempt to take unfair advantage of the conditions is very rare: the influence of the Association, and the self-interest of the mines, prevent this: and Your Commissioner believes that the mine managers have, as a rule, a real wish to further the interests of the miners, while protecting those of their own employers.

One matter, however, of much importance was mooted, namely the establishing—by statute, of course—of some tribunal to deal with accidents, connected with mines, not resulting in death. The analogy of section 23 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, is in favour of this contention. And Mr. Polkinghorne's argument is a sound one, that it is an anomaly that it should only be when an accident causes death, and, therefore, only when the witness who could have given the most material and direct evidence of its circumstances is not in existence, that an inquiry, perhaps of a very useful nature, in helping to avoid further mishaps, can be held. Various suggestions were made as to the composition of this tribunal, spoken of as a "Board"; that it should consist partly of miners, partly of managers, partly of a Government officer. On the other hand, a strong opinion was expressed by some witnesses that such a tribunal would be useless, or worse, and that all that is required is the existing system whereby the Inspector finds out and reports to the Chief Inspector, who communicates to the Minister, all that can be discovered as to the cause and nature of an accident. But then it is clear that the Inspector's own action in the matter may be questioned: it may be that it has been the result of his own want of care or of discretion in controlling the action of a mine officer.

On the whole, Your Commissioner is of opinion that some such tribunal would be useful, and that its operation would tend to the general taking of a just view of the facts of serious, but not fatal, accidents. And Your Commissioner does not regard the risk arising from mine officers being taken away from their duties, to give evidence, (Minutes of Evidence, page 92, Q. 2498) as a substantial objection. Its operations might be, if it is constituted in such a simple manner as Your Commissioner is about to suggest—and they certainly ought to be—so arranged on each occasion as to minimise this possible evil. But a representative Board appears to Your Commissioner a clumsy and objectionable contrivance. The very fact that a tribunal is representative tends to prevent its being impartial. All that seems to be required is the possibility of holding, as soon as is practicable after the accident, an inquiry before the Warden or Police Magistrate. The Inspector should inquire and report, as he now does: but he should also, at once, on receipt of the report of the accident, forward it on to the Clerk of Petty Sessions; the Warden or Police Magistrate should then determine whether to hold an inquiry or not, either on his own motion, or at the request of the Inspector, or any one acting on behalf of the mine or of any person injured. The proceedings would be similar to those on a magisterial inquiry: and the finding should be reported to the Minister for Mines.

The position of Broken Hill makes it practically impossible for explosives to be supplied from any other colony than South Australia. In South Australia there is an Inspector of Explosives; and great care is exercised in examining all that are imported, and, if it is thought expedient, destroying any that appear of bad quality. The nitro-glycerine compounds, it is well known, are not always in a satisfactory condition; and nitro-glycerine, separated from the infusorial earth with which it is mixed to make dynamite, or from the other vehicles used, is very unstable, and may explode unaccountably—as in the well-known Bridge-street case, which, more than thirty years ago, first brought nitro-glycerine so forcibly to the notice of the people of Sydney. And not only in the possibility of their unforeseen explosion, but
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in their becoming inert, and refusing, in whole or in part, to explode, under conditions which are supposed to insure that result, are nitro-glycerine compounds in a damaged state or of low grade dangerous. The evidence seems to prove conclusively that dynamite plugs have survived the concussion of a blast of which they actually formed a part of the charge; yet it appears that these plugs have exploded afterwards under slightly different conditions of friction or percussion. It is these peculiarities which make it necessary to investigate, or blow out with an explosive, a hole of the kind known as an "old bottom," provided for in the suggested alterations of the rules dealing with explosives. If Broken Hill were ever enabled to trade with New South Wales—as by the laying of a narrow-gauge line similar to that which, provided, at moderate cost, by a private company between Broken Hill and Tarrawingee, connects those two places with such remarkable success—then the question of introducing dangerous explosives that had not passed a careful examination would be a very serious one in relation to the safety of the large mining population of the Barrier. The expediency of introducing—by statute—a system of inspection, at least as effective as that in force in South Australia, is, to the mind of Your Commissioner, a very important one. In fact the handling of any explosive, even in small quantities, requires strict regulation. New explosives of enormous force and of erratic tendencies are continually being invented, and are occasionally carried about as samples: the exhibitions of their effectiveness which this is likely to lead to should be discouraged.

In connection with the question of explosives, Your Commissioner, though conscious that the terms of the Commission were being somewhat extended thereby, allowed Mr. Wilks, Stock Inspector, whose evidence will be found at page 9 of the Minutes of Evidence, to bring forward what he considered to be the dangerous position occupied—with the permission of the authorities—by the explosive magazines belonging to various companies and contractors at Broken Hill. These magazines, a series of sheds, built of galvanized iron, and said to be lined inside with "match board" lining only, stand on the edge of a plain on the north side of Broken Hill, about half a mile or more from a prolongation of the town along William-street, Willyama. Between the dwellings on this street and the magazines is the plain: close behind the sheds is a ridge of moderate height: a few hundred yards further on, over the ridge, and easily accessible by another route from the town, is a depression. The hills cut this position completely off from the town. The plain is a reserve on which sports are commonly held. The magazines are entirely above ground, and are only protected by a galvanized iron fence closely built round each of them. There are lightning conductors—more or less efficient—fixed on the sheds; which are so constructed that a stray bullet would probably go through them with ease. Whether this would explode the contents or not, if it hit a case of explosives, may be doubtful. The whole of them—with, when Your Commissioner looked at them, the exception of one, which appeared to be supposed to take care of itself—were under the charge of an old man who had been nearly killed by accident in a shaft not very long ago. He was relieved by another man, each doing 12-hour shifts.

To one who is not an expert in explosives, the position of these magazines, and the way they are constructed, certainly lead to the conclusion that they are unnecessarily risky. The ridge at the back would probably aggravate the effect of an explosion on the side of the town. The way they are built makes it certain that their contents are subjected to enormous and rapid changes of temperature. Presumably this is not a proper condition to which to subject delicate chemical compounds, due, for their effectiveness, to the instability of their chemical affinities. On the other hand there is apparent:—1st. A safe and convenient place to which the sheds can be moved. 2nd. A good opportunity of protecting them with cheaply-constructed low earth mounds surrounding them, and a thick layer of sawdust forming a ceiling over them and a filling round them; or some such inexpensive protections, which would together make them both bullet- and sun-proof, in their new position, without super-imposing weight enough to appreciably aggravate the effect of an explosion. Mr. Wilks, probably correctly, estimated the whole cost of moving the sheds as they are at £150 at the most. Yet he deposed—and rightly, it appears, expressed indignation at the waste of public money involved—that it is in contemplation to spend a large sum (over £2,000) in putting up a mound between the present site and
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Broken Hill, in order to break the force of an explosion acting in the direction of the town. Nature has put up great mounds all over the surrounding country: neither Mr. Wilks nor Your Commissioner can see why any more should be built. Mr. Wilks may be quite in error in this matter: knowing and seeing only as much as that gentleman, however, Your Commissioner thoroughly agrees with him.

There is another matter calling for comment and suggestion. There have been various opinions expressed as to the causes of miss-fires, and of shots hanging fire. One witness deposed to an observed lapse of 35 minutes between the spitting of the fuse and the explosion in a fairly deep hole. On the one hand it is a common opinion among miners that, where the column of powder is broken in a fuse, the cotton or other material of which it is made will sometimes continue to smoulder till it again sets fire to the intercepted core. On the other hand this has been disputed; and the cause of hanging fire has been ascribed to the fuse failing, through intervention of sawdust from the packing, or otherwise, to ignite and explode the fulminate of mercury in the cap. Then the theory is that the dynamite is set fire to: it burns very slowly under the circumstances, till the temperature of a small mass of it rises to 430° Fahrenheit, at which degree it explodes. This, however, would not explain hanging-fire in a powder charge; and in Foster's text-book of ore and stone mining (1894), at page 217, will be found a statement that the coloured threads running down the centre of the core of powder, and serving as trade-marks, are, in some fuses, impregnated with potassium nitrate, with the view of carrying the fire along in case of interruption in the continuity of the core.* And Foster certainly assumes that hang-fires are due to the defective action of the fuse.† As defective fuse is nearly as dangerous as defective explodents, and as there is so much uncertainty about the action of fuses in this relation, Your Commissioner promised—in the course of the inquiry—to suggest, and now expresses his opinion that it would be expedient, that careful experiments should be made—which the representatives of the Broken Hill and other mines might be invited to attend—by order of the Department of Mines, on the action of various known makes of fuse, with broken cores and otherwise.

It was contended by one witness, Mr. Jabez Wright, that a co-efficient in producing accidents was the difficulty of proof on behalf of the plaintiff under the Employers' Liability Act. This, he urged, had the effect of making employers less careful than they would be if the onus of proof of defect or negligence were removed from the plaintiff, and the onus of disproof were laid on the defendant. Your Commissioner leaves this difficult question of legislation to be debated, as it probably will be, in the future; merely remarking that the negligence of another is so difficult of proof, unless it be inferred from the very fact of an accident's having taken place, that the contention appears to have very good reason in its support. Beyond this, however, seeing that the balance of evidence strongly points to the conclusion, at which Your Commissioner has arrived, that the want of care and of discretion among workmen themselves is the prevailing cause of accidents at Broken Hill, it follows that, rather than tending to reduce the number of casualties, an amendment of the law which would make the remedy of the employed against the employer easier would have the opposite tendency.

Lastly, a suggestion was made that the present state of the Jury law imposes upon the working of mines a risk that should not be incurred, by occasionally depriving the workers of the benefit of regular management and control. It was contended that general managers, underground managers, and the heads of departments generally, as also engine-drivers on mines, should be exempt from service on juries. It was doubted whether shift-bosses ought or ought not to be included in the exemption: as there are so many men employed on a mine capable of undertaking the duties of a shift-boss, this extension was not pressed. Your Commissioner agrees with the proposal to exempt general and underground managers, heads of departments (including engineers in general charge), and engine-drivers, having control of or working in any mine that employs not less than twenty men.

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* *Quere*—caused sometimes by stretching, in straightening fuse: Day's opinion (Minutes of Evidence, page 150, Q. 4589).

† Mr. Thomas, underground manager on Block 10 Mine, mentions a case, twenty years ago, of a charge exploding after hanging fire for sixteen hours (Minutes of Evidence, page 122, Q. 3407). Mr. Smith, contractor, has known an interval of thirty-five minutes (Minutes of Evidence, page 160, Q. 5004).

In closing this Report, Your Commissioner wishes to call attention to the able and thorough manner in which Mr. Wright, who acted as Secretary, and Mr. Little, the shorthand-writer—upon whom a very heavy strain was imposed at Broken Hill and since, in consequence of the rapid rate at which it was necessary to take the evidence—have carried out their duties. Without making this Report, which in length has already exceeded Your Commissioner's intention, unduly long, Your Commissioner feels that, in the limited time at his disposal, he has failed to do justice to all the multifarious subjects to the introduction of which the general terms of the Commission naturally led. Your Commissioner can only hope that the information acquired and the conclusions at which he has arrived will be of service in settling the questions propounded by the Commission.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

(Signed) C. E. R. MURRAY.

E. C. WRIGHT,
Secretary.

Thursday, 7th October, 1897.

ROYAL COMMISSION APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE WORKING OF
MINES AND QUARRIES IN THE ALBERT MINING DISTRICT.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

MONDAY, 5 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner, at 7:15 p.m., left Sydney for Broken Hill.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Commissioner.

THURSDAY, 8 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner arrived at Broken Hill at 8:30 a.m.

At 10:30 a.m. His Honor paid a visit to what are known as the open-cuts, situated on the mine owned by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited. Mr. James Hebbard, Government Inspector of Mines for the Albert Mining District, accompanied His Honor.

The first spot seen was the northern boundary of Block 13, where the outcrop of the lode had been removed, and the lode excavated to a depth of about 60 feet by an open-cast. The cutting was about 260 feet wide by 300 feet long at the top, and 160 feet wide by 200 feet long in the bottom. The section of the lode which had been left untouched immediately south of this so as to support Wilson's shaft and engine-room was seen. The gear and fittings around Wilson's shaft were examined, as also were the bins for holding the ore brought from underground. Attention was directed to Messrs. Baxter and Saddler's works, and the timbers of one of the underground stopes which were being removed by the open-cut came under notice. His Honor next proceeded to the vicinity of Wigg's shaft, and thence to the open-cuts at Block 11, and to Smith's and Harry's contracts.

His Honor, at 3 p.m., accompanied by Mr. Hebbard, visited the northern nest of furnaces at the Broken Hill Proprietary Mine, the blower-house and engines, and the tapping and feed floors; and also saw the electric light and air-compressing plants. The leaching works, the pumping-house, and the nest of boilers at the southern smelters of the mine, were also viewed.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Commissioner.

FRIDAY, 9 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner, at 10 a.m., in company with Mr. James Hebbard, Government Inspector of Mines, viewed the open-cuts at Block 11, and saw the machinery in the engine-room at the Weatherly shaft. Thence His Honor proceeded to the Central Concentrating Works, and observed the machinery and boilers. Having arrived at the Kintore shaft, Central Mine, His Honor went below as far as the 600-ft. level for the purpose of experiencing the operation of lowering and raising the cages. The engine and the steam-brakes at the Kintore shaft were afterwards examined. Subsequently His Honor visited Campbell's shaft at Block 10, and saw the engine-house and engine, and then went to the concentrating plant, Block 10 mine, which was shown by Captain Warren, general manager of the Broken Hill Block 10 Proprietary Company, Limited.

At 2:30 p.m. His Honor, who was attended by Mr. James Hebbard, Government Inspector of Mines, proceeded to the Block 12 Broken Hill Proprietary Mine, and, at Dickenson's shaft, went down to the 300-ft. and 400-ft. levels. Mr. Edward James Horwood, the mining manager, conducted His Honor to some of the working places, and showed some of the methods of timbering in the mine.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Commissioner.

SATURDAY, 10 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner sat at the Town Hall, Argent-street, Broken Hill, at 10:10 a.m.

His Honor announced that the proceedings were open to the public.

The Secretary read His Honor's Commission.

His Honor said that he proposed, in carrying out the work of taking evidence, to allow any person or persons who thought that they were affected in any way by the inquiry, or likely to be affected by it, or any person or persons who volunteered to assist the Commission, to appear there as if they were interested parties, either themselves or by their solicitor, or counsel, or agent. He asked what persons were present wishing to be represented or to represent others.

Mr. John R. Edwards, solicitor, said he was instructed to represent the following companies at the inquiry:—

The Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited;
The Broken Hill Proprietary Block 10 Company, Limited;
The Sulphide Corporation (Ashcroft's process) Limited, (owners of the Central mine);
The South Broken Hill Silver Mining Company, No Liability;
The Broken Hill Proprietary Block 14 Company, Limited;
The British Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited;
The Broken Hill Junction Silver Mining Company, Limited;

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The Broken Hill Junction North Silver Mining Company, Limited ;
 The North Broken Hill Silver Mining Company, No Liability ;
 The Australian Broken Hill Consols Silver Mining Company, Limited ;
 The Broken Hill Junction Consolidated Silver Mining Company, No Liability ;
 The Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Company, Limited.

His Honor said that, of course, he allowed all those companies to be represented, and it was very convenient that they should all be represented by Mr. Edwards. He was very glad that Mr. Edwards had been so instructed.

Mr. John Polkinghorne, President of the Amalgamated Miners' Association (Barrier Branch), intimated that he appeared for that Association. He added that that portion of the miners who belonged to the Association had been pleased to appoint him to represent them at the inquiry.

His Honor remarked that he thought they had, perhaps, the most thoroughly recognisable right to be represented that there could possibly be. He looked upon the Amalgamated Miners' Association as the promovents in the matter, because they had, he understood, practically initiated the Commission. He understood that the miners of the district practically all belonged to the Association.

Mr. Polkinghorne replied that he could not say that. A good proportion of them did belong to the Association ; and he represented the portion of the miners who belonged to the Association. He thought he might safely say that they did not exceed half the miners employed along the line of lode.

His Honor inquired whether anyone appeared to represent any other Association of miners, or miners in any other relation.

There was no response to the question.

His Honor stated that he took it that there was no other representation of miners than by Mr. Polkinghorne.

His Honor asked whether the Department of Mines wished to be represented on the inquiry.

Mr. James Hebbard, Government Inspector of Mines for the Albert Mining District, said that he had not had any specific instructions, but that in every case in the district he appeared as the representative of the Department of Mines.

His Honor inquired whether Mr. Hebbard asked for leave to appear.

Mr. Hebbard replied that he had not had any instructions in that direction. He had not thought of appearing in any capacity except as a witness, if called.

His Honor stated that if Mr. Hebbard wished to ask questions, in order to elucidate matters which came before the Commission, he would allow him to do so. His Honor further intimated that if, at a future stage, anyone else wished to be represented, he would allow representation. Mr. Polkinghorne could now call his first witness. He (His Honor) looked upon the Miners' Association as the promovents in the matter, and that was why Mr. Polkinghorne's witnesses would be called first.

Mr. Polkinghorne stated that the Amalgamated Miners' Association, being asked whether they, as a society, intended to be represented on the Commission, gladly accepted the opportunity. They could not, however, go out of their own Society's members in getting witnesses. There were witnesses outside their ranks whom they did not feel disposed to call, considering that they should be called in some other way. He would like to name them, so that they might be called by the Commission.

His Honor said that if Mr. Polkinghorne preferred to give the names on a slip of paper to the Secretary, he would, if assured that it was believed they could give material evidence, direct that they be called. He looked upon the giving of names by Mr. Polkinghorne as an assistance to the Commission.

Mr. Polkinghorne said he would ask that Mr. Williams be called.

His Honor intimated that if Mr. Polkinghorne wished to begin, before calling witnesses, by addressing the Commission, he would be happy to hear him.

Mr. Polkinghorne said : Thank you, your Honor ; I would like to say a few words. What has mainly prompted me to appear here to-day in the capacity of representative of the A.M.A. is to bring under the notice of the Commission the fact that many of the regulations in connection with our mining laws have been ruled in our Courts to be *ultra vires*. There are really some very good clauses in the Act—better we could not wish for if they were carried out, and if power were given under the Act to carry them into effect. It has been pointed out to us that, in many of those cases that have been brought before the public, certain things which have been ordered to be done by the officer in charge or the local Inspector of Mines have been over-ruled by the law, because the regulations under which the orders were made would not hold water. We want to see everything repealed—the Mining Act of 1874, the Amending Acts, and the Regulations—and a new Act brought forward, complete in itself, and styled the Mining Act of 1897. At the same time, a new code of regulations should be brought forward, which could be carried out and given effect to. There is another thing : I would like to suggest that a Board of Inquiry be appointed on all mining fields to inquire into all accidents. Of course, in fatal accidents we would expect a further inquiry—the Coroner's inquiry ; but, in all serious accidents, the Board of Inquiry should make an investigation. In my opinion, all accidents that disable a man for a week or more should be inquired into by this Board ; and in this way much information would be elicited : which would go to show the need of the regulations being such that the local inspector could put them in force when he saw the necessity to do so. When a fatal accident takes place the chief witness is lost to us ; but when a man meets with an injury—if he is not rendered insensible—there is some chance of getting some information from him which would be of benefit.

Mr. Edward James Horwood, mining manager for the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited, received permission to attend the proceedings of the Commission, in order to be of assistance to Mr. Edwards, solicitor. Mr. Polkinghorne expressed his acquiescence.

William Williams was sworn and examined.

The Commission, at 1:10 p.m., adjourned for luncheon.

The sitting was resumed at 2:15 p.m.

William John Williams and William Noble were sworn and examined.

His Honor, at 4 p.m., adjourned the inquiry until 10 a.m. on Monday, the 12th July.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
 Commissioner.

MONDAY,

MONDAY, 12 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner sat at the Town Hall, Argent-street, Broken Hill, at 10 a.m.
Mr. John Polkinghorne, representing the Barrier Branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association; and Mr. J. R. Edwards, solicitor (Mr. E. J. Horwood, mining manager, assisting), representing mining companies—attended.

Mr. James Hebbard, Government Inspector of Mines, also was present.

John August Berndt and Francis Harrington were sworn and examined.

The Commission, at 12:50 p.m., adjourned for luncheon.

The sitting was resumed at 2 p.m.

Francis Harrington was re-called and further examined.

William James Pascoe was sworn and examined.

His Honor, at 3:40 p.m., adjourned the inquiry until 10 a.m. on the following day (Tuesday), the 13th July.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Commissioner.

TUESDAY, 13 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner sat at the Town Hall, Argent-street, Broken Hill, at 10 a.m.
Mr. John Polkinghorne, representing the Barrier Branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association; and Mr. J. R. Edwards, solicitor (Mr. E. J. Horwood, mining manager, assisting), representing mining companies—attended.

Mr. James Hebbard, Government Inspector of Mines, also was present.

Joseph Bourne and John Polkinghorne were sworn and examined.

The Commission, at 1 p.m., adjourned for luncheon.

The sitting was resumed at 2 p.m.

John Polkinghorne was re-called and further examined.

His Honor, at 4:15 p.m., adjourned the inquiry until 10 a.m. on Thursday, the 15th July.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Commissioner.

WEDNESDAY, 14 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner, at 10:30 a.m., took train from Broken Hill to Tarrawingee, where were seen the quarries of the Tarrawingee Flux and Tramway Company, Limited.

Mr. M. Morrison, accountant to the company, conducted His Honor to the east and west quarries.

Subsequently, His Honor, who was then accompanied by Mr. James Hebbard, Government Inspector of Mines, viewed the crushing plant and trucking plant, which were shown by Mr. James Stirling, manager of the company. The Mount Jackson (No. 36) Quarry, and Lawson's (No. 19) Quarry, were next seen, and cognisance was also taken of the air-compressing plant.

His Honor, at 3 p.m., returned to Broken Hill, which was reached at 5:30 p.m.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Commissioner.

THURSDAY, 15 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner sat at the Town Hall, Argent-street, Broken Hill, at 10 a.m.
Mr. John Polkinghorne, representing the Barrier Branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association; and Mr. J. R. Edwards, solicitor (Mr. E. J. Horwood, mining manager, assisting), representing mining companies—attended.

Mr. James Hebbard, Government Inspector of Mines, also was present.

Mr. William John Williams, ore-dresser, stated that at the half-yearly meeting of the Barrier Branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association, held on Tuesday evening, the 13th July, he had been appointed to attend the inquiry and ask for His Honor's permission to represent the interests of the surface workers.

His Honor gave his permission, and said that the Commission would be very pleased to have the assistance of Mr. Williams. He understood that Mr. Polkinghorne was versed, principally, in underground-working, and that Mr. Williams had a special knowledge of surface-working.

Mr. Williams thanked His Honor, and took a seat at the table.

John Polkinghorne was re-called and further examined.

The Commission, at 1 p.m., adjourned for luncheon.

The sitting was resumed at 2:15 p.m.

John Polkinghorne was re-called and further examined.

His Honor, at 4 p.m., adjourned the inquiry until 10 a.m. on the following day (Friday), the 16th July.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Commissioner.

FRIDAY, 16 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner sat at the Town Hall, Argent-street, Broken Hill, at 10 a.m.
Mr. John Polkinghorne (on behalf of the Barrier Branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association), representing the underground workers; Mr. W. J. Williams (on behalf of the same organisation), representing the surface workers; and Mr. J. R. Edwards, solicitor (Mr. E. J. Horwood, mining manager, assisting), representing mining companies—attended.

Mr. James Hebbard, Government Inspector of Mines, also was present.

Joseph Wilks and John O'Brien were sworn and examined.

The Commission, at 12:50 p.m., adjourned for luncheon.

The sitting was resumed at 2 p.m.

Edward James Horwood was sworn and examined.

His Honor, at 4:5 p.m., adjourned the inquiry until 10 a.m. on the following day (Saturday), the 17th July.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Commissioner.

SATURDAY,

SATURDAY, 17 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner sat at the Town Hall, Argent-street, Broken Hill, at 10 a.m. Mr. John Polkinghorne (on behalf of the Barrier Branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association), representing the underground workers; Mr. W. J. Williams (on behalf of the same organisation), representing the surface workers; and Mr. J. R. Edwards, solicitor, representing mining companies—attended.

Mr. James Hebbard, Government Inspector of Mines, also was present.

Edward James Horwood was re-called and further examined.

His Honor, at 12:30 p.m., adjourned the inquiry until 10 a.m. on Monday, the 19th July.

At 1:45 p.m. Mr. James Hebbard, Government Inspector of Mines—who was seeking information as to an accident that had recently been reported as having happened at The Pinnacles—drove His Honor the Commissioner to the mine of The New Pinnacle Group Silver Mining Company, where His Honor saw the remains of the machinery at the surface.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Commissioner.

MONDAY, 19 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner sat at the Town Hall, Argent-street, Broken Hill, at 10 a.m. Mr. John Polkinghorne (on behalf of the Barrier Branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association) representing the underground workers; Mr. W. J. Williams (on behalf of the same organisation), representing the surface workers; and Mr. J. R. Edwards, solicitor, representing mining companies—attended.

Mr. James Hebbard, Government Inspector of Mines, also was present.

Edward James Horwood was re-called and further examined.

Mr. Williams asked His Honor to call, as witnesses, the Chief Inspector of Mines and the local Inspector of Mines.

His Honor said he did not think that the Chief Inspector of Mines knew anything about the subject intimately, and that he did not intend to bring him from Sydney. The local Inspector was present, and would be examined as a witness.

Alexander Stewart was sworn and examined.

The Commission, at 1 p.m., adjourned for luncheon.

The sitting was resumed at 2:15 p.m.

Alexander Stewart was re-called and further examined.

His Honor, at 4:30 p.m., adjourned the inquiry until 10 a.m. on the following day (Tuesday), the 20th July.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Commissioner.

TUESDAY, 20 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner sat at the Town Hall, Argent-street, Broken Hill, at 10 a.m. Mr. John Polkinghorne (on behalf of the Barrier Branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association), representing the underground workers; Mr. W. J. Williams (on behalf of the same organisation), representing the surface workers; and Mr. J. R. Edwards, solicitor (Mr. E. J. Horwood, mining manager, assisting), representing mining companies—attended.

Mr. James Hebbard, Government Inspector of Mines, also was present.

John George Shinnick and Christopher Kelly were sworn and examined.

The Commission, at 1 p.m., adjourned for luncheon.

The sitting was resumed at 2 p.m.

Christopher Kelly and Joseph Bourne were re-called and further examined.

Jabez Wright was sworn and examined.

Alexander Stewart was re-called and further examined.

Mr. Stewart handed in, for perusal by His Honor, an agreement, made the sixth day of March, 1895, between the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited, and Messrs. Baxter and Saddler, contractors. The agreement dealt with the matter of excavations made and to be made by the contractors on the company's leases as from the first day of January, 1895.

His Honor, at 4:20 p.m., adjourned the inquiry until 10 a.m. on the following day (Wednesday), the 21st July.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Commissioner.

WEDNESDAY, 21 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner sat at the Town Hall, Argent-street, Broken Hill, at 10 a.m. Mr. John Polkinghorne (on behalf of the Barrier Branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association), representing the underground workers; Mr. W. J. Williams (on behalf of the same organisation), representing the surface workers; and Mr. J. R. Edwards, solicitor (Mr. E. J. Horwood, mining manager, assisting), representing mining companies—attended.

Mr. James Hebbard, Government Inspector of Mines, also was present.

His Honor said that he had read through the agreement made between the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited, and Messrs. Baxter and Saddler, and he had marked the clauses which bore directly or indirectly on the questions before the Commission. These he desired to have in evidence; and Mr. Stewart

Stewart could either be examined upon them, or extracts could be made. It would be unfair and unnecessary to put the whole document in evidence; and it would be unfair to Mr. Williams to pledge him to secrecy (as he had suggested) and then to allow him to see it.

Richard Thomas was sworn and examined.

The Commission, at 12:55 p.m., adjourned for luncheon.

The sitting was resumed at 2:15 p.m.

John Warren was sworn and examined.

Captain John Warren also exhibited a tin canister, of the kind provided in the Block 10 mine, for holding the explosives used by the men.

William Rowe was sworn and examined.

His Honor, at 4:30 p.m., adjourned the inquiry until 10 a.m. on the following day (Thursday), the 22nd July.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Commissioner.

THURSDAY, 22 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner sat at the Town Hall, Argent-street, Broken Hill, at 10 a.m.

Mr. John Polkinghorne (on behalf of the Barrier Branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association), representing the underground workers; Mr. W. J. Williams (on behalf of the same organisation), representing the surface workers; and Mr. J. R. Edwards, solicitor (Mr. E. J. Horwood, mining manager, assisting), representing mining companies—attended.

Mr. James Hebbard, Government Inspector of Mines, also was present.

By His Honor's direction, the Secretary read certain clauses of the agreement—made the 6th day of March, 1895, between the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited, and Messrs. Baxter and Saddler, contractors—dealing with excavations by the contractors on the company's leases as from the 1st day of January, 1895. A copy of the clauses was made, and was marked Exhibit E.

A plan of the open-cut work which was being carried out by Messrs. Baxter and Saddler was placed before the Commission for inspection.

Jeremiah Andrew and Richard Parkinson Finan were sworn and examined.

Under His Honor's instructions Mr. R. P. Finan wrote down the names of some shift-bosses whom he believed to be incompetent. His Honor handed the paper bearing the names to Mr. Edwards, for the information of the management of the mine in which those shift-bosses were employed, so that their capabilities might be tested. Mr. Edwards gave a pledge that the names should not be otherwise divulged.

The Commission, at 12:50 p.m., adjourned for luncheon.

The sitting was resumed at 2 p.m.

James Joseph Shaw, Henry Day, and Alfred Dean, were sworn and examined.

His Honor, at 4:10 p.m., adjourned the inquiry until 10 a.m. on the following day (Friday), the 23rd July.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Commissioner.

FRIDAY, 23 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner sat at the Town Hall, Argent-street, Broken Hill, at 10 a.m.

Mr. John Polkinghorne (on behalf of the Barrier Branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association), representing the underground workers; Mr. W. J. Williams (on behalf of the same organisation), representing the surface workers; and Mr. J. R. Edwards, solicitor (Mr. E. J. Horwood, mining manager, assisting), representing mining companies—attended.

Mr. James Hebbard, Government Inspector of Mines, also was present.

William Harry, William Smith, and Samuel Mayne were sworn and examined.

The Commission, at 1 p.m., adjourned for luncheon.

The sitting was resumed at 2 p.m.

Joel Phillips, John Evans, and Thomas Phillips were sworn and examined.

Edward James Horwood and Christopher Kelly were re-called and further examined.

James Hebbard was sworn and examined.

His Honor, at 5:5 p.m., adjourned the inquiry until 9:30 a.m. on the following day (Saturday), the 24th July.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Commissioner.

SATURDAY, 24 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner sat at the Town Hall, Argent-street, Broken Hill, at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. John Polkinghorne (on behalf of the Barrier Branch of the Amalgamated Miners' Association), representing the underground workers; Mr. W. J. Williams (on behalf of the same organisation), representing the surface workers; and Mr. J. R. Edwards, solicitor (Mr. E. J. Horwood, mining manager, assisting), representing mining companies—attended.

Mr. James Hebbard, Government Inspector of Mines, also was present.

James Retailick was sworn and examined.

James Hebbard was re-called and further examined.

His Honor, at 1:20 p.m., said he did not consider it necessary to take further evidence, and adjourned the inquiry *sine die*.

His Honor, at 3 p.m., paid a visit to the Block 10 Mine. Accompanying His Honor were Mr. John Polkinghorne and Inspector Hebbard. Captain Warren, general manager, took His Honor and party down Campbell's shaft to the 415-ft. level. The flats at Kelly's shaft were also seen. His Honor went through the stopes, and examined all from the 415-ft. to the 615-ft. level. The methods of working and of filling up the depleted stopes were noticed, and an examination was made of the mullock-shoot formed by portion of Kelly's shaft. The "guarding" of the stopes which had been stripped of their laths, and that of the ladder-ways, were observed.

Afterwards, Mr. William Rowe, underground manager of the Central Mine, escorted His Honor and party to the 400-ft. level there. The open-cut stopes and the west stope were viewed.

His Honor, accompanied by Mr. John Polkinghorne and Inspector Hebbard, at 7.30 p.m., visited the British Broken Hill Proprietary Company's Mine, and, with Mr. William Francis, one of the shift-bosses, saw the stopes throughout the 300-ft. level. The system of breaking the ground, and timbering and filling, came under notice. After also visiting the 200-ft. level, His Honor saw the concentrating mill.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Commissioner.

SUNDAY, 25 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner, at 7.10 p.m., left Broken Hill on the return to Sydney.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Commissioner.

WEDNESDAY, 28 JULY, 1897.

His Honor the Commissioner, at 11 a.m., reached Sydney on the return from Broken Hill.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
Commissioner.

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ROYAL COMMISSION APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE WORKING OF
MINES AND QUARRIES IN THE ALBERT MINING DISTRICT.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN before His Honor Judge Murray in the course of his inquiry :—

1. Into the cause or causes of accidents which have recently taken place in certain Mines and Quarries in the Albert Mining District.
2. Whether the provisions of the Mining Act, 1874, and the Regulations relating to the inspection of mines other than coal or shale made thereunder, are sufficient to secure the safe working of the Mines and Quarries in the said district, especially in regard to the use of explosives and the system of timbering and of working large lodes adopted. And, if they are not sufficient, to suggest in what respect and to what extent they should be added to or amended.
3. Into the truth of the statement that the number of accidents in such Mines and Quarries has largely increased, and the cause of such large increase.
4. Whether the open-cut system of work is specially dangerous, and, if so, whether this is due to such work being carried on at night; and whether such system should be prohibited; and, if necessary, to suggest regulations for the purpose of safeguarding the lives of the miners and other persons employed in that class of work.
5. Whether the risk to the persons employed in the said Mines and Quarries is increased by reason of incompetency on the part of Managers and Subordinate Officials.
6. Whether the services of additional Inspectors are necessary.
7. As to the best means of making known to all persons employed in and about the said Mines and Quarries the statutory enactments and regulations relating to the inspection of such Mines and Quarries; and to make any recommendation which His Honor (the Commissioner) might deem advisable in the premises.

SATURDAY, 10 JULY, 1897.

William Williams sworn and examined :—

1. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] What is your name? William Williams.
2. You are a practical miner? Yes.
3. You have had varied experience? Yes; my experience extends over thirty-five years.
4. You have heard the Commission read this morning, and the questions about to be put to you will be relevant to that Commission. I mention this as it is probable I will put to you questions that you have not thought about, but which are relevant to the Commission; and you will, no doubt, have a knowledge of them. In the first place, do you consider that the ventilation in the mines on the Barrier in which you have worked is sufficient? No.
5. Are you prepared to suggest any means by which the ventilation may be improved? Yes.
6. Is it your opinion that the safety of the lives of those employed is best conserved by the system of mining at present in vogue along the line of lode? Yes, with one exception.
7. There is one exception? Yes.
8. What is the exception? In connection with the sinking of a winze with a horse-track alongside it. How we got off so well as we did is a surprise to me. The winze we were sinking was by the side of a horse-track, along which horses were drawing trucks of ore. The brace around that winze was something disgraceful, and there was no protection whatever to the men underneath. If it had been put up as it should have been, it would have been quite safe. 10 in. x 2 in. timber was used instead of 10 in. x 10 in., and the result was that every shot fired scattered this flimsy material. It would have taken three or four days, or perhaps a week, for us to have put that secure; but this time, of course, we could not lose, as we had our own work to do, and were working on contract. We, therefore, only patched it up.

W. Williams.

10 July, 1897.

- W. Williams. 9. And contracting was actually the cause of that? Yes.
- 10 July, 1897. 10. Contracting leads to work of a dangerous nature being undertaken? Yes.
11. If any working has been pointed out to the company under which you have worked as being dangerous, they have never refused to place it in a safe condition? I brought this matter under the notice of the man in charge of that portion of the mine, and he said, "Oh, you go and fix it up." Even one of the officers said it was a patched-up affair.
12. *His Honor.*] You were working, I understand, under the contractors? Yes.
13. Were you working as a sub-contractor or a labourer? As a contractor. There are six in a party, and we are all contractors.
14. You had not the contract for the sinking of the winzes from the surface? No; only from one level to another.
15. You had only the sinking? Yes; but only from fortnight to fortnight. That is the system on the Hill, and a rotten system it is. A man knows he has only got that contract for a fortnight, and it is quite possible he will strike better (softer) ground the last three or four days of the contract; and, knowing that he will be cut in prices at the end of the fortnight, he will rush through it and get as much as possible out of it in that time.
16. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Are you prepared to say that the system of contracting adopted at most places on the Barrier is a cause of rush and tear on the part of the workmen as well as on the part of the employer? Yes; the employer adopts this system in order to get as much as he can out of the workmen, and the employee, in order to get as much as he can, has to adopt the same principle.
17. You consider it a dangerous practice? Yes.
18. If at any time any part of the mine should be considered dangerous, whose duty should it be to withdraw the men? The man who is in charge of that portion of the mine considered dangerous.
19. If pronounced by the inspector to be dangerous, he should have the power to withdraw the men at any time? Yes.
20. In the event of men being withdrawn from a certain portion of the mine by an order from the foreman or man in charge, or by the inspector, by whose authority should the men go back to work again? By the inspector, or by the man who condemns the place.
21. I said if it was condemned by the man in charge or by the inspector, whose duty should it be to give the men permission to go back when the danger has been removed? The inspector, in my opinion.
22. In all cases? Yes.
23. You think that it is necessary that the inspector should have full power to withdraw men from any part of a mine which, in his opinion, is unsafe to the life and limb of those employed there? That is my opinion.
24. *His Honor.*] And that the men should not be allowed to return until the inspector gives his sanction? I do not say that he should give his sanction to the men, but to the officers in charge, and if they order the men back without his sanction they should be held responsible. As to ventilation, it is not for us as workmen to dictate; but my opinion is that better ventilation could be provided by sinking winzes. We all know that there are some places that it is almost impossible to get to. You find it very hot only 12 feet from where an air-pipe comes in from a blower. In my opinion, the best ventilation is to be obtained by opening up from one mine to another, and by sinking winzes from one level to another. By cutting up the ground you secure ventilation.
25. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] What do you consider is a safe distance to sink a shaft? From 200 to 250 feet; that is, with a secure penthouse over your head.
26. Do you consider it safe for workmen to be working at the bottom of a shaft at any distance from the surface if a portion of that shaft be not covered so that they can get back for protection? 250 feet, in my opinion, is quite far enough to work without some protection over your head.
27. *His Honor.*] You do not think that it is safe for a man to have more than 250 feet of vertical shaft over him when working in the shaft? Yes, that is my opinion—either from the surface or from any plat in the shaft.
28. Wherever he may be, your opinion is there should not be more than 250 feet of vertical unprotected shaft over him, or more than 250 feet of vertical height of unprotected shaft—unprotected at the top? Yes.
29. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Then that answers the question that a cross-cut or plat should be driven at least every 250 feet? Yes. So far as that goes, I would suggest that no distance should be more than 100 feet. Of course, I can speak more about the district I came from. There they have got to put a penthouse in the shaft.
30. *His Honor.*] Of what district are you speaking? The Bendigo district.
31. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] What distance should be between the communications—say, a winze or rise—in your opinion, to provide proper ventilation for the carrying out of the work? From 200 to 300 feet.
32. Do you think that in all cases, no matter what the mine might be, there should be a ladder-way in each block of 40 acres for the ascent and descent of the men? Yes.
33. Independent of the hauling-shafts with the cages? Yes.
34. In your opinion, should the man in charge of an engine for lowering men into a shaft be the holder of a certificate as being a proper person and competent to look after such machine? Yes.
35. At what age do you think a man should be capable of taking charge of machinery where men's lives are hanging by a thread under his control? Not younger than 25.
36. Do you think that the men in charge of shifts at any mine, or any part of a mine where the work would be naturally dangerous, should be men of experience, and pass an examination as to their capability of performing the duties of the office placed upon them? Practically; not theoretically.
37. Do you think there should be a Board of Inquiry in each mining district which should inquire into accidents of all kinds, whether fatal or otherwise—of course, in the event of an accident proving fatal a coroner's inquest would also be held;—do you think an inquiry is needed in every case? Not altogether.
38. *His Honor.*] What modification? Should there be any suspicious circumstances in connection with an accident, then an inquiry should be held; but anyone knows who has any practical knowledge of mining that accidents will occur, and no matter how many experts, or how many inquiries, you cannot prevent them. This is so to a great extent because of the inability of some men to see danger ahead. For instance, they will think a certain spot perfectly safe, but the next minute it comes off to what we term

term a "soapy head," or a "V" piece, and, of course, the men are killed. This is an accident that cannot be very well guarded against, and in such accidents, as there are no suspicious circumstances, and nothing to hint that the Act has not been properly carried out, an inquiry is not necessary. Where, however, there is an idea that the accident is caused by neglect, such an inquiry as you suggest should be held. A Board of Inquiry should of course be appointed, so that they may be called into requisition whenever a suspicious accident occurs.

W. Williams.
10 July, 1897.

39. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Should such a Board be elected by the people or appointed by the Government? I think the members of the Board should be elected by the miners and the investors. This would give representation to both sides. By investors I do not mean speculators—men who invest in shares—but men who invest in mines.

40. You mean registered shareholders? Yes.

41. Would you be in favour of the Board's decision being final, without the right of appeal to law? No; in fairness to both sides, I think there should be the right to appeal. And, if anyone appeal, the privilege should be allowed of doing so, without being taxed with legal costs. This would give everyone a chance, the poor as well as the rich.

42. What number would you suggest should constitute the Board? Seven.

43. The Act says that everyone employed in or about a mine is a miner, but I take it when you use that term you mean that he should be employed either underground or in surface work that it is necessary for miners to perform? It can pretty well be seen how the accidents take place on the surface without any inquiry, but underground it is different. There there are certain provisions made for the safety of the men, and when an accident occurs it is for the Board to see whether those provisions have been carried out.

44. Do you think that the regulations now in circulation, as we have them in the amended Acts, and as posted on the mines, if carried out, would afford as much protection as it were possible to obtain? I think they should be amended.

45. In what manner would you suggest an amendment? I could not answer that question without some consideration. I am not prepared just now to make any suggestions. I know that there are some very good clauses in the Act, but there are also some very bad ones.

46. You have said that, with one exception, wherever you have been asked to do work it has been carried out as safely as possible;—have you ever seen, in connection with the mines that you have been employed on in this district, anything left open that would be a man-trap to any person through the negligence of somebody? No.

47. In most cases who is to blame when accidents occur—the man in charge of the shift, or the men themselves? In some instances it is the men in charge of the shifts who are to blame, and in others the men themselves; not through wilfulness, but through inexperience.

48. You mean to imply that a man should have a thorough practical knowledge before he is employed in those places? Yes.

49. In your opinion, what has been the cause of so many accidents in Broken Hill during the last eight or nine months? Mostly inexperience.

50. *His Honor.*] On whose part? On the part of the miners themselves. They profess, many of them, to be miners, but they are not.

51. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Is it your opinion that one inspector is sufficient for the Albert Goldfield? Yes, quite sufficient.

52. You think that if the Act and regulations were such as to give an inspector proper power, one inspector would be sufficient? Yes.

53. Has your experience brought you in connection with the open-cuts? I have only passed by them.

54. You have never worked in them? No.

55. As a practical man, do you think the open-cuts along this line of lode are worked in the safest possible manner? I could not express any opinion. I would rather not have anything to say about them.

56. In an excavation, what depth do you think a hole for a charge should be bored? Not deeper than 15 feet; and I should like to say the men working below should be considered.

57. Do you think it is safe for men to be working night-shifts on these open-cuts? No.

58. *His Honor.*] Even assuming that the electric light is used? The electric light is not sufficient for the men to see the surroundings and dangers. Not being a practical man in this respect, I do not know whether my opinion is worth much.

59. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You do not care to express any practical opinion upon the open-cuts? No.

60. *His Honor.*] You have never worked in a quarry on other kind of work? No.

61. *Mr. Edwards.*] On the question of ventilation;—I think you know that under the present Act the inspector has power to insist upon ventilation for the mines? Yes.

62. You come from Bendigo? Yes.

63. As a matter of fact, is not the ventilation of these mines far beyond that of Bendigo? Yes; the ventilation is better generally than we have at Bendigo, but there they are agitating for a better system.

64. The "miners' complaint" is a very common disease there among miners? Yes.

65. And it is owing to bad ventilation? Yes; what miners call poor air and powder-smoke.

66. It affects the lungs in some way? Yes.

67. There is an absence of that on the Barrier? Yes; ventilation is a great factor in doing away with leading. In the sulphides, if plenty of ventilation—

Mr. Edwards: I would ask *His Honor* whether the question of lead comes within the scope of this inquiry?

His Honor: I think that it should.

68. Your mode of ventilation is by sinking winzes? Yes.

69. Where practicable? Yes. It is practicable almost anywhere. The only question is the expense.

70. What I understand you to mean is, where practicable with a reasonable expenditure? I do not think that the question of expenditure should be brought in, because we know that if the mine is to be opened up they have to do it in the long run.

71. You think that the underground workings are safe, so far as you know, with one exception? Yes.

72. And that was owing to the defective securing of a brace around a winze? Yes.

73. Did you report that—the defective nature of this brace—to anyone? Yes—to the person in charge.

74. Who was that? I do not see that I should be compelled to answer that question.

W. Williams. 75. I can assure you that your answering the truth will not interfere with your position. You know the rules are posted underground, and you have read them? Yes. There is one rule which says:—

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Workmen shall not remove or interfere with any precaution for the safety of the underground employees—such as coverings over, or guard-rails around, shafts on surface, winzes, ore-shoots, or other dangerous places; and shall keep all such places in the vicinity of their work, as it proceeds, properly covered or railed off.

And it goes on to the effect that any workman who shall observe, or come to the knowledge of, any damage, deficiency, or defect, in any part of the workings, whereby the safety of workmen or others may be impaired, shall be bound forthwith to communicate the same to the shift-boss or foreman. [*Vide* Rule 6 of Underground Rules and Regulations. *Marked Exhibit "A."*]

76. Did you communicate to the shift-boss or foreman? I did.

77. Before this accident happened? No accident occurred. I only pointed out that that was the only defect I saw.

78. No accident occurred? No.

79. It was a dangerous place in the workings? Yes.

80. You reported it to the shift-boss? Yes.

81. Although it was unnecessary;—the shift-boss came twice a shift, and the foreman once? Yes.

82. What was done in this case you refer to? It was patched up for the time being, and then it went on again.

83. You kept on working there? We got shifted from there.

84. Although it appeared to you dangerous, no accident occurred? No.

85. How long have you been working in the mines here? About a year and eight months.

86. In that year and eight months, with one exception, the underground workings, as far as you have seen them, are safe for the men? Yes; so far as I know.

87. *His Honor.*] Except that you found the air not so good as it ought to be? Yes; the air is not so good as it ought to be.

88. *Mr. Edwards.*] I think you have worked all over Block 13? I have worked in a good many places in that block.

89. There are 40 acres in the block? I worked in about six or seven different places.

90. So you are giving general evidence as to the condition underground in Block 13? Yes. I have been working in the British about six months.

91. You say the great cause of danger to the men is the contracting system? Yes; that is my opinion. It has a lot to do with it.

92. In a contract, men tender at a price? No; the price is fixed, and you have to go and sign it. You do not know the price until you go in to sign.

93. You say the price is fixed, and the men have to accept it whether they like it or not? Yes.

94. As a matter of fact, does not the foreman arrange the price first of all with two of the mates, who represent the whole party? The whole of the time that I was working in Block 13 the foreman did not speak half-a-dozen times as to the price we were to work for.

95. You are not compelled to accept it? No.

96. It is merely optional? Yes.

97. If the work did not pay you you would not undertake it? No. When we once start on the contract system there is one thing about it—I do not know whether this Commission will bear upon the point—if you once start a contract, and become dissatisfied with it, and you leave off, they keep 20 or 25 per cent. back for non-fulfilment of contract. They, at the same time, have the power to sack you at a moment's notice if you do not suit.

98. Is it not the practice in all contracts to keep back a certain amount of money until the contract is completed? Of course, as soon as you complete the contract, at the end of every fortnight, you get your money.

99. But if a man contracted to build a house a certain amount is kept back by the employer until the termination of the contract. This amount kept back is a retention during the term of contract, but should the work be not carried out, is applied as a penalty? But the working-man has no penalty against the company for not allowing him in to work. For frivolous reasons men have, it is known, been sacked at a moment's notice; but they had no penalty against the company for not allowing them to fulfil their contract. What I am complaining about is that the penalty is all on one side—it ought to reach all round.

100. I suppose you would allow managers the right to discharge men for misbehaviour or incompetency? I would allow them to have power to discharge men for incompetency, but as for misbehaviour, the question arises what constitutes misbehaviour.

101. Say a man came to work drunk? The manager then would be quite justified in keeping him from going down below.

102. What would you suggest in place of the contract system? I would suggest either longer terms or else a wage system—day-labour.

103. What suggestion have you to make as to lengthening the contracts? I think in winzes the distance should be at least 50 feet.

104. And in stoping? So many sets—a given number of sets.

105. I suppose it would be impossible to limit them? If there was a big stope to be taken out, then I should say they should have the contract for a given number of sets. I am not prepared to dictate.

106. You would have to leave that to the discretion of the company? No; I do not say that. There should be a certain understanding between the men and the management, that they should have a show as well as the company, so that it would be as equal for the one as the other.

107. You are not prepared to suggest any means as to how the length of the contract should be arrived at? That would be a matter depending on circumstances.

108. I suppose men very often take contracts at prices they think would pay them, and afterwards find they have made a mistake, and they naturally become disheartened? Yes; the men would have a better heart to go on with their contracts, providing they did turn against them, if they had 100 feet to go, because they would have hopes of the ground turning in their favour.

109. But supposing the ground continued bad right through? I have heard of cases where men have got into good ground, and they have been shifted out of it, and then put back in the same place after the fortnight was over, at a lower price.

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110. Did you ever report that? It never occurred to me. I am only speaking from what I have heard.
111. You are contracting now? Yes.
112. You have been well treated? I can't complain.
113. You have made good wages? Yes.
114. What is your average wage, now, at contracting? I have never kept an account.
115. I suppose your average wage would be 10s. 6d. a shift of eight hours? I believe it would—or more.
116. So far as you are personally concerned, you have nothing to complain of in the contract system? No, nothing at all.
117. As an alternative to that—the question of day-labour—I suppose you will admit that all miners are not of the same efficiency? Yes.
118. There are a lot of men about here who tie a piece of string round their legs and call themselves miners? Yes.
119. Would you say that all miners are entitled, supposing they be put on day-labour, to be paid the same rate of wages? Yes.
120. Although of different standards? The officers who are visiting, sometimes twice or three times a shift, ought to be competent to know whether those men are miners or not.
121. If that was enforced at the present time—that only competent miners be allowed to work—how many would be left at the Proprietary? I could not say.
122. I think very few would be left? I could not say. I say that if the company employ a man they should pay him at the current rate that obtains in the district.
123. Whether he is a man of your experience or whether a man who has been on only a year or so? The company has the privilege of employing whomever it likes.
124. Supposing the company cannot get men such as you appear to be, what would they do then? If the company have a man who is incompetent they generally put him with a man who is competent; but they have the privilege whether they employ him or not.
125. The matter of first importance to the employer is not how the man gets his living, but how he does his work? There are plenty of employers who would rather pay two inferior men 6s. each than pay a good man who does just as much work more than 10s.
126. You still hold that every man employed as a miner should receive the same rate of wages, whether an experienced miner or not? Every miner should be paid enough to keep body and soul together.
127. What do you call enough to keep body and soul together? I reckon that to any man who works in those mines yonder 10s. is little enough for him to live on.
128. You belong to the A.M.A.? Yes.
129. Every man who belongs to that Union and works underground, whether competent or not, claims 10s. a day, does he not? I am not speaking on behalf of the Union. I am speaking on behalf of every man employed. I am an Oddfellow, and it no more follows that I should be here representing the A.M.A. than representing the Manchester Unity. I am not here in the interest of any organisation, but merely as a citizen.
130. But in your Society all men are of equal quality? Yes, as miners.
131. You say that when ground is noticed to be dangerous the officer-in-charge should have power to withdraw the whole of the shift? Yes.
132. Has he not that power now? I could not say what their powers are, having never been in such a position myself.
- Mr. Edwards read Rule 6 [vide exhibit marked "A"] of the Rules and Regulations, underground, Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited.*
133. That rule meets the case? But for all that, I understand the officer-in-charge has his instructions from the superior officer.
134. Those rules [*Exhibit "A"*] apply to what you refer to? Yes, if they are enforced.
135. You often see the inspector on his rounds? Yes.
136. I suppose you know that you have a perfect right—in fact it is your duty—to complain to him about any matter that may appear to endanger the safety of either yourself or any of your fellow-men? I know that I have that right; but I know another thing—that if I do it very often my right will soon be cut off.
137. What authority have you for saying that;—have you ever been threatened in that way? No.
138. Have you not been treated with the utmost fairness by the officers of the mine? Certainly; I am not making any complaint.
139. Is it not only imagination on your part that if you did what was your bounden duty to your fellow-men you would be interfered with in some way? I do not say that.
140. In reference to machinery, you say that no man under the age of 25 years should have charge of machinery? That is my opinion.
141. You were working for a very long time at Bendigo? Yes.
142. And Victoria has taken the lead in deep-mining? Yes.
143. What age is the limit there for persons in charge of machinery? That is a failure there, as well as at other places. I think 18 is the limit.
144. I suppose so long as a man—that is, if he had arrived at man's estate—if he had experience—that would be sufficient? I think a man should go through a training for this work.
145. You think a man should have a certificate? Yes.
146. I suppose a man of 22 or 23 is quite as good as a man of 25? I do not think so.
147. You think a man should be at least 25? Yes; you must draw a line somewhere.
148. As to this Board of Inquiry or investigation, you think that the Board should be elected partly by the shareholders and partly by the men? Yes.
149. Where would you have the election take place, say, for instance, as regards Broken Hill? Every district should have its own Board.
150. How would you allow the shareholders to vote—would you make their personal attendance necessary? The voting should be by ballot, and you should make them attend personally.
151. But do you not know that most of the shareholders of the Broken Hill Proprietary live in England? They could have their representatives.
152. Would you allow voting, then, by proxy? The way I am situated, if a ballot takes place, and I am unable to attend, I have to abide by those who do attend.

- W. Williams. 153. There are seven to be elected, half by the miners and half by the shareholders? I should say that the whole should be elected by the majority of the votes recorded.
- 10 July, 1897. 154. The whole seven? Yes.
155. You would allow each shareholder the same vote as a workman? Yes.
156. Do you not think that in a company like the Proprietary that would put the miners in the minority, especially the underground men? I do not see that. A shareholder should not have a vote for every share.
157. And if more miners than shareholders, the shareholders would be in the minority? Not unless they were distrusted.
158. As to the kind of accident you would have made the subject of an inquiry;—if a man had his finger hit while holding a drill, would you have that inquired into? No; only when there is any suspicion that there has been a breach of the Mining Regulations.
159. With regard to the surface hands—you think they could fix up their accidents themselves; they do not want a Board of Inquiry? Not so far as my opinion is concerned.
160. As to the regulations, you could not at present suggest any amendments? No.
161. You say that in some cases accidents occur through faults of shift-bosses, and sometimes through faults of the men themselves—can you tell me any particular case where an accident has been caused by the neglect of a shift-boss? Seeing that I have not been mixed up with any I do not see that I could. I only go by the evidence I have read.
162. You simply go by hearsay? No; by reading what is in the Press.
163. Can you tell me of any particular case where you have read of an accident having occurred through the neglect of a shift-boss? The last accident at Tarrawingee.
164. Do you know of any other case? I could not call any to memory just now.
165. And you have been here about a year and eight months? Yes.
166. You say in reference to explosives that no holes should be over 15 feet;—I suppose you have had a great deal of experience in the use of explosives? Yes.
167. Is it not a fact that shallow holes will scatter stones, and throw them further than deep holes? It is quite possible.
168. Is not that in itself a source of danger? I say that the shallow holes are safer in every way than the deep holes. You have more trouble with a deep hole to get the explosive down; and in a deep hole it is quite possible for something to get between the explosive, and in that case only the top part goes off, and the bottom part is left in the hole unexploded. Again, in a shallow hole you have not to put the quantity in that you have in a deep hole.
169. In a deep hole you first of all “bull” it? In some cases.
170. Do you ever in a deep hole put in a charge without “bulling” it? Yes, in what you may term a deep hole, about 9 or 10 feet.
171. I am speaking of 15-foot holes? I never charge any over 10 feet deep.
172. Then, underground, no holes are charged at a greater depth than 10 feet? No.
173. So that a hole from 15 to 18 feet deep does not come into the question as regards underground working? No so far as my experience takes me.
174. In open-cut work you have had no experience at all? No.
175. I suppose that in every blast put in there is an element of danger? Yes.
176. And the shallower the holes the greater the number that would be required to be put in to do the work? Yes; according to the position in which the hole is placed.
177. If you have to take out a certain piece of country, and it requires a certain amount of explosive to do it, if you put in shallow holes you have to put in more, and every hole is an element of danger in itself, and, therefore, by increasing the number of holes you would be increasing the danger in that direction? No.
178. You think not? Yes.
179. You do not follow the argument as far as that? My contention is, that the deeper the hole the more danger there is attached to it. You are trying to make me say that there is more danger in shallow holes.
180. I say that if you have a certain amount of work to do, and by having shallow holes you require a greater number, the danger is increased? No.
- His Honor: Mr. Williams is speaking of the danger relative to the charging.*
- Witness: And also of the possibility of the whole of the compound not exploding.*
181. What is the deepest hole you have put in since working underground? 10 ft. 6 in.
182. There is one rule, I think, in the Government regulations which says that no missed hole shall be unrammed or drawn;—do you think that is a safe practice underground? It depends generally on what compound you use. As far as the glycerine compound is concerned, there is no necessity at all, to use the miners' terms, to pick it out if you can only get a plug or two in—that is, if you have got a genuine article, you put a couple of plugs in, and put a lump of paper or some water in, and, as a rule, that will explode the whole lot.
183. As a rule? Yes. But if the compound is not the genuine article it is quite probable that even when a hole goes off there is some left in the bottom.
184. There is a hard-and-fast rule in the Government regulations that a missed-hole must not be drawn;—is it not safer to withdraw the tamping than to put in another hole close to it? Yes.
185. I would like to point out that General Rule 3, sub-section e, of the Mining Act Regulations, says that a charge of powder or other explosives which has missed fire shall not be unrammed or drawn:—this rule is condemned by practical men as being not the best system to adopt? I would suggest that there should be a proper inspector appointed to inspect all explosives that come in to a mining community. Mr. Hake is Chief Inspector of Explosives in Victoria. He inspects every shipment that comes in, and if any be inferior he has power to condemn it.
186. Do you know that all explosives that come to Broken Hill have to come through South Australia, and are there inspected by a Government officer? No.
187. If that is the case you would not want a double inspection—an inspection at Adelaide and one up here? No.
188. You say that the cause of the accidents lately has been owing to inexperienced men. I think it is
your

your experience, as a miner of so many years, that accidents, when they do come in a mine, very seldom come singly? There is an old adage to that effect. W. Williams.

189. Is it not your experience as well? I might state, your Honor, that it has been the experience of men of very large knowledge that accidents appear to come in a most unaccountable manner all of a heap, with a long period between each lot. I do not think that, because of two accidents, men would purposely rush into danger to make a third. 10 July, 1897.

190. You say that they are in a great measure due to the inexperience of the men? That is one of the causes.

191. At what age is it best for a man to learn mining? In my opinion every man ought to commence at the lowest age that he is allowed by the Act, either with his father or some experienced man, so that he will be brought up to it with a fair experience, which every man should have.

192. Of course, if you want to make miners you must train them when young? Yes.

193. And then you will agree with me that an apprenticeship for miners would be a good thing? But I do not think they should be bound apprentices.

194. Of course, you would not expect the mine employers to pay apprentices the same wages as they would pay efficient workmen? No; I should not.

195. That would not be reasonable, would it? That is up to a certain age. I do not say that if I were to go along and ask for a job, as an inexperienced man, they should be allowed to pay me as an apprentice, seeing that I am a married man.

196. You would not like to be paid the same wage as an apprentice working alongside you? I never grumble about what anyone else gets—so long as they make enough to live upon I am satisfied.

197. Then you think there ought to be some system for training men as miners? Yes.

198. Men work two in a face? Yes; sometimes three, and sometimes four.

199. But generally the party is divided—if six men, two in each shift? Yes.

200. And just before change of shift they frequently put in a hole and fire it? Yes; sometimes they do. If they do, the custom is to see their mates, and tell them generally how things were when they left.

201. They see their mates? Yes.

202. They do not point out the ground to their mates? They simply tell them about certain things there. If a missed-hole, they will go back and try and get that hole off before they leave the face in which they are working.

203. Do not they frequently go away and leave a missed-hole in the face? I have not seen that.

204. Two men coming off have no opportunity of showing their mates the ground they are leaving, have they? It is this way—say four of us work together. We see our mates. If there is a missed-hole we tell them its position. It is not necessary for a practical man to go and point out the very spot where the hole is. You just tell your mate that there is a missed-hole there. He knows where to go and find it. If a piece of ground is unsafe the same course is followed.

205. I suppose sometimes you miss seeing your mates? Not often.

206. Sometimes you do? If we do, we can send word through the man in charge of the shift.

207. Would it not be better to show them the face? If we stayed at the face then we should be too late to get out. We tell them where the hole is.

208. Then, assuming that there was some ground hanging in the roof or on the face, would it not be better or safer for you to have an opportunity of pointing that out to your mates coming on than to trust to conveying information to them in this way? In some places that is very nearly an impossibility, for if you stop to see your mates you have to get an order from the boss before you can get up the shaft.

209. That is owing to the change of shift taking place at the brace at present? In some places in the Proprietary you may be working a long way from the shaft up which you go to the surface, and if you wait for your mates to come down to that place for you to see them and point out anything, you have then to wait until the winch-drivers change shift, and by that time they are commencing to put ore, and you have to go and find the boss of the shift, and get an order before you can get up.

210. Would it not be better to have the shift changed actually at the work? It would not be practicable.

211. Supposing the mining authorities could make it practicable, would it not be safer for the men? I do not think that, if a man is a practical man, and his mates are practical men, and there are communicated to them any dangers that may be existent, there is any need to show them the actual dangers. Practical men can locate points even to within a distance of 6 inches, when they are down here in the streets. If I met a man, and told him how the ground was, and he went in and could not find the danger, he would not be a practical man.

212. But all men are not so efficient; and, another thing, as you are going up in the shaft, perhaps your mate is coming down in the other cage, and then you would miss him? If there is anything dangerous, men make it a rule to see one another.

213. But if a change of shift takes place at the face, could not the dangerous ground then be pointed out on the spot? Yes.

214. And you could point out the spots much better than you could describe them? Now, in your profession, you take cases very often, and you know just as much about them as the parties, and perhaps more, though you gather the information away from the actual spot.

215. I think you know that recently there has been a great exodus of miners to the west? Yes.

216. The best miners of the field, not all of them, have gone to the west? Yes.

217. And that other men have come on representing themselves to be miners? Yes. The mining companies have to take part of the blame for the importing of men here.

218. You cannot tell a miner by appearance? No.

219. You have got to see how he can use his hammer, his drill, or his pick? Yes.

220. Miners do not carry certificates of efficiency about with them from one mine to another? No.

221. Do you think that would be of any assistance to prevent the employment of inexperienced men—the issuing of certificates? I think it would have a tendency for the betterment of both the miner and the employer.

222. For certificates to be issued? Yes; that is, if I worked under a manager, and gave every satisfaction as a miner, he should supply me with a certificate.

223. *His Honor.*] If you were going to move from the district, you would be able to get a letter from your former manager? It has not been necessary; and, therefore, it has not been carried out.

- W. Williams. 224. But if you asked for one? I believe you could get one.
- 10 July, 1897. 225. That would go a considerable way, probably, with another manager who knew the manager who had given you the letter, in procuring you work, where otherwise you would not get it? Yes.
226. A man in charge of a mine can tell in, I suppose, three minutes whether a man is a miner or not? Yes.
227. *Mr. Edwards.*] Are not miners as a rule noted for their carelessness? I do not think so.
228. Have you ever seen practical miners closing a cap on the face with their teeth? Yes.
229. Do you consider that a safe practice? No; but if you have no other appliances to squeeze them, you can do it with a knife.
230. You think closing with your teeth is a safe practice? I think it is a dangerous practice; so also it is to squeeze it without proper nippers.
231. Have you ever applied to anybody for the proper tools to close them? No.
232. I suppose you close them with your teeth? No; I have not got any strong enough. I generally close them with a knife. In other places I have seen the proper tool used—it is a knife with nippers at one end.
233. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] I understand you do not make reference to this place? No; I have never seen such a tool in this district.
234. *Mr. Edwards.*] You have never applied for one? No.
235. *His Honor.*] Are the managers supposed to supply them? They are supposed to supply all tools.
236. *Inspector Hebbard.*] I know quite well the winze Mr. Williams has referred to in his evidence;—do you really think that anything in the way of 10 in. by 10 in. framing could have been put there to stay there with all the heavy firing that was done? Yes; I think so.
- Inspector Hebbard:* I thought about the matter when I was there, but I could not see any way of fixing anything more secure than that already there.
237. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] As Mr. Edwards has opened out on some new ground, I would like to ask the witness some further questions. As to the contract system;—do you wish to tell us that in your opinion contracting should be abolished altogether in favour of day-pay? No.
238. Your greatest opposition to the mode of contracting here is the fortnightly system? My opinion is that there should be longer contracts, so that if a man made a pound extra this week he would not be cut off, and therefore would not rush so much.
239. You think that changing from fortnight to fortnight, with power given to the foreman to stay proceedings at any time, makes it one-sided—that is your objection? Yes.
240. Your experience has taught you that a foreman sets you work, and it is actually piecework and not contract work at all? Piecework and contract are the same according to my opinion.
241. A contract, I take it, is an agreement entered into, but no agreement has been entered into in the so-called contracting along this line of lode? You have to sign an agreement, but I have not had time to read it.
242. But you did not sign an agreement. Your argument is that it is one-sided, and it is, consequently, no agreement. All power is given to the employer, and he keeps back 25 per cent. In a contract, each party should have the same chance. Fair play should be given on either side. In the contracting here it has been your experience that if at any time the man in charge sees fit through some reason of his own he can take you away from one part of the mine and put you to another, although they claim that you have a contract in that particular part of the mine; and if in the middle of the fortnight you leave off, if he says he is going to remove you and you refuse to go, he keeps back 25 per cent., which you say is very one-sided? Yes; that is very one-sided.
243. And that in order for men to keep pace with themselves in these contracts, they rush, and that causes accidents in some cases? Yes.
244. And the incompetency of some of the men employed is also a cause of accidents? Yes.
245. On the question of explosives, Mr. Edwards went very carefully into that. He tried to gather whether, in your opinion, it was not more dangerous to fire four holes to take out 6 feet of ground than to fire one. I think that as a practical man you have worked in every department of a mine, and from the way mining is carried out here, in your opinion, deep and heavy holes are more dangerous than shallower and weaker holes? Yes.
246. Four holes would be better for the men, and would work the ground better? I do not say that a shallow hole would take out the ground, but that a deeper hole, especially as they are bored now with those drilling machines, has more danger attached to it than a short hole. Of course I am only speaking of my own experience.
247. Is it not a fact that we see as many as twenty parties engaged in the one stope, and working on different sections, and if a heavy hole were fired on the top section would it not be a source of greater danger than if a lighter hole were bored? Yes.
248. Has not your experience taught you that in the stopes the men have to work too-close to one another? I could not give much information regarding the stopes, as I have only been in this district a year and eight months, and I have done very little timbering in stopes during that time.
249. As to explosives, is the regulation in force sufficient if carried into effect? The regulations have been neglected in some cases, and inferior stuff has been used. But the latter, I believe, was not the fault of the management altogether, as there was a scarcity of the real article in the market.
250. Several accidents have occurred, I believe, through miss-firing;—would you leave a face with a miss-fire there, without putting up the proper warning at all the approaches? If I failed to see my mates, I would inform the man in charge of the shift that such a danger was there.
251. That is not what I want to get at. There may be many approaches to the place you are working in, and there may be men passing that way, and if there were no warning notices up they would be unaware of the danger;—as a rule, men stay in the face to point out the place of danger? Yes.
252. You have not many times left a missed-hole until you saw your mates and told them? No.
253. Has it been your practice that when you find it is a missed-hole, and there is some danger about it, you wait about until your mates are in sight? If there is a miss my experience is that men will wait about, and if there is time will go in and fire it. They go in with another primer. The explosives now used underground require very little tamping. It is no trouble to go in and put in another primer and fire it.
254. Do you think it is more dangerous to go back within twenty minutes than to leave it two hours? Not a bit more dangerous.

255. *His Honor.*] I see it specifies one and a half hours (*vide* rule 7, rules and regulations, underground, the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited, marked exhibit "A"). Is that regulation carried out in effect? Yes. W. Williams.
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256. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Is it not a fact, in many cases where there is little ventilation, that at the close of the shift you fire, which gives the place a chance to become clear of the fumes before the arrival of the on-coming shift? Yes.

257. Is that the general practice? Yes.

258. That will answer the question put by Mr. Edwards just now, that it was the practice of men to fire and leave it without pointing out to their mates the danger there might be in the face:—having known that your mates fired on leaving, your first duty would be to examine the workings? Yes; even if they did not fire. Most men have a look round before they commence work to see if there is any danger, or anything that is likely to cause injury. Generally, practical men have a look round, and if there is anything they consider dangerous, they attend to it.

259. *His Honor.*] You mean they find out for themselves, apart from anything they might have been told. They always consider it their duty to find out for themselves the condition of the face? Yes; I always consider it my duty to have a look for myself, independently of what anyone tells me. Of course there are exceptions. I do not maintain that every man is so cautious; but it is the usual practice for men to have a look round the place before they commence work.

260. Still it would be a very great help to you, and a very great safeguard, if someone told you before you went in of the presence of danger? Yes.

261. When you first go in, is your sight really as good for the purpose of mining as it is after you have been in fifteen or twenty minutes? It depends upon the weather on top to a great extent. On a bright day it takes some time before we can get our underground sight; but on a dull day we can see just as well when we first go down. Most of the shafts are sunk away from the lode, so that you have a cross-cut to go through before getting into the workings. By the time you get in you generally have got your eyesight pretty well, and are able to detect any dangers.

262. Even then you might easily miss something? Yes; I say it is the best safeguard for your mates to point the dangers out, and that is the practice generally adopted.

263. Do you not think that there ought to be an established system, to which there could not be any exception, that a man on going to his face should have an opportunity of having everything pointed out to him on the spot by the man who knows best how matters stand;—do you not think a system of that kind would be the safest? Yes; but there is nothing to prevent it now. In all mines I have been in I have never known them to prevent men from stopping down to point out dangerous places to their mates.

264. You say the management never prevent it? Yes.

265. Do you not think it would be a good thing to have a rule compelling the men to do it? No doubt it would do a great deal of good.

266. It would lose a little time to the men, but it would be a very great safeguard? Yes; but it is very seldom that accidents occur when the on-shift comes on.

267. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Mr. Edwards stated that accidents never come alone;—is it not quite possible that after a series of accidents, and when there is a lull, more precaution has been adopted, and when laxity comes again we may look out for more accidents? Experience has taught me that after an accident everyone concerned is more careful than before.

268. In respect to the age of a youth coming on to work in a mine, your opinion is that he should be at least 16 years of age? Yes, 16 at the least.

269. Is it your opinion that he should serve an apprenticeship, be examined, and declared competent to perform the several duties that he may be called upon to perform in that sphere, before being taken on as a competent miner? Yes; he should go through a certain examination.

270. The Board of Examiners should be empowered to give certificates of competency, which would be a passport to him in any part of the country to which he might go? Yes.

271. Has it not been your experience in knocking about the different mines you have worked in that the managers say they do not want paper, but men? Yes, generally speaking.

272. You get a testimonial from your employer, and you take that to another man, and he says, "I don't know that man, and I don't know whether you worked for him";—should not this Board of Examiners be able to issue certificates that would be passports? The Board would be of no service if they did not have that power.

273. Is it your opinion that this should be done in all cases? Yes.

274. It is actually necessary that the calling of a miner should be a trade, and an apprenticeship to it should be served? Yes.

275. Do you think, then, that the general system of apprenticeship which has been adopted on the Barrier, where they take three or four competent men and three or four incompetent men and put them all together and expect them to do the work in a workmanlike manner, is a good one;—you do not think it is right that the incompetent men should expect as much as the competent men? If a man does not suit, they soon get someone in his place.

276. Is it always within their knowledge that a man is incompetent? I could not say.

277. As to miss-fires, glycerine compounds carry with them several dangers? Yes.

278. One is that if by any means a portion of dirt gets between the primer and the main part of the charge, it may by chance leave the blast unexploded at the bottom of the hole? Yes; my experience in that way has only been in connection with one certain brand of explosive. It was a cheap article. There is not the same percentage of nitro-glycerine in it as in the superior brand. It takes more of it to do the same work of the better article. It is very difficult in some cases to know that the compound has not exploded; you find that it is only the top part that has gone off. This is where the danger comes in with this explosive. It is quite possible for any man to overlook the unexploded part in the bottom of the hole, and when he starts drilling again it is quite possible he might pierce it; and that is the cause, in my opinion, of some of the blasting accidents that have occurred on the Barrier since I have been here.

279. In your opinion, is it a wise procedure to fire more than two holes in the one face at the same time? It is not necessary to enforce that. So far as I have seen, it has never been dictated to a man how many shots he shall fire. It is generally left to the knowledge of the men working in the faces, who use their discretion.

W. Williams. 280. But seeing that there are a number of incompetent men at work, as has been stated, and as undoubtedly there are, would it not be a very good thing to have a regulation restricting the number of holes to be fired in a face. As you have already stated, there is a chance of deep holes being misfired. Do you not think that it is required that some regulation should be framed to restrict the number of holes to be fired in the one face at the same time? There is a regulation in the mine I am now working in, that all miners should be very careful and examine all the holes, to see that all the compound has exploded.

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281. In your opinion, it is not necessary that a regulation should be framed to say how many holes should be fired? No.

Mr. Edwards: I think it is provided in the regulations, so it is not necessary to frame another rule.

His Honor read Rule 7 of Exhibit "A."

Witness: I am talking of the British Mine. The rule read by your Honor refers to the Proprietary.

282. *His Honor:* I understand it is quite possible, if you have several holes, you may not be able to tell by the sound whether every hole has actually exploded; you cannot tell by the sound because two may go off together, and then you would be misled? Yes.

283. Then you may find, after all, even if you have heard the correct number of reports, that one charge has missed fire. It is impossible very often to be sure whether one has missed or not by the sound, and one of the next charges may have cut off the face, so that it would be very difficult to detect in that case that it was a miss-fire? The men are very particular. They are particular to see whether every shot has exploded. My contention is that the greatest danger is in only part of the charge exploding; that is the greatest source of danger. In a miss-fire, if you fire four holes and only hear three, you go in and search the face; but if you hear the proper number of reports you feel satisfied then that things are all right, and you go on with your charging. It is a very difficult matter sometimes when the top portion goes off and leaves the bottom to detect it, because of the charge being the same colour as the earth around it. The drillings from the hole when boring make the blasting material appear the same colour as the ground itself.

284. You say that the partial explosion of one of these explosives will not take place unless a very low-class explosive is used? It is only when the lowest class of glycerine compound is used that a part is left in the bottom unexploded.

285. And you suggest there ought to be a restriction of the use—in fact, of the sale—of low-class explosives? Yes.

William John Williams, sworn, and examined:—

W. J. Williams. 286. *His Honor.*] What is your name? William John Williams.

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287. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You have worked in the open-cut along the line of lode? Yes; in Block 11 open-cut.

288. In your opinion, is the system adopted in the open-cut work especially dangerous to the men employed there? Yes.

289. What makes it especially dangerous? I consider the present mode of working the "chinaman" especially dangerous; more so now than when I worked up there.

290. Perhaps you will let the Commission know what is termed in the open-cut work a "chinaman"? It is an opening left over a level; the trucks are put underneath, and the rock is brought down into a kind of facing and allowed to fall into the bottom, and so fills the truck, which is then taken away.

291. Is it, in your opinion, safe for this work to be carried out at night;—is it more dangerous to work in the open-cut at night than in the daytime? Yes; I consider it is so.

292. If night-work is especially dangerous, what would you suggest in place thereof? I would suggest that it be done in the daytime only; that there be only one shift in the winter, and perhaps two shifts as the days grow longer. In the short days there should be only one shift, as the flickering of the electric light injures the men's eyesight, and is more likely to lead to accidents.

293. In working in open-cuts by electric light, small objects cast very large shadows? Yes. Besides, the shadow is constantly shifting. The flickering of the lights causes shadows to be continually moving to and fro, which weakens the eyesight. You cannot, as it were, get a steady view.

294. Do you think that the batter that has been adopted in the open-cuts is what it should be? When I worked there they had a very fair and a very safe batter, and the contractor was most particular about that, but at the present time I would decline to work there, principally on that account. I consider the batter to be very dangerous.

295. What batter would you suggest, taking into consideration that the open-cuts are getting to a considerable depth—to below 100 feet? For a 100-foot open-cut you want 1 in, 1 and for a 50-foot, 1 in 3. When I was there we worked between a depth of 50 and 60 feet.

296. *His Honor.*] By 1 in 3 you mean 1 horizontal to 3 perpendicular? Yes.

297. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You consider there should be 1 in 50 after passing 50 feet? Yes.

298. *His Honor.*] Do you mean that after the depth has attained more than 50 feet the whole batter should be broken down to 1 in 1, or that there should be a shoulder, from which the new batter should start? I would prefer that.

299. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You think that the cause of a number of these accidents has been through want of sufficient batter? Had that batter been safer I do not think that last accident would have occurred. Had the batter been safer the man would have had a better show to get away. But at the present time the open-cut is more the shape of a basin. A man has not much chance of getting away. The danger is from anything high up tumbling down. He would not always have an opportunity of seeing it in time, especially with the electric light, to get out of the way.

300. Did you ever notice anything while working in the open-cut of extraordinary danger incurred through the man in charge of the explosives—the "powder-monkey"? I have noticed on some occasions that the "powder-monkey" has come down in an intoxicated condition, and we have found in some places that he has left packages of the dynamite and caps lying about. On one particular occasion when he was "bulling" a hole, a piece of 10 x 2 timber was thrown over on to a shelf of rock, and near to a number of packages of loose dynamite and caps. On other occasions we have unearthed them. I remember on one occasion we unearthed several packages. Some of us have complained about this. I complained, and said I did not care about my life being endangered in that manner.

301. You do not say that the regulations in connection with the blasting are insufficient, but that they are not being properly carried out? I say that men do not pay sufficient attention to the lives of their fellow men. The regulation now before us in the Mining Act, that no man shall have in his use at any one time in any one place more than 6 lb. of blasting material, I do not agree with, because in charging a hole I think it must be patent to your Honor that if it be a deep hole for a big blast considerably more than that quantity of explosive must be used in one hole alone, consequently that rule could not be carried out to the strict letter as put down here in the regulations.

Mr. Edwards: I would draw Mr. Polkinghorne's attention to the fact that this regulation applies to underground and not to the surface.

W. J.
Williams.
10 July, 1897.

302. You consider that accidents that have occurred have been occasioned, in your opinion, through the incompetence of some of the subordinate officials or their neglect of carrying out the regulations? Yes; I can give you some instances. At times when things were being carried on in a loose manner, when the manager was known to be coming around, a very noticeable improvement would take place. On one occasion I heard the men grumbling about the inspector not being seen around. A little before that the inspector had been around cautioning the officers; and I heard one say, "Hebbard was down here and caught me, and threatened that if he caught me again I would have to look out." That, I take it, shows that the neglect was wilful.

303. How could an improvement be made? I would suggest that these officers be made to pass an examination, the same as in the coal mines. In fact, this is a matter I put to Mr. Cann in the form of a question the first time he was elected. I think it is only fair to the men that they should have competent men over them. Care should also be taken to see that the men are competent. A case occurred in the Central where two men after drilling a hole could not charge it, and had to get the assistance of the men alongside.

304. Is it your opinion that the services of additional inspectors are necessary in this district? Yes.

305. Do you think it would be necessary to get additional inspectors if the regulations were such and the Act such that the inspector could put them in force and see that no breaches were made in them? I think there is a growing necessity for an inspector for the surface work and machinery alone, considering the present developments in mining.

306. You think a subordinate officer should have a fair hang of the regulations, and that he should pass an examination showing his competency to carry out the duties involved in his position? I think when a man has the lives of other men in his charge he should be able to satisfy an impartial Board or tribunal that he is fairly competent to take charge of those men. He should be acquainted with the regulations, and have a fair technical knowledge.

307. In your experience in the open-cut, have you noticed that one accident is followed very closely by others? In reply to that, I can say that only one fatal accident occurred in the open-cut while I was working there—a man, named Riley, was killed. Since I left, there have been a number of accidents. I cannot give any reason why it should be so, if such is the case. It may be on account of the men growing nervous when an accident happens. They might possibly become too careful.

308. You do not think a man to make a long list would run himself into danger;—do you think a man would put himself into danger knowingly? Yes; I have seen a man come down the face of a rock, scrape out a hole, put in some fracture, and put it down with his scraping-rod. We, of course, cleared off. I said to my mates that it was a very foolish thing for him to do. I said he should be more careful. We got away. We were afraid that an explosion would occur. I take it that if men were certificated this thing would not occur.

309. The present regulation provides that no iron bar is to be used as a rammer or tamper, unless mounted with 4 inches of copper;—do you think that the mounting of a piece of iron or steel is sufficient? I have had strong opinions on that point ever since I was a youth at home, in Cornwall. I have seen one of my school-mates killed and another injured, through using iron rods. I have strong opinions that nothing but wood or copper should be used.

310. Do you know what explosive they were using at the time? I know they were wrapped up in the ordinary white paper—packages of dynamite. I do not profess to be an authority on explosives.

311. *His Honor.*] They were not powder? No.

312. These rods they were using were copper-tipped? No; they were iron scrapers.

313. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Have you ever seen a mishap through a large number of holes being fired at the same time? I know that we have had difficulty sometimes in determining whether holes have gone off or not. I have seen cases where the men thought all the holes had gone off, and were starting to go down when one would go off. Sometimes the "powder-monkey" has said a hole has missed and has ordered us back. This difficulty often arises, and there is a controversy among the men as to whether all the shots went off.

314. *Mr. Edwards.*] You have only lately taken up mining? Three years ago.

315. You are by trade a painter? Yes.

316. Have you ever worked in quarries before you came here? No; not in that kind of quarry.

317. In railway cuttings and things of that sort? I worked in cuttings before.

318. You say that working in the open-cut is more dangerous at night than in the daytime? Yes.

319. You would be surprised to learn that fewer accidents have taken place in the open-cut at night than in the daytime? No; not to a great extent.

320. Would that not go to show that the greater danger at night cannot be appreciable? No, because in the day-shift, men were employed in working up the ironstone, and those men would not be working at night. And there was not so much firing at night.

321. Even now, in the winter time, they only work two shifts in the twenty-four hours? I do not know anything about it now.

322. You do not know that even now they only work sixteen hours? No.

323. How long is it since you worked in the open-cut? Over two years ago.

324. So you cannot say what the work is like now? Only from what I have seen in passing.

325. It is two years since you worked in it? Yes.

326. As to the matter of the electric light, I believe you had as much light there as you wished for? After a certain time we had more electric light—more poles were erected. But even then the light was defective.

- W. J. Williams.
10 July, 1897.
327. Can you point to any accident that occurred through defective light? We have had several accidents occur there.
328. You say it is dangerous on account of the electric light;—I want to know if you can particularise any accident caused by the electric light? I had occasion one time to knock a man down to save him from the skip which was coming down.
329. Was that owing to the light? If it had been day light he would have had a better chance of seeing it.
330. Of course, there is danger incidental to open-cut work? Yes.
331. With reference to this "powder-monkey" who you say came on intoxicated—what was his name? "Sam, the powder-monkey," was the name we knew him by.
332. Did you complain to the shift-boss about his being intoxicated? We complained afterwards.
333. At the time you saw him in charge of those explosives in an intoxicated condition, did you complain to the shift-boss? We mentioned it to the shift-boss.
334. At the time? Not at once.
335. The rules were posted up at the time—you know them? I have never read them.
336. Were they posted up? I never saw them in the open-cut.
337. No rules and regulations for surface working? No.
338. Nor on any part of the lease? Only near the changing-house.
339. You know the rules, of course? No; I cannot say that I do.
340. You know these rules (*reading Rules 1 and 5 of Exhibit "B," being the surface rules and regulations for the Broken Hill Proprietary Company's mine*)? No.
341. These rules, you say, were not posted up on the mine? I do not know. That man was discharged from there soon afterwards.
342. Were you never told to report anything that you discovered dangerous at once to the foreman or shift-boss? No.
343. No instructions to that effect were ever given you? No.
344. Did you report the fact as to that man leaving packages of dynamite about in the open-cut? I reported to the shift-boss about the packages found, but not about the piece of wood.
345. Who had charge of the shift you worked in? W. Beaglehole. Barnes was in charge of the other shift, and Fred. Page of the night shift.
346. As to the batter, do you know what it is now? No.
347. You cannot say whether it is at the present time 1 in 1 or 1 in 3? I could not think it was 1 in 3 in some places. It seems to be very nearly perpendicular.
348. As to the men you say were working in the Central, and could sink a hole but could not charge it. I suppose they were not allowed to remain there long? One of them was put with a competent man.
349. At once? I do not know whether at once.
350. Were you there when these men were there? Yes. I did not know of it until afterwards—not until I heard the men speak of it at crib time.
351. Do you think it possible to frame rules to meet these cases where men will not report irregularities? No.
352. I suppose the shift-boss in the Central did not know that these men could not charge a hole? No, or he would not have allowed them in together. I mentioned this to show that the men sometimes pass themselves off as miners when they are not.
353. As to an additional inspector—you think the inspector should be a man of the very highest character and of the highest qualifications? The inspector should be a man of high moral character, and he should be practically acquainted with his work.

William Noble sworn and examined:—

- W. Noble.
10 July, 1897.
354. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Your full name is William Noble? Yes.
355. You are a practical miner? Yes.
356. Have you, in your experience on the Barrier, seen at your work as a miner anything left undone that could have been done which would have made it more safe for you and others employed in that particular part? I have seen it in the first instance in the open-cut.
357. *His Honor.*] Have you been working underground? Yes.
358. Before you went into the open-cut? Yes.
359. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You had practical experience as a miner before you came on to the Barrier? Yes; I have been mining, off and on, since I was 12 years old.
360. I believe you have had some experience in mining in the old country? Yes; in England.
361. You have spent several years in Australia? Yes.
362. The last two years you have spent on the Barrier? Yes; two years and seven months.
363. Is there anything you could suggest that could be done to prevent accidents happening to workmen? Different things happen underground which I consider should be amended in two or three ways. Something should be done to meet those men who come here passing themselves off as miners when they have not done a day's mining in their lives. They say they are miners. The shift-boss comes round and gives them a test to a certain extent. He says, "I would like to see you take up that hammer." Perhaps they have a little idea of using a hammer, and can tap a drill, and the shift-boss, on that, thinks they will do, with a little improvement. But hammer and drill work is only one very minor part in mining. An incompetent man like this might think the ground a bit weak overhead. Perhaps it might be better left there than pulled down. He, however, pulls it down, and makes matters much worse. Another piece he tries with the hammer and thinks it firm, and it afterwards comes down on him. Such a thing as this, I might say, has never occurred alongside of me; but it has occurred. There is another thing, which I experienced last week. The men work too thick underground. They are working one on top of the other—in too close a compass. In the stopes they are in each other's way. Of course, some men are careful, but others are not; and in working too closely together there are likely to be accidents. I have had two or three narrow escapes myself.
364. There is nothing you can suggest, only that the men are working too closely together; what would you suggest to prevent these men working on top of one another? At present we are working right on top

top of each other's heads. It would be well if there could be about three floors (21 feet) between each working party. Often now, when the shot is fired, the ore breaks through the floor and makes it very dangerous for those working just underneath. We should be further apart.

W. Noble.
10 July, 1897.

365. Has there been anything put in your way whilst employed in your capacity as a miner to prevent your carrying out the regulations as set down under the Mining Act? I do not exactly understand what you mean.

366. Have you always been able to get what you thought was necessary to guard against accidents? Yes, everything, such as tools and timber, to do it with.

367. Have you taken the trouble to study the regulations? I have read them over.

368. Do you consider the regulations, as set out under the Mining Act, are sufficient, if carried into effect, for the mining on the Barrier? What I have to complain about most is the incompetent men put on. This should be more strictly guarded against. A strict trial should be made of every man put on. Broken Hill ground, as a rule, is very dangerous, and requires a good man to manage it. As I have already said, the men stopping in the faces are too close, and it is dangerous.

369. Does that occur very often? No; but I fancy it is going to occur oftener as everything gets worked up nearer.

370. You have not experienced it very much? I have seen a good deal of Broken Hill. I have worked in three or four mines at this place. This is the worst practice I have seen, and I think it should be checked.

371. In respect to the statement that there has been an increase in the number of accidents, what, in your opinion, has given rise to this increase? It is owing, for one thing, to a number of the men being incompetent, also to carelessness, and I suppose the companies are to blame somewhat, and in this way: You might be working in a dangerous place, and, if the head official came round, you would be all right; but, if he was not about, and you spoke to one of the shift-bosses, you would get a sharp answer, and be told that it was all right. If you do not know any better, you will go into the place, and the consequence is that something will probably happen.

372. Are you satisfied that it is due to the incompetent men—this increase in the number of accidents—and that it is the incompetent men who have been injured? I consider it is so. Of course, it does not matter much how careful a man is, or how practical he is, he is liable to receive an accident. There have been a lot of accidents at Broken Hill since I have been here, but I have never been near when one happened, and all the information I can give regarding them is from what I have heard in conversation and read in the paper. There is no doubt that accidents have occurred owing to the neglect of either the man himself or of one of the subordinate officials, and there were others which could not be prevented.

373. Are the regulations, in your opinion, as to explosives sufficient if carried into effect? Yes.

374. There is no complaint you can make that any regulation whatever has been broken which would tend to endanger the limb or life of the men in any way? No.

375. Do you think the regulations are sufficient so long as they are carried into effect? A few little amendments might be made to meet what I have complained of. I have nothing else to complain about.

376. Do you think it is necessary to appoint additional inspectors in this district? I think there should be an improvement in that matter. If it is required of the inspector to be continually underground or about a mine, one could not do it all. He could not inspect the outside districts as well as Broken Hill. At present he has to go to Day Dream and other outlying places.

377. What system of inspection do you consider is the best and safest? The inspector should take a cage down, just as a policeman goes unexpectedly to an hotel on a Sunday. That is the proper way. He would then see what was going on.

378. Under the Act he is permitted to do that; but what I want to know is whether you consider one inspector is sufficient for the district? Is it only here in Broken Hill you are referring to?

379. No, I refer to the Albert mining-field; that includes Tibooburra and White Cliffs? That is too much. He cannot be everywhere. There is a lot to look after in Broken Hill alone.

380. As to the ventilation: have you found inadequate ventilation in any place where you have been working? I cannot complain much about it. I have worked in one very bad place; but, on the whole, I consider the ventilation very fair.

381. You could not suggest an amendment in the regulations in any way to make them more effective? No; nothing more than what I have complained of.

382. If any part of a mine were considered dangerous, whether by the officer-in-charge or the inspector, and the men were withdrawn to admit of it being repaired, whose duty should it be, in your opinion, to pronounce it safe for the men to return? Of course, that is a hard thing to answer. If the Inspector of Mines were there I would ask him; or if any of the higher officials were there I would go by their opinion. At any rate, I would have a look at it for myself.

383. If the shift-boss says the place is too bad, and the inspector also pronounces it dangerous, after it is repaired, who should give the word to go back;—would it be the place of the shift-boss who called you out, or should it be left to the discretion of the inspector? I consider that should be left to the inspector.

384. I ask these questions because of General Rule 2, and I wish to know whether you think the onus should lie on him (the mine's official) or on the inspector of saying that everything was safe for the men to go back? I consider it should be the inspector's place to say whether the men should go back.

385. Do you think it is desirable that a Board of Inquiry should be appointed in each mining district to investigate all accidents that may take place; by accidents I mean those which necessitate a man's remaining off work for (say) a week or more? That is a question I have never given much thought to. I do not know whether it would be of any advantage to us.

386. You think that the magisterial inquiry which is held now in the case of fatal accidents is quite sufficient? No, I do not; because a man behind a draper's counter does not know much about mining.

387. But is it not the case that a man may have a very severe accident; it may be through his own neglect, and it may be through the neglect of the person in charge. He lives, and is perhaps in misery all his life. At the present time there is no inquiry into accidents of that kind. There is only an inquiry in the case of a fatal accident, and of course there the principal witness is dead. In the face of that you do not think that such a Board of Inquiry would be an advantage to all concerned. Again, almost every fatal accident is the cause of a stigma being cast on the man in charge. People say, "Oh, it was his fault." A Board of Inquiry would remove that where unjustified? That would be a good thing, and I think it would make a lot of them careful.

388.

- W. Noble. 388. You think it would have a tendency to make the men more careful? Yes.
389. And, of course, those in charge of the men? Yes.
- 10 July, 1897. 390. *Mr. Edwards.*] In what part of the mine do you complain about the men being worked too closely together? In Block 11, between the 200 and 300-foot level—in McGregor's stopes.
391. That is where you are working now? Yes.
392. Have you made any complaints to the shift-bosses about it? Yes; I have said that it is not a fit place for men to work in. He said, "Oh, you must stand on one side when anything is coming down." But a man might be barring down, and a stone drop right on top of me.
393. Has that continued for any length of time? It has been going on for some little time. It is a bit better now.
394. You have often seen Mr. Horwood through there;—have you never mentioned it to him? No.
395. You are not afraid to go and speak to Mr. Horwood about anything? Not in the least. I would rather speak to Mr. Horwood than those two or three classes below him.
396. The only way to relieve this difficulty would be to get rid of some of the other men? Yes; it would mean a little more unemployed, but it would remove the danger. Of course we have each got six or seven depending upon us, and we would rather run a risk than not be able to keep them going.
397. As to the incompetent men;—it is very hard to tell whether a man is a miner until you see him at work? Yes.
398. And sometimes a man can deceive a shift-boss by the way he taps a drill? Yes; if he can tap a drill fairly well the shift-boss very likely passes him.
399. It is only by seeing the men work that you can ascertain whether they are miners or not? As he goes on you can tell more about him. If he cannot do his work he is sent up.
400. I understand different kinds of ground require different kinds of labour;—for instance, a man may be a good workman in one portion of a mine, and be incompetent in others? Yes.
401. And a man in Broken Hill wants to be good all round;—it will not do if he can only use a hammer? No.
402. You say accidents are due in a great measure to the incompetence of the men and to carelessness? You see, a man may be working in a dangerous place or in a dangerous manner, and, having six or seven depending upon him, he will risk things. Of course, if a man is foolish enough to go into danger it is his own fault, although he is actually forced into it.
403. Will you tell us about a suggestion that has been made as to training miners in Broken Hill;—when should a man be taken in to learn mining;—when should he be taken underground? I consider, before a man can go through Broken Hill—that is, taking the hard and the soft and other things, such as timbering,—it would take him at least two years to do it.
404. What do you think of a system of apprenticeship to teach young men mining? Of course, as they grew up they would learn; but I know of men in Broken Hill who are among the best miners in the country, and they never knew anything of mining until they came here.
405. When a party of men (say six) are working in a contract, there are two men in the face at a time—that is, two men in each shift;—when they finish their shift, where do they meet their mates who are coming on? Sometimes they meet them, and sometimes they do not.
406. If there is any dangerous ground in the face, what means have they of informing their mates? If there is anything special we generally try to see our mates. If nothing more than ordinary we do not care whether we see them or not. Any man going into a face, whether he has notice or not, sees for himself. He taps the face, and sees that it is secure, &c.
407. But sounding the ground is not a certain test? There are men in Broken Hill and other places who can form an idea so well by tapping a stone that they would almost go to sleep under it. They would not be a bit afraid of it. Of course, sometimes you get deceived.
408. Where the ground ends in what is termed a "soapy" end it sounds safe? No; it would sound loose.
409. Supposing a large lump ends with a "soapy" end, it would then sound solid? You could tell, I think.
410. Do you not think it would be better if you had an opportunity of showing your mates on the on-coming shift any dangerous ground, either on the roof or in the face? Yes; and I have always, if I wanted to tell my mates anything specially, tried to see them.
411. And have taken them down and showed them it? No. I could meet my mates here in the street and tell them exactly where to find within 6 inches of any place in the face where we were working.
412. But would every miner be able to do that? I do not say everybody is like that.
413. Would it not be safer if you had the opportunity of showing your mates how the face was when you left it, pointing out any missed-holes, and showing the dangerous ground? You do not want to go and show a man where a missed-hole is. If he wants it pointed out to him he has no business there.
414. I suppose sometimes you would be coming up the shaft in one cage, and your mate going down in another? Yes; but I would guarantee to see him if there was anything.
415. But you are an extra cautious man;—every man would not be the same? Of course some men do not care, so long as their time is up; they clear off.
416. Then would it not be far better to have the change of shift take place in the face, instead of at the top as at present? It would be an advantage to some, but to others it would not. I do not see why an experienced man should suffer because of the useless men that are employed.
417. It is so very hard to tell useless men until they have been tried, and while they are being tried, these accidents take place;—do you think then experienced men should have certificates? It would do a lot of good.
418. From whom should they get the certificates? From some man who understands mining, and who would examine them.
419. I suppose a certificate from the Inspector of Mines would be sufficient? Yes; of course it is understood that the inspector should be competent.
420. If additional inspectors are appointed, it is necessary that they should be men of the very highest qualifications? Yes; you would want a man who thoroughly understood his work.
421. You have often seen Mr. Hebbard through the mines? Yes; plenty of times.
422. Did you ever complain to him about anything? No; I have never had any reason.
423. There has been nothing for you to complain about? Only what I have already referred to.
424. General rule 3, sub-section c, says that a workman shall not have in use at one time in any one place more than 6 lb. of explosive;—is that sufficient for a party of men? Yes.

425. Where you are working machines? I am not a machine man. I have never worked a machine. W. Noble.
426. You cannot say whether that is sufficient for a machine? In some cases, 10 lb. of dynamite are used.
427. Is that rule unreasonable—limiting workmen to 6 lb. each? I do not see how it could matter if a man had a case. 10 July, 1897.
428. I suppose if 6 lb. went off close to a man, it would do just as much damage as if a case went off? Yes.
429. Sub-section *c* of the same rule says that a charge of powder or other explosives which has missed fire shall not be unrammed or drawn. Now, would you put in another hole close to a missed-hole, or would you draw the charge? I would draw the charge.
430. With a proper tool? The best thing is to have a plug of fracture and blow it out.
431. You do not think that is a good regulation, that if a charge of dynamite has missed fire, it should not be unrammed or drawn;—you would not consider it safe to put down another hole just alongside a missed-hole? It would not be safe to put it down close to it.
432. And you could not guarantee if you put it down at a safe distance that it would explode the miss-fire? No.
433. You prefer to draw the tamping, and put in some dynamite? Yes.
434. In appointing this Board to investigate into these minor accidents, how would you propose to constitute it? I do not see how things could be benefited a great lot.
435. You are not prepared to make any suggestion on the subject? No.
436. With the one exception about the men working too closely, you have nothing to find fault with? No.
437. You have no fault to find with the regulations (*Exhibits "A" and "B"*)? No.
438. Are those underground regulations (*Exhibit "A"*) posted up everywhere, so that the men can see them? Yes; posted all over the mine.
439. You know them all? Yes.
440. Is it not a fact that more notices are posted than there are men who read them? Yes.
441. *His Honor.*] How many men out of every ten can read? I do not think you will find, now-a-days, 10 per cent. that cannot read or write.

MONDAY, 12 JULY, 1897.

John August Berndt sworn and examined:—

442. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Your name is John August Barndt? Yes.
443. You are a miner? Yes.
444. You are now working on the Barrier as a miner? Yes.
445. From your experience on the Barrier, is the ventilation in the mines sufficient? No.
446. What amount of air do you think it is necessary must be passed through the workings for each man and animal employed below? 300 to 400 cubic feet.
447. Have you any idea of the amount of air that is passing through the workings in the several mines that you have worked in? From about 100 to 150 cubic feet.
448. What means would you suggest by which the required amount of air might be carried into the workings? By air winzes.
449. What danger is caused by improper or insufficient ventilation? It tends to endanger the health of the men and to affect the workings.
450. Have you perceived any noticeable increase in the number of accidents at the mines you have been working in along the line of lode during the last nine months? Yes.
451. What has been the cause of this increase? The contract system.
452. Is it your opinion that the increase has in any way been brought about by the incompetency of the men or officers in charge? As regards the men—they know their work, and thoroughly understand what they have to do; and the bosses, as far as they are allowed to go, are not at fault.
453. The regulations, I take it, are not sufficient for carrying out the work in a proper workmanlike manner? Yes; that is it.
454. Do you think that the services of additional inspectors are necessary under the existing regulations? Yes; there ought to be no less than two for the Hill alone.
455. Do you think the regulations are sufficient, provided that additional inspectors were appointed? Not in the state in which they are at the present time.
456. You think the regulations are not sufficient to protect the life and limb of the employees? They are not.
457. Have you a sufficient grasp of these regulations (under the Mining Act) to suggest any amendment which would be of benefit in securing better conditions for the men to work under? No; I have not had sufficient time to go through them and do that.
458. I believe you have the regulations posted up in the mines? Yes.
459. Have you ever read those regulations? They have only been there a few days. I have not read them since they have been there.
460. You have not read them sufficiently well to have a grasp of them which would enable you to suggest any amendments? Every miner should have them in his hands, so that he could read them properly.
461. You think that each employee should be supplied with a copy of the regulations? Yes.
462. Should they be supplied by the employer, or by the Government, or how should they be obtained? I think you should receive them from the employer.
463. In the event of those regulations being supplied to the employees, would you suggest some means by which men should be punished for committing a breach of them? Yes.
464. Whether broken by the companies or by the men, punishment should be imposed? Yes.
465. Can you point out any accident that has occurred through a breach of those regulations? Two large shots are fired; and too much hanging ground is over men during the whole time they are working.
466. In your opinion, the ground that is being opened up in the mines is not being sufficiently secured? Yes; not being sufficiently secured and timbered.
467. Can you point out a case where an accident has occurred through an insufficiency of timber? Yes; in Harvey's case.

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- J. A. Berndt. 468. I would like you to give your reasons for saying that that accident was caused by an insufficiency of timber? Big shots were being fired, and slabs of country were hanging overhead. If the ground had been closely timbered there would have been no accident.
- 12 July, 1897. 469. In this particular place there was a larger excavation than, in your opinion, should be allowed to be left open? Yes.
470. Had there been sufficient timber used the accident would not have happened? No.
471. Is there any other case that you know of? There have been minor accidents through places not being sufficiently covered up.
472. The big timber of the square sets has been in, but not securely covered? Yes; not securely covered over head.
473. What caused this insufficient covering;—has it been through the men's neglect, or through the faulty provisions of the companies in not providing the required timber to do the covering? Shots have been fired, and the laths broken and not replaced.
474. Was it the men's duty to see to the covering? It was the men's duty to see that they were over their head, but it was the boss's duty to see that sufficient laths were there, which was very seldom the case.
475. It was the men's duty to see that these places were kept covered, but proper timber was not supplied so that they could do it? That is it.
476. General Rule 3, sub-section *d* says that, in charging holes for blasting, an iron or steel tamping bar shall not be used, unless mounted with at least 4 inches of copper;—in your opinion, should any iron or steel be used in tamping a hole that has been charged with glycerine compounds? No; nothing should be used but tamping sticks.
477. You do not think iron or steel should be used? No.
478. Not even if mounted with copper? I cannot say about that, as I have never seen copper tested.
479. If at any time any part of a mine should be found to be dangerous, and the workmen were withdrawn from that portion of the mine by the man in charge or by the inspector, whose duty should it be to say that the place was again fit for the workmen to return? I think it should be the inspector's place in all cases.
480. General Rule 3 of the Mining Act, sub-section *c* says that a workman shall not have in use at one time in any one place more than 6 lb. of explosive;—do you think that that clause is sufficiently elastic for the Barrier? I think that is quite sufficient.
481. I would like you to understand that this inquiry is being held for the purpose of suggesting any alterations thought necessary;—in the case of a party of men working with rock-drills, do you think that clause is elastic enough? I do not know anything about rock-drills. I am only alluding to the hammer and drill.
482. You think that at any one time 6 lb. is any amount for any party with hammer and drill to have in their possession? Yes.
483. But you are not acquainted with rock-drills? No.
484. You agree with sub-section *b* of General Rule 3, that the explosive shall not be taken into or kept in the mine except in a case or canister? Yes.
485. Has a case or canister always been provided in the mines you have been working in? At times canisters have been provided, but at times they have run out.
486. In the case of your not being supplied with a canister, has it been a regulation that only the amount required for a charge should be taken from the magazine? No. In many cases there have been boxes of it standing all over the stopes.*
487. In your opinion, should a charge of gunpowder or other explosive which has missed fire be unrammed or drawn? The top of it should be drawn, and the hole charged the second time. It should not be gone near within twenty minutes or half an hour.
488. But do you think it is safe in the case of a powder-hole that the tamping should be drawn from off the charge? No.
489. In the case of the glycerine compounds, do you think it safe to uncover the charge in the case of a miss-fire? No.
490. Do you think it is safe for another hole to be drilled close to that hole? Not within from 18 inches to 2 feet of it.
491. You think it is safe to bore a hole within 18 inches to 2 feet of a hole that has missed fire, and with the charge still remaining in it? Yes; provided it has stood long enough.
492. How long would you consider it safe to leave that hole before starting to bore again? Not less than twenty minutes or half an hour.
493. You think it is safe to go back to a missed hole within twenty minutes or half an hour? Yes.
494. As to the regulations in force in your mine;—do you know whether they provide that you shall go back within that time; or must a longer time expire? I have not seen a clause to that effect.
495. You would be satisfied if the regulation provided that it be not less than twenty minutes? Yes.
496. How long do you think a hole should be left after being "bulled" before being charged? That would depend upon the depth of the hole, and the quantity of stuff used in the "bullying."
497. Say a 6-foot hole drilled in a face? It should be left nothing less than an hour.
498. That is with how much explosive used for "bullying"? Six to eight plugs.
499. After using six or eight plugs for "bullying" is it safe to charge a hole after an hour elapses? Yes.
500. Without putting anything into the hole? After wetting it—pouring water into it. Deeper holes require a longer time.
501. I suppose, as far as underground work is concerned, a 6-foot hole would be oftener over the limit that is bored than under? Not in the way the open-cuts are being worked at present. Holes are bored as deep as 10 feet.
502. Have you got open-cuts underground? Yes.
503. I would like you to give us some idea of them. Kindly explain to the Commission what you call an open-cut underground;—I have never heard of them before? It is an opening underground without timber, about 30 feet by 18 feet.
504. Could you give the dimensions about right through? From 16 to 30 feet wide by 12 to 14 feet high, and from 40 feet to 60 feet long.

505.

* NOTE (on revision—question having been misunderstood):—Yes; but tins were being left about the stopes, instead of being taken back to the magazine.

505. That is what you call an open-cut underground? Yes.

506. In your opinion, is that being worked as safely as it should be worked? No; I think it should be timbered.

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507. *His Honor.*] Where can you locate one of those open places? In the Central Mine, on the 400 and 500 feet levels.

508. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Have there been any accidents in those places, fatal or otherwise? There has only been the one fatal accident during the last eight or nine months. There have been several minor accidents.

509. Has a fall of the roof been the cause? Yes; and the fall of slabs.

510. Then that must have some reference to what you said in Harvey's case—that there is insufficient timbering? Yes.

511. Do you think that if a Board of Inquiry were appointed to inquire into accidents, drawing the line of course at those which might be considered trivial, it would result in a benefit? Yes; it would tend to avoid further accidents.

512. What number would you suggest that the Board be composed of? Twelve miners.

513. How should they be elected? They should be subpoenaed.

514. I might state that this Board of Inquiry I refer to would be outside of a magisterial inquiry, or a coroner's jury, as it is better known. I mean a standing Board which could be called into requisition at any time it was required to inquire into any accident. Do you think it necessary that twelve men should compose that Board? I do not think there should be less than twelve men.

515. How should they be elected? They should be elected from the men working where the accident happened.

516. Do you think they should always be selected from the mine where the accident happened? Yes.

517. You do not think it should be a standing Board, to be elected for a certain period? No; I think it should be elected from the place where the accident happened.

518. Do you not think there would be a tendency to prejudice in some cases? Yes; I daresay there would. But I do not think that should have anything to do with it. I reckon it ought to be a straight-forward inquiry.*

519. But is it not possible, if twelve men were selected from the mine where an accident occurred, some of whom, perhaps, would be mates of the injured party, and inclined to lean towards him, that the result of the inquiry might be a false one? I cannot see how it could.

520. Do you know anything of the surface open-cuts? No.

521. *Mr. Edwards.*] Speaking about the ventilation—You say that 300 to 400 cubic feet of air is the least quantity necessary for each man? Yes.

522. At the present time, you say that 150 cubic feet of air is passing through? Yes.

His Honor: I suppose it might be admitted that whatever has been proved a fair thing in a coal-mine, as far as ventilation is concerned, for the purpose of supplying air to men, might be taken as a fair thing for any other mine; so I consider the question of ventilation one that has already been gone into.

Mr. Edwards: I would like, your Honor, to put two or three further questions to Mr. Berndt on this matter.

523. Would you be satisfied with the same ventilation that the Government say is sufficient for men working in coal-mines? I do not know what the ventilation is in coal-mines.

524. At any rate, you say that 150 cubic feet of air per man is passing through the mines in which you have worked? Yes.

525. Do you know that that is 50 cubic feet more than is required in a coal-mine? If that is so, there is not more than 30 cubic feet per man here.

526. Have you ever measured it? No.

527. You have no data by which you have arrived at your estimate? No; only according to what I have read.

528. What have you read? About the ventilation in different mines.

529. I suppose you are hardly competent to give any evidence as to what air is passing? [*His Honor:*—I understand the witness is speaking by his feelings.] (*Witness*):—I consider there is not sufficient air by a long way.

530. What mine do you refer to? The Central mine.

531. In its present condition? Yes.

532. I suppose you see the inspector through there? I have not seen him during the last six months.

533. Not through the mine? No.

534. What part have you been working in? The 500-foot level.

535. You have not seen him for six months? No.

536. What shifts have you been on;—on the day shifts as well as the night shift? I am on the three shifts as my turn comes.

537. I suppose you know there is an inspector here? Yes.

538. Have you ever made any complaint to him about an insufficiency of ventilation? No.

539. Have you complained to any of the shift-bosses? Yes.

540. Which one? To all of them on our shifts.

541. You know the names of them? Yes; William Dryer, John Simmons, and Ben Murrowood.

542. Anybody else? They are the only shift-bosses I have been working under.

543. Did you complain to them about insufficient ventilation? Yes.

544. When? At different times.

545. I suppose in opening up fresh ground there must necessarily be temporarily not so much air as there would be in other workings? In some places there is sufficient air, and in other places there is no ventilation coming through at all. Where I have been working the last three months it has been defective.

546. I suppose in putting through a drive the air would be bad? It is not a drive that I refer to. The end of the drive is a long way from where I am working. Near the end of the drive there is no air at all, and you could not work there more than five minutes on some occasions.

547.

*NOTE (on revision):—There should be half miners and half mine-owners, or bosses.

- J. A. Berndt. 547. Do I understand you to say that this want of ventilation is continued for any length of time? Yes.
 548. For how long? For the last three months in that particular place.
 12 July, 1897. 549. Is it hard ground you are working in? Yes.
 550. I suppose in hard ground three months is not a very long time in which to make a connection from one part of the mine to another? No; they won't do it in three months.
 551. Are they making a connection now? No; there won't be a connection for the next six months unless they put down winzes from the upper levels.
 552. *His Honor.*] What plan of ventilation is adopted in the Central? A few winzes, and what comes down the main shafts.
 553. Any compressed air? No.
 554. No pipes laid? They are starting to lay them now.
 555. *Mr. Edwards.*] They are now laying pipes? They have just started laying them.
 556. There has recently been a change in the management? Yes.
 557. A new manager has been appointed lately? Yes.
 558. I understood you to say that the contract system was a cause of the increase in the number of accidents;—in what way does it contribute to the increase of accidents? The depth of the holes being bored, and the open-cuts underground.
 559. Is it necessary to bore deeper holes working on contract than working on day-labour? It is all planned for them to bore deeper holes.
 560. *His Honor.*] Planned by whom? By the shift-bosses.
 561. *Mr. Edwards.*] What depth are the holes that you have been working on? They generally plan the holes from 3 feet 6 inches to 10 feet.
 562. Do you consider 10 feet an excessive depth underground? Yes.
 563. *His Honor.*] Can you explain why deeper holes are planned for them working under contract than would be planned working under the day system? They open up more ground.
 564. You mean that the contractors, when they think it is in their own interest, will run a greater risk than men will when working only in the interest of the mine owners? When working on day-labour they do not stand the same risk.*
 565. They won't stand the same risk? No.
 566. They run risks under the contract system because by running risks they make a greater profit for themselves? Things are cut too fine for them to make any profit.
 567. By competition? Yes.
 568. *Mr. Edwards.*] I suppose under the contract system they make good wages? No; only a shade over wages.
 569. Right through? I do not believe they average more than 10s. to 10s. 6d. a shift.
 570. *His Honor.*] You mean each man per shift? Yes.
 571. *Mr. Edwards.*] I think contractors lose some time occasionally? Yes.
 572. Through their own fault? No; through an insufficiency of steel.
 573. But after pay—the Monday after pay day—is not time frequently lost then? Not that I know of; there may be, perhaps, odd ones, but very few.
 574. They work, then, every shift? Pretty constant.
 575. You say their average pay is 10s. 6d.? Yes.
 576. You admit that generally the men are competent and the shift-bosses are competent? Yes.
 577. Then you state that the regulations are not sufficient for carrying out the work in the proper manner;—but I understand you have never read the regulations? They are forced in a good many ways to do things they should not do. If the regulations were more enforced that would never be done.
 578. I understand you have never read the regulations? I have read part of them.
 579. What regulations have you read? I have read several of the rules and regulations of the mines here, but I have not read them all through.
 580. Each mine has working rules in addition to the Government regulations? I have not seen them.
 581. *His Honor.*] Are the rules posted up? I have never seen them.
 582. *Mr. Edwards.*] I suppose most people congregate at the pay-office on certain occasions;—are there none there? Only those that have been put there recently.
 583. You say there are no regulations posted up on the mine? Only what I have seen at the pay-office.
 584. Could they be there without your seeing them? I have been at the Central for about eighteen months, and never saw them until within the last month or so.
 585. That is either for above ground or under? Yes.
 586. Even those that you did see posted up you did not read through? Not all of them.
 587. I suppose they had not sufficient interest for you? They had interest, I suppose, but I had not the time. I could not stay long enough to read them.
 588. You never had time to stop to read them? Not at the mines, but I have read them at the office.
 589. *His Honor.*] What I understand you to say is that you would like to have a copy to read at home? Yes.
 590. *Mr. Edwards.*] You have no suggestions as to what should form any new regulations? No; I have no proper code to draft by.
 591. Do I understand you to say that the ground is insufficiently timbered in the Central? Yes.
 592. And that there is a scarcity of timber in the Central? I do not know about there being altogether a scarcity. There is a scarcity more so than otherwise.
 593. As a matter of fact, are not men supplied with any quantity of timber required to secure the ground? There has not been enough timber for some time to timber up the ground properly.
 594. Have you ever asked for timber, and been refused? Yes; it was not there for them to send it.
 595. Whom did you ask? William Rowe for one, and other shift-bosses.
 596. Within what period are you speaking? Any time within the last eighteen months—at different times.
 597. That is in the hard ground you are working in? No; all through; in the stopes as well. I have been working in the stopes besides in the hard ground.
 598. I suppose you admit that in hard ground timber is not required right through? Not right through; but I do not see that men should work without timber in any case. 599.

*NOTE (on revision):—Because day men mostly plan their own holes; and, for the contractors, they are mostly deep holes that are planned.

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599. No matter how solid ground is, you think timber should be there? Yes, barring drives.
600. In Harvey's case, was that in the Central? Yes.
601. How did that accident occur;—were you working with him? I was not on that shift.
602. All you know about Harvey's case is what you have heard or read? Yes; I know the place where the accident happened.
603. Do you know that it was sworn at the inquest that there was plenty of timber handy for the men? No; I was not here at the inquest.
604. And you were not on the same shift? No.
605. So that all you know about Harvey's accident is what you have been told from outside? Yes.
606. Did you see the ground where Harvey was killed? Not precisely the ground.
607. Was it in a stope? No; in an open-cut underground.
608. What we call a chamber? Open-cut is the name I have heard it called by.
609. In speaking of the laths;—when they are blown away by blasting, I suppose it is not the duty of the mines to put the timber back again? No; that is the duty of the men.
610. And if they do not, and an accident occurs, it is their fault? Yes, if timber is there. But if timber is not there, I do not see that it is the men's fault.
611. As to the use of explosives;—you think that 6 lb. would be sufficient for a party of men to use at a shift? Yes.
612. You are only speaking of hammer and drill? Yes.
613. They would not use more than 6 lb. of dynamite in eight hours? No.
614. You say you have seen cases of dynamite standing about all over the stopes? Packets, and tins containing packets, is what I mean.
615. Who would leave that, the shift-bosses or the men? The men.
616. You would hardly blame the shift-bosses for that? No.
617. That is the fault of the men? Yes.
618. I suppose men are careless? I do not see that they are careless. Odd ones may be careless.
619. Men get careless through handling explosives? I don't think so.
620. Tins are provided for the men to carry their dynamite in? One time they were; but now a man goes around with a box of fractureur to deliver to each party as they require it.
621. The man goes round and serves? Yes; serves out the dynamite to the different parties.
622. That is a safe practice, so long as they put it in the holes and fire it, and do not leave it about? Yes.
623. You have no complaint to make on the part of the management as to the distribution of dynamite at the present time? No.
624. As to the missed-holes, do you consider it unsafe to draw the tamping from a missed-hole with a proper tool? Portion of it could be drawn, not all of it.
625. Portion of it, sufficient to explode the charge;—a sufficient quantity of tamping to enable a man to get within such a distance of the charge as to explode it with a plug or two of dynamite? Yes.
626. I suppose you are in the habit of using dynamite always? Yes, and gelatine.
627. Do you close the cap down on the fuse with your teeth? No.
628. You have seen it done? Yes.
629. Frequently? Yes.*
630. And yet you say men are not careless? They are not careful in that way.
631. You do not consider it a safe practice? No.
632. Those caps are charged with one of the highest explosives known? Yes.
633. And if there happened to be a little bit on the edge, and the teeth touched it, it would explode? Yes.
634. And if it exploded, what would happen? There would not be much of your head left.
635. Do you think it safer to draw tamping from a missed-hole and explode it, than to put down another hole alongside? It is safe to withdraw portion of the tamping and fire it; but I think it is just as safe to bore a hole alongside.
636. You say you would not put a hole down nearer than a foot or 18 inches to a missed-hole? Yes.
637. Do you think a hole a foot or 18 inches from a missed-hole would necessarily explode the missed-hole? I think it would.
638. Supposing it did not, and had the effect of tearing this stuff about without exploding it, the dynamite would be blown out and scattered with the dirt? I fancy it would explode with the other; but the cap would go off in any case, and there would be no danger in the explosive itself. The men would see it lying about if it did not go off, and would pick it up.
639. Supposing you struck it with a pick, what would result? It would explode.*
640. There is no doubt about that? I do not think so.
641. From your experience, you think twenty minutes to half an hour is sufficient time to leave a missed hole before you go back to it? Yes.
642. Would you go back in twenty minutes or half an hour? Yes.
643. To a missed 10-foot hole? No; I only reckon on a 6-foot hole.
644. You would go back within twenty minutes or half an hour to a missed-hole 6 feet deep? Yes.†
645. And you think you would be perfectly safe? Yes.
646. Do you know the rule of the mine is that men are not to go back to a missed-hole within an hour and a half—a rule to that effect is laid down in the mines' regulations, and yet you say men are not careless in the use of explosives? Not necessarily.
647. With reference to this Board of Inquiry, what would be the duties of the Board, supposing an accident happened? To thoroughly inquire how the accident happened.
648. Anything else? And to try to avoid such an accident in the future.
649. Anything in the way of compensation to the man injured? I reckon the man injured ought to be compensated by the mine.
650. Who would fix the compensation? The Board.
651. Do you think twelve miners would be an impartial Board to assess damages against mine-owners? Yes.

652.

* NOTE (on revision) :—Because there is no other appliance to hand to do it with.

† NOTE (on revision) :—I never heard other than half an hour. I did not know it to be two hours.

- J. A. Berndt. 652. The mine should not be represented at all? Oh, yes, certainly; they should be represented.
 653. I understood you to say that it should be chosen from twelve miners. [*His Honor*: I do not think that it has been suggested that this Board should be a Judicial Board, but merely a Board to report.] Then this Board would simply determine the cause of the accident? Yes.
 654. I suppose you admit that some miners are grossly careless in their work? I dare say there are some.
 655. They become reckless to danger—they become so accustomed to the danger that they apparently become reckless? I will not admit that.
 656. I suppose if a man brought about an accident by his own carelessness, you would hardly expect the mine to compensate him? No.
Mr. Polkinghorne: I did not suggest anything about compensation.
His Honor: I understood this Board was to be something analogous to the Marine Board—to inquire into the cause: not to assess compensation.
Mr. Edwards: Very well, your Honor.
 657. You say, when men are withdrawn from any part of a mine, they should not be allowed to go back without the sanction of the inspector? I would not go back until I had the inspector's opinion as to whether it was safe or not. I would not take my own opinion on the matter.
 658. You would have the men laid off until the inspector came? Yes.
 659. That might occur in the one stope six times in a day? I do not think so.
 660. It would not be impossible? It would not be very probable. Besides, there are plenty of other places to go to.
 661. Assuming there were not, these men would be taken out and would not be able to go back until the inspector came? To what do you refer?
 662. I am referring to hanging ground? There would be no need to send for the inspector in a small case.
 663. You only refer to where there might be a movement in the ground of some magnitude? Yes; where there is a large space of ground to move.
 664. And when the timbers are giving? Yes.
 665. [*His Honor*.] To whom would you give the discretion to determine the point, whether the inspector should or should not have to pass the work before the men go back? I do not understand.
 666. Would you leave it to the men to say whether the inspector's services should be called in? Yes.
 667. [*Mr. Edwards*.] Supposing there was a dispute about it—that some men wanted the inspector and others did not;—how would you get over that difficulty? I cannot say.
 668. [*His Honor*.] There might be no difficulty in getting an inspector at Broken Hill if there were two inspectors appointed; but, supposing the thing were to occur 50 miles out, but still in the same district, then it would be a very difficult thing to get the inspector? As I said, I think two inspectors should be on the Hill itself.
 669. [*Mr. Edwards*.] There is hanging ground every time a shot is fired, and do you not see the difficulty that would arise? In that case there would be no difficulty. I only refer to large creeps as requiring the consent of the inspector.
 670. What you mean is that, in case of any large movement or creep in the ground, and the men being taken out, the inspector should report before the men are allowed to go back? Yes.
 671. But in ordinary workings the shift-boss, or foreman, or underground manager is sufficient authority? Yes.
 672. I suppose Mr Rowe, whom you have been working under, and who is the underground manager of the Central, is about as experienced a man as there is on the field? Yes.
 673. I understand you to say that all you have told us about Harvey's case as to insufficiency of timber is founded simply on hearsay? Yes.
 674. [*Mr. Polkinghorne*.] In Mr. Edwards' examination, he asked if it was usual for a good deal of time to be lost by contractors after pay, and if the average pay was not 10s. 6d. a day;—should I understand from your answer that the average of 10s. 6d. is for twelve shifts composing the fortnight, or for the actual number of the shifts worked? 10s. 6d. is the average wage for the actual shifts worked.
 675. [*His Honor*.] Under what conditions are the underground chambers put in, and where are they put in? They are started from the foot-wall working towards the hanging-wall, going from one to the other.
 676. Are they only put in in cases where the ground is so solid as to make timbering unnecessary? There is very little timber in some, and in others no timber at all.*
 677. Timber is economised then, when it appears not necessary to use the full quantity of timber? Yes; they do not use the sets right through.
 678. Have there been many falls there—many accidents? There has been only one fatal accident during the last six or seven months. There have been five or six minor accidents, where they have only been disabled for about a fortnight.
 679. From falls? From falls and small "jombs," and through there being no laths.
 680. The accidents, through there being no laths, would not apply to the chambers? No.
 681. Have there been in the chambers themselves falls of much consequence? Not that have hurt anyone.
 682. Falls of mullock or ore? Both mullock and ore.
 683. [*Mr. Polkinghorne*.] Would it be wise to keep the timber closer to the face than is being done at the present time? Yes.
 684. Would it injure the timber if it were brought closer? If brought too close it would.
 685. What distance should the timber be from the face? Not more than 12 feet; that is two sets.
 686. How high should they (open chambers) be carried? Not more than two sets; that is clear of the timber.
 687. Two sets high without timber, and not to exceed 12 feet from the face? Yes, no further than two sets.
 688. If they are two sets high, that will be 16 feet? Yes.
 689. You think 16 feet would be a sufficient height to go? Yes, nothing beyond that.
 690. And to timber it within two sets of the face? Yes; I think the timber should be within 10 feet of the face.
 691. How far now is the timber being kept from the face? In some places over 20 feet.
 692. And the height? 12 feet to 15 feet.

693.

* NOTE (on revision):—They are put in both in solid ground, and also in friable ore or soft ground, and require timbering.

693. *Inspector Hebbard.*] What is the exact locality of the place in the Central Mine where you complain of the ventilation? No. 2 drive in the 500-foot level. J. A. Berndt.
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694. Does a winze not come down on to the back of the part you refer to, and is there not a cross-cut right through, and, besides, there is the communication between the shafts? There is very little air there.*
695. As to the accident to Harvey, do not you know, as a matter of actual fact, that in that case the timbers were within 18 inches of standing ground, and that the fall was brought about by the swinging tom being interfered with? It was in the open-cut the accident occurred.
696. But there are 1,400 or 1,500 sets of timber in what you call the open-cut? There was very little timber there at that time.
697. *Mr. Edwards.*] When men are working in a face there are two of them to a party in the face at the one time, and the change of shift takes place on the surface;—would it not be safer if on the change of shift the men going off work should have an opportunity of pointing out to their mates coming on anything that might appear dangerous in the face or on the roof? Yes, it would be safer.
698. It would be far safer for the change of shift to take place in the face than on the surface? No; I do not think that it makes any difference. The men might meet at the plat; that would answer the same purpose.
699. Would it not be better to point out anything dangerous at the face than away from it? I do not see how that would make any difference.
700. You think you could describe the condition of the face just as well as you could point it out to the men on the spot? Very nearly as well.
701. Not quite? Almost.
702. Supposing you are going up the shaft at the same time as your mate is coming down, you would then miss him altogether? No; there are two of us. My mate would then see him.
703. Sometimes you do miss the on-coming party altogether? No.
704. Does it not occur sometimes that men go away home and never see their mates? I do not think so.
705. Do you not think it would be safer to point out the exact position of the danger, supposing there was any hanging ground or a missed-hole? We would then wait for one another.
706. Where? In the plat.
707. Would you come back then and point out the place? Yes.
708. In all cases? Yes.
709. I suppose you know of instances where holes have been charged by men going off shift, and they have left them and omitted to tell their mates anything about them? I have never heard of anything like that in the Central.
710. You think it just as safe to describe the condition of the ground as to point it out to the man on the spot? Yes.
711. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Is it not a fact that in many instances a good deal of firing takes place at the change of shift? Yes; about a quarter of an hour before we knock off.
712. In a place where ventilation is not very good, it necessitates men being out of the face close on an hour before it is fit to be worked in again? Yes.
713. Then it would be impossible on change of shift under these circumstances for men coming off shift to go into the place and point out to men going on shift the condition of the face? Yes; no one could go near the face just after the shots had been fired.
714. Why does this firing take place in so many instances just before knock-off? So that the time between the shifts can be given for the face to cool down, and be again fit to work in.
715. *His Honor.*] A certain amount of time has to be wasted after firing; and it is less wasted than it would be at any other time, for the simple reason that it works in with the change of shift? Yes.
716. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] I take it that you are working on day-work? Yes.
717. Are your instructions from your shift-boss that you are to fire before knock-off or before crib, so that the place may have a chance to cool down? Yes.
718. Are the shift-boss's instructions that you shall fire on or about these times? Yes.
719. And you do not think a change in that custom would be beneficial? No.
720. *His Honor.*] Is it the rule that you cannot fire without permission of the shift-boss, and does it rest on him when to tell you that you may fire? Yes.
721. Can you suggest any rule which would preclude the men going off shift missing their mates coming on? They should fire no later than a quarter of an hour before knock-off, and they should meet their mates at the plat.
722. Not at the brace? No.
723. What is the longest time that it would take men to get from the face to the plat, taking your experience of the mines here? The longest would be about five minutes.
724. It would not run over that? No.
725. How many mines have you been working in? Only one mine on the Barrier, namely, the Central.
726. You cannot say what it would be in other mines? No.

Francis Harrington sworn and examined:—

727. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] What is your full name? Francis Harrington.
728. You are a miner? Yes.
729. Of varied experience? Yes.
730. As this Commission is to inquire into and take evidence as to whether the regulations now in force for the carrying out of mining on the Barrier are such as they should be, I will read No. 1 rule:—

An adequate amount of ventilation shall be constantly produced in every mine to dilute and render harmless noxious gases to such an extent that the working places of the shafts, levels, stables, and workings of such mine, and the travelling roads to and from such working places, shall be in a fit state for working and passing therein.

From your experience, is there sufficient ventilation in the mines on the Barrier to comply with that rule? In the various mines I have worked in on the Barrier I have found sufficient ventilation.

731. What would be the effect, in your opinion, of bad ventilation, in respect to the men and to the property? Of course, in those mines, leading to a certain extent, and other ailments through dust and smoke not being able to get away.

732.

* NOTE (on revision) :—It is used as a mullock pass, and no air comes through it.

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732. Do you think that bad ventilation would cause an accumulation of gas that would prove dangerous to the property, as well as to the life and limb of those employed?

His Honor: I do not think you need really trouble yourself on this question, for every one knows that bad results come from bad ventilation.

Mr. Polkinghorne: It is generally understood here, your Honor, that a lot of bad gases come off from the ores on the Barrier, and, if there is not sufficient ventilation, it might lead to something serious.

His Honor: Gases other than those arising from respiration? I only wish to let you thoroughly understand that the Commission recognises that ventilation is a very important question in all mines.

733. If at any time a portion of a mine should be pronounced by the man in charge or by the inspector to be unsafe, and the men were withdrawn until it was repaired, who should be the person to say that it is again safe for the men to return? The inspector.

734. Rule 2 gives power to the man in charge to withdraw the men, as well as to the inspector;—do you think that, in the event of the men being withdrawn by the man in charge, and the matter not being considered to be of such importance as to warrant the inspector's being called in, the part should be pronounced safe by the inspector before the men resume work? Yes.

735. Then, in all cases where places are considered by the man in charge to be unsafe, before the men are put back the inspector should be called in to say whether there is any danger? Yes.

736. Have you noticed an increase in the number of accidents in this district during the last nine months? There has been an increase in the number of accidents during the last two years; I cannot particularise the last nine months.

737. In your opinion, accidents are on the increase? Yes.

738. What do you think is the principal cause of the increase? The chief cause is the employment of incompetent men.

739. What is another cause? The workings are more extensive now, and more men are employed.

740. Do you think accidents have increased more in proportion than the number of employees during the last two years? I have not given it much consideration in that regard.

741. You think the chief cause has been the employment of incompetent men? Yes.

742. Have you any reason to believe that the increase is brought about by incompetency on the part of any officer? There is no doubt there are men employed on some of the mines as shift-bosses who are equally deficient in practical knowledge as some of the men.

743. As a natural consequence, that must be one of the causes why some of the accidents take place? Yes.

744. Do you think that, under the existing regulations, the services of an additional inspector would be of any use? Yes.

745. Do you think, then, that the regulations as set down in connection with the Mining Act are sufficient for the carrying out of mining in this district? I think they are deficient by a long way.

746. Are you prepared to suggest any amendments to those regulations? Not off-hand. It requires a man to sit down with the regulations, and to go over them carefully one by one, before he can venture to make any amendments.

747. Do you know fairly well what the regulations are that are now in force? I am not able to repeat them, but I have read them often enough. I know sufficient of them for my guidance.

748. You would know, then, when a breach of them was made;—have you seen any noticeable breaches of the regulations in parts of the Barrier where you have been working? No doubt I have. I suppose I have committed some myself at various times. Very often the handiest way is adopted in many cases, without any consideration for the regulations at all.

749. You admit that you have made breaches of those regulations? Yes.

750. Have you seen any breach of the regulations made by those in charge of the mines? I cannot safely say by anyone in charge.

751. I mean shift-bosses? I do not think so. My general experience is that men are warned at various times against certain things by various officers. I have never seen a shift-boss working or doing anything that would need him to commit a breach of the regulations.

752. Do you think there is anything required by these regulations which is being left undone by any of the companies? I think the present regulations are very vague in some instances. They do not clearly define things.

753. As far as you can see, you have no cause to complain of any breaches of those regulations? Not so far as I am personally concerned.

754. The question of open-cuts underground has arisen;—do you know anything about them? Open stopes, I suppose you can call them. I believe, where I am working at the present time with machines, we have an open excavation following the lode. Of course, it is not safe to put in timber, as it would not stand any time alongside those machines. They would shatter it in no time.

755. What distance do you think it is safe to open those stopes before any timber is put in;—what height, width, and length? The width of the lode, whatever it may be, although I do not think it is safe to leave it open without some support. The height should not be over 10 feet. That would be sufficient height for a man to see when it began to flake, and it would be high enough for him to keep it in order. If any higher, it would be out of a man's reach, and flakes might scale off and be on top of a man before he could see them. Again, with a greater height than 10 feet, there would be no possible chance of sounding.

756. Ten feet would be high enough to put in sill timber? Yes.

757. What distance would it be necessary, in your opinion, to keep the timber off the face, so that it would not be injured by the shots? Where the machines are working, the timber does not want to be any closer than 30 or 40 feet to the face.

758. We understand these openings have been carried higher than 10 feet? I believe they go over 10 feet.

759. You consider an additional inspector is necessary? I think this Hill is too much for one man to do it justice.

760. What should the additional inspector be—a theoretical man or a practical man? A thoroughly practical man. Theory on this field is no good.

761. Sub-section c of rule 8 says that a workman shall not have in use at one time in any one place more than 6 lb. of explosive of any kind;—do you think that rule is elastic enough—have you ever broken that particular rule? Yes.

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762. You have found it necessary to break that rule to carry out your duty? Yes.
763. You think a regulation a little more elastic should be framed? Of course, that is a part of the regulations I have never given any thought to. I have very often seen that amount used in the one hole, and six or seven others alongside requiring just as much.
764. You would actually want half a hundredweight for one round of blasting? Yes.
765. So that a regulation that cannot be carried into effect by either the companies or the men is no good? No.
766. Sub-section *d* of the same rule says, that, in charging holes for blasting, an iron or steel tamping bar shall not be used, unless mounted with at least 4 inches of copper. It is evident that this rule was made for powder, which has almost gone out of use now, especially on the Barrier;—with the explosive now in use, do you think that is a good clause? I think it is behind the age altogether. For the explosives now used, a wooden stick is all that is required.
767. You say that a wooden rammer is all that the men should be allowed to use? Yes.
768. In the event of a charge missing fire, do you think it safe to unram or draw the charge? I would not attempt it myself.
769. Would you use any device of your own to explode the charge? I would fire it until it did explode.
770. You would put another plug on top of the sand or whatever may be put in as tamping, until it got deep enough to explode the charge; and that, you think, would be the safest device? Yes.
771. You are well aware that the company making those glycerine compounds say they should never be rammed; that they should have no tamping—only water or sand;—in your opinion, is the regulation issued by that company sufficient? I never tamp any charge. I simply put in a little dirt to make it air-tight. In the case of a miss, I put in a fresh detonator, and fire it again.
772. The regulation issued by this company is quite sufficient;—they only ask that the charge be kept air-tight? Yes.
773. And if used only in that way, there would not be much danger from a missed-hole? No.
774. What time do you allow before you go back to a missed-hole? If a hole is tamped the same as I would tamp it myself, I consider twenty minutes sufficient.
775. It is well known to you that a good many charges are done differently from the way you do them? Yes; I have seen some men tamping the same as they would powder.
776. Do you think it is safe to go back in twenty minutes to a hole served in that way? No.
777. What time should elapse in a case like that? Two hours.
778. *His Honor.*] Would a fuse, then, burn very slowly, occasionally, in a tamped hole? Not more so in a tamped hole than any other; but some fuses have got flaws in them, and there might be places without powder. The spark would then travel slowly along the inside packing, and perhaps delay an hour or two before catching the powder again.
779. That would not be affected by the question whether the hole had been tamped? No.
780. Is the fuse likely to be injured in the tamping? Not unless a sharp-edged bar is used.
781. A copper-tipped bar, for instance? Yes. Of course, copper is not likely to jar—it is blunt. Iron has the opposite tendency.
782. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] I understand you to mean that, in the making of the fuse, there are joints left where the powder does not meet? Yes.
783. The cotton might be set fire to, and after some time it would have travelled across the break, and would then ignite the powder again? Yes. You very often have a miss if you take a piece with a splice in it. Almost in every case you have a miss then.
784. Seeing that there are different devices used by different men in charging a blast, you think twenty minutes should be a standing regulation? No.
785. What, in your opinion, should be a standing regulation? Two hours. I have never seen a hole hang fire more than two hours.
786. *His Honor.*] You yourself would never use a fuse with a splice in it? No.
787. You would think that it ought to be an offence, really, to use a fuse with a splice in it? Yes.
788. And that a regulation should be made against it? It would be wise to guard against it in that way.
789. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Do you think that if any loose glycerine compounds were lying about in the dirt, and you threw a pick on to one, it would explode? It would all depend upon whether there was anything solid underneath. If there were only loose dirt, I do not think it would; with solid rock, no doubt it would.
790. *His Honor.*] Of course, it is not a good thing to have bits of loose explosives lying about? No, it is not.
791. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You have never been unable to get any timber you might require to secure the ground where you have been working? No, not in my workings. I have always had all I wanted, except blocking for the set timber. I have seen that scarce, and stones used instead.
792. All the set-timber and laths required have always been procured for you on the asking? Yes.
793. You are now working in one of those large chambers? Yes.
794. What is your mode of informing your mates as to the state of the face;—when you are leaving off, do you make a point of meeting them, or do you stay in the face and wait for them? We do not try to meet each other. Our pair go into the face and know what they have to do. Unless such a thing as a miss-hole be in the face, we do not trouble. In the case of a miss-hole we tell the shift-boss to let the on-coming shift know.
795. What is the custom generally in firing;—do you mostly fire just before the knock-off? We fire every afternoon shift. We make no special conditions with those machines.
796. In the general way of working, would it be advisable to fire on the knock-off of the shift? Yes.
797. Working those machines requires special conditions? Yes.
798. What would be your object in firing just before knock-off? I would not have much smoke; and by the time the in-coming shift came down, the smoke would be cleared away for them too.
799. It would save time;—the time taken in change of shift would be almost sufficient for the smoke to get away? Yes.
800. Instead of firing a quarter of an hour before knock-off, would you not have to fire half an hour before knock-off if you wanted to show the in-coming shift the condition of the face? Yes.
801. Is it necessary you should be in the face to point out to the in-coming shift its condition? No.

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802. Do you think it would be a benefit to have appointed a permanent Board of Inquiry to inquire into all accidents that necessitate a man's stopping away from work for a week or over? I believe it would be a very good idea if such a thing were instituted. It would show what was the true cause of an accident. At the present time, in the Coroners' inquests on fatal accidents, the true cause of the accidents is hardly ever obtained.

803. What should be the composition of that Board? They should be practical men.

804. How many should compose the Board? It is a thing that I have not given any consideration to. This is the first time I have heard it mooted; but, in my opinion, I think there should be practical men to deal with it.

805. But how many should the Board be composed of? I do not believe in too many on a thing of that kind. I think three would be any amount.

806. Is it your opinion that they should be appointed by the Government, or how? Oh, yes, by the Government; they should be entirely independent of everything else.

807. A permanent Board appointed by the Government? Yes.

808. You do not think that the people of the district should be allowed to elect one by the same franchise as they elect their representative to Parliament? I do not say that such a mode of procedure should not be adopted; that would be almost equal to Government appointment.

809. Do you know anything of the open-cut work on the surface? No.

810. I do not think there is anything in the regulations providing what number of feet there shall be between the different levels;—how many feet, in your opinion, should there be between the levels? 100 feet, in my estimation, is close enough and fair enough.

811. In sinking a shaft, at what distance do you think chambers should be cut, and cross-cuts driven? Every hundred feet.

812. That a man might sink with safety, what distance do you think should be open over his head? Not more than 100 feet.

813. The dirt should not be drawn from a shaft more than 100 feet? If you have got one hauling shaft, and the compartments covered over, I do not say that it is not safe to haul to the surface with proper appliances. I say no shaft should be sunk more than 100 feet without a covering overhead, but leaving the hauling shaft open.

814. When you got down 100 feet, that part of the shaft would have to be covered over? Yes.

815. Before going down the next 100 feet you would put in a pent-house? Yes.

816. Would you still haul dirt from the bottom to the surface? You have no other way of getting rid of it. In opening out a mine, it might be necessary to go down 600 or 700 feet. Although you might have a plat at every 100 feet, still, you would have no place to store dirt except on the surface.

817. It would be possible to haul it from the bottom of the shaft to the lowest level, and then up the compartment in which the pent-house is placed? In the case of opening up a new mine, you would cause more danger by hauling to one plat, and shifting from there again, than you would by hauling straight to the surface.

818. In the case of "bulling" a hole, what time, in your opinion, should elapse before you charge it? I have never given that any consideration. I have never "bulled" a hole.

819. *His Honor.*] Is it an advantage to "bull" a hole? In "bulling" a hole, you burn the bottom of it, and you can then scrape out a bigger hole than the drill left. You can pack more fracture into the hole than you would otherwise, and you can concentrate the whole of the explosion in the bottom of the hole.

820. You have heard of that, but have not done it yourself? Just so.

821. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You have an idea of what a "bull" is, and I suppose you have some idea as to when it would be safe to again charge the hole? A good deal, of course, depends upon the ground itself. Again, where you can get plenty of water, you can get the hole damp and cool enough to charge it within a quarter of an hour after you have "bulled" it.

822. *Mr. Edwards.*] What mines have you been working in on the Barrier? Proprietary, Block 10, Block 14, and British.

823. In all those mines, the ventilation, so far as you have experienced it, has been all that you could wish for? Yes.

824. I suppose you have seen Mr. Hebbard, the Government Inspector, through the mines continually? I have seen him occasionally. Of course, in working the three shifts you are very likely to miss him, especially on night shift.

825. I think any requirement that the men have wanted, for the purpose of securing themselves, the mine has always supplied? Yes, as far as my experience goes.

826. One question was asked with reference to the ground appearing dangerous, and men being ordered out. You said that the men should not be allowed to go back until the inspector had considered the ground safe, and had authorised them to return? Yes.

827. I suppose that would only apply to large movements in the ground? Yes; not to any little frivolous occurrence. It is the large movements where you find it necessary to withdraw the men.

828. Such as a creep, or ground coming in in a large way? Yes.

829. For instance, if there was dangerous ground hanging in the face, or from the roof of a stope, the men could be taken out of that temporarily while other men broke it down;—you would not want an inspector to report on that? No.

830. The way this was put previously, it implied "in all cases"; that is why I have put these further questions;—you only refer to large movements? Yes.

831. You think the underground foreman is quite capable of judging whether ground is safe or not? Yes.

832. I suppose the practical miners working on the face are the best judges whether they are working in dangerous ground or not? Yes; if they are practical men.

833. You attribute the cause of accidents in a great measure to the employment of incompetent men? Yes.

834. You know that within the last two or three years there has been a great draft of some of the best miners to West Australia? Yes.

835. Other men came up here representing themselves as miners? Yes.

836. Is it possible to tell whether a man is a competent miner or not until you have seen him at work in the different branches? In some cases, the appearance of a man clearly indicates that he is not what he indicates himself to be.

837. But you would not like to judge a man by his appearance? In some cases, the first sight of a man clearly convinces you that he is not a practical man.

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838. And these men are not only a danger to themselves, but to the men working round about them? Yes.

839. You told us that the increase in the number of accidents was fairly attributable to the workings having become far more extensive, and to the great increase in the number of hands employed? Yes.

840. I suppose the number of workers in the last three years on the mines has almost doubled? Hardly so.

841. What would you say then? There are about a quarter more employed now.

842. There are over 6,000 men employed now? Yes.

843. So that there would be an increase of from 1,500 to 2,000? Yes.

844. And to that is fairly attributable the increase in the number of accidents. It must necessarily be so, must it not? Yes.

845. You will also admit that the most experienced miners treat danger with contempt? Yes; they get so accustomed to it that they get careless at times.

846. Have you ever known any of the mines to refuse to supply as much timber and material as you wanted to secure the workings? Not as far as my experience goes. I have done but very little of that class of work on the Barrier.

847. Not in timbering only, but in taking out ground, have you ever been refused anything? No.

848. You stated that some of the shift-bosses were incompetent. Would you mind telling me the names of those who are incompetent? I would not care about going that far. Of course, when I said that, I spoke of a couple of years back. As to the mine that I am working in at present, I would not care to give any names.

849. Of course, I cannot force you to. I can only ask you to give the names in the interest of the mine and of the men? —

850. *His Honor.*] If you do not wish to speak the name, you might write it on a slip of paper; and then it would not be handed to anyone but Mr. Edwards and myself? It is not that. We have experienced a lot of difficulty in Broken Hill; and the system of boycott has been exercised to such an extent here that it makes a man very careful.

851. Exercised by whom? By the mines.

852. By the management? Yes.

853. But it is a fact that the persons who were most prominent in old disputes against the management are now employed by the management in the mines? Yes.

854. It has all come right in the end? Yes; after a lot of suffering.

855. *Mr. Edwards.*] I know what you refer to. But is it not a fact that no difference is made now so long as they do their work properly? No difference is made now, I know.

856. You do not feel disposed to give the names of these people? I would rather not.

857. Do not you think it an unfair thing to make a charge of that sort and then stop short? —

His Honor: You see, it leaves a reflection on the good men—the men who do not deserve it. No one knows of whom you are speaking, and they might imagine that men who, all along, have done their work in a proper manner, are those who have not carried out their work properly.

858. It is impossible for the general managers or the officers to follow their shift-bosses around to see that they do their work, or to see that they are competent. Still, it is a reflection upon them, too, to have incompetent men in those positions. I think you should either give the names of the shift-bosses, or else withdraw the statement? The statement is correct. This has been an open secret on the mines.

859. If it is an open secret, the sooner it becomes publicly known the better. Really, if you have this knowledge, and the officers have not, you are concealing from them a very serious danger? One of the men I refer to left Broken Hill some eighteen months ago. It would do him no good, or anyone else, to mention his name.

860. As to the present condition of the mine. Have you any charge of that sort to make against them now? No; where I am working now, the shift-bosses are thoroughly practical men.

861. Then, when you refer to shift-bosses as being incompetent, you refer to men employed some eighteen months ago? Yes.

862. And who have left the mines in the district? Yes.

863. They do not occupy positions now? No, not that I am aware of.

864. I suppose, if additional inspectors are considered necessary, the men you would appoint to that office would be men not only with a practical knowledge of the subject, but men of high character? Yes.

865. And men apart from political influence? Yes.

866. The mines that you have been working in have rules for working both on the surface and underground? Yes.

867. They are in addition to the ordinary Government regulations? Yes.

868. And I suppose, Mr. Harrington, from your experience you would say this,—that it is impossible to make rules to govern one half of the matters that are continually arising in mining? I think it is almost impossible.

869. And I think you know this,—that those rules that are posted up are seldom read or attempted to be understood by the men working under them; I suppose even you yourself have not read them very carefully? I generally read them; and I understand them as soon as I do read them.

870. And forget them as soon as you pass on? Oh, no. Of course, sometimes I take very little notice of them.

871. I suppose the warnings by the shift-bosses underground are the principal things? Yes.

872. And the instructions given from time to time verbally? Yes.

873. And is that not the best system of regulation? Yes.

874. Do you think that all the rules in the world, and all the additional inspectors, will prevent accidents happening in mines? No; I do not think that for a moment.

875. I suppose you do the same thing as other men;—you have seen men carrying dynamite inside their shirts, have you not;—is not that a common practice? I have never seen that.

876. You have seen them close the cap on the fuse with their teeth? Yes.

877. I suppose you have done that, too? Yes; very often they are the handiest nippers you have got.

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878. I suppose no regulation will prevent men from doing that? No.
879. And no series of inspections? No; unless they had a boss standing over them continually.
880. You cannot assist us in any suggestion as to any new regulation? No, not without due consideration.
881. Coming to those big chambers underground;—in working the ground up to any considerable height, I suppose the men are all the time standing on the ore they are breaking down? No.
882. To what height do they work those chambers? They work on a sort of scaffolding, 6, 7, or 8 feet high.
883. And, when working on that scaffolding, they must always be within reach of the roof? Not exactly within reach of the roof, because the bar itself is 7 feet long.
884. But they are always within reach with the tool they are using? Yes.
885. And as soon as they have worked it to a sufficient height they begin to put in timber? They are not putting in any timber at the present time.
886. Are they left standing, then, in this condition? Yes.
887. Without any timber? Yes.
888. And no security for the roof? The roof is kept up in certain places.
889. So timbers are put in where required? Yes, to keep up the roof.
890. Do you know of any fatal or serious accidents that have occurred in one of these chambers? No.
891. How long have you been working on the mines here? Ten years last December.
892. I suppose the security of the roof is a matter that is left to the discretion of the foreman and underground manager? Yes.
893. If you were working in one of those places and saw something you did not consider safe, what would you do—would you report it to the shift-boss? I would not report anything like that. Where you have hard ground the roof may be sufficiently safe for anything, but its being exposed to the air for any length of time may cause it to shell off; and, while you may put your machine in one place, at the same time a flake might come down. You cannot see the whole of the roof, it being so high; you cannot see it well from the sill floor.
894. The security of that ground, then, is a matter that is left in a great measure to the Inspector of Mines? Yes, I suppose it would be.
895. As to that rule as to the quantity of explosives;—as a practical man of ten years' experience in this district, what would you say should be the maximum quantity of explosives that men should be allowed in any one particular place, allowing for the drills and also for the machines? I do not think a man should have any about him, only when charging the hole; and then only the quantity required.
896. Would you put a limit on that? That would be difficult. You may have to fire out a face which would require seven or eight packages, and another face might only require three.
897. That quantity of stuff would be required to be stored somewhere in the mine? Yes.
898. I suppose there is just as much danger with one packet of dynamite as there would be with a case if it exploded while in the possession of the man? Yes; I suppose it would be just as dangerous for the party possessing it. The quantity required for the charge should be obtained from the magazine, and, as soon as the charging is completed, if any be left, it should be taken back to the magazine.
899. As to the tamping bar;—you have never known of any tamping bars underground other than wooden ones? No.
900. You have never heard of a man's being asked to use an iron or steel one? No; I have seen a man use a scraper.
901. Why was that? Sometimes they cannot find a wooden one. They see a scraper lying by, and use that rather than look for a wooden rod.
902. Wooden tampers can always be obtained? Yes; they can get them for the asking.
903. And you will see an experienced man use a scraper in preference to going to a little extra trouble in getting a proper timber one? Yes.
904. In the case of a missed-hole, I understand you would not put another hole in alongside it? No.
905. You would prefer to remove some of the tamping over the charge, and put more dynamite in? Yes.
906. That is the safest plan? Yes.
907. I take it that in all cases, although twenty minutes might be long enough to leave a missed-hole where you have been tamping with water, on the average, two hours is a fair thing? Yes.
908. You have never known of a hole that has been left over two hours explode? No.
909. As to the spliced fuse, which might be a source of danger;—the men are given what fuse they require? Yes.
910. They can cut it into what lengths they require? Yes.
911. There is no necessity for a man to use a bit of fuse with a splice in it? No.
912. He could cut the splice out and throw it away? Yes.
913. With reference to warning men coming on shift as to any danger that may be in the face, is it not common sense that a man in the face with his mate can better explain and point out to his mate any danger there might be in it than by describing it to the shift-boss? If you adopt that plan—and I have worked under it—it is very seldom that the men go into an explanation of anything in the face.
914. Do you not think it would be far better that there be a hard and fast rule compelling men going off shift to point out to their mates anything that might be dangerous in the face, and, in default, to impose a penalty? Supposing that two men stayed in the face, waiting for the relieving shift to come in. They would get their clothes on previous to the other men coming down, and, as soon as their mates were in sight, would rush past them, saying, "You will find everything all right," and nothing further.
915. Would it not be well to stop that practice? Unless you placed a shift-boss there you could not compel them to point everything out to their mates.
916. I suppose, telling of the condition of the face to their mates in the plat would be the same thing as telling them at the surface? Yes.
917. After being down there eight hours they are only too anxious to get away? Yes.
918. And if they did talk to their mates it would be more about a football match than their work? Yes.
919. As to this Board which has been suggested;—what would be the duties of the Board? I take it that it is intended by Mr. Polkinghorne it should be something similar to the Coroners' inquests, only, instead of dealing with fatal accidents, it would deal with minor accidents.
920. With a Board composed of three men, how would you have them elected? By Government appointment, I said, or elected under the franchise. Either one would do.
- 921.

921. You would not have them appointed on the recommendation of Members of Parliament alone? No. I think there should be one representing each side, and one to act as a judge.
922. One appointed by the mines, one by the men, and an independent competent person to be appointed by the Government? Yes; I should think that would be the fairest way to all parties.
923. I suppose the person appointed by the Government should be free from political control too? Yes; and from all other influences.
924. And he should be a thoroughly practical man? Yes.
925. In reference to sinking 100 feet or more in an uncovered shaft—you would have a hard-and-fast rule as to that? I say men should not work more than 100 feet without some protection over their heads.
926. Supposing you had a prospecting shaft, and were sinking with only one compartment, what would you do there;—it is very often you go down 200 feet in a vertical shaft, is it not? Not in one compartment.
927. What is the depth? 100 feet is as far as you can go, and even then you are supposed to have a ladder compartment in it.
928. The ladder compartment is not closed; it is only for a means of escape? But you can have it closed.
929. You think 100 feet in a prospecting shaft is the deepest that should go uncovered? Yes.
930. I suppose, if a stone hit a man at 100 feet, it would be just as fatal as at 300 feet? Yes; but where the danger comes in is if you are working at the bottom below other workings, stones from those higher levels may come down on you. If a covering were put up, it would do away with such a danger. I only want the pent-house to go across two compartments; one compartment would be open right through, no matter what depth you went. As the bucket went up the uncovered (hauling) compartment, they could step into the adjoining covered compartments and be free from anything that might tumble out of the bucket.
931. It is quite safe to have one compartment open all the way down? Yes, to haul the stuff straight to the surface.
932. It would be ample security to the men if only two compartments were covered over, and the third compartment left open? Yes; and if you keep the timber to within 30 feet of the bottom of the shaft, the men then have always plenty of room to keep out of the way of the hauling shaft.

William James Pascoe sworn and examined:—

933. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] What is your name in full? William James Pascoe.
934. You are a practical miner? Yes.
935. I believe you have had varied experience in mining throughout the colonies? Yes.
936. What experience have you had on the Barrier? Seven years'.
937. Has your experience taught you that sufficient ventilation is provided for the workmen? Where I have been employed there is sufficient ventilation if it were properly distributed through the places where the men are working.
938. Plenty of air is taken down the mine; but it should be better distributed? Yes.
939. Is there anything you could suggest that could be done which has not been done, to get the air into those working places you refer to? It might be arranged by preventing the air from going into the faces where it is not required. This could be done by means of air-tight doors.
940. If at any time any part of a mine should become dangerous, and it should be found necessary by the man in charge to withdraw the men, should it be his duty, or the duty of the inspector, to say, after the place has been made secure again, that it is safe for the men to go back? The inspector's.
941. Have you noticed any great increase in the number of accidents on the Barrier during the last twelve months? Not in the underground workings.
942. You have noticed an increase? Yes, on the surface. But in the mine I am employed in I do not think there is any increase.
943. Being an employee under ground, you are not prepared to give an opinion as to the increase on the surface? No.
944. Do you think that the services of additional inspectors would prevent any of these accidents from taking place? I do not think so.
945. Are you prepared to suggest any improvement in the present regulations that are in force in this district? No. I am not thoroughly acquainted with the regulations; but, since the regulations have been framed, mining has advanced on quite a different system from what it was some years ago.
946. Your opinion is that these regulations, which were framed when the Mining Act was brought into force, have not been improved upon as much as was needed, considering the growth of mining? Yes.
947. They are not advanced enough to meet the requirements of to-day? No.
948. Do you think that a man placed in charge of a shift should be the holder of a certificate, showing that he is a man with a practical knowledge and experience of the work he has to take charge of? Yes.
949. How would you suggest that they should obtain these certificates of competency? From a Mining Board, just as a sea captain obtains his certificate from the Marine Board.
950. You do not think it would be wise for these certificates to be given to the men by the managers of the mines in which they are employed? In case the manager refused to give a certificate, they should appeal to this Board.
951. Then you think that the manager of a mine where a man has been working should give that man, if he finds him competent, a certificate as to his competency? I think so.
952. If he were refused a certificate by the manager, he should then, you think, have power to make application to the Mining Board, who would be able to inquire into the matter, and, if it were found to be a deserving case, award a certificate? Yes.
953. As to the General Rules in connection with the Act, sub-section c of rule 3 says that a workman shall not have in use at one time, in any one place, more than 6 lb. of explosive;—do you think that quantity is excessive, or not enough, for a man to have in his possession at one time? I think it is sufficient.
954. Under all circumstances? It is, if more can be obtained by going to the magazine within a reasonable distance. I do not think it is safe to have more than 6 lb. in the face where a man is working.
955. In your varied experience, have you not found it necessary to use, perhaps, over the amount of 6 lb. in one blast? Yes.

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956. Do not you think that it would be better to obtain a larger quantity, so that you could fill up your charge without going along to the magazine? If you knew that you required a greater amount before you started to work in any particular place, you would be justified, I think, in getting more than the 6 lb. But, for ordinary working, I think 6 lb. is quite enough to have in the face.

957. Do you think it should be fixed by law that 6 lb. be the maximum amount of explosive a man should be allowed to take into the face and to put in a charge? No; I mean that 6 lb. is quite enough to have lying about the face. Of course, if you want to charge a hole with so much as 60 lb., you should be allowed to do so.

958. You think, then, that no maximum should be fixed by law, and that the amount required by the workman should be supplied by the magazine when applied for? Yes.

959. Sub-section *d* of the same rule says that an iron or steel tamping-bar shall not be used unless mounted with at least 4 inches of copper;—do you think that section is sufficient for all purposes? I would not tamp a hole without I had a copper-headed tamping-rod—that is, speaking of gunpowder. Dynamite or gelatine requires no tamping at all, so long as it is air-tight.

960. As powder is still being used, do you think that this section should read, “for all purposes where gunpowder is being used, a tamping-bar should be composed of copper,” or, “be copper-tipped”? It would be safer if copper altogether.

961. In all cases where the glycerine compounds are used, it should be wood? Yes.

962. What is the custom in blasting that you have been in the habit of following;—is it generally done before knocking-off time, or at any other particular time in the shift? There is no particular time. Of course, in some places, where the air is light, we generally manage to bore as many holes as possible before a blast, so that the one cleaning will do.

963. Would it prevent accidents happening if the relieving of the different shifts took place at, or in, the face? I do not think it would make any difference. Of course, if there is anything particular, it is only right that you should stop and point out to your mates the particular danger.

964. What is the usual custom followed out by you? We meet our mates underground or on the surface, as the case may be, and explain to them how things are, and they, in their turn, explain things to the men who relieve them.

965. You have no fault to find as to insufficient timbering in the mines you have worked on? No.

966. You have always been able to get what you required in order to keep the place where you were working secure? Yes.

967. Do you think that, if you were to throw a pick into a plug of dynamite lying scattered about in the material broken down by a charge, it would explode? I have never tried it.

968. What is your opinion? I do not think dynamite will explode unless it is confined.

969. In your opinion, how many holes should be charged and fired at one time in the one face? That all depends upon the condition the face is in. If you are starting a face, of course you could not fire many holes; but, when it is worked to an end, you could, perhaps, fire five or six.

970. You are speaking, I suppose, principally of hammer and drill work? Yes.

971. You have never had much experience with the rock drills? No, none.

972. What distance, in your opinion, should be left open in a vertical shaft above the men's heads? That all depends upon what is on the top. Do you mean a hauling shaft?

973. Yes. Say you are sinking a shaft from the 200-foot level to 300 feet;—is it safe that that shaft should be left open from the surface? I think there should be a pent-house every 100 feet.

974. Not to exceed 100 feet? No.

975. Do you think that the hauling shaft should be left open from the surface to the bottom? No.

976. How should the break take place? At every 100 feet. Of course the hauling part of the shaft would be open down to the last plat. The advantage of this is that the stuff would be received on the last plat from the men working at the bottom of the shaft, and transferred from there to the other compartment, which would, of course, have a pent-house, and be sent on to the surface. This would minimise the danger of anything falling down to the bottom of the shaft.

977. Do you think there should be certificated men in charge of machinery used for hauling purposes and for lowering the men down the shafts? Yes.

978. Would you restrict the age? The age would have something to do with the experience of the man. A man might take charge of an engine at 30 years of age and know not nearly so much about it as a boy who has been connected with machinery from his childhood. But, for all that, I think no man should be allowed to take charge of an engine used for hauling purposes unless he is about 25 or 30 years of age.

979. You think he should not be considered capable of taking charge, even if possessing a certificate, until he is about 25 years of age? That is a matter for the Board to arrange.

980. You think that when he gets his certificate, no matter what his age may be, he should be capable of taking charge of an engine? I do not think the Board would grant a certificate to a youth.

981. Have you ever had any experience in the underground open-cuts? No.

982. You have never seen, where you have been working, any open breaches of the regulations? No.

983. *Mr. Edwards*] I understand that you have very little complaint to make about the way the men are cared for in the mines? I have no complaint to make.

984. You have been employed on the Barrier seven years? Yes.

985. What mines have you been in? In the Proprietary and Block 11.

986. So far as you have seen, is every reasonable care taken by the shift-bosses and officers to secure the safety of the men? Yes.

987. As to leaving the vertical shaft unprotected;—the last witness said that instead of the present system, adopted in the Proprietary, of hauling from the bottom of the shaft and transferring to the other compartment at the next level, it would be safer to haul from the bottom of the shaft direct to the surface, having, of course, pent-houses in the other two compartments? I do not think that would be so safe as having a pent-house in the hauling shaft and transferring the bucket to the other compartment at the next level.

988. Supposing, then, you had a pent-house right across the three compartments;—do not you think the limit of 100 feet between the levels might be increased? I think 100 feet is quite sufficient.

989. I suppose anything falling 100 feet would be just as serious as anything falling 300 feet? Yes.

990. Supposing the shaft was down 200 or 300 feet, with a pent-house right across, would there be more danger in sinking 200 feet under it than 100 feet? I do not think there would be any danger if the shaft were properly timbered.

991. That would be closely timbered, as the Proprietary shafts are? Yes.
992. In that case it would be just as safe to go 200 feet as 100 feet? It might be; but it would look safer at 100 feet.
993. As to the regulations—you cannot suggest any amendments? No.
994. I suppose you have not read them very carefully? No.
995. Men do not read the regulations, do they? I cannot speak about other men. I have never read them much myself.
996. As to the engine-drivers being certificated—who would they receive certificates from? From a Board.
997. And there is no Board, I understand, in this Colony? If there is not, there ought to be.
998. And a system of examination? Yes.
999. So far as you can see, the present system is sufficient for the mines here? I think so.
1000. I suppose you have never had to complain about anything, or asked for anything, but what you have been attended to at once? I do not say at once, but as early as convenient.
1001. With all reasonable despatch? Yes.
1002. I suppose you have never seen any other tamping rod used for dynamite or glycerine than a wooden one? No.
1003. And as to the time for blasting—you blast according to the condition of the work, irrespective of whether it is crib time or knock-off time? Yes.
1004. In reference to men coming on—do not you think it would be safest to have a rule that men going off should point out to their mates coming on anything that might be dangerous on the face? I think competent men always do that, without the necessity of a rule.
1005. But then, unfortunately, all the men are not of the same standard in the mines, and it would be of no use explaining to them the condition of the face when at the plat;—you might just as well tell them on the surface? Yes.
1006. I suppose it would take a very large plat to hold all the shift coming off or going on? Yes; but they would meet in the drives, and they would be pretty thick there.
1007. Would it not be far better, then, if the change of shift took place at the face? I do not think it would make any difference to competent men.
1008. Not competent men, but incompetent and careless men? They should not be there.
1009. With reference to those air-tight doors—I believe the Proprietary Mine have curtains for that purpose? Yes; I have seen them in some places.
1010. You have never had occasion to complain to any inspector about want of ventilation, and there has been no accident through it? No.
1011. *His Honor.*] Is there any man whose duty it is specially to look after ventilation in the mine? Not that I know of.
- Mr. Edwards:* Of course, your Honor, it is the foreman's duty to see to that, amongst other things.
1012. *Mr. Edwards.*] Apart from those air-tight doors, you have no suggestion to make for any improvement to the present workings? No.

W. J.
Pascoc.
12 July, 1897.

TUESDAY, 13 JULY, 1897.

Joseph Bourne sworn and examined:—

1013. *His Honor.*] What is your full name? Joseph Bourne.
1014. What is your occupation? I am a working miner.
1015. *Mr. Edwards.*] How long have you been working as a miner? Close upon fifty years.
1016. How long on the Barrier? Three years.
1017. In what mines have you been employed? I am employed at Block 14 at present.
1018. Who is the foreman in that mine? The underground manager is Captain John Evans.
1019. What is the state of the ventilation in that mine? As far as I can see, and as far as I know—I have worked in several mines on the Barrier—it is the best-ventilated mine on the Hill.
1020. There has been an increase in the number of hands employed on Block 14 during the last two years? There has been during the last six months.
1021. Not before that? No.
1022. What is the increase in the number of hands? I could not tell you exactly. I am always on the one shift, and cannot tell what men are employed on the other shifts. I can only give an idea of the shift I am employed on.
1023. You are employed underground only? Yes.
1024. Have you noticed, in connection with the underground workings in Block 14, any increase in the number of accidents? There have been a number of accidents lately. In some cases the men have been entirely to blame themselves.
1025. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] It is your opinion that the principal cause of the increase in the number of accidents is the men's own carelessness? To a great extent.
1026. Is there any other cause? I do not think there is. I am only speaking from my own point of view. Whenever I have wanted timber—no matter when it was—I have had time allowed me to get it, and to put it in its proper position to make things secure. In my opinion, where accidents have arisen, it has been through the incompetency of the men. There was an accident seven or eight months ago. A party of men were working on a contract—six in the party, two on each shift. The afternoon shift fired a shot, and loosened a large boulder, so much so that it was swinging—neither loose nor fast,—and you could move it from one side of the set to the other. A practical man, instead of trying to pull it down, would have put a pop in it, and blown it to pieces, but these men kept on trying to bar it down, and could not make it come. They then left it to their mates, who came on at 12 o'clock at night. They, too, tried the same tactics; and the result was they could not get it down. By some chance, their hammers were lying in the face between them and the boulder; and, as one of them was going in to get his hammer, this lump came down, and cleaved his skull. What they should have done in this case was to put a pop in it, and scatter it at once. Of course, while barring it, they were loosening it all the time without bringing it down. In some parts of Block 14 it is very good working; but, in other parts, there are

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J. Bourne. are very rough boulders, which require very competent men. Some men come here to work, and call themselves miners, and no doubt they are miners accustomed to hard ground; but, as to these boulders, it is a hard matter to sound them thoroughly, and to do so a miner wants a varied experience to bring to his aid. You might sound one now, and it would to you sound solid, no matter what your experience. In the course of half-an-hour or so the air naturally expands the joint and brings it away. So we cannot have men too competent to fill these places.

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1027. You say we cannot get men too competent—how shall we get these competent men;—there is considered to be a dearth of competent men at the present time? This is a question that I have been trying to get at for a number of years. If we find that we have got a man competent and suitable, and he attends to his employment in a proper manner, he ought to receive extra remuneration to the general run. In many parts of different countries where I have been working it is the custom to give what they term “consideration” money. That is to say, when pay came, and you were working in ground which required to be closely timbered, in addition to your regular wages you got something extra. If two, four, or six of you, you might get £1 each more than the average wage. This is the idea ruling at the Thornley Colliery and in the County of Durham, and in the Cleveland Ironstone Mines, North Yorkshire, England.

1028. But how are we going to secure men to fill the places of the competent men as they drop out? In the ironstone mines in Yorkshire it was the custom to take men in with us as apprentices. They did all the hard, rough work, and we termed them “breakers-up.” They are something similar to floormen here. Of course, every chance we had we would initiate them into the work. The work there is something like that obtaining here, the seams being very rough, high, and wide. Accidents occurred there sometimes through inexperience. Perhaps a man would bar 6 or 7 tons down on himself. We used often to have a party of men on each shift to carry the injured away to the hospital.

1029. I should infer from what you say that there should be apprentices? Something should be done to bring on the incompetent men.

1030. Do you believe in taking youths underground as apprentices, or is it better that they should reach a mature age before they go underground. That is a question we want to settle on the Barrier. The question of boy labour has been a bone of contention here for many years, and as you have had so large and varied an experience I would like to know whether you think that the best mode of apprenticing would be by taking in the youth or the matured man? I think that the incompetent man would be a far better mate, but we must look at this: a trucker, if he has been in the mine six months, and if he wish to go in the face, should have the preference; a tool boy should also advance to a floor boy, and then to a trucker. If the youngsters are not trained, who are going to take our places when we pop off? If a man takes a youngster under him, and anything happens to him, it is nothing but right that an inquiry should be held; but for the responsibility of taking the youngster, the competent man should be remunerated.

1031. If a competent man and his apprentice get through as much work as two competent men—say the boy is strong and can get through as much rough work as a man—you think they should receive the pay of two men, but that the skilled man should draw the greater pay? Yes.

1032. As we are placed now, incompetent men must be secured, and, this being so, have you anything to suggest that would prevent any further increase in the accidents? Yes; there ought to be an Act here applying specially to the requirements of mines other than coal-mines, and there ought to be very stringent and carefully-drawn regulations extending beyond the actual provisions of the Act itself, in a similar manner to the Coal Mines Act now in force here. The persons employed in a mine should, from time to time, appoint two of their number to inspect the mine, and the persons so appointed should be allowed to go all over the mine in company with the manager or some other official, and be afforded every facility to carry out such inspection. They would then make a true report of such inspection; and such report would be recorded in a book kept at the office for the purpose, and signed by the persons making the inspection. There is a provision in the English Act to that effect; and it should be the same here. Such a provision gives the employees an opportunity to see how matters stand by a formal inspection.

1033. *His Honor.*] You think that places the employees in a proper position, and puts them on their mettle to think for themselves? Yes, it acts capitally. It gives the men an interest in the management of the mine. This always gave general satisfaction in the Cleveland District, Yorkshire.

1034. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Has any accident come under your notice on the Barrier that has occurred through the incompetency of the officer in charge of the particular place? The open-cuts are not, I consider, worked in a systematic manner. I have seen a lot of this kind of work in my travels; and I have never seen anything worked in a more reckless manner in my life than the open-cut here. I was in Sydney at the time of the building of the Cockatoo Dock. It was built in terrace fashion, and, if the open-cuts here had been worked on a similar principle, it would have relieved a lot of top weight from the timber and have been far safer for the men. In the event of rain or frosts, no matter how carefully you may sound the ground, they will operate upon it, and if either gets behind those slimy joints the result will be that the ground will gradually push away. Terraces would stop falls of this nature from doing any harm. There is another matter I would like to speak upon, and that is the outbreak of fire in Block 11. I do not know whether it has ever been found out what was the cause of that fire, or how it was caused. I do know how it was caused. It was caused by incompetence and ignorance. But, as I am going off the subject I am here for, I will not say anything further on it. Should anyone, however, be anxious to know, with your permission, your Honor, I would let him know.

His Honor: I do not know that it is directly within the scope of this inquiry. However, I thank Mr. Bourne for the suggestion he has made, and leave it to Mr. Edwards whether he shall avail himself of it.

Mr. Edwards: Of course, your Honor, we have had the highest expert experience at our disposal in the matter, and, from that, we have come to our own conclusions. For all that, it might be well if Mr. Bourne gave us the value of his experience.

1035. *His Honor.*] I would ask Mr. Bourne, then, to state what he thinks caused the fire? The cause was this: the top portion of the timber in the open-cut in Block 11 was very much exposed to the sun, and, in consequence, became very dry. There was a large fissure in the ground—what we call a crack; and the party that was in charge thought this would be a grand opportunity to fetch a lot of ground down by a sand blast. He started to charge this sand blast, and there were five or six casks or kegs of powder put in—25 lb. in each. But, before the sand blast was charged, five or six old bags were put in flush

flush with the bottom ore, or what we would call the deposit of the mine; and, to fill any vacancy there might be, an old pair of white moleskins were put in, and then five or six kegs of powder on top. Six holes were fired—result, bags and trousers started the timber going. The men worked quietly away, and thought no more about it until the fire was seen issuing from the timber. Had I had my way, to have saved a lot of trouble, I would have set the men drawing all the dry timber around where the fire was raging, and have played upon the fire. Instead of that, they ordered large holes to be placed all round. These were exploded on to the burning mass, and, instead of extinguishing the fire, made it worse, because it scattered the burning timber all over the place.

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1036. What I understand you to say as to the open-cuts is that, instead of putting in a single batter, it ought to be put in on terraces? Yes. I might draw your attention to the practice in the quarries in North Wales. They work there in the same manner (by terraces) in getting slates. I worked there for a long time from 1863, and, though 2,000 quarrymen were employed, I never heard of a man getting hurt.

1037. What was the total height of the face? About 60 feet in 1863. Of course it would be much deeper now.

1038. Was that worked in terraces? Yes.

1039. How many terraces on the one face? We had a terrace every 25 feet.

1040. Was the face on the line of cleavage of the rock? Yes.

1041. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] What batter would you consider safe? I should say 10 or 12 feet in 25 feet. Of course, it depends a great deal upon the ground. If loose ground, you could do with less; but, if heavy clumsy ground, with more. If you want to get at the ore you can always step back.

1042. *His Honor.*] You mean 10 or 12 feet horizontal in 25 feet vertical? Yes.

1043. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You consider the regulations now in force are not sufficient to secure the safe working of mines? Yes.

1044. The regulations that you consider would be of benefit are those contained in the English Act which you have referred to? Yes.

1045. *His Honor.*] Would you say that open-cuts ought to be just as much within the province of an Act as underground work? I should think the inspector ought to have just as much power over the open-cuts as over the mines.

1046. They ought to be provided for in the regulations, and to be under the control of the inspector just as much as mines? Yes.

1047. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Are you pretty well versed in the regulations now in force in connection with the Mining Act of this Colony? No. I do not, in fact, think there is a Mining Act in force. I believe there is an Act being brought forward now. The only thing I can see is to insert that rule in the Mining Bill now before the House.

His Honor: In point of fact, *Mr. Polkinghorne*, the Mining Act does appear to deal very slightly with the safety of workmen.

Mr. Polkinghorne: But there is a Mining Act in force, your Honor, and regulations under it. I have asked the witness if he thought them sufficient, and he said "No." I have asked him if he knew them, and he said "No." I would like to read General Rule 2, under the Act, to *Mr. Bourne*, and ask for his opinion upon it.

1048. *Mr. Bourne*, General Rule 2 says:—

If at any time it is found by the person in charge of a mine, or any part thereof, that such mine or part is dangerous, every workman shall be withdrawn therefrom, and in every such case a true report of the condition of such mine or part thereof shall be forthwith made to the Secretary for Mines; and no workman shall (except in so far as is necessary for inquiry into the cause of danger, or for the removal thereof, or for exploration) be readmitted into the mine, or such part thereof as was so found dangerous, until the same is stated by the manager, or by an inspector, to be safe. Every such report shall be recorded in a book which shall be kept at the mine for the purpose, and shall be signed by the person reporting.

We will consider that a portion of a mine is considered to be unsafe by the man in charge, or by the men, or by both, and the man in charge has seen fit to call the men out; it is not, however, considered necessary to call the inspector in, as the ground can be secured without very much danger;—who do you think should say that the part has been made secure enough for the men to resume work—the inspector or the man in charge? I think the inspector should be called in.

1049. You think, then, the inspector should be a man of greater ability than the man in charge of the work? Yes.

1050. Sub-section *a* of general rule 3 says, that gunpowder or other explosive or inflammable substances shall not be stored in the mine in any quantity exceeding what would be required for use during six working days, and sub-section *b* of the same rule says, that it shall not be taken into or kept in the mine except in a case or canister;—do you think that clause is sufficient? Yes; I think every man should have a canister. In the mine where I am employed at present they are very strict on that point. There is a little matter I would here like to refer to: at some of the mines, boys only are in charge of the magazines. In my opinion, there ought to be a staid man, and not a boy, in charge of every magazine; and then things would be carried on a little better and a little safer than they are. Sometimes it will happen that several boys meet together in a magazine, and there is no telling what kind of tricks they might get up to. I think there ought to be a clause to meet this inserted in the Mining Bill now before the House.

1051. *His Honor.*] What age would you fix as the lowest for a man to be employed at a magazine? Not less than 18.

1052. What age do you find them there now? They are quite youngsters—impossible to tell their age. I suppose they get there this way: The father is, perhaps, a drunkard, or may be he is dead, and the mother must get in some money to make ends meet. She represents her son as being over 16, and gets him work on the mines.

1053. He may be only 14 or 15 years of age? Yes.

1054. And you think it is not the right thing that a boy of that age should be in charge of explosives? Yes; of course they are pretty smart in checking off the explosives taken out; they can do that part of the business all right.

1055. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You think it is often the case that the parents make a breach of the regulation which says that a boy below 16 shall not be employed?

Mr. Polkinghorne: Although this restriction, your Honor, as to age is in a regulation in connection with the Lead Poisoning Act, I take it that it applies to all cases. *His*

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His Honor: It is universally admitted, and especially insisted on by the A.M.A., that we should have a new Mining Act.

Mr. Polkinghorne: Yes. The old Act should be repealed, also the regulations; and a new Act and a new set of regulations should be framed. If the age cannot be dealt with in any regulation coming under the Mining Act, but only under the Lead Poisoning Act, I think it is time something more definite was done in the matter.

His Honor: As it very often takes a long time for a Bill to get through the House, what wants doing is to make the best of the old Act, and to make much more stringent regulations.

1056. Is it a breach more often committed by parents than by managers of mining companies, this taking on of boys under the age of 16? Yes.

1057. Sub-section c of General Rule 3 says that a man must not have in his possession at one time in any one place more than 6 lb. of explosive;—do you consider that that clause is elastic enough—will it, in your opinion, allow workmen to have sufficient? I think it is quite sufficient, unless a man is working a machine, when, if he has a heavy hole, he might require more than that. Some men, if they had a canister of powder, would lay it by carelessly, and they might bar dirt down on it and explode it. Before the compressed powder was introduced, miners would sometimes carry their powder in a man's worsted stocking slung over their shoulder. This, of course, very often resulted in accidents. If, however, you were working on contract, you were allowed to take a keg of powder in. But some of the miners were dishonest, and, accordingly, some of the contents of the kegs mysteriously disappeared. Powder tins are in force now, and that is the safest way. In the Cleveland district, in the old country, they do not fire the powder with a fuse, but with a needle, which is a much safer way than we have here. But I am afraid such a system would be too dangerous for the Barrier, because the miners require to be well trained before they can adopt it with safety.

1058. You do not think there are many old powder men on the Barrier, and the needle would not be of much use here? No.

1059. What, in your opinion, is a safe distance to sink a vertical shaft without a covering over your head? I have had great experience in sinking. I thoroughly understand sinking in any kind of ground. If I were going to sink a shaft to-morrow a mile deep, I would have no covering whatever; but I will tell you what I would have. I would have a capital, good, travelling trolley, and I would see it made myself. Another thing is to have a good braceman over your head. I have worked in some of the deepest and best shafts in the world. I worked in two shafts for Messrs. Bolehow, Vaughan, & Company, at Fogga, near Sketton, Cleveland, Yorkshire, that cost £190,000. They had the most perfect hauling and winding machinery—cages with patent clips and over-winding catches—the best that I have ever seen in my life. They were bricked from top to bottom. Give me a good braceman and a good travelling trolley. In the colonies, shafts are, as a rule, very primary affairs—for instance, the winding shaft which was in use at the Central when I worked there about two years ago. At that time, however, the best shaft on the mine was lying idle. In sinking a shaft I would just have what is termed a common kibble, a good rope, which should be overhauled every morning, and a good braceman—one that you could rely upon.

1060. In your opinion the mode adopted here for sinking a shaft is not what it should be? Exactly.

1061. Under the system adopted in this district, what is a safe distance to work under a drawing shaft—what distance should it be over your head;—say the shaft was in three compartments, how would you secure your head—how would you have the dirt drawn out in deepening the shaft? I would have no protection at all. The last time I was employed in sinking a shaft was on a claim called "The Home Rule," in Charters Towers. The shafts there are mostly very deep, and the sinking is carried out without anything overhead.

1062. Do you think that a man in charge of machinery for raising and lowering men should be certificated? Yes.

1063. How should those certificates be obtained? There should be a Board of Examiners under the Government.

1064. A Board of Engineers? Yes.

1065. And when an engine-driver has secured a certificate, he should be considered capable, no matter what his age, of taking charge of an engine where he has men's life to handle? Exactly.

1066. Do you believe that men in charge of shifts should be certificated men? They have to be in the old country. I am very sorry to say that, from my experience in that way, some of the certificated men are the greatest dunces or dummies I ever met. When the Mining Act of 1872, in Great Britain, came into force, every underground man was supposed to get a certificate. I, myself, was offered a certificate without examination at all; but I would not accept it, as I did not think it was right. An old manager whom I worked under in the Old Country had no certificate, and I do not think you could have got a more finished manager. That was Mr. Bartholomew Farrow, manager of Messrs. Morrison & Company's mine, Brotton, Cleveland, Yorkshire. He used to visit every working place every day. His son, who had been brought up to mining all his life, failed in his examination for a certificate; but a young fellow whom he coached gained his certificate, although he knew nothing whatever about practical mining as compared with his coach, who failed. I must admit, however, that there was some undue influence at work in this case.

1067. You do not think it necessary that the man in charge of a shift of men should be certificated? I do not think so. There is no more competent man than my boss. I do not think that he has got a certificate, and I do not think that he requires one.

1068. Do you think it would be of any benefit to the men and the companies, generally, if a Board of Inquiry was appointed in each mining district, to inquire into causes of all accidents other than fatal ones? I do not think that would do any good whatever. There are so many systems of working. If we picked 100 men who had been about Broken Hill only, and sent them to Gympie, not two of them would know how to start. At Gympie, they all work single-handed, and, if you took on 100 men who had never seen single-handed work, they would be hitting themselves and one another instead of the drill.

1069. Do you think it would be safe for men to work single-handed here? It would be impossible for men to work here single-handed, because some of the timber is so heavy that one man could not lift it.

1070. Then a Board of Inquiry, in your opinion, would be useless? Exactly, taking into consideration the variable nature of the country throughout the Colony.

1071. *His Honor.*] Mr. Polkinghorne means a local Board? Oh, I would quite agree with that. I quite think, myself, that that would be a great benefit to all. In the North of England we drew up such a thing, and it acted very satisfactorily.

1072.

1072. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] If you think a local Board of Inquiry would be of benefit, how would you suggest it should be appointed? There should be six miners, two of whom should come from the place where the accident occurs, and an equal number of mine managers. They should select a chairman by ballot amongst themselves, and so arrange it that a mine manager should be chairman at one sitting, and a miner at the next. J. Bourne.
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1073. How would you suggest they be elected? The men should choose a man from their own number. The men on each mine should have a meeting among themselves, and elect their own man to sit for (say) six months.

1074. But, seeing that there are a dozen mines in this district, if it was left that vague, they would want to have a representative each—a line would have to be drawn somewhere; further, the Proprietary mine would say that, as they employ over two-thirds of the men working along the line of lode, to have all things equal, they should elect two-thirds of the managers and two-thirds of the men? To meet that, I would say, let each man represent a certain number. They who employ the greatest number of hands should have the biggest say in the matter.

1075. And a ballot to be taken on the several mines for the men who are nominated? Yes.

1076. Have you seen in connection with your work along the line any dangerous places left unprotected? There are one or two places where I am working, which at a very slight cost could be rectified. They have no doubt been overlooked by the management. Where the ladder-way goes up from floor to floor at the part where I am working, in some places the wall is crushing, and there are bits of loose ground that would fall rather heavy if a man happened to be underneath. With the exception of that, the mine is in a sound condition. A couple of men in a couple of hours could rectify the matter. I do not think there is a mine better worked on the Hill than Block 14. They send very little dirt to the surface—they always find a place for it down below.

1077. You have never pointed out a dangerous working that has not been put right? They are very good that way. I have never had the slightest ground to find fault with the management; in fact, they have always acted very courteously to me when I have suggested anything.

1078. Have you had any experience in the open-cuts? Not in those underground.

1079. Have you had practical experience in those along the line of lode? I worked for a short time in one.

1080. Do you think that the system carried out in the open-cuts could be made safer to work than at present? I think so.

1081. *His Honor.*] How long were you in the open-cut? Two or three months only. I worked there until I could get on at the mines. I had some difficulty when I came here in getting employment underground, because I was not known. When I applied at the Proprietary, they asked me all sorts of questions—so many that I walked away disgusted. I thought they would ask me next what was my religion.

1082. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] How long ago would it be since you worked in the open-cut? About three years ago.

1083. A great deal of alteration has taken place since then? I have never been near the open-cut this last two years.

1084. Is it your opinion that a "powder-monkey" should be allowed to charge holes while the men are in the place working? Certainly not.

Mr. Edwards: I might point out to *Mr. Polkinghorne* that the surface rules framed by the mine forbid men to remain in a place where holes are being charged.

Mr. Polkinghorne: I am aware of that; but it is not provided for in the regulations under the Mining Act.

1085. When you were employed there (in the open-cut) was it customary for the "powder-monkey" to charge while men were working on the face? No, I never saw it done.

1086. *His Honor.*] One of the witnesses said that he thought the system called the "chinaman" was a very dangerous one, but he did not go on to tell us why. I do not know whether you have had any experience in that direction? I have not had much experience in "chinaman" work; but I know a man is in a very dangerous position when working on a "chinaman." The waggon goes underneath, and the dirt comes through the "chinaman," or movable hatch, into the truck. In my opinion, the stage should not be overloaded with lumps too large. Before the lumps come down to the "chinaman," they should be blown to pieces. I have known instances where men have been underneath the "chinaman," and a large stone has come down, smashed through, and killed them. All large lumps should be smashed before being brought down.

1087. Do you think that the men working on night shift in the open-cuts are exposed to more danger than if working on day shift? I do not approve of men working in the open-cuts except by a capital light. The electric lights at present in use on the Hill sometimes flicker, and a man's attention might be turned away by this flickering light, and in that brief space of time he might be caught.

1088. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Yours has been a varied experience in connection with explosives? Yes.

1089. How long should a hole be left after being "bulled" before being charged? I have never "bulled" a hole in my life, and I think I have broken as much ground as any man. I think "bullying" is a very bad process. I have seen so many accidents arise from it. I saw one in the open-cut. He was a smart chap at "bullying" holes in his way, but one day he got his thumb and part of his hand blown off. I have seen several cases where men have been blown away. In my opinion, the principal cause of accidents arising from "bullying" is this: A hole takes a long time to cool after being "bulled," and, when the fracture, some of which is very cheap and nasty, is put in, it explodes. As I have said, I do not believe in "bullying." I have seen holes after being "bulled" blow out through the bottom and leave the top standing. Other holes have then had to be put in to bring down the top part. I do not agree with "bullying," and it is a dangerous practice.

1090. But, in the event of a hole's being "bulled," how long do you think it should be left before being charged? That depends a great deal on the season and the depth of the hole. I should say an hour in winter, and two hours in summer. Of course, if it is a down-hole, and you have water handy, you could get it cool in a very much shorter time.

1091. Do you think that the services of additional inspectors are necessary on this field? By all means. I think an inspector should be stationed here all the time. There is another little thing I do not

J. Bourne. altogether agree with. I think we should have the best men that could possibly be procured. Another thing, the inspector's pay is not sufficient for this field. In England, the inspector's pay runs to about £500 a year. I think if we have the services of a good man he should be paid something similar, because great responsibility rests upon the inspector here. He has to please the employers and the employees too. I do not know our present inspector personally, and, for my part, I cannot see anything wrong in the way he carries out his duties; but he should be stationed here. We do not know the hour he may be called upon.

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1092. *His Honor.*] You would like to limit the district and increase the salary? Yes.

1093. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] The inspector has just informed me that the extent of this district is from Thackaringa to Tibooburra. You say that an inspector should be in the immediate vicinity of the line of lode at all times? Yes.

1094. How many more do you think this district requires? For the outlying districts, where there is not such a large number of men employed, one, I think, would be sufficient.

1095. What is the best means to make known to all persons employed in or about a mine the regulations, statutory enactments, &c., in connection with the Mining Act? In the north of England the '72 Act, after it was passed, was posted outside the office, on the brace, and down below in the plat. I think that is all that would be necessary here.

1096. You do not think it would be a better plan to give every employee a copy of the regulations? When the '72 Act that I speak of was passed, the company under whom I was employed at the time handed each of us a copy.

1097. Seeing that regulations should be made not only for guidance as to how work should be performed, but to regulate men as to how they should carry out their work, do you not think that every man should have a copy? Yes.

1098. You think that, even if they are stuck up in conspicuous places, there is a way of getting out of it by saying "I do not know the rules—I never had them given to me?" In England they are set out in large print on large frames, and made very easy to read.

1099. *Mr. Edwards.*] I notice that under the Coal Mines Act of this Colony this rule applies:—

The owner, agent, or manager shall supply a printed copy of the abstract and the special rules, gratis, to each person, employed in or about the mine, who applies for a copy at the office at which the persons immediately employed by the owner, agent, or manager are paid.

I suppose that would meet the case? Yes.

1100. You would not ask the manager to go and hunt up the men and deliver copies to them? No.

1101. I suppose at your mine the rules are posted up? Yes, outside the candle office.

1102. And outside the pay office? I do not know.

1103. I suppose they are not very diligently studied by the men? No.

1104. In reference to the open-cuts, I understand your experience was about two years ago, and then only for two months? Yes.

1105. Given a sufficient quantity of electric light on the night shift, and the greater danger is hardly discernible? No; but the electric light is not so good as daylight.

1106. In reference to working on the "chinaman"—I suppose in their own interest the contractors would have all big stones popped in order to save the trucks under the "chinaman"? Yes.

1107. So in their own interest they would not let large stones down? Sometimes large stones get away from them; and that is owing to the neglect of both, sometimes the man in charge, and sometimes the men themselves.

1108. The man barring down stone will sometimes get in front, and then, should it run, it would come on top of him? Yes.

1109. Judging from the questions put to you when you applied for work at the Proprietary Mine, you cannot say that they are careless in endeavouring to get competent men? I thought they were careless at the time. I considered myself insulted. If a man came to me for employment I would put him to work, and soon see whether he was competent or not.

1110. As to the dangerous places that you say are unprotected in Block 14;—have they ever been pointed out to the shift-bosses as being dangerous? Not to my knowledge.

1111. Is there not a rule that any dangerous place observed by a workman shall be at once pointed out to a shift-boss? Yes; but you must bear this in mind, that a man, by asking these questions, might be making himself too inquisitive.

1112. But if you saw a dangerous place you would mention it? If in my neighbourhood, I would. If not, I would not.

1113. Whose duty would it be then? The shift-boss's I take it.

1114. But, if dangerous to the men, would you not point it out? The place I refer to might keep its position for twelve months, and it might come down in a couple of hours. No men are working under it; men only pass under it.

1115. Do you not think that it is your bounden duty to go and acquaint the shift-boss of that at once? No; not unless I am working under it.

1116. But would you like men to work under it? No one is working under it.

1117. But you pass under it? No; I would not report it. I should be told at once that I was making myself too busy.

1118. But I understand you to say that the shift-boss is a man that you have no fault to find with; and why do you not approach him? I would not consider it my place, being a subordinate. Suppose I had been on the "Victoria," and warned the Admiral of the approaching collision with the "Camperdown," what would he have said?

1119. Rule 6 of the Underground Rules and Regulations says:—

As a matter of common safety, any workman who shall observe, or come to the knowledge of, any damage to or deficiency in any part of the workings, any defect or flaw in the cages, chains, ropes, or chairs, or in any part of the engine, machinery, gearing, or plant used in or about the mine, whereby the safety of workmen or others may be impaired, shall be bound forthwith to communicate same to the shift-boss or foreman. * * * If, in the various mining operations underground, the workmen notice any undue pressure on the timbers, or any movement or disturbance in the ground which might be in any way considered dangerous, they shall immediately convey information of to their shift-boss, who shall at once advise the foreman.

Surely you could have acquainted the shift-boss—do you not think so? There was not any immediate danger; but still it was a place that should be attended to.

1120.

1120. Now, supposing that earth fell, and crushed some men passing underneath, whose fault would it be—who would be to blame? Perhaps you would want to say that I should be to blame. I am not paid to inspect and find fault. If I took upon myself to do that, I should be sent adrift at once. J. Bourne.
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1121. You say the shift-boss is the right man in the right place; and do you mean to say that if you pointed out a danger of that kind to him he would not praise you for it, and thank you? —
1122. In reference to men driving machinery, I suppose, so long as a man has experience, it does not matter what his age is, so long as he is not a boy? No.
1123. And as to certificates for shift-bosses, you think certificates go for very little—what you want is experienced men? Yes.
1124. You said something about the central shaft being defective two years ago; I suppose you know that a new shaft has been put down since then? I believe so.
1125. As to an uncovered vertical shaft, you think there is no need for a pent-house? Yes.
1126. It was stated yesterday by a witness that a vertical shaft should not be sunk more than 100 feet without pent-houses;—you do not agree with that? No.
1127. As to the quantity of powder allowed to be used by one man at one time,—do you work by machine or by hand? By hand.
1128. Of course, with a rock-drill you make a larger hole, and you require a large quantity of explosive? Yes.
1129. It would be very hard, then, to limit the quantity of explosive to be in use at any time? Yes.
1130. As to boys being employed in charge of magazines,—where is there a boy employed in a magazine here? In Block 14.
1131. What age is he? I could not tell you the exact age; I should take him to be 13 or 14.
1132. With the exception of that, you say in Block 14 they are most careful, and very strict in the use of explosives? I do not think they could improve anything, so far as my knowledge goes.
1133. Then you stated that when men are withdrawn by the inspector, or by the manager or shift-boss, from dangerous ground, they should not be allowed to return to that part of the mine without the consent of the inspector? I do not remember answering that.
1134. You wish to qualify the answer you gave Mr. Polkinghorne in this way: that in the event of there being dangerous ground in any part of the mine, such as ground hanging from the face or swinging from the roof, and it is necessary to take the men out of that portion until that ground is got down, as soon as the ground is down to the satisfaction of the shift-boss the men can go back again? Yes.
1135. You think it only necessary to call the inspector where the ground is coming in in a big way; and then, the inspector having been called in, he ought to be satisfied before allowing them to go back? Exactly.
1136. We will come back on to the open-cuts;—you think they should be worked on terraces or benches? Yes.
1137. I suppose you have to be guided in a great measure by the conditions of the ground as to the size of your bench, or whether you can put a bench in? Yes.
1138. Do you know that in the open-cuts here they are at present working them on a system of benches? I have not been up there for two years.
1139. You think the batter should not be less than 10 in 25? Not in loose ground.
1140. That is equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ in 1? Yes.
1141. Do you know that the batter in the open-cuts here is never less than $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1? I could not say; it is two years since I was up there.
1142. So you cannot say that the batter in the open-cuts does not come up to the measurement you think it should? No.
1143. You have no idea whether it is safe to work there or not? No.
1144. Of course, as to your suggestion regarding the fire in Block 11, it is a very valuable one; but the mine authorities have reason to attribute it to another cause altogether. In your first answer in reference to the open-cut, I understood you to say it was not worked in a systematic manner, and that you never saw anything worked so recklessly in your life:—that was nearly three years ago? Yes.
1145. In reference to apprentices: no doubt about it; the earlier a man begins, the better miner he makes? As a rule.
1146. Then you say that when a competent miner is working with an apprentice, they should receive the wages of two competent men? As a rule, in the North of England, the man who takes an apprentice, who is generally termed a breaker-up, has the paying of him himself. They are generally paid there by the weight—by the ton; and the competent man fixes up the wage for the total amount.
1147. But, if paid by the day, as here, you would not expect a mine to pay a man and a boy the same wages as two competent men? He would not be much of a boy at seventeen or eighteen.
1148. But he would be simply an apprentice, as far as mining was concerned? Yes.
1149. And you would not pay him so much as you would a competent miner? Certainly not.
1150. I suppose you have worked on contract right through? I have never worked by contract on the Hill; always day work.
1151. When you are going off shift, do you point out to your mates coming on the condition of the face? I always leave the face safe. I generally fire half-an-hour before change of shift; and I then go back to see if the face is secure and safe. I think all over the Hill men fire too late; they fire exactly at change of shift. The firing probably scatters the laths; and the incoming men, not being aware of the danger, fall through; and, if the floors underneath have been stripped, as is sometimes the case, they may have a very serious fall of some sets in extent. In the event of my firing at change of shift, I always go back to see that there are no loose laths, and, if I find any loose ground, I work it down. It has always been understood by the management that things should be that way. Sometimes, however, men are a little slow, and they fire and leave the face in a wild state, and everything topsy-turvy.
1152. And when they leave they do not know whether it is in a safe or dangerous condition? They do not. An accident occurred about a year ago in this way: A party fired a series of holes, and one did not take—it was not properly lighted. When the other shift came on, one of the men looked round and saw that this hole had not taken. What should he do but light it with his candle. Of course, away went his candle, and he was left in the dark; and, there being a lot of laths out at this place, down he went and injured his back.
1153. What I mean is this: men fire at knock-off time, and the moment they see the fuse spit, they go up? Yes; but I think they should go back. 1154.

- J. Bourne. 1154. They should go back, and either see the face secure before they leave, or else point out to their on-coming mates any danger? Yes.
- 13 July, 1897. 1155. And going up to the surface they very often miss their mates? Yes; you might be going up in one cage, and they coming down in the other.
1156. You say that, leaving the face without knowing whether it is secure or not, is a fruitful source of danger? Yes.
1157. That being so, would it not be far better to have a hard-and-fast rule that men should not be allowed to leave the face until they had pointed out to their mates coming on any danger in the face? Just so; I quite agree with that.
1158. And change of shift, instead of taking place at the brace, should take place at the face? It would not be always suitable to change at the face. You may have just fired a heavy hole, and have some loose ground hanging, in which case I would rather wait and get it down before my mates came in.
1159. But could you not get over the difficulty by firing earlier? Yes.
1160. You think that would be the safest course to adopt—to compel the mates coming off to show their mates any danger there might be? Yes.
1161. I suppose, since you have been in Block 14, you cannot say that anything has been left undone, within reason, for the safety of the men? No; there is one little matter I would like to mention. When I first came here, I went to work at the Central, and there they had some very bad fuse. I think it should be the duty of the mine-owners to get the best quality of fuse possible. While I worked at the Central, I had five holes miss in one day. Since I have worked at Block 14, I have only had one miss, and then it was my own fault.
1162. I suppose you know that sometimes the most careful buyer will get inferior stuff thrust on to him, not only in fuse but in other things? Yes.
1163. I suppose you complained to the shift-boss about its being bad? Yes. Going away from the Hill, I know of several places in the Colony where the fuse was very bad, and caused several fatal accidents.
1164. It is admitted that bad fuse is dangerous, but can you attribute this to the neglect of the mine officials? No. Fracteur, in my opinion, should be tamped as lightly as possible with a soft stick. I notice that in the Tarrawingee accident they had a hard-wood stick. I do not believe in a hard-wood stick—nothing but a soft-wood stick. I have seen several men crippled through using hard-wood sticks. A soft stick is less liable to friction. You want to push fracteur home very steadily. I have seen plenty of miners tamp it very violently.
1165. *His Honor.*] Do you find that you have to be very careful in selecting the length of fuse—should there be a splice in it, is not the powder at that particular spot likely to be disconnected for a space? That is very rare if you get the best quality. It is very easy to distinguish the best quality.
1166. So it comes to this;—that, if we have an inspectorship of explosives, fuse should be regarded as an explosive? Yes.

Mr. Edwards: I would like to draw attention, your Honor, to the last clause of Regulation 8 under the Mining Act:—

And any accident occurring in any mine in or about any machinery shall be *prima facie* evidence that such accident occurred through some neglect or default on the part of the owner thereof.

His Honor: I should say that was purely *ultra vires*. It goes outside the intention of the power to make regulations altogether.

Mr. Edwards: But supposing a short Bill was passed declaring these Regulations to be law, notwithstanding that they were *ultra vires*. However, I do not suppose there is any necessity for me to refer to that further: it is too evident.

His Honor: I do not think that you need refer to that matter further.

Mr. Edwards: I would like to say that I think "*prima facie*" put in there simply means that it places the owner as defendant.

His Honor: Yes; it is not in the nature of a Regulation at all.

John Polkinghorne sworn and examined:—

- J. Polkinghorne. 1167. *His Honor.*] What is your full name? John Polkinghorne.
- 13 July, 1897. 1168. What is your present occupation? A miner.
1169. I would ask you to inform the Commission of any matters that have come under your notice during your experience as a miner in this district? As to the matter of ventilation, which is the first subject I will touch upon, as far as my experience goes, the amount of air brought into the mine is quite sufficient, but it is not distributed as well as it might be through the different workings. I have spent most of my time in the Proprietary, where I went just after the fire. I was engaged in opening up a portion of the mine away from the fire; and, to get to that part, other means than those used before the fire had to be adopted, and, on account of the blocking of the old roads, the air was rather warm. The Proprietary, however, has as much air going through it as anyone could wish for, if it were only distributed a little better. I worked at the Central two years ago, and there was a place in it where a great deal of work was going on, but there was no air-way provided until the stope was put up something like six floors. Why I mention this is to try and corroborate some of the evidence that has been given, that the best means of ventilation would be to block out the ground so that the air can be circulated into the parts where the men are working. There is always plenty of air sent into the mines on the Barrier; it only wants distributing. Men have had to work for a good while in places rendered very hot by the heat of the ground, by the breath of the men, and by the blasting operations. The current of air was not sufficient to drive out the noxious gases that accumulated. Though there be plenty of air in a main drive, it is no proof that the workings are supplied with pure air. The distribution could be done with very little cost; and I do not think, from what I have seen of the Companies, that, if the necessity were pointed out, they would be other than ready to have the matter at once attended to.
1170. Is such a thing as bratticing ever used in these mines? I have seen a little of it here, but not much. In some places, the air has been almost completely thrown off from a place where it was not required by the use of canvas. These things only want to be mentioned, and I have no doubt they will be carried out. In the opening up of the different levels I think the greatest care should be to see that

a connection is made from one level to another before stoping is done. The connections should be made by winzes. It is better to sink than put up a rise when making these communications, because, in sinking, it is found that the men inhale less of the poisonous gases that are given off. I have never mentioned to anyone, nor have I thought, that there was ever anything that could be done which was not being done for the safety of the men employed. Plenty of timber has always been provided. It has been said at this inquiry that at times on some of the mines there has not been sufficient timber. I may say that, during my short term in the Central, for a while there was a run on timber, and orders could not be filled by the mill so soon as was desired. In that case, every endeavour was made by the Company to get the timber. I do not know anything about these dangerous portions of the mines referred to—the underground chambers. In my opinion, if they are carried out to the extent that has been pointed out, it is necessary that a Regulation should be framed restricting their dimensions. In my opinion, no open excavation underground should be carried out to a greater height than 10 feet, which would enable men to control the back. I think they could keep their face 20 feet in front of the timber even with machines. The timber would not be shattered at that distance. I do not consider it safe to work in an opening underground of a greater depth than 10 feet.

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1171. As to the number of accidents that have occurred, have you noticed that there has been any increase out of proportion to the increase in the number of miners? I think there has been an increase in the number of accidents out of proportion to the increase in the number of miners. I certainly think that the cause of so many accidents is through the employment of so large a number of incompetent men. I have heard such terms as this used by the bosses who have employed them: "I wish it would come on to rain in South Australia, so that these fellows would go back again." These men cause accidents by their bad work, and very often it is not themselves, but the men on the next shift, who suffer. Incompetent men are not in a position to tell their relieving mates of any danger; and their mates, even before they have time to look round, fall victims from a fall. It is then, perhaps, said that the man brought on the accident by his own fault; but, at the same time, it was very probably the fault of the outgoing man. I think that nearly every accident is brought about by incompetence on the part of the men employed. It is my opinion that, if men were allowed to select their own mates, better men would be employed. There are plenty of good miners, it is said, who are walking about and looking for work. At the present time, I believe, if a party wants a man to complete it, by applying to the officials, they will allow you to select your own man if you have a wish to do so; but, if you cannot get hold of the man you want at once, or within some little time, the boss puts on one, and you have to put up with him for the time being, no matter how incompetent he might be. I have been working in the Proprietary a year and nine months; and I must admit that I have seen during the last six months more men come down into the block in the shift I have been working on, and sent up and not allowed to come down again, than there are on any shift in that block. They have come down and shown their incompetency; and some of them in less than half an hour have been told to go. Some of these very same men may go to another mine; he may be a very good "bullock," or he may be a good shovelman, and as the boss goes round he happens to be doing something which passes him off as suitable; but, at the same time, he has got no idea whatever how to break down ore. How to prevent the employment of these men is a difficult question. When a man is working and wants somebody to fill up the party, he very often does not know what men are out of work. It is said that lots of good men are out of work, but very few of them find their way to fill vacancies on the blocks I have been working in. The best means to adopt to secure good miners is to put a lot of those young fellows into the face who are at present working as truckers, &c. They are very anxious to get into the face, and I am sure they would make very good miners if they were put under a good system. I think you would find plenty of good miners willing to take these boys on, because they are fine strapping fellows, and could get through just as much of the rough work as the miner proper. If these boys were taken on as apprentices, one of them with a competent miner would get through as much work as two competent men, since the boy would be able to do all the rough work which requires no experience, and the competent man would do the skilled work. The wage now is 9s. a day, and, as the competent miner and his apprentice would get through as much work as two competent men would, the two together should receive two men's pay, viz., 18s. a day, which should be divided in this way: the skilled man to receive, say, 10s. 6d., and the apprentice 7s. 6d. The apprentice, by working alongside a skilled man, would very soon begin to pick up things. As to the inspection of the mines, I certainly think that this district is too large for the one inspector. While a lot has been said against the way in which the local inspector has carried out his duties in this district, I have nothing to say against him at all. All I say is that we want a Mining Act and a set of Regulations which will give him more power to act. From what I have learned since I have been on the Barrier, it is proved that the Mining Act and Regulations are not what they ought to be; and, consequently, the inspector has not been able to do what is expected of him; but, apart from that altogether, seeing the amount of work that is being carried out on this line of lode—there are over 6,000 men employed within a line of lode 2 miles in length—this immediate district requires a man in itself, and the outside localities should be taken charge of by another inspector.

1172. You mean two men should be appointed, and that it should be so arranged that always one of them would be available at Broken Hill? I think one should be available at Broken Hill at all times. Of course, I would not suggest that one be appointed at Broken Hill and another at Milparinka. They could work the district (the Albert Mining District) between them, but so arrange it that there would be always one at Broken Hill. Just previous to the luncheon adjournment we were discussing the question of inspectors. I said that I thought one was not sufficient for the district, and that one should at all times be in Broken Hill. The question then arises—what class of men the inspectors should be. I think they should be practical men, and not only theoretical. I do not object to a little theory; but practice is far better than theory. There is one thing that I would like to suggest, that I do not think is in use on the Barrier—the adoption of safety hooks and thimbles on the skids to prevent overhauling. These would disconnect the rope from the cage in the event of overhauling.

Inspector Hebbard: Two or three different kinds are in use on the Barrier.

Witness: They should be adopted in all cases where men are being raised or lowered by cages. I think there should be a Regulation compelling their adoption. There is nothing in the Regulations at the present time providing that even the safety appliances which are now in use should be provided for every cage.

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Inspector Hebbard: Safety appliances are in general use; but they are not compulsory.

Witness: I believe there are some cages in use on the Barrier without them.

Inspector Hebbard: There were two or three, but I do not think there is one now in use without the safety appliances.

Witness: I was given to understand that there were, some time back, but I do not know whether it is so now. I think that the most modern appliances that can be got should be provided for in the Regulations. I have seen in Victoria three or four different appliances in use. I do not know what appliances are in use on the Barrier.

Inspector Hebbard: Those at the "South" are Noble and Chessel's, and those at the Pinnacles are the same. Middleton's patent is in use at Block 14; and those at the Proprietary were introduced by Mr. Patton from America.

Witness: I think engine-drivers should be holders of certificates that they are competent to take charge of an engine. This is especially necessary where they have charge of the hauling of men to the surface. The Regulations at present provide, I believe, that no vertical ladders be allowed in shafts—only in pump shafts. I do not think a vertical ladder should be allowed in any shaft, whether pump or hauling shaft.

1173. Do you think a man is less likely to fall from a vertical ladder with ordinary rungs than from a steep ladder built in ordinary step-ladder form? I do not think so. I think the step-ladder would be the safer. I do not think that a vertical ladder is safe at any time. The ordinary rung ladder, inclined somewhat, is the safest ladder for shafts. I do not approve of them at too steep an angle. The ladder I like best is the rung ladder—10-inch rungs. If such a ladder were placed at an angle of (say) 4 feet in 20 feet, it would be very easy to climb. Step-ladders are the safest for stopes in this district. In looking over the Regulations as to the inspector's duties, I cannot see that it lays down anywhere that the inspector shall leave a record in the office of any defects or of any place he deems unsafe. In my opinion, when an inspector has made an inspection of a mine, and has seen any defects or unsafe places, he should put it in writing and sign it, and place it in the office of the company, so that, if anything happened, the inspector could have it on record that he notified the company that such defects had to be looked after. I think some provision should be made that such records be kept. In all cases a record should be left in the office of the company. It would be far better for the company as well as the inspector. One of the subordinate officers may be with the inspector at the time that he points out any defects; and the superior officers might never know anything about those defects. But, should a record be kept in the office, it would be placed before the head officials. In many cases the inspector may, perhaps, come across little matters that could be rectified in a short time with little cost, and at present he simply informs the officer-in-charge of that part of the mine that it would be better to get them repaired, and he gives an order that it be done. But there is at present nothing to show that he has given such an order. No doubt, a record should be kept.

1174. You would amplify General Rule 2 of the Mining Act to meet the case? Yes. As to the calling of men out from any part considered dangerous, as set down in that rule, my opinion is, that if a man in charge calls men out, and the defect is not considered, in the opinion of the men, to be of such a nature as to require an inspector to be called in, when the place is put into repair it should be the place of the man in charge to give the order for the men to return to work; but in all cases where it is deemed advisable to call the inspector, he should be the man to say when it is safe for the men to return. That rule (No. 2) is hardly sufficient. The inspector would not be required to be called in for everything. Often a small movement will take place, where, if they waited for the inspector to come before they secured it, the delay would, perhaps, lead to a serious creep; whereas, by the man in charge taking the men out and making it secure, a more serious danger is averted. In all cases, the men are the best judges as to whether the inspector should be called in. If there be an extensive movement, the inspector should be called in, and the ground should be secured under his supervision. While we may have most efficient men as managers and foremen, they have to depend upon other men to a great extent. Men are placed in charge of certain places, and they have only been workmen, and are not at all times to be entirely depended upon. Men who have been taken from the face and placed in charge will very often run into more danger—and take men with them—than the manager would allow. Of course, it would not be possible for the head officials to be at all times present in every working place in their mines. Another matter has occurred to me. It has not been mentioned here as yet, and it is a matter that I have had under consideration for some time. It is necessary, in my opinion, that two engine-drivers should be in the engine-house when men are being lowered or raised. At present, twelve men, six in each cage, are at the mercy of the one man. In my opinion, when men are being raised or lowered there should be two drivers. I have read of an engine-driver who, in the midst of his work, was seized with a fit, which resulted in much damage and loss of life. Two men would be a safeguard against such an occurrence. It may look a hardship to some companies that may be working only two shifts, as then they would have to employ an extra man to be on duty in the engine-house during the raising and lowering of the men at change of shifts. But I do not think the extra cost should stand in the way. Twelve lives should be considered of some value to the State. Not only that, the losing of twelve lives would probably mean the throwing of thirty or forty persons on to the State for maintenance. As to the Regulation regarding explosives, I think it is hardly elastic enough for the conditions under which you have to work in this district. On the other hand, in framing a Mining Act and Regulations, I quite recognise that it would not do to have a separate set of Mining Regulations for each mining district. But I believe in having a Regulation which you would not be bound to break. Under this existing Regulation, that the amount of explosive a workman may have in use at any one time in any one place shall not exceed 6 lb., I take it that it means the explosive in use after it has been taken from the magazine. I would rather see the Regulation provide that the quantity required be taken out, but that, as soon as the blasting to be done had ceased, the canisters should be returned again to the magazine. In order to minimise the waste of time that would occur in returning the canisters to the magazine, it would, perhaps, be necessary to have a magazine at each level.

1175. How would it be to give the Minister discretionary power, on the report of the local inspector, to grant an extension of the quantity to be used at the one time on any particular mine? I can hardly see how we are going to get out of the difficulty unless we do it in this form—that no man be allowed to take more than is required for the shift. In hammer and drill work you may have to fire four or five times in a shift. It all depends upon the nature of the ground you are taking out. It may be you are squaring up to get a set of timber in: perhaps the one blast will take out the best part, but five or six little shots would

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would further have to be fired. At the close of every shift, the canisters could be returned to the magazine. Explosives, while in the canisters, would be perfectly safe. As to the open-cuts, I have never worked in them, and I hope I never will. They may, of course, look more dangerous to the uninitiated taking a view from the top than they really are. I think, myself, from what I have seen of them, that a sufficient batter has not been kept; but I believe steps have now, and for some time, been taken to get a better batter. I believe that the open-cuts at the present time are in a better condition than I have known them to be in before. We all recognise that they are very dangerous things to work. In taking down those open-cuts, I see they have had a good deal of trouble in ascertaining what they would have to take away in order to get the ore out. They have endeavoured to get a batter, and, on going down a little way, find the ore widening out, and of course the batter then gets very bad.

1176. At the same time, you recognise the fact that it should be considered as a mine for all purposes of the Mining Act? Yes.

1177. And that would involve the question whether all quarries should not be similarly under some sort of control? Yes.

1178. Tarrawingee, for instance, is a place where ore is not being raised in the ordinary sense of the word, and therefore that comes strictly within the meaning of a quarry? I think all quarries, no matter for what purpose the material is being raised, should be treated under the Mining Act Regulations. But I think we must all admit that there should be a lot of discretionary power allowed to inspectors in all those cases. You cannot lay down a hard-and-fast set of regulations to be worked by. To-day, a quarry is in a good state, and to-morrow, because of its being necessary to blast away some overhanging rock, it would look bad. Two or three shots would be sufficient to make a quarry that has hitherto had a good face look in a bad state. Therefore, discretionary power should be allowed the inspector in such cases. In quarrying, in order to remove a danger, they have to remove the material, and in doing this they might for the time being destroy the face. You could not frame regulations sufficient to cover everything, and I do not think you could have sufficient inspection to prevent all accidents. I don't believe a man would run in front of a moving boulder, but there are men on the Barrier who would not know which way a rock would go that they are barring down. I have seen them underground as ignorant as that.

1179. You do not wish to express any opinion regarding Mr. Bourne's suggestion that an open-cut should be worked with benches? I do not think such a mode would be any improvement on a fair average batter.

1180. Where much work of that kind is going on, you would like to have it brought under the control of an inspector, and to leave the way it should be worked to the inspector? Yes. The man appointed as inspector should be a practical man. He should be a man who would be considered to be beyond any outside influence, and who would go about his work in a straightforward manner, without fear or favour to the men or the masters. I think most of these matters as to the open-cuts should be left to the discretion of the inspectors; but I would like to see in the regulations a minimum batter set out.

1181. The difficulty of that would be that there are some rocks that would not require any batter at all—for instance, solid sandstone; so that, if you provide a minimum batter, it would have to be vertical; and that would not be of much use? Of course, as I have said before, I have not had much experience in these matters, and it is the open-cuts here that I have in view. I think it should be left to the inspector—the advisability of increasing the batter in any part. As to the proposed Board of Inquiry. I think it is a very necessary thing that in all mining districts a Board of Inquiry should be appointed to inquire into all cases of accidents other than fatal. I know of accidents that have occurred under my personal view, when gross negligence on the part of the injured party has been the cause in some instances; and in others, the negligence of the man in charge. Frequently the wrong party is blamed. The man in charge is blamed when the accident has been brought about by the gross carelessness of the person injured. If a Board of Inquiry were appointed, and could be called into requisition when an accident took place, it would remove the probability of the blame being thrown on the wrong man. Of course, in all fatal accidents, the magisterial inquiry would be sufficient. I have often heard that such-and-such an accident occurred through the carelessness of the shift-boss; but, on making inquiries from the men who witnessed the accident, I have elicited that it was the man's own carelessness. Of course, there is the other side. If a man receives an injury it is only fair that the blame should be placed upon the proper person. If it be the fault of the shift-boss, then the blame should be placed upon his shoulders. In the case of a fatal accident, the way it occurred is never known. I think a Board of three would be sufficient. Two of the members should be elected by the people of the mining district in which the Board acts; and that should be done by means of the franchise, as in the case of Members of Parliament. The Government should appoint the third party, who would be chairman. Of course, the mine-owners might say that by manhood suffrage, the miners being in the majority, the two men selected would be of their selection, and the companies would have no representation whatever. I would like to be fair; and, after considering the matter, I have come to the conclusion that the companies should be allowed to elect one. Their being elected in this manner is the only guarantee that no man would be appointed by undue influence. I would say—let us have no Board rather than a Board appointed by the Government.

1182. You do not believe in a system, then, which would provide that the Chief Magistrate of the district should hold an inquiry in the nature of an inquest? No, your Honor, I don't. I have a reason for not believing in that system. I have attended a few of the inquests held here. You can never get a witness to go into Court and say what you could get him to say on the spot. I maintain that a Board of Inquiry should visit the spot and interview those who witnessed the accident.

1183. Well, assuming the Police Magistrate visited the spot? They are susceptible to political influence, in my opinion. I think if the whole matter were left in the Police Magistrate's hands we might just as well remain as we are. In the event of a fatal accident happening, in the magisterial inquiry the jury should be composed of practical men. I do not think the present mode of summoning juries on fatal accidents is a good one. What is the benefit to be derived from a verdict arrived at by ten or eleven men who know nothing whatever of mining only what they see from Argent-street? They cannot be capable to form an opinion, unless it is a case of plain facts only; but in technical evidence they are not the proper persons to be on a jury. Three quarters of the jury here, in most cases, are men who have had no practical knowledge of mining. I think it should be made a rule to summon a certain number of practical men on every jury called together; at least one-half should be practical men. As to the firing at
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change of shift; I do not think it would be an improvement, but rather otherwise, if men were compelled to relieve each other in the face. I think I can illustrate that. I worked in a claim in Victoria, and there was a decree issued that we had to relieve in the face. We were sinking with rock-drills. Our machine was just worked out on time; we had, however, to wait in the face until the men of the on-coming shift relieved us. When they came on, they had to return to the surface and get another machine. If we had been relieved at the top, we could have let them know about the machine, and much time and trouble would have been saved. Many such things as that are likely to occur when relieving in the face. To change in the face would be neither an advantage to the men nor to the company. It would mean the employment of the engine-drivers for longer hours, for one thing. I say a man has no right to be working underground unless he is capable of taking the necessary precaution to have a good look round before he attempts to begin work in his face. I know a lot of men who do not do this; but those men, I say, are not in their proper place. Some men will walk into their face without looking around at all. As to leaving a missed-hole, I can say that I have never at any time since I have been mining left a missed-hole. I have always seen my mates before leaving it, and it is the duty of every man to do the same. I do not think anything would be gained by meeting in the face. If there was a regulation laid down to that effect, it would be simply helter-skelter, and you would not give them so much information as you would if you met them in the plat. As to a missed-hole, there is only one man who has given evidence on this point that I would corroborate. If a hole misses, the safest thing to do is to prepare another primer and put it in. As to the time that should elapse, I think, myself, a couple of hours should elapse. Of course, it may turn out, as it has been proved in some cases, to be more dangerous after the two hours than after twenty minutes.

1184. *Inspector Hebbard.*] If you had a powder-hole miss fire, you would rather take the tamping out than bore another hole alongside it? Yes.

1185. The rule in the Act saying that it shall not be unrammed is always being broken? Yes.

1186. It must, in fact, be broken? Yes. I would much rather take out the tamping with a scraper even than bore another hole alongside.

1187. *His Honor.*] What metal would you use? When I got on to the powder, copper would be the safest to use. I have taken tamping off powder with only a common scraper. I think it is safer to go with the ordinary pricker or scraper and take tamping off blasting-powder than to bore alongside it.

1188. *Inspector Hebbard.*] What is the general practice with missed-holes;—is it not the practice now-a-days not to completely pick a hole, but to take out some of it and charge some dynamite on top of it, so as to produce concussion of the powder? That is the general practice; but, as far as I am concerned myself, I have not adopted that way more than twice. It did not seem to break the ground enough. I prefer, therefore, to take out the whole of the tamping. With regard to the glycerine compounds, miners think that so long as they are air-tight it is all that is required. I can hardly fall in with that part of their theory. I believe that a little sand or water on the charge is better than a bit of clay or something to stop the air. In my opinion, the instructions issued with Nobel's glycerine compounds are sufficient. They say that only sand or water tamping shall be used. They do not say you shall fill it to the collar. It is used to-day with a little loose material put on the collar of the hole and fired. Water tamping, in my opinion, is the safest tamping, and it prevents bad fuse from bursting—at least, prevents the bursting being the cause of an after explosion, as the water will get to it and put it out. I have always found the fuse made in Victoria very good, and that made in South Australia is also good.

1189. *His Honor.*] Have explosives in South Australia to be passed by an inspector? All explosives for South Australia have to be examined out at the Semaphore before being placed in the Government Magazine.

1190. Does that include fuse? I do not think so. Fuse is manufactured locally.

1191. There is no local manufacture of explosives there? I do not know of any.

1192. You cannot say that there is anything wrong in the general system of stopping and working of the mines on the Barrier, putting aside altogether the question of open-cuts? I do not think the system of square-set timbering which is in vogue here could be improved upon. I have been working the square-set timber now all the time I have been in the Proprietary, and I was also working it at the Central. This system is in use on all the mines here. Everything has always been provided, and if anything is at any time required, you have only to speak about it and it will be supplied. I do not see how we could better it.

1193. *Mr. Edwards.*] You have been specially appointed to represent the miners on this Inquiry? Yes.

1194. As their representative, do you make any charge as to incompetency on the part of any of the managers or subordinate officials in the mines on the Barrier? No; I do not. I was unable to get that from any witness that was called, and my experience has not given me room to say so.

1195. I suppose you have been directly under Mr. Horwood, and Messrs. Barrett and Bayley, foremen? Yes.

1196. You do not suggest anything in the way of incompetency on the part of any of the managers or the subordinate officials? No. So far as I know, the men I have had to deal with are men capable of doing a day's work in the face.

1197. No charge of incompetency is brought against Mr. Stewart, I suppose? I do not think so.

1198. You say this—that everything is provided for the men within reason in order to enable them to secure the workings? I have never seen one case where anything required could not be obtained.

1199. Is there any wilful disregard for the ordinary safety of the men displayed by any of the officers? I cannot point out anything like that at all. We see little things sometimes that we might think out of the way, but nothing to make any charge about.

1200. You know the working rules for the mine, surface and underground? Yes.

1201. You have read them? Yes.

1202. Do you not think they provide for nearly every matter? I must say this: that there is nothing contained in those rules but what a miner of ordinary ability should know was required of him. And I think what is laid down there, if carried out by the men, would make it better by far for all concerned. As to the surface regulations [*vide Exhibit B*]. The hours are set down between which blasting shall be allowed in the open-cuts. On one occasion, before 4:30 in the afternoon, sixteen shots were fired, and some of the stones came through the roof of the changing-house while we were changing. I complained of this at the time.

1203. Were they blasts, or merely pops? They were deep holes.

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1204. That might have been done by permission of the company's surface foreman;—the regulation contains a clause to the effect that, should it be necessary, owing to exceptional circumstances, to blast outside the regulation hours, permission to do so may be obtained from the company's surface foreman only? That might have been. I did not inquire.

1205. If that rule [No. 8, Exhibit B] were carried out, it would be safe enough? The surface foremen should not be allowed to give permission to blast outside the prescribed hours. We are in danger in the changing-room if that permission be given.

1206. I suppose no matter how stringently rules are fixed, you will find people breaking them? Not such a glaring breach as that. Besides, the surface rules are posted up right in front of those people's eyes.

1207. As to the rules underground;—you have read them? Yes; and there is nothing in them more than any ordinary miner ought to do.

1208. If they were carried out, would that not be all that was desired? Yes. If a man wants a copy of those rules to carry about with him, he must be very shallow.

1209. There is no complaint as to insufficiency of timber, or anything of that sort? No.

1210. And as to the underground open-cuts;—you have never worked in them? No; I know nothing about them.

1211. As to the increase in the number of accidents that have taken place;—you have never been present at any serious or fatal accidents? No.

1212. In addition to there being a large number of incompetent men in the mines, you say that even the best of miners become indifferent to danger? Yes; the best of them.

1213. I do not suppose you are in the habit of biting those caps with your teeth? Yes; I have bitten hundreds of them; but I think, for all that, nippers should be provided.

1214. You said something about the incompetent men that are in the mines;—have you any idea how many men have been discharged for drunkenness, and incompetency, and breaches of the regulations within the last twelve months in the Proprietary Mine alone;—you would not be surprised to hear that it exceeds over 3,000? No; I would not be surprised at all.

1215. When you are working alongside a man and you see him incompetent, you consider him a danger to the men he is working with? Yes.

1216. I suppose you would report it to the shift-boss? I never did that. I do not think that is part of my duty.

1217. Is he not just as much an element of danger as a hanging stone? I would report no man for incompetency. I do not think that is my duty. I might report to the shift-boss the portion of the stope rendered dangerous by an incompetent man.

1218. In parties of six, you select your own mates to start with? Generally speaking.

1219. Then, perhaps, one of your mates drops out; you are allowed an opportunity to select another in his place, and a reasonable time to get him in? I believe that is the rule now. Of course, there was a time when you were not allowed that privilege. I believe, at the present time, I would be right in saying that you are allowed to do so at all times. Of course, it might be this way—that you might not be able to come across a man that you know enough of to recommend him to a foreman. Then, probably, one would be sent from the office.

1220. Otherwise the work would be delayed? Yes. I would like to say, however, that very often through having an incompetent man sent to you, the work is rather delayed.

1221. But, if a man is sent on and he is incompetent, you have the right to go to the shift-boss and report him incompetent? Yes; it is my duty then to do so, because I have to earn my own living and his too. But if he is alongside me, and in another party, then it is not my duty to report him. But there is one thing;—if I report a man working with me who is incompetent, he will very likely be sent to the surface; but, for all that, at the end of the fortnight he will draw for that shift the same pay as myself, even though he has not done sixpence worth.

1222. But the danger of his being there is removed;—and judging from what you have said, where danger is to be averted, the expense should not be considered? The company—not the man—should incur the expense. The office do not know whether a man is a miner, and they send him over just on his word that he is a miner. They come over, and we find that they are not miners at all. That is how they get into the mine.

1223. They simply represent themselves as miners in order to get work and the wages being paid? Yes.

1224. The only way to remedy that is by training up young men; and I understand you to say that, if you put a competent man with a boy or youth, the two will get through as much work as two competent men? Yes.

1225. And that the company might just as well pay them the full wages? Yes.

1226. Then, in the next contract you take, why not take on an apprentice? That is right enough; but there are other things to be looked at. Perhaps he may leave a place to come with me, and at the end of a fortnight I am offered a price and refuse it, because I do not consider it sufficient. I could probably get work somewhere else, but the young fellow would not. I have known lots of smart young fellows on the Proprietary, who have told me that they would like to give up trucking and go in to the face.

1227. What is the objection to apprentices going into the mines, and occupying the same grade as they would in other professions;—blacksmiths' apprentices and others get paid so much, according to their value? But, in the trades, they have not got the heavy work to do that an apprentice in the mines would have. The apprentices should be put on day-labour. They should not be put in the face with competent men, and at a lower wage be supposed to do, with a competent man, the work of two competent men.

1228. What age should apprentices be fixed at, and at what rate of pay? The age should be what the Act allows—16 years.

1229. How many years should an apprentice be supposed to work before being entitled to rank as a miner? Until he is thoroughly capable of taking the position of a miner. Some of them would never become competent.

1230. But you must fix a limit of time? I do not think you could fix a limit of time. A boy might be apprenticed to a trade, but never learn it.

1231. What would be the time for an ordinary youth? If a youth of 16 were to go underground with a man prepared to look after him—of course, more care than teaching is required, because he can see for himself what is to be done—after three years, if there were anything in him, he would be A.1, and capable of holding his own with ordinary men.

1232. Then you think a youth should be apprenticed for three years? Yes.

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1233. What rate of pay should he start on? Supposing a workman is worth 9s. a day, what should an apprentice be worth? It is a matter that you want to look at in a good many ways. I believe in a system of rate of pay being fixed, if you could possibly do it; but we must not forget this, that if we take a youth underground at 16, in ninety-nine cases out of 100 it is far different from a trade of any other kind. In a face, it is very heavy rough work they are called upon to do.
1234. Would you pay them at one-half? No, I would not give as low as that. If a boy at 16 is not worth more than half as much as a man he is a very poor lad. I do not think, at the lowest, the pay should be less than 7s. 6d.; that is, 1s. 6d. below the standard rate ruling in this district now.
1235. Do you not think that could be embodied in the regulations to the benefit of the miners? I do not see any need for such a regulation.
1236. I understand there is some objection at present to boys being taken into the face? It is being done. I do not say the boys are as young as 16.
1237. Is there not some objection by your society to any person going into a face at anything under full pay? That only applies to workmen.
1238. In addition to the danger arising from incompetent men, there is a good deal of unsteadiness among them, is there not? I do not think so.
1239. Many of them get drunk; and, after a heavy drunken bout, are they fit to go to work? I have never seen a man drunk. Provision is made in the regulations of the Proprietary Mine that men shall not be allowed to go underground if intoxicated. They have to pass two or three bosses before getting to their face, and would be detected.
1240. But a man might be sober, and just, perhaps, recovered from a drunken bout, and be unfit for work? I do not understand that feeling.
1241. But no doubt men do go into the mine in that nervous state brought about by drink? I have not experienced it myself. I have heard men say that they have a "fat" head. Of course, that may be applied in several ways.
1242. How long have you been working on contract in the Proprietary? Close on two years altogether. Out of that time I have not been more than three months on day work.
1243. I suppose your average wage is considerably more than you would ever make at day-labour? My average wage has been above day-labour, or I would not have gone on contract work.
1244. Would it be about 12s. 6d. a day? I do not think it would come up to 12s. 6d.
1245. Have you any objection to the contract system yourself? No. But the contract system here is not contract at all. I do not agree with the system applied on the Proprietary.
1246. *His Honor.*] What is that system? Nothing more nor less than piece work. If you take a stope, the foreman will come down and set you for a fortnight, or is supposed to set you for a fortnight. I believe, now, the fortnight is generally allowed to be worked out if possible; but at one time, if you were making money thought to be too good, they would take you away. They set you out work at so much per set. No number of sets is stated, but you are supposed to have enough to last you out the fortnight. It may be you are working in one stope to-day and another to-morrow. For instance, you are on the change, on the end of the fortnight; the two men on the day-shift are supposed to represent the party, and to agree with the foreman for the price, and they have either to accept it or refuse it. Another part comes very heavy. The afternoon men and the night men have to go and sign that contract before they can get their candles to go below. They do not know what the ground is like, unless they have worked there before. That system has been introduced within the last few months—not letting the afternoon and night men see the ground. The bosses hold the right of coming and stopping you at any moment. They can come and take you out of the face, and put you in any other part of the mine. They will stop you from what they call a contract. Then, something may occur that you want to get away, and you leave before the end of the fortnight. They, in that case, keep 25 per cent. back. But, if they like, they can come and take you away from where you are earning 12s. a day under the contract system and put you on day-labour at the ordinary daily wage, 9s. a day. And, if you refuse, you are sent up.
1247. *Mr. Edwards.*] It is only in urgent cases that you are taken away from your stopes, and then it is to go and see to some repairs that are required to be attended to? Yes; it is only on odd occasions.
1248. *His Honor.*] You are asked what price you will accept? Yes.
1249. Your price can be either accepted or refused? Yes.
1250. The boss has got a reserve price? Yes.
1251. And that is the limit? Yes.
1252. And if you refused to take it? There are generally parties waiting to go on.
1253. There is no calling for tenders? No; unless it is for sinking.
1254. *Mr. Edwards.*] I suppose this work varies in value? Yes.
1255. Sometimes they make as much as £1 a shift on it? Yes; and some of them have made 1s. 8d. a shift.
1256. I suppose the good and practical workman can always make better money than incompetent men? Yes; but sometimes they cannot get a very big price.
1257. But your average has been about 12s.? Yes; but I am not complaining.
1258. They let the contract, and, if you make £1 a shift out of it, they do not interfere with you in the fortnight? There have been exceptions to that.
1259. *His Honor.*] I suppose the quicker the ore comes out the better? Sometimes it goes out rather too quickly, and then men are kept back and remain idle for a little time. It is the opinion of the men that the engines could work the three shifts, and they would then keep up with the supply.
1260. *Mr. Edwards.*] Is it possible to frame any regulations that men will observe? I am only one of them, and I take it that I am not above the average; and I cannot see for the life of me what good can be done by the printing of regulations to compel men to do what their own common sense ought to tell them to do.
1261. Take the majority of the men—if they had a jumper handy to them when charging a hole, and they had a wooden tamping-rod a few yards away, which would they take up first? The wooden rammer.
1262. You think they would go to the trouble to get it? Yes.
1263. A wooden rammer is always provided wherever you have been through the stopes? Yes; wherever I have been in the Proprietary. You can always get a charge-stick whenever you go to the magazine.
1264. And that charging-stick is made of soft-wood? Yes.
1265. And is sufficient for all purposes? Yes.

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John Polkinghorne re-called and further examined:—

1266. *Mr. Edwards.*] Your last answer, on Tuesday, was that soft-wood tamping rods sufficient for all purposes were provided by the mines? Yes. J.
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1267. Do you consider the practice of "bulling" holes a dangerous one, or is it necessary in order to produce efficient work? That is a question that requires a lot of answers. Under certain circumstances, "bulling" holes is absolutely necessary. It is attended, no doubt, in some cases with great danger. "Bulling" is carried on extensively along this line of lode, which is such a big mass. It is considered necessary to put in large holes to bring about the result desired. It is found necessary, in the opinion of most men, that the explosive should be concentrated into as small a space as possible, or as near to the bottom of the hole as possible. Of course "bulling" brings about that result, and makes room for the charge to settle into the bottom of the hole. Where it is a great source of danger is in large holes. On the surface, for instance, I have seen holes "bulled" in the open-cuts that have sometimes shifted 100 tons. In my opinion a hole of that description, where the four or five plugs used for a "bull" would remove the whole burden, should not be "bulled." It may be that the man in charge of the work did not know the exact nature of the ground being bored. It may be that a slip was in the rock, which caused the whole burden to be removed by "bulling." This gives rise to great danger. Men are working in the bottom of the cut while "bulling" is going on above; and, if the "bulling" were to cause the burden to slip away, their lives would be in great danger. If men "bull" holes, there should be a limit. It is all very well to talk about wet ground or water; but unless there is a limit put to it—as to the time holes should be allowed to remain after being "bulled" before being charged—men will run great risks, and charge before they know whether the hole is fit or not. In a lot of the ground in the Proprietary where I have been accustomed to work, there are a number of joints, fissures, or crab-holes in the ground; and there is a great chance of fire being carried into those fissures when "bulling." I would not condemn the "bulling" practice in every instance; but I think a limit should be placed as to the time.
1268. The system of "bulling" is not objectionable;—it is the way it is carried out? It wants to be carried out with great care.
1269. As you say, the object of "bulling" is to concentrate the charge at the bottom of the hole and prevent the explosives rising up the drill-hole? Yes.
1270. Where you have a heavy burden in the open-cuts, it is absolutely necessary to get your explosive as low as possible? It is generally considered so. Men with greater experience than myself say they never "bull" a hole under any circumstances. It is my opinion that it is not absolutely necessary to "bull" all holes that are being "bulled"; but, in some cases, I think it is an improvement.
1271. You do more effective work with the same amount of labour and the same quantity of explosive? Yes.
1272. *His Honor.*] Do you think a certain limit of time ought to be fixed as to the time which should elapse after "bulling" and before re-charging? Yes; of course there may be some cases where water could be procured, and in a short time the hole could be re-charged with safety; but, if there is no restriction placed upon them, men will run the risk of charging in cases where they have not the necessary appliances to cool down.
1273. You would make no exception;—you think it better to have a fixed rule? Yes.
1274. What time would you fix? I do not think, in the case of a "bull," it would be safe to again charge the hole under an hour and a half. Of course, some holes can be re-charged in half-an-hour—that is, holes that are "bulled" with only a small amount of explosive. I have "bulled" hundreds of holes, and have found this to be the case; but, on the other hand, seeing that a large quantity of explosive is used in "bulling" most of the holes, which is necessary, owing to so many of the holes being put down a great depth, the limit should be fixed for those larger holes. This, as I have said, should not be less than an hour and a half.
1275. *Mr. Edwards.*] An hour and a half is already the time, I believe, that is fixed in the open-cuts? I do not know what time is fixed. That, in my opinion, should be the limit.
1276. With short holes underground, do you think one hour and a half should be the hard-and-fast limit, where plenty of water is provided? You see where it comes in—although there may be plenty of water to be got underground for cooling down holes, if you make no limit, abuse will follow.
1277. Men would not go to the trouble to get water? I do not think they would in some cases. If that restriction—the time limit—were placed upon men, they would run a risk of losing their places if caught infringing it. I might here say again that lots of holes are "bulled" underground that do not want "bulling."
1278. Do you think one rule should be made for both surface and underground, or do you suggest a different period for short holes underground from that for long holes above ground? There is not much "bulling" done underground unless for big holes, and I do not think there should be any difference. The same danger attends both. "Bulling" is only done underground when it is necessary to shift big burdens. A man "bulls" a hole underground, which dislodges a portion of the burden, as on the surface; and his mates, as they take very little notice of a "bull," do not get away to a safe distance, and part of the burden comes down on them. I think the "bulling" of a hole should be looked after as much as when a hole is properly charged.
1279. You think, then, one and a half hours should be the fixed limit? Yes.
1280. In reference to that Board of Inquiry referred to by you, I am not quite clear as to the basis of election that you suggested. I understood you to say that the election on the popular basis would not be fair to the mines. I think you will admit that from your experience in past elections? After looking at the matter from an impartial standpoint, I came to the conclusion that it was only fair that the owners should have a representative on that Board.
1281. One to be elected on the popular basis, one to be elected by the mine managers, and one to be appointed by the Government? Yes.
1282. And the duties of that Board would be simply to inquire into causes of accidents and to report to the Minister of Mines? Yes.
1283. That would be the whole of that Board's function? Yes.
1284. In reference to requiring two engine-drivers in the engine-house when lowering and raising men;—do you think that is necessary? I do.

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1285. The engine-driver generally has a cleaner with him in the engine-house? It must be understood that a cleaner, in the strict sense of the word, would not be a man who would be efficient to carry out the work.
1286. But, by analogy, if you require two engine-drivers to lower six men at a time, would it not be as necessary to have two engine-drivers on a train;—there you have only one engine-driver and a stoker, and sometimes you have 1,000 people in a train? Before a stoker is put on to a railway engine he has to serve a certain time in cleaning, and a certain time in the railway-yard on shunting work; and he has a knowledge of what is required of an engine-driver. In every case, I think, you will find that the man on the engine with the driver is as competent as the driver himself.
1287. Your reason for saying that you require two engine-drivers at the mines is that, in case one should fall down in a fit, the other would be there to avoid an accident? Yes.
1288. There has been no occurrence like that on the Barrier? I have not heard of one.
1289. That would be a very unlikely risk? It has occurred in parts of Australia.
1290. In the change of shift, men occupy from twenty minutes to half an hour—three times in twenty-four hours? Yes.
1291. And during the whole of the time the mine is working the men are going up and down? But at change of shift is the time when the driver has the two cages loaded with men under his charge.
1292. But during the whole of the day he is lowering someone or other down? Yes.
1293. And do not you think their lives are worth considering? Yes; but I say we should have two drivers at change of shift. If thought necessary, the owners could keep the two men on. At the change of shift, in the space of twenty minutes, often more than 200 men pass up and down. Perhaps through the day the same man might pass up and down twenty times; and sometimes the manager and sometimes a shareholder might go down. I take it that, if anything like I have stated happened when a shareholder was on board, it would be conducive to two men being put on. We, however, want to prevent anything of that sort happening, and would like to see an extra driver in every case put on at once.
1294. But do not you think, as all cages have to be supplied with safety appliances, that would be sufficient? If the chairs were in position, and the cage were to get away from the engine-driver, and run to the 300-foot level, it would cut through them and go to the bottom.
1295. I think you know that in the case of Bowden's, when the cage ran away with six men, it struck on the chairs at the 300-foot level;—the grip was then caught, and the cage was stopped within 3 or 5 inches? I was not on the Barrier at the time that accident occurred.
1296. You think, notwithstanding the cages being fitted with safety appliances, that two engine-drivers should be on duty at change of shift? Yes.
1297. Notwithstanding that the trains run throughout the world with only one driver;—you admit that it would be hard on small mines? Yes; it would be, to a certain extent.
1298. Do not you think that too many of these conditions would have the effect of checking mining operations, and therefore employment to a great extent;—I suppose you want to avoid that as much as possible? I want to see mining fostered as much as possible, and not too many hindrances placed upon it. I have seen my suggestion carried out on small mines. They had a blacksmith, and he was competent to take hold of the engine.
1299. But you said just now that no person should have charge of an engine unless he were a certificated engineer? There are scores of mine managers and scores of blacksmiths that hold engineers' certificates. Unless a man had a certificate—the engine-driver could refuse to allow him to put his hand on the engine. In Victoria, in many cases on the small mines, the manager himself is the engine-driver.
1300. But if you employed a blacksmith with an engineer's certificate he would necessarily expect to be looked upon as an engineer, and not as a blacksmith? Not necessarily.
1301. But then you could only employ a blacksmith who held an engineer's certificate? Only in the smaller places; and a blacksmith would have to be employed there.
1302. In reference to the dangerous places in the mines, I think you will agree with me that it is the duty of the workmen to report at once to the shift-bosses any dangerous places they might see? Yes.
1303. If they see any portion of the mine in a dangerous condition, it is their duty to report it? Yes.
1304. You heard the evidence of Mr. Bourne the other day;—that he noticed dangerous places in Block 14, and that it was not his duty to report it, it not being in his portion of the mine? I think it is everyone's duty to point out dangerous places.
1305. And, if workmen refuse to do this, they contribute in a great measure to accidents? Yes.
1306. You think negligence is strongly to be condemned? I think so; if a man looks only after himself he is a very selfish individual.
1307. You said that where a movement took place, and the inspector was called in, the men should not be allowed to return to that part until the sanction of the inspector had been obtained;—do you not think it would be a difficult matter to ascertain what was a serious movement, and what was a slight movement? I have seen in Block 11, since I have been working there, two or three small movements, such as stopes settling, where it would have been useless to send for the inspector to know what should be done. The man in charge took the men from the dangerous portion and had things made secure. In those cases, the man in charge and the men are the best judges as to whether the place is safe. If, however, the man in charge and the men find it necessary to call in the inspector, then the inspector should say whether it is safe to return to work.
1308. You say that the men working in the face, if they are competent men, are the best judges as to whether the ground is safe? Yes; they should be the best judges.
1309. After them would come the ganger or shift-boss? Yes.
1310. And after the shift-boss would come the foreman? Yes.
1311. Then comes the underground manager? Yes.
1312. Then the general manager? Yes.
1313. The men who are the best judges are the men who are actually engaged in mining operations in the face? Yes.
1314. *His Honor.*] But would not those men run very often a greater risk than a man who had no interest in the working of the mine one way or the other would think anybody ought to run? I think it should be to every man's interest to secure the welfare of the mine. I should be as much interested in the welfare of the mine I am working in as any shift-boss.
1315. It is the interest of everyone to keep the mine at work? Yes.
- 1316.

1316. That is where the inspector comes in as a valuable authority, because he has no interest one way or the other; all his interest is to see that lives are not lost? Mining on the Hill is different from what it is anywhere else in Australia. Subsidence has taken place in different parts of the mine, and the stopes have in some cases begun to drop, and if we were to wait until the inspector came it would mean the stopping of the whole of the block in a very short time; whereas, by repairing the damage at once, the men would incur no great danger, and the shrinkage would be stopped. I do not think the inspector should be discarded; but I say that in many cases along this line there are movements taking place which necessitate men being put on at once in order to save not only that portion, but other portions of the mine. I do not wish to take anything away from the inspector. He should have a free hand to go and inspect and condemn anything that he thinks is of a dangerous nature. The mines are being worked under a system which I do not think we could improve upon. The lode is so very large, and the inspector might go through this morning and pronounce everything secure, and, before he had gone four hours, a shrinkage might take place. It would be impossible for him or anyone else to know better than those working there how it had taken place. In those small cases it would be far better to have the work carried out at once by the man in charge. Not long ago, in Block 11, the underground manager was for sixteen hours supervising operations in connection with a small shrinkage. If, in that case, he had waited for the inspector, the shrinkage would have spread to a large extent. I do not think the inspector should be called upon at all hours to look after these small matters.

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1317. *Mr. Edwards.*] Then a great deal must be left to the discretion of the underground foreman? I would like it to be understood that I would not leave too much altogether in the hands of the foreman. I say that the men should not be asked to go into a place until they pronounced it was not necessary for an inspector to be called in. That protects the foreman; protects the men, and it puts the onus of whether it is safe for them to approach it on the inspector.

1318. *His Honor.*] Would you leave it this way: That if a certain number demanded that the inspector should pass the ground before they were allowed to return, then it should be necessary for him to do so? I would like the responsibility taken off the foreman. I would like to see a fair proportion of the men asked to give their opinion as to whether it was safe or not.

1319. Would you say a certain fixed number, as a proportion would be rather difficult to arrive at? There may be a shrinkage in a stope, and perhaps not more than six men in that stope. There would be in that case, taking the three shifts, eighteen altogether employed in that stope, but only six men on the one shift. It would, therefore, be difficult to fix a number. If you say four out of six, that would be a small number. But I think if it were left to the man in charge and the men employed in that portion, that would be all that was required.

1320. *Mr. Edwards.*] The only difficulty is, if the foreman said he thought it was safe, and five of the men agreed with him and one did not; if, then, an accident occurred, the foreman would be responsible? If one man said it was unsafe I do not think the foreman should compel him to go back. It would then be better to call in the inspector.

1321. Unless the men were unanimous, he would have to call in the inspector, no matter how small the creep might be? For his own protection he would do that. Looking at it from a practical point of view, that would be the safest thing for him to do.

1322. That would result, then, in the inspector's being sent for in every case where the men were not unanimous? Yes.

1323. Would not that hamper operations considerably, both to the detriment of the men and of the owners? I take it that the mine authorities do not want their men to rush into any unnecessary risk. They do not want their foreman to put men in any risk. Consequently, I think the managers would say that that suggestion would be the best. Their foreman would then be exonerated from any blame.

1324. Now you are working on contract;—there are three parties in the contract; perhaps two are willing to go on working, and the third is not; you would then be thrown out of employment in your contract until the inspector came? If I held it was safe, and my mate did not, he has just as much right to his opinion as I have to mine. It would be very selfish on my part—because I said it was safe—to expect others to say the same.

1325. Then the only way out of the difficulty is this: That where a manager or foreman orders men out of unsafe ground, he cannot put them back until the inspector has passed it? Only in the event of all the men not agreeing. If the shift-boss called them out, his first duty is to inform the foreman, and his other duty would be to ask the men whether they considered it a small creep or a big movement.

1326. *His Honor.*] It comes to the same old thing;—will it be by majority, a certain percentage, or what? The only thing, then, is to go outside my suggestion on that matter, and make it compulsory wherever men are called out that the inspector shall be called in.

1327. *Mr. Edwards.*] Supposing the foreman considered, in his judgment, that the ground was safe, would you allow those who agreed with him to go to work, and those who did not to go up aloft, only temporarily—not to be discharged from their contract—until the ground was made absolutely safe? I would not like to impute any wrong motives to any foreman that I know of now; but the foremen of to-day will not always be our foremen.

1328. You think in some cases the foreman might take a greater risk than would be justified? Yes; and I know from my own knowledge that there are hundreds of men who do not know whether they are running a risk or not.

1329. Supposing you were putting in a set, and there was a piece of hanging ground which looked dangerous, you would then send for an inspector;—it is an element of danger, and, if it falls upon a man, it would kill him just as much as a big lot? You would not want an inspector for that. If I were working in a part of a stope, and any piece of ground were left unsafe, I should consider it a very easy matter to secure it.

1330. Would it not be safe to do this: To leave the matter in the hands of the foreman, making him responsible for anything that might take place? I mean in ordinary movements, not in large cases;—in one case you have great responsibility left upon the foreman; in the other you have to send for the inspector before you can put the men back? In all cases like that the power is in the hands of the foreman, even now; and I do not think it should be taken away from him. The foreman is the man in those cases, and you should not want the inspector at all. My version is, that whenever it is required to call in the inspector—that is, when he has been called in by the men's orders—he should be the man to say when to go back.

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1331. Where the inspector prohibits men from going to work, they should not be allowed to return until he gives his consent? Yes. I take it this way: I am a worker, and, if I inform him that anything has taken place, it is his duty to proceed at once and inspect for himself; and, if he thinks my opinion correct, and that men should not work there until certain things are done, then he should say when the men are to go back.

1332. In other cases the matter might be left to the discretion of the foreman? Yes.

1333. In reference to men going off shift;—do you not think that it would lead to the greater safety of the men if, when going off shift, they pointed out to their mates anything that might be dangerous in the work? My experience has always taught me that the less smoke I eat the better. My plan has always been to leave blasting operations until about ten minutes before the time the men leave for the plat; and by so doing, do not inhale the smoke, and at the same time they can meet their mates at the plat; and in all cases where it has been advisable for them to see their mates, they do so. Whether they are competent or not, they take the cue from the older hands, and, as a rule, meet their mates and inform them what has been done. If there is any danger in the stope whatever, I do not think there is any man who would ascend the shaft unless he knew he could meet his mates and inform them of it. My general plan is to leave blasting until the last; so that during the time between my going off and my mates coming on there is a chance of the smoke's clearing away.

1334. You say, as a rule, men meet their mates; but exceptions happen, and it is on these exceptions that accidents happen;—you heard Mr. Bourne say that men leave the face in a wild condition, and that all men should remain in the face, and point out to their mates any dangers;—do you think that that is advisable;—you have heard him say that men, when they meet in the plat, are willing to talk about anything else except their work? That is not my experience.

1335. But that is the experience of other miners;—do you not think a rule should be passed compelling the men coming off to point out to their mates going on the condition of the face? It is not in my opinion advisable that the change should take place in the face. If that were brought about, there would be more slovenly work than now.

1336. Would it entail a greater expenditure of time than ten minutes, on an average, to point out anything dangerous in the face? If that were brought about, that men should change in the face, as soon as ever the shift going off knew that their mates were coming, instead of explaining to them as they would if they met them near the shaft, they would run off to catch the cage, and just call out, "You will find things all right."

1337. Supposing a regulation were framed with that object, and a penalty imposed for breach of it? But who shall know that a breach has taken place?

1338. The management say they will do everything in their power to prevent accidents; but they must have the co-operation of the men, and if they do not get that, it will be impossible to prevent these accidents? It is not at change of shift that accidents occur. They more often take place just about knock-off of shift.

1339. Is not that showing anxiety of men to get away from their work—scamping their work at the last moment? No; it is in the endeavour to get a set of timber in within the time.

1340. That is what I mean—hurrying through their work? But then you have to take this into consideration. That certain prices are given, and a certain amount of work must be got through in a certain time to earn a certain amount of money.

1341. But if I scamped work, and did it in a hurry, I would have to take the responsibility? Yes; if a man meets with an accident through his own carelessness, he alone should be to blame. I met with an accident myself. I do not say that it was exactly through carelessness. The price happened to be tight; and we had a chance to get away some dirt. I did this hurriedly, as I wanted to get away; and in doing so a lump came on to my foot. Of course, in that case no blame was attachable to anyone but myself. Do you think I would, in a case of that nature, turn round and say it was the fault of the company?

1342. You would not; but I have no hesitation in saying others would? If I saw an accident take place owing to a man's own neglect, and he blamed someone else, I would certainly stand up and say what I thought about it.

1343. To get back to the question;—on an average, could not all of this take place within ten minutes? No; in Block 11, where I have been employed, it will take more than ten minutes to come from some of the workings to where they have got to catch the cage.

1344. But, in other places, men are working handy to the plat; and it would not take them more than two or three minutes to get there? I do not know any portion of the mine where it would only take two or three minutes.

1345. Say, some took fifteen minutes, and others took five? It would take a quarter of an hour to get there, and a quarter of an hour to get back. I am now referring to Block 11. The men coming on would take the cage at the surface, and they would get out at the 400-foot level. They would then go on to McBride's shaft, get in there, and ride to the 500 or 600-foot level—whichever one they worked in. They would then have to go to where their mates were, and talk over things; and by the time the men they relieved had reached the surface, a half-hour would have elapsed.

1346. That would be an extreme case, and I admit that there would be a certain loss of time involved to the men; but do you not think the sacrifice of a little time should not weigh where the lives of men are concerned;—mind you, it would be a loss of time entailed on the part of the mine as well, and loss of time to them is money? If I am on a contract, and through some regulations I have to throw away during the twenty-four hours about two hours' work, that means a considerable loss; and, if the company is prepared to meet that, it would be all right; but so long as the rule stands that eight hours constitute a day's work, I do not think any regulation, no matter how binding you make it, will have any effect if it compels men to stay on beyond that time.

1347. No regulation will? I mean as regards the change of shifts.

1348. Do you not think it would tend to? No.

1349. In the face of Bourne's evidence that men go off and leave the face in a state of wild confusion, and will talk to their mates about anything except the condition of their face? I do not think that that man spoke the truth.

1350. Do you know that during the last couple of years there have been no less than eight cases where men have gone off shift and left unexploded holes without informing their mates—holes that have never had

had a match put to them? I do not know that that is a fact. If Mr. Horwood says so, of course I am prepared to accept it. I have never heard of it.

1351. In reference to the jurors on coroners' inquests, I think you know that the juries—at any rate, for some months past—are composed half of miners? It is not a fact.

1352. The police have instructions to that effect? I know it has not been so in all cases during the last six months. I do not think it is six months since Williamson was killed; and I am prepared to say that half of them in that case were not miners, and did not represent themselves as miners. I understand there is an instruction to that effect given to the police.

1353. *His Honor.*] I suppose there are men who get on a jury for the sake of being jurors, and misrepresent their qualifications? Yes; for the sake of the 5s.

1354. *Mr. Edwards.*] In reference to additional inspectors, I understand you to say that the very best men should be appointed as inspectors? Yes.

1355. You do not think that any Parliamentary experience would qualify a man as an inspector? No.

1356. Do you know that it is an open secret that one of the Members for this District has been trying to move Heaven and earth to be appointed to the Barrier? I do not know anything about it. I saw one time something in the *Barrier Miner* about (I think it was) Josiah Thomas being appointed; but I thought so little about it that I never took any notice of it. Because a Member of Parliament represents a mining district, it does not follow that he would make a competent inspector.

1357. It is an open secret that Mr. Thomas has, for months past, been trying to get appointed to this district? I have only seen that in the paper.

1358. And it is a funny thing that Mr. Thomas is prime mover in this inquiry;—as President of the A.M.A., did you ask for this Inquiry? No.

1359. Did the men? No; not through the Association. It was never asked for. You have asked me as President of the A.M.A. Although I am not President to-day, I have held that position for the last six months. I do not come here in the capacity of a plaintiff. I have come here to give evidence; and I am here to-day giving evidence on my own behalf.

1360. I understand thoroughly. You came here as an experienced miner to assist at the Inquiry. A short time ago, there was a searching inquiry made in Ballarat as to the effect of tamping, and not tamping, dynamite. It was shown that, in cases where dynamite or glycerine compounds were not tamped sufficiently to exclude the air, they gave forth gases highly injurious;—have you read that report? I do not think I have.

1361. Can you give any evidence on that matter as a practical miner? I think from my practical observation that if glycerine compounds are burned in any way they do throw forth gases which are highly injurious to health and to life. The instructions given by the manufacturers of these explosive compounds point out the great danger of putting the fuse into the cartridge. The cap should not be inserted more than two-thirds or three-quarters of the way, so that it would not allow the fire from the fuse to ignite the compound before it had time to explode. In my opinion, that is the cause of the burning in most cases; not that the air has not been kept away. There is a great difference of opinion as to whether 1 lb. of glycerine compound will do the same amount of work if not tamped as it would if tamped. My opinion is that the air should be kept from it in all cases if possible; and, by putting a certain amount of sand or water on the charge, you would obtain that result; and it would make the charge more solid.

1362. Have you ever compared the death-rate from accidents in the mines here with the death-rate from accidents in other mining centres? I have looked at it from my own point of view; and I have said many a time that, when we take all things into consideration, the fatal accident list here is not very much greater than that in other mining districts.

1363. You have never made a comparison? I think there are some places that will come up to the average of Broken Hill.

1364. Ballarat or Bendigo, for instance? I see in to-day's *Barrier Miner* that there were five fatal accidents at Ballarat during the past year to members of the local A.M.A., which has a membership of 1,650.

1365. Have you any idea as to the rate per thousand here during the past eight years;—do you keep any record in your Association? I have never heard of any record being kept by the Association.

1366. You have no idea of the rate per thousand of fatal accidents? The death-rate per thousand here would be, I think, just about the same as that at Ballarat. That is, taking the A.M.A. list.

1367. You worked at Bendigo? Yes; for several months.

1368. There they have most stringent regulations? Yes; in most cases.

1369. And an ample system of inspection? The inspection was just the same as we get here. Whether an alteration has taken place since I was there I do not know. It is over twelve years since I was at Bendigo.

1370. I suppose the miners there got all the inspection they thought necessary? Whether they got all they thought necessary, I am not prepared to say.

1371. *His Honor.*] Have you any idea how many miners were working on the whole field of Bendigo then? The rough estimate was between 8,000 and 9,000; that is, in the whole district.

1372. Do you know how many inspectors there were for that district? One, I think, at that time. There is another thing I would like to suggest that was in the regulations in Victoria when I was there eleven years ago. When men are riding on buckets, appliances should be used for their safety. Over in Victoria, a rope is brought into use, by which it is impossible for a man to fall out of a bucket. This was found necessary owing to two or three men having fallen from the bucket when ascending the shaft. The adoption of this rope would entail very little cost. Should even giddiness overtake a man, and he loses his senses, he would still be quite safe, as the rope, which is fastened under his arms, would keep him in position. I have, myself, experienced the value of this rope. It leaves your arms free. There was also another contrivance in use in Victoria when I was there. They had discarded the use of all common hooks, and the tumbler-hook was brought into use very extensively, which hook, I believe, is being used very extensively here. They ultimately, however, adopted a shackle-hook. This hook provides a very easy mode for changing the rope from one bucket to another. It is a very safe mode, in my opinion, and I would like to see it adopted where the rope has to be changed. It is one of the safest couplings that can be used over men's heads.

1373. That was not provided by the regulations, but used by the mine managers? I do not think it was embodied in the regulations.

1374.

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1374. *Mr. Edwards.*] They are always making improvements in these safety-hooks? I have seen several attempts to improve upon them.
1375. I think the tumbler-hook, or else some improved safety-hook, is used here? I have never done any sinking here, and I do not know what is generally used. It is only a suggestion on my part. In my opinion, a common hook should not be used.
1376. By a common hook, you mean an ordinary open hook? Yes.
1377. A common grip-hook is safe? Safe for most purposes; but I do not care what hook is used, even if a tumbler-hook, unless used with care, there is a great deal of danger in connection with it. It needs care to properly adjust it. In this hook I speak of, you have to put in a pin before the load will go away, and once this pin is put in it is impossible for it to come out.
1378. Could you produce a sketch? I will produce one to-morrow.
1379. *Mr. Williams.*] You referred to the character of the Proprietary ground. You said something about crab-holes;—do you consider that ground, particularly, more dangerous than in other localities where you have worked—say, in South Australia? In what direction do you wish me to say more dangerous?
1380. You spoke about crab-holes, which, you said, might render "bulling" more dangerous? I was speaking of the Proprietary simply because I have gained most of my experience there. Of course, in answering your question, it can be looked at in two or three different ways. I said that it might be the fire getting into crab-holes when "bulling" that caused an explosion when a hole was too quickly re-charged. Any further than that, I do not see that that sort of ground is any more dangerous than any other sort of ground.
1381. If there were not those crab-holes there would not be so much liability of holes exploding out of their place? Other than those holes, I cannot see that the ground is more dangerous than any other.
1382. Have you had any experience in "bulling" other than on the Proprietary Mine? No.
1383. In giving evidence, you are speaking of the Proprietary Mine? I have "bulled" holes at other places besides on the Barrier.
1384. You are speaking, then, from your experience of the possibility of such a danger accruing from the nature of the ground. Your experience has taught you to more particularly take notice here? Crab-holes did not originate on the Barrier. I have found them in other places. From my observations, crab-holes are a source of danger, which would not be present in more compact ground.
1385. Your previous experience leads you to the knowledge that in compact ground there is not the danger of those faults; and, therefore, the danger of premature explosion is greatly lessened thereby? Yes.
1386. You having worked in ground of that nature, and being accustomed to the mode and operation of "bulling," would not that make you more competent to observe ground here? Yes.
1387. Would not such technical experience acquired at other places lead you to be more correct in your observation here than an inexperienced man? If experience gained at other places is not of any benefit to a man he cannot be much good.
1388. Have you observed any crab-holes on the Proprietary? Underground we are constantly coming across what we term crab-holes.
1389. And you have "bulled" holes underground in the Proprietary Mine? Yes.
1390. You are acquainted with Rules 8 and 9 of the Surface Rules [*Exhibit B*]? Yes.
1391. Do you know whether the hours specified therein are observed? I have seen blasting operations carried on outside those hours.
1392. What time besides the hours specified have you seen blasting carried on? From 4:15 to 4:45 p.m.
1393. Then this rule (No. 8) has not been carried out in its integrity. It says that:—
Blasting on the surface and in the open-cuts (except "bulling" of holes) is only permitted between the following hours, viz., 2 a.m. to 2:30 a.m.; 6:45 a.m. to 7:15 a.m.; 12 noon to 12:30 p.m.; 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and 9 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- You say you have seen blasting going on before 5 p.m.? I have seen blasting being carried on before 4:30 p.m.; I might say from 4:15 to 4:45 p.m. I do not say that I have seen it on a great many occasions at this time.
1394. Would those occasions be the exception or the general rule? They are more the exception than the general rule.
1395. The next sentence of that rule says:—
Should blasting be considered necessary in any exceptional case at times other than above, it may be done only with the permission of the company's surface foreman.
- I suppose you would not know much about that? No.
1396. It then goes on to say:—
When shots are about to be fired, contractors, or those in charge of blasting operations, must station men with red flags at all approaches to the work to warn off all persons by calling out, and repeating in a loud voice, the word "Fire!" and at the same time displaying the red flags, and notice must be specially given to all persons inside of buildings within a dangerous distance of where the blasting is going on.
- Could you say from your experience whether that has been carried out in its entirety? I could not say. I have seen them standing around with flags in different places. I have been told that firing was going on while I have been in the changing-room. I am not in a position to say whether that rule is carried out in its entirety.
1397. As a matter of fact, you have notice given to you in the changing-room that firing is going on? In some cases. There might, in some cases, be notice given to the changing-house, and I not being there at the particular time would not hear it.
1398. You have been in the changing-room and heard notice given? Yes.
1399. What time would that be? At the change of day shift.
1400. At what time would you be in the changing-room? The last cage is not later than 20 minutes to 5.
1401. What shaft do you come up generally? Weatherley's.
1402. How long does it take you to get from the top of the shaft to the changing-house? I have never timed myself, but I suppose you could do it in two or three minutes.
1403. Have you any idea what the distance is? About 10 chains.
1404. You think a man could get to the changing-house within five minutes? Yes.
1405. And the latest time the last cage arrives is about 20 minutes to 5? It would be an exception for the cage to be so late as that, 1406.

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1406. Which do you generally come up by? The first I can get. It depends upon what level you are working in.
1407. What level are you working in? The middle one.
1408. And you generally come up from there? Yes.
1409. What is about the time the first of the miners arrive at the surface? Some of them get there about 3 minutes past 4 o'clock—that is, those who catch the first cage.
1410. From 5 minutes past 4 to 20 minutes to 5, the whole of the men would be up? Yes.
1411. And you have received notice that firing was being carried on while you were changing? Yes.
1412. Have you seen any flags exhibited? Yes.
1413. The regulation that I have referred to further says that all persons so warned must retire to places of safety;—do you consider the changing-house a place of safety? No.
1414. Did you retire to places of safety? No.
1415. That regulation further says that no charge shall be fired until five minutes shall have elapsed after the giving of the first warning;—is it your experience that the men in the changing-room receive warning that they must retire to a safe distance? I do not think so.
1416. Have they been called upon to do so? I take it that no blasting shall, according to the regulation, be carried on within a certain time, unless special permission is obtained from the surface foreman; therefore, the surface foreman should, I think, satisfy himself that no one was in immediate danger.
1417. You think he should exercise his discretion? I would rather see him not have the discretion to allow firing to be carried on within the time fixed in the regulation for blasting not to be carried on. To fire within those hours on Block 11 is dangerous.
1418. The regulation says that notice must be specially given to all persons inside of buildings within a dangerous distance of where the blasting is going on;—what distance on Block 11 would the blasting be from the changing-house? I have seen where holes have been fired within 300 feet.
1419. Would you consider that a dangerous distance? Yes; the rocks come through the roof at that distance.
1420. You say rocks come through the roof;—do you mean the roof of the changing-house? Yes.
1421. And has this occurred while the men were changing? Yes.
1422. While the men are in that changing-house, is there any official present? There is generally a watchman there at change of shift.
1423. Is he the person who gives the special notice when required? He is the one that generally sounds the note of warning inside. I have generally heard the warning sounded by the watchman.
1424. It is very essential that the watchman should look after the men's interests? We do not want watchmen—we want a hard-and-fast rule that no blasting shall take place within a certain time.
1425. Who is the surface foreman? Mr. Hanson, I suppose.
1426. Have you seen Mr. Hanson about when these blasting operations have been going on? I could not say that I have specially noticed him about at those particular times.
1427. Do you think this watchman was doing his duty unless he saw you go to a safe distance, and that within the time provided, viz., five minutes? I do not think so.
1428. Can you say that that five-minutes' interval has always been given? I do not know; I always try to get away as soon as possible.
1429. You think that this watchman has not carried out the regulation drawn carefully up by the management for your safety; and you think that any man who stands there, and does not see you retire to a place of safety, is not carrying out the wish or intention of the manager? I cannot say that such was the case. I want to see no exception made to carrying on blasting outside the hours fixed for it in the regulation.
1430. But that would be rather hard on the company? But exception to that should not be allowed at change of shift.
1431. You have just made a suggestion as to an improved hook for the purpose of saving life;—do you not think it would be just as incumbent upon you to suggest that such an exception as provided for in Regulation S should not be allowed to take place at change of shift? I have suggested that.
1432. You suggest that Rule S of the Proprietary Company shall include a provision that such an exceptional permission shall not be given at change of shift? I would like to point out that shooting and firing, no matter how much of it, would not interfere with them at Block 12. I think the Proprietary Company, from what they have now heard, will stop firing within dangerous hours at places like Block 11, where the changing-house is so close. As to Block 12, the cutting over there might start again. If it did, it would be a terrible blast that would interfere with the men in the changing-house of that block. The changing-room there is in such a position that blasting operations in the open-cut could not interfere with it.
1433. Would you couple with that recommendation something stating the distance;—one you consider to be within a dangerous proximity, and the other you consider is not? The question I am on, and the one I am trying to answer, is as to the time specified in that regulation. What should be provided is that no exceptional permission be given at change of shift when the changing-room, with perhaps its 100 men inside, is within dangerous proximity to the firing.
1434. With regard to Rule No. 9 [*vide Surface Rules, Exhibit B*], have you ever observed men in the open-cuts while blasting or "bulling" operations were going on? Yes.
1435. How many would there be at a time—fifty or sixty or half a dozen? I do not know whether fifty or sixty. I have seen men at the bottom of the cut when charging operations have been going on on some of the ledges.
1436. As a matter of fact, there would be men engaged in operations as quarrymen, and the "powder-monkey" at the same time going on with the charging? Yes.
1437. Rule 9 says:—

No holes are to be charged (unless for "bulling" purposes) with any kind of explosive whatsoever, whilst workmen, other than those actually engaged in charging, are in the quarries or cuts; and, before placing the charge in any hole for the purpose of "bulling" it, the powder-man (know as the "powder-monkey") shall give due warning of his intention to charge same, when all workers are required to leave the part of the face or work which will be affected by the explosion (whether prematurely or otherwise) of the "bulling" charge.

Would it surprise you if anyone came here and gave evidence that they had been struck with anything coming from a "bull"? It would not surprise me. I cannot say that I have ever seen many men under
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when "bulls" have been fired. I have, however, seen men in places that I would not stop in. Some clear out of the cut altogether; others get so used to it that they will not bother getting away. I do not know how these men have got in the positions I have seen them in.

1438. They have been in a position you would not care to be in yourself? Yes.

1439. You would expect the man in charge to ask them to retire to a place of safety? Yes.

1440. You would expect the shift-boss to be human as well as any other man? Yes.

1441. You said just now that you thought an hour and a half should elapse after "bulling"? Yes.

1442. And, in reply to a question put by Mr. Edwards as to the difference in the nature of the ground, you thought that both long and short holes should have the one fixed time limit? Yes.

1443. The Proprietary rules also say that:—

Before charging a "bulled" hole sufficient time shall be allowed to elapse for the hole to cool off, varying according to the nature of the material and the weight of the charge; and every care is to be taken to ascertain that the hole is cool before beginning to charge for the blast.

Is it not your idea that that clause is the outcome of practical experience in such work on the part of the framers? What I say is, that the whole set of regulations, both for underground and for surface, are only such regulations as every common-sense man should take as a standard to work upon. They are only common-sense rules—only rules that every miner should know.

1444. You take it that those rules are the outcome of common-sense, experience, and judgment on the part of those who drew them up? Yes; but I take exception to one or two clauses in them.

1445. You think there is a possibility of amending them in one or two instances? The time for firing, in my opinion, is the best; but there should be no exception allowed.

1446. With regard to this varying nature of the ground, they have given us what they consider to be the outcome of their experience when they say, "varying according to the nature of the material and the weight of the charge"? Yes.

1447. You think these rules are nothing but what every man who has common-sense to exercise would follow out for himself? Yes.

1448. "Before charging a 'bulled' hole, sufficient time shall be allowed to elapse for the hole to cool off," &c.; do you not think they should fix a certain time;—would you recommend that an hour and a half be inserted in that rule? Certainly.

1449. You would suggest that the company's rules be amended accordingly, and that in case of these rules being copied and brought under a new Mining Act such a time limit should be adopted? I think the general rules for the working of a mine should not be incorporated in a Mining Act. There is not another district in Australia that would require the same rules as the Barrier.

1450. Rule 12 says:—

A safe exit from open-cuts or quarries for the use of all men employed therein shall be made and maintained in good order by the contractors.

You would strongly favour such a rule as that? Yes; I certainly think that should be provided. I would like to say that I think every mining company should have a code of their own rules for the guidance of their workmen, and I think that, while we have inspectors of the highest ability, they should be able to say whether the regulations drawn up by any particular company are sufficient.

1451. *His Honor.*] You would like to see the rules of the different mining companies passed by some authority, say, the Minister for Mines, on the report of the local inspector, before they became operative? Yes; I would not like to see one hard-and-fast set of rules to apply everywhere.

1452. What you would prefer to see would be an authority controlling the rules which should be made operative for any particular mine? Yes; that would allow more elasticity.

Inspector Hebbard: Sub-section (ii) of clause 3 of the Government regulations says that an inspector shall have power to inquire respecting the sufficiency of the special rules (if any) for the time being in force in any mine.

1453. *Mr. Williams.*] Rule 18 reads:—

Where cranes or other overhead appliances are used, workmen shall not stand under the skip or load, or within reach of such overhead appliances.

You would strongly recommend that that be carried out above everything? Yes.

1454. It has been stated that the unexpected sometimes happens; therefore, to meet these unexpected, unforeseen, accidents, a certain amount of discretion should be allowed to those engaged in blasting operations? I do not believe in too much discretion being allowed anyone. It must be borne in mind that you could not get twenty men out of 100 that would adopt the same course in blasting, and I think there should be no discretion at all. It is no use saying that they have got to adopt a certain method. The word "discretion" is not the proper word to be used in this case. So long as the amount of explosive and the time limit were fixed, that is all we need regulate. Commonsense would do the rest.

1455. *His Honor.*] What I understand you to infer is that it is no use making laws which men may break if they like? I believe in making laws that it is possible for people to keep. Rather than make laws that people cannot keep, have no laws at all and depend upon commonsense.

1456. *Mr. Williams.*] As there is a great deal of danger attending blasting operations, the persons so engaged should have sufficient knowledge to know how to handle explosives safely? Certainly.

1457. Would you allow blasting operations to be carried on by men who have not sufficient knowledge to take care of their own lives, let alone others? No.

1458. How would you stop them? Not by Act of Parliament. If they are known to be not trustworthy, then the best thing is to have them dismissed.

1459. What method or system would you advocate for the shift-bosses to adopt in order to arrive at the conclusion whether men were capable? I think the majority of the shift-bosses that I have come across on the Barrier, with one or two exceptions, do not want to see a man lift a hammer or pick very long before arriving at his value.

1460. But a man may not be a good hammerman, and be a skilled man for all that; he may not be a flash hammerman, but yet be as effective in his way? I do not think the practical shift-boss really uses that as a test, but merely as an excuse to tell them to go. The majority of the shift-bosses are good practical men, so far as the Proprietary is concerned. They can tell, as a rule, when a man takes his candles at the candle-house, whether he is a miner.

1461. You admit that it is quite possible a man may not be a good hammerman and yet be a good man for timbering? He might be a good timberman and have no idea how to make room for the timber.

1462. Can you tell us any other method for gauging a man's competency besides using commonsense in asking a question or two, or handling candles;—would you make any suggestion to be adopted in this respect? I would leave it to the shift-bosses.

1463. And you say the shift-bosses are competent? Yes; they can go into the face and do a day's work.

1464. From your experience of the Miners' Association, you think they are always desirous of promoting that end, that competent men should occupy that position? Not only the Miners' Association, but every other organisation that is organised for the welfare of the community, has that end in view—the appointment of the best men where life and limb are brought under their charge.

1465. You have been President of the Miners' Association for the last six months? Yes.

1466. And from your intimate acquaintance with those things, cannot you say that the A.M.A. would be glad to see the company served by the best men they can get? The A.M.A.'s wish is that the very best men shall occupy those positions.

1467. And you would repudiate with scorn any opinion to the contrary as coming from the A.M.A.? Yes.

1468. What would be your idea as to the qualifications of the "powder-monkey";—would you suggest an examination of that man, or that he be selected from his previous knowledge in the mine—I am referring now to open-cuts? I believe in efficient men holding those positions. Before a man is placed in the position of "powder-monkey" he should be known as a most efficient man. He need not have received his training in the mine at which he is appointed; but it should be known that he is capable. In fact, all men should be certificated. As soon as they get to such a stage as to be considered competent, they should receive a certificate, which would be of use to them, and a guide to those employing them.

1469. You think "powder-monkeys" should be certificated men? Yes.

1470. How would you suggest they get their certificates? From a Board consisting of (say) the Government Inspector, a man nominated from the employers, and another from the employees? In some parts of the Colonies there are managers who do not know whether a man is a miner or not. They have been simply pitchforked into their positions. I would not like to see a man of that class on a Board. I have seen men come here from other places with certificates who have known nothing about mining whatever. I know of one case where a man had been minding sheep for fifty years, and then spent three months in digging a hole for a manager, and for that managed to get a certificate as a miner.

1471. *His Honor.*] I think you suggested that the managers should themselves be certificated, as they are in coal-mines? Yes.

1472. You think that whatever the authority is that is appointed to give the managers their certificates will be the proper authority to give all other certificates? Yes; but I am looking at it further away than that. A man goes, say, to West Australia; he gets a testimonial in the manner I have just stated; he comes to Broken Hill, and he is employed on it.

1473. But he has not a certificate at all;—a Government certificate would be a certificate under an authority of some kind? If a manager were a certificated man, he would be sufficient authority. I do not think there is a manager who would refuse a testimonial where one was deserved.

1474. But you would not rely upon them as real certificates of competency where you thought a certificate of competency was necessary? I think a certificated manager would be sufficient authority to give a certificate to a man. He would have to take care of his reputation, and would give certificates to none other but deserving parties.

His Honor: But you know how difficult it is for a manager to refuse a certificate at times. A man may have been working for a manager for years, and all the time the manager may be aware that he is almost a born fool, and yet not like to refuse him a certificate when he leaves. He would not, however, do it if he were in the position of a Board with a duty cast upon him of giving or refusing a certificate.

Mr. Edwards: The worst of it is that, if we have too many certificated men, the certificates would probably be passed from one to the other.

Mr. Williams: You consider the suggestion by *His Honor* the best: that men shall be examined for their certificates by men constituting a Board, and who are themselves certificated men?

His Honor: My idea is that, if it is essential that men should be certificated, either as "powder-monkeys," engine-drivers, or anything else, the Board appointed to grant these certificates should also be the authority to pass managers, under-managers, and so on.

Mr. Williams: Yes; that would maintain uniformity of competency, and would be a sufficiently conclusive authority.

1475. *Mr. Williams.*] You would have no objection, Mr. Polkinghorne, to a Board of that kind? No; I was going on easier lines in suggesting that a certificated manager be allowed to grant a certificate. I do not think abuse would follow if my suggestion were carried out, because no manager would endanger his reputation.

1476. Do you think a "powder-monkey" should be certificated? If that man has got his place through a certificate as a practical miner, I do not think it is necessary that he should be called upon for further qualifications to act as a "powder-monkey."

1477. Do you think, then, that a "powder-monkey" should have a certificate? I say they should all be certificated men. Under the existing circumstances, the manager or under-manager, or whoever has got to do with the employment of the "powder-monkey," should be held responsible for his efficiency.

1478. While no certificates are in force, an examination by the manager or under-manager should be sufficient;—you have expressed an opinion that every man should be certificated, and I will ask you now as to the constitution of the Board that will grant the certificates;—are you in favour of a Board being appointed, to consist of three members, in the way I have suggested? Do you mean that this Board is to examine on practical mining or on theory: it must be a practical examination, I take it. If so, and providing the mining inspector could always attend, the Board would not be a bad idea. It is my opinion that every man should have a certificate, and that, in order to get one, he must go through some examination.

1479. You think the constitution of such a Board would be a good idea? Yes.

1480. Would you not give the representative of the employees the right to challenge the qualification of
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1481. You would recommend the appointment of such a Board as that? Yes.

1482. As to the change of shifts in the face, I would take it to be that the intention is rather to preserve lives than to cause men to work ten or fifteen minutes longer. Have you received the impression from the questions put to you by Mr. Edwards in seeking to elicit your opinion with regard to the change of shift in the face that it is to safeguard lives of miners rather than to make them work extra time? To be plain, I do not think that the safeguarding of the miners' lives is the only object in view in seeking to bring about the changing of shifts in the face.

1483. If the object in view be the safeguarding of lives, could you suggest the adoption of a report-book, in which any danger could be recorded, so that, if you missed your mates, the information would be in the book for their guidance? That would save changing in the face; and at the same time you would not be endangering your mates? When there is any danger to be reported to your mates there is no fear of your missing them. There are always two of you, and one can stop in the plat and the other get into the cage. That is the present mode, and I do not see how it could be improved upon.

1484. They do that? Yes.

1485. If they are doing that now, why alter a good thing;—you would be quite content for things to remain as they are in that respect? Yes.

1486. You think the pointing out of dangerous places in the face is provided for in every way by the miners? Yes.

1487. Is there any possibility of the shift-bosses being unacquainted with dangerous places in the face;—do you think that they, having the charge of the men's lives, should be acquainted in some way with all dangerous places? I am not a shift-boss, and am not likely to be. That is a question to be put to a shift-boss.

1488. Is there any method at present obtaining by which the shift-bosses get an acquaintance with dangerous places previous to their general inspection of the mine? Marks are put up showing dangerous places.

1489. As to the best authority to know whether ground is dangerous, you think the miner would be the one who would know best whether there was any danger in the ground where he was working? Yes; I think the men actually working in the ground know most about its dangers. Take, for instance, the underground manager. You could not expect him to know as well as the men actually employed there what was going on in a face. I do not want it to be taken from my answer that I infer that the shift-bosses are inferior to the men.

1490. You mean that the miner, on account of working there, would know more about the danger of that immediate vicinity than the shift-boss, who only periodically visits it;—the shift-boss would know less, generally speaking? Yes.

1491. Then, according to the law of comparison, the manager would have to rely upon subordinate officials; and, to a great extent, he would be benefited by the employment of competent miners? Certainly.

1492. As to withdrawing men from dangerous ground and reinstating them, you say that in the case of six men being ordered out, and after the danger has been attended to, one of them, not thinking it safe enough to return, he should not be forced to do so against his will; and you believe in providing him with a fair method for securing the safety of his own life? Yes.

1493. When the inspector calls men out, you think he is the proper person to send them back again? Yes.

1494. In cases where it is not thought necessary to call in the inspector, and the foreman calls them out, and five out of the six are in favour of going back, and one is not, how would you get over the difficulty, supposing the danger to be due to hanging ground? Looking at it from a practical point of view, I can only see one answer to your question. If a man thinks his life is in danger from such a cause, he need only stand out a few minutes, when the danger will be passed. Of course, in such a case as that, there would be no necessity to call in the foreman.

1495. But where it is considered necessary to call the foreman in? Where it is seen necessary by the foreman or the man-in-charge to call in the services of the inspector, the onus should lie on the inspector to say when the men should be readmitted.

1496. But when the foreman calls the men out on his own responsibility, and, say, five are in favour of going back, and one not, how would you get over the difficulty? If five went back and an accident happened, the responsibility would rest entirely upon the foreman. The fact of one refusing to go in would show that there were still defects. If I were a foreman, I would, in a case like that, have the weight taken off my shoulder by calling in the inspector.

1497. You admit the possibility that, in such a case, the five men who consent to go back might be inexperienced, and the one man who refuses might be the only experienced man of the lot, and, therefore, see danger where the others would not? Yes.

1498. *His Honor.*] The question is this: Would you allow that one man the right to have the inspector called in before the others could go back, or would you allow him the right to be treated as committing no breach of the regulations if he insisted on staying out until the place was passed by the inspector;—would you allow him, in fact, to control the others, or only his own action? Each man should bear the burden of his own folly if anything happened. The foreman would be only one out of six. The responsibility should not be thrown upon his shoulder altogether if five said it was safe, providing of course that those five were competent miners; and I take it that a foreman would see that he did not have incompetent men under him.

1499. What should be the rule? It would be unwise, in my opinion, to make a regulation in respect to that. I certainly think that, if the men were satisfied that the inspector was not required at the time they were called out, and that if the foreman considered it was fit for them to go back, and the men considered so at the same time, the onus should be taken off the foreman. If one man stood out, he should have the untrammelled right to appeal to the inspector for an inspection of the place. At the same time, if any accident happened in the meantime, the sole responsibility should not rest upon the foreman, seeing that five of the men themselves considered the ground safe.

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1500. *Mr. Williams.*] As to the other man, if he is not satisfied—and the possibility is that he might be the most experienced man of the lot—you would recommend that he have the right to appeal to the inspector, or even to another official;—you would not compel that man to go in at the risk of his life when he did not think the ground safe? No person would compel me to go in.

1501. *His Honor.*] He should have a right to exercise his own judgment until the inspector was sent for and inspected the place? I do not mean that the one man who stood out should control the action of the five others.

1502. *Mr. Edwards.*] You mean that no man should be forced to undergo a risk that he would not undergo voluntarily? Yes.

1503. *Mr. Williams.*] Do you think the appointment of sub-inspectors by the companies on their own properties would be of any use in seeing that the regulations were carried out? I think that all the precaution that the companies can be reasonably asked to take is already provided by means of the shift-bosses, who are really sub-inspectors. I do not think any system of sub-inspection, further than what they already have, would be of any benefit.

1504. As to the men changing shift, and the on-coming men not being aware of anything that has occurred in the previous shift;—what time would the shift-bosses come up? There is supposed to be always one shift-boss underground in the Proprietary—during lunch-time and the changing of shifts; in fact, throughout the twenty-four hours.

1505. Was that your experience in the Central? I do not think so; but it is two years since I left there. In the Proprietary, a shift-boss is in the mine at the change of the different shifts, and one has to remain below during lunch-time. That has been so for the last three months.

1506. What mines have you worked in on the Barrier? The Proprietary and the Central, and at the Pinnacles.

1507. You know they have watchmen on the surface? Yes.

1508. You would not care to see that system extended underground;—you do not see the necessity for it? No.

1509. Is it your experience that noxious fumes arise from the explosion of dynamite and other explosives, and injure the health of the miners? Yes.

1510. If they were compelled to remain in the face, and to fire at the end of the shift, they would have to swallow a considerable amount of this gas? If it were compulsory to always relieve in the face and to examine it after blasting, in many instances that result would follow.

1511. Is it your opinion that more accidents occur at the finish of the shifts than at the beginning? I do not know whether we take more notice of an accident occurring at the finish of a shift, but it appears very plain to me that more accidents occur at that particular time.

1512. As far as you know, accidents have taken place more often from men blasting their own holes than from men coming in and firing other men's holes? From my experience, I know of no accident resulting from blasting.

1513. You have heard of the British accident? Yes.

1514. What order is there in firing in the stopes? It depends upon the requirements of the different faces. When a party require to fire, they give the necessary warning to the others around, and the firing is then carried out. Should, however, another charge near by be almost ready for firing, they will then perhaps wait, and both will fire off together. There is no fixed rule as to whether it shall be the bottom party or the top party who shall fire first. If such a rule were fixed, there might be no firing at all, because all through the shift the top party might not want to fire.

1515. As a rule, when firing, you go one way to give notice, and your mate another? Yes; if there is a party below us, we ask them to keep watch in their direction; and we then both ascend in different directions. If there is no party below, we go one each way.

1516. That is a strict rule in the Proprietary—that every man shall take every precaution he can to prevent men approaching when an explosion is about to take place? Yes.

1517. One goes up and the other down, providing there is no one near you? Yes.

1518. With regard to the tests recently carried out in Ballarat;—do you think it would be beneficial if the mining authorities circulated such information for the benefit of the miners? The best test regarding those noxious fumes is for a man to have a smell of them. Practical knowledge is far better than any theory. With a theoretical knowledge you run risks; but, if you have just one dose of the glycerine compound, you will be very careful that you do not get the second. But a man should not be employed in connection with those things unless he knows how to handle them. Unfortunately, many have to handle them who are totally ignorant of the probable results. There are times when this burning of an explosive takes place, and you cannot get away from it. I have seen such a case in Block 11. Another party were firing—the case I speak of happened only two months ago—and we got in what we thought to be a safe position. We were five floors above; and there was no chance of the blast throwing any of its burden to us. We could just see the corner of the hole through the floor; and, instead of exploding, the charge burned, throwing a glare throughout that part of the mine, and spreading about gases which made it impossible to get near that particular part for hours afterwards. In order to get away, we had to pass through the thick of it.

1519. *His Honor.*] The compound, instead of exploding, merely burned itself away? We heard no report, but a hissing noise; and all at once the whole stope was lit up as if by limelight. We hurried out of the stope, as we did not know what would take place next. After five minutes, the light disappeared; but the gases thrown out by it were very evident. The gases went both up and down. These gases will go against the strongest draughts—they are very heavy.

1520. Did you find out how the tamping had been put in? The only explanation the men gave was that it was in broken ground; and, presumably, some of the fire ran from the fuse into a crack where some of the gelatine had got, and ignited it before the explosion could take place.

1521. *Mr. Williams.*] What is the general practice in setting fire to fuses underground? There is no general practice. Some cut open the fuse and insert a piece of gelatine in it, which, when lighted by a candle, burns until it reaches the powder. Others, again, use wax matches. The safest plan is to split the fuse, and to give yourself sufficient length to admit of your getting away after you see it spit. When a fuse is ignited, there is no question then as to whether it has taken, and, when you see it spit, you know it is ignited.

1522. What is the average pace at which a fuse burns? For the average fuse it would exceed thirty seconds to the foot.

Inspector Hubbard: About 18 inches to the minute is the average.

1523.

J. Polkinghorne. 1523. *His Honor.*] That being so, where you are lighting three or four holes, and you want to get them all properly under weigh before you leave, what you want would be some means of lighting the fuse—of getting it to spit certainly and quickly;—what do you think is the best way to get a fuse to spit quickly and certainly? There is no better way than by preparing the fuse so that when you touch it with the candle it will spit. You split it until you come on to the powder. Others will not do that. They say the safest way is to put in a piece of gelatine. But there is a chance of the piece of gelatine being knocked out by a falling piece of gravel.

1524. When you put the gelatine in, what do you do? You light the gelatine, and it burns, but it might take some time before it touches the powder. The gelatine is sure to light the powder; the only thing is that it might be knocked out before it lights the powder, as (say) when coming away from the holes—clambering away from them—you might knock something on to the fuse which would shake the gelatine off. In the other way, when you touch the powder with your light, it is a certainty that the fuse has taken.

1525. Do you think there should be any rule; or should it be left to the men's discretion how they should fire? I think that is a matter that might be left to the men. I do not believe in having a regulation framed which would probably be broken every day. Without doubt, if a regulation were made to that effect, it would be broken every day. The method set out in the rule might not be that believed in by some men; and they would not adhere to it.

1526. I suppose if a deep hole and a shallow hole were to be fired at the same time, no man in his senses would attempt to light the shallow one first? I should not think so.

1527. Although that does appear to have been done in one case recently where two men lost their lives? It came out in evidence that that did happen. If he did do it, I do not think he was a fit and proper person to be in charge of the work. I do not know whether the truth came out in that case.

1528. Would you look upon him as a lunatic? Yes.

1529. *Mr. Williams.*] You do not think that that man would have been able to obtain a certificate from a qualified Board? No.

1530. *His Honor.*] Underground, a man charges and fires his own shot; on the surface, the "powder-monkey" does that? Yes, according to what I hear. I think if a man got his certificate from a Board of Examiners, consisting of a mine manager, the inspector of mines, and a miner, that would be quite sufficient, and it would be a safeguard against accidents being caused by incompetence. I do not think any of the parties on such a Board would consent to the granting of a certificate to a man who was not efficient.

1531. *Mr. Williams.*] Do you not think that there would be a likelihood of the companies themselves getting rid of a lot of risk if they saw that the men they employ were competent? According to what we have been told to-day, we have not sufficient competent miners in the place to meet requirements. If only competent miners were imported, it would be of great benefit both to the employees and the employers. If, however, no steps are taken in the other colonies to employ competent men only, the managers in the other colonies will always be ready to give their incompetent men a piece of paper as being competent, and palm them off on to their neighbours. So long as you have that, so long will you have incompetent men. If this system of granting certificates by means of a Board were adopted throughout the colonies, there would be no risk run by the employers; and, instead of having the refuse from other mining districts thrust upon him, he would know what men he was employing, and would only employ those he knew he could rely upon.

1532. With regard to the inspector's qualifications, you have been asked whether you are in favour of the inspector's possessing the highest qualifications;—do you think he should be a man whose moral character should be the highest, and whose practical knowledge of the work in which he is engaged should be thorough? Yes.

1533. Has it come upon you as a surprise—the statement that a Member of this district has been doing all in his power; in fact, has been moving Heaven and earth, to get this appointment? I was rather surprised to hear it.

His Honor: This is a matter that is outside the question.

Mr. Williams: Very well, your Honor, but I would just like, if you will permit me, to speak a little further on this matter, since it has been brought under the notice of the Commission.

1534. Independently of his position as a Member of Parliament, Mr. Polkinghorne, I would ask you as a practical man, supposing the choice lay between two such men as Mr. Josiah Thomas and the Manager of Block 10 for the position of an inspector of this district, which would you recommend on account of his practical knowledge? I do not know anything of Mr. Thomas. I have no personal knowledge of him, to say whether he is a skilful man or not. So, if the choice lay between the two, I should say Captain Warren, owing to the long experience he has had, and which I know he has had.

1535. And I should say so too;—but whether or no, Mr. Thomas is not the only man in this district capable of filling the position? I should judge that, no matter how good Mr. Thomas may be, out of the 6,000 along the line there ought to be one as good.

1536. You know Mr. J. G. Taylor? Yes.

1537. Are you aware that he was an applicant when the present inspector obtained his appointment? No.

1538. Mr. Hebbard knows him, and he knows also that in beating him he beat a good man. Just now you said that no certificates are held by miners in this district. That they should hold certificates, you would embody in the new regulations? I certainly think it would be a benefit; but I fail to see that you could make a regulation for the employment of men only who hold certificates.

1539. I am asking that question on the possibility of the recommendation from this Commission causing a new Act to be framed? I would not like to see a regulation framed that only those men holding certificates be employed as miners. It would bear very heavily on the mining companies; they would not be able to cope with it. Besides, there are a number of fairly good men who can go into different portions of a mine, and do as well as most men would do, and earn a fair living, and, if it had not been for the employment of these men, these places would not be worked. The companies cannot get the competent men in sufficient numbers. If legislation should take place, saying that the companies shall only employ men holding certificates, half of them would have to shut down.

1540. My suggestion goes as far as the "powder-monkey," shift-bosses, or anyone in charge. I do not go as far as the men. Then have you not made some suggestion as to training men;—would not that reduce

reduce the unemployed? There are a lot of men working on the surface that I would not mind taking into the face with me. There is a class of men on the Barrier to-day who are not working in the face as minors, but who could be taken into the face and made very useful in a very short time. I could pick them out from among the truckers and the unemployed. I know among the truckers many that are anxious to go into the face, and who would make very good men with a little coaching. The men who are anxious and willing to work, are the men who should be encouraged.

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1541. Has it ever occurred that practical men have asked to have such men with them? I do not know of any case.

1542. *Mr. Edwards.*] You said just now that the A.M.A. endeavoured to provide good men for the mines? I do not think I said that.

1543. Is it not a fact, that when the mines found themselves short of good miners, and tried to introduce them from Ballarat, every possible obstruction was put in their way? I do not think that any obstacle was placed in the road of procuring good men for the Barrier. The men first introduced from Ballarat and Bendigo were simply the riff-raff which the managers in those mining centres were glad to get rid off. Of course, some of them turned out to be very good men. The argument we used was that there were plenty of unemployed in the place, and it was no use bringing over a lot of incompetent men to swell the number still more. There has never been any opposition to the importation of good men. We well know by the first batch that came over that they were not men suitable for the place. As a citizen, I considered it my place to prevent the influx of a number of people who would be dependent upon charity in a very short time.

1544. Is it not a fact that when the companies tried to get skilled men from Ballarat and Bendigo every intimidation was put in their way? I do not think so. The first batch arrived for the Central. There were Ballarat and Bendigo men already at work here, and they knew some among the batch who were not competent. They were coming here for 50s. a week. You know that would be one of the first things the Association would do—prevent the cutting of wages. I was not an officer at that time in the Association; but I remember the occurrence. A large number of men went to the train and met these men, and the first thing they did was to see that they did not go to work for less than the current rate, viz., 9s. a day. Moral suasion only was used.

1545. Moral suasion, as you know it on the Barrier? I do not think there was anything other than moral suasion. There was no fighting.

1546. You do not deny that there was any intimidation? I deny that there was any intimidation as far as the A.M.A. was concerned. No objection was raised to the company's securing good, practical men.

1547. *Mr. Williams.*] With regard to the importation of these men;—was it stated by anyone that they did not know anything about pick and shovel work, and that they could not be utilised for anything? I heard one manager say that they could not do anything heavier than tailoring.

1548. Would you be surprised to learn that, of the first batch, some of them did not know how to handle the tools? No; because I know that myself.

1549. *His Honor.*] You were speaking about blasting in the face. Accidents are caused in some instances, I believe, by the displacement of what you may call the floor of the set;—do you think that one floor is sufficient to depend upon? I think every floor, no matter what height the stope, should be kept covered until the filling-in is done. In the Proprietary, if a man opens a floor and leaves it unguarded, he will very likely see the surface before the shift is up. Every floor is supposed to be covered; and no laths are allowed to be removed. This should apply to all mines. In firing, some of the laths might be displaced; and, owing to the dirt brought down, you would have no chance of being made aware of it if there was no covered floor underneath from which to make an examination. Every set should be kept covered.

1550. Should it be compulsory to keep every floor intact until the sets are filled? Yes; especially around the travelling road. Of course, a good deal of discretion could be used. The eastern part may be beat up six or eight sets, and the western part beat up not more than three or four sets. I do not mean to say that they shall not uncover those floors. Were they railed off and guarded, it would be sufficient. Where men are working overhead, the floors should in all cases be kept covered. The rule in the Proprietary is that should any man require to knock down a guard rail or open a floor, he must replace the timber as soon as possible. Rule 6 of the Underground Regulations meets this. [*Vide Exhibit A.*]

1551. You think there should be a universal rule making it necessary to cover all workings? Yes; I have heard of cases on the Barrier where there are as many as six floors open, and men are working on the seventh. If anything went wrong with their floor, and they fell through, there would be nothing underneath to save them. I have never heard of any such case on the Proprietary.

1552. *Mr. Edwards.*] Would not a hard-and-fast rule of that nature interfere with operations? I do not think so.

1553. *His Honor.*] The rule might have a limitation;—it might extend to one or two floors under the working party? That would be safe, so far as the Proprietary is concerned. Where this system of stoping is being carried on without filling in, it must be recognised by everyone that to leave five or six floors open is dangerous.

1554. I suppose that would be where the ground is very solid, and there is no sign of a creep. The managers, therefore, are pretty certain that although the ground be left unfilled, it will stand? I do not think that is the case. I believe, in most cases on the Barrier where stoping operations are being carried out, they are filling a little or a great deal, whether it be hard or soft ground. I believe every place should be filled as solidly as possible.

1555. It is the safest method to fill the stoping as quickly as possible with mullock? Yes.

1556. Is there anything more that you would like to tell us? There is another matter, which the secretary of the hospital has reminded me of. We think that each company should be compelled to provide an ambulance litter on the mine for use in case of accident, and that the Government should provide and maintain in this district, and in every other mining district, an ambulance waggon in which to convey injured persons to the hospital. Taking into consideration the money that has been taken by the Government from this place, I think the least they might do for us would be to provide the town with an ambulance waggon, so that the litters might be conveyed from the mines to the hospital without injury to the patients.

1557. There has been a good deal of delay in some cases, I believe? Yes; it has been reported freely that delay has taken place. The Proprietary have one or two very good ambulance litters; but I do not think the other mines provide them.

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1558. *Mr. Edwards.*] Do they not borrow them from the Proprietary? Sometimes they do. At other times I have seen men taken to the hospital on a rough ambulance stretcher.

1559. *His Honor.*] You would make it compulsory for every mine to provide one litter? Yes; they should all be compelled to provide one at the least. The waggon should be provided by the Government, and maintained by the Government, and should be stationed in a central position, and in communication with the telephone, so that it could be called for without any delay from any part of the line of lode. A man should be in readiness at all times to take it out. It would be too far out if kept at the hospital; it should be kept in a more central position. As the police are rung up whenever an accident occurs, it would be a very good plan to keep the waggon at the police station. Had there been proper ambulance accommodation, probably some of those men who have died from accidents would be alive to-day. It hurts me to see men dragged off to the hospital on a heavy jolting trolley that could carry 3 tons. I do not think the council could purchase a waggon, as they would not be empowered, under the Municipalities Act, to expend money in that way.

1560. *Mr. Williams.*] Do you know that the miners have been endeavouring to obtain a grant, the same as the miners in Newcastle, for ambulance requisites? I know the miners of the Barrier have appealed to the Government for the same concession as that which was granted to Newcastle. The extent of the concession I do not know. The Minister has replied that he will do the same for the Barrier as has been promised for Newcastle.

1561. *Inspector Hebbard.*] In reference to floors being uncovered in stopes;—does it not often occur that a stope is uncovered because of the men stripping laths from it rather than going to the plat for them? That is the case at times. But I believe, from what I have been told, that it is the rule in some of the places, and not the exception, to leave the stopes open for the purpose of saving money. Men have spoken to me about it, and I have told them that they should report the matter to the inspector.

1562. *His Honor.*] If the men were to do it, you would be quite willing to see them fined for it under regulation, even if they were members of the A.M.A.? Yes; because they not only endanger their own lives, but the lives of other men.

1563. Of your own knowledge, you cannot say it is a fact that the stopes have been left uncovered by way of economy? I have heard it; and I have every reason to believe it is a fact. Railing off in some cases would not be sufficient. You would then fall through just the same.

1564. *Inspector Hebbard.*] It is no good railing off while the stope is being continued in height? If there were no persons working overhead, then the railing would be sufficient. While a stope is being extended in height, the floors underneath should be kept covered.

1565. If the sets were jogging back, there would be no need for the floors? No.

1566. *Mr. Edwards.*] In any case, two or three floors under the working-floor would be sufficient? When a stope is actually in work, all the floors should be covered.

1567. Would not the inspector be competent to deal with this matter? Yes; the inspector, no doubt, should be allowed to use his discretion in this matter. Many vexatious little things are likely to occur with a set regulation.

1568. If you have a rule similar to the one in the present Government Regulations, that the inspector can step in at any time, and order coverings to be put in wherever he may think necessary? Yes. One notice should be sufficient. There should be no running notices. If, after one notice, the inspector's directions are not carried out, a penalty should be imposed. Under the present Act, the inspector has not power to put things in motion.

His Honor: The question is, whether it would be a good plan to leave too much discretion to the inspector. If you are of opinion, and it is a fact, that, at any rate, one sound floor ought to be left under a working place, it would be very much better to provide that that should always be done than for the inspector to find out that it had not been done, perhaps by means of some one tumbling through. Do not put too much on the discretion of an inspector; for one thing, you would make him unpopular.

Mr. Edwards: On the other hand, your Honor, you would not have unnecessary regulations that would be irksome.

His Honor: I think there ought to be at least one sound working-floor, in addition to the floor on which the party are working. *Mr. Polkinghorne* said he would like to see the whole of the floors intact, and the necessity for that might be left to the inspector. There is always a chance of a blast shifting the laths on the floor itself; but is there any chance of its getting to the next floor?

Mr. Edwards: I do not think so. A blast might affect the floor above and the working-floor; but it would not affect the floor under the working-floor.

Witness: I think your Honor's suggestion would be well worth adopting, that it should be enforced by regulation that one or two floors at the very least be securely covered, and that it be left to the discretion of the inspector whether the whole of the floors should be covered or not. Of course, when stopes fall back, there would be no need for floors; but, for all that, floors not under a working floor should be railed off. If the general rules of the Proprietary were followed out, we could not go far wrong. Of course, the company's rules and the Government rules are two different things. As to the Government rules, the Legislature can say, "They shall be enforced."

1569. *His Honor.*] What you suggest is that the company's rules, after being passed by the Minister, should be made law, so that infringement of them might be punishable by fine? Yes.

1570. The miner ought to have the right to have the manager fined, and the manager the right to have the miner fined? Yes.

1571. *Mr. Williams.*] In the event of the preparation of a new set of rules, would you like to see the miners represented? I think, if we get a fairly good Mining Act the company will take good care that they do not make any rules but what they can carry out. I know, if the rules framed by the Proprietary had been adopted by some of the other mines, and they were by Act of Parliament made law, things would be much better than they are.

1572. You spoke just now about the inspector's not having power to carry out the Government regulations? There is a clause in the regulations saying the inspector "shall" require dangerous or defective places to be remedied; but, when trying to act upon it, the inspector finds himself blocked by all the judicial forces of the country. Under those circumstances, what can you do.

1573. What good is it to have an Act that can be ruled *ultra vires*? The old Act and regulations should be repealed, and an Act of 1897, and a new set of regulations, brought into force,

1574. Is it not a fact that we are working under regulations which cannot be enforced? Yes.
1575. There is a penalty of £50 provided in the regulations should anyone obstruct the inspector in the execution of his duty;—that, however, cannot be enforced; if it could, it would be pretty severe? Seeing that the department of the Minister for Mines is being ruled by such an Act, I think it high time that the Parliament came to his assistance and gave him power to administer the mining laws to the satisfaction of himself and the welfare of the country.
1576. These rules under the Act are of no practical benefit? They have been ruled *ultra vires*, and yet men have to expose their lives under them.

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FRIDAY, 16 JULY, 1897.

Joseph Wilks sworn and examined:—

1577. *His Honor.*] What is your name? Joseph Wilks.
1578. You are the Inspector of Stock for the Menindie Sheep District? Yes, and I reside in William-street, Broken Hill.
1579. I believe that your object in coming here is to say something as to the way in which explosives are stored in or near the town of Broken Hill? Yes.
1580. You reside in William-street? Yes.
1581. How far in a straight line from the magazines? About half a mile.
1582. You wish to bring the matter before the Commission because you think that the system under which explosives are stored here is a dangerous one in relation to the town? Yes.
1583. Is your principal objection to the position of the magazines, or to the mode in which the storage of the explosives is conducted? Principally the site.
1584. You think it is too near the town? Yes.
1585. Have you any special knowledge of the action of explosives when they go off in bulk? No.
1586. You speak, then, as your common-sense prompts you when you say that if they were to blow up—especially if they were to make a running fire—it would be dangerous to you? Yes, and to a great number of others.
1587. Do you think the effect would be serious half a mile off? I would not take £1,000 and remain in my house if I knew these magazines were to be exploded. That I swear on my oath.
1588. Of course, that would apply to a great many other persons? Yes; persons who are nearer than I am.
1589. Supposing the town were extended to its furthest limits, as laid out; would there be any part of it nearer to the magazines than that end of William-street where you are living? Yes.
1590. What is that open space on which the explosives are stored? The open space is a reserve from certain occupation, which was originally reserved for noxious trades, I think. I am not now referring to the powder-magazine reserves, but to a reserve between the powder-magazine reserves and my place. The powder magazines are on a small reserve within another reserve.
1591. The larger reserve is the reserve from certain occupation? Yes.
1592. It is not reserved as a temporary common? I think it is included in the temporary common.
1593. At any rate, whether the land is built on in the future or not, you consider that the end of William-street that is already built upon is too near to be safe in case of an explosion? Yes.
1594. What have you to say as to the mode of storage adopted? I think the system adopted, giving a common-sense view, is a farce.
1595. Is there any underground storage, or is it all above ground? All above, I believe.
1596. Is it correct that these stores are simply galvanised-iron sheds, resting on the ground, lined inside with match-boards, and hardly painted, if painted at all, with refrigerating paint? Yes; that is a correct description.
1597. If you were working out a scheme for the storage of explosives, do you think you could suggest a worse system? No.
1598. Do you know anything of the nitro-glycerine explodents and other chemical explodents? I believe the heat in those huts at summer time—which I take to be, at least, about 150 degrees—is sufficient to make them very dangerous.
1599. Do you know whether they are dangerously affected by sudden changes of temperature? I have every reason to believe so; but I cannot speak from practical experience.
1600. There is nothing to prevent a stray bullet or other projectile from going right through one of those huts? No; and you could have as many watchmen as you like, and they would not be able to prevent such a thing as that occurring.
1601. How many watchmen are there employed at present? One, I think.
- His Honor:* I must say that I could not conceive that a worse scheme could be thought out, unless it were to store them under a tarpaulin on a plain. I made it a point to go out to these magazines yesterday, and have a look at them for myself.
- Mr. Edwards:* They have been inspected by the inspector; and, besides, a reserve for a magazine was made after the magazines were built.
- Witness:* I admit that; but the Crown sold the land alongside in suburban allotments.
1602. Those magazines were not constructed by the Government? I believe they are private property.
1603. Is there anything more you wish to say on this matter, Mr. Wilks? Yes, your Honor; I would like you to call for the papers about it, and for this reason: Mr. Chief-Inspector Smith was here, and he made some report, which, I have every reason to believe, was in a manner favourable to the removal of the magazines. Mr. Ferguson, Member for the District, some time ago sent me a letter which he had received from the Under Secretary for Finance and Trade stating that it had, practically, been decided to remove these magazines to a safer position; but that, in the meantime, the Government intended to erect temporary mounds between the huts and the town.
1604. But nature has erected a very favourable mound? Yes; at the back.
1605. Could the magazines be shifted to the back of the hills? Yes; what I was going to say is this: There has been some recommendation made, and the Department has already called for tenders. I saw the specifications, and, from my knowledge of work in general—and I have had great experience in earth-work, dam-work, &c.—the work will cost between £2,000 and £3,000. To expend that much on the construction of mounds would be absurd. The buildings, fences, and everything as it stands in the way of buildings

J. Wilks. buildings, I am prepared myself, so as to show that it is not hearsay, to take a contract to remove the lot and put them anywhere within 5 miles for £150; then I would sub-let it and make something.

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1606. Have you formed any estimate as to what it would cost to make a proper excavation at the present site? No; I say the present site should not be made use of at all. Plant the magazines over among the hills, which would be cheaper and safer. I strongly object to the present site. There are far better sites where the danger would be at a minimum. That reserve, I might say, is used by hundreds as a recreation reserve—I mean the reserve between my place and the magazines.

1607. You do not know to whom the country belongs that lies to the back of the magazines on the other side of the ridge? It is nearly all Crown lands—the resumed area of a pastoral holding.

1608. With an intrinsic value, I suppose, of about 1s. an acre? About that.

Mr. Edwards: Of course, in connection with this matter, I act for the owners of the explosives. They are entitled to some consideration for the extra haulage that would be entailed. There would not only be the expense, but increased danger in hauling the explosives to the mines, should the magazines be shifted farther back. I think Mr. Wilks takes rather an extreme view of this matter. He is rather hysterical on the subject.

His Honor: Of course, these magazines being half-a-mile away, it is very doubtful, if they exploded, whether any damage would be done.

Mr. Edwards: I understand that those light buildings, as they would offer no resistance, are safer than if you even had the explosives stored underground.

His Honor: The usual practice, I believe, is to put explosives partly underground and partly above ground, surrounded with non-conducting material.

Mr. Edwards: The action of those glycerine compounds is downwards, not upwards; and the embankment, which it is said by Mr. Smith, an expert, would be perfectly safe, will form a cushion between the explodents and the town; and that, it is thought, will meet every requirement.

His Honor: It depends upon the cost.

Mr. Edwards: I know of nothing the Government has given to us excepting the cemetery and the post office, whose tower is an eye-sore to every one. Broken Hill consumes 45 per cent. of the whole quantity of explosives introduced into New South Wales.

His Honor: This is a matter hardly within the scope of this inquiry; but, still, I think Mr. Wilks is quite justified in taking this opportunity of ventilating the matter. I must say that the present sheds for the explosives are very funny things, to my mind. I think two or three different expedients could be adopted which would increase their safety: the use of saw-dust, for instance. I am informed that, at present, there is nothing used but iron and match-board.

Mr. Edwards: I understand that that is the safest way to construct magazines—to have as little resistance as possible.

His Honor: But something should be provided against the sun's heat.

1609. *Mr. Edwards:* The Explosives Department is of opinion that the little space between the magazines makes a sufficient cushion of air to prevent the explosion of one magazine setting off another? My objection is not so much to the structure as to the site. The distance of carting cannot for one moment be considered where there is the slightest colour of danger as regards the site. I do not think there should be any consideration as to what it would cost to cart another extra mile. Furthermore, those magazines are built in such a manner, and the site is so situated, as if it were intended that an explosion should have double force over the town. There is a range of hills at the back; and that would give an explosion fully double the force it would have in the middle of a plain. It would be far better if the explosives were stored in the middle of a plain than backed up by that range of hills. Mr. Edwards has said that I am hysterical on the point. Probably I am. But there are many scores in this town the same. The last thing that must be taken into consideration is the expense (to the mines) of carting. The Government have sold us the land; they have thrown land open alongside the magazines, which is open to me to take to-morrow if I like; and it cannot be said that, because the magazines are there, it should not be taken up. Then again, it is not only the buildings in the vicinity, but also the amount of traffic. The main road, which takes all the refuse from the town, runs very close to the place, and is used daily and nightly. And then there is the reserve close by, where I have seen as many as 300 at one time, either the pick of Broken Hill manhood, practising on their bicycles, or spectators. Their lives are worth some consideration. I do not see why such a big storage should be kept within the municipal boundary at all. I have pointed out to the present Mayor and to previous Mayors the danger; and I think it a disgrace that they have not taken action. Only for the cost, I would have fought the companies myself, to see whether it was legal for them to store their explosives there. If they put those mounds there that they talk of, there will be a very good chance of the cemetery's becoming filled. The temporary mounds, according to the way they have laid them out, will take at least nine months to build. To take the whole of the magazines to a safe distance would not exceed nine days. Then, again, why should there be such a gross waste of public money? Why should £2,000 or £3,000 be expended when £150 would cover the lot. I have seen the specifications, and therein there is one clause prohibiting the contractor from using explosives within a mile and a half in getting dirt for the embankment. If there is no danger of these explosives going off, why do the Government specify a mile and a half as the distance inside which blasting must not be carried out, and so go to the extra expense in getting the dirt? I do not think they can make the present site safe, no matter what they do to it. When you peruse the papers, your Honor, you will find that the Police Magistrate was one of the first to bring under the notice of the Government this danger. It may seem that I am pushing this thing, but people are careless here, as has been shown by this Commission; I am not.

1610. *Mr. Polkinghorne:* You say that the magazines, where at present erected, are backed up by a range of hills;—what distance do you consider the magazines would have to be shifted from their present position to put them at the back of that range of hills? About 1½ miles is the distance that a site can be got.

1611. You think a site could not be got nearer than 1½ miles? I would not say so; the distance might be less.

1612. You think if the explosives were stored at the back of one of those hills, in the event of an explosion, the danger to the town would be minimised? Yes.

1613. What do you think would be the cost to take out a place behind one of those hills for the explosives? That is, taking it out; but I maintain that the present buildings can be picked up and dumped down. They can all be put on a trolley, with the exception of one of them. They could all be taken away and dumped down for £150.

1614.

1614. Do you think the present buildings put between two hills would be as safe as an excavation between two hills with a temporary covering? I do not think there would be any difference. You would only want to take the buildings; you do not want to go to the expense of taking out the ground. J. Wilks.
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1615. Is there not a certain time fixed for the removal of explosives from these magazines? I believe there is; and I believe they are restricted to a certain tonnage, and to certain vehicles.

Mr. Edwards: They can only cart 100 lb. at a time in a properly-prepared conveyance. I understand that, after these complaints were made, a highly competent officer was sent here specially by the Government to inquire into the matter. It has been gone into most fully. I think the main object in proposing to put up an embankment was to soothe the nerves of the people, who were making so much fuss about the danger.

His Honor: Still, it does not appear to be a legitimate thing that a lot of explosives should be stored in such a position, especially when a stray bullet might blow the whole lot up.

Mr. Edwards: Broken Hill depends solely on the mining industry; and all these little things tend to hamper operations, and, in the end, to do the town no good.

Witness: I am not depending on the mining industry; and, of course, that gives me a freer hand than business people to complain about the matter.

Mr. Edwards: I find that a ton, not 100 lb., is the amount that can be conveyed in a vehicle.

John O'Brien sworn and examined:—

1616. *His Honor.*] Your name is John O'Brien? Yes.

1617. Are you a miner? No.

1618. What are you? I am an open-cut man.

1619. Working formerly as a navvy? Yes.

1620. You have been lately employed in the open-cuts? Yes.

1621. On the Proprietary? Yes.

1622. I understand you wish to give some evidence as to the safety of the mode in which the open-cut work is conducted? Yes.

1623. How long have you been working in the open-cut? Three years.

1624. Continuously? Yes.

1625. Are you still working there? Up till last Monday.

1626. Did you leave to take other work? We finished the portion we were at, and there was not enough room for all of us in the other parts.

1627. You are just out of work for a time now? Yes; because there was no room for the lot of us.

1628. Which contractors were you working under? For the first, and greater, portion of the time, I worked under Baxter and Saddler. The last job, working among the sulphides, was only a small one.

1629. What have you to say in regard to the way in which the work is conducted? I consider that we were treated very roughly.

1630. In what respect? We were hurried, and due precaution was not taken for life and limb.

1631. By whom were you hurried? By those sweating, slave-driving gangers.

1632. When you say hurried, you mean you were spoken to to get on quicker? Yes.

1633. Quicker than you expected, or were the men loafing? No; we were supposed to go quicker than we really could.

1634. In consequence of that rushing, were there any accidents? Yes, often.

1635. Will you tell me of any accidents occurring within the last year or two? At Baxter and Saddler's, when working under the crane, the skip is lowered to you; they are swung down to you one after the other. When the skips have been filled they are heaved up. The driver of the crane cannot see you at all times, and he is not a practical man. He heaves the skip up; she bangs against the other skips, and it is ten chances to one if your leg is not broken.

1636. Can you give an instance of any man being hurt in that way? I have been struck myself three times with a skip while being lowered.

1637. Was any notice given of the skip's being lowered? There is so much bellowing and singing out that it is impossible to hear the notices, and, if you looked up to see, they would swear at you.

1638. Did you find a greater risk from the raising and lowering of the skip in the night than in the day shift? They do not work the skip I am speaking of at night. It is worked in the day only. I believe it has sometimes been worked on the night-shift.

1639. When the skip comes down, or when it rises, would you be shovelling into the other skips at that time? Yes; we are supposed to take notice of nothing, but to fill the skips as fast as we can. You are not supposed to lift your head at all. Three skips are used. They are lifted up. If they were lifted straight, it would be all right, but they are not. The jib is not immediately over the skip; consequently, it drags. The jib goes in all directions; the weather has an effect upon it. You have perfect control over the travelling crane, and can bring the tackle immediately over the skip, but, with the jib-crane driven by a steam winch, it is altogether different.

1640. Have you found the work dangerous in any other respects? Yes; with regard to the ropes and hooks, which are used in the hauling of the trucks on the incline. There are two kinds of trucks, the small and the large. The large trucks are like those you see used on the railway, and are for mullock; the small ones are for ore. It seems to be nobody's business to look after the ropes and hooks.

1641. You mean to keep them in order—to see that they are not wearing? Yes.

1642. Have you known the ropes to break? Yes.

1643. And let the trucks down? Yes.

1644. With a run? Yes; the incline is 2 to 1.

1645. How often have you known that to happen? Not a week passes but a hook breaks or carries away. They have boys there to hook them on instead of men; boys under age.

1646. You mean that the hooks are not properly hooked on? It is either the fault of the rope or the hook. The rope is supposed to be steel; and it runs out on rollers; and it is on this rope that the men's lives depend. If the truck comes down with a run, there is no "get away" from it if you are working in the face. The rope, as I have said, is supposed to run on rollers; but the ground very often subsides; and when it does, the rope is thrown on one side; and the friction on the ground wears it, and strand
after

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- J. O'Brien. after strand goes. If you pick it up, it is like picking up a bundle of needles; and no notice is taken of it for days and days; and at last the truck, when she gets about half-way up, comes back with a rush.
- 16 July, 1897. 1647. Have you known any instances, lately, of men being killed by the carrying away of the hooks or the breaking of the ropes? Not lately. I have seen the trucks break away; but the men have just managed to escape them.
1648. Are the trucks and ropes supplied by the company or by the contractors? I could not tell what system they are working under. It is a sweating system, so far as I am concerned.
1649. What wages did you earn? From Baxter and Saddler we received 7s. 4d., and from the company 7s. 6d. Baxter and Saddler kept 2d. for hospital purposes; but whether it ever reached the hospital we do not know. The shovels we use we can buy anywhere for 3s. 6d., and they charge us 6s. 6d. for them.
1650. The workmen find their own tools? All navvies are supposed to find their own shovels. I do say the company always finds you with a shovel.
1651. Is there any other respect in which you find the work dangerous? With regard to the "flying fox"—that is another way in which they work the open-cut—no man should be allowed to work under it.
1652. That is when the skip rises? Yes.
1653. Is there not a general order that you shall not stand under the skip when it is going up? If you are breaking down stuff from a face, and she is travelling that way, you must work under her; otherwise you would be continually running away from her, and they would not allow that.
1654. The "flying fox" has never been known to carry away itself? The hauling rope has.
1655. Is there any risk of stones falling out of the skip? Yes, by overloading.
1656. Has that ever happened? Yes; the rule is not to stack the skip beyond water-level. An ignorant man might do that.
1657. Have you known, lately, the skips to be loaded beyond what you term water-level? Yes, the mullock skips; not the ore skips—they are too heavy.
1658. Is that a late practice? They will make you put into her as much as she will hold.
1659. Have you known stones to fly often? Yes; whenever she touches something.
1660. Of course, the skip is not supposed to touch anything after she rises until she touches the block? That is not the case with a timber-crane or jib-crane worked by a steam-winch.
1661. But the skip of the "flying fox" rises clear from the ground? Yes.
1662. Would the jerk on reaching the block throw any stones out? It is very seldom that that happens.
1663. I suppose more care is taken with the skip of the "flying fox" than with the cranes? They do not put as much ore in the "flying fox" skip, because it is mostly hand-fed. They are very careful of it.
1664. Does the "flying fox" hoist ore only? It has been hoisting both, but ore generally.
1665. Is there any other respect in which you find this work dangerous to the men? When working the night-shift there should be more care in taking down the face. All the loose stones should be taken down before the night-shift go on.
1666. But is that not the regular practice—to bar down anything that appears to be loose before the night-men go on? Not always.
1667. Of course, it is a matter of guess-work what will come down? In working the night-shift, the ground naturally settles down after midnight, and, if there is any loose stone, it is bound to come.
1668. Do you find that commonly happens—the tendency of the ground to settle down after midnight? Yes; most experienced men have reckoned that the night air is the cause of it. They reckon that the night air is heavier.
1669. You think care enough is not taken in barring down before the night-shift comes on? Yes; and I do not consider there is batter enough.
1670. You think the slope is too steep? Yes; in some cases it is almost perfectly straight. On a Government railway the batter is one to one. On the Great Northern Line in New South Wales, on the road to Queensland, they tried it half to one, because the ground was very hard; but no batter will stand which is less than one to one.
1671. That, of course, depends upon the rock; you could have the batter perpendicular in some cases? No engineer would pass it.
1672. That is, if there is broken ground of any sort? Yes. It must not be overhanging.
1673. From your experience as a navvy, you say that the railway engineers would not pass the batter here as a standing batter? Certainly not. There are parts of it very good; but my side is not good enough for men to work under.
1674. It depends a good deal upon which way the layers of the rocks lie? The ground here varies very much. On the actual surface it is very hard; and, the deeper you go, the softer it gets.
1675. So that is where you find one source of danger—in the way the batter has been allowed to stand, too near the perpendicular? Yes. In parts the batter is very good; but in other parts it is not good enough.
1676. As it is at present, what do you say? I do not consider there is batter enough on the near side.
1677. It would be very difficult to lay down a hard-and-fast rule as to what particular batter should be left? The depth defines that. The deeper you go, the more batter you are supposed to have.
1678. Still it would be very hard to lay down a hard-and-fast rule; it is a thing you would have to leave to the inspector to say whether the batter is safe, or whether it is not? On a railway they know they have to take the batter down at a certain slope; but here, the contractors want to get over the work as soon as possible, and I do not know whether any batter is laid out.
1679. It would not do to make any particular rule, because it would differ with the particular class of rock and with the depth? The inspector could see to it.
1680. You think you ought to have a strict inspector, and that he should be very careful to see that a sufficient angle is kept? Yes; it would be very little extra expense to take down a batter.
1681. Is there any other peculiarity in these open-cuts that you find is a source of danger? I do not consider it is safe to work the "chinaman" at night.
1682. Why? Sometimes you have not got light enough. There might be heavy, rough, stone on one side; and, if it got a run on, it would swamp you and the "chinaman."
1683. I suppose it is very hard to get the electric light to show down on the ground where you are working? The light is bad and defective.
1684. The danger, principally, at night is the defective action of the light? The "chinaman" is not safe at night, because you have got to go as fast as you can.
- 1685.

1685. In the daytime, with a fair amount of light, you can see what you are about? Yes; if the ground comes down in the daytime, you can get back; but working on the "chinaman" is at all times very risky. J. O'Brien.
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1686. Is there any other means of filling the truck which would be safer and more effective? Of course, in a "chinaman" the dirt runs into the truck itself; there is no hand-work.
1687. It is a fair enough plan in daylight? Yes; if reasonable care be exercised.
1688. But not safe by electric light? No.
1689. Have any men been injured lately by working on the "chinaman" at night through that cause? I have only worked on Block 12.
1690. You have had no personal experience of night-work? Yes.
1691. How long ago? Last winter.
1692. *Mr. Edwards.*] Twelve months ago? Yes.
1693. *His Honor.*] At that time were there any accidents, or approaches to accidents, through the use of the "chinaman" at night? No accident occurred on the shift I was on.
1694. Did you hear of any on the other shifts? Slight accidents happened, but nothing serious.
1695. Whether there had been accidents, or whether there had not, what you say is that it is too great a risk for men to run to work the "chinaman" at night? Yes.
1696. Is there any other matter to which you would like to call attention? There is another item with regard to the skips. They are bound with two straps each, which are flat; and the ring easily wears them away. If the straps and rings were made of round iron, there would not be so much wearing away. Another thing is that the hook should be a swivel one.
1697. Then, if the rope spins, it will not affect the skip? Yes; when it is not a swivel-hook, if the rope gets twisted in the swinging, the twist does not come out, and the skip comes back to you in that state.
1698. If there were a swivel-hook working freely, it would turn round and come to its natural position itself? Yes; it should be made a special order that swivel-hooks should be used.
1699. But the swivel itself is a point of weakness, is it not, unless kept constantly oiled or greased? Yes; but proper oil would keep it from wearing away. I say honestly and fairly that it should be a special order that swivel-hooks should be used. They should not be allowed to work a straight hook.
1700. Is there anything else that strikes you? There is a new Act with regard to lead-poisoning. It was carried out for a while; but it soon became a dead letter.
1701. In what respect has the Act not been complied with? In summer time it is very warm here, and the navvies, having to work very hard, need a lot of water, and this water is supposed to be kept in a clean, covered, vessel to protect it from the dust. It has come to us in a bucket with a dirty old bag thrown over it; and, the hotter the day, the less water you get.
1702. Skilly would be better? Yes.
1703. You have found that it is better to drink skilly? Yes; with boiled skilly you can knock out the hardest and the best of them in the hottest day of the year.
1704. You say that ought always to be supplied to the men? It is not necessary in winter; but in the hot weather it is. In South Australia the men are supplied with it. But it is in regard to the shortage of the water that I am complaining. Another part of the Act says that water should be put on the face to keep the dust down. The dust comes over you, and you are half smothered. They keep hoses there, but they do not like playing the water on the face. They play it on some of the concentrates.
1705. Anything else? With regard to the regulations signed by Mr. Stewart. There is one clause that says no holes shall be fired until five minutes after the men have left the face. I have seen that rule broken repeatedly.
1706. You think the rule is a good one, but it has not been properly enforced? It is a dead letter.
1707. If two or three men were fined occasionally, it would straighten them up—if they could be fined, and were fined? If we had proper mining laws, they could be fined; but we have no mining laws in New South Wales.
1708. Is that all you can think of at present? Yes.
1709. You have had no experience underground? No.
1710. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Is it not one of the rules of the mine that every man is supposed to stand back whenever a skip is being raised or lowered? Yes. I have read that regulation, which is posted on the blacksmith's door. It says distinctly that a man is not supposed to work under a crane or skip; but that rule is repeatedly broken.
1711. It is compulsory that you work there while the skip is over you, or your services are not required? Yes. If you were to allow a man every time a skip was hauled up to stand and look at it, he would not be able to do any work.
1712. That is the general rule signed by John Howell, the former general manager, that when a skip is being raised over that portion of the cut where you are working, you are to stand back? Yes.
1713. You have not seen any of the regulations at present in force, and signed by Mr. Stewart? I have seen one copy at the office.
1714. I think that rule—the "stand from under" rule—is still in existence;—has it at all times been your experience that men are told to stand from under the skip when it is being hoisted? Not always. Your mate might just say "Look out!"
1715. If the general rule says that every man should stand back, is it right that you should wait for an order from any person to stand back? You do not know when the skip is about.
1716. Mr. Howell, when general manager, passed a remark, that the men in Broken Hill were that foolish that when they saw a chance of putting their head in danger they ran to meet it;—do you think what led him to make that remark was because, although he had signed a general rule that the men were to stand back from under the skip, they refused to do so? That depends upon the system you work under. If working for the company, you would be able to stand from under; but those sweaters up there will not give you time to have a drink of water.
1717. Do you stand under at your own risk, or are you compelled to do so? Men do do it; but then sometimes they do it through ignorance. They do not know the risk they run in doing it. As soon as the skip is lifted, you have to work. You must work as fast as ever you can; never mind danger.
1718. As to the ropes used in raising this material;—you say it is no person's place to look after those ropes and to see that the tackle is safe? Yes.

- J. O'Brien. 1719. Is there no one appointed to examine the ropes and hooks and all tackle used? I have never seen anyone. Some definite person should be appointed; and then we should know who was responsible. At present, they say "Oh! she will do to-day," and she is allowed to go on for two or three days until she breaks. If a man were responsible for looking after it, you would know whom to blame for it. The ganger says, "Why didn't you speak about it," but a navy has no time to go about looking for bad hooks and worn-out ropes; and, besides, he is not supposed to be a judge of those things.
1720. No one is appointed specially to look after those things? No.
1721. Are you compelled to procure your shovel from the contractors? No; but if he did not, a man would then be compelled to go hawking his shovel about the streets.
1722. It is not safe, in your opinion, to work the "chinaman" at night? No.
1723. Is it safe to work any part of the open-cut at night? I cannot say as to the present time. I have not worked lately at night-shift. When I was working on night-shift, the light would go fairly well until about midway through the shift; and then it would dwindle down to nothing.
1724. No matter how good the light, if there be a small object between the light and the "chinaman," it throws such a shadow as to make it very dangerous? Not unless there be a pillar between. The pole is pretty high; and the light is generally placed in the best position. If she only acted properly, you would have plenty of light.
1725. *His Honor.*] What you complain of is the running down of the light through the dynamo not working properly? Yes; for half the shift the light is all right; but it then begins to get weaker and weaker, and, after a while, it dies out altogether.
1726. That is an arc lamp you are speaking of? Yes; they have better ones now, I think.
- Mr. Edwards:* They use incandescent lights now, and there is no flickering.
1727. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You make another complaint, that there is not enough sprinkling done to keep the dust down;—can you say you have been denied sufficient water to keep down the dust? I have seen them working in concentrating stuff on one side, in chloridising stuff on another, and still another lot about you working in mullock; and the dust was smothering you, and the taste and smell from it were beautiful. I asked why we could not get water. There is a boy there who generally puts the water over the dust; and there is a man over him. I inquired why we could not get water on the face. I was told that it was too dear; that the manager would not allow it. Of course, that was not the company's manager, but the contractor's manager.
1728. You think it highly dangerous to work those ores unless water is put on to damp them? Yes.
1729. You think provision should be made for water to be used while handling those ores? If it be dry, fine, chloridising stuff, or concentrating stuff, it needs water on the face to keep down the dust.
1730. Have you ever been employed as what is termed a "powder-monkey"? No; I have assisted a "powder-monkey"; but I have never assumed that position.
1731. Do you think the Government Regulation, as worded now, is sufficient:—
- In charging holes for blasting, an iron or steel tamping-bar shall not be used, and no person shall have in his possession in the mine underground any iron or steel tamping-bar, rod, or stemmer, unless mounted with at least 4 inches of copper.
- From your knowledge of blasting, is it wise that an iron or steel rammer should be used? It has been totally condemned. Copper, steel, and iron are failures, and the scrapers are failures. Nothing but wood should be used. I have seen them all used; and, from my experience, I say that nothing but wood should be used. Any man who is a "powder-monkey," if caught using anything but a timber tamping bar, should be liable to a penalty. He endangers his own life and all those within reach of him.
1732. Do you think a "powder-monkey" should be allowed to charge holes while men are in the face working? That brings me on to a point that I would like to see settled. I find out from experience that the material here retains the heat. After you take off the surface, no matter how cold the night, the stuff underneath is quite warm to the touch. No matter what the material is—stiff clay or ore—it is always warm a few inches under the surface.
1733. But is it not highly dangerous that men should be working down in a face while the "powder-monkey" is charging the holes? It has acted in both ways. Accidents have occurred through it. It is an every-day occurrence in some of the cuttings.
1734. Your experience being that the ground is, naturally, heated;—would not that make it all the more necessary that the men should not be in the face while charging operations are going on? That would be a serious difficulty to get over in the working. In the morning, the men start to jump the hole, and will get it down very likely in a couple of hours. About 10 o'clock the hole is "bulled," and is then left one and a half or two hours before being charged. You want experienced men to do the charging. Great care should be taken that the hole is properly cool before charging. I have seen accidents occur through men starting to charge straight away after "bulling." This ground is ragged also, and smouldering parts of the fuse get away into the cracks. A bucket of water is thrown down the hole; but it does not reach all the cracks; and, when the powder is put down, it comes in contact with these smouldering pieces, and a premature explosion takes place.
1735. *His Honor.*] That is where you think the danger is—not so much in the ground retaining the heat? No.
1736. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] After a hole has been "bulled," what time, in your opinion, should elapse before it is again charged? It should never be less than two hours.
1737. *Mr. Edwards.*] You have read the surface rules of the company? They are in a frame at the office. That was the first I saw of them.
1738. Are they not stuck up at the pay office? Not at Baxter and Saddler's office. They pay in a little humpy out on the bank.
1739. They are stuck up on the quarry? They might be now; but they were not in my time.
1740. When did you leave? I left their open-cut about three months ago.
1741. You say the rules were not stuck up on the top of the bank? Let me see. Yes; it does strike me very forcibly that they were stuck up on the top of the incline.
1742. The men read these rules for their safety? About one out of ten does.
1743. Have you read them? I read part of them one day as I passed.
1744. Why did not you read the whole lot: they are put up for your protection;—had not you time? Yes.

1745. You have read this part, I suppose—

The above rules have been framed to facilitate the work of the mine, and for the benefit and safety of the men employed. As it is impossible, in writing, to provide a rule for everything, workmen are required, under pain of dismissal, to strictly comply with any rules or instructions which may be made and given verbally by the management from time to time; and are further required, personally and individually, to exercise every care to prevent accidents happening to themselves or to their fellow-workmen.

—? I think I have.

Where cranes or other overhead appliances are used, workmen shall not stand under the skip or load or within reach of such overhead appliances.

1746. Did you read that rule? How, then, are you going to land a skip?

1747. I want to know whether you have read that rule; and, if so, whether you have obeyed it? I have read it.

1748. I understand you to say that this rule—that the men shall not stand under the skip—is impracticable, and that if men did not stand continually watching they would not know when the skip was coming down? That is it.

1749. But is not a warning given, such as "Look out"? Orders are given all over the place. You do not know whether they are intended for you or not.

1750. But if you heard the man on the bank, who is in charge of the skip, say "Look out," you would take notice of it? Yes.

1751. Do you say that the man in charge of the skip does not give warning? It all depends on the position you are in. Sometimes you are loading on the level, and sometimes you are loading over your head.

1752. When it is coming from the bank down, he gives warning? Sometimes he never gives warning.

1753. Is there anyone else who gives you warning? There is no particular person.

1754. I suppose the men at the ropes who are guiding the skip would give you warning? If the face is any distance away you do not want any warning. It is only when working directly under the machine; and then you do want warning.

1755. And it is only for a short time that you would be working under the crane? If it is a travelling-crane, you would be always under her; if a fixed crane, driven by a winch, you would not.

1756. Who is this slave-driver or sweating-ganger you have referred to; you have mentioned the word "sweating," and you have stated that water is not provided in proper vessels for drinking purposes; also, that you are treated pretty roughly by gangers and overseers, and rushed about your work;—I must ask you to give the name of the ganger? There is no particular one. It is a well-known rule that they are all so.

1757. You make a charge of this serious nature, and you will not give any name? I am not preferring a direct charge against any man, but against the system.

1758. Do you say that any particular ganger treated you roughly, and rushed you about your work;—is that your experience? Not any particular man more than another. They all want you to do as much as you possibly can.

1759. Did you ever complain to any person about the ropes or hooks being defective? Yes.

1760. To whom? The ganger.

1761. What ganger? Different men I have worked under.

1762. What gangers were you working under? Day and Thompson.

1763. Will you give the name of the ganger you complained to? I complained about the links.

1764. You started by saying that the ropes were defective, and that the strands were allowed to wear out day by day? And I say the strands do wear out.

1765. But I have asked you if you complained to any person about the rope wearing out and breaking? I said the rope wore away.

1766. Did you ever complain to any ganger about any rope being dangerous or wearing? Not particularly.

1767. Can you tell me of any serious accident that has occurred through a rope breaking while working under Day and Thompson? No.

1768. Can you tell me of any serious accident that occurred through the breaking of any hook? A horse was killed one time.

1769. I am not talking about horses, but about men? I know of no men being hurt in that way.

1770. You said that accidents were occasioned by the breaking of ropes and hooks, and you cannot give us the particulars of any accident that has occurred through this? No.

1771. As to the sweating system;—you said that the mines give you 7s. 6d. a day, and the contractors, 7s. 4d.? Yes.

1772. Do you know what becomes of the other 2d.;—do you not know that it goes to an accident and medical fund? I do not know of any man who has got anything out of it.

1773. If you meet with an accident, do you not go to Dr. Belgrave, without expense to yourself, and, besides, do you not get free hospital attendance? I have never been to the hospital.

1774. While you are working for Baxter and Saddler, for this 2d. a week, if you met with any accident, you would be privileged to go to the hospital and have free attendance. I understood you to say just now that you are not compelled to buy Baxter and Saddler's shovels at 6s. 6d. each? Yes.

1775. And it does not matter to them, I suppose, if you got one down town for 2s. 6d.? No.

1776. Why do you not, then, buy one down at an open store? So I did.

1777. And, then, they did not stop money out of your pay for a shovel? On a couple of occasions they have done so—when I had not time to run down town and get one. You either have to get your shovel the day before you start work, or else run down for one after you are put on; and then you have not the time, and must get one from the contractors.

1778. You said just now that one objection to buying your shovel down town was that it was not a very nice thing to be carrying about? I have carried a shovel about.

1779. So there is absolutely no necessity for you to pay 6s. 6d. for a shovel to the contractors when you can get one down town for 2s. 6d.? Still, the system is wrong.

1780. And that is your idea of sweating? Yes; and with regard to the hospital money. If I work for the company, they do not stop it unless I consent; but, with Baxter and Saddler, it is compulsory. They do not ask you whether you want it stopped.

1781. You know Mr. Shaw, the manager for Baxter and Saddler? Yes.

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1782.

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1782. I am sure you are not afraid to go to him with any complaint you have to make? He is a gentleman that I have not very much love for, I can assure you. He seems to know my private affairs, and to know all about me. I keep clear of those people who pry into other people's business.
1783. Then you are not on good terms with him? I am not in love with him.
1784. Did you ever complain to Mr. Hebbard about any danger in the work? I never interfere with that gentleman. He knows his duty, and it is not a common navy's place to go and report to an inspector.
1785. Then you did not make any complaint to any person? No.
1786. Whom was it you asked for water, and it was refused? I could not swear which of them it was. I know Day had nothing to do with it; it was under Thompson.
1787. Are you sure you asked Thompson for it, and that he refused to give it to you? I am not sure whether I asked him or whether I asked the "ironstone" man.
1788. Does the "ironstone" man supply the water? That is what I was trying to find out. If I had known who supplied the water, I would have soon seen about it.
1789. Did you complain to the boss about the want of water? I asked for the water, and I was told I could not get it.
1790. From whom? From Thompson.
1791. You are certain of that? I would not be certain which of them I asked—whether Thompson or the "ironstone" man.
1792. You say that the men work in the face while holes are being charged? Yes.
1793. Have you ever read rule 9? No.
1794. You have never read that rule (*vide Rule 9 of the surface regulations*)? But you cannot well get out of it.
1795. Do you know that you are working under those rules, and that there is no necessity to work in defiance of them? How can you get out of it. If you can solve the question, I shall be satisfied. That is what we want to get at.
1796. Is it not a fact that day after day you will hear the ganger shouting out to the men to get away from the "flying fox," or from under the skip? Yes, occasionally.
1797. You say that, in working at night, the danger is from the loose stuff not being barred down? Yes.
1798. The night-shift goes on as a rule by daylight? You are supposed to start, in the summer time, at 5-30. The day-shift do all the firing. In the winter time, they made it half an hour earlier, so that it would not be too dark to fire the holes.
1799. What time do they fire now? In the morning, before they start; at dinner-time, and at knock-off time in the afternoon.
1800. Is there not sufficient light for the night-shift going on to see whether the stuff has been barred down from the last explosion? Not in winter time; it is impossible.
1801. Then, I suppose, if you could fire shots at night and bar down at night by electric light, you could also see whether there was any loose stone hanging in the face? They only pop large blocks at night.
1802. They do not fire any deep holes at night? The ganger on the day-shift is always supposed to leave enough stuff for the night ganger and his men to take off.
1803. Then it is the exception, and not the rule, to fire deep holes at night? Yes. If a deep hole were fired, it would be after a shift knocked off. They only pop large boulders at night time.
1804. You say the electric light is good half the shift, and bad the other half? Yes.
1805. If the electric light were maintained as good right through the shift, as you say it was part of the shift, it would be comparatively safe working there? My experience is this, that even working there in the daylight with the "chinaman," it takes you all your time to look out.
1806. Given a good light, I suppose the work on the "chinaman" would be as safe at night as during the day-time? No, I do not think so. You have not the same chance at night to see whether the stuff is coming.
1807. Do you know that at night there have been fewer accidents in the open-cuts than in the day-time? Because the men employed on the day-shift number more.
1808. With reference to the danger arising from plain hooks, are you aware that swivel-hooks were tried in those open-cuts and proved to be a failure? I never knew them to be a failure. I have proved them to be quite the opposite.
1809. Then you have had different experience from the men working in these cuts? I have never proved them a failure.
1810. As to the water in the bucket, with a dirty bag thrown over it, how often did that occur? It is occurring there at the present time.
1811. The water is not in a proper utensil, but in a bucket? Yes.
1812. When were you there last? I was there on Tuesday.
1813. You had a drink out of the bucket then? I was not dry then, but I have drank from it often enough.
1814. *Mr. Williams.*] Is it your experience that the brighter the light the darker would be the shadow cast by any intervening object? I have not taken that much notice. The lamps on the slag-heap are the best.
1815. Are they clear glass? Yes.
1816. Would that dazzle your eyes? If you continue working under the electric light for some time it affects your sight so much that you cannot read.
1817. Since you have been working under the electric light, do you find the letters, when reading, appear to have a blurred aspect? Yes, it affects your sight.
1818. For the electric light, there is a pole erected in the centre? Yes.
1819. In the skip passing to and fro, would there be any likelihood of the light throwing a shadow upon the work? No; the skip would have no effect upon the light. The light is, generally, put in the centre, and the skip would have no effect upon it.
1820. You know the inspector? Yes.
1821. You have seen him on the mine occasionally? Yes.
1822. In the open-cut? Yes.
1823. You have been asked and pressed to give the name of the person or persons to whom you have made any complaint as to water from time to time;—how long ago would it be since you made the complaint? With regard to the sprinkling of water to lay the dust?
- 1824.

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1824. Yes; how long ago is it since you were required to make such a complaint? Last summer.
1825. I suppose last summer you went into an hotel now and then, or into a cook shop, to get a dinner? Yes.
1826. Do you think you could possibly give me the name of any person who served you on those occasions? Certainly not.
1827. With regard to buying the shovel, is there any possibility of some men going up there for a job without the price of a shovel in their pocket? Yes, very often.
1828. Are not they the men for whom the shovels are provided by the contractors? Yes.
1829. That is the system in vogue on the railways? Yes; they are following up the system carried out on the railways.
1830. You think it would be a very good thing for the contractors to advance a man a shovel and charge him the market price for it? It is the extortion I complain of. They should not make 2s. 6d. or 3s. profit on every shovel sold.
1831. Did you ever know them to give a common navvy 2s. or 3s. extra pay? No; I did not. They will take 6d. off him if they can.
1832. You think it would be just as fair for the men to claim 3s. more wages as for the manager to try and get 3s. out of them? I should say so.
1833. Navvies engaged in such operations as those at the open-cuts are noted for their qualification for hard work? Yes.
1834. Are they kept very long, if inclined to loaf? Not very many minutes.
1835. You know the disease "straight-back"? Yes.
1836. Have you ever known men to be shouted at for trying to straighten their back? Yes; they roar out, "What are you doing there; what are you looking at?"
1837. And it would not be in decent English language? It would be very plain English language, I can tell you. I have heard that Mr. Stewart has issued an order to stop swearing.
1838. You believe Mr. Stewart is a more humane man than those under him? Yes.
1839. Since his advent into Broken Hill, the men have not been treated worse than before? No; if anything a shade better.
1840. If you complained every time there was reason to do so in the week of 48 hours, how much work would you do? I would not be able to do anything. Navvies are supposed to know nothing, hear nothing, and see nothing. They are supposed to only work.
1841. How long would you have any work to do if you began complaining? If you began complaining, you would not be there longer than it would take to put away your shovel.
1842. You have been pressed to give the names of those gentlemen who adopt the rushing system. Do you complain of the system as it generally obtains in the open-cut, or do you complain of any particular ganger? I speak against the system.
1843. As being an inhuman system and an unfair system? It is supposed to come under the rules and regulations of mining, and no miner is supposed to "bullock" like we have to.
1844. Do you think that any business man or any professional man in Broken Hill could carry out those rules in their entirety, and satisfy the gangers at the same time? They would not be there ten minutes.
1845. I have been up there, and I have tried and failed, and I can feel for you. Mr. Edwards asked you a question about standing away from under the skip, and you replied that if you carried out the rule bearing on that point, you would not be able to land the skip. How many generally go out to receive the skips when on trucks;—say you are working on the face a little distance away, and there is a line laid down from there to where the skip is hoisted—how many men go up to get the skip when coming down? One man is specially appointed to hook on. It is only when the skip is landed directly under the crane that you have to hook on yourself.
1846. As to that rule about getting away from under, is it not a fact that a skip is very often suspended overhead longer than it takes it to fill? Yes; and you do not know the minute when a stone might drop from her on to somebody. She comes back mouth down, with only two chains fastened, and sometimes a stone is left in her.
1847. Is it not a fact that in lowering the skip it sometimes swings round and twists the rope, and does not the jib sometimes fly right across? If you are working under a timber crane you have very little control of her on a windy day.
1848. Would not that be dangerous at night? They have tried to work it only once at night, and it was not a success. I believe they do work it at night at Block 11.
1849. Have you ever had occasion to fall almost flat in order to escape the skip? That is on account of bad driving. The driver whips the skip up too quickly.
1850. Is not the skip out of the driver's sight sometimes, and he cannot see how it is rising? If the driver cannot see the skip, the man tipping the skips says either "lower," or "heave-up," as the case might be. This driver is merely a man picked up promiscuously.
1851. May there not, on some occasions, be this sort of thing—that the driver misunderstands the order shouted to him by the man who tips the skips? Yes; there is a possibility of that occurring.
1852. Have you not seen the most careful men give signs with their hands as well as shout? If the engine-driver was a careful man, you could give signals; but you could shake your arms off signalling to some of those fellows, and they would only think that you were fooling them.
1853. You have come here to prevent an objectionable system of work being carried on, and not to get any ganger dismissed? Yes.
1854. You have come here relying upon the assurance that by so doing your position would not be interfered with in any way? What induced me to come here was a leading article that appeared in the *Barrier Miner* on Tuesday, asking men to come and give evidence for the purpose of saving the lives of their fellow men.
1855. You have no complaint to make against the company; in fact, you would prefer to work for the company rather than for the contractors? My word, I would that.
1856. And you only wish that the contractors would treat their men the same as the company do? Yes; but it would be better for the company if they did this work themselves.
1857. *Inspector Hebbard.*] In reference to the condition the empty skips are sent back in;—I think you said that there is a possibility of a stone being retained in the skip after being emptied, and that there was danger of it being thrown out on the skip's return? Yes.

1858.

- J. O'Brien. 1858. How long is it since you have seen a skip returned to the working face with only two chains hooked? Last week. As a general rule, the skips are returned mouth down, with only two chains fastened.
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1859. Is that the "flying fox"? No.
1860. *His Honor.*] At any rate, you say that the skips ought to be lowered right side up, with all the chains fixed? That is the safest and proper way.
1861. Is that not the usual practice? It is only the ore-skips that come back with the four chains fastened. The mullock-skips always come back with two of the chains undone.
1862. *Inspector Hebbard.*] But the hauling in those cases is only a few feet? It averages from 25 to 50 feet. They might fasten all the chains in Block 11, and, of course, where it was very deep they would have to do so.

Edward James Horwood sworn and examined:—

- E. J. Horwood. 1863. *Mr. Edwards.*] What is your full name? Edward James Horwood.
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1864. You are the mining manager of the Proprietary Mine? Yes; that includes the supervision of the underground workings, and the open-cuts as well.
1865. You have been at Broken Hill how long? About ten years.
1866. And for how long have you been connected with the Broken Hill Proprietary Company? For about nine and a half years.
1867. As mining surveyor and as mining manager? Yes; and I have been in charge of the open-cuts since their inception.
1868. I think, Mr. Horwood, you were born on the cap of a reef at Bendigo? A gold reef was found beneath the house in which I was living.
1869. You have been intimately connected with mining operations all your lifetime? Yes, more or less all my lifetime; with mining machinery and mining itself.
1870. *His Honor* wants you to give a description of the administration of the Proprietary Company up here, beginning with the general manager, and then describing the different branches, with their different heads;—can you do it from memory? There is the general manager at the head; and then comes the chief metallurgist, who is termed the assistant general manager. He takes rank above all other officers; he comes immediately under the general manager. In the departments that I have control of, I have, first of all, an assistant.
1871. *His Honor.*] Do you call him sub-manager? Not sub-manager altogether; he is the general assistant. In the underground department there are three day foremen—one in each block. Each has an assistant foreman; and in two blocks out of the three there is a timber foreman on the day shift. Under the foremen are two shift-bosses in each portion and on each shift—eighteen shift-bosses in all.
1872. The shift-bosses keep time with the shift? Yes; they follow with the shift; and, unless the men change, they have the same party on their shifts.
1873. The shift-bosses are selected from the miners? Yes.
1874. Do they do any work themselves, or do they only give orders? It is only in cases of emergency that they do any work. Their duty is to see that the work is done properly and safely, and to carry out any orders they receive from their foremen or from anyone over them. In the open-cuts, we have two day foremen and a night foreman. There is very little night work being done in the open-cuts. We, however, have a night foreman, whose duty it is to look after the open-cut work at night. The chief metallurgist, or assistant general manager, has several assistant metallurgists, and under them there are foremen and shift-bosses in the various departments, somewhat on the same lines that are in force underground. Perhaps there are not quite the number of foremen and assistant foremen in the metallurgical department as there are underground. Under the chief engineer are an assistant engineer and the foreman of the general surface work, the foreman of the fitting shop, and the foreman of the foundry. They work day shift, and, of course, there are not so many foremen and shift-bosses required in those branches. Under the chief engineer, all mechanical work and tradesmen are brought, including carpenters, riggers, engineers; in fact, all men engaged in construction of every kind or repairs.
1875. *Mr. Edwards.*] What other departments are there besides the mining? The open-cuts, smelting (or metallurgical), and engineering. And then there is the clerical staff.
1876. *His Honor* would like you to explain as to the work being done underground? Almost the whole of the work is done by piece or contract—whatever you would like to call it; not by the hour, but so much per set or per foot. The great bulk of the contracts are of fortnightly duration. In the case of shaft-sinking, if we get a good party together, we generally let 100 feet at a time. At one time the duration of the contracts let for stoping was a month; but it was found not to work satisfactorily, and the time was brought down to a fortnight. The chief objection to the long contracts is, that the men are not in the same position as a capitalist might be, who could put up with a loss for a short time in the hope of making it up afterwards. If the men fail to make wages for several weeks at a time they are deprived of actual subsistence. We have, therefore, made the contracts of fortnightly duration, so that the amount of risk taken by the men will never be very great. In the event of the ground's turning out unfavourable, they would not be compelled to work an up-hill contract for too long a time.
1877. *His Honor.*] On what basis do these contracts rest with relation to payment? The miners are paid by the set. The sets, as a rule, are all one size. In the event of any extra height, unless arranged before, payment in proportion is made.
1878. If a fortnight runs out in the middle of putting in a set, what arrangement is made then? In all cases it is left to the discretion of the foreman; and, as a rule, he discusses the matter with the men as to whether half, three-quarters, or what, should be allowed for the work done, and that is accepted and booked.
1879. If they are near completion of the set, I suppose they are allowed to finish it? The time of the contract is taken up to a certain hour—4 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon on every alternate week, and the amount of work done up to that hour is estimated. If there is the value of a quarter of a set left undone, that goes in to the next fortnight's work.
1880. Then, the same price is supposed to rule from fortnight to fortnight, and, generally, the same men are kept on;—is that so? It is more often the case that men remain in the face than that they are changed.

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changed. It is a benefit to the company not to remove them unnecessarily; but, in some places, it may be, perhaps, cooler to work than others, and the men are then changed about in order that, if there be anything detrimental, each should have no more than his fair share of it. Of course, it becomes very necessary very often to remove parties from one place to another, owing to those parties being unable to cope with the kind of ground to be worked. The parties on a contract change very often indeed, and the foreman is not able to form an estimate of what a particular party can do until he has had some little experience with them. Again, the foreman is not always able to place a party in exactly the same kind of ground that suits them, and that is one reason why moving about to a small extent is necessary. But, as a rule, men continue to work in the same faces unless there is some good reason connected with the work for the contrary.

1881. Who fixes the price? The foreman.

1882. Does it come to this—that the men are offered the work at a certain fixed price, and they either take it or refuse it? There is no obligation on the part of the miners to take it; and, in the event of their refusing a contract, if there is any other place vacant, it is offered to them.

1883. It is not anything like the tendering system, but a system of offering at a fixed price work to be done? Yes; of offering work, or of coming to terms with the particular parties.

1884. If no satisfactory party of miners would take the work, I suppose the mine would then go into the question whether the price ought not to be raised? It might be done on day-wages in that case. Very often men think a certain piece of work is very much more difficult to do than the foreman does, and he elects to do it by wages, viz., 9s. a shift; and, in this way, he very often gets work done under the price that he offered to the party who refused it.

1885. The foreman goes into the question of fixing prices and making contracts? In all ordinary cases.

1886. Unless there is something to refer to his superior officer? Yes; for instance, in the case of sinking a shaft where a large expenditure would be involved. He then refers to me. It is in some of these cases that we do call for tenders from parties who choose to offer to do the work.

1887. And, in that case, the price forms part of the tender? Yes.

1888. *Mr. Edwards.*] On the question of ventilation; I suppose it is as much to the interest of the mine-owner as it is to that of the men to have good ventilation in the works? If possible, it is more so. It has always been recognised that men are able to do very much more when the air is good than when it is deficient. It is certainly very much to the interest of the management to provide the best air practicable.

1889. In what manner is the mine ventilated? In open places the natural ventilation is sufficient. The air is diverted by curtains where the stopes are off the shortest route that the air might take. A good deal of that sort of thing has been done from time to time. In the great majority of cases, very little in the way of special provision has been necessary. The mine is opened up so extensively now that there are not many places that require special ventilation. In those places where air cannot circulate, fans driven by compressed air are used, also jets.

1890. *His Honor.*] I suppose the short distance the shafts are apart, and the large number of openings in relation to the horizontal area of the mine, enable mines of this kind to be more easily ventilated without artificial means than coal-mines? Yes.

1891. A coal-mine cannot be ventilated without either a furnace or a very powerful fan of some kind;—you find those not necessary in these mines? The various connections with stopes leading underground, in addition to the shafts, make those unnecessary. There are many disused shafts and winzes that have been uncovered by open-cut work; and, in some cases, stopes themselves have been uncovered; and they admit a large quantity of air into the workings.

1892. And, practically, you find it unnecessary to resort to artificial means, with few exceptions? Yes.

1893. And it is to your interest to supply fresh air to the men? Yes.

1894. Have you got on the mine any officer whose special duty it is to look after ventilation? It is the duty of the foreman in each block; and those who supervise work generally, look after that too. There is no special officer for this work, as the conditions are not so varying as to warrant that. If a place seems to be warm, and requires some additional means of circulation, it is brought about either by my own orders or the orders of the foremen.

1895. Does the ground increase in temperature appreciably here as you go down? I think there is the same increase here as there would be in any other place. I have no reason to think that it would be more—that is apart from the decomposition of the sulphides. A degree to 68 or 70 feet is what is quoted by some authorities as being the natural increase in temperature as you go down.

1896. Do the sulphides give out heat as they decompose? They do in places; but it is not the rule. In the Proprietary, there is only one place that is noticeably hot owing to the decomposition of sulphides, and that is a length embracing only 200 or 300 feet.

1897. There it is noticeable? Yes.

1898. That helps the ventilation, does it not? It would help it on the whole; but it would be disagreeable in the immediate vicinity. On the whole, it promotes ventilation if it is in communication with an up-cast shaft.

1899. By having an up-cast shaft in the close neighbourhood, and where the temperature is continually rising like that, you would get a natural means of ventilation? Yes.

1900. But I understand that, as far as you can, you try to secure a good ventilation right through? Yes.

1901. And you say you succeed in doing so generally? Yes; of course, these things are not remedied until it becomes apparent that the remedy is needed. We recognise that it is decidedly against our interests to not give good ventilation, as it not only interferes with the comfort of the men, but it takes longer for the smoke to clear, and the men have thus to waste more time.

1902. *Mr. Edwards.*] It would save loss of time? Yes; if the air is stagnated it will mean that the smoke will hang for hours, and the men would be unable to get back to their workings within a reasonable time.

1903. *His Honor.*] Except for the [air-compressing engine, you have no other means at present for stimulating ventilation? We have a number of fans used in places—for instance, where we are putting up rises or putting in drives; where there is just the dead end, and no circulation is possible. We use fans for all these. They are worked by an engine, which is itself driven by compressed air.

1904. You use the compressed air as the motive power? Yes.

1905. And you do use fans? Certainly.

1906. But you do not carry compressed air-pipes right through the stopes? No; its main purpose is for power for working pumps underground, underground hoists, winches, fans, and jets. These are the main purposes for which compressed air is used; also for working rock-drills, mainly in drives and shafts.

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1907. You do not use the rock-drills in the stopes? It is exceptional at present that we use them in the stopes, although we have at the present time one stope being worked by means of rock-drills. The air is only carried into that stope for the purpose of working the drill, and not for ventilation.

1908. In that case you would work the stopes by day-labour? No; we provide contractors with machines and compressed air, and they break the ground at so much per set.

1909. Of course, it makes a difference in the price per set? Yes; it is provided for in that way.

1910. It saves them drilling? Yes; and in hard ground, results in more economical work.

1911. *Mr. Edwards.*] In reference to the alleged increase in the number of accidents in the Broken Hill District lately;—speaking of your mine, have you noticed any increase; and, if so, how do you account for it? I cannot say that the total has or has not been greater; but, assuming that it might have been greater, it is well known that there has been a very large exodus of miners to West Australia during the last two years; and, naturally, the miners who leave are those who conclude that they will get work anywhere, and are, of course, generally the pick of the men. We found, as a rule, that it was the best men, or portion of the best men, who left to go away; and, of course, their places were filled with the best men available outside. Owing to the extension of work in Broken Hill, there was not the supply of miners as efficient as those that left to keep pace with the increased work in mines outside the Proprietary. Then, the other mines have largely increased their work during the last two years. Consequently, a large number of men, of second-rate quality as to a knowledge of mining, have got into the ranks. That would largely account for any increase there has been in the number of accidents—that is, if there has been an increase. I cannot say, taking into account the largely-increased number of men employed, that there has been any noticeable increase in the number of accidents.

1912. Are you, in your mine, in this present year, employing more men than you were before? We are employing about the same number underground; but fewer men have been employed in the open-cuts during the last twelve or eighteen months.

1913. I believe it is a fact that men are employed simply on their merits as workmen, and with a total disregard as to whether they belong to any union, or are free labourers? Yes.

1914. The object being to secure the best workmen possible? Yes.

1915. Some one said that the cause of increase in accidents was attributable to the contract system;—what do you think of that suggestion? I think that if the contract system had not been introduced, there would have been a great many more accidents. The experience of the Proprietary Company was that it took two men to do the work that is now being done by one man. On wages, it required two men to do the work that one man does now. Having that large number of men engaged in the work of taking out the ore, and doing the work that had to be done, there actually would have been a greater number of accidents. On the other hand, the contract system, attracting as it does the best and the most efficient men, tends to the improvement of the miners and the discouragement of inefficient workmen, who know that, if they are not up to the standard, they are liable to make under the standard wage. The contract system, therefore, should contribute to the safe working of the mine for that reason.

1916. Some one has suggested that, owing to the contract system, men have to rush their work in order to make wages;—what is the average wage on those contracts? It is somewhere in the neighbourhood of 10s. 6d. and 11s., and has been for some years.

1917. That is the average earnings of the whole of the miners engaged per shift of eight hours? Yes. The contracts are based on what the foreman would estimate a miner could do, working at wages at a fair rate of speed. If they take extra risks to earn more, that cannot be prevented. The prices are fixed so that the men can, without unduly exerting themselves, make at least the ruling wage—9s. per shift. Of course, the ground changes very often after a contract has been let, and the men are unable to earn as much as the ruling wage. On the other hand, it changes in their favour just as often; and I have seen nearly 30s. a shift earned for nearly a fortnight.

1918. *His Honor.*] I understand that, under the contract system, as it is known here, no middle man comes in—that is to say, the worker contracts to do the work himself? Yes.

1919. Except in the case of the open-cuts? Yes.

1920. The workers deal directly with the company? Yes.

1921. It is practically piece-work? Yes; through the foreman direct. There is nothing in the nature of a middle man at all.

1922. But that "middle man" element does come in in the open-cuts, does it not?—

Mr. Edwards: They are separate contracts.

1923. They are sub-contracts? There is very little of that. The contractors employ all day-labour. There is very little sub-letting. A "chinaman" tunnel may be sub-let. All the men engaged under the contractor are working at so much per hour, or so much per day.

1924. Still, the contractor makes a living by calculating on such a difference as will give him a fair wage for his superintendence? Yes; that is about the principle. The contractor is always a man of experience and resource, and it is to his interest to exercise his ingenuity to the greatest extent in improving methods, and, by doing so, he gets a profit for himself.

1925. *Mr. Edwards.*] Is there any truth in the statement that, when men take a contract, and the ground turns in their favour—I am now speaking of underground—and they are making a good thing out of it, they are taken away from that and put on to inferior ground? It has always been a very strict order—and it is the wish of the General Manager, and the foremen all know it—that, if circumstances should arise, in a case where a party have a good contract, such that men are urgently required in some other part of the mine, rather than have the appearance of taking away from them a good contract, some inconvenience should be gone to on the part of the management to avoid it. There may be exceptional cases where contracts are stopped, when the men are earning exceptionally good wages; but they are very rare.

1926. Would they be stopped simply to prevent the men earning a good wage? No; it is when something that has to be attended to occurs in the mine. But taking men away from good contracts is avoided as much as possible.

1927. As to the shift-bosses, can you say they are competent, steady, men? I can; the foremen and shift-bosses are all men who have worked themselves up from the lower grades, and have shown themselves as possessing capabilities fitting them for the positions they have been appointed to. We aim at getting the very best men it is possible to get, and we take all means to assure ourselves that we do.

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1928. As to supplying the men with necessary timber or material of any description, in order to secure the ground which they work in;—is there any limit to that? There is no restriction whatever in any part of the mine. There might be a slight delay, for some reason or other, in getting timber to an out-of-the-way place; but there is nothing to prevent a man ceasing work in an unsafe place, if in want of timber, temporarily. The timber, as far as is possible, is cut to the sizes and in the quantities which we find, by experience, are necessary to meet all requirements.

1929. Are the workmen supposed to run any unnecessary risks, or asked to perform work in dangerous ground? They are certainly not asked to run any unnecessary risk at all; and, where there is considered to be any danger, and it is necessary, in order to secure the ground, to continue working in it, the foremen or shift-boss or some of the others whose work it is to supervise, spend a lot of their time in that place assisting and getting the place into a safer condition. Risks must be run in mining; and, of course, no one disputes that; but no unnecessary risks are run by the miners, as far as we are able to prevent it.

1930. These are the underground working rules of the mine. (*Exhibit "A."*)? Yes.

1931. These are the rules under which the work is carried out underground? Yes.

1932. Are the shift-bosses and foremen instructed to see that these rules are strictly observed? They are.

1933. These rules, I think, were prepared under your supervision? I assisted in their preparation.

1934. If dangerous ground is observed by a workman, is he encouraged, or is he snubbed or checked if he makes any complaint to his shift-boss or foreman? I have no reason to think that he is snubbed in any way. I think it is only right—and our rules show it is our wish—that if any danger be undetected by the shift-boss or foreman—and it is quite possible that a danger may arise, and be a real source of danger without being noticed by any of the bosses—the men should report it, and they are encouraged to do so.

1935. With reference to accidents taking place owing to the incompetency of the men, are the men incompetent, as compared with any other period when the standard was different? When we find the men incompetent they are discharged, and other men put on in their places. A very large number of men have been discharged for incompetency.

1936. Can you give any idea of the number that have been discharged during the last twelve months for incompetency, and drunkenness, and misbehaviour? It runs into many hundreds.

1937. Has any effort been made to get competent miners from other parts? Yes; we appointed a mining man in Ballarat, a man who had been connected with mining for many years over there, and who has occupied the position of mine manager and other positions, to act as agent to secure competent miners, and he sent 300 or 400 up. Of course, some amongst them were not first-class miners; but, on the whole, they proved satisfactory. The greater portion of them were acceptable miners. Of course, they were not accustomed to the square-set system, but many of them are working by means of the square-set now, and are looked upon as very good miners.

1938. Before sending for those men, did you exhaust the local labour market for skilled miners? Yes, we did. Almost every man sent on had to be discharged, and this was occurring for a long time before we took the extreme step of sending elsewhere for men.

1939. There were a number of unemployed here at the time, but they were not competent miners? They were certainly not competent miners.

1940. And you exhausted the competent miners before you sent elsewhere for men? Yes; some considerable time before.

1941. Were these men who were introduced from outside paid the same rate of wage as was ruling locally? Yes, the same rate. The work was getting behind, and there was no labour here to do it, and we were forced to get men from elsewhere.

1942. And, in getting those men, you were met with certain opposition? Yes.

1943. Have you done your best to get competent men to work those lodes? Yes.

1944. They are different from any others in the colonies, and you require the best miners you can get to work them? Yes; the better the miners we can get, the safer and more efficient will be the work done.

1945. In reference to the regulations in force on your mine, do you think they are sufficient—supposing they could be enforced by penalty both as against the mine manager and as against the workmen, with a slight modification, perhaps—to secure the safe working of the mine and the protection of the men? I cannot suggest anything that can be added. These rules, as is the case with all rules, are an improvement on the previous rules, which themselves were an improvement on the rules in existence before them. The present state of the rules has been brought about by long experience, and I cannot suggest anything at the present time that would lead to a safer arrangement if included in them.

1946. Do you know any safer system of timbering or of working these lodes than is adopted by the Proprietary? I do not think any safer system of timbering could be introduced. Of course, timber is looked upon as scaffolding in stopes; and it is generally conceded that filling is unnecessary.

1947. Is that being adopted? The stopes are filled as closely as it is possible to fill them consistently with the convenience of the working. It not only results in much safer working, and in enabling the stope to be kept open, but it also saves timber. Nothing will hold the ground up so well as a section filled with mullock.

1948. And that is being used in large quantities now in the works? We are putting all in that we have room for. We are leaving nothing but gangways necessary for working, for circulation of air, and for working room. It is more necessary in our case to fill closely than in some mines, where lower levels are being opened up, and the ground will stand for a considerable time. Here, on the Proprietary, the oxidised ores that are being worked are being cut up in different directions, and filling becomes a necessity. If large spaces are allowed to be formed, there is the liability of a collapse.

1949. Has any accident ever occurred in the Proprietary Mine since it has been under your supervision owing to a deficiency of timber to enable the workmen to secure themselves from danger? I do not know of any.

1950. You have known, I suppose, of men meeting with accidents from not using timber that was there for them to have? Yes; a few, where men have thought timber not necessary—where the ground has been deceptive.

1951. That was simply an error of judgment as to the soundness of the ground? Yes.

1952. In reference to explosives—a clause in Regulation No. 7 of your Underground Rules says:—

A charge of explosive of any kind which has missed fire shall not be unrammed, and a fresh hole shall not be drilled within an unsafe distance of the missed-hole.

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You do not consider that a good regulation? No, I do not. I think unramming should be allowed. Of course, our rules are based on the Mining Regulations under the Act, and we must insist on the same provisions that are insisted on in those regulations. We would be very glad to be relieved of the necessity of having it the rule that holes are not to be unrammed, because it is universally admitted that it would be safer to take out a portion of the tamping, and then explode by putting in more dynamite.

1953. Not touching the charge itself, but simply taking off some of the tamping? Yes. If there is any possibility of getting tamping of two different colours, it would be a good thing to make a habit of putting on a few inches of tamping of a whitish material, and the balance of a darker material, so that in drawing a charge it could be seen when the dangerous part was being reached.

1954. You could do that by means of measuring with the tamping-stick? Yes, if they would take the trouble to measure it. They would know by the length of the drill they had been working about the length of the hole.

1955. As a rule, do you find miners careful men about explosives? There are cases of carelessness that come under one's notice. I think in that, as in most other things, the constant acquaintance with the danger lessens the appreciation of it.

1956. *His Honor.*] As to untamping to within a short distance of the charge. Supposing it is one of the detonating explosives, not powder—within what distance of the charge do you think you would have to get before you could be quite sure that a smaller amount of explosive would set off the unexploded charge? I think anywhere within 6 inches of the charge would explode it. Putting a plug within 3 inches to 6 inches would explode it.

1957. And yet there are those cases where an explodent supposed to have been put in continuously has exploded in part only? Cases like that are occurring, but I think such a thing is very rare with good explosives. I think it is more likely an inferior brand that gives that result.

1958. You agree with other witnesses who have expressed an opinion that it is only an inferior explosive that will act in that way? Yes.

1959. *Mr. Edwards.*] All the nitro-glycerine explosives are sold through agencies out here? Yes.

1960. And on the introduction of those explosives to South Australia, do you know what steps are taken there to test them to see that they are of good quality? There is a Government Inspector.

1961. Professor Renne, of the University? Yes; I think he is the inspector.

1962. *His Honor.*] Is there any such inspection of explosives in New South Wales? We have had no dealings with any Sydney firms in the matter of explosives that I have heard of. All explosives pass through the South Australian Government, and that Government only, so far as my experience is concerned. I have heard of a number of cases where dynamite has had to be taken out to sea and destroyed by the South Australian authorities.

1963. *Mr. Edwards.*] That loss does not fall upon the people in the colonies, but upon the exporters at home? Yes.

1964. Because they merely sell through agents? Yes.

1965. So there is no inducement to people to buy bad explosives? No.

1966. When you let a contract for explosives you insist upon being supplied with the best quality? We get the best. We would rather pay a good deal more and get the best than pay a low price and get an inferior explosive.

1967. I believe there are some cheap German explosives that are dangerous? Yes; there is more danger with some explosives than with others. The South Australian Government, however, are very strict in this respect.

1968. Something has been said about scrapers in connection with a charge. I think that practice is condemned? Yes; a scraper should not be used as a tamper.

1969. It is absolutely prohibited underground? Yes.

1970. Soft-wood tamping rods are provided? Yes; by the company.

1971. So that if the workmen use an iron instrument it is not the fault of the company? No, not at all.

1972. *His Honor.*] According to the Government regulation, you may use an iron tamping-rod so long as you have it copper-tipped;—what do you say as to that? I do not think 4 inches is sufficient. If an iron rod is to be used for tamping, I think there should be at least 1 foot of copper, or else the rod should be copper throughout.

1973. *Mr. Edwards.*] But I think the wooden one is admitted to be the safest? Yes; it is quite sufficient for the work here.

1974. *His Honor.*] Does the heavy compression of those explodents make any difference in their effect when they explode? The smaller the space they can be got into, the better the work they will do. Beyond a certain point, however, nothing can be gained. With a very ordinary amount of tamping, you may do away with, probably, 25 per cent. of the interstices there may be at the top of the charge, and it would take a very large amount of tamping to get at the remaining 5 per cent. An iron rod, therefore, is not necessary to get an efficient result. You get all the tamping that is required by the use of the wooden rod.

1975. In point of fact, you practically get rid of, you may say, all the air, with very little tamping? Yes; a wooden tamping-rod can do all the packing that is required. I am quite sure that tamping does improve the result in the case of dynamite, as it does with powder. It is not right to assume that, because dynamite does a lot of work with little or no tamping, as against powder, it does not want tamping. Tamping immediately over the charge is much better than simply closing the hole, because in the latter case you leave a certain amount of air between the tamping and the charge to take away the efficiency of the blast. It certainly adds to the efficiency of a blast if the charge be tamped, even in the case of dynamite.

1976. *Mr. Edwards.*] I believe the absence of tamping causes some chemical change, and the explosive throws out some injurious gases? It does occur in some cases with the nitro-glycerine compounds that a sort of secondary explosion takes place, and the chemical action that takes place in that case is not what is intended by the inventor of the explosive, and gases of a noxious nature are thrown off.

1977. *His Honor.*] When it is fired properly there is a very imperfect combustion, in the true sense of the word, and when fired improperly a more perfect combustion? Yes.

1978. *Mr. Edwards.*] So that tamping should be insisted on with dynamite to a degree? Yes.

1979. And I suppose the extent of that would be impossible to limit in any regulations? Yes; it would vary. It would be hard to regulate.

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1980. It all comes to this—that drawing the tamping out to within some few inches of the charge ought to be safe? Yes; and safer than any other means of exploding the charge that can be suggested.

1981. Is it safer than putting in another hole not less than 6 inches away? I think it is much safer. There is in that case a liability of boring into the charge, and also the liability, when this second hole is fired, of its breaking the ground and scattering the charge of the first hole amongst the broken ground without exploding it. In working with machine drills in a drive, it has been found that holes explode very close to one another without exploding the adjoining charge.

1982. *His Honor.*] But in the other case, if you remove the tamping to within 6 inches of a charge and put in a plug of dynamite, you think it is sure to explode the charge? Yes.

1983. But the tamping, being softer than the rock, would not carry the vibrations so well? It will; a plug of dynamite exploded over a charge compresses the tamping to a certain stage, and then drives it with great force into the larger charge. I am inclined to think that 6 inches would in all cases be a sufficient distance.

1984. You think there ought to be a fixed distance within which the tamping should not be withdrawn? I do not think the distance should be fixed, because circumstances might be different in different cases.

1985. If a hole went off, it would be very hard to say whether a man had been pricking within 6 inches or not? Yes; it would be impossible to prove that. I think the distance a thing that might be left to the discretion of the miner.

1986. But you would not allow him to go right down on to the charge? If a man was inclined to go down on to a charge, I hardly think that a regulation would stop him. I do not think any miner would be so foolish as to actually uncover the charge.

1987. It is being continually done in the case of powder? It has been done.

1988. Of course it is recognised not to be a safe practice?—

Mr. Edwards: It is not like drawing a charge out of a smooth-barrelled gun;—there is a difference in drawing powder out of rough rock? It might be put in as a warning for the guidance of men deficient in knowledge.

1989. That is the object of regulations—not so much that you can enforce them; they should be more in the nature of directions than anything else—instructions as it were? Certainly, your Honor.

1990. Because the men who did it, if there were an accident, would not be punishable in this case? It would be safe, then, to have a regulation that no charge be uncovered.

1991. Do you think 3 inches would be a safe limit to prescribe, or should it be more than that? I would not say 3 inches would be sufficient in all cases.

1992. *Mr. Edwards.*] There is a regulation at present under those Government rules that not more than 6 lb. of powder shall be in a workman's possession for use at one time in any one place. With machine drills, that is not sufficient, I understand? Not nearly sufficient. Many times that quantity is required for the one operation, for the one series of holes.

1993. *His Honor.*] Of other explosives besides powder? Yes; of nitro-glycerine compounds. Five or six times that quantity of this explosive used in the one series of holes is not an uncommon occurrence.

1994. That is when going in with a big drive? Yes; there may be twenty holes in the drive. They are all bored out first, and then fired in succession. The centre portion is taken out first, and the other holes are gradually fired as it is most advantageous to fire them; that is according to the burden they carry. If the men firing out that face had to go tramping backwards and forwards for 6 lb. of explosive at a time, it would introduce a new element of danger. It is much safer to take in in one lot what is required, and keep it stored in a safe corner. At the conclusion of the operation, they should not, I think, be allowed to have more than 5 or 6 lb. remaining in the face in their possession.

1995. It is necessary, I suppose, to allow a man to have some remaining in his possession after the charge has been fired, because he may want to put in some small shots? Yes; it would lead to a great deal of inconvenience if a man were prohibited from having any explosives in his possession; and I do not know of any accident that has happened through miners having that privilege.

1996. Then you would qualify the rule somewhat in this way: A workman shall not have in use at one time in any one place more than 6 lb. of explosive, except when engaged in charging holes? Yes.

1997. *Mr. Edwards.*] I suppose, when not stored in the magazine, the explosives should be kept in a secure case or canister? Certainly; it is the rule in the Proprietary Mine that they should be so kept.

1998. In the case of a missed-hole, what time do you think should elapse before anyone is allowed to go near it? It is impossible to say whether a hole has missed in all cases.

1999. I suppose two hours would cover everything? I have never heard of anything happening outside two hours. That would be ample; but in a case where a miner has reason to believe that a missed-hole is due to a certain action of his own, I do not know that it would be right to prohibit him from going back within that time. He might be quite satisfied that the fuse had not taken when he left the place. In cases of that kind a certain amount of discretion should be left to the miners.

2000. *His Honor.*] Does the appearance of the fuse indicate whether it has burned into the hole or not—whether the spitting has taken place inside the collar? If he sees it spit he can be satisfied that it is not a missed-hole as regards the fuse.

2001. Then a fuse that a miner is not positive about spitting would not be taken as a missed-hole? I should not call it a missed-hole. In a case like that, the rule should not be made so hard-and-fast as to preclude a miner from going back.

2002. It should be considered a missed-hole only where the fuse has spat without effect? Yes.

2003. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] I quite believe that there are many things that will cause a miner to be doubtful whether he has properly lit the fuse; but he will clear out just for the time being to be on the safe side; he is often afraid that, through some particular action of his, the charge will not fire; and in such cases I think he should not be precluded from going back to it within a reasonable time; that would be unnecessary delay to keep him away from it for two hours? Yes; unnecessary delay, not only to himself, but to the men near by. I would make the rule read that, where a hole is known to have missed by the man engaged in charging, one and a half or two hours should elapse before anyone returns to it.

2004. *Mr. Edwards.*] As to the system of "bulling" holes, is that necessary in order to give the explosive full effect? Yes; absolutely necessary.

2005. And as to the depth of the holes in the open-cuts, do you consider that an 18-foot hole is necessarily more dangerous than a 15-foot hole? I think that, on the whole, the work can be done more safely the deeper

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deeper the holes are, for various reasons. The only extra danger in connection with a deep hole, as against a shallow hole, is the extra difficulty there may be, in some cases, of getting the charge to the bottom of the hole. It may be a little difficult to do that in some cases; and that is the only thing that can be said against deep holes. On the other hand, with a large number of shallow holes you have to repeat, according to the number of holes taking the place of a deep hole, the various operations of "bulling," charging, and firing—all, in themselves, dangerous operations. Then again, in working with long holes, the deeper the bench you form with that hole the fewer holes you will require, and the fewer benches you will have to work to get the stuff down; and it is found that at the bottom of a bench the rock that has been in the neighbourhood of a hole is very much shattered and cracked, and that, in itself, is a source of danger in every succeeding bench. In getting down the ground, these irregularities have to be contended against when charging; and there is an element of danger introduced into every succeeding hole. So the fewer benches the better, as you have then less irregular or cracked ground, and less holes to fire.

2006. There is a danger in creating crevices? Yes; the danger is, that the explosive itself, or part of the charge, might get into them, and result in a premature explosion. It is only in exceptional cases where long holes may be considered a source of danger, and that is in passing the explosive down the hole. But in the long run you have to go down a greater depth, and have a greater length to pass the explosive down in shallow holes than if working long holes. Besides, the long hole would bring down about three times the quantity that the short holes would, which means a decreased use of explosives, and it is explosives that are the greatest source of danger in quarrying operations. The long holes minimise the use of explosives, and, I think, you would really be introducing a source of danger if you limited the holes.

2007. *His Honor.*] You think no limit should be fixed? The limit should be nothing like so small as 15 feet.

2008. What limit would you name? I do not think it should be under 20 feet. It is rarely that any hole is sunk as deep as 20 feet; but for all that I do not think the limit should be under 20 feet. Eighteen or 20 feet would be the maximum that would be attempted, as, beyond that, the tool would become unmanageable.

2009. You think, on the whole, it would be better to do away with that limitation, and leave it to the discretion of the men? Yes.

2010. Of course, this is not intended to apply to boring in the stopes, because there the holes are limited by the size of the set, and, I suppose, the orders of the shift-boss, who, I take it, has control over the depth of the holes? If there was any tendency to exceed the proper dimensions, he would, of course, interfere; but, as a rule, the men never attempt to bore holes too deep.

2011. It is too risky for themselves? Yes, and inconvenient.

2012. *Mr. Edwards.*] In reference to additional inspection; that is a matter, I suppose, entirely for the Government;—the managers do not mind how many inspectors there are, so long as they are competent men, and not Members of Parliament? There is no objection, provided they are suitable men.

2013. *His Honor.*] Taking the Albert Mining District, have you got an opinion as to the expediency, in the public interest, of appointing an additional inspector? I think it is hardly fair to expect the inspector of this district to have charge of all the outlying country. The managers are not asking for an additional inspector; but they are not opposed to another one being appointed, by any means.

2014. You think that there ought to be an inspector whose duty shall never necessarily, except perhaps to a very trifling extent, take him away from the immediate neighbourhood of Broken Hill? I think it would result in much inconvenience and other drawbacks if the inspector were to be allowed to be away for a week at a time, because it frequently happens that he has to be referred to on different matters. At the same time, I do not admit that the appointment of any number of inspectors would reduce the number of accidents.

2015. You are aware that there is a singular difference in the manner of a cabman when he sees a transit inspector looming anywhere within range, and when he does not;—the knowledge of the presence of an officer always has a wholesome effect? I admit that. Human nature is human nature in every branch of life. I think, however, it must be admitted that a great many more things are done in the way of preventing accidents that the inspector would not ask for or insist on. It is apt to reflect on the management if accidents are too numerous. A great many precautions are taken in the mines here that it is not compulsory on the part of the management to take, and I am satisfied that they are the means of preventing accidents.

2016. It would very much strengthen the hands of the mine-managers if some of those precautions they insist upon could be made compulsory? I am not referring to anything that could be stated definitely, but to matters in general. We do the work in what we consider the safest way, and you could hardly frame regulations to cover all circumstances that might arise. A great many things are done by the companies here which could never be stated in the regulations.

2017. *Mr. Edwards.*] You say the managers do that for their reputation, apart from any humane feeling? Yes; for the sake of their reputation they would do that.

2018. They do not try to pay dividends out of the corpses of their men? No.

2019. As to the system of apprenticing youths;—what have you to say to that? I think that is the best way to train miners.

2020. Would not that system, if recognised by the law, tend to build up a sturdy race of competent miners? Yes.

2021. Of course, you would have to limit your number of apprentices to the number of competent miners working? Yes. I do not think apprentices should, as seems to have been assumed here, be allowed to go straight into the face. I think they should be sent down first to do the same work that truckers have to do, and so on, so that they may gradually become familiarised with underground conditions. If sent straight to the face, they would not become so efficient as they would if given the opportunity of going through the different grades and different kinds of work.

2022. I suppose the truckers are on the lowest rung of the ladder? Yes. The apprentices should first be engaged in trucking and filling, and doing work other than that actually required of a miner.

2023. Of course, the remuneration of an apprentice would be a matter that would have to be left entirely in the hands of the management? I think so. I do not think it is a matter that could be legislated upon.

2024. In reference to what has been suggested about a Board of Inquiry to take evidence as to minor accidents

accidents;—what do you think of that proposal; would it have any benefit; would it tend to reduce the number of accidents; or could it be made a lever as against the management? It is only in rare cases that the cause of an accident is not self-evident, and I take it that, if the thing is not quite clear, there is nothing to prevent the mining inspector from getting to the bottom of it; in fact, he makes it his duty to do so now. The management themselves aim at getting to the bottom of every accident; and, if one occurs from unforeseen circumstances, and any information be derived from it which could be made useful in preventing a similar accident in the future, the management take steps to profit by it. I think these Boards would occupy a lot of time, and the time wasted might lead to further accidents. I do not see that there is anything to be gained that is not obtainable at the present time.

2025. Then the inspector would be able to get at the causes of accidents as well as this Board? Yes.

2026. *His Honor*] But he would have no power to compel the attendance of witnesses? —

2027. *Mr. Edwards*.] That might be given to him by an Act? Yes.

2028. With this Board, in the event of any unfriendly disposition on the part of the men, the management might be put to great expense and inconveniences to no good purpose? Yes. If the inspector had ample power it should be sufficient.

2029. *His Honor*.] You do think, I understand, that it would be well if there were some means of bringing before some competent person—put it in that way generally—the circumstance of an accident, which, if death had ensued, would have formed the subject of a magisterial inquiry, so that it might be fairly gone into, in the event of the person injured not being able to afford, or not caring, to bring an action; the only way he can do that at present is by suing someone; no one should be compelled to bring an action, and he would often be a great fool if he did;—the question is, whether you do not think it would be well, when rather serious accidents happen, and yet life is not lost, that they be inquired into, without leaving it to the person injured to take the initiative? I think something might be done in that way. If the inspector were satisfied that he could not get to the bottom of a thing without a formal investigation, it would be a fair thing to empower him to hold one.

2030. Then there would be this difficulty in the way: it sometimes might look as if the inspector himself had been negligent in enforcing his own powers, and therefore, in those cases, no matter however much he might be in the right, a good many people would still imagine him in the wrong, and there would be a good deal of dissatisfaction; everything, however, would be cleared up if an open inquiry were held by some competent officer outside the inspector:—the inspector does, at present, report all accidents to the Minister, but the distance away very much defeats the whole of the proceedings? —

2031. *Mr. Edwards*.] In the absence of the inspector, would not (say) the warden or the coroner be sufficient;—at any rate, it should be some person outside political influence? The difficulty is, to draw a line where an inquiry is necessary.

2032. *His Honor*.] As suggested by Mr. Polkinghorne, someone would have to have discretion to determine whether an accident should be inquired into; perhaps the tribunal itself would have that discretion;—assuming that the matter was an important one—take the case of two or three men being nearly killed, not quite killed—do you not think there ought to be a means of bringing that matter before a fair and competent tribunal, without throwing upon anyone injured the duty of seeking his rights? I do not think that would be objected to. The only thing is, that it might be made to act in a vindictive manner: all cases might be gone into. It would be assumed, probably, that there was something wrong, when it could be made perfectly clear to anyone conversant with the thing that it was a pure accident. It would lead to a good deal of vindictiveness and loss of time without a corresponding gain. If it could be limited in such a way as to avoid that, I do not think anyone would oppose it.

2033. The existence of such a tribunal would have a tendency to make all persons careful? In cases where neglect can be proved now the ordinary process could be adopted.

2034. But perhaps overmen might know themselves to be so much to blame that they would have no chance of recovering in an action;—still, the matter ought to be ventilated? If proper limits were placed upon the Board, I do not think the management would object to it.

2035. *Mr. Edwards*.] From your experience on the Barrier, would a Board have power to work in a vindictive manner towards the mines, and should it be left in the hands of some competent officer to be appointed by the Government, and clothed with sufficient power—either the Police Magistrate, Coroner, or some other person? I think that some single officer could carry out the duties quite well enough if it were thought that the inspector was an interested party. Of course, if it was thought the inspector was an interested party, it would be better to have someone else, and I should think a single officer, appointed by the Government, would be ample.

SATURDAY, 17 JULY, 1897.

Edward James Horwood re-called and further examined:—

2036. *Mr. Edwards*.] In opening Mr. Horwood's examination yesterday, I omitted to ask him as to his qualifications and experience as a mining engineer. Would you tell us, Mr. Horwood, what training you have had as a mining and civil engineer? I received my training as a mining and civil engineer, first, at the Bendigo School of Mines, and, afterwards, I went through a three years' course at the Melbourne University, gaining the certificate of "Master of Civil Engineering" (M.C.E.)

2037. *His Honor*.] That involves all the theoretical portion? Yes.

2038. *Mr. Edwards*.] After that, you served twelve months in the Bendigo Iron Works? Yes; my course was interrupted for a year, and I spent that year in the draftsman's office in the Bendigo Iron Works, where mining machinery is the principal work.

2039. After that, you had two years on large railway contracts? Yes, partly in Victoria and partly on the South Australia-Broken Hill line; as assistant engineer in the first case, and engineer to the contractors in the second. That led me up to the Broken Hill experience which I mentioned yesterday. I became connected with the Broken Hill Proprietary Mine about nine and a half years ago as underground surveyor, and my connection with the mine has continued ever since.

2040. *His Honor*.] In connection with the mining engineering work, had you to go through a course of chemistry and experimental physics? Yes; the course included experimental physics, chemistry, mineralogy, and practical chemistry.

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2041. *Mr. Edwards.*] I think, when we left off yesterday, we were on this proposed system of inquiry into minor accidents;—do you think that such a Board as is proposed could be made a matter of great annoyance to the mining management without resulting in any special benefit either to the mines or the men? Yes; I certainly do think so. In fact, I think it would be almost certain to put them to a lot of unnecessary expense.
2042. *His Honor.*] You think it ought to be so constituted, if constituted at all, as to eliminate all possibility of its representing political or social distinctions in any way? Yes.
2043. It ought to be absolutely independent? Yes.
2044. De-localised, as it were? Yes.
2045. *Mr. Edwards.*] It should be a strictly judicial inquiry? Yes, apart altogether from outside influences.
2046. As to these proposed regulations: Is it possible, from your experience, or will it be possible, to frame a set of hard-and-fast regulations that can be applicable to all the different mines on the Barrier alike, or would it be better for each mine to make working regulations for itself, to be subject, if necessary, to the approval of the Minister? I do think that too hard-and-fast regulations would become impracticable in many cases; and, in endeavouring to work by them, accidents might be brought about. If the mine rules could be altered, and approved by the Government Inspector as circumstances required, I think that would meet the case in the way of providing for a contingency, where it is possible, by a rule or regulation.
2047. Of course there are certain things, such as the use of explosives and things of that sort, for which hard-and-fast rules could not be laid down? Yes.
2048. As far as your experience goes since working on the Proprietary, you find it necessary to alter the working rules as the work develops in the mine? Yes.
2049. *His Honor.*] Even as to explosives, you must allow a large amount of elasticity, because it is a fact that new explosives are almost daily being brought into use? Yes.
2050. An explosive in use to-day would be the cause of a danger which would probably not exist at all in an explosive that might be in use six months hence? Yes.
2051. And which might involve entirely new elements of danger, and new conditions of treatment? Yes; more attention is being paid by experimental chemists to the manufacture of new explosives than to almost any other branch.
2052. A good example of that is shown in the case of dynamite and powder. A spark to powder is as dangerous as a shock to dynamite. Conversely, a very severe shock is not dangerous to powder, and a spark is not dangerous to dynamite? That is a very good example.
2053. *Mr. Edwards.*] In reference to making known to the men any regulations that may be framed. I think you had the Proprietary Mine simply plastered with rules and regulations? Yes; we have had the rules and regulations stuck up in large numbers. If it is the desire of any man to acquaint himself with the rules, he has every opportunity to do so. In fact, it is hard for them to avoid seeing the rules in any part of the work.
2054. Would anything be gained by having copies of them delivered to each man? It is quite possible; but I would not like to undertake that they would be read very extensively. Still it might be a good plan to provide a copy of the rules and regulations to any man who made application for them.
2055. And have them at the mine's office so that any person might get them who chooses to apply for them? Yes.
2056. *His Honor.*] A good plan would be to supply every man who comes fresh on the field with a copy of the rules and regulations, and then let him know that if he lost his copy or wanted another one he might get one by making application? Yes; that might be a good idea.
2057. And it would be a good idea, perhaps, to charge a penny for every copy after the first one supplied? Yes.
2058. *Mr. Edwards.*] It was said (I think, by O'Brien) that the open-cuts are worked in a dangerous and reckless manner;—is that so? I am of opinion that every reasonable care is taken.
2059. Is the open-cut in itself necessarily a dangerous occupation—more dangerous than railway cuttings, or more dangerous, say, than underground workings? Taking into account the amount of work that is done, I think it is not as dangerous as the underground workings.
2060. *His Honor.*] Not as dangerous? No; not as dangerous.
2061. *Mr. Edwards.*] Take the open-cut in block 12 and 13—Baxter and Saddler's. I believe Baxter and Saddler are one of the largest contracting firms in the colonies? Yes, they are. They have been engaged on that kind of work considerably over a quarter of a century.
2062. Under the Millars, originally? Yes; first under C. and E. Millar.
2063. Do you know their engineer, Mr. Shaw? Yes.
2064. Is he a skilled and competent officer of works in that direction? Yes; I am quite sure of that. He has had very large experience in very heavy works—in very extensive cuttings and tunnel work, "chinaman" work, and all kindred operations.
2065. I think Baxter and Saddler have been working in these open-cuts for about five years? Yes; approaching five years.
2066. They are the contractors who introduced free labour here after the strike? Yes; they introduced the first men from outside after the strike in 1892. They brought in several hundred men.
2067. As the open-cuts are worked now, and have been for some time past, in what condition is the lighting at night? No restriction is placed on the amount of light. The contractors are not charged for the light. The Company provides for all that is requisite. Anything that the contractors or the Company may consider necessary is provided.
2068. Is the electric power on the mines sufficient to supply light in any quantity throughout the surface workings and the underground workings, if required? I think it is ample for the requirements. Much more light can be provided by the present plant than is required.
2069. *His Honor.*] Can you explain the statement made by O'Brien in his evidence, that the light had a way of running down after some time? He referred to the arc light.
2070. Would it be the burning away of the carbons? No; it would be the mechanism that acts on the carbon getting out of adjustment.
2071. It is an automatic adjustment? Yes. The arc lights always give a certain amount of trouble; and

and, unless a man is engaged at all times going round and attending to them, the light would, no doubt, at times be insufficient. We depend almost entirely now on incandescent lights. We have a larger number of these lights; and they are actually on the spot required, and not a considerable distance away. The arc lights, of course, had to be placed a considerable distance away, to be out of reach of the shots. With the incandescent lights, you have appliances to draw them out of reach of the shots when firing is about to take place. The incandescent lights altogether work much more satisfactorily than the arc lights.

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2072. Having more of them, do they give a more diffused light than the arc lights? Yes; and as they can be brought immediately over the work, there is not the same chance of shadows forming as the work progresses.

2073. Those shadows were referred to by some of the witnesses as being very noticeable and very objectionable. As far as your observation goes, does that apply in any appreciable extent to the incandescent lights as now distributed? That is a matter now that hardly gives any trouble at all, because these incandescent lights are portable. They are fixed on an overhead wire, and can be drawn either up or down. If a shadow is thrown, the light only wants moving to avoid the object. These lights are also placed on a portable post sometimes, which can be stuck in the bank.

2074. Under whose authority is the adjustment of the lights now carried on? In the first place, the Chief Engineer has control of the electrical works; and he is the officer whose duty it is to fix these lights. He fixes them in such a way that the contractors themselves can move them up and down, or move the posts on which they are sometimes placed. This enables them to put the lights in the best positions.

2075. The contractors have the right to do that? Yes, and to pull the lights up when a shot is about to be fired.

2076. *Mr. Edwards.*] Then there is no limit or stinting of the electric light? None whatever.

2077. The men in the open-cuts can have whatever they require? I have never heard of any complaint as to want of light that has not been met by more light being provided.

2078. Can you say it is true, as stated by Mr. O'Brien, that the light might be good for half the shift, and then, for the latter part, be faulty, and, consequently, dangerous? —

His Honor: Mr. Horwood has, practically, explained that, and O'Brien gave evidence that the arc light was in use at the time.

Mr. Edwards: I think, your Honor, O'Brien went further, and said in all cases.

His Honor: I do not think he said recently.

Mr. Edwards: I think he referred to last winter—12 months back.

Witness: When the arc lights were in use, it was the exception for them to give any trouble.

2079. *His Honor.*] It was not a thing that happened every night? Certainly not. It might have happened occasionally. It would not have paid to allow work to be interrupted for the want of electric light.

2080. In regard to the incandescent lights: does the dynamo vary in its action, or does it work at the same power continuously? I think it works at the same power continuously. Resistance coils are put in if lights are cut off. If one light out of a series is shut off there would be no saving in the fuel, as the dynamos have to be kept up. Of course I cannot speak as an expert on this matter.

2081. *Mr. Edwards.*] It was said that Baxter and Saddler's plant or gear was defective and worn out, and that it was breaking continually;—have you, as mine manager, ever had any complaints to that effect? Those statements I consider very gross exaggerations. Of course all plant wears out and has to be renewed; but there has been constant supervision of all the ropes, both on the part of a man specially appointed by the contractors themselves, and also by a man in the company's employ, whose sole duty it is to look after ropes and the attachments thereto.

2082. *His Honor.*] What is his office called? I do not know that any particular name is given to the office. He is an old sailor, and has had large experience in ropes and in mining. He is a man drawn from the sailor gang.

2083. A sort of boss rigger? He is one of the most experienced of the rigger gang. He is not a boss.

2084. *Mr. Edwards.*] You have a sailor gang on the mine? Yes.

2085. And one of those men is selected to go about and supervise all ropes, running gear, attachments to ropes, &c.? Yes, inclusive of all ropes used by contractors.

2086. That is in addition to the supervision by the contractors themselves? Yes.

2087. I think you know that Baxter and Saddler have a man especially for that purpose too? Yes, they have.

2088. So there is no justification, as far as you can see, for this man's saying that it appeared to be nobody's business to look after the repairing of ropes? None whatever. I do not think he was in a position to know.

2089. He says not a week passes without a hook or rope breaking and allowing the trucks to run down the incline;—would you call that true or false? It is false.

2090. He says the rope was supposed to be steel;—as a matter of fact, they are all steel ropes, are they not? I have not come across any case of a rope other than steel being used. I have never heard of any but steel ropes. The company buy nothing but steel ropes themselves, and the contractors almost invariably get all their rope from the company.

2091. He speaks about Baxter and Saddler's twopence a day deduction as sweating twopence from the men? —

His Honor: I do not think there is any need to go into that.

Mr. Edwards: I only wish to refer to it, your Honor, because Mr. Horwood has been connected with Mr. Baxter in railway contracting work.

Mr. Williams: I look upon this deduction of twopence a day for an accident fund as a very good idea. I think it is a very good scheme—a very praiseworthy one.

Mr. Edwards: But I believe O'Brien said yesterday that the twopences deducted were really not applied to such a purpose.

His Honor: I have no doubt he was under the impression yesterday, that his twopence was not put to the right purpose. He is somewhat prejudiced, I think.

Mr. Edwards: Yes; and that is only one feature in the whole of his evidence.

2092. It was stated, Mr. Horwood, that, although the rule said men were not to stand under the skip, they were forced to do so, as they were not allowed to leave their work;—you are in the habit of going through these open-cuts regularly as manager? Yes.

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2093. Do you know whether that rule is enforced, about men not being allowed to stand under skips? It is my experience that they have been compelled to stand from under. The men themselves, on their own responsibility, sometimes elect to remain under the skips.

2094. Do you not hear the gangers every time you go into the cuts shouting to the men to get away from underneath? Yes; frequently I have seen that done. It is a well-understood rule that work is to be suspended on those occasions.

2095. That the moment the word "Heave" is shouted, all men affected have to stand away? Yes.

2096. *His Honor.*] Do you think it would be a good idea to use a whistle when the skip is going up? Whistles, on some occasions, have been used; but, as a rule, in those cases, the man who does the shouting is chosen partly because he has a good voice.

2097. *Mr. Edwards.*] An objection to the whistle, I think, is the fact that there are so many whistles on the mine? Yes; and it might possibly lead to confusion.

2098. *His Honor.*] But you could not very well mix a steam whistle up with a boatswain's whistle? The workmen are provided, sometimes, with those metal whistles—whistles with a pea in them—and they have, occasionally, been used for giving the signals. I don't think it is a matter of very great importance, because the total length of time that the men are compelled to work in these places is short. The crane or overhead appliance is only overhead while the men are working in its immediate vicinity. As soon as the face is opened up the men get away from it. Then rails are laid, and the skips are placed on trucks; and there is only one man who must get underneath to a certain extent, and that is the man who hitches on. He, however, has every opportunity of standing clear.

2099. *Mr. Edwards.*] Then there is no necessity for men to place themselves in danger? No; not at all.

2100. O'Brien also said that more care should be taken to bar down the loose stuff before the night men went to work;—is it not a fact that all loose stuff in a face is barred down before the night shift come on? Yes, that is the practice.

2101. That is when the night shift comes on after dark? Yes; but, as a rule, the night shift comes on in daylight, and they have an opportunity to make the place in a condition to satisfy themselves.

2102. What time do they come on? They are only working night shift in Block 11, and there they come on about 4:30 p.m.

2103. Of course during eight or nine months of the year that gives them plenty of time to secure the ground before the night comes on? It gives them sufficient time all the year round.

2104. Mr. O'Brien went further on to say that at midnight the ground naturally settled down, letting go all loose stuff;—I do not know whether there is any truth in that idea of his that at midnight a change takes place in the open-cut? If any settling does take place, I think it would probably be due to the effect of the work that has been done (*i.e.*, material shifted) in the earlier portion of the shift. I do not think that the atmosphere could have any appreciable effect on the ground.

2005. *His Honor.*] Could contraction by cooling do it? I think, on account of the non-conductivity of the material, that the effect of cooling is inappreciable.

2106. *Mr. Edwards.*] You think, then, that midnight has no effect upon the open-cut? I am of that opinion.

2107. He further says that, in his opinion, the walls are quite perpendicular and the batter is too steep? I consider that the general condition of the batters gives room for no complaint. I think he must have referred to the condition of the working face.

2108. The working face; not the permanent batter? Yes.

2109. As to the permanent batter, is that too steep to be safe? I think it is more than ample. It is our aim to give all the batter required.

2110. I suppose the slope depends in different places upon the nature of the ground? Yes, in some places $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 gives a safer batter than 1 to 1 in other places. In some places we have to go more than 1 to 1; and, in other places, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 seems unnecessarily flat.

2111. Of course in working the face it is impossible to keep any regular batter, because every shot alters the condition of it? Yes; as soon as the bottom material is removed, it is time to put in another shot to bring down the upper part.

2112. He said the "chinaman" was always a source of danger;—as a matter of fact is not the "chinaman" about the safest system under which you can work an open-cut? I think, in carrying out a large work in that way, fewer deaths would result by using the "chinaman" than would result in any other way. If, instead of using a "chinaman," the material were loaded off a bench on which trucks were run, I think there would be infinitely more danger to the men engaged in (say) shovelling, for the reason that they would be working in places between the bottom of the slope and the trucks, and, in the case of a run of ground, would have very little chance to escape. In the case of the "chinaman," there would be much more room to get about. There the men are over the truck, and have an opportunity of getting away in any direction. It is a little bit steep in places, but not so steep that a man could not run up.

2113. He could get away to the other face? Yes.

2114. In the other case he would be hemmed in between the bank and the line of trucks? Yes, and there would be very little "get away" for him.

2115. I think the "chinaman" is the system that is in use in all big open-cut work? Yes, in all big excavations. It is a mode of work that has been in use a number of years.

2116. *His Honor.*] Can you account for the name of "chinaman" being given to it here;—is it purely local, or is it a name that has been introduced from some other part? The "chinaman" particularly is applied to one of the logs that form the temporary covering of the tunnel; and the only reason I can suggest is that, as in these colonies the Chinaman is looked upon in certain quarters with such contempt, and this log, which has to stand the wear and tear of everything passing over it—boulders dropping on it, and so on—simulates to such a degree the qualities ascribed to the Chinaman, it has occurred to some one to name it after that individual. I have never heard the origin of it; and that is the only explanation I can give.

2117. *Mr. Edwards.*] Mr. O'Brien has complaints to make about the skip-straps and rings being made of flat iron, and states that their being flat causes them to wear more easily;—I believe the straps are thickened towards the eye? Yes; it is necessary that the straps should be of flat iron to admit of bolts being passed through them and the timber forming the skip. The practice is to "jump up" the ends of the straps so as to thicken them, and this gives a greater wearing surface. There may have been a skip or two where this was not exactly done.

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2118. *His Honor.*] The end is turned and welded? Yes, turned and welded, and "jumped up" while it is hot.
2119. *Mr. Edwards.*] With all due respect to Mr. O'Brien, you think the round straps would not do;—he said they should be made of round iron? I do not think that would be practicable.
2120. He says swivel-hooks ought to be used;—I believe they were tried there, were they not? The swivel-hooks he referred to, I took it, were the hooks at the end of the crane rope. We did try them, with a view to enabling the skip to twist without twisting the rope; but it was found that the friction of the swivel was greater than the tendency to resist twisting on the part of the rope or ropes, and that they really did not operate.
2121. Were they kept greased? Yes.
2122. And then they would not act? Not automatically.
2123. As soon as the strain came on, the friction was too great? Yes.
2124. It is a matter of self-interest to avoid the twisting of ropes? Yes; if allowed to get twisted they wear very quickly. It is a strict rule that the skip be sent up with the ropes—say three are forming the lifting part—made parallel.
2125. It is always lifted with two single sheaves? It is, in the case of the wooden jib cranes; but in the case of the steam cranes, a single rope is used.
2126. O'Brien said that the Lead Poisoning Act was carried out for a while, but, subsequently, became a dead letter;—are the provisions of that Act carried out on the mine? I think everything is done to meet the provisions of that Act. Of course, at times a water-pipe might get broken and lead to a temporary difficulty in providing water; but all contractors working in those places have bound themselves under their contracts to put on the necessary water for laying the dust in the lead ores; and they are made to keep their faces reasonably free from ore dust.
2127. He says in reference to the drinking water, that in summer-time it should be kept in a proper covering; but that it is kept in a bucket with a bag thrown over it? The Lead Regulations require that in the case of drinking water a covered bag is to be provided. These bags are made on the mines; and the contractors are supplied with them. In cases where oatmeal is mixed with the water it is impossible to use these bags, because they would become sour after a day or two's use. When using oatmeal it is very necessary to have some open receptacle that can be cleaned. A clean bucket with a clean bag over it is a reasonable vessel in which to hold such material. It is readily cleaned to prevent it from becoming sour. In the case of pure water the rule is that a bag be placed in a shady place.
2128. And proper bags are furnished for that purpose? Yes, and made by the company. A canvas bag might get worn out occasionally, and some other receptacle be used temporarily. That, however, would be a rare occurrence.
2129. Has any complaint ever been made to you as to the want of drinking water in the open-cuts? No complaints that have not been rectified at once.
2130. *His Honor.*] Do the contractors or the company ever supply the men with skilly, instead of water? The company have so few men working for them in the open-cuts. The contractors, however, find it is to their interest to supply skilly, because it enables the men to do more work. It is recognised that skilly gives the men much greater strength.
2131. *Mr. Edwards.*] Oatmeal water is supplied to them? Yes; large quantities of oatmeal are consumed in the open-cuts. The oatmeal is provided by the contractors.
2132. Is there any truth in this statement, that the "sweaters" working them would not give them time to get a drink of water, or anything like that, as far as your experience as manager of the open-cuts goes? I do not think there is any foundation for that at all. Some men take every chance they can get of loafing, and, naturally, they have to be reprimanded—pretty strongly too, sometimes. The men who attend to their work have no cause to complain.
2133. He asked his Honor to believe that if a man straightened his back he was sworn at by the ganger? I think that is a gross exaggeration.
2134. Is there any foundation or justification for this man saying that they are worked so fast as to have hardly time to look round, or, if they looked round, they would be spoken to by the ganger? I know of no foundation for such a statement.
2135. I believe in the open-cuts there is no necessity for the men to use iron tampers or even copper-tipped tampers, and that wooden tampers are provided? Wooden tampers are always obtainable from the company.
2136. He says it is the practice of the "powder-monkeys" to charge holes while men are in the face? I say it is not the practice; and it is directly forbidden under the rules—that is, men other than those actually engaged in charging.
2137. *His Honor.*] Would that apply to "bulling" as well? The "powder-monkey" should keep the men away temporarily while charging for a "bull."
- Mr. Edwards:* Rule 9 of the Surface Regulations makes a provision which practically means that the men shall leave the face when a hole is to be charged for a "bull."
- His Honor:* Yes; it says:—
- Before placing the charge in any hole for the purpose of "bulling" it, the powder man (known as the "powder-monkey") shall give due warning of his intention to charge the same, when all workers are required to leave the part of the face or work which will be affected by the explosion (whether prematurely or otherwise) of the "bulling" charge.
2138. *Mr. Edwards.*] If that "chinaman" were not used, you would either have to take the stuff overhead, which would be a matter involving greater risk; or else by railway trucks running through a tunnel? You would have a method of shovelling into trucks or skips, and they would prevent a man's getting away from the face in the event of a fall.
2139. *His Honor.*] The "chinaman" is the safest method of enabling men to load into trucks? Yes; I think it is safer than shovelling into trucks.
2140. And it saves the waste of labour involved in dropping your material to the level of the road and hoisting it into the truck; in this case you drop the material only to the level from which it falls into the truck;—by doing that you save a large amount of labour? Yes; there are a number of cases where the lode would not be worked at all but for there being an economical way to remove the over-burdens—where the ore is of too low a grade.
2141. *Mr. Edwards.*] I understand the waste from the open-cut is used for filling? We take underground all the waste that we can find room for.

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2142. *His Honor.*] All the rest, I understand, goes on to the S.E. side of the hill? The greater portion goes there; and some on the western, and some on the southern end. We estimate that all that material will be required, sooner or later, for filling stopes that will be worked in the future. If that open-cut work were not done now, the same amount of excavation on the surface would have to be done at some future date; that is, judging by the quantity of ore it is estimated will be extracted.
2143. *Mr. Edwards.*] I think Mr. Polkinghorne in his evidence referred to stripping laths off the floors of the stopes, and spoke about railing off those portions that were stripped? I think in all those places where traffic is necessary or likely to be necessary the floor should be left in; and I do not think it is safe unless two or three floors under the working face are closely covered.
2144. *His Honor.*] You agree with Mr. Polkinghorne there? Yes.
2145. You say you ought to have two or three floors closely covered under a working face? Yes.
2146. *Mr. Edwards.*] Do you know if the men when they want a piece of timber are in the habit of taking the nearest they can get, and that is the floors of the stopes? It has frequently been done; and, in many cases, they are found out and punished—discharged in many cases.
2147. I believe the punishment is to simply send them up? That is the rule. There are cases where men are suspended, say for small offences, such as smoking. In that case for the first offence they would be suspended for about a week, but if caught the second time they would probably be dismissed.
2148. It was stated by one of the witnesses that after firing the laths become shattered;—in that case, whose duty would it be to see that they were replaced? Undoubtedly, it is the first duty of those who fired the shot to see that all laths are properly replaced.
2149. *His Honor.*] And very often you can see better whether any laths want replacing by going on to the next floor and looking up? Yes, in many cases.
2150. You can be more sure of it than by noticing from the working floor? Yes, and for that reason the floors, or at least two or three, under the working floor should be left covered.
2151. *Mr. Edwards.*] In the event of flooring not being covered;—if it is discovered by a party other than those who fired, it would be their duty to report the matter to the shift-boss? Yes; in all cases.
2152. And if they won't do it I suppose it is impossible to prevent accidents? Although I cannot particularise, I think it is not at all unlikely that many accidents could have been prevented by a danger being pointed out—a danger that it might have been impossible for the boss to have seen.
2153. Accidents have happened through passes or shoots being left open? Yes, that is a frequent cause of accident. The company are very strict about that—seeing that the shoots are protected.
2154. *His Honor.*] What is the difference between a shoot and a pass? I do not know that there is any special difference; they are synonymous terms.
2155. *Mr. Edwards.*] A witness said something the other day about a brace around a winze being covered over with timber that was too light;—do you know anything about that? I have examined that brace frequently.
2156. You know the winze;—I think it was spoken of by William Williams? Yes; I have been up and down there frequently. I have frequently examined the timbers forming the brace, and considered that they were perfectly safe.
2157. Would any additional security have been gained by putting heavier timbers there? I think there is some misapprehension about the size of the timber; 10 x 10 was the principal timber used. The 10 x 4 were the covering pieces. I cannot see how a safer brace could be constructed than the one in use. The ground in the winze was extremely hard, and in the earlier portions of the work rocks would fly through the brace, and in one or two places they displaced portion of the covering. In these cases the men were paid wages to effect repairs.
2158. Then any injury caused to this brace by shooting was repaired at once? Yes, with all reasonable despatch.
2159. In reference to the change of shift;—do you think that men going off shift should be compelled to show the face, or point out any dangerous places in the face they are leaving, to the men coming on?—Do you think it would be a means of greater security to prevent accidents? From our experience here, I certainly do think that it would greatly lead to safer working if it were made a rule that the men change in the face, and that they point out to their mates anything of a dangerous nature.
2160. Do you know instances where unexploded holes have been left in the face? We have had our records looked up, and find that eight men have been discharged during the last two years for leaving unexploded holes in the face without acquainting anyone of the matter.
2161. Without acquainting either their mates or the shift-bosses? Yes. It is almost inconceivable that men will do that, but that has been the case. Only two months ago a case occurred.
2162. What case was that? The men charged a hole and left it unfired. They had the explosive in the hole, and (I think) the fuse, but did not fire it. It is very easy not to notice that a hole is charged ready for firing, and an accident might very easily happen.
2163. Then there is a great deal of truth in what Mr. Bourne stated the other day, that men, at change of shift, run off and leave their face in a state of wild confusion? It is done in many cases. I think the miners who take an interest in their work, if they fire at the end of the shift, are anxious to see how the work they have planned has panned out. They like to see the result of their shot, to see whether they over-charged, or under-charged, and what has been the effect.
2164. But, although careful men will do that, I am afraid there are a great many careless men who would do nothing of the kind? Undoubtedly. It frequently happens that the condition of the face is such that it should be pointed out to the men succeeding.
2165. Meeting their mates in the plat would have no more effect than meeting them at the brace? Unless they have an opportunity to, and are compelled to meet and point out these things in the face, I do not see that there could be any improvement on the present system.
2166. Of course, you are not anxious to keep men working more than eight hours? Certainly not.
2167. Would it necessarily entail any serious loss of time on men going out? I think, taking into consideration the number of shafts up which men are hoisted, the maximum time taken to change runs up to twenty or twenty-five minutes. Those parties who are near the shafts would only take a minute or two. I think ten or twelve minutes would be the general average. They would be that much later in getting up.
2168. Mr. Polkinghorne said that to ensure the safety of the men when being raised or lowered at change of shift, there should be two engine-drivers in the engine-house during that particular time; do you think that

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that is absolutely necessary;—it would not affect your mine, because you have two engine-drivers there as a rule, and they would only have to go into the engine-house; do you think a rule to that effect would be desirable? I do not remember any occasion where it would have been better had there been another engine-driver on duty. I remember no occasion where a driver became unfit to do his duty.

2169. It would be an extraordinary risk? Yes, especially if the cage is provided with safety appliances and with safety hooks. The cages are also in many cases provided with safety appliances, enabling the men themselves to bring the grippers into operation; but it is questionable whether it is safe to give them that power, because they may use it unnecessarily, and the jerk resulting from the sudden stoppage of the cage, should a false alarm be raised, might bring about an accident. With ordinary appliances to prevent over-winding or the cage dropping, the risk of there being an accident through only one driver at change of shifts is unappreciable. There are much greater risks run every day in every other department of life.

2170. In reference to calling men out of dangerous ground; do you think that the inspector alone should be allowed to say whether ground is sufficiently safe for men to return to work, or do you think the underground manager should be sufficiently capable of taking the risk if he choose to take it? Where the man in charge and the men are satisfied, there should be no need to call in the inspector. The men are never prevented from calling in the inspector, and, no doubt, the inspector is here for that purpose. If there is any room for doubt, it has always been the custom to have the inspector brought in.

2171. No man working in the mine is compelled to take a risk if he does not voluntarily accept it? If a man thinks his place is dangerous he is not discharged, and if there is any possibility of giving him other work there and then, it is given him. No man is compelled to work where he feels he is not safe, because if men are timid, that mere feeling would contribute to danger. If men express a fear of working in a certain place, although some one may have to work in it to repair it, and prevent a serious creep or movement occurring, others are asked to take their places.

2172. And those men that are naturally more nervous than others are not discharged? No; where possible, they are found other work; and it is, certainly, nearly always possible to give them other work. In reference to the inspector, I think that, where he is brought in and declares a certain place is not fit to work in, it is only right he should be given an opportunity of saying that it is fit, before work other than repairing work is resumed.

2173. I suppose the inspector frequently makes requisition upon you for different things? Yes.

2174. Are his orders complied with with all reasonable despatch? Yes; they are always attended to within a reasonable time.

2175. Is there any instance of an accident having occurred in consequence of the inspector's orders being disregarded? I know of none.

2176. Something was said with reference to pent-houses and unprotected shafts;—what is your idea about that;—that is, in continuing the sinking of a shaft, where would you put your pent-house in order to provide sufficient security for the men? Where possible, pent-houses should be put in at reasonable distances.

2177. Do you think every 100 feet is necessary for the safety of the men? No; I think within 300 feet would be sufficient. If you have the shaft that you are winding up lined off closely from the other compartments, and, perhaps, provided with skids or close-lined, so that the bucket, if it strikes the sides, is not likely to detach anything, there would be no more appreciable risk in sinking to 300 feet than to 100 feet. The greatest danger in sinking is in discharging the load at the top; and, of course, that remains the same no matter how deep the shaft is. The extra hauling up a shaft, in view of the speed at which hauling is done, is a very small increase of risk. The increased time in hauling the extra 200 feet bears a very small proportion to the total time occupied by the bucket in the operation of getting a load from the bottom to the top and down again.

2178. If you have a pent-house at the plat, would it be safe to have one compartment open all the way down, the pent-house covering the other two compartments? Of course there should be a substantial pent-house beneath the winding compartment that is used for hauling to the surface. There should be a strong pent-house under that; and there is nothing to prevent it. In the case of a close-lined shaft, or a shaft where the rock is thoroughly reliable, in view of the fact that you can always cover the shaft 30 or 40 feet above you with temporary covering for two-thirds of the width of the shaft, I do not think that any restriction should be placed upon the depth you sink. At any rate, the depth should be considerable. In some cases, in sinking a shaft, there may be only one shaft in the mine; and it would be rather hard to compel the company to double its winding appliances when there is an efficient plant on the surface that would, probably, do the work safer than any underground winch would do it. If there is any increased risk in going to a depth of 300 feet, it is simply the slightly-increased time in the hauling of the load. As to the falling of a stone, it might just as well be 300 or 400 feet as 100 feet. A stone would have just as much effect on a man in a 100-foot fall as it would in a 300-foot fall. At 100 feet it may have already gained its maximum velocity, owing to resistance due to friction of the air.

2179. In reference to those underground open-cuts that were mentioned, what are your ideas as to when the timber should be put in them? I do not think it would be possible to make a hard-and-fast rule as to the distance the timber should be from the face. It varies according to the nature of the ground. If a particular piece of ground is considered to be dangerous, the inspector can require the timber to be closer; but, in these stopes, if the timber be put in too close, it is simply shattered to pieces.

2180. To what height should the roof be carried before you start timbering on the sill floor? You should have something to stand on, some reasonably safe scaffolding, or the ore that you have broken. The latter is a frequent way of working these open chambers. The ore is broken down, and enough is left under foot to work on; the excess being sent down the shoot. I know of cases where this has been done, and no doubt the ore makes a very convenient standing platform, and brings the men within a reasonable distance of the roof, which, I think, should not be more than 9 or 10 feet. If it is intended to timber the excavation after reaching a certain height, the ore is taken out, and timber placed in what is considered a safe distance from the working face.

2181. Something was said of the danger of the roof's scaling? Yes; that is a frequent occurrence. Ground may look safe to-day; but it is not to be assumed that it will be safe to-morrow. It wants frequent examination, if men are going to work under it.

2182. So you could not frame any hard-and-fast rule to say when timber should be put in? No.

2183. That must be left to the discretion of the men, the shift-bosses and the inspector? Quite so; and the management generally.

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2184. *His Honor.*] There was a somewhat similar case referred to by Noble. He said it was very dangerous, in his opinion, to have two, three, or more floors stoping at once, one above the other. He thought stoping ought not to take place within (say) three floors' distance; what have you got to say to that? It all depends on the width of the stope. It would be safer to work a party on every floor in a wide stope than on every third floor in a narrow stope. The thing is to avoid having the men underneath one another at too close a distance.

2185. You say they should not be immediately over one another at a close distance? They should not be so close as to be in one another's way.

2186. How far apart vertically would you keep them from one another? It is a thing that it would be hard to make a hard-and-fast rule about. Of course the party in the floor below are generally working in advance of the party above. They are forward a step, and have the opportunity of working not immediately underneath the party above. It should be left to the man-in-charge of the particular place to say whether the men are too close. It is against the interest of the management, in view of economical work, to have the men in each other's way; and that sort of thing is not done if it can be possibly avoided. There are times, and have been times lately, where a particular kind of ore has been demanded by the smelters. The character of the ore is such that it may require a considerable increase in the amount of flux used, and it may be almost impossible to get the necessary quantity without sometimes double-banking the men. But those things are foreseen as much as possible, so that the stock of ore can be kept up, and the working of the men too close to one another avoided. It is necessary to foresee these things, both for the safe, and the economical, working of the mine.

2187. *Mr. Edwards.*] That is a matter, then, that could safely be left to a competent inspector? Yes.

2188. I believe, in Noble's case, his party were a bit too quick for the party in front? Miners sometimes become dissatisfied. They think, perhaps, that other men are taking their ground from them. There might be other reasons for thinking a party too close, besides the question of safety. Men, as a rule, like as much room as possible; but it is not always practicable to give them all the room they think they ought to have. It is to the company's interest to give each party as much room as possible, in order that the work may be carried on as advantageously as possible.

2189. To what cause do you attribute the great majority of accidents at Broken Hill? I think it has been admitted by the men themselves that two-thirds of the accidents are due to causes directly attributable to the men's own actions.

2190. Their own negligence? Not negligence altogether, but to actions that are within their control.

2191. *His Honor.*] Not negligence only;—you mean that sometimes it may be negligence and sometimes want of judgment—want of knowledge? Just so.

2192. And sometimes it may be pure accident? Yes, that the most experienced miner could not foresee. Two of the fatal accidents that occurred in the Proprietary underground last year occurred to men who were highly experienced miners. In spite of their high experience they met with fatal accidents.

2193. *Mr. Edwards.*] Do you know of any precautions that could be taken by the management that are not taken, whereby accidents to men could be avoided? No. We frequently see, as work progresses, where something can be done to bring about greater safety, and it is always attended to. I do not see that we could do more than has been done to prevent accidents, either at the surface or underground.

2194. As to that fire underground in Block 11, Mr. Bourne gave his reason as to the cause of it. I think the management attributed it to a totally different cause? Yes.

2195. As to getting certificates. I suppose, as to the idea of getting certificates for miners, it is utterly impracticable? To get any benefit from it, it would have to be done throughout the Colonies simultaneously, because there is no class that shifts about so much as the mining class. Until it were brought about universally nothing would be gained.

2196. In reference to the shift-bosses. Is there anything to be gained by a hard-and-fast rule there; or should not the mine management be competent to say whether a man is fit for a position as boss or not;—is there any virtue in a certificate at all? A certificate may not belong to a man whose possession it is in.

2197. Do not you meet the greatest muffs with certificates? Yes.

2198. Who are utterly useless when put to any work? Yes. In selecting shift-bosses the only thing is to select men that you have a personal knowledge of. It is to the interest of the management, in appointing shift-bosses, to appoint the most efficient men available, and, it being to their interest to do so, I cannot see where it requires a law; and, as I have said, the possession of a certificate does not necessarily imply that the holder is suitable.

2199. In view of the Employers' Liability Act, and the fact that an employer is liable for the work of any incompetent person; that is in itself a safeguard? Yes; the manager, in his own interest, is not going to appoint an incompetent man, because he may bring blame upon himself in so doing.

2200. As to granting certificates to engine-drivers,—I presume there is no objection to that, seeing that engine-driving is a skilled occupation? I think engine-drivers should be certificated.

2201. *His Honor.*] As to granting certificates to managers and sub-managers,—what do you say as to that, Mr. Horwood?

Mr. Edwards: If no man were allowed, your Honor, to take charge of men unless he were certificated, would it not hamper, to a tremendous extent, prospecting and mining operations?

His Honor: In the Coal Mines Act, the manager and sub-manager must, in certain cases, hold a certificate, and the only way to get at them is to suspend or cancel their certificates.

Mr. Edwards: Yes, your Honor; but a coal mine is a thing that is carried out on a very large scale, and is well established; it is far different from a small prospecting operation.

His Honor: But I fancy there is some limitation under the Coal Mines Act which would meet such a case. I do not think there is found to be any practical difficulty in the working of that Act now.

Witness: I do not think any competent manager would raise any objection to the granting of certificates; but care should be taken not to bear harshly upon the smaller concerns.

Mr. Edwards: There are men on this field who have been reared in mines, who still would not be able to pass a theoretical examination.

Witness: I do not think the examination should be altogether a theoretical one; it should, in the main, be a practical one.

His

His Honor: The examinations held under the Coal Mines Act are such that any first-class, practical miner could pass. The limitation clause that I referred to reads:

In the case of a mine in which not more than twenty persons are employed it shall be sufficient for the manager to hold a permit from an inspector; such permit shall remain in force for twelve months, but may be renewed at the option of the inspector.

That would admit of some little elasticity which would not interfere with prospecting.

Mr. Edwards: Yes, your Honor; that is what I wanted to get at.

2202. *Mr. Edwards*.] Mr. Polkinghorne said something yesterday about thimbles to prevent cages from overhauling;—you perfectly agree with him that the most approved appliances should be used? Yes; I think that ought to be the rule.

2203. *His Honor*.] A hook has been used in England for many years, which will prevent overwinding, and yet not cut the ropes? Yes; and it is in use throughout Victoria.

2204. Compulsory by legislation, or by choice? I am inclined to think it is compulsory. We have had some of them in use on the Proprietary.

2205. You have no substantial objection to them on the ground that their adoption might make the engine-drivers careless? I have heard that objection, but I do not think there is anything in it.

2206. *Mr. Polkinghorne*.] At the commencement of your examination yesterday you said, in reply to a question from his Honor, regarding the contract system, that at 4 o'clock, Wednesday, every alternate week, the fortnight terminates? Yes.

2207. Work done up to that time should be paid for in that fortnight? That is the aim. Of course, the amount of work has to be estimated, sometimes, before 12 o'clock, in order that there should be no delay in re-letting contracts for the succeeding fortnight.

2208. But in all cases where a party of men are removed from one stope to another, you think it is the aim of the company that the men shall be paid for the labour they have laid out in the particular stope from which they are removed? Yes.

2209. If the foreman finds it desirable to take away certain work from a party, and add it to the adjoining party's work, in that case, the first party should be paid for the work they have done? Yes; the actual work they do should be paid for.

2210. Do you think there is the same number of men working underground now as there was eighteen months back? I do not think that there is any marked difference one way or the other, as far as the Proprietary is concerned. There may be a slight increase, that is, of miners. The truckers number less than they did eighteen months ago.

2211. In your opinion, the accidents have been less under the contract system than they would have been under wages? I think the total number of accidents would have been considerably greater under the wages system than has been the case under the contract system.

2212. You gave as your reason that one man does as much under the contract system as two men under the day system? Not as the only reason, but as partly the reason.

2213. Would not the wages system tend to lessen the number of accidents somewhat, seeing that the men would then have ample time to put their workings in, and keep them in, a safe condition;—under the contract system a man in order to make a fair thing will probably only devote two shifts to putting in a set of timber to secure his working place, whereas under the day system he would be able to devote three shifts to it;—under the present system a man says, "I have to run a deal of risk, but I will risk it rather than put in another shift to make it safe;"—under the day system, the bosses would compel that work to be done? In the contract system, the price is fixed at such a rate as will allow the miner to take all precautions for his safety, and, in addition to that, excavate a sufficient number of sets to give more than the average rate, or, at least, the average rate, of pay. Further, I claim that the extra time that was taken under the wages system was not spent by the men in securing their ground, but in a variety of ways other than that.

2214. You said, further, Mr. Horwood, that the average earnings were 10s. 6d. a shift for the last two years? Yes, 10s. 6d., or over.

2215. You say the taking away of men from a contract in the middle of a fortnight is avoided where possible? Yes.

2216. Men have been taken away on occasions in the middle of their fortnight? Yes, but from considerations quite apart from the earnings the men happened to be making.

2217. But the imputation has been made that it was because only of the earnings that were being made? I have heard that, but you cannot prevent people from imputing all sorts of things. Men are a bit suspicious when they are stopped in work that is bringing them in good pay, and make up their minds, no matter what reason the company's officers have for making such a change, that it was done merely to prevent them from earning too much. I maintain that our books show that men earn from 15s. to 20s. per shift for a full fortnight; and that being shown in the books points to the fact that men are allowed to work out their contracts.

2218. It is said that where men are taken away from a good piece of ground they are brought back after a lapse of two or three weeks to the very same stope and paid a less rate? They may not be put back at the same price, certainly. The condition of the stope at the time the stoppage took place may have altered, as compared to that when the contract was let, thus requiring a change of price when work is again resumed.

2219. But I am referring to the same ground—where the stope has remained idle during the time that has elapsed? I do not say that it may not have remained idle, but that does not, necessarily, go to show that the reason they were shifted was that the price they were getting was too much. It is totally against rule and against practice that such a thing should be done.

2220. Is not that quite sufficient to induce men to say, "We were only shifted out to prevent our getting too much"? I admit you cannot prevent the men imputing anything.

2221. But is it not a reasonable imputation? I think these imputations will always be made.

2222. Causes of accidents, you have said, are due to many things;—to the men's incompetency, neglect, and everything that can be named; and you said, yesterday, that it was not until the companies found it absolutely necessary that they imported men here from Victoria? Yes; I adhere to that.

2223. Are you prepared to say that the larger number of the men imported during the last fifteen months are still remaining on the Barrier? I have every reason to believe that they are, although I have no means of telling. After their term was up with the Proprietary Company, they had the right of exercising the privilege, which every other man has, of changing about from one mine to another. They were introduced to the district; and we, as part of the district, benefited from their introduction.

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2224. Still the fact remains that a large number of those imported were not the class of men required for the work they were imported for? There were some incompetent men amongst them; but, on the whole, we had reason to be satisfied with them.

2225. You are speaking for the Proprietary Mine in particular? We did four-fifths of the importing, as far as I can remember. We expected to get a number of incompetent men, although we took all precautions to ensure their being men who would make themselves efficient in the work to be done here.

2226. In the case of powder, as distinct from dynamite, do you think it is safer to withdraw the tamping to within a few inches of the charge than to bore a hole in close proximity; I am speaking, of course, of a charge that has missed? Yes; I think it is as safe to withdraw the tamping, and probably safer.

2227. With regard to the nitro-glycerine compounds, in all cases it is sufficient, in your opinion, to get within 3 inches or 6 inches of the missed charge to explode it with another primer? I do not think it is necessary to go nearer than 3 inches in any case. If a plug does not take effect within 3 inches of a charge, another plug could be inserted, which would be, of course, nearer to the charge than the first one was; therefore 3 inches could safely be left as the distance to which tamping should be withdrawn.

2228. You yourself have not had much practical use with explosives? I am not a practical miner. I have not served my time as a miner; but, for all that, I have seen these things used considerably.

2229. Do you not think that, in the majority of cases, if you withdrew the tamping to within 6 inches of the charge, it would be sufficient to enable you to explode it? I do. I think in the great majority of cases 6 inches would fire the charge. I believe in the majority of cases a foot, even, would fire a charge; when using the same hole; but, in some cases, it may not. It would be safe to make it a rule that the tamping be not withdrawn within 3 to 6 inches of the charge.

2230. You quite agree that in many cases a plug inserted on a foot of tamping would explode a charge? Yes, in most cases.

2231. It would be much safer to do that than to bore a fresh hole alongside? Yes.

2232. You know the instructions issued by Nobel with all his glycerine compounds? Yes.

2233. Are they sufficient for the safe handling of the explosives? Those instructions are framed to conform to the existing mining regulations in the countries in which the explosives are used. That is why they say no tamping shall be withdrawn; of course, you must admit, at the same time, that it is to the manufacturer's interest too to have as much explosive used as possible. In the same way, we are, in our rules, compelled to embody matters we do not agree with, in order to conform to the Government regulations. Nobel, no doubt, is in the same position as we are ourselves.

2234. I believe Nobel says that no other tamping but sand or water is required for the glycerine compounds? Yes, and they insist on tamping.

2235. You believe that tamping of some sort is absolutely necessary? Yes, for efficient work; and, in some cases, for safe work. A secondary explosion takes place sometimes as a result of insufficient tamping, which gives out noxious gases.

2236. In the case of "bulging" a hole for a charge, do you think two hours is too long a time to wait before charging in all cases; would it be advisable to have a hard-and-fast rule stating two hours as the time? It depends upon the nature of the rock very largely whether anything like two hours is necessary. Again, if water can be used, there is no need to wait so long as that. I would place the limit from 1½ to 1¾ hours.

2237. Would you bring "bottoms" under the same category as "bulled" holes? In what way?

2238. Say a charge in a hole throws off the upper burden only, and leaves the bottom part of the hole and the bottom burden intact; what time should elapse before again charging that hole to bring the remainder of the burden? It should, decidedly, be treated the same as a "bull." There may be some burping piece of fuse left in it which would make it just as dangerous as an ordinary "bulled" hole.

2239. As to Sampson's case. The question has been asked me why nothing was placed under the plat-sheet in his case. I would like you to explain how that accident occurred? Sampson and his father were running a cross-cut from the side of a stope, and a portion of their material had to be disposed of through a shoot leading to a stope worked on a lower level. The top of this shoot was securely covered by means of a large steel or iron plat-sheet; and the father and son, knowing the position of this shoot, went to uncover it; and, while uncovering it, the son slipped down the hole. This was my information, as reported by the foreman.*

2240. The plat-sheet, then, was placed in that position to securely cover the shoot? It was used partly as a means of turning trucks of ore taken from the stope adjoining. There were two lines meeting at right angles on this sheet; and as well as serving as a turning point it served as part of a covering for the shoot. This shoot had been previously used for receiving mullock for below; and each time the sheet was removed in order to form an opening.

2241. Were they removing it under instructions, or were they removing it to place it in position? They were moving it with the view of enabling them to tip their mullock down the shoot.

2242. As to the Inquiry Board: you think a Board of Inquiry is not necessarily required; what objection would there be raised to a Board of Inquiry consisting of (say) a man appointed by the mining companies, a man elected by the miners, and someone appointed by the Government;—what objection is there to a Board so constituted inquiring into any accident that takes place? I think the Board is unnecessarily large. All sides can be represented by the evidence forthcoming. I think the evidence would be sufficient representation for all parties, so long as you had an impartial Judge. I do not think it would be necessary to have an unwieldy Board.

2243. While we may have some men whose verdict we may be prepared to accept, there may be others where the case would be otherwise? The Government could dispense with their services if they proved unworthy.

His Honor: But you have to abide by their decision in other cases, such as law cases.

Mr. Polkinghorne: But don't you think, your Honor, that the very sight of a Judge or Police Magistrate—more especially a Judge—would be sufficient to damp witnesses and cause them to withhold evidence they might be in a position to give.

His Honor: I do not see that.

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* NOTE (on revision):—I have since ascertained that the foreman was mistaken as to the men knowing that the shoot was covered by the plat-sheet. They were (I now understand) unaware of this, and were removing the sheet to use it elsewhere, on their own responsibility.

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Edward James Horwood re-called and further examined :—

2244. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] It was said, Mr. Horwood, that the dropping of a spark into a charge of powder would have a disastrous result;—would not a spark dropped on to unconfined dynamite produce a result just as bad? The burning of dynamite would not result so disastrously as would the ignition of gunpowder.

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2245. A spark falling on to a charge of dynamite would have a tendency to burn it? In the case of powder, an explosion would ensue; and, in the case of dynamite, burning would generally follow.

2246. Several classes of powder are used for explosive purposes? I take it that you are referring to blasting powder, as distinguished from Hercules powder.

2247. There was a powder made in Victoria, commonly called "Donald Dinnie" by the miners; it was put up by miners in kerosene tins, and was considered to be a very good explosive; well, that powder would burn? Undoubtedly, there are classes of powders that will burn, and that require detonation to explode them; but I have been referring only to ordinary blasting powder.

2248. *His Honor.*] I understand that you are now referring to powders in the shape of explosives—not necessarily to gunpowder? Yes, as distinguished from nitro-glycerine compounds.

2249. There are some explosives in the form of powder, and that yet are not of the qualities of gunpowder? Yes.

2250. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] What would be the result of fire getting to dynamite;—would it burn in all cases, or would there be a likelihood of its exploding? I think it would be very exceptional for an explosion to take place. Burning would be the general effect.

2251. And the gases thrown off would be very injurious? Certainly.

2252. Is it your opinion that detonators are required to explode any other class of explosive outside the glycerine compounds? Yes, certainly.

2253. Are there any kinds that you can mention that are in use? Hercules powder is one; and roburite.

2254. *His Honor.*] What is roburite;—what is its composition? We had trials with roburite extending over some considerable time. We were comparing it with dynamite; I forget the exact composition of it.

2255. Is it a nitro-glycerine compound? No.

Inspector Hebbard: I think there is ammonia in it, in some form.

Mr. Edwards: It requires a far more powerful detonator than the nitro-glycerine compounds.

Mr. Williams: Would His Honor have any objection to asking Mr. Horwood to submit the formula for roburite.

Witness: I think I have the formula for the approximate composition of it. We used it for two or three months, and no men were hurt by it, although I believe it is a fact that its sale has been objected to. It is not now sold in Broken Hill.

His Honor: As this explosive has gone out of the market, evidence upon it would not be of much use to the Commission.

Mr. Williams: I would like to have the formula, your Honor.

Mr. Edwards: I think Mr. Williams would have no difficulty in obtaining one from the local agent.

It had the name of being a very safe explosive; but the fumes it gave off were very objectionable.

2256. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] In reference to the open-cuts: you say that so far as the working face is concerned, each shot alters its condition, and you cannot keep a regular batter;—do you mean to say that, in order to take down a regular face, it is wise to first undermine the place; or should it be taken from the top at all times? It should not be undermined to an unsafe extent. It depends upon the nature of the ground how steep a face should be allowed to become before the next shot is fired. Some material will almost stand vertically without any danger whatever, to a moderate height—say 25 feet. Some of the material forming the lode here can be worked in that manner, while other material close by requires a comparatively flat slope to be safe.

2257. In all cases you only want the most practical men you have to look after them, and give instructions as to how the face is to be kept? That is all that should be necessary.

2258. I think you answered a little while back a question on the Lead Poisoning Act;—in your opinion, is everything done that can reasonably be done to carry out the provisions of that Act? In so far as my connection with it is concerned—and I can only speak of the work of my own department—that is my opinion. I am not in a position to speak as to what is required in other departments; and also I am unable to say what is done; but, as far as that is concerned, I have no reason to think that the provisions are not carried out in any of the departments.

2259. You speak more particularly of the mining department? Yes; the extraction and handling of ore.

2260. You think that the regulation that is now supposed to be in force on the Proprietary, as to charging holes while men are in the face, should be strictly carried out? Yes; it is one of the rules, and I certainly think it should. We always endeavour to enforce the rules.

2261. You have never been brought face to face with any breach of that regulation? I may have been brought face to face with it on an exceptional occasion, and had it corrected. The rules are broken, of course, sometimes; but I can remember no particular occasion at present when the rule you refer to was broken.

2262. You recognise that it is highly dangerous in all cases of "bulling" or charging for men to be in the face while they are being carried on? There is a distinction between "bulling" and charging. In "bulling" it is simply necessary to stand at a moderate distance away from the face, according to the nature of the "bull" and the nature of the face that is being operated upon. In firing charges, however, no man should be in the vicinity. That is the intention of the rule.

2263. One of your rules says that no man shall be in the face when a hole is being charged? Yes, that is so, other than those engaged in charging other holes. Of course, that is implied.

2264. If a regulation were framed enforcing men to change in the face, and at all times to point out the condition of the face to the incoming shift, would it not very often be a matter almost of impossibility for the men to do so? I cannot see how it would. It is not the rule that all firing takes place at the end of the shift, and that the faces are unapproachable at that time; it is rather the exception. And when firing does take place at the end of a shift, it is not right at the end, because the men themselves like to see the result of their firing. I cannot see anything to prevent the relief shift from seeing the face.

2265. While a man might wish to see the result of his labours before he knocks off, which I admit is quite

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quite probable, he would not require to stay in the face to do so, because he would only require to slip in and out; whereas the relieving shift would have to stay in there and work, and they would find it very unpleasant? In these cases I admit that it may necessitate the men waiting a little longer, should there be anything in the face to be pointed out, but to get over that they would in future fire earlier.

2266. Do you know that men will drill right up to the last minute but what they will get a hole off? Yes; but it is an exceptional occurrence to fire at the end of a shift; and it would be an exceptional occurrence if they left the hole to the last moment. A case of that kind would be one in many hundred.

2267. Taking the whole of the parties working on blasting ground, it is your opinion that a great majority of them do not fire on the close of the shift? There would be nothing, in my opinion, to prevent their firing as much earlier as this relief business would necessitate. It is only a matter of arranging their work a certain number of minutes earlier; and I see no reason why it should not be done.

2268. But I think you will admit with me that, in the great majority of cases where blasting operations are carried on in the different faces, it is not the exception but the rule that they fire about the end of shift? Many parties certainly do fire towards the close of the shift; but, knowing that they are not required to go into the face to point out things to their mates, they leave it until the end of the shift. If it were the rule that they had to point out the condition of the face to their mates, they would arrange to complete the firing so much earlier.

2269. And, in cases where it could not be, it would be the exception? Yes; quite the exception.

2270. You think there should be no restriction on the depth of the holes bored in the open-cuts? I think the operation would limit itself at a depth less than what could be considered a dangerous depth. It would be inconvenient to bore an unduly deep hole; and it, therefore, would not be attempted.

2271. What would be the danger in connection with a long hole other than there would be in a short hole? As I pointed out before, the only danger I can see, that might be considered an increase, is this: That the charge has to pass through a greater lineal depth to reach its destination; and, should there be irregularities in the ground, this charge would have to pass through a greater number of irregularities before reaching its destination; but in view of the fact that one long hole may do as much as three small holes, and not nearly reach the total depth of three small holes, that is one reason why deep holes should not be prohibited.

2272. But if there be irregularities, is there not a great danger in getting the explosives to the bottom in a deep hole? According to the number of irregularities you pass through, so you meet so many dangers; but you pass through more irregularities in three shallow holes than you would in one deep hole to do the same work.

2273. I do not want to infer that, instead of one 15-foot hole, you should have three 5-foot holes? The comparison is the same; it is just a matter of degree.

2274. Say you are taking up a "lift":—there is a great deal of danger in connection with taking up these "lifts" if you bore deep holes. Holes are bored to a greater depth sometimes than take; and don't you think it would be very dangerous in those cases? I do not see that any danger can arise from non-explosion to a greater degree in a deep hole than in a shallow one.

2275. What I mean to say is, that the shorter holes are so arranged that the holes will be uncovered by the explosion; whereas in deeper holes a lot of the hole remains covered after the explosion? Covered with loose material only, if a successful shot; and as a rule all shots are successful.

2276. Your attention has never been drawn to shafts fired in the open-cut—where a hole has been bored 15 ft., and the explosion has only uncovered 10 ft., and, on blasting later on, it turned out that part of the charge had been left in the "bottom" unexploded? I have never heard of that. That might just as likely happen in smaller holes. I have never had any direct evidence, where a good explosive, properly tamped, has been used, that any part of the charge has remained unexploded.

2277. You said on Saturday that, in your opinion, in those open excavations underground, carried on principally in the sulphide portions of the workings of the mines, a man should never be placed to work in any position but what he could command the "back"; that would mean that 9 ft. to 10 ft. over the staging should be the maximum distance? Yes, as far as that over the staging.

2278. Would not the safest way be to take out 10 ft. and put in your permanent timber, so that you would always have a staging of permanent timber to work from? I think it would be perfectly safe to carry a stage up a moderate distance. It might be either a stage or the ore you are breaking, which you could let remain underfoot to stand on. In accordance with the nature of the ground you are operating upon so you would vary the height before putting in permanent timber.

2279. I believe all ground is susceptible to atmospherical changes? Yes, in time; but it does not take long to put in timber.

2280. No; but there would be great danger;—say a stope was taken to a height of 30 ft., and that all the ore on the floor had to be taken out;—would there not be a great danger while taking out the ore owing to the unsafety of the roof? The character of the ground would alter cases. If the ground would not stand and sufficiently long you would limit the height.

2281. *His Honor.*] Mr. Polkinghorne is coming to this—whether there ought not to be some definite limit beyond which stoping should not be allowed to go in this way? I do not think that placing a definite limit would meet the majority of cases where accidents might happen, because, in the great majority of cases, the stopes are carried to within the limit that would be considered perfectly safe.

2282. If a limit were made it would encourage men to go up to that limit in cases where otherwise they would not; therefore it would be better to leave the height of the stope to the man in charge? Yes; working under the instruction of the inspector of the district.

2283. The proper limit would be so very variable, that were you to leave a permitted maximum it would be rather apt to tempt men to adopt it as the height which they should reach in all cases? Yes; it would have that tendency.

2284. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You will agree with me that 10 ft. is a sufficient height to enable sill-timbers to be placed in position? Yes; but there is certain ground which will not admit of the timbers being brought as close as 10 ft. to the face; so it would mean a minimum close on 20 ft. overhead before you could put in any permanent timber, because, when you put in the sill, that occupies (say) 9 ft., and leaving a height of 10 ft. over that would bring you close on 20 ft. before you could, with safety, put in any permanent timber.

2285. Nine feet will take up the usual sill-timber—9 feet is the height required to go before you can get your

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your timber in? In cases where it is safe to put your timber close to the ground (roof); but there are cases where it is not safe to put permanent timber within 10 feet of the roof ("back").

2286. *His Honor.*] How is it there are cases where it is not safe to put the timber within a certain distance of the roof? If you put the timber comparatively close to the ground (roof or "back"), you have no means of protecting it from the large lumps—sometimes running up to 20 tons—that are brought down in those excavations. You want something to distribute the concussion. You want to have room to cover your permanent timber with a layer of old useless timber, and upon that, again, a quantity of "dirt."

2287. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] But you would not require 10 feet above your sill timber in order to get sufficient room? You may not; but, if you are only going to put in one set at a time, the men are exposed to danger longer than if allowed to work up the excavation to three or four floors.

2288. If the excavation was only worked to within 2 feet of the sills would not the men be working closer to the "back," and would that not give them an opportunity of seeing whether there was any dangerous portion in the "back"? Ten feet is the height of the face when finished. They are working, when putting in their holes, within a few feet of it, as they are standing on the ore broken down. Of course, when the work in the face has been finished, an efficient stage should be in position within 10 feet of the ground.

2289. Always keeping the stage within 10 feet of the "back"? Yes, if the men are going to work under the "back."

2290. You said you did not think it was beneficial to the company that men should be working in stopes in too close proximity to one another? It is detrimental to the company's interest in most cases.

2291. Wherever possible the men have been distributed to the best advantage? Yes, taking into consideration the nature of the ore demanded by the treatment works.

2292. You will admit that two parties working directly over one another—one, say, on the sixth floor, and the other on the seventh floor—are too close? It depends on the width of the floor.

2293. But I mean directly under? As a rule, it would be a mistake to work so close as that.

2294. You are quite agreed that engine-drivers in charge of winding engines where men are hoisted should be certificated men? Yes. I may be allowed to make mention regarding deep holes in quarry work. I was going to point out a little while back that an additional safety in the use of deep holes, as compared with shallow holes, is that, in the event of a premature explosion, there is less danger with a deep hole. Further, when the shot is fired at the proper time, the material scatters less with a deep hole. A deep hole will shift as much as two shallow holes; and two shallow holes would scatter material much more, and be a source of much more danger than one deep hole. It is much easier to overload a light hole than a deep hole, and thus scatter rocks, because the larger the quantity you are dealing with, the less effect a few extra pounds have.

2295. *Mr. Williams.*] In your evidence, you referred to some statements tendered by John O'Brien as being grossly exaggerated? I did.

2296. You said that it was a false charge? I said words to that effect in reference to one of his statements.

2297. Did you understand the question as put to you by Mr. Edwards as portending any future proceedings? I simply answered the questions put to me.

2298. You did not consider any question was put to you with an idea of involving intimidation? I simply answered all questions put to me without thought of intimidation or anything else apart from the matter.

2299. You are aware of the difference in the education of yourself and that man? Yes.

2300. And in your relative positions? Yes.

2301. And you will admit this—that the less a man is educated, the more inclined is he to exaggerate? I don't see how that should be made an excuse for exaggeration.

2302. Do you not think that education enables a man to view things around him with more impartiality? Not in the case of everyday facts. It would, no doubt, operate in cases where there were complicated circumstances; but there only.

2303. Have you ever seen O'Brien up there while working under the contractors? I saw him while engaged in removing sulphide ores.

2304. In the company's employ, or the contractors'? He was in Lewis and Duxbury's employ at the time I speak of.

2305. Have you ever seen him in the employ of the company, apart from the contractors? Not to my knowledge.

2306. You admit the possibility of men viewing things from their standpoint, in a manner different from what you would;—you would not expect O'Brien to view things as you would? For plain matters of fact, I should.

2307. It has been stated that the men have a better knowledge of the workings of the mine than the shift-bosses, and the shift-bosses than the foremen, and so on. Therefore, in deciding a plain matter of fact, you would consider that O'Brien had an advantage over the shift-boss, who only occasionally visited the face, (say) in a case of danger? No. In minor matters of danger I would, such as an unreliable roof.

2308. You will admit that a man working in a face continuously would, necessarily, know more of what was occurring there than would the man who only pays the face a visit once or twice in a shift? That is the general rule.

2309. The man who continuously works in any place would know more about the general method of operation than you? No; I do not say that.

2310. I put that question for analogy only;—do you think an efficient manager would know more than the man who is working there the whole time? The manager acts on his own judgment, aided by the judgment of all those who are assisting him.

2311. Is it not possible—from your knowledge of the workings up there—that O'Brien might have spoken as he did from a natural tendency to exaggerate things, rather than a wilful intention to come here to do you harm? I have no opinion on the man's character. I never heard of him before.

His Honor. Mr. Horwood did not express any opinion as to whether O'Brien was wilfully misrepresenting facts, but simply said that O'Brien, as far as his knowledge went, had made a mistake.

Mr. Williams. Very good, your Honor; I am glad to hear you say that.

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2312. You do not intend to charge that man with a wilful perversion of the truth, but simply to place your opinion in juxtaposition with his? It is not always a case of opinion; it may be a case of perversion of fact.

2313. It may be prejudice? But prejudice has nothing to do with truth.

His Honor: It is for me to determine whether O'Brien was accurate or mistaken, from the other evidence I have heard.

Mr. Williams: I did not want any impression to arise that there was any intimidation on the part of the Company to prevent men coming here. Another thing, your Honor: Is not this Commission appointed to inquire into the correctness of the report submitted to the Minister for Mines by the Chief Inspector of Mines, and the report submitted to the latter by the Inspector of Mines?

His Honor: The Commission has nothing to do with what anyone may have said.

Mr. Williams: What limit is there on the word "recently," as appearing in the instrument appointing the Commission?

His Honor: I cannot answer that question.

Mr. Williams: Have we had any evidence from inspectors that accidents have occurred, and have they occurred recently?

His Honor: The Commission takes cognizance of the fatal accidents that have happened during the last three years, and of the non-fatal accidents that have occurred during the last two years.

Mr. Williams: May I presume to ask your Honor to summon the Chief Inspector of Mines and the Inspector of Mines, so that we may be the better enabled to arrive at a correct solution of the difficulties with which we are surrounded?

His Honor: I do not think that Mr. Slee knows anything about the subject intimately; and I certainly do not intend to bring him up from Sydney. The Local Inspector is here, and will be examined as a witness.

2314. *Mr. Edwards.*] I think you would have no objection to a hard-and-fast rule prohibiting men from continuing a hole from a "bottom"? Apparently, you cannot expect some men to take sufficient care to ascertain that "bottoms" are not dangerous, and I do not think such a rule as you suggest would be objected to.

2315. *His Honor.*] How would you define a "bottom" for that purpose? The part of a drill hole left in a face. In some cases, of course, the hole may be 2 or 3 feet long. There is a certain amount of danger in all "bottoms."

2316. A "bottom" is that part of a hole not acted upon by the explodent? Yes; the explodent may not operate right down to the bottom of the bore.

2317. Would you, Mr. Horwood, make it a hard-and-fast rule that you must never re-bore from an old bore, or would you allow miners the discretion to utilise an old bore if they thought fit;—of course, after testing to see that there is nothing left in it? I think if men would bear in mind that these "bottoms" should be considered dangerous, and that they required careful treatment, the case would be met just as well as if a regulation were framed; because many of these holes could be used again, and the regulation would be broken, and there would be no chance of detecting the men. It is one of those cases where, if a regulation were made, it would be frequently broken.

2318. Do I understand that it is never permitted to a miner to put in a bore anywhere without permission of the shift-boss? It is exceptional, your Honor, that a shift-boss is referred to as to where a hole should be put in. It is only in cases where the men show themselves deficient in judgment that the boss interferes.

2319. The shift-boss has the right to say to a contractor that he shall not put a bore in without consulting him? Where he sees that the interest of the miner or of the company is being affected detrimentally by the position in which a hole is being bored, he has the right to stop the hole and have it put in in his own way.

2320. Don't you think this—a modification of Mr. Edwards' suggestion—would be a good rule: that no man be allowed to bore from an old "bottom" without first obtaining permission from the shift-boss or the man in charge of the work? That might lead to a lot of delay.

2321. But is not the shift-boss always to be found within a few minutes? He might be within a few minutes' walk of the face where the "bottom" is, but the miner might not find him within an hour. It might so happen that the miner would be following in his wake some considerable distance before finding him.

2322. You think it should be left to the discretion of the miner himself? I think it is one of those matters that could be left to the miner himself.

2323. *Mr. Edwards.*] Or a clause drawing attention to the danger might be embodied in the working rules? Yes; the attention of the men could be drawn to the danger.

2324. *His Honor.*] Would it be possible to test all unexploded holes by putting in another charge? A test should be made in all holes the bottom of which cannot be seen.

2325. That would be with a detonator and small portion of a plug of explosive? Yes.

2326. That rule, then, would be a safe one to adopt? I think it would be better to have such a rule. If these "bottoms" were not to be utilised the miner would not take the same care to see whether any unexploded material was in them. He would bore holes near them, and, when fired, loose pieces of explosive would probably be scattered with the burden; and this would give rise to a danger just as great as if he bored into an unexploded part, because, in breaking up afterwards with his hammer, an explosion would inevitably follow.

2327. You think it would be a good rule for every old "bottom" to be tested with a small charge? Yes; every old hole, where there is a doubt, should be re-exploded.

2328. Into which you cannot see to be sure that it contains no unexploded explodent? Yes; in all those cases it would be a good rule to insist upon their being re-exploded.

2329. That being done, you would not make any rule as to re-boring in an old hole? I do not think I would.

2330. That would pretty well ensure the risk being done away with? I think it would.

2331. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] I believe, as a rule, miners do not bore any deeper than they can possibly help;—it would necessarily follow that, if only portion of a burden were brought down, they would re-charge in order to bring down that portion left behind? It might be considered, in some cases, more economical

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to deepen the hole and then charge it than to fire the hole without boring; and I dare say it is more often done in that way. There are plenty of cases where it would be more advantageous if the hole were deepened.

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2332. I think the method generally adopted is to re-charge the hole and explode it? Where you are not limited as to the distance you are going in the direction of a bore-hole, I think, in many cases, it would be better to deepen the hole.

2333. *His Honor.*] The rule proposed would not interfere with the action of the miner in either case? Mr. Polkinghorne means, I think, that you should not only put in enough explosive in the second charge to explode the unexploded material, but to bring down the burden.

2334. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You would not object to one of the working rules providing that, in all cases, all "bottoms" in any place where a strange party of men might be put to work should be examined by the man in charge or the shift-boss? I think I would make each man responsible for his own "bottoms."

2335. But the "bottom" may have been left twelve months ago, and the man responsible be in West Australia? That would be an exceptional case, of course; and you could say equally as well that the shift-boss might also have left.

2336. But when a party are being put on after another party, should not the shift-boss take precautions? I do not think it would be fair to make him responsible.

2337. *His Honor.*] No harm would be done in that case by putting in a detonating charge? I think in all cases it should be the rule that "bottoms" be re-exploded before being deepened.

2338. *Mr. Edwards.*] You could not put that responsibility on to a shift-boss? No; he would only know in exceptional cases.

Mr. Edwards: I understand, your Honor, that the practice of men going to old "bottoms" and continuing them has been productive of several accidents in different parts of the colony—accidents that have been brought about purely by ignorance, and there should be a rule for the purpose of preventing repetition of such accidents: making it compulsory to re-explode all old "bottoms" would meet the case. As an instance, I could quote the accident in the "British."

Mr. Polkinghorne: The men, in that case, were boring a new hole, which came in contact with an old one. That shows the necessity of re-exploding a hole that has not brought its burden.

Mr. Edwards: That is the suggestion His Honor has made.

His Honor: You think it would be better to neither re-bore a "bottom" nor bore another hole near it, without first putting in it a detonating charge?

Mr. Polkinghorne: I believe miners of ability are very careful about old "bottoms," but some men are not as careful as they should be; and, seeing that carelessness as to "bottoms" would prove a source of danger, not only to themselves, but to others, your suggestion could, with advantage, be adopted.

Alexander Stewart sworn and examined:—

2339. *Mr. Edwards.*] Your name is Alexander Stewart? Yes.

2340. You are General Manager of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited? Yes.

2341. You have occupied that position for how long? About three years.

2342. Would you tell the Commissioner, Mr. Stewart, what experience you have had, and your different qualifications as a mine manager? I have been regularly trained to mining. During the last twenty-five years I have been engaged in mining only, and have had charge of some very large works. I do not think I would detail my further experience, but would be glad to answer any questions as to it.

2343. *His Honor.*] I understand you were brought from Spain direct to hold this office? Yes.

2344. *Mr. Edwards.*] I think, as manager of the Tharsis Mine, you had very large experience in open-cut work? Yes.

2345. Can you give the Commissioner some idea as to the quantity of material that was removed from the open-cuts there, and under your superintendence? I think we moved about 2,000,000 tons per annum, making about 20,000,000 tons for the time I was there.

2346. *His Honor.*] To what depth did the open-cuts extend? Between 500 and 600 feet from the surface.

2347. That is the vertical depth? Yes.

2348. What was the nature of the rock? Very much similar to the country rock here; but the ore was very much harder.

2349. The climate is not very much unlike the Broken Hill climate, but the rainfall is heavier? Yes; the average rainfall there is about 24 inches per annum.

2350. What is the average here? From 9 to 10 inches.

2351. For the purpose of working the mine here, you have several departments under you, viz., the underground workings, the surface workings, the metallurgical, and the engineering divisions? Yes; besides others. We have an establishment at Port Pirie, too, which is also under my charge; and it contains several departments.

Mr. Edwards: But they would be outside the scope of this Commission, your Honor?

His Honor: Yes.

2352. *Mr. Edwards.*] I suppose, in selecting the officers who are in charge of these different departments, and also those lower in grade to them, you have chosen men who are substantially qualified for the different duties? Yes; men who are specially qualified, and the very best men that can be obtained.

2353. That is, ranging from the assistant manager to the "powder-monkey" in the open-cut? Yes.

2354. *His Honor.*] Do you make all the appointments yourself? They are all referred to me.

2355. And you exercise final discretion? I do.

2356. *Mr. Edwards.*] The first subject for inquiry by His Honor, Mr. Stewart, is as to the cause, or the causes, of accidents which have recently taken place in certain mines and quarries in this district; and it has been suggested that ventilation is a matter to be inquired into;—what can you say in reference to ventilation as regards the Proprietary Mine's different workings underground? I have not the slightest doubt but that it is as good as it can be. I have had no advice of any accident that has occurred through deficient ventilation.

2357. It is in the interest of the mine to see that ventilation of the best is secured? Yes.

2358. Both for the safety of the men and the timber? Yes.

2359.

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2359. It has been suggested that the contract system has given rise to an increase in the accidents:—can you say that there is any ground or any justification for such a suggestion? From the experience I have had with contract work—not only here, but elsewhere—I can say that it tends altogether in an opposite direction.
2360. Are there reasons for that? In contract work you naturally breed a very much better class of worker—more expert men, with more interest in their work; and these men are less liable to meet with accidents than the slow men on day-labour who take no interest in what they are doing.
2361. In connection with this, it was said that accidents were introduced by reason of the contractors having to rush their work in order to make the average pay or average remuneration obtaining in day-labour? That is a mistaken idea altogether, because contracts in this district—in the Proprietary Mine at any rate—are fixed and based on the average work that can be got from an average man to make the ruling rate of wage.
2362. As a matter of fact, what is the average rate earned by men working on contract? I think a fair average would be 10s. 9d.
2363. How many men have you employed at present in the Proprietary Mine? 2,500.
2364. Could you say how they are distributed? About 900 are underground, and the rest are on the surface.
2365. *His Honor.*] And of those, can you give the number in the open-cut doing navy work? About 350 are engaged in open-cut work alone.
2366. *Mr. Edwards.*] The open-cut work is done by day-labour, which is employed by the contractors under the company? Yes.
2367. Those contractors being under your supervision? Yes.
2368. The largest contract, I understand, is let to Baxter and Saddler? Yes.
2369. And I think they are recognised as competent a firm of contractors as there is in the colonies? Yes, I think so. They have got a very good name all over the colonies, and have done a large amount of work.
2370. As to the plant that is used in the open-cut contracts. It was stated here by a witness the other day that the plant was in a very defective condition, and that no attention was paid to the ropes or to the hooks used either for hauling trucks or lifting skips;—from your own personal inspection, can you see any justification for a statement of that sort? Not the slightest. Such a statement is untrue.
2371. It was stated that no person was appointed by the contractor to see to the condition of the working gear? That is equally untrue.
2372. As to the number of accidents that have occurred on the Barrier—have they increased of late? I am really not in a position to give the information for the whole of the Barrier.
2373. Well, then, for your own mine? I do not think so. I do not think they have increased in proportion to the increased work done.
2374. Can you account for the principal causes of accidents that have taken place in the mine? Analysing the total number of accidents that we have had, I think 60 per cent. are caused by the men or their mates, 30 per cent. are due to causes over which the men have more control than any one else, and the remaining 10 per cent. are difficult to specify. Of course there are, and always will be, accidents, not only in mines, but wherever operations are carried on on a large scale.
2375. Wherever a large body of men are employed, accidents will arise? Yes.
2376. And I suppose no amount of human forethought or care can prevent the 10 per cent. you refer to? I think not.
2377. As to the 60 per cent. that are due to the men themselves;—can you tell us how they arise, and what suggestions you would make to prevent them? This 60 per cent. is composed mostly of accidents brought about by men hurting themselves with tools, or by ore falling on them, or by falling off ladders or down shoots. Those accidents, I consider, are due to the men themselves.
2378. That is, either carelessness or incompetence? Yes; I think it is fair to state generally that these are all due to carelessness.
2379. As to the incompetent men;—are there many incompetent men employed underground by you? Not one knowingly.
2380. Any man proving to be incompetent is turned off at once? Yes.
2381. Have you done everything in your power to introduce competent and skilled men into the mine? Yes, we have done a good deal, and, in endeavouring to get good men, have spent a large sum of money.
2382. That is, in importing men from other parts? Yes.
2383. Before doing that, did you exhaust the market here? Yes.
2384. And then you engaged men from the gold-fields in Victoria? Yes; and all those men were engaged for us by competent men.
2385. And engaged at the same rate of wages as were ruling here? Yes.
2386. Did you receive any assistance from the local labour body to get men here competent to work in the mines? No; on the contrary, we received a great deal of opposition. The different bodies of men, when they arrived here, could not find places to live in; and none of the boarding-houses would admit them.
2387. Were the boarding-houses influenced by the labour parties? I am not in a position to know.
2388. You have done your utmost to put into the mines the most competent men? Quite so; and I will always endeavour to obtain competent men.
2389. I believe men are put in the mine, so long as they are competent, irrespective of whether they belong to any union or not? Yes.
2390. No distinction whatever is drawn? No.
2391. None is recognised in any way? No.
2392. Since the contract system has been introduced can you say what effect it has had on the mine and the work that has been done, in relation to the number of men employed;—I take it that the greater the number of men employed underground the greater the number of accidents that will happen. In that respect, what effect have you found to result from the operation of the contract system? The Proprietary Company's experience of day-labour underground is this:—Under day-labour, it was found necessary to employ about double the number to get through the same amount of work. If day-work had continued, there would have now been no accidents, as the mine would have been shut down. However, the contract system has been introduced; and, as it has considerably reduced the number of men, so (I take it) it has also reduced the number of accidents.
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2393. I suppose the fact that men can earn such high wages under contract induces the best men to come forward? Yes, there is not the slightest doubt as to that.

2394. Mr. Horwood has told us that he has known men to make from 20s. to 40s. a shift for a fortnight at a time? Yes, I have no doubt as to that. I consider that thoroughly competent miners are making at least 12s. per shift.

2395. And, so long as the work is done, you are only too glad that they should earn these profits? Yes.

2396. Are any of the men engaged underground asked in any way or forced to take any unreasonable risk that is not incidental to their work? I am quite sure no one is. Of course, in cases of accidents, men are required to take risks; but, for those occasions, we always find men willing to volunteer their services.

2397. These underground rules [*Exhibit "A"*] were prepared by you? Yes.

2398. Do you think it possible, without hampering operations greatly, to add in any way to those rules? I do not think so. I do not see where they can be altered very well.

2399. Taking them generally, those rules embrace everything required for the safety of the men, if they would only adhere to them? I think so. Further, if you enlarged those rules and made them apply to details, the probabilities are that it would lead to accidents. You cannot bind a man up to do an operation in any one particular way. I find it is better to leave details of operations to the men employed in them.

2400. And I suppose the longer the rules, or the greater in number, the less likelihood is there of men reading them or paying them any attention? Yes.

2401. I suppose the shift-boss is the man who is best able to tell men what they should do under certain circumstances; and this would give greater satisfaction than a number of hard-and-fast detailed rules? Yes.

2402. In fact, there are innumerable cases where it is impossible to make any rule, and where the men must be left to the direction of the shift-boss or foreman? Yes.

2403. Is it your opinion that the men read, or attempt to work by, those printed rules? The rules are stuck up about the place, but I really do not know whether the men read them or not.

2404. At any rate, they are put there for all to read if they think fit? Yes; and the officers, as far as they possibly can, insist upon the rules being observed by the men.

2405. Have your officers instructions to supply underground men with all material they may require in order to make their workings safe? Yes, anything necessary.

2406. There is no limit? No, none whatever.

2407. Are they provided with the very best tools that can be procured? Yes; the very best tools and material that can be procured.

2408. Are the workmen underground encouraged to report any dangerous ground, or place, at once to the shift-boss or foreman? Yes; and it is their duty to do so.

2409. If they do not do it, can accidents be avoided? No.

2410. Can you tell how many men you have had to discharge during the last twelve months for incompetence, drunkenness, or disobedience of orders? I think we have had to discharge men to the average of about seventy-five each year, for the last two years, for offences which might directly have caused accidents. Of that number, perhaps one-half would have been discharged for drunkenness on the works; eight were discharged last year for leaving shots undischarged in the faces without giving any advice. Some were discharged for smoking, some for sleeping, and some for lighting fires, and an average of about 300 per annum for incompetence.

2411. How many actually left the mine during the last two years? Somewhere about 2,500 or 3,000 per annum. Of course some have gone away, come back, and been re-engaged, and these would appear twice in the numbers I have quoted.

2412. Some have left of their own accord; and some have been discharged? Yes; a good many have left of their own accord.

2413. I suppose the present system of timbering underground is the best one, in your opinion, that can be adopted for working an ore body of this description? I think it is a thoroughly safe system.

2414. As safe for the men as any that could be adopted? Yes.

2415. In addition to the timber, you fill in the places that have been exploited? Yes.

2416. In reference to the question of explosives. There is one rule in your working regulations which says that no missed-hole shall be unrammed? Yes.

2417. Do you think that is a good hard-and-fast rule to have? No. This rule was adopted by us because it appeared in the Government regulations. It is quite impossible for us to frame rules contrary to the Government regulations.

2418. What alteration would you make in that rule? This rule and others—especially those referring to explosives—in the Government regulations, were framed in 1872. They appeared first of all in the Imperial Coal Mines Act of 1872, and were evidently copied by this Colony when the Act of 1874 was being framed. All those rules are framed on blasting-powder—as that is the explosive that was in use in 1872—and they have no proper application to higher explosives.

2419. *His Honor.*] The regulations in force, under our 1874 Act, were borrowed from the rules under the Imperial Coal Mines Act? Yes.

2420. Powder is still used in coal mines? To a great extent it is.

2421. And hardly used in your mines? No, not in the ore. It is almost unknown underground, in the ore.

2422. *Mr. Edwards.*] What form should the alteration take? I would suggest that it would be safer, as a general rule, not to unram the charge, but to remove the stemming, or part of the stemming—to remove it to such a distance that a new charge can be placed over it, which, when fired, would explode the original charge.

2423. What depth of stemming do you think should be left on the original charge? I think there is not the slightest fear in removing it down to within 6 inches of the original charge. This rule brings out another danger that we are specially subject to, should its provisions be carried out; *i.e.*, the boring of a new hole at a safe distance from the original hole. It is very likely that the new hole will blow out the original charge unexploded, and lead to an accident in that way. I think the balance of safety is very much in favour of withdrawing portion of the stemming.

2424. I suppose, in the case of carbonate ores, some of the dynamite might find its way into the smelter furnaces? Yes; we have already found unexploded cartridges on the smelter floors, which had evidently been sent up from underground.

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2425. And, in addition to that, there would be the danger likely to befall men working amongst those ore s with their hammers? Yes.
2426. Do you think a charge could be exploded by leaving 6 inches of stemming between it and the explosive? I think there is no fear of its missing at a distance of 6 inches.
2427. I believe some recent experiments have been made by highly-skilled experts in that direction? Yes. In their experiments they went up to a depth of 14 inches of solid stemming; and they could always count on exploding a charge with that depth of solid stemming over it.
2428. Do you think it is necessary that glycerine compounds should be tamped? Certainly. That brings me on to another clause calling for comment in the Government Regulations. It is laid down that no iron or steel tamping-bar shall be used unless mounted with at least 4 inches of copper. That is altogether out of date; and if we followed it now, we would be taking considerable risk. This rule was also made at a time when blasting-powder only was used, and, for that, the miners wanted a heavy stemmer—a stemmer with some weight in it, so that they could pound the charge home. But, with high explosives, it is altogether different. They should be squeezed home with pressure only, and so should their stemming.
2429. The dynamite should then be first pressed with a firm pressure? Yes. There should be no concussion.
2430. And then the stemming should be pressed home firmly on the explosive; and with that there is no danger? No danger at all.
2431. I suppose the use of any metal tamping-bar is to be condemned altogether—either copper, steel, or iron? Yes.
2432. And softwood tamping-bars are provided throughout the whole of your workings? Yes; and they are quite sufficient for all purposes.
2433. *His Honor.*] As powder is still sometimes used in the open-cuts, I suppose you would, in point of fact, split the rule—make a distinct rule for powder, and one for the higher explosives, so as to allow men, if they were using gunpowder, to tamp heavily with a metal tamper, copper-tipped? I would prefer, your Honor, that the metal stemmer should not be used in any case.
2434. What would you use with powder? A wooden rammer is quite sufficient. You can ram it home quite sufficiently with a wooden stemmer. I consider a competent man is quite able to stem his shot properly with a wooden stemmer.
2435. So you would make one rule which would exclude a stemmer of any metal? Yes.
2436. *Mr. Edwards.*] Even in copper there is an element of danger? No, I do not think so; but there is no need for it, and I do not think any company would supply a stemmer of copper; the expense would be too great.
2437. Of course, you could have a wooden stemmer shod with copper? Yes.
2438. But, in your opinion, a wooden rammer would be better? Yes.
2439. *His Honor.*] To meet the probable ignorance of some men, would it not be better to distinguish between gunpowder and high explosives, in face of the fact that we have powders, which really are not forms of gunpowder, that are fired by detonation? I would certainly prohibit the use of iron and steel.
2440. You would think it risky to attempt to distinguish between gunpowder and other explosives, because of the other inventions that are continually coming out? Yes.
2441. *Mr. Edwards.*] There is a regulation that a workman shall not have in use at one time in any one place more than 6 lb. of explosive; that would hamper operations very much if adhered to? Yes; and I think observing that rule would tend to increase accidents. There is greater risk in taking the explosives from the magazine to the face than in actually handling them in the working face. If, instead of making one trip for explosive, they made two, the danger would be increased.
2442. Then you think that no limit should be placed on the quantity? I do not think that any advantage can be got by stating a fixed quantity.
2443. For instance, a round of machine holes would take a considerable quantity of dynamite? Yes, a very large quantity sometimes.
2444. Ranging up to a half-hundredweight or so for seven or eight holes? Yes.
2445. So if that rule were adhered to, or even approached in any way, mining operations would be at a standstill;—you would not be able to use your machines? That depends, I think, upon the meaning of this rule.
2446. *His Honor.*] Yes, it is very hard to see what the rule really does mean. It wants abolishing, and the question arises what rule should be inserted in place of it—of course, in a new Act? I consider the less carrying about of explosives we have in the workings underground the better.
2447. There is much greater risk in carrying explosives some little distance than leaving them in a quiet corner in a box specially provided for the purpose? I do not think there is any danger in having them in a box, and I do not see where the danger, if any, would be minimised by restricting the quantity to 6 lb., since that would be quite sufficient to do all the harm possible to the men in the face.
2448. *Mr. Edwards.*] Then you think the powder should be kept in proper canisters? Yes.
2449. I believe you have provided canisters? Yes.
- His Honor:* It might be well to leave the inspector the right to determine what is a proper case or canister, and the quantity of explosive to be used?
- Mr. Edwards:* It has occurred in the mines, here, that the men leave their candles in the box.
2450. In the case of missed-holes, what time do you think should elapse before they are returned to? I think at least one hour.
2451. Do you think an hour would be sufficient time? It is hard to say. I have heard of cases occurring at longer intervals; but, for ordinary cases, one hour, I think, would be sufficient.
2452. *His Honor.*] The risk, I understand, is defective fuse—the ability of the smouldering fuse to carry the fire on, even though the powder does not? Yes.*
2453. Has any fuse been invented that cannot act in that way in itself—that must either depend upon the powder or nothing? I am not aware of any fuse possessing that quality.
2454. Has not that object been sought for? It has been sought for in this way; to use electric fuses instead of powder fuse.

2455.

* NOTE (on revision, question having been misunderstood):—It is my opinion that no properly-made fuse will carry on the fire if the powder column is wanting.

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2455. But, apart from that. I mean, has the object never been sought after to make a fuse that would depend upon the powder, and the powder only, and not anything else? But the fuses in use depend on the powder only.
2456. But is not the cause of late explosions due to the powder in the fuse being intercepted somewhere;—it is not a break, really, where the powder is intercepted, because the smouldering fire continues slowly along the material of which the fuse is made, and, by and by, reaches the powder? That is not altogether the case. The cause (I think) is the bad manipulation by the miner who is charging the shot. For instance, with dynamite, if the detonator is not properly cleaned out, it may not explode, and the fuse, in passing down the cap, may light the upper portion of the charge, which, after burning for a certain time, would probably explode the lower portion of the charge.
2457. Heat will sometimes explode dynamite, in spite of the fact that it does not appear to do so on the surface? Yes; I think the heat that will explode dynamite is about 430° F. When you arrive at that heat, with any charge, you have an explosion, even without a detonator.
2458. So, in point of fact, the lighting of the nitro-glycerine without detonating it is likely to lead to an explosion? Yes; it may.
2459. And it is impossible to say how long the burning will go on before the heat has been raised sufficiently to cause an explosion? Yes; it depends upon the quality of the glycerine, the shape of the hole, and all sorts of other things.
2460. *Mr. Edwards.*] The detonators are packed in saw-dust, I believe, as a rule? Yes.
2461. And some of the saw-dust getting over the fulminate of mercury would interfere with the operation of the cap? Yes. Unless the cap is properly cleaned it may prevent the explosion of the charge. The cap also may not be properly nipped on to the fuse, which may come out again.
2462. In reference to deep holes, as distinguished from shallow ones. Do you think any limit should be placed on the depth of the holes in open-cut work? No; I do not think so.
2463. Do you think any greater degree of safety is arrived at by limiting a hole to (say) 15 feet? No; I think the balance of safety is the other way.
2464. And your reasons? If you divide a deep hole into two shallow ones, there is not the slightest doubt that you run a greater risk of accident than you would from the one hole. And, besides that, two shallow holes would do less useful work in the majority of cases.
2465. The object of the deep hole is to get your explosive as low down as possible under the burden it is to take? Yes; and if there should be a premature explosion of a deep hole, the men have a better chance to escape than would be the case with a shallow hole.
2466. In one case, it lifts the ground and spreads its force; and, in the other, it scatters it around? Yes.
2467. It has been sworn here that "bulling" a hole is very dangerous. Is that your experience? It is done everywhere where blasting has to be done.
2468. It is absolutely necessary to make a chamber to receive the charge in heavy blasting? Not necessary; it can be done without, of course; but it would be a very bad practice on the part of any miner to do without "bulling."
2469. And if ordinary precaution is taken in the "bulling," there is no appreciable danger in the operation? No.
2470. What time should elapse between the "bulling" of a hole and the beginning of putting in the charge? I think if you can get water into the hole it could be charged at once.
2471. *His Honor.*] But, in a case where you cannot get water into a hole—when it is not bored downwards? In those cases, they ought to powder the bottom of the hole well with fine stuff.*
2472. Which would fill up the crevices? Yes. I do not see any necessity for a rule fixing the time for charging after "bulling."
2473. *Mr. Edwards.*] Then you think it would be useless to have a rule limiting any particular time between the operation of "bulling" and the operation of charging? I think it would be useless. I think you should credit the miner with having some common sense. If he has no common sense, he should not be there.
2474. Given water, you can start charging at once: without water, you think that a man, by powdering the bottom of the hole with (say) sand or some other light stuff, could make the hole thoroughly secure within a short time to charge? Yes.
2475. It has been suggested that some of the fuse originally attached to the "bulling" charge might get away into the crevices in a burning state. I suppose, by powdering with sand or some other light stuff, you would prevent that? I do not say it is impossible; but it is so improbable as to be on the bounds of impossibility.
2476. You have never known of such a case in your experience? No.
2477. *His Honor.*] You have heard of a "bulled" hole having something in it which has fired the powder upon its being put in? No. I have heard of cases of accidents in the operation of "bulling" itself, through premature explosion of the "bull"; but, in all my experience, I have never heard of an accident arising from the charging of a hole after a "bull." I do not remember one single instance.
2478. That is the risk, of course, that is sought to be guarded against in making a time rule, supposing a rule is made? I think it would be better to leave such things in the hands of the persons themselves who are engaged in those operations.
2479. *Mr. Edwards.*] It has been suggested that additional inspectors should be appointed to see that every precaution is taken for the safety of the miners in the Broken Hill district. Have you any remarks to make on that? No; except that, provided the inspector we have now finds he has too much to do, he should be supplied with assistance; and he is the best judge of that.
2480. I suppose, in the appointment of any new inspector, care should be taken that a competent man is appointed? Yes; and I consider that, unless you have thoroughly competent men appointed to a district like this, where the operations are on such a large scale, you introduce an element of danger.
2481. I suppose, not only a man of great practical experience, but a man of unimpeachable character? Quite so.

2482.

* *NOTE (on revision):*—I must have understood the concluding words of this question to be "when no water is available." Water, if available, can always be got into a hole, no matter at what angle the hole is bored. If it cannot be poured in, it can be introduced by soaking a cloth in water, and, by this, sponging out the hole.

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2482. A man free from class-feeling or prejudice? Yes; I consider that every inspector of any sort should be free from class-feeling or prejudice.
2483. And utterly free from political influence? Of course.
2484. With a view to getting over the question of incompetence of miners, are you in favour of a system of apprenticing youths to underground mining? Yes; this is the only field that I have seen where there are no young men training for miners. There is not a single instance where one has come forward from Broken Hill for training in the mining department.
2485. There is a rule that all men working in the face shall receive the same rate of pay. That must operate against apprentices? Yes.
2486. That is most unreasonable? Yes.
2487. It puts every man in the face on the same level, no matter whether competent or incompetent? Yes.
2488. Would you be prepared to accept apprentices in your mine as miners? I have never considered the proposal at all, because I have not had a single application yet. I should be very pleased to do what I could to train youths who are fit and willing.
2489. I suppose they would be required to work their term of apprenticeship the same as other youths in other occupations? It would be to the advantage of the youths themselves to be bound for a certain period.
2490. What minimum limit would you put on the term of apprenticeship? The Proprietary's term, now, for apprentices on the surface, is five years, and I have such a high opinion of the miner's trade that I think five years is little enough.
2491. Because striking a drill is not the only qualification? No; that is the least part of the trade.
2492. Do you think the training of men to do the work would tend, in the future, to decrease the number of accidents? I think it would. It would tend to raise the average competency of the miners in the district.
2493. I suppose the remuneration of apprentices is a matter that would have to be left entirely in the hands of the employers? I think so.
2494. A suggestion has been made that a Board of Inquiry should be appointed to investigate all cases of minor accidents, that is accidents other than fatal; and that the Board should consist of three members—one to be elected by the men, one by the managers, and one to be appointed by the Government. Do you think that any such Board is necessary; or, if appointed, will it conduce to the amicable working of the mine between the men and the managers? I do not think it would be of any benefit at all as relating to accidents. I think it is part of the Inspector of Mines' duty to inquire into all such accidents; and, as a matter of fact, he does. If such a Board were to take this matter out of the hands of the inspector, no advantage, but great disadvantage, would follow.
2495. A Board of that sort would require to be kept constantly sitting, and could be made the vehicle of great annoyance to the employers? It might.
2496. It has been suggested by His Honor that in some cases the inspector might be required as a witness? I think he would always be required as a witness. He would always be giving evidence. I do not see any reason for such a Board. Every accident is reported; and the inspector looks into it; and the mine officials look into it. Every accident is carefully looked into on the part of the inspector for his own purpose, and on the part of the officials for the benefit of the mine. This is done whether the accident leads to injury or not—an inquiry by the mine officials.
2497. *His Honor.*] What do you think of the suggestion to extend the powers of the Police Magistrate to hold what you might call a Magisterial inquiry even in cases where death does not ensue? For what purpose, your Honor?
2498. For the purpose of enabling him to get at the truth just in the same way as truth is supposed to be "get-at-able" by holding a Magisterial inquiry in the case of death—taking from the inspector the responsibility of deciding the question, and only allowing him to come in as a witness? I consider, your Honor, that the Police Magistrate would be a more suitable person to do it than a Board, no matter how it was constituted. But I consider the Police Magistrate, in an inquiry into a matter of that kind, having presumably no technical training, would have to decide on evidence, and not by means of his own technical knowledge, and, to procure that evidence, he would be required to call from their work the officers who knew something about the matter; and the taking away of these men would, probably, lead to further accidents. Such a system would, I think, tend to increase accidents.
2499. Supposing the inquiry took place at the spot where the accident happened? In the case of an accident underground, to hold it on the spot would make it very dangerous. I do not believe in men being underground for any purpose at all except to do their work.
2500. But I mean that an inquiry would not be held at Broken Hill for an accident that happened at Tarrawingee or the Pinnacles? Still, in the case of the Proprietary Mine, if you had an accident, and had a Police Magistrate sitting in the room, he would have to summon underground officers from the mine to submit their evidence; and, in that period, their special work would be looked after by some new hand, which might increase our accidents.
2501. You think it would be better for the inspector to go and see the men, and find out all details, without taking the men from the spot, and to form his own conclusions, and report to the Minister? Yes.
2502. *Mr. Edwards.*] You think the result is gained equally as well now as it would be by a Board? Yes.
2503. *His Honor.*] Do you think it might be a good provision that the inspector should have the right, if he wishes to exercise it, of putting a man on his oath and making it possible that that man be prosecuted if he gives false evidence? I must confess that I have not much belief in the benefits of putting a man on his oath.
2504. *Mr. Edwards.*] So you do not think that any good end would be gained by giving power to the inspector to administer the oath and to take evidence? I do not think so.
2505. In reference to the underground working regulations. I suppose you find it necessary from time to time, as work proceeds and varies, to alter them? Yes; from time to time.
2506. So it would be almost impossible to frame hard-and-fast regulations that would be applicable to all mines? I think it would be a great mistake to attempt to do it. As a result of an attempt in that direction, we have regulations before us that have no application to the present work.
2507. What subjects should hard-and-fast regulations deal with? General principles only, leaving out any detail of any operation.
- 2508.

2508. *His Honor.*] I suppose you do not think that your own regulations go too much into detail, although, in so far as they are framed in accordance with some of the Government regulations, they have to be put in a wrong form—one or two of them, at any rate. If the law could stand in this way:—that the regulations in force at any particular time, properly adapted to the mine or district for which they were in force, could be made enforceable by fine, then, I suppose, the mine would stand in the best possible position? Yes; but regulations such as those (*Exhibit "A"*) cannot be embodied in any Act.

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2509. I mean, if the law stood in this way:—that a mine might have regulations, approved by the Minister for the particular time, and changeable, with the approval of the Minister, from time to time; then, if those regulations had the force of law, so that an infringement of them would be an offence, the difficulty would, I suppose, be pretty well met? Yes; I think that would tend to improve the force of our own private regulations.

2510. They would then become, in fact, public regulations, although, in their original framing, they might have been the work of the mine managers. After approval by the Minister, or some competent authority, they would become law? I think the inspector could approve of regulations for each mine.

2511. The Minister, of course, would act on the advice of the inspector? That would be sufficient, then.

2512. *Mr. Edwards.*] I suppose the best rules are those issued from time to time to the men by the shift-bosses, by word of mouth? Yes; for the actual detail of the work.

2513. For instance, it would be impossible to make any regulation as to explosives, since new explosives are continually coming into the market? Yes; and the explosives we have now in use may be out of date in another year. It is of no use making regulations to deal with explosives of to-day. Further, I do not think they would do the men much good if they were made. They would not be read.

2514. No doubt some new regulations will be framed, and become law. As to the best method of making them become known to the men, can you make any suggestion? No; except by pasting them up, and publishing them in every way possible. You cannot possibly force a man to read them.

2515. I suppose the mines might supply them to all men on application? Yes, I do not think there would be any objection to that at all.

2516. *His Honor.*] Can you say how much it actually costs the mine to have printed a set of regulations like these (*Exhibit "B"*)?

Mr. Edwards: The Government regulations (printed on calico) cost 6d. apiece here, and are obtained through the Government Printing Office. At one time, they cost 1s. each.

His Honor: Of course, it would not be necessary to supply the regulations to miners in that form; but it might be a fair thing to supply every miner with a copy printed on paper as soon as he goes on to the mine. After twelve months, he might have another copy, but, in the meantime, be allowed to have an extra copy at a fixed price.

Witness: We supply every man with a copy, printed on paper, of the lead-poisoning regulations.

2517. *Mr. Edwards.*] It was stated by one of the witnesses the other day that the open-cuts are carried on in a reckless and dangerous manner, referring particularly to Baxter and Saddler's contract;—is there any foundation for that, in your experience? Before proceeding further, I would like to produce the exact figures in connection with my statement of this morning as to the number of men discharged. These are the actual figures:—For the 12 months ended 30th June, 1896, 24 men were discharged for drunkenness on the works: for the succeeding 12 months, ended 30th June, 1897, 34 were discharged for the same cause: for smoking underground, in the first-named year, 29 were discharged, and, for the second year, 27: for lighting fires underground, in the first year, 2; and, in the second, 0: for leaving undischarged holes in the face, in the first year, 0; and, in the second year, 8: for leaving shoots uncovered, in the first year, 0; in the second, 4: for sleeping underground, in the first year, 2; in the second, 9: for quarrelling underground, 2 in both periods. This makes a total of 69 in the first, and 84 in the second, year. For incompetency, 210 were discharged in the first year and 461 in the second. The total movement in the first year was 2,104; and, in the second, 3,138. Of course, in these last figures, as I said before, there may be cases where a man has been counted more than once. I would also like to submit figures as to the tonnage handled. In the open-cut, we are handling about 100,000 tons of ore per annum; underground, about 300,000 tons of ore per annum; in the open-cut, about 400,000 tons of waste per annum, and about 150,000 tons of filling for the same period; coke, 3,500 tons per month; coal, 3,000 tons per month; timber, 800 tons per month; flux, 7,500 tons per month; bullion, 2,200 tons per month; slag, 22,000 tons per month. It is my opinion, taking these figures into account, that we have nothing to be ashamed of, if compared with any other industry.

2518. *Mr. Williams.*] Those figures would compare favourably with any other district in the world? Yes.

2519. And with any other industry? Yes.

2520. *Mr. Edwards.*] Have you any other details? At the present time we are paying, in wages, about £30,000 (Proprietary only—not including outside works) per month; for general stores, about £4,500 per month; for timber, we are spending about £3,500 per month; coke, £11,000 per month; coal, £4,500 per month. These figures refer to Broken Hill only. I think the quantity of explosive we are using here is a matter that cannot be let pass unnoticed. Of nitro-glycerine explosives, or what you would term high explosives, we are using 5 tons per month; and, of powder and low explosives, nearly 7 tons a month. Our actual consumption of explosives is from 10 to 12 tons per month; and, I think, taking the amount of explosives used into consideration, that the number of accidents in Broken Hill due directly to explosives is remarkably low. I am quite sure that in no mining district in the world is so large a quantity used with so few accidents. I must give the Broken Hill workmen credit for being able to handle such quantities with so little disaster. In round numbers, about 1,000 underground men are employed, also 350 open-cut men, and 1,150 on the surface works: total, 2,500 men.

2521. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] That is, actually employed on the Hill? Yes; by the Proprietary Company; not including Tarrawingee or any other place outside the Hill.

2522. *Mr. Edwards.*] Can you give the rate per thousand of fatal accidents? Under two per thousand. I consider that a very good rate. Considering the work we are carrying on, three per thousand would be a very good rate; and we are under two.

2523. It was stated the other day that the work in the open-cut under Baxter and Saddler is carried on in a reckless manner;—is there any ground for that statement? Not so far as I know.

2524. Do you know of any precautions that could be taken by your officers that are not taken to prevent accidents? No; but I think considerable advantage would be obtained by having the men change in the face. I know that view has been expressed here, and I think it would be a reasonable course to take.

2525.

- A. Stewart. 2525. I suppose, if the change takes place in the face, it would entail additional work and delay on the mine owners? Yes; it will increase the cost of changing very considerably; but I think it is the duty of all men going off shift to point out the condition of the face to the men coming on.
- 19 July, 1897. 2526. And on the part of the men, what loss of time would they suffer? Very little. I do not think it would amount to ten minutes. Besides, I find that, at the present time, all careful miners do wait.
2527. And the careless ones ought to be compelled to do it? Yes.
2528. Objection has been raised to that, because the shift going off fire their holes just about the time of the relief. There is no necessity for their leaving the firing until so late a time? In my experience no good practical miner will leave his work after firing without seeing the effect of his shot. If a man does do such a thing, he shows a great want of interest in his work. A miner should no more leave his face without seeing the effect of his firing than a marksman should close his eyes without seeing the effect of his shot.
2529. Objection has been taken by one of the witnesses to the batter in the open-cut; and he says that it is dangerously steep;—can you give any information upon that, Mr. Stewart? I suppose by that is meant the permanent batter; and that, I consider, has little or nothing to do with any accident that ever takes place in any open-cut, because, once the permanent batter is arrived at, the men are removed from that point. In the working face of any open-cut work, it is impossible to keep to any fixed batter. In an open-cut, when worked on proper lines, the bottom ought to be put in first, and then the heads brought down, and then the bottom put in again. That is the theory of working an open-cut. To speak about the batter on a working face is to speak of an absurdity.
2530. Objection has been taken to the use of the "chinaman" as being highly dangerous? I think the answer to such a point is that, without the "chinaman," you would have to employ so much larger a number of men to do the same work as would increase the total number of accidents. From my experience of open-cut work, under any other system of working you would require to consume double the amount of explosive, and to employ nearly three times the number of men, to do the same work; and, under such a condition, you would have a greatly-increased total number of accidents.
2531. In addition to that, if you had to shift what was brought down from the faces in trucks, that in it itself would be an element of danger, would it not, to the men? Yes, my experience in the past is that a great number of accidents are caused by truck traffic. In Spain the locomotives were required to go down the deepest cuts; and the greatest number of accidents were brought about by people getting in front of the locomotive or trucks.
2532. And if a line of trucks were in front of a face, the men loading them would naturally be between the trucks and the face, and in the event of a run of the ground they would have a poorer chance of escape? Yes. In addition to that, the only method of loading would be by shovelling, and that in itself is dangerous. They either hit themselves or someone else.
2533. It is said that the open-cut work at night time is far more dangerous than at day time, and is productive of a number of accidents. What have you to say as to that? That statement is not borne out by the records of accidents that have taken place in the past. As a matter of fact we have had fewer accidents in the open-cuts at night, and I consider the open-cut work is equally as well lighted as the underground workings, where candles are used.
2534. There is no stinting in the matter of light? None whatever. Although the open-cut work is done by contract, the company supplies the light; and the men can get whatever they ask for.
2535. Is there not a rule that, if the light becomes defective, the men are to knock off? Yes; there is such a rule.
2536. The open-cut system is absolutely necessary, I understand, for the working of the mine? It is absolutely necessary to do the amount of work that we are doing. Of course, there is no impossibility in doing the work by an underground system.
2537. Assuming that, instead of the open-cut system, you adopted the underground system; would it entail the employment of a much larger number of men, and would it be more dangerous than the open-cut system? You would require three times the number of men, and twice the amount of explosives; and that would cause a very great increase in the number of accidents.
2538. The machinery that is in use on the Proprietary Mine is all of the best description? We are continually improving the machinery, of course.
2539. Is it kept up to date? Everything is kept up to date.
2540. And there would be no saving in having defective machinery? No.
2541. Is care taken to get the best quality of explosives? Yes; we always get the very best in the market.
2542. It was stated the other day that an accident might occur through a splice in the fuse. I suppose if there should be a splice in a fuse there is no necessity for the men to use it? No.
2543. All explosives are supplied free to the men? No. Of course, in fixing a contract the amount of explosive to be used is taken into account; and it therefore comes to the same thing. Charging the men for explosives induces them to take more care, and not waste any.
2544. The company does not make any profit on it? No.
2545. As to the men in charge of the machinery. I suppose you engage competent and careful men to take charge of machinery where men are lowered and hoisted? Yes; where engaged in any machinery in connection with moving men about they are specially-selected men.
2546. It has been suggested that, at change of shift, two engine-drivers should be in the engine-shed. Do you see any necessity for that? I do not. There is an old saying that two heads are better than one; but there is a practical limit to that. Put two men into an engine-shed, and there is a danger of their beginning to talk or do something that one man would not do. I see no necessity for having two.
2547. I think the reason put forward was that one man might fall in a fit or something? There is a possibility, of course, of that happening; but if you endeavour to guard against possibilities of that kind you will have to double the staff all over.
2548. Have you ever known it, in your experience, to be the practice to double the men on the engines? No; not even where they have far more men than here.
2549. As to sinking unprotected shafts. Something was said about pent-houses being required at every 100 feet? In sinking a shaft, my practice has always been in the past to select sinkers—men who have had special experience in sinking shafts; and those men (as is done here) are put on contract; and they,

- they, practically, have control of the whole operation. If they ask for any special safety to be put into the shaft, there is no objection to it—none whatever. I think the greatest preventative against accident in sinking a shaft is to get men with experience to work it. I may state that I have never seen in sinking shafts any safety appliances of that sort employed, except in one instance, where the shaft, owing to special urgency, was sunk and lined at the same time. In that case, a platform was erected; and the sinking was carried through without any accident.
2550. As to engine-drivers having certificates. I suppose there is no objection to their being certificated men if you can get them? No.
2551. Would you make it a hard-and-fast rule that no man be allowed to run an engine unless he had a certificate? I would never allow a man to be employed on his certificate alone. We have found here on the Proprietary that certificates are passed from man to man, and you do not know whether the certificates apply to the persons in whose possession they are.
2552. After all, it comes to the same thing—you have to inquire personally into the man as to who he is, what he is, &c.? Yes.
2553. I suppose the same thing would apply in reference to shift-bosses, only in a larger degree? Yes.
2554. In the event of a movement underground taking place, and the men being called out until the country has been secured;—do you think it would be necessary to call in the mining inspector before the men were again put back into that part of the mine; or would you leave that responsibility upon the foreman or the underground manager? I would certainly leave it to the men who took action in the first place, provided that the inspector had not intervened in the matter.
2555. When the inspector intervenes, he should give his authority before the men go back? Yes.
2556. That is the practice at the present time? Yes, as far as I know.
2557. In charging holes at the face, especially in the open-cuts, the rule is, I think, very stringent, that the men shall be withdrawn while the charging is going on, except those actually engaged in charging? Yes. I think we make an exception in "bulling" only, when they have to be withdrawn to a safe distance only, and not out of the cut, as in the case of charging.
2558. That rule is insisted on? Yes.
2559. What is the punishment for men breaking that rule? The only punishment we have is discharging them.
2560. And that follows immediately on any breach coming to your ears? Yes.
2561. It has been stated that notwithstanding that rule men are compelled to remain in the face while holes are being charged in the open-cuts? It is not so within my knowledge.
2562. I suppose you are frequently through the cuts? Yes, often.
2563. Have you ever known such a thing to occur as men to be kept in the face while a hole is being charged? No; I have had occasion to object to a man charging a hole before the men were out of the cut.
2564. Were the men prevented from going out of the cut? No; it was brought about by the "powder-monkey" being too anxious to get on with his work, and not waiting till the cut was properly clear of workmen.
2565. So there was no compulsion for the men to remain in that case? None whatever.
2566. It was said that, if men are making good money on a fortnight's contract, they are taken away and put into ground where they cannot make so much;—is there any truth in that? It is utterly untrue.
2567. *His Honor.*] I notice that, among the accidents that have occurred aboveground, one was brought about by a boy being caught in one of the belts;—is provision made for protecting all the belts that can reasonably be expected to be a cause of danger to workmen when passing? I think we had an accident within the last two months at the chloridising works, and that accident was caused by a boy having been sent up to oil some wheels by a man whose duty it was to do it. It was the man's duty to do the oiling; but, because otherwise occupied, or from laziness or some other cause, he sent the boy up to do it. The boy had an overcoat on; and it got caught in the wheels.
2568. How was the man dealt with on that occasion? I really could not say at the present time what was done with him.
2569. Is there a rule in the works, where accidents of that kind might happen, as to the kind of clothes the workmen should wear? No.
2570. I suppose you find they protect themselves? Yes.
2571. Is there any rule made in factories where an accident of that kind might happen to the effect that workmen shall not wear any kind of loose clothing, or anything that is not close fitting? I do not remember any case, except in explosive factories. There they are bound to wear clothing suitable for the purpose; to wear proper shoes, &c. I do not remember any other case.
2572. You have not found, by experience, that it is necessary to make such a rule in your works aboveground? No; I think that such cases are so few that a rule is not required for the matter at all.
2573. You do not think it is necessary, as one of the working rules of the works themselves, to provide that a workman engaged in that kind of business shall not wear any loose form of clothing? I do not think a rule to that effect would be out of place; but, I consider, that the cases are so few as to make a rule almost unnecessary. It would be simple enough to draw up a rule that no man should wear anything but a close-fitting jacket.
2574. *Mr Williams.*] Similar to an engineer's jacket? Yes.
2575. *His Honor.*] Very often they use knitted jumpers? Yes.
2576. *Mr Polkinghorne.*] As regards apprentices, there is one question that might as well be put to you, and that is:—What age, in your opinion, is the best at which to commence learning the art of mining? I think that depends upon the boy's body. Some are quite as fit to start at 15 as others at 16. I think, as a general rule, 16 is quite young enough.
2577. That would be the best age—from that to 18? I think 18 is too late. Any boy who is going to start business in life should start before he is 18.
2578. You think you would make a better man out of an apprentice who starts at 16 than at 25? Yes; 16 was my own age when I went underground.
2579. You say that the prices offered to the contractors are so arranged that they may earn at least the ruling rate, viz., 9s. a day? Yes.
2580. Do you think that the working rules of the Proprietary, with one or two exceptions, are any more than a miner of ordinary experience should know himself? I do not consider that any of those rules are very much beyond what any ordinary miner ought to know. Of course, the rules are not framed for the good

- A. Stewart. good miners, who can be depended upon, but for the inferior men who cannot be depended upon. Rules must be framed for the protection of the inferior men.
- 19 July, 1897. 2581. While speaking upon the importation of miners for the Proprietary, there was some suggestion that opposition had been raised to the bringing in of good men to the district;—do you think that this really was the case? Yes; to my knowledge, I know there was opposition raised.
2582. I would like to know what opposition was raised? I would not like to say that any opposition was raised by any trades union; but opposition was raised by some of the residents of Broken Hill; and I know that a number of men—I do not say that they belonged to any trades union—met them at the station and called them all sorts of foul names, and frightened them out of their wits. They were actually in such fear that they would not walk about the streets of Broken Hill alone.
- Mr. Polkinghorne:* I would like to say that it was never through any action of the organisation with which I am connected that this took place; but, at the same time, I would not like to say that no members of the labour organisation were mixed with those who assembled at the railway station. The direct opposition was never to the importation of good men. Opposition was raised by the labour organisation to men being brought here who were no better than men walking about the streets.
- His Honor:* Really, it is not worth while going into this, because Mr. Stewart does not charge any particular organisation with having raised opposition.
- Mr. Edwards:* The only reason, your Honor, that I introduced this matter was to explain away the cause why incompetent men might be found in the mine.
2583. I think Mr. Stewart has already stated that a goodly number were competent, and that they would be very fortunate if they got all competent men among those who were imported. Mr. Stewart goes further on to say that 60 per cent. of the accidents occur through incompetency? I would not say that because a man brings an accident on to himself or his mates he is incompetent; it may be a fault of his judgment at the time.
2584. As to this Board of Inquiry;—in your opinion, would it be taking away anything the company has to-day, or would it interfere in any way to have a Board to inquire into all serious accidents where the party concerned asks for an inquiry; seeing that the company are blamed when they have no right to be blamed, and also the man in charge, and sometimes the inspector, and sometimes even the injured party himself. An inquiry by a Board would clear the whole matter up? I think, no matter what Board you appoint, you will still have imputations made against the men occupying prominent positions.
2585. *Mr. Williams:* I would like to ask this witness whether he has any objection to submitting a report of the company for the last half-year? It is being printed, and will be issued in about a fortnight's time.
2586. Will you supply the report for the previous half-year? Yes, with pleasure.
2587. I have also to request that you will supply the Commission with a copy of the form of contract used underground? I will supply one.
2588. Also the contract between the open-cuts contractors and the company? —
- Mr. Edwards:* I do not think Mr. Stewart could meet your wish there, as the contract is a document of a strictly private nature.
- His Honor:* Does it not contain some general provisions which refer to the safety of the works?
- Mr. Edwards:* The open-cut contractors are bound in all cases to stand by the rules of the mine and the Government regulations.
- His Honor:* How is non-compliance dealt with?
- Witness:* In all those contracts it is provided that the general manager can stop work at a moment's notice if anything is not complied with.
- Mr. Williams:* I ask specifically, for the purpose of arriving at the truth, that the authority of those contractors to carry out the work in the way they do be submitted. Death has occurred to certain men in their employ, and it is only fair that the contract entered into with those people, giving them power to carry out operations in which loss of life has occurred, should be produced here.
- His Honor:* I will ask Mr. Stewart, then, to produce a copy of the contract entered into with Messrs. Baxter and Saddler. If I satisfy myself that Mr. Stewart's statement is correct, I will go no further.
- Mr. Edwards:* On behalf of the company, I would ask that the documents asked for be not made public property.
- His Honor:* I will ask Mr. Stewart, simply for the purpose of my inspecting it, to produce the contract asked for.
- Mr. Williams:* I am prepared to submit myself to an oath that anything that comes to my knowledge while perusing the plan or contract will remain private property. Further, may I ask Mr. Stewart whether he is prepared to supply proof of his appointment as general manager of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company?
- His Honor:* That is going too far, and it would be quite unnecessary.
2589. You have stated that you are manager of the Proprietary Company? Yes.
2590. You here assert, on oath, that you are the general manager appointed by the Proprietary Company for the purpose of supervising their workings? Yes.
2591. You have endeavoured to faithfully discharge the duties of that position? Yes.
2592. You have been here about three years? Yes.
2593. Since your arrival have you altered the system in any way as to the mode of appointing officers and employing men? That information I cannot give, because I do not know what was done before I came here. As far as the appointment of officers is concerned, I have always done that myself.
2594. You say you have had experience of open-cuts extending to a vertical depth of between 500 and 600 feet? Yes.
2595. What was the permanent batter in those cases? On an average, $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1.
2596. *His Honor:* $\frac{1}{4}$ horizontal to 1 vertical? Yes, for the final batter.
2597. *Mr. Williams:* You found that safe? Yes.
2598. What grade was there on the temporary or working batters? That varied almost every hour in the day as the benches worked forward. Sometimes they must pass beyond even the perpendicular to get the stuff down. They must undermine it.
2599. That is the theory of working in an open-cut? Yes.
2600. What depth do you take your lifts at a time? I have seen them taken considerably over 100 feet at a time.

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2601. That is the maximum. What would be the minimum? About 50 feet.
2602. What would you strike the average at? No average can be struck in those matters, because things have to vary according to circumstances.
2603. In the maximum lift of 100 feet, did you then undermine, as a general thing? Yes.
2604. Was that an every-day occurrence? Yes; it was quite usual.
2605. Were the strata similar to those here? Yes.
2606. Where were those open-cuts located? In Spain.
2607. And you held a position there immediately before coming here? Yes.
2608. I believe your experience as a practical miner has not been confined to Spain? No.
2609. Have you had anything to do in Wales? I have been there, but have done nothing there in connection with mining.
2610. What do you consider to be a safe batter for an open-cut at Broken Hill of a depth of 500 feet—you work according to plans? No; I do not. You cannot work the open-cut by a plan. So far as final batters are concerned, I have seen batters come away that were so flat that afterwards they had been used as carriage roads—perhaps 1 in 10. You must suit your working to the special circumstances.
2611. Was there anything extraordinary to lead to that 1-in-10 batter slipping away;—earthquakes are liable to occur in that country;—some time ago an earthquake occurred in the adjoining Colony? Yes.
2612. And you will admit that one is likely to interfere with the open-cuts here? It is possible.
2613. You say you endeavour to secure the appointment of competent subordinate officers by using your own judgment? Yes.
2614. Is that the only effectual course you can adopt to secure efficient officers? I think it is the best course.
2615. You have endeavoured to have all appointments made simply on merit? Yes.
2616. Without any political or social influence? No influence whatever. I never consider such matters.
2617. Have you changed your officers since you have been here? I have changed a good number.
2618. And the men appointed in their places have been appointed because of their merit only? Certainly.
2619. You have given us the number of men you discharged, but you have not given us the number of officers you have changed for incompetency. Could you supply that information? I have not got the information before me—but it can be looked up.
2620. Would you supply it to-morrow? Yes.
2621. You infer that, because those men were incompetent and had to be discharged, incompetent men must have been working here before you took the appointment you now hold? No; I do not make any such inference.
2622. Of those incompetent workmen you had to discharge, were any of them working here before you became general manager? I do not think there is that information in the office. The keeping of a record of the movements of the men has only been in vogue within the last two years.
2623. Up till two years ago, you had no records kept for that purpose? I do not think such was the case: at any rate, they are not available now.
2624. Can you give us any idea whether any of those officers you discharged for incompetency were here previous to your appointment? I have not stated that they were discharged for incompetency. A number have been changed; and, as to those that were discharged, I do not say that it was because of their incompetency.
2625. It has always been your aim to invest the mine with good men? Yes.
2626. You say the contract system breeds good men? I said that under a proper contract system you would have naturally more competent workmen than under the day-labour system, and that the contract system in that respect does produce and work out a competent body of miners.
2627. I suppose you have frequently used pumps constructed by Tangye, of Birmingham? Yes.
2628. Have you any acquaintance with the way that firm turn out good men? No.
2629. Are you aware that they are prepared to develop the intelligence of their men, and when developed to avail themselves of it? That is the case in all large concerns.
2630. And are you aware that they have given their men an interest in their work by patenting inventions for them? No: I am not acquainted with Tangye's methods.
2631. In any department under your control are you prepared to encourage the men? In all departments, except underground, we have apprentices.
2632. Was that inaugurated by you; or did you find it here in operation? There was a system already in operation when I came; but I think I modified it to some extent.
2633. As a matter of fact you have been endeavouring to encourage men to become good workmen in every department except underground? Yes.
2634. And you desire to introduce that into the underground workings for the benefit of all concerned? Yes.
2635. You should be the most competent authority to offer the suggestions that have been wisely asked for by the Secretary for Mines. No other person in this district occupies a position that should qualify him to offer suggestions more so than yourself as to the prevention of future accidents; and, with that experience, do you believe that an extension of the principles you have on the mine now to mining generally would lessen the possibility of loss of life? Everything in my power I do to minimise the risk to life.
2636. Do you find the system of training youths in the surface departments a good idea? Yes.
2637. And you wish to introduce it into other parts? Yes; I am quite willing provided there are any young men willing to come forward.
2638. You said the age should be 16. Supposing you found men up to the age of 30 years who wished to become competent miners, would you let age debar them? They would be pretty old apprentices; and, in my time, I have never had any such experience.
2639. The contractors were here—some of them—and had contracts before you arrived? I do not think that any of the existing contracts were in existence before I came here. Those contracts that we have now have all been put in operation since I came here.
2640. As a matter of fact, you have changed the conditions of the contracts since you have been here? Yes.
2641. You said this morning about a man being appointed to look after the ropes;—do you know his name? I cannot give it at this moment.

- A. Stewart. 2642. Do you know what he is like;—is he a tall man, a short man, or what? [*Mr. Edwards*: The man will be called, later on, as a witness.] How long has he been appointed? I could not say.
- 19 July, 1897. 2643. You can assure us that he has been appointed more than a month? I cannot say.
2644. Say, a week ago? I think I could say he was appointed more than a week ago. A man has been appointed ever since I have been here, whose duty it is to look after all ropes.
2645. All ropes, or those in the open-cuts in particular? All ropes; giving, of course, special attention to winding ropes.
2646. You do not refer to the sailor gang? Apart altogether from that.
2647. You say 60 per cent. of the accidents are due to the men themselves? Yes; due to causes arising within the men themselves or their mates.
2648. Due to causes that they could control? I consider that 90 per cent. of the total number of accidents anywhere can be best controlled by the men themselves.
2649. You say that 90 per cent. of the number of accidents that have occurred could have been prevented by the judgment of the men? No; I do not make any such statement.
2650. You say 60 per cent. could have been prevented by the judgment of the men? No; I never made any such statement.
2651. Can you tell us what percentage could have been prevented by the judgment of the men? No.
2652. You say that the company have spent a large sum of money in endeavouring to obtain competent men, after a fair attempt had been made to secure them from the local market? Yes.
2653. Can you tell us the amount? Somewhere about £400 or £500.
2654. You said that you endeavoured to secure these men from the local market? I am quite sure there were no men on the local market, otherwise we would not have spent that money in bringing in men from outside.
2655. You allow no favouritism whatever? No.
2656. And if a person gets work on the mine by favour it must be by yours? Yes.
2657. And you are responsible to your directors for what favour you deal out? Yes.
2658. Do you place any value on certificates? No.
2659. Because you think there is a possibility of passing them on from one to the other? I know for a fact that that is done.
2660. You believe in a practical demonstration as to whether a man can fill the office he applies for? Yes.
2661. Would not the fact of a man's possessing a certificate assist him in any way? Not unless you know more about him than his certificate shows.
2662. Would it not give you some data to examine him upon? No data are required to examine a man.
2663. Your objection is that the certificate might not belong to him? Yes, and he may not be as good a man as he was when he got the certificate.
2664. And there is also the possibility that the man who gave the certificate was himself not qualified? Yes.
2665. But if you gave a certificate to a man—a man who was, say, going to the West;—would it not be of value? As a matter of fact, certificates are supplied to many of the men going to the West.
2666. Are you aware that in parts men are working as miners who hold certificates qualifying them to act as managers? I am aware of that.
2667. Would you be surprised to be informed that a firm in England has a number of men employed as common miners, or colliers, who at any moment can step out and take the position of manager? I may state that I hold a certificate of competency myself under the Coal Mines Act, but I have never made use of my certificate in a coal mine. Men may have certificates to take control of a mine, but nothing would induce me to believe that they were competent to go in and hold such a position until they had been proved.
2668. You said that for specially dangerous occupations you would call for volunteers, so that a man would not be forced to endanger his life unless he were willing? I never force a man to take any risk whatever.
2669. One of the witnesses referred to the possibility of six men being desirous to return to a face and one objecting;—you would not, for the same reason, inflict any punishment upon him for that? No, certainly not; I would think he was doing quite right.
2670. As to rules about explosives: you suggested that arrangements should be made as circumstances occurred? Yes.
2671. You referred also to the danger of an unexploded portion of a charge being scattered about the place: you referred to something in the way of unexploded portions that you had found in connection with the smelters? Recently we found a considerable quantity of unexploded explosives on the smelter floor.
2672. Would that not imply that there should be competent men handling these explosives underneath, if only to secure the lives of your smelter men? They are competent men underground.
2673. And yet with these competent men you find such a terrible thing as that? Yes; and that is the danger I said would arise in boring a new hole.
- His Honor*: *Mr. Edwards* put that as a question, that a case like that might arise in drilling a new hole alongside a missed-hole and blowing it out.
2674. Did you notice in the evidence a statement to the effect that dynamite had been unearthed in some of the operations in the open-cut after having been left lying about loosely? I never heard of a statement to that effect.
2675. If left lying about, an explosion would probably be brought about by the men driving their picks into it? Yes.
2676. If it were said that such an accident in Block 11 had occurred, you would not dispute it? No; it is within the bound of probability that such an accident might occur.
2677. Can you suggest any recommendation to be embodied in a new Act to bring it up to date? I would not care to do that off-hand.
2678. You have no objection to offering your best services, if required, in the preparation of an up-to-date code of rules? No; I would be very pleased to do so.
2679. You would, under all circumstances, emphatically prohibit steel and iron tamping-bars being used? Yes.
2680. Then there was the question as to fuses? ————— 2681.

2681. *His Honor.*] The question was—whether the enclosing material of a fuse could not be made of something non-combustible, so that, in the event of a break in the powder, the fire would not be carried on. It struck me that the ability of the enclosing material to carry on the fire over a break was the cause of a great many accidents? I do not know whether any such fuse is made. A. Stewart.
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2682. Do you know whether any of the salts used to make vegetable matter non-combustible have been tried? I do not think so.

Inspector Hebbard: The object of the cotton in the fuse is to carry the fire in the event of the powder failing.

His Honor: I should have thought that the opposite object would have been sought for—something that would not have carried the fire.

2683. You think that really the cause of hanging fire is not the creeping of the fire along a part of the tube where the powder is intercepted, but the action which takes place in detonating the cap? I think that miss-fires are due to a number of causes, and that that is one. I have never heard before of an accident occurring through the lingering of the fire in a fuse that was faulty owing to the powder being wanting.

Mr. Williams: Sometimes, in the manufacture of fuse, faults occur. It may be obstructed, perhaps, one-thirtieth of an inch only; and the fire goes down to that obstruction; and, if it had not been for that little thread passing through, the fuse would have failed in its work. That is what caused the late fire and a number of accidents.

2684. Then it all comes back to this: that to name a time within which a fuse will not act is impracticable? Yes.

2685. If it once stops running at its ordinary rate you cannot say what time it will take? No.

2686. You say the only unobstructable method is electricity? Yes.

2687. *Mr. Edwards.*] But electricity has its drawbacks? Yes; it has very serious drawbacks.

2688. *His Honor.*] Expense is one? Not so much expense as the great number of instruments that have to be looked after and kept in order. Electricity is used mostly in large open-cut works. It could not be used in our underground workings to advantage. Further, there would be more danger from electricity, because of the greater ignorance concerning it on the part of the men.

TUESDAY, 20 JULY, 1897.

John George Shinnick sworn and examined:—

2689. *His Honor.*] What is your full name? John George Shinnick.

2690. What are you? At present I am in business; but I have been a miner, also a surface-worker, on the Barrier between ten and eleven years. J. G.
Shinnick.

2691. Were you a miner by occupation originally, before you came here? Yes; before I came to the Barrier. 20 July, 1897.

2692. And you came here in what year? In 1888.

2693. After coming here did you work at mining aboveground and underground for some years? Yes.

2694. Till what year? I have been working as a miner up to three months ago.

2695. You have given it up now for other business? Yes.

2696. You were working continuously from 1888 till three months ago? No.

2697. How much of that time? The biggest part of my time after coming here I spent on the surface, principally among the smelters.

2698. Any time on the open-cut? Yes, about three months.

2699. When was that? In 1893.

2700. And not since then? No.

2701. You have worked underground part of your time here? On the mines here, just in Broken Hill, for about twelve months at different times. I have worked at three different mines.

2702. When did you work last underground? In the Central Mine, between seven and nine weeks ago. I was then stopping ore.

2703. What information have you got to give the Commission on these different matters? I have evidence to give, your Honor, based upon a good deal of experience on the surface and underground, at the smelters and in the open-cuts. I have seen things occurring from time to time that I considered were dangerous, and which could be remedied. With that object in view, I come here to give evidence.

2704. Will you take the things one by one that have struck you, and explain them, and suggest any remedy you may think advisable? The principal thing I have to complain about is the work I was at last as a miner in Block 10. It is with reference to the putting down of mullock in Kelly's shaft. I have seen great lumps of rock as big as my head break through the lining and fly out on to the plats while we were waiting to go in cages. I have seen truck-loads of mullock shot into that shoot while we have been going up in the cage.

2705. Is the shoot partitioned off from the hauling-shaft? Yes, but the shaft is, of course, perpendicular; and slides are put across to break the fall. The mullock strikes these slides very hard, and, as a consequence, has broken away the lining between the hauling-shaft and the shoot, and I have seen stones fly out on to the plat. I have seen stones even go into the shaft.

2706. How often have you seen that happen? Twice, while I was working there.

2707. Was it a common practice to use the shoot while the cage was being used? Yes; while I was there.

2708. In how many places did you notice the lining broken? My work took me to the 400-foot level; and, of course, I used to go direct from the surface to that level. At that level the angle on the plat was broken. I saw it repaired and broken again. It must also have been broken higher up, because I have seen stones coming down from above.

2709. Has anyone ever been hurt through that? No one has been hurt; but there have been some very close shaves.

2710. Is that practice still continued? I could not say.

2711. That was within the last few weeks? Within the last nine or ten weeks.

2712. What was the material used for lining? 10 x 4 Oregon.

2713. That mullock was shot down for filling? Yes. I have also to complain of the contract system, which,

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which, in my opinion, is very much to blame for a great many accidents that have occurred on the mines. My reason for saying that is that men get a contract for stoping ore at a certain price; and they have got to fetch all the timber. I am speaking about the Central and Block 10 mines, as they are the only two I have worked in. The men get so much; and they have to go and fetch their timber from the plat. Very often the level they have to bring it along is crushed from 7 feet down to 4 feet 6 inches, which makes them have to go along in a crouched position to bring their timber. You have to timber for your own safety; and you put in as little as possible, because it is so awkward to get it, and you would lose so much time.

2714. Had the timber to be carried? Very often—you could not get the timber carried. This led to very little timber being put up, and sets being left improperly covered. I have seen five or six sets not properly covered, and men fall through from the top to the bottom.

2715. The contractor finds it easier to strip the covering below? Yes.

2716. No doubt they could get timber if they looked for it? Yes; but a contract has that tendency. A man is losing time while running after timber; and he has to go in such awkward places for it. Therefore, the less timber he brings the better; and, as far as I could see, no one was there to watch whether you put timber in or not.

2717. How about the shift-bosses? All they cared about was to see that the ore was got out and the shoots properly filled. If men were working day-work, they would not care how much time they spent in securing the place properly with timber. I have also to complain of the dangerous practice that is now in existence—at least, it was within the last eight or nine weeks—of carrying out what is called the open-cut system of stoping ore underground in the Central mine. I have seen great cuts there without any timber in them, and eight or ten sets of men working in a small space and no timber at all.

2718. What dimensions? Twelve by fourteen sets long, seven or eight wide, and four or five high.

2719. In that case, it would be very difficult to keep an eye on the roof? Yes.

2720. Do you know of any accidents in consequence of that? I was not working there long enough to see much. I worked there one shift, and considered it too dangerous. It was so dangerous that one party I knew had an accident the first shift he worked there. His toes were cut off through the fall of a piece of ore from the "back." I worked there one shift; and my mates and myself thought we might make it safe enough to work on; but, after spending all one shift, we had to give it up as a forlorn hope, and did not try any more, and left the place. There were thirty or forty sets of timber not properly blocked up. They had, apparently, been knocked down and put up, and knocked down and put up until the joggles were all worn off them. They were knocked about that much that they could not be safe.

2721. Was there not fresh timber to be got if the men applied for it? Certainly. But these timbers were standing, and not properly blocked. That is why I considered it was dangerous.

2722. Was it especially dangerous? The ground was of such a nature that, when you shot it, it would come down in big lumps, perhaps 2 or 3 tons in weight, and crush the timber. That was why there was not so much timber put in. I have seen as much as five sets knocked down by the one shot.

2723. Was the ground hard? Yes; hard sulphide ore.

2724. Did it continue hard, or did the air affect it? The ground would flake a lot after exposure to the air, and you had to be very careful with it and test it well.

2725. Other than the man getting his toes cut off, you did not hear of any accident there? No.

2726. If there had been any serious accidents there you would have heard of them? I might have heard, and I might have not. It is a dangerous practice, and not at all safe, to have so much ground taken out without putting in timber. I think the "back" to be four or five sets high is too much; it should not exceed 10 feet. Then it would be safe for the men to work under it.

2727. Was there a heap of ore on the floor, or anything to enable a man to bring himself within a short distance of the roof? They build a "pig-stye," and stage themselves up to their work.

2728. So really those "pig-styes" take the place, as far as the working stage is concerned, of built sets? Exactly. They give the men a chance to get up to their work; but there is actually no support to the "back."

2729. But they (the "pig-styes") are less likely to be injured by anything falling on them than sets built up? Yes.

2730. They were moved as suited the work? There were only there, of course, while the men would be working.

2731. That appeared to you to be a very much more dangerous practice than building sets within a safe distance from the face? Yes. I also think there should be more mullock put in the sets.

2732. Was not the filling-in at that time going on at a good rate? It was, in some of the other levels.

2733. You think the work had got too far ahead of the filling-in? Yes.

2734. Had the ground begun to move to any extent? In some places.

2735. Not enough to cause a dangerous crush? Of course, that is a matter of opinion.

2736. But, as far as you could see, I mean? Of course, a man does not see danger much, if accustomed to working underground; but still, there is always a possibility of its coming down.

2737. I suppose miners never care about seeing a crush coming down if it can be avoided? No.

2738. Will you now tell us what you know of the open-cut work? I think, as far as my experience in the open-cut work is concerned, the men have been kept too close at their work. Caution enough is not taken; and I do not think the batter of the bank is sufficient to make the work safe. I think there are places there that are extremely dangerous. I also think the system of the "chinaman" is a very dangerous form of work.

2739. Why so? Because, in the event of a slip, there is not sufficient chance for a man to get away. In a "chinaman" the dirt is always loose, and, being loose, a man has to be down there to stop it when the truck is full. In fact, he is in a regular hopper, and has not got a possible chance of getting away. It is bad enough in day-time, but must necessarily be much worse at night.

2740. The plan of the "chinaman" is substituted for that of filling trucks from a level? Yes.

2741. Would it not be more difficult to get away from something you saw above if you were between the truck and the bank? Not if on a level space; and when around a truck, filling into it, you have a way to run back. If down in a hopper, however, with walls around you, you have not got much chance to run away.

2742. On the whole, do you not think the "chinaman" affords a better means of getting away? No; if you are down in a hole and surrounded, you have not got much chance to run away. 2743.

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2713. What height is the ground raised in the hopper? About 16 feet in some places; others not so much; others more.
2714. That would not be all round? No; when I worked in the open-cut, it was some time ago, and the banks were not so deep as now.
2745. You mean the banks of the cutting itself? Yes; I can only see that they are more dangerous now. They are narrower in the bottom, and deeper.
2746. When you were working there did any accidents take place from stuff coming away from the sides? I never saw any accidents, but have seen men have to clear off in a hurry.
2747. Did they generally succeed in getting away easily? Sometimes they did not; they would have a hard struggle.
2748. As to the batter;—was it a common thing for stuff to get away from the slopes on the permanent batter, or on the working batter? Generally on the working batter. The permanent batter, too, in my opinion, is in default; it is almost perpendicular; it may get weather-beaten, and, after two or three months, a stone may come away.
2749. But is it not the practice of the officer in charge to keep his eye on the permanent batter, and to send a man to bar down anything that may come down? It may be so, but men get careless, seeing a rock from time to time, and, at the same time, that rock might be a great danger to them. It may get weather-beaten, and become loose and slip away. If the batter was more there would be less chance of stones coming away in that manner.
2750. But still, the batter, if run even to an angle of 45 degrees, would require constant watching to see that stones did not become gradually loosened? Yes.
2751. How high did the working face run in your time? Fifteen to 16 feet.
2752. That would be almost perpendicular, I suppose? Yes. The men are crowded together in the face, and are exposed to great danger, owing to men above them being engaged in barring down. They have to keep on going, and have no chance of turning to look round. Often a run of ground comes unawares on them; and there is a cry of "Look-out"; and they, perhaps, jump in one another's way.
2753. Was it the practice for the men running the stuff into the trucks to be right under the face where a man would be barring the stuff down? Yes; a man would be up there barring down rocks and loose dirt.
2754. Did you work there at night? Yes.
2755. How did you find the light? I found it sometimes very bad; I have seen it go out.
2756. In your time, was it the arc-light or the incandescent light? It was the small ones, not the big ones. I have seen them go out. I have seen it happen, sometimes, once every shift. In some shifts it did not happen; but, in the majority of shifts, it did.
2757. How was that accounted for? Something was wrong with the wires, I suppose.
2758. That would be while the electric lights in the other places were burning well? Yes; I believe the arc lights would be burning very well.
2759. So it would look as if nothing were wrong with the engine, but something wrong with the conductors? Possibly; I am not prepared to say that.
2760. When the light was fairly good, did you find it as well to work there as in the daytime? No.
2761. It would be cooler? Yes.
2762. In daytime, what was it like to work there? Very hot.
2763. As far as the temperature was concerned, it would be much better to work at night? Yes.
2764. But, as far as the light was concerned, you would not prefer to work there at night? No.
2765. When the light was burning fairly well, did you consider it dangerous? I do not know what has been the result in the cuts since the new light has been introduced. I know they have better lights there now than in my time. It was in 1893 when I was there. The lights look better now. Anyhow, they always throw glares; and you may, perhaps, be working in a dark shadow thrown by the bank or a truck.
2766. Still, the lights are moved to suit the work? That I could not say.
2767. Is there any other matter in the open-cuts that you wish to call attention to? The only other thing I have to refer to is in connection with the smelting branch.
2768. What have you to say as to that part of the work? I have seen what I consider unnecessary work performed in that branch. I have seen men ordered down into the furnace to pick off the ore that was stuck to it sides. They would have to go down within four or five hours after the running down of the furnace, or the turning off of the blast.
2769. What would they be standing on? They would throw down a board on top of the hot ore.
2770. The ore would be cool enough not to burn the board? I have seen it blazo at times.
2771. Has that led to any accident? No; but you suffer in health from it. I myself have suffered from it.
2772. You have been down? Yes. The air is very bad, and very hot. There is always a certain amount of fumes arising. I think the picking off of the ore could be done better from the top. It is quite unnecessary that men should have to go down into the thick of it. There is nothing to prevent its being done from the surface with long steel-bars. They did do a lot of it in that way; but, after getting a certain distance, the men would prefer, in many cases, to go down. Sometimes the boss would order you down. He would say, "The others have gone down: you go down too."
2773. Some would prefer to go down? Yes; they would rush into it. The trouble is to try and get men to guard their own actions.
2774. They did not then complain to the management of this? No.
2775. Was a man compelled to go down if he did not care about it? I have seen it tantamount to that. I saw a man in one case refuse to go down: the boss went down and picked a bit, and came up and said, "It is good enough; go down." I take it that in a case like that it is either one of going down, or else of packing up your clothes and going home. It is all very well for a boss to go down for a few seconds; but it comes a bit different when you have to work down there for some time.
2776. The men would only stay down for a few minutes each? Yes, as long as they could stand it; and they would then come up, and others go down.
2777. Did you find yourself suffer from this? Yes; I suffered from lead colic. The furnace was run down in the night-shift, and in the morning three or four of us were put on at barring it down. That morning, after going home, I took ill, and was not able to return with the next shift.
2778. That brought on the colic? Yes; all the men complain about that work hurting them. 2779.

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2779. What mine was that in? The Central. Of course, they do not use smelters there now. The Proprietary is the only mine where smelting operations are carried out.

2780. Have you any other matter you wish to speak about? No.

2781. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You say that, in your opinion, the shooting of mullock down portion of Kelly's shaft, on Block 10, is very dangerous? Yes.

2782. Can you suggest any mode of getting mullock down into the workings that would be safer? I would suggest that that shaft be specially set apart for that purpose, and that men be not allowed to travel up and down it. The thing I complain about is that they shoot down the mullock at the same time as the men are going up and down the shaft; and, as I have said, the thing is continually getting out of repair, and at any time a man might meet with a fatal accident. I consider the men are going up and down in too close proximity with danger.

2783. As to the timbering, do you think it at all times follows that, because the timber is inconvenient to get, it keeps men from getting a sufficiency of timber for their working;—what I want to get at is, is the inconvenience of getting timber the greatest reason why timber is not used to the extent it should be by some men? It was not, so far as I was concerned. Of course, I don't know what might be the rule in other places; but I have seen us have to go to the boss for timber, and he would not be able to give it to us.

2784. If a face were considered dangerous by the men, and they asked for timber and could not get it, what did the boss generally do? Where we were working, it was a fairly safe face; and there was not much danger about it. We got £5 a set; so it was pretty hard ground. There was not much danger of its coming away.

2785. As a rule, was there sufficient timber kept in the mine for all practical purposes? As far as I know there was.

2786. As to the open-cuts underground;—what distance, in your opinion, would be safe to keep the timber from the face? From 9 to 10 feet, I said.

2787. Not from the back, but from the face? I should say one set. Of course, in loose ground you would want to keep closer. You could work where we were three or four sets without putting in timber. The ore body was only about two sets wide, and was encased in very hard country.

2788. You say you think the back should not go more than 10 feet high before permanent timbers are put in? Exactly; that is particularly where you are working in sulphide ore. I have seen stuff to-day look fairly well, and sound all right; and, to-morrow, it has become quite baulked, and the firing in other parts causes a vibration, which helps to bring it down.

2789. Where timber has been knocked out by heavy firing, would it have been safer to have kept it closer to the face? Yes; if properly blocked and fastened, and if sollar of 10 x 10 timber were laid down to shoot on to. From what I could see, it was catch-as-catch-can. I asked the boss if there was anything to put down. He said, "Oh, look about; you will find something." I put in a whole shift, and did not satisfy myself, so I left the place. I think, if the sets were kept closer to the back, and plenty of big timber were handy to put down as sollar, it would prevent a good deal of the timber being knocked about—as it was where I was—and being knocked down altogether. It was at the close of the shift that I saw the timber knocked down, and, according to our contract, we had to put up timbers knocked down. We came to the conclusion that it would take us all our time to keep the timbers up.

2790. How close was that timber you saw knocked down kept to the face? We were working on wing sets. I suppose it was as close as it was possible to have it under the circumstances. But what I mean is that the timbers underneath us were not properly blocked or plumbed; and there was not enough sollar timber to put down to shoot on to.

2791. Was the timber there if the men wanted it? As far as my experience went, I could not get it. I went to the boss and could not get it. We could not get tools even. My mate went to the surface twice to hunt for tools, and while he was there I was endeavouring to get timber for sollar.

2792. *Mr. Williams.*] I think you were referring to the work you did on Block 10 when I came in? Yes.

2793. Which shaft is it you complain of? Kelly's shaft.

2794. The mullock you referred to is taken from where? From one of the dumps of the Proprietary open-cuts.

2795. And utilised for filling? Yes.

2796. Have you ever done any work on the surface in Block 10? No.

2797. You have worked on the surface in the Central? Yes.

2798. Where about? In the smelters.

2799. How long ago would that be? Two years ago.

2800. Who was your boss then? I forget his name. He is an American, I know.

2801. Was that a general practice, to go down into the furnace and bar it down when it got clogged up? Yes, when I was there.

2802. Men prefer going down to working with a bar from the top? Yes; sometimes they do.

2803. Do you know anything about the material used as flux; would there be a less clogging of the furnace in some cases than others; and would this be brought about by the nature of the flux used? I do not know anything about flux. As far as I know, they were using too much of the sulphide ores; and they seemed to clog quicker than other ores.

2804. You think there were noxious gases rising from the ore in the furnace? Yes.

2805. And where would the chimney be to convey off those gases—above you or beneath you? Above me.

2806. As a matter of fact, you would really be in the passage of those gases? Yes; they would have to go past you to get to the flues at the top of the furnace.

2807. Other men did it besides yourself? Yes.

2808. As a matter of fact, they are not using their furnaces there now? No.

2809. So there is no cause of complaint at present? No.

2810. How long is it since you worked in the open-cut? Not since 1893.

2811. Which cut did you work in? In the one now known as Harry's cut, also the one now filling at the back of the Proprietary Mine, which used to be Miller's.

2812. You worked for Mr. Harry? No, I did not work for him. I worked for a man named Davis.

2813. Who was your boss? Barrow; and, I think, a man named Woods.

2814. Are you working in the mines now? No.

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2815. You consider the "chinaman" a dangerous system? Yes.
2816. The most dangerous system at work here? Yes.
2817. Have you come across, in your experience, twenty men who are of opinion that the "chinaman" is the safest system to adopt? I do not think you could find twenty men to say that.
2818. Would you be astonished if it were put forward that the "chinaman" was the safest mode of working the open-cuts? Yes.
2819. From the experience you have had? Yes.
2820. I take it if you were not working the "chinaman" you would be working from a level? Yes.
2821. Which do you consider the most dangerous spot in the "chinaman" work;—say you and I were working together, would you prefer to be down on the flat, or up above barring down? I take it that the most dangerous place would be down on the "chinaman."
2822. Suppose both of us were at the top? The lower you are down, the more dangerous your position.
2823. Have you always sufficient foothold when barring stuff down? They have always to make their own foothold, and the stuff is shifting all the time.
2824. As a matter of fact, men have to work there like goats, picking their footing? Yes.
2825. They have to move ground that has previously been shaken by an explosion? Yes.
2826. And those explosions are notorious for their strength? The holes are generally full-charged.
2827. And that constitutes one of the dangers incidental to the "chinaman"? Yes.
2828. You are not working on the mines now? No.
2829. Have you complained about any of these things you have drawn attention to, to the bosses that were over you? No.
2830. Did you complain to the underground manager in the Central or Block 10? No.
2831. Did you complain to the general managers? No.
2832. Are you afraid of them? I considered that it would not suit me to make any complaints. I was a man that had already been marked in Broken Hill, and had suffered a great deal from it.
2833. What do you mean by saying you were marked? I had been boycotted. I was refused the right to work on a mine for a long time.
2834. What mine? On all the mines.
2835. Can you specify any particular mine? Yes; the Proprietary, Block 14, and British.
2836. Where were you working on the Proprietary when boycotted? I worked in the open-cuts, also in the sailor gang, and other places.
2837. And how came you to be boycotted? I would not be working at any place long when I would be discovered and discharged.
2838. I would like you to understand the gravity of what you are saying? I would be discharged. In the first place, when working in Davis's cut, I was at first very "soft," and would not have been surprised if they had sent me about my business then; but, just about when I was getting hard, and used to the work, and it was no trouble for me to work, they discharged me. Just after crib time it was. I saw one of the foremen go down and speak to the boss, and, as I was coming down to work after crib time, the boss—Woods—told me that I should have to go straight away and "get my time." I said, "What is that for?" He said, "It has nothing to do with me." I said, "It has a lot to do with me: have I not given you satisfaction?" He replied, "It is nothing to do with me." The shots that were fired at this time—while we were at crib—blocked the tunnel the trucks had to go through, and, of course, some of the men had to remain idle. And this is the reason why I know that I was marked. The timekeeper said, "I would not take time if I were you, because the tunnel will be cleared in a couple of hours"; I said, "I have been discharged." He said, "I suppose that is what Hanson was talking about to your boss. I said, "Would he block a man from getting work here?" He then recalled his words, and said, "I do not suppose that was it." I said, "What am I to do with this shovel?" and he said, "Oh! you can dig the garden with it." I said, "I will take it home, and write 'blackballed' on it." A few days after that I started with another contractor—a man by the name of Miller. I worked there for seven or eight days, and with the same result. The ganger told me straight out on that occasion that Hanson gave him orders to sack me. I asked him if it was Hanson's work; and he said, "Yes." He said, further, "I am sorry for you, old man; that is what's the matter."
2839. Did he tell you what was the matter? Yes; he told me that I had been objected to by the company.
2840. Did he give you reason for the objection? No; he only said that I was objected to in the office.
2841. Is that the only other occasion? I was also discharged from Sullivan's sailor gang in the same way within the same year. All these things happened within the same year. I worked with the sailor gang for something like six weeks. Sullivan had several notices from the under officers to have me discharged. He said "No," and that he was not going to do it, and that they could do it themselves if they liked. In the long run, notice came from the office; and I had to go. One morning, just before I went to work, he said, "Well, Jack, old man, I am sorry for you; you have to go; but, if you will take my advice, go and see the manager."
2842. Who was the manager? Mr. Howell.
2843. Did you see him? He told me that it was useless seeking employment there, as he would be putting me on as against his officers, and that he was never going to do that sort of thing. I pleaded with him. I told him that I had no recollection of doing anything to hurt either his officers or himself, and that any action I had taken during the strike was simply on principle. I was not aware that I had done anything that I need be sorry for. If I had, it had been done unknown to myself. All this I told him, and asked him to let me know if there was anything I had done, and I would apologise; and, further, that if there was any accusation against me, to bring me face to face with my accuser and give me a chance to clear myself. He said, "I have got it very hot against you here"—putting his hand on a pile of paper—"and that it would be no use bringing me face to face with any accuser." Mr. Schlapp told me that it was no use applying for work in Broken Hill, and that the best thing I could do was to sell out and get away to another district.
2844. Would that form part of the reason why you did not complain of those things you have drawn the Commission's attention to? Yes.
2845. You had grown a little bit wiser? Yes.
2846. *Mr. Edwards.*] This, what you speak of, occurred a long time ago? At the time I stated.
2847. Four years ago? Yes.

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2848. Mr. Howell has gone over three years, and Mr. Schlapp has also gone? Yes.
2849. And I suppose you do not deny the right of managers to employ or discharge whom they think fit? Certainly not.
2850. They must keep that right? Certainly, by all means.
2851. I suppose in employing a large number of men such as the Proprietary have, the manager is not called upon to account for his action in discharging a workman? No; but my case was different.
2852. You have only worked as a surface hand and a miner for about twelve months up here? I worked on the surface under Lane for four years without losing a shift.
2853. Mr. Lane has gone about four years? Yes. He had the reputation of being a very hard master; and he did not keep a bad man long. I worked for him for four years; and it was very hard work.
2854. At any rate, what you have been speaking about is ancient history practically? It is not very ancient to me; it is, rather, very fresh.
2855. Possibly, they thought they were justified in what they did; and, possibly, you thought it very hard? I did think it very hard.
2856. You admit that the manager has the right to discharge what men he thinks fit? Yes; but you will admit, with me, that if a man has a complaint, and is labouring under something that he is supposed to have done, it is only right that he should be given a show to clear himself.
2857. How long have you worked underground up here? I have worked here about twelve months altogether, underground.
2858. At different periods? Yes.
2859. How long were you working in Block 10? I was there as a miner for about six or eight weeks.
2860. That is quite recently? Yes.
2861. Dick Thomas is the underground manager? Yes.
2862. And I think he has the reputation of being one of the best underground managers here? I am not prepared to say what his reputation is.
2863. I suppose you saw the inspector about occasionally? He never came into our face while I was there.
2864. Now, as to this shoot you spoke of in Kelly's shaft;—was not the mullock compartment closely boarded off from the hauling compartment by 10 x 4? It might have been 10 x 2; I took it to be 10 x 4.
2865. If any boards were broken, they would be repaired at once? I have seen broken boards there for a week without being repaired. I have seen a trucker work a whole shift removing mullock that had fallen out on to the plat.
2866. The danger would be to men working in the plat? No; the men, if any, working down the shaft. A man might have been coming up or going down in a cage.
2867. As a matter of fact, no man was hurt? I have seen men escape just by Providence, as it were.
2868. You made no complaint to the shift-boss? No.
2869. Nor to any other person? No.
2870. Why did you not go to the shift-boss? I just gave Mr. Williams my reason for not doing so. I did not want to be the first to begin to complain. They would have said, "This fellow is always stirring up mischief; he is going on with the same old game."
2871. You know Captain Warren? Yes.
2872. Would you be afraid to go and speak to him? Yes.
2873. As to the Central Mine, how long did you work there underground? I worked there on two or three occasions.
2874. On each occasion how long did you work? I suppose about two or three months altogether. I only worked there one shift last time.
2875. Did you make any complaint to the shift-boss or to Mr. Rowe, the underground manager, about not having sufficient timber? I told the boss I could not get it.
2876. What was his name? I could not tell you; I never heard it. He came to us in the face once, and I said, "I want some timber." He said, "Oh, look round; you will get some."
2877. Did you leave that place because you could not get timber, or because the work was dangerous? If I could have seen my way to get things to secure myself it is possible I might have stopped on.
2878. You were only on one shift? Yes.
2879. Did you complain to Mr. Rowe? I told him, and he said, "Oh, I will see that it is got." The more I saw of the thing the more I went about looking at it. The timber was out of plumb, and jumbled up together, as it were. I thought it not good enough to take the risk, and I left it.
2880. You have never worked long in any one of those places since you left Block 14? No.
2881. I suppose these "pig-styes" they put up would be stronger than even the square sets? Yes; but they were simply used as stages.
2882. That is from your experience of one day;—would you say they were not specially put up to protect the ground that was dangerous in the face? Yes; I am satisfied they were simply put up for stages.
2883. I suppose you know that these chambers are filled up with timber as soon as they are excavated, from the floor to the roof? Yes, with square sets; and, in many cases, the sets are not properly lathed.
2884. Is that owing to the carelessness of the men or of the shift-bosses? I would take it that it was the carelessness of those who had the supervising of the work.
2885. You admit that the men strip the floors for their own work? It is often the case that men do that. That is the fault of the man supervising; and the men who do it ought to be discharged.
2886. When an excavation is finished, it is filled up with square-set timber? Yes; but it is very dangerous before that timber is put in.
2887. You cannot put timber in before you take out an excavation? But you can take too much out before you put in timber.
2888. You never knew an accident to occur through this, except the one you have mentioned? No. He was boring in the face, and the timber men were trying to square up sets of timber; and while they were doing this some of the ore on top of the sets above him came away.
2889. Was he not breaking down a bit of stuff, when it came down on to his toe? No.
2890. What is the man's name? Kelly. It came from over the top of the set just behind him. I knocked some of it down the next day.
2891. You have not worked in the open-cut since 1893? No.
2892. I think you are keeping a boarding-house now? No; I am not.
2893. You were keeping a boarding-house? Yes.

2894. You can give no opinion as to the effectiveness of the electric light at present? No. From what I saw of the other lights, they throw shadows; and that misleads a man. I believe under any circumstances artificial light is not as good as daylight to work in.

2895. As to breaking down the lead that sticks to the side of the furnace. That was in the Central and Block 14? I am not sure about Block 14, but I am quite sure as regards the Central.

2896. How long have the Central smelters been absolutely closed? I think somewhere about two or three years.

2897. No smelting is going on there now? No.

2898. So that is all ancient history? Yes; it only goes to show what dangerous practices men have been put to, and what they have been asked to do. I can assure his Honor that men are asked to go and do things that are absolutely dangerous to their health.

2899. Before the shift-boss ordered the men down, he went down to see that it was safe himself? He went in one morning. One man said, "It is not good enough," and the boss went down, and picked a bit, and said, "It is good enough; go down and pick that stuff out."

2900. On those occasions the furnaces were shut down? The fire would not be taken out. All they did was to cut off the blast and throw in more ore. Underneath, there was nothing but molten material.

2901. But there would be a great depth of ore? Not greater than 4 ft. 6 in., and then you would come to the molten stuff.

2902. The boss went down first of all to see whether it was safe? Yes; but he did not stop there long.

2903. He thought what he could do other men could do? Yes; but he took very good care not to do it very often.

2904. You think men would be safer loading a line of trucks at the bottom of a face in a cut than they would be working on a "chinaman"? Yes.

2905. *Mr. Williams.*] You were asked if you had been keeping a boarding-house. Carrying on that occupation would have led you into contact with a number of men? Yes.

2906. You have not worked in the Proprietary since Mr. Stewart has been manager? No.

2907. Have you heard men express any opinion as to whether Mr. Stewart has removed that system of boycott? I heard that Mr. Stewart had done so; and I was advised to apply to him for work. I said: "Mr. Stewart may be all right; but there are officers under him who have a dislike to me; and they would be sure to make up an excuse to get rid of me."

Christopher Kelly sworn and examined:—

2908. *His Honor.*] What is your full name? Christopher Kelly.

2909. What is your occupation? A mechanic, as well as a miner.

2910. Have you been mining at Broken Hill for some time? Yes.

2911. Up till how recently? Up till within seven weeks.

2912. Until you met with an accident? Yes.

2913. For how long altogether were you mining? For eight years.*

2914. Below ground all the time? Three years above ground, and after that below ground.

2915. In what mines have you been working? Proprietary, Block 10, Central, and Silver Hill Junction.

2916. In which mine were you working last? Block 10, and the Central.

2917. At stoping? Yes.

2918. And before that? All stoping work.

2919. I thought you said you worked part of your time on the surface? That was tool-sharpening on the Proprietary.

2920. You wish to inform the Commission of some matters in which you think dangerous practices are being carried on by the management? Yes.

2921. I want you to tell me, in order, what these different practices are that you take exception to? In the contract system—the way it is carried on here—a man has no liberty whatsoever. When you go to take a contract, you have a price offered you, which is a fixed one; and you must take it.

2922. They name a price; and you may either take it or refuse it? Yes, that is the only option you have. They have a fixed price; and no matter whether it pays or not, you have to take it or go without. As regards timber, on many occasions I have had to go to the plat for it, and, not being able to get it, I have sent word for it, and then could not get it.

2923. Was that when you were really in want of timber? Yes, to save pulling up timber from the floors.

2924. How often did that occur? I was six weeks in Block 10; and I spoke, I think, three or four times about it.

2925. Did you not finally get the timber? Not that day. We had to leave it to our mates to get it.

2926. What did you do for the want of timber? Of course, under the contract system, if you cannot get it you risk many a thing you ought not to, in order to make a livelihood. You do without timber, and incur many a risk.

2927. Can you mention any accidents that took place from want of timber? I can only state that where I met with my accident timber was wanted. At the Central, on the 400-foot level, there is an open-cut; and you have to travel along on the caps and struts, there being no flooring-boards at all.

2928. What was your accident that you speak of? We started a contract in this open-cut. I asked Mr. Rowe previously to going down, if the place was ready and fit for us to start in. He said that it was. When I went down, I asked the shift-boss where I was to start; and he seemed to be in a bit of a fog as to where I was to make a beginning. He put me on to a place for the time being; and above the strut was a large piece of loose stuff. I complained to the shift-boss, and said, "This is a nice place in which to start a man working." He took me overhead and had a look. There were 8 or 9 tons of ore lying on the floor that should have been cleared away before we were put to work. The shift-boss could not give us any definite instructions, and I thought that, by being careful, we might possibly "dilly dally" the shift out until our mates came in with definite instructions. I tommed this big lump up, and started to bore a hole. The timber men came round, and started to straighten the timber; and I saw the lump move. I said,

* *Note (on revision):*—I understood the question to refer to Broken Hill only, or I should have said, "It is twenty years since I started mining."

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said, "Get away, Bill." My mate hit it; and it fell down through the floor. If it had gone through the next floor it would have killed the trucker. I saw another lump which was evidently keeping the stuff behind from running; and I put a chock under it. Afterwards, the timber men went a set further back; hit the leg, and disturbed this lump, without giving me warning; and down it dropped on my foot. That is how I met with my accident. It is a shame and a disgrace the way the stuff is left about there. You have to be very careful there, or else you would meet with an accident. I have heard numerous men complain; and I am sorry to see they are not coming forward to give information.

2929. Complaining about the want of timber to keep pace with their work? Yes. In the old days, when I worked under Mr. Harper, the system was that, whenever a man wanted timber and there was none at the plat, immediately after sending word to the platman the cage came down with some. Now, it is different altogether. In Mr. Harper's time, timber was the first thing considered.

2930. There appears to be plenty of timber on the surface? Yes.

2931. And your observation would lead you to think that the management are stinting the amount of timber supplied to the workmen? Yes; economy is practised. Very often, if you had timber at hand, you could prevent danger from increasing; and, instead of running about for timber, you could save many hours' labour.

2932. A good deal of that you put down to the contract system? Most decidedly.

2933. You mean that men are tempted to run risks they would not run if working under the day-labour system? Most decidedly.

2934. So as to make a little more out of their contracts? This system they have here—the fortnightly system—is an old system that I saw worked under twenty years ago in New Zealand in connection with the coal-mines.

2935. Did it not work well there? No; you cannot compare the working of a coal-mine with the work here. They are worked on a totally different scale. Here, if a man fortunately struck a good piece of ground during his fortnight, they would have no hesitation in dropping him down £1 or 30s. a set for it.

2936. Is there any other matter down below that you specially wish to call attention to? There is this filling-in business. I believe there could be a little more done with it. I have seen them build rough stone up and put a lath across from leg to leg. If those laths were kept away, and the stones built properly up in the levels, things would be much safer. After a certain time, you can put your "spider" in these laths, and they go to sawdust; and, if a stone were to roll through, it would be sure to bring others with it.

2937. It is a safe plan to use the laths in addition to the stones; but the stones should be built up instead of being tumbled in? Yes; above the levels.

2938. You would not do away with the laths, to act as a temporary support for the wall? I think I would prefer to see them away, in the levels, because what good are they when they rot?

2939. But, do they not help the wall to keep its solidity while it is settling? But the walls would never be built properly then.

2940. You think the using of laths prevents men from building the walls properly? Yes; they just chuck the stones in roughly.

2941. Is there any other matter you would like to speak about? Yes; as to the boring of missed-holes. I have heard a lot said about the fuses, and that men are neglectful with the detonators. From what I have seen, the miners are generally very careful with the detonator. It is the fuse that has been the cause of trouble—bad-quality fuse.

2942. How do you account for the late firing of a charge? Sometimes the cotton in the fuse may be smouldering away for hours. In New Zealand, a man, after a hole has missed, is not allowed to go near it for the rest of the day; and you have to knock off in that particular part.*

2943. Twenty-four hours would be the limit in that case? Yes.

2944. Does that apply to all mining in New Zealand? I think so.

2945. You are speaking of a coal-mine now? Yes.

2946. In that case, powder was used? Yes; fracture was also used.

2947. Then you think that a regulation ought to be made that a longer time should elapse than is at present provided before going back again after a miss-fire? Yes.

2948. Of course that is a very difficult question? It is difficult, but we must use a safeguard if possible. Though I have often risked the thing myself, of course, on account of the contract system, I think there should be a rule to keep men under.

2949. Was it considered in New Zealand that the fuse did carry fire along in that way—through the material? I could not say. I have examined a fuse myself after a shot has gone off; and I have seen the thread smoulder for an hour afterwards. Sometimes we find a knot in the fuse; and where that knot is there is very often no powder. Sometimes, however, that knot is so fine you have to look very minutely to detect it; and in some cases it may escape your attention, and it is then that a miss takes place; that is, the charge does not explode until the fire has smouldered its way along the thread and again reached the powder.

2950. Is there any other matter underground that you wish to speak about? I wish to call attention to the condition of the plat at the 415-feet level in Block 10. It is in a most disgraceful state. The timber above the men's heads is shattered to pieces, and all splintered.

2951. How has the splintering been caused? By the weight of the ground above crushing it.

2952. Which plat is it you refer to? At Kelly's shaft, on the 415-feet level.

2953. When did you last see it? Somewhere about nine or ten weeks ago.

2954. Was it then in the same state? Yes.

2955. Have you heard of its being repaired since? No. They have there, too, a mullock pass; and, when men have been passing up and down in cages, I have seen them running the mullock down; and, at the 415-feet level I have seen lumps of mullock come out and nearly cause accidents. The stones even rebound off the plat, sometimes, and lodge within an inch of going down the shaft. I passed a remark once or twice to the shift-bosses about the thing, but they never took any notice of it. As to the shift-bosses, what I have seen of them goes to tell me that they are there just to watch the shoots. So long as they are kept filled, things are all right.

2956.

* NOTE (on revision) :—I understood this question to refer to miss-firing.

2956. You think the shooting of mullock down this pass is a serious risk for the men who are travelling up and down the shaft? Yes. Another thing, while I was working there, the shift-boss would come and give you one order; and, presently, the underground manager would come down and lecture you for carrying out the work in such a manner. You were in a fog as to whom you should please; and, if you attempted to obtain redress, you got nothing but a snub; and, if you did not like it, of course you could go home.

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2957. Whom would you go to for redress? The only one I look to is the underground manager.

2958. And would he give no satisfaction? We spoke to him, and he would not listen to us, but walked away. Of course we could not do any more, and we let him go at that.

2959. You have never worked in the open-cuts? No; and I would sooner starve than risk my life in one of them. Why do they not adopt the railway system as to the batter; none other could be safer.

2960. What is the difference between the railway system and the open-cut system? In a railway cutting the ground slopes backwards; here they have gone underneath, and the mullock is hanging over the men's heads, and you can see cracks running in all directions. It is the greatest piece of Providence that there have not been ten times the number of accidents in Broken Hill. They have practical surveyors here who know the width of the lode; and surely they would know what grade to take down an open-cut to prevent overhanging; and if that were done it would be a great protection to the lives of the men working there. What brings about this overhanging is, that after they get down a bit they find the ore widens out, and to get it out they have to undermine for it, as it were.

2961. Still it is a good deal a matter of experiment as you go down to see how the ground would stand;—you could not start on the surface with an assumption that you would have to put on a certain fixed batter by the time you got to the bottom? We all know very well that in these mines the ground on the surface is worse than it is deeper. The deeper you go, the sounder and more solid it is.

2962. That would make it all the more difficult to decide on the surface what batter you would want? The shafts that have already been put down would give you a very good idea.

2963. But the rock varies? But in Broken Hill they have had all through a very good idea of the country.

2964. Therefore, they ought to have started the batter from the top of the open-cut? It is my opinion that in doing this open-cut work they ought to have started from what they call the viaduct, and to have gone straight ahead; and not from the top of the hill. That is the ordinary practice with railway cuttings. It is my firm opinion that a lot of the ore that is wasted now in the shifting of the mullock would have been saved had such a system been adopted.

2965. You would always know then how you were with your batter? Yes.

2966. But the question is how the matter stands at present with regard to safety—you have not been down in the cuts: you have only looked down? Yes. Even now, any man who looks down Block 11 open-cut will see something which would not encourage him to risk himself in it. The stuff is overhanging, and great large cracks are running in all directions.

2967. As to the use of the "chinaman," have you any opinion to express upon it? I have seen where the men have been working underneath filling, and I have noticed that they have not time to lift their heads to look round. They are always in a hurry and a bustle to get the stuff away. Another thing, I have heard in the open-cuts with my own ears the gangers using some of the most disgusting language that could ever come out of a man's mouth. They are what I call "bullying gangers." You never hear such language from a good, practical man; he always speaks to his men with civility. I have never in all my experience seen anything but the greatest civility come from the really practical man; but, where men are not practical, and not up to their work, then you know what to expect. This "bullying" business flurries a man, and no doubt gives rise to accidents.

2968. Have you done any work in the open-cuts during any part of the time you have been working on the Hill? I could never get any work there.

2969. There is nothing else you can speak of? No.

2970. *Mr. Polkinghorne*] You say that timber was not at all times procurable when required? Yes.

2971. Have you at any time applied for timber and been told that you could not have it? They would not say straight out that you could not have it, but it would never come down. I believe the platmen have done their work, and sent up the orders for it.

2972. You have never in your experience witnessed an accident brought about through lack of timber? No; I have not been where any accidents have occurred through that cause.

2973. You say that, in your opinion, the way of getting mullock down Kelly's shaft in Block 10 is dangerous? Yes, decidedly.

2974. Are you prepared to suggest any means to make it more secure against accident? There should be a separate shaft altogether to send mullock down.

2975. In your opinion the practice of putting mullock down should be discontinued, or else the hauling and lowering of men? Yes.

2976. *His Honor*.] The practice of putting the shaft to both uses should be discontinued? Yes.

2977. If men are going up or down, mullock should not be shot down? No. I have noticed very often that the runners of the cage have been put out of place on account of this mullock. That is very dangerous.

2978. *Mr. Polkinghorne*.] You also spoke of the plat being very insecure. Was no attempt made while you were there to secure the timber? No; not while I was there.

2979. Is the ground very dangerous around that shaft? Of course, it was not my business to make an examination as regards that; and I had quite enough to do where I was working. Of course, I did not examine it carefully, but just took notice of what I saw wherever I was travelling. We only travelled the one road; and I always watched where I was going for my own safety, but never took the trouble to enter into a careful examination. Besides, it was not my business to do that.

2980. You know enough about it to say absolutely that fresh timber should have been put in? Yes; the plat should have been re-timbered and secured.

2981. It was stated that a number of sets are very often left uncovered. Would they be under where men are working? Yes.

2982. Did you ever point it out to the shift-boss, that there were not sufficient laths to cover these sets? It was in the Central where I noticed that; and I had only just started.

- C. Kelly. 2983. You did not notice it in Block 10? No; what drew my attention to it in the Central was that when we went down to examine the place where we were to start work, we had to walk along struts; and it must have been five or six sets high. Some of the floors were covered, but the majority were not.
2984. Was it in what they call the open-cut? It was at the 400-foot level; I believe they call it the open-cut.
2985. To what extent was it being worked without timber? As soon as you entered you saw in front of you a chamber fully 30 feet long and from four to five sets high, and no timber.
2986. How far would the face be ahead of the timber? The drive was about 30 feet long; and the distance across the lode must have been fully 60 feet. It was 30 feet wide, 30 feet long, and about five sets high.
2987. Were machines being used in that excavation? No, not then.
2988. How close would it have been safe to have brought the timber to the face, so that it would not be exposed too much to the shots? I would say it should be within two sets, anyhow.
2989. And what height do you consider it a fair distance to go without securing it with permanent timber? I would prefer myself to keep more than a set above me. I would keep the timber to within one set.
2990. I believe the ground is naturally hard in those open places? It looked very hard where we were; but I believe in places there are large pockets of soft ore as well.
2991. Would it not cause delay to the company if permanent timber were placed too close to the back—would not the shots interfere with it? The floor can be built up with old timber, which will protect it from being broken about with the shots.
2992. Was the cause of your injury due to the fact that the timber was not put close enough to the face? No.
2993. Could you have taken any precaution that would have prevented your accident? If I had been under wages the first thing I would have done would have been to go up above and clear the stuff away. But it was not my place to go and shift the stuff hanging up on the next set; and I should have got nothing for it.
2994. Did you point out to the shift-boss that the stuff should be cleared away? Yes; I told him that the place was not fit to work in.
2995. He did not suggest to you to clear it away, and that you would be allowed for it? No; I remarked about this lump that was overhanging; and he said that it had been standing for weeks and weeks. I replied that that was more the reason why it was dangerous.
2996. Was that the place where the sets under the working-place were not covered? Yes; I had to cover the sets myself before I could start work.
2997. How many floors do you think should be kept covered under a working-place to ensure safety? I approve of Mr. Harper's system. There was not a floor left uncovered, and filling in was done wherever possible, while he was here.
2998. Was that in the Proprietary? In McGreggor's.
2999. You think every floor should be kept covered? Yes, or else the sets be filled in.
3000. Is it your opinion that the number of accidents during the last two years has been on the increase? Yes, so far as I have seen by reports in the press.
3001. What, in your opinion, is the principal cause of these accidents? A good deal of it is due to the contract system, because men cannot afford to take the care they would under day-labour.
3002. Are the instructions of the bosses such as to cause men to run risks? They will not give a man a fair price to work comfortably.
3003. Leaving the prices paid out of the question, are the orders given by the men in charge such as to make the men run greater risks than they were asked to do under the day-labour system? Yes; when I worked under Mr. Harper on day-labour the instruction was always to secure the ground, no matter what time you spent.
3004. Is not that the order now under the contract system? That is the order; but supposing you have got a wife and family, and there is only just a bare subsistence to be got from your contract. In that case, rather than have a delay, you would work on under a great risk. Under day-work there would be no necessity to run such a risk.
3005. What would you suggest in order to bring about a better system? I am a strong upholder of day-labour; and I think you will find that the profits derived under day-labour were just as big as they are now.
3006. Would you be surprised to hear that there is as much work done now with 1,000 men as was done on day wages by 2,000? There may be some instances where that has been the case, but these things are exaggerated a great deal sometimes. Of course, we know this open-cut work has to a large extent increased the out-put of ore; but, excepting that, I do not think the day system was any costlier than the contract system.
3007. You think it did not cost more to get out ore under day work than it does now under contract, taking the underground portion of the work? No; in the early days one shot among the rich carbonate ores would do as much execution as half a dozen shots in the sulphides to-day. I have seen one shot in a drive take out 40 trucks of dirt.
3008. I suppose you are aware that, at the time you speak of, silver was almost double the price it is to-day? I think it was on the drop at the time.
3009. What was about the price of silver at that time? I could not say. My opinion is that one man does not do as much now as two did under the day-work system; at any rate, not where the men did their work legitimately.
3010. Can the men, under the existing system, take all necessary precaution for the safeguarding of their lives? Most decidedly no. If it were freedom of contract, and not this fortnightly system, they might. The present system is freedom for one side only. When a man is given a contract, let him have a certain amount of sets or feet to do; and let him put in his price for it. Under the present system, if you make good wages during the fortnight, at its termination you are cut down; and sometimes you are even cut down while the fortnight is in progress, and if you attempt to say anything about it you are told to go about your business. Let them have a proper contract system; and not, as at present, where your price may be one thing offered, and their's another; but they will not budge

an inch to you. They say, "Our price is so and so; you will have to take it or else leave it." At the same time they know that the price is one that you could not make wages at.

3011. Do you know of any accidents that have taken place because of the incompetency of any of the managers or their subordinate officers? I cannot say; I have never been near when any accident has taken place.

3012. Do you think the regulations under the Mining Act, and which are supposed to be now in force, are sufficient? I have never read them enough to know them properly.

3013. Do you think that one inspector is sufficient for the Albert Mining District? No; I do not.

3014. How many do you think there should be? I think there should be two at least.

3015. And one to be always on the Hill? Yes.

3016. What do you think of this Board of Inquiry that has been suggested;—do you think it would be a benefit to the district, to the owners, workers, and inspectors, to have a Board to inquire into all accidents other than fatal ones? Most decidedly there should be a Board to inquire into those things.

3017. How would you suggest the Board be appointed? There should be three to represent the mine owners, three to represent the miners, and a chairman, who should be the Coroner or the Warden. I firmly believe that if such a Board were established, many of the difficulties we are labouring under to-day would be seen to. I will give an instance of how the Board would come in: Lately we tried to suggest one or two things to Mr. Thomas, now the underground manager of Block 10, that would probably be of benefit to him; but our ideas were scorned. It looked as if we were not men at all, and that we knew nothing at all. He would not listen to us in any way. Suggestions from the Board would have to be listened to.

3018. You think such a Board would result in the best interests of all concerned? Most decidedly. I notice that over in New Zealand recently a man was blown up; and his wife sued the company for £1,000, and got £750. If we had laws like those, and one or two cases like that were brought against them, the mine managers would show a great deal more interest and care in the well-being of their men.

3019. Do you think the Government should provide this district with an ambulance waggon? Yes; but I think we want more than one ambulance waggon for Broken Hill. The Proprietary would very often require more than one for its own use.

3020. You are evidently referring to litters? Yes.

3021. Do you think it should be made compulsory that each mine keep an ambulance litter? Yes.

3022. And that the Government provide an ambulance waggon for taking these litters to the hospital? Yes.

3023. In your opinion should there be a regulation made enforcing the adoption of safety appliances on all cages used for lowering and raising men? Yes.

3024. I think you said, in opening your evidence, that you are also a mechanic? Yes.

3025. Is it your opinion that engine-drivers should be certificated before taking charge of a winding-engine where men are lowered and raised? Yes, certainly; but the certificates only should not be relied upon. I have known in many cases men to possess certificates, and not be practical.

3026. *His Honor.*] You think a Board should not grant a man a certificate without testing him on the different engines? Yes. In New Zealand, I have seen men who only had book-learning obtain certificates as engineers.

3027. *Mr. Polkinghorne*] The Board granting these certificates should be composed of practical men? Yes; under the supervision of the Government.

3028. And the man should give a proof of his practical ability before being granted a certificate? Yes. Another thing: the system adopted ten years ago by the Government School of Mines in New Zealand, as regard mine managers, is a very good one. There, after a man has learned all the theory and so forth, he has to serve two years underground and gain practical knowledge before he can send in any application for a position as a mine manager. Mr. Horwood could not hold the position of a mine manager; he is a surveyor. Your Honor, that is the system in New Zealand.

3029. *Mr. Williams.*] In giving your evidence upon the open-cuts, you expressed an opinion that it would have been better to have cuts in from the slopes of the hill instead of down from the top? Yes.

3030. But they have been put in from the top; and the question is, now, how to further conduct operations in them with a minimum loss of life: you have given your recommendations with that object in view, and, as a man, you have come here to endeavour to give the benefit of your thought, and experience, for the prevention of unnecessary sacrifice of life? Most decidedly.

3031. Without the desire to hinder or hamper the operations of any party whatever? Yes.

3032. Would you be surprised if the "chinaman" was advocated as the most humane system of working the open-cut? I would certainly say it is a dangerous system, especially to the men engaged in filling.

3033. You would prefer to work with skips and trucks? I would prefer to get at the lowest part of the hill first, and carry on from there.

3034. But, taking the work as it is being done now, would you not prefer the Block 10 system, where they are sending the overburden straight away through a tunnel into the mine for filling? I would prefer Block 10 system to the others at present in practice.

3035. You think that would be the most practical and economical way to get rid of the mullock? Yes.

3036. You have complained of the bad language used by the gangers; do you think that would have any influence upon the men? It might hurry some up, but others it might flurry, and so lead to accident.

3037. You know the contractors by repute in the various open-cuts along the line of lode? Yes.

3038. Have you known any of them to have a straightforward character and a good name? I could not say.

3039. It has been said that the proprietors have a perfect right to work their leases in their own way? I have known the managers at other places to have a little social chat with their men, and be only too glad to adopt any suggestions of value they might make. If you made a suggestion, they gave you credit for it; but here, if you attempt to offer a suggestion, they snub you like a mad dog travelling down the street.

3040. *Mr. Edwards.*] You met with your accident through the fall of some stuff from above where you were working? Yes.

3041. How long would it have taken you to have shifted that stuff? It might take me a whole shift to do it.

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3042. How long would it have taken you to have popped that big stone that led to your meeting with your accident? If you had attempted to put a pop in it you would have popped yourself. The way it was hanging, no sane man would ever have attempted to pop it.
3043. Could you not have barred it down? Yes; but it was not the big lump that fell on me; it was the small lump.
3044. But could not the small lump have been barred down? It might have caused a run, and in that case the trucker below would have probably got injured.
3045. You could have warned the trucker? I said to my mate "We will be as careful as possible; we will 'dilly dally' until the morning, until our mates come."
3046. You were waiting for proper instructions from your mates? Our mates were to get proper instructions from the manager.
3047. In the meantime you left that stone above you hanging;—surely to goodness you could have taken it down? I had not got authority from the shift-boss to do it, and I was not going to do it myself.
3048. How long have you been working underground? Twenty years ago I started in mines.
3049. Do you mean to say that after twenty years' underground experience you could not take down a piece of ground like that without consulting the shift-boss? It is not my place to see to such things.
3050. Were you not competent to do it? Yes.
3051. Well, why did you not do it? By doing so, I would not have been acting in accordance with discipline. If you made a start at taking the work out of the hands of the manager or shift-boss, you would very soon be sent about your business.
3052. Would the manager or shift-boss reprimand you for taking down a piece of dangerous ground? No; but they very often do not pay you for it.
3053. How long would it have taken you to knock down this lump of dirt that was hanging on the strut;—the big piece weighed about 7 cwt., and the small piece less? It all depends. Sometimes it looks as if you could do it in an hour, and it might take the whole shift. By looking at it, you could not define the time.
3054. As to that big piece of ore that was there? The timbermen came and were straightening a leg, and I noticed it move. I told my mate to get out of the road. He turned round and hit it with the hammer, and a lump fell off it; he hit it again, and it went through on to the next floor, leaving a piece behind resting on the strut. A chock was put under, with a side wedge to jamb it; and, if the timbermen had not interfered with the leg, a set further back, it would never have come down.
3055. If you had put a bore in that piece, it must have come down? Yes.
3056. What weight was it? About 40 lb.
3057. You could have lifted it off with your hands? Your head would then perhaps have got it, as the other stuff above it would have come down with a run very likely.
3058. But you could have got above it? No; you would have had a good bit of shovelling to do to get to it.
3059. But you could have made it secure? Yes; but if you are engaged by a man to do a certain work you are not going out of your way to do other work.
3060. You prefer then to work under a little danger, rather than make the ground secure yourself? But if the timberman had said, "Look out," when he hit the leg, I should have been all right.
3061. You preferred to work under danger? It was not imminent risk.
3062. *His Honor.*] I understand you were deceived by the 40-lb. lump;—you did not think it was necessary to bring it down; you thought it was safe? Yes; I put a chock under and wedged it, and, if it had not been disturbed, I could have worked there three shifts, and not have met with an accident.
3063. *Mr. Edwards.*] But it would have been far safer to have brought it down? The shift-boss never said anything about bringing it down, and when you are working on a price which is a bare subsistence, you could not make a living if you spent time upon those things.
3064. But if you are set to work in a place, surely it is your place to make it safe before you start? Decidedly not. The manager is supposed to leave the ground safe for you to start in. It is not till after I start work that I am responsible for any dangers.
3065. If you were put to work in an insecure place, you would go on with your operations and take no precautions? But this place was not in such a critical condition as you try to make out.
3066. Just before lunch, you admitted that you did take a certain amount of risk in going to work under that stone? I wish to correct one word—I said "dilly dally."
- His Honor: The Commission, Mr. Kelly, understand the sense in which you used that word, and do not take it that you implied you were idling away your time.*
3067. You admitted you did accept a certain amount of risk in going to work with this stone above you on the strut? I will explain a little clearer. Later in the morning I gained information from my mates, who went on after us, that that stone, that I had chocked, prevented a lot of stuff behind from running. Where that stone came away from, they touched the stuff with a drill, and it started running from the top floor, which should have been cleared before we started to work.
3068. However, if you had knocked that stone down, as you might have done, even if it had caused you some time and trouble, the accident to you would not have happened? I feel confident that any practical miner would have done the same as I did. No miner will shift dirt that he is not going to be paid for.
3069. And that is the reason why you did not interfere? Yes.
3070. You have been working on contract a long time? I have not done a great deal here. I am one of the unfortunates that have been out of employment for a long time.
3071. You have been working on contract? Yes.
3072. In the Proprietary? In the early days.
3073. And in Block 10? Yes.
3074. And you had just started in the Central? Yes.
3075. What have been your average earnings? At Block 10 my average was 7s. 6d. for one term, and just on 9s. for another.
3076. How long did you work there? Five weeks.
3077. Then you have only done five weeks' work in Block 10? Yes.
3078. And how long did you work in the Central? One shift, worse luck.
3079. So your experience of Block 10 extends only over five weeks? Yes.
3080. During what period? It is nine weeks ago since I was up at Block 10.
- 3081.

3081. Whom did you complain to about not having timber;—what is the name of the shift-boss? Of course; I did not make a great complaint to the shift-boss in Block 10. C. Kelly.
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3082. The evidence is that you spoke to the shift-boss in Block 10, and asked him for timber, and could not get it? I went to the plat, but there was not any there. I gave an order to the platman, but it did not come down.
3083. What is the platman's name? I do not know.
3084. What is his Christian name? I did not take any particular notice of the man.
3085. Could you describe him? He was something similar to myself, only shaved.
3086. An Englishman, Irishman, or Scotchman? I might tell a German from an Englishman; but I could not distinguish an Englishman, Irishman, or a Scotchman.
3087. You do not remember the name? No.
3088. I understand you spoke of it on three or four occasions? I spoke on three or four occasions about the stones coming out of the pass; not about the timber. I went up to the plat, and found there was no timber there, and then ordered it, thinking that it was the usual thing for the timber to come down immediately after giving an order for it.*
3089. Who is in charge—the platman or the shift-boss? The shift-boss is supposed to be in charge. I did say to him that there was no timber in the plat.
3090. Which shift-boss was it? "Sie," I think you call him. We just said that there was no timber.
3091. That is the only way you can describe him? Yes.
3092. How many times did you speak to him? I do not take a book in with me to take notes.
3093. How many times did you speak about the stones coming down? I did not speak particularly to anyone, but just passed a remark three or four times on the plat that it was a shame such things were allowed to go on. The shift-boss was there, within hearing distance. I did not complain; only passed a remark.
3094. You see, Kelly, it is just as much to the interest of the management to prevent accidents, as it is to that of the men. The management are doing everything they possibly can to minimise the least possible chance of an accident's occurring, but if they have not the assistance of the men you can see the position they are placed in. Do you not see the error you committed in letting such a thing pass unnoticed, or without drawing the attention of the management to it;—do you know of any accident that occurred through the breaking away of these stones? No; but I have seen men very nearly hit on several occasions.
3095. No person was injured? No.
3096. You were only in the Central one shift? Yes.
3097. So the condition of that chamber you speak of could not have affected you much? No; but a man is not blind when he looks at those things.
3098. Do you know if it is timbered up now? I do not know.
3099. Do you know that that chamber is as full of square-set timber as it can stick? At the time I speak of it was not, and you had a job to get a plank of any description.
3100. Shinnick was your mate in the Central? No; in Block 10. He was one of the six in the Central, but was on a different shift from me.
3101. Did you ever complain to the shift-boss about the dangerous condition of the plat at the 415-feet level in Block 10? No; I did not.
3102. You say that is dangerous? Well, any man who sees timber splintered over his head in all shapes and forms naturally comes to the conclusion that it is dangerous.
3103. When you see dangerous places, do you not think it your duty to complain to the shift-boss? It may be; but the shift-bosses should know these things themselves.
3104. You did not point it out to any person? My business is in the face; not to point out to the shift-boss what I see in every place. I have got enough to do to complain about what is in my own face.
3105. You said you complained once to the underground manager about the stones breaking through? No; it was in the stope where we were. He charged one of our mates with insufficient work.
3106. And that is the time he would not stop and speak to you? Yes.
3107. Where was this? Underground in Block 10; and the underground manager was Mr. Thomas.
3108. I suppose you have worked on railway cuttings? I have done a little, now and then, in my time.
3109. Do you not know that the system called the "chinaman" is adopted in almost all railway cuttings? When I was giving my evidence on that matter I did not exactly know what was referred to as a "chinaman."
3110. You did not know what a "chinaman" was until it was explained to you afterwards? I never heard tell of a "chinaman" before—only on the Barrier—but I have seen the same class of work done under a different name.
3111. Do you know what a "chinaman" is now? Yes; I have a very good idea.
3112. And is that not the system invariably adopted in all large railway cuttings? Yes, I think so.
3113. And it is considered safe in big railway work, and not here? There is no restriction to save ore in a railway work, while there is here. Again, there is a great difference between day and night.
3114. You admit that it is a system that is used in all large railway works where the contractors know their business; as to its being dangerous or not to work in this open-cut, all that you can say is from an observation made from the top bench;—you have never been down? No; but there is no need to go down to see it.
3115. I suppose hundreds of men have been working in the cuts? Yes.
3116. As to sets being uncovered by the taking away of the laths, I suppose you do not know whether the laths were removed under orders from the management, or taken by men too lazy to go to the plat for timber? I could not say.
3117. It is not the platman's duty to carry timber to a contractor? No.
3118. It is the duty of the contractor to bring his own timber from the plat? Yes.
3119. That is one of the terms of the contract? But if the timber is not there you cannot fetch it.
3120. You cannot say who shifted those laths? No; I only worked one shift.
3121. Excepting one shift, you have never worked in any of those underground chambers, and you know

* NOTE (on revision):—This question I must have mistaken, to have given the answer as far as the word timbered the end of the first sentence. My answer would be "Yes."

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- as much about them, I suppose, as you do about the open-cuts, which you have never been down? A miner is not an idiot; when he looks at the place he has an idea what it is.
3122. When the officer took you down to look at this work you were put on, you objected? Yes.
3123. What did he say? He said it was hanging for weeks and weeks.
3124. What was his name? Andrews, I think. I am not positive.
3125. And the only reason you think the contract-system is dangerous is because they will not give you a fair price for the work? That is the main reason.
3126. Would you be surprised to learn that, at the present time, under contract, they are shifting twice the tonnage they ever did under day-labour? That may be so; but I doubt it.
3127. You would be surprised to learn that, notwithstanding the greater depth they have to lift the mullock, they are shifting twice the tonnage? The depth does not matter if they have machinery to haul the mullock, so you need not bring that in.
3128. *Mr. Williams.*] When you say you "complained," do you mean that it was a general grumble among your mates, or a specific complaint to the underground manager, or anybody else? When we complained, the manager was there, in our presence.
3129. You think you spoke loud enough for him to hear? Yes.
3130. You did not address yourself particularly to him? Yes, we did; and he answered back with a snub. There is another thing I would like to speak about. I have seen fracture knocking about in the mines. In Block 10, they have no canisters to hold it, and the men leave it about loose.
3131. *His Honor.*] You have never seen cases or boxes there to carry it in? No; they send it down after you.
3132. How do they send it down? In the ordinary packages.
3133. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Is there no magazine underground in Block 10? Not at the 415-foot level; and that is the only place I can speak of. We always had to go to the magazine just below Mr. Thomas's office for our explosives.
3134. Had you to take them down in the cage with you? No; they were sent down in the cage; and we would take delivery at the plat.
3135. How much did they allow you to take down at the one time? They never restricted you in any way. I have taken down two packages at a time.
3136. Do you think there should be a limit to the quantity men should be allowed to have in use at the one time? In Block 10, you can only get it on the day-shift; and you must, therefore, make provision for the on-coming shifts.
3137. The regulation at present in force is that a man shall not have more than 6 lb. of explosives in use at one time in any one place. Do you consider that that regulation is all that is required? No; 6 lb. would be sufficient if you could get it at each shift; but it is not when you have to get enough in the one shift to last out twenty-four hours.
3138. The rule also states that explosives shall not be taken into, or kept in, a mine except in a case or canister. Do you think that is a good regulation? Yes; in New Zealand they will not allow you to take any down unless you have a canister.
3139. You think that, in all cases, canisters should be provided by the mines for the use of the men? Yes.
3140. And, in Block 10, you never saw any? No.

Joseph Bourne re-called and further examined:—

- J. Bourne.
20 July, 1897.
3141. *His Honor.*] You wish to make some further statement, I understand? With your permission, your Honor. My reason for sending you a note asking to be re-called is that I was led to believe I should not be required here any further, and that I should be going away, as I have been informed that there is no more work for me on Broken Hill; and, of course, in that case, it is a very sad job for me. I fully expected that things would go on all right.
3142. What is it you wish to inform me of? I went to work on the Tuesday night at 12 o'clock, and I could see at once that there was something wrong somewhere or other. Everybody was quiet in regard to me. Everybody appeared to be watching me very closely. Of course, I then kept my ears open; and I heard several observations passed, to the effect that all the boys in the mine were going to be discharged through me. I heard several nasty expressions made; and one or two parties spoke very loudly and threatened to kick me out of the mine altogether.
3143. Who were they? Workmen. I went to work the following night; and everything was very quiet; nothing whatever was said to me. One of the shift-bosses came round and spoke to me in the usual manner, directing what I was to do; and, as he turned to go away, he said, "Joe; there is a letter for you in the office." I said, "Yes." He then said, "Will you call for it in the morning?" I said, "Yes." Well, I worked on; and nothing more was said about it one way or the other. When the shift was up, I heard several parties giving me a very strange character, and stigmatising me. They were saying that I was bought over by the mine managers, and that they were sold like lost sheep. I ascended; and, when I got to the surface, I went straight to the office, and, arriving there, found the underground manager, the head shift-boss on our shift, and the head shift-boss on the on-coming shift. The manager wanted to know what it was I had to say about the boys. I told him something similar to what I said at the Commission; but it did not appear to be at all satisfactory to him. At any rate, he called several of the boys in. One or two of them brought in notes from their parents while I was there; but that was nothing to do with me. He said that certain statements had appeared in the *Barrier Miner*, and he would like me to go to that office and make some explanation. I considered that he wanted me to go to the *Barrier Miner* office, and make some apology for what I had stated here. He also drew my attention to what I stated here in reference to a certain place in the ladder-way. He wanted to know where it was. I pointed it out to him. Of course the danger that was there is to a certain extent over, because the place has fallen down. I did not see it fall; but my attention was called to it afterwards. A man was working there at the time. A shot was fired, and it had a great effect on the hanging-wall, on account of the vibration; and the result was that this loose ground came down; but, fortunately, a little loose gravel preceded it, and gave the man under it a chance to jump aside. If he had not jumped aside, 2 or 3 cwt. of stuff would have been on top of him. Upon my attention being called to this fall, I had a look at it, and, unless something

something has been done to it since I worked there, it is not in the safest condition now. I would like the reporter from the *Barrier Miner* to give me a fair and honest report. By his doing otherwise, I have suffered injury. As far as I am concerned, personally, I wish to goodness I had not come here, and I wish the Royal Commission to Jericho. But that is not it. I have come here, and have given all the evidence I possibly could to save my fellow-creatures' lives; and I wish now to try and point out to you and all sensible men here things that will not only tend to save human life, but enable work to be carried out on better lines. For my part, I wish all the mine managers in Broken Hill were here now, and all the mine officers, and every other man who has anything to do with the mines.

J. Bourne.
20 July, 1897

3144. But what is it you wish to point out, Mr. Bourne? I will point it out presently, your Honor. You will excuse me. There are gentlemen sitting at this table who have had a University education; but I have never had anything of the kind. I was 25 years of age before I could scratch my own name, and I do not call myself much of a writer even now. The greatest instrument I use is a pick or a hammer.

3145. But we want facts, Mr. Bourne? I was sitting in this room yesterday when Mr. Stewart, the general manager of the Proprietary Mine, was giving evidence. I am very proud to say that everything he said is what I fully agree with; but, as I am an older man than Mr. Stewart or Mr. Horwood, as far as underground goes, I might be permitted to make a few remarks. I will come to explosives first. There was an inquiry about twenty-seven years ago in regard to compressed powder, because of the number of accidents that were taking place owing to the use of loose powder. The inquiry was held in London, and it resulted in the adoption of compressed powder for mining purposes.

Mr. Edwards: I understand from Mr. Bourne that he is leaving Broken Hill, and I hope he will tell the Commission, your Honor, that it is not on account of any action on the part of mine officers.

3146. Do I understand that you were in any way threatened, expostulated with, or spoken to in any way by the manager for evidence given by you? I could not but notice the way the men regarded me.

3147. It was the men, you say? I got several side-winks from parties connected with the mine, and I will explain to you how.

3148. If you have got any specific complaint to make against any person or persons who have interfered with you because of your giving evidence before the Commission, then I will hear you, and see whether any remedy can be found, and whether those persons can be dealt with? It was distinctly stated to different parties that, as soon as the Commission was over, I would have to leave Broken Hill, and that I would not be allowed to work in Block 14 or anywhere else.

3149. *Mr. Edwards:] Who were the men that threatened you? The men themselves.*

3150. No shift-boss said anything to you? No.

3151. *His Honor:] Do I understand it is this: that you think your evidence has appeared to the men to be too favourable to the management? Exactly so.*

His Honor: Then I think it must be only an odd man here and there who has been foolish enough or mischievous enough to start these stories, because I do not think that any decent miners would think of interfering with you for any evidence you have given. If you belong to the A.M.A., I think that association will do their best to protect you.

Witness: I am a member of the A.M.A., but I never had any instructions from them. I came here on my own responsibility to give evidence.

His Honor: I am perfectly certain the A.M.A. would not countenance, for one moment, any ill-treatment of you for evidence you have given. The best thing you can do is to pay not the slightest attention to anything you hear from these one or two mischievous persons. I am quite sure the managers would not countenance any interference with you, nor would the A.M.A., for the evidence you have given.

Mr. Polkinghorne: From what I heard outside, your Honor, I came to the same conclusion you have yourself; and that is, that Mr. Bourne has been the victim of the talking of some mischievous persons, of whom Broken Hill has not a few. As far as the Association is concerned, they would not for one moment think of interfering with Mr. Bourne in the least for the evidence he has given; nor would they countenance any interference; and I know that, so far as the mine managers are concerned, they will protect their workmen, and allow no man to be interfered with, so long as he does his work to their satisfaction.

Witness: But what am I really to do?

His Honor: Take my advice, and treat everything of this kind with utter contempt.

Mr. Williams: I am pleased to say that I also am an A.M.A. man, and I would be ready at all times to defend Mr. Bourne against any interference for what he may have said at this Commission.

Witness: But am I to return to work?

Mr. Edwards: You go back on to your shift: that is my advice.

His Honor: Yes, Bourne, you go straight back to work.

Witness: If I report myself to the mine it will be all right?

Mr. Edwards: Yes.

His Honor: And if there is any young fellow up there mean enough to interfere with you, I should think all the other decent miners would immediately make it very hot for him rather than for you.

Jabez Wright sworn and examined:—

3152. *His Honor:] Your name is Jabez Wright? Yes.*

3153. What are you? I am an undertaker at Broken Hill.

3154. Have you had anything to do with mining? I have been here just on ten years, and I have had a very large intercourse with the men who work at mining and surface work.

3155. You have not done any mining yourself? No.

3156. You have some information that you wish to give to the Commission? Yes.

3157. If you will say what it is I shall be obliged? The information I have to give is this:—From my personal knowledge I know of many men, and have met them, who could give valuable information to this Commission, but they are absolutely afraid to do so.

3158. What are they afraid of? They are men with families, and have not the means sufficient to shift from here; and they do not know where to shift to. They are afraid of being refused work, not only in one mine, but along the whole line of lode. I pointed out to them that they ought to do their duty, and

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- J. Wright. said, "If one mine sacks you, get a job on another." They replied, "You see: the one solicitor represents the whole lot, and the whole lot would turn us off."
 20 July, 1897. 3159. That is where they are mistaken. I am sure the mine managers would not interfere with persons in any way for giving any evidence they might wish. I can only request you to induce these men to come forward. (*Witness*): I have induced two—the two who came this morning.
 3160. Are there any others? I have tried to induce others to come, but without effect.
 3161. If you give names to the secretary I will have summonses issued? I would not care about giving names; but I will endeavour to induce them to come forward.
 3162. Have you anything else you wish to say? Yes. The only way by which to minimise accidents on this field is to introduce an Employers' Liability Act on fair lines, which will throw the whole of the onus of any accident on the employer unless culpable negligence can be shown on the part of the injured person.
 3163. That is, of course, a matter for general legislation;—you think it would be better if the present Act were amended in some respects, so as to make it easier for the injured person to take advantage of it? Yes. There was a case here where six men went away in a cage. One of the men sued the Proprietary Company, and a jury were empanelled; but they disagreed. The case came on again; but it was not allowed to go to a jury.
 3164. This man (Bowden), through no fault of his own, is injured for life; and I hope the company will do something for him. (*Witness*): Under the existing law, he could not do anything for himself; and, so far as I know, he has never received any help from the company. I say that the present Employers' Liability Act is not effective, and that the only way to make an employer more careful of those he employs, is to have an Act affording means of throwing the onus upon him in all cases of accidents not arising through his negligence.
 3165. That is a question for general legislation; and if the Act wants amending it is for some Member of the House to take it up in the way of introducing an amending Act. I have not had occasion to read the Act lately; but I daresay it does contain some provisions which throw technical difficulties in the way of men taking advantage of it. However, that is a very general matter, dealing with all employers and employees, and is outside the scope of the Commission. (*Witness*): I did not feel satisfied to let this Commission leave Broken Hill without telling it what I know of the feelings of the men.
 3166. Have you studied the Act yourself to see where it wants amending? I know it wants amending, because, at present, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to prove negligence on the part of the employer, which you have to do before you can recover. Further, it is not limited in extent, and the working-man is done if he has to make a prolonged fight. It should be restricted to the lower court.
 3167. *Mr. Edwards.*] It comes in the end, your Honor, to a question of insurance, and as to who is to pay the insurance. (*Witness*): If the Government want to get any evidence here, they will have to send up two or three detectives.
 3168. *Mr. Williams.*] You believe that a workable Employers' Liability Act would tend to lessen the number of accidents? Yes; I have belonged for twenty-one years to one of the largest unions in the world—the Amalgamated Carpenters' and Joiners' Association. After the introduction of a workable Employers' Liability Act, we found that we paid less for accident benefits than formerly.
 3169. *His Honor.*] It had the effect of making the employers more careful? Yes; any legislation in that direction would have more effect than any amount of regulations.
 3170. *Mr. Williams.*] Can you tell whether it has actually reduced the number of accidents? The fact that after the introduction of the Act the Union had not so much to pay for accidents points to that inference.
 3171. Is that a safe conclusion to draw? I think so.

Alexander Stewart re-called and further examined:—

- A. Stewart. 3172. *Mr. Williams.*] I understood you to say that 400 degrees of heat would explode a detonator;—did you refer to 400 degrees F.? I said nothing of the sort. 400 degrees F. is the heat that will explode dynamite; not the detonator.
 3173. You referred to dynamite? Yes.
 3174. You pointed out that if a Police Magistrate were deputed to inquire into cases of accidents he might have occasion to take officers away from their work? What I intended to convey was that, should a Police Magistrate be appointed to do that duty instead of the Inspector of Mines, he would be under a great disadvantage, because he would require to rely upon expert evidence, which an inspector, from his own knowledge of the subject, would be able to do without.
 3175. You employ 2,500 on the Proprietary Mine alone? Yes.
 3176. I understood you to say that that did not include the number of outside men employed? Outside men are not included in that number.
 3177. Nor is that agent included in it whom the company appointed to obtain for them competent men? No.
 3178. He secured you competent men from Bendigo and Ballarat? Yes; and other places.
 3179. You secured a competent person to pick out these men? Yes.
 3180. Were you acquainted with him? No.
 3181. He is not a permanent official in your employ for that purpose? No.
 3182. Nor is anyone else for that purpose? No.
 3183. You were satisfied with the outcome of your endeavours to obtain competent men for your mine? Yes.
 3184. If you could not get competent men you would assist those here—I am speaking of the young men—in becoming competent miners? I am willing to assist in every way young men starting as apprentices.
 3185. What will you do with the men now in your service when they get leaded or worn out;—do you intend to cast them on the State? I am not authorised to distribute charity amongst the residents of Broken Hill in any way whatever.
 3186. You said something about a rule referring to the cessation of operations in the open-cuts when the light becomes insufficient? Yes.
 3187.

3187. Where is that rule? I do not think it appears in the printed rules; it is one of the unwritten rules given to the men in charge of the work. A. Stewart.
20 July, 1897.
3188. You have said in your evidence that, unless you used the "chinaman" in the open-cut work, you would have to employ a larger number of men, and, therefore, more explosives would be used, which would increase the number of accidents? What I said in reference to the "chinaman" was, that if we did not use that system, the number of men employed in loading trucks would be increased.
3189. And that, by increasing the number of men, you would increase the quantity of explosives used? But we do not load trucks by means of explosives.
3190. But the more men you have to use explosives, the more explosives you must necessarily use? Yes.
3191. And, unless you adopted the system of the "chinaman," you would have to employ more men? Yes.
3192. And, even should there not be more explosives used, there being a greater number of men in the cut, would, you think, tend to increase accidents? I would not like to amplify accidents by having too many men.
3193. You think the presence of two engine-drivers in an engine-house at the one time would lead to a division of interest in their work, and an accident be caused thereby? Yes. I suggested that the presence of two drivers, when only one man was wanted, was bad; and, in general principle, it is bad.
3194. It would be just as absurd to get two general managers for the Proprietary Company? Yes.
3195. As to the rule that men shall be withdrawn from a face while holes are being charged;—you have insisted on that being strictly enforced? Yes.
3196. When you first came here, I believe you were in the habit of going round to see whether the men were doing their duty; and, on one occasion, you happened to hear one of the bosses make use of blasphemous language, for which you thereupon rated him? I do not remember that; but it is quite possible. I do not like to hear bad language used to the men.
3197. *His Honor.*] You got your open-cut experience from those works in Spain? I did.
3198. Can you give any idea how long the open-cut system has been in force on those mines or other mines in Spain? At least thirty years. I think that in those Spanish mines the open-cut system has reached greater development than in any other portion of the world.
3199. There was an older system? Yes; an underground system.
3200. The open-cut system, being considered more satisfactory, was adopted? Yes; it is more satisfactory from every point of view.
3201. Was the open-cut system substituted for the underground system altogether, or in the upper levels only? In some cases it is not economical to carry out the open-cut system, because there might be too large a quantity of waste to remove before getting to the ores.
3202. These ores got at by the open-cut system were ores that had not been thought rich enough originally to be worth winning? They were left, first of all, by the Romans and Phœnicians, and then by the French. It was when British capital came in that the open-cuts were started.
3203. During the working of the open-cuts in Spain, has the number of accidents been greater than in the old underground workings? I have no definite figures, but I think, in proportion to the number of people employed, the open-cuts did give, while I was there, more accidents than the underground work. The underground work there, however, was very safe—only solid iron pyrites being mined underground. In proportion, however, to the amount of waste and ore removed, the open-cut system gave a less proportion.
3204. I suppose, in the course of that thirty years, a good deal of experience as to how to work the open-cut system most safely has been gained by the management? Yes.
3205. Was the modern working under English or Spanish management originally? I think it was under French management first of all; I do not think they have had a Spanish manager.
3206. Had you Spanish workmen, or did you import workmen? Spaniards, Portuguese, and a few Italians and Frenchmen supplied the labour. We took out no British labour, except men to take charge of the departments.
3207. Was the open-cut over depleted stopes? In some cases it was; in others it was started on new ground.
3208. *Mr. Williams.*] Did you have more than one open-cut? Yes; we had six different open-cuts.
3209. *His Honor.*] Were those open-cuts opened on the same system as these here have been, beginning from the surface and working downwards, or were they put in horizontally in the same way as a railway cutting is generally opened? They were opened on very much the same system as we have here. Of course, in some instances, the circumstances there varied very considerably from those obtaining here; and systems to meet those cases had to be adopted.
3210. Can you remember what was the average of fatal accidents in those open-cuts? I think I have the figures somewhere.
3211. Roughly can you say what it was? It varied very much from year to year. In some, periods we would be very free of accidents; and in others they would come on with a rush, which appears to be a general rule in all large operations. The death rate (I think) was not over three per 1,000.
3212. Did you find the Spanish and Portuguese workmen careless? Mining there is so settled, that the people are brought up to it, and it only, from childhood. They are, therefore, very good miners.
3213. I suppose the Spanish Government is not very particular in making provisions for the safety of the miners? Yes; it is extremely particular. The laws are most binding.
3214. In the way of compelling employers to take great care of their workmen? Yes.
3215. More so than in England? Yes.
3216. *Mr. Williams.*] More so than in Australia? Yes.
3217. *His Honor.*] Are the laws stringently carried out? As a matter of fact the men are not looked so well after as they are here; the laws are very stringent, but are not strictly carried out.
3218. Is there anything more you would like to say? I think it is the duty of the Government to encourage the immigration of competent miners. Upon the development of the mining industry depends, to a very great extent, the future of this Colony; and, to admit of that development being brought about, the Government should encourage the immigration of competent miners.

WEDNESDAY, 21 JULY, 1897.

Richard Thomas sworn and examined:—

- R. Thomas. 3219. *Mr. Edwards.*] What is your name? Richard Thomas.
 21 July, 1897. 3220. As there are many Thomas's on the Hill, you distinguish yourself by being known as Richard N. Thomas? Yes.
 3221. You are underground manager of Block 10? Yes.
 3222. How long have you been in that position? About six years. I was in the Proprietary at its inception.
 3223. How many years were you on the Proprietary? Nearly five years.
 3224. What position did you occupy there? Head timberman.
 3225. And for six years you have been underground manager of Block 10? Yes.
 3226. What experience have you had in connection with mining? I have been connected with mines for forty years.
 3227. Besides mining, have you engaged in any other works? I have been engaged by the Government in open-cut work, and in almost all lines of excavations of any kind you can mention.
 3228. This Commission, as you know, is to inquire into causes of accidents that have recently taken place on the mines in the Broken Hill District;—can you say that there has been any increase in the number of accidents in your mine lately? No; there has been no increase.
 3229. How many fatal accidents have you had? About three.
 3230. In the six years you have been there? Yes; and they occurred at the first opening of the mine.
 3231. Can you particularise those accidents? Yes; the first fatal accident was at the dump.
 3232. Was that the sulphide dump, on the surface? Yes.
 3233. Do you remember the man's name? Broadstock.
 3234. Was that man employed by the company, or by a contractor? By a contractor.
 3235. He was accidentally smothered? Yes. Previously to this accident I went to the man who had the contract and cautioned him. Mr. Slec, the Chief Inspector, was about at the same time, also Mr. Hebbard; and we cautioned the party about not giving the dump sufficient batter, thus rendering it liable to come down and cause a mishap. Men were then put on to take down the batter; and Broadstock was engaged to watch the batter, and warn the men in case it showed danger. He was stationed in what they thought a safe position; but the dirt came down, and he was caught, the others escaping.
 3236. *His Honor.*] From the papers it appeared in that case (I think) that he was not actually watching at the time? It was his duty to watch.
 3237. He neglected his duty, I believe? Yes.
 3238. *Mr. Edwards.*] The second man, I believe, fell out of a cage? When he was coming up in the cage, he dropped something, and stooped to pick it up; in doing so he overbalanced himself and got jammed.
 3239. His name was Hall? Yes.
 3240. What was the third man's name? W. Thompson. He was killed by a winding-rope on the surface.*
 3241. Is every precaution taken in your mine to prevent accidents? Yes; every precaution possible.
 3242. Are the men supplied with all the timber they require? Timber is supplied in all parts of the mine for men to use to prevent accidents occurring.
 3243. Does delay ever occur in supplying the men with timber? Not the slightest.
 3244. Have they ever been refused timber? Never.
 3245. How many foremen and shift-bosses have you under you in Block 10? Six shift-bosses and one foreman.
 3246. How many men do you employ underground? About 220 miners.
 3247. And on the surface? The labourers amount to about 250.
 3248. The average employment would be between 400 and 500 men? Yes.
 3249. Do you find the miners you employ competent men? About 50 per cent are not competent men.
 3250. I suppose it is impossible to tell whether a man is competent or not until you have had an opportunity of trying him? You cannot judge a miner by his appearance; you want to see him at work. As soon as I clap my eye on a man at work I know whether he is a miner or not.
 3251. Have you had occasion to discharge men for incompetency? That is an every-day occurrence.
 3252. There was some evidence given here by a man named Shinnick and by Christopher Kelly, who were working in your mine for about five or six weeks;—do you remember them? Yes; I remember them well.
 3253. What sort of miners are they? They are no miners at all, and that is the reason why I discharged them.
 3254. They were not discharged on account of belonging to any particular association, or for any reason other than because they were incompetent? No; not at all. I did not know they belonged to any party whatever. I went down; and I complained because I thought there had not been enough work done; and I discharged the whole party that same day.
 3255. When you went down, what did you find them doing? They were just in the midst of whistling and singing, and no man can do those things and his work at the same time. I know when a man is engaged in work it takes him all his wind to do it without whistling and singing. No man can strike a drill into hard rock, and whistle and sing at the same time. It takes a man all his wind to fulfil his duty.
 3256. Apart from the whistling and singing, did they understand their work as miners? Not in the slightest.
 3257. Was the place a difficult one, or easy? It was an easy place. I was doubtful about the party when I put them on. I said, "Are you new men? I think the sun has been shining on your heads all your life." However, I let them go on for about five or six weeks, and found they were as I thought, and then discharged them.
 3258. Was the place a safe or dangerous place? It was as safe as this room.
 3259. Was it an easy place? Yes, and there was plenty of fresh air. That has always been my study.

If

NOTE (on revision):—W. Thompson was killed by a fall of rock underground. A fourth man—Andrewatha—was killed by a winding-rope on the surface. [Vide 3274, and following questions.]

- If I am doubtful of a man's ability, I do not put him in a place that requires skill, but in an easy place first.
3260. Was the amount of work they did up to the average at all? Not in the slightest.
3261. It was simply on account of their being incompetent that you got rid of the whole party? Yes.
3262. Is the ventilation of your mine good? Yes, it is very good! We keep up a splendid ventilation to carry the fumes away; then the men can get to work quicker and do one-third more work. If the fumes remain long hanging about, it delays men from going back to work. We keep the stopes so ventilated that, directly a party blasts, the fumes go away.
3263. What pay per day do the miners make on an average? Nine shillings and 6d. a day. A good man always makes from 10s. to 12s. a day; but some men are not worth the room they are standing in.
3264. Can men earn 9s. 6d. on an average without rushing their work, or taking unnecessary risk by insufficiently securing the ground they are in? If a man is a practical miner I would not wish to see him earn under 10s., 11s., or 12s. a day. I have got men under me now, whom I have put into a place at £5 a set, and have had to take them out because they could not make a living, and to give them an easier place. The next party who went into that very same place made £4 a week.
3265. Are any men in your mine asked to take any risk? Not the slightest whatever. It is always my care every time I go through the mine to caution every man whom I see doing anything whatever that is likely to lead to an accident. Of course, where you have a large number of men you have a few who want watching very closely. They will go behind where they are working and strip laths and use them up in their own places, and afterwards swear that they don't know who stripped them. We can always tell when laths have been taken up from floors, because they are then covered with sulphides and are not new-looking; but it is difficult to get at the real culprit.
3266. So to save themselves the trouble of going to the plat or level to get timber for their floor, they will strip another man's floor? Yes, and never put up a guard-rail. I offer up more prayers for this reason than any other. If the bosses themselves did not look after the men better than the men look after themselves, the number of accidents would be far greater than it is.
3267. The greatest difficulty is to protect men from their own acts? Yes. Yesterday I was down twice. Whenever I can I go down, sometimes three times a day. I was down yesterday morning, and went through a place where one particular party were taking out a set. A shoot was right at the back of them, and I gave them strict orders to cover it up. I said, "When you want to throw ore down the shoot, take up a board, and put a guard-rail around." When I descended again, the first thing after lunch, I went into this same place, and there were those men with the open shoot at the back of them, and no guard-rail whatever. I said, "You did not do that"; they said, "We were going to do it, but had our lunch, and have not had time since." I made them go straight away and do it, or else leave the mine. You cannot be answerable for men like that.
3268. When men are guilty of actions such as that, what do you do? In that case, as they said they had been too busy, and as I had come pretty quickly on to them, I let it pass; but nineteen times out of twenty we discharge them. There is no man more likely to fall into those places than the men working there themselves. If a stranger goes round he always sees that everything underneath him is properly safe before he steps. I told them that no man was more likely to fall into those places than the persons themselves working near them: that they take up boards, forget the position they are in, and step back.
3269. As to the shift-bosses you have under you, and the foreman;—are they competent men? With regard to the shift-bosses, they are all practical men, and were brought up to mining from their youth.
3270. You have chosen the skilled and steady, sober men? Yes; the foreman that I have got under me is as good a man as you could have.
3271. What is his name? J. H. Thomas. He has been working along with me ever since he was 15 years of age.
3272. Is he a relation of yours? He is a son of mine.
3273. And the shift-bosses are men you have chosen yourself? Yes; and they are men that I can rely upon. They are thoroughly practical men.
3274. You have never had a fatal accident underground since the mine opened? Yes, there was one lately, when W. Thompson was killed.
3275. Was Thompson the man killed underground? Yes.
3276. Who was the man, then, who was killed on the surface by the winding-rope? Andrewatha.
3277. So you have had four fatal accidents altogether? Yes.
3278. How did Thompson's death occur? It was in a stope of very large rocky ground. Thompson's mates of three shifts previously had blasted a hole, and at the time of the accident he and his shift-mates were engaged in crow-barring down some of the overhanging rock. There was a big flaw; and, having tried the rock with a bar, they did not think there was any immediate fear of its coming away; and, without putting in a "tom" to protect it, they started to drill a hole into it. They thought everything would be perfectly safe, and went on without putting any timber up; though, had they wanted it, there was a full supply of timber lying about; and before they had gone very far the rock came down.
3279. They sounded this overhanging stuff? Yes; previously to drilling the hole underneath it.
3280. And they did not secure it? No.
3281. There was material there with which to secure it if they wanted it? Yes; there was timber there in abundance.
3282. With this one exception you have had no fatal accidents underground? No; except the man falling out of the cage.
3283. In reference to explosives;—it was said in evidence yesterday that in Block 10 there were no canisters or boxes for the purpose of keeping explosives in? Canisters made to carry 5 lb. of explosives have always been provided, but the men keep in them water for watering their holes, and never use them for their explosives.
3284. How do they carry their explosives down? In packets.
3285. But how do they carry the packets down? The explosives are made up in 5-lb. packages, and it is in that form they are carried down.
3286. Then you say canisters are provided by the mine? Canisters are provided, and they are made to hold a 5-lb. package.

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- R. Thomas. 3287. Do you know of any case in your mine where the man has used his box to keep candles in? No; I have known them to use them for carrying water to water their holes.
- 21 July, 1897. 3288. Was there not some case in which a man dropped his lighted candle into a box containing explosives? We did sometime back supply a box, 3 ft. x 20 in. x 20 in, to each party in which to keep their explosives; and we always gave strict orders that it was to be kept not closer than 30 feet to the face where they were working. This man, whom you speak of, put a 5-lb. package of gelatine into the same box where he had his detonator, fuse, and candle. After a time he went back to get the candle, and the candle he had had burned down in his spider so far that it dropped through into the box while he was in the act of getting out the fresh candle. The result was that the box was blown to pieces, and he was found about 60 feet away, but not injured seriously.
3289. That is an instance of what men will do? Yes; you need to have ropes around some of them.
3290. In reference to missed-holes;—in your opinion, is the better plan to put in another primer, or to bore another hole alongside within a certain distance? I think a man who draws a charge from a missed-hole, particularly gelatine, or any explosive of that class, is a man incompetent, and has no idea of mining. My experience is that a man should not fill his hole up with tamping, but should leave sufficient of the hole clear on top; so that in the case of a miss-fire he could put a primer in, which would throw a concussion through on to the charge and explode it.
3291. I suppose you have no objection to withdrawing part of the tamping? There is no need to put more tamping in than will make the charge air-tight, and, if it does not explode, all you have to do is to put a primer on top of it, and throw in a handful of loose dirt.
3292. Then you do not believe in the practice of putting in another hole alongside a missed-hole? Not at all. I put in only enough tamping to make the charge air-tight; and if it does not explode, I put in another primer.
3293. How long do you think a missed-hole should be left before a man goes back to it? That would depend on the depth. We never let a party go back on the same shift in which a miss-fire occurs.
3294. If you have water? Where we have water it has always been our practice to fill the missed-hole with water, and to cover it over to keep the air from it. We have made it a practice to always do that; and I might say that more than one-half the miners on the Barrier do not know anything about that system.
3295. It has been said that the contract system is the cause of accidents in the mines;—is there any ground for that? Not the slightest. There is no ground whatever for the contract system being blamed for accidents. When I go down once a fortnight to let contracts to the parties, I always say, "You have got to work this safely, and carry it out according to instructions."
3296. Who gives instructions? I give instructions when I let the contract; and then the foreman gives instructions every day when making his rounds; and the shift-bosses also give instructions. Very rarely I have had a man refuse; they have always admitted that the prices were sufficient to enable them to make over wages.
3297. You have no printed rules for working underground? No.
3298. The instructions are given by the shift-bosses, and foreman, and yourself? Yes; daily and hourly, which is better than having printed rules.
3299. I suppose the contract system attracts the best men? I have got men who will not work unless on contract. I have lost as good men as ever worked because I have had to put them on places for a while on day-labour; but they have come back after a time and asked for contract work. A competent miner or a practical man never refuses to go down below and work on contract. Every man who is competent and practical prefers contract work. It is only "fencers" and "sundowners" that prefer day-labour.
3300. It has been said that "bulling" holes is a dangerous practice;—is there anything in that? It is, to a man who knows nothing about it.
3301. Is it dangerous to a man who does know something about it? Not at all.
3302. I think you have worked in every department? In every line that can be mentioned in excavation work.
3303. What time should you allow between "bulling" and charging a hole? That depends upon whether a man is competent to judge a hole. After you "bull" a hole, the first thing is to put in as much water as possible; then take a long scraper and feel about the hole. By doing that, any man who has had experience can tell whether a hole is safe or not. If the end of the scraper be warm, then the hole is not safe to charge; if cool, it is. Where mishaps occur, the men do not know anything about "bulling."
3304. Is plenty of water always supplied for this purpose? Yes; and, if they do not use it, it is their own neglect, so far as my experience goes.
3305. It has been said that in some of the mines the shots fired are too large; that there is too much explosive for the burden? Perhaps that is an error of judgment.
3306. That is left entirely to the discretion of the men? Yes; every man is liable to err in that. Further, when a man drills a long hole, there might be a secret face he cannot see. The charge then does not do its duty as anticipated. It brings only portion of the burden, which is scattered in immense fury all over the place. A man cannot see those things at all times.
3307. Something was said about the inconvenience of contractors having to carry their timber from the plat? All contractors are supposed to carry their own timber.
- His Honor: It was said that a man has, for some distance, to stoop very much in carrying his timber, and that this tempts him to do without it.*
3308. Yes; it was said that the timber is crushed in places, through which it is difficult to carry timber? I do not know one place where a man has to stoop; and carriages on which to carry timber are on every level. The old kaolin stopes where men are not working might be a little crushed; but in any place where men are working they have not to stoop. A very tall man might have to stoop, the height of a set being 6 feet 2 in.
3309. If you are beginning to fill in a worked-out stope, when should you take off the floors? Not until the stope is filled up to the floor.
3310. Supposing a man is working on the top floor, how many would you leave sound under him? I would leave them all standing until the place was filled with mullock. As they fill up, so they take the boards off, unless some of these wretches below them have not taken them away and used them over again.
3311. Is that of frequent occurrence? Yes; we cannot avoid it. Then we have to send parties down with new laths.

3312. When laths are broken in shooting, whose duty is it to replace them? The party's. But we always get them to lay 10 x 10 on the 10 x 2; and, when the blasts go off, these 10 x 10s take the burden. Even this is not done sometimes unless we are there to make them do it: they will blast on to the light 10 x 2 stuff, which is only put there to stand on. R. Thomas.
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3313. I suppose you can protect the 10 x 2 with mullock or ore as well as with 10 x 10? It is safer to lay 10 x 10 on the 10 x 2.
3314. *His Honor.*] Do I understand you to say that it is not safe to blast on to 10 x 2, even if you have a covering of mullock? I do not think it is. There should be 10 x 10 on the 10 x 2 to take the force of the ore as it comes down. With 10 x 2 only, the weight of the mullock and the force of the ore striking would break through it.
3315. *Mr. Edwards.*] What tamping-bars are allowed in your mine? Only soft Oregon wood.
3316. Are they provided to any man? Whenever a man requires one he has only to go to the carpenter's shop.
3317. You have the Government regulations posted on the mine? Yes.
3318. One of those rules says that no greater quantity than 6 lb. of explosive shall be allowed to be in use at any one time. Do you work with machines in your mine? Yes.
3319. Would 6 lb. be sufficient to charge a series of holes? No.
3320. You think that should be amended? Yes. I have got a party down in Kelly's shaft now, and in drilling four or five holes they will take perhaps four boxes of gelatine—20 lb.
3321. Would you fire more than one series during a shift? They would fire eight holes altogether.
3322. That would be in one shift? Yes.
3323. So no rule should provide a limit? No, not where rock-drills are used.
3324. Are men allowed to leave explosives lying about? No.
3325. What do they do with any balance they might have? They are supposed to put it back in a secure place no closer than 30 feet to the face where they are working.
3326. Something has been said about the plat at the 415-foot level at Kelly's shaft, as to the timber there being all crushed and splintered and dangerous to the men working in there? Yes; I remember seeing something about that in the paper.
3327. What is your explanation of that? I know the timber has splintered. In those places the kaolin ore was worked out four years ago; and they have been closely packed with mullock. My experience has taught me that, when you fill a place with mullock, you should let your timber crack as much as it likes so long as you know it is safe to the men passing to and fro—let it go until the mullock takes the pressure. You know it cannot go far; and as soon as the mullock takes the pressure you can turn to and take out all the old timber, and replace it with new; and the timber then stands for ever. If you take out the timber as soon as it starts to crack, and put in fresh timber before the mullock has taken the pressure, you only lose time and waste timber.
3328. Is the timber there now safe? Yes, perfectly.
3329. To an inexperienced man it might seem unsafe? Yes; a "fencer" or "sundowner" might think the place was coming down on top of him every minute.
3330. As soon as the mullock has settled and taken the pressure from above, you will take out the old timber and put in new? Yes; and make everything secure.
3331. It is said you have been passing mullock down the ladderway of Kelly's shaft while the cage with men in it has been coming up the hauling compartment; and that stones as big as a man's head have fallen through to the plat on the 415-foot level; and that the plat there has at times been nearly filled with mullock that escaped from the shoot? (*Witness*): No accident occurred?
3332. No. (*Witness*): There are two divisions between the mullock-pass and the winding compartment; and it is impossible for stones to break through into the latter. We are all aware that materials do wear out; and the planks of this shoot did wear out. As soon as I noticed the stuff coming through on to the plat, I went straight away and stopped them from putting in further stuff until the pass was repaired. No matter who the man might be, if he reports to me that the mullock is escaping, work is stopped and repairs effected at once. As to stones going into the winding-shaft, I do not see that that is possible.
3333. It is not a source of continual danger? Not in the slightest.
3334. Is it the duty of the men to report any dangerous places? It is the duty of every man, directly he finds anything dangerous, to make a report to the first official he drops across, who sends a man at once to rectify it. Most men, if they see anything dangerous to their fellow-men, do not report it unless the office-in-charge happens to go round and see it. We have to be always on the watch. The foreman and myself are continually watching. If men do not try to protect themselves, unless you have a boss to watch over them, accidents must happen. It would not make any difference if we had forty more inspectors; we are doing everything possible for the safety of the men, and could not do more. We are doing our very best to protect the lives of our men. We cannot more than try to make the men take care of themselves; and, if men will not try and help themselves, the devil help the lot.
3335. If an additional inspector were appointed, you would like him to be a thoroughly competent man? If an additional inspector be appointed, I would like to see him a man that has been brought up to mining and that would know more about mining than myself. I am always prepared to receive instructions from any person.
3336. I suppose an incompetent inspector would be a source of great danger? Yes; it would be much better to be without him.
3337. In sinking a shaft, do you think it would be safe for a man to sink without any covering overhead;—what distances overhead are pent-houses required? It has always been my practice to leave a crown pent-house in overhead—over the two winding-shafts.
3338. Leaving one compartment open for the purpose of hauling dirt, and the other two compartments covered? Yes.
3339. I suppose you can go any depth with that? Yes; it is perfectly safe. I have worked in places on that principle for sixteen years.
3340. When men go off shift and other men come on, do the men going off point out to their on-coming mates the condition of the face? Sometimes they do; and sometimes they do not. If there be anything dangerous, they try to see their mates. They have been cautioned frequently that, if there be anything dangerous in the face, one should remain and point it out to the on-coming shift.

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3341. But I suppose you have men who do not carry out rules? We meet with them frequently. I have a case on hand now to be investigated. A party of men left a missed-hole and never reported it; the men who came on noticed it after having fired another hole alongside.
3342. They drilled alongside the unfired hole? Yes, after blasting their hole they found this other hole.
3343. Were the explosives found? The second shot had not exposed it.
3344. Supposing it had thrown the explosives out, there would be a danger not only to the men working among them, but of their finding their way to the treating machinery on the surface? Yes; that has occurred; and I have tried to ascertain where it came from; but, where you are sending in about 600 trucks every twenty-four hours from all over the mine, it is hard to find out anything like that.
3345. Would it not be better, then, in order to provide against careless men, to compel the change of shift to take place in the face in future? I do not think so; they do not know the danger. The only way is to draft them out and not let them come on at all.
3346. I suppose all men, even the most ignorant, would know the danger of leaving a missed-hole about? I am not quite sure that they do. They have got no thought upon the matter at all.
3347. They must have a very low order of intelligence? You find men like that: they do not give such things a thought.
3348. It has been stated by one of the men that men go off shift and leave the face in a wild state of confusion; that they fire just before shift, and do not wait to see the result of their shot. Would it not be far safer to compel those men to wait in the face, and to point out to their mates coming on anything dangerous;—I am dealing, not with competent men, but with these incompetent, reckless, and careless men? Perhaps in those cases it might tend to prevent accidents to a certain extent.
3349. For instance, in the case of ground hanging in the face, do you not think it would be better for them to have an opportunity of pointing it out to their mates? Some of them would not know whether a hanging rock was dangerous or not.
3350. Supposing in a party there are one or two competent men and one or two incompetent or careless men, and a competent man going off shift knows that there is something dangerous in the face; if he was compelled to wait there, and point it out to the other man, who might not be so skilled, would not that be a matter of security? In that case it would; but many men do not know their own danger.
3351. Yes; but it is for those workmen you have to make these binding rules? Of course I believe in that to a certain extent.
3352. If the change of shift takes place at the face instead of at the brace or in the plat, would it entail much loss of time upon the men? It might entail twenty minutes or so, or perhaps half an hour.
3353. On the whole shift? Yes.
3354. I suppose there is no necessity to blast just before leaving shift? That depends upon the time they start to drill a hole. A man finishes his hole just on time and blasts it, and instead of going back he tells his mates in the plat that he has just blasted, and to look around.
3355. But supposing he missed his mates? He might; but they should not both go up in the one cage; one should remain.
3356. But they do not do that? No, they try to get up as quickly as they can.
3357. I suppose you find a great deal of truth in what one of the witnesses said, that men are prepared to talk about anything else other than their work when they meet their mates? Yes; work can go to Hong Kong so soon as they are finished.
3358. It has been said that two engine-drivers are required to be in the engine-house while men are being lowered or raised, in case one man falls down in a fit. What have you to say to that? Perhaps if he passed a doctor every day before going to work that would meet the case.
3359. The fact of two men being in the engine-house might be a cause of producing an accident? Yes, I believe with two men we should have accidents. Some men have got a tongue like a woman's; you cannot break their yarn; and you cannot cut it. A man stands there with his hand on the handles of the engine, and riveted in a yarn; the engine overwinds; the men go to Hong Kong or somewhere else; and the whole thing goes to pieces.
3360. What do you think of apprenticing youths to the mining as a means of getting over the difficulty of incompetent men? I think that is a very good idea.
3361. What time did you start? At 12.
3362. That is rather young for the colonies? Yes; 16 is young enough.
3363. How long do you think apprentices should work before they know something of mining;—I suppose a miner never is accomplished; there is always something to learn? That depends on the training the boy gets, and whom he gets with. Some men will teach a boy more in twelve months than others would in a life-time.
3364. But you must have a fixed time, I suppose, before you can say that a man has been so long underground, and is worth so much now? But some men have been underground all their life and know nothing.
3365. Do you think five years would be too long? I say if a boy goes underground at 16 years of age he ought to be accomplished at 20.
3366. There is no apprentice system in vogue in your mine? I had a young boy up there that I put down with his father. His father asked for him; I said, "He looks small; but I will try him." I went down and saw him work; I never saw a man who could use a hammer with more freedom; the way he could slip hands was an object lesson to the oldest hands. I took him out from that place, and put him where I had a large number of men, just to show him off and show them up.
3367. How old was he? Seventeen.
3368. Is he working there now? He left me about six months back. If you could get boys like that they would show up two-thirds of the men you have.
3369. In the case of a movement in the ground underground where the men are ordered out, who do you think should have the ordering of them back? I think the foreman should. No man ought to know better than the man in charge.
3370. Of course, when the inspector orders men out, he should be the man to order them back? With all due deference to inspectors, no man knows better than the man who has been there continually, from whom very often the inspector takes his advice.
3371. You think the man in charge should be the man? Yes.

3372. If the men are ordered out, and the ground is reported safe by the man in charge, and some men refuse to go back, you would not force them? Not at all. Any man who refuses to work in a place I take away directly, and put him to a place where he feels he is satisfied. I go then to other parties, and point out to them all the disadvantages connected with that place, and ask them if they will secure it. R. Thomas.
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3373. Some men are naturally nervous, but you would not punish them for being so? Some of them have nerves like a woman's, and want to be put into easy little places. I do not discharge a man for being nervous, and always shift him at once from a place he considers dangerous.
3374. Is the machinery that you have on the mine in good order? All the machinery that we have there is in splendid order to-day.
3375. Sufficient for all reasonable requirements of the men, and their safety? Yes.
3376. And the system of timbering underground—is that safe? I never saw any better system, and never saw men looked after anything like they are on the Hill to-day. If they were put into boxes they could not be looked after better. All my lifetime, in other places, we have had to protect ourselves; and if we found anything dangerous, we had to go and attend to it ourselves; there was no foreman to run to.
3377. Have you had any experience in the open-cut work? Yes.
3378. You know the system of the "chinaman"? Yes; it is a very safe system.
3379. How long has it been in use? Ever since I can remember; but I never heard it called the "chinaman" until I came here.
3380. Do you know why it is called the "chinaman"? No; unless it is because of the over-burden it carries.
3381. It is a system not dangerous if carried out properly? Work is more safe with it than without it.
3382. More safe than loading into trucks? Yes.
3383. How long have you known this system? Ever since I have been connected with mining—forty years or over.
3384. It is no new system? No; the name only is new.
3385. You have never had anything to do with the over-casts here? No.
3386. You have had experience with long holes? Yes.
3387. Is there any increase in the danger in a long hole as compared with a shallow hole? Not the slightest. I would sooner charge a deep hole than a shallow one. Of course, it depends upon a man's knowledge of those things. If he never had any experience in those things, it is dangerous for him to meddle with them at all. If a man has had experience, he would just as soon charge a hole 20 feet deep as one 2 feet deep. Instead of putting the plugs in in their uniform size, you should break them up and drop them down bit by bit, and press them down as tightly as you like. Everything is then as safe as can be.
3388. There is no danger in breaking them up? No; you can crumble them up as fine as you like.
3389. What time would you allow to elapse between "bulling" and putting in a long charge? That depends on the nature of the rock. If it is a close hard rock, the "bull" does not crack it up so much; and you can put in a bucket of water and cool it down directly. In half an hour, or a little over, you could charge that hole with perfect safety. In a soft rock, which the "bull" is liable to crack, you could not form much of an idea, and in that case I should say let it stand two or three hours.
3390. Of course, the object of this inquiry is to find out what regulations should be framed, and how they should be made known to the men;—what is your idea about printed regulations for the men? When I was in the Proprietary Mine we had printed rules; and to every man who came on we gave a copy; but it did not avail a finger-snap. I have looked through the window and seen a group of five or six of them go away and tear them up without attempting to read them. You cannot force men to read those things.
3391. Do you think anything is to be gained, towards procuring the safety of the men, by having lengthy regulations? The best way is to have the rules and regulations printed, and placed at the different shafts. As for giving every man a copy as he comes on, that would not, so far as I can see, benefit things in any way.
3392. I suppose most of the men employed on the mines can read? Yes; nineteen out of every twenty.
3393. It has been suggested that a Board of Inquiry should be formed to inquire into minor accidents:—do you think that is required, or would the inspector be sufficient? I think the inspector would be sufficient for that. At present, directly an accident occurs, we drop him a line and report to him, so that he can examine the place and examine the people. We always write to him or ring him up as soon as an accident occurs.
3394. It has been suggested that a Board be appointed consisting of—some say three persons, some say seven, and some say twelve—at any rate, an equal number be appointed by the men, an equal number by the mine managers, and a chairman by the Government;—could such a Board be made the means of great annoyance to mine managers? Very likely.
3395. Do you think it would tend in any way to prevent accidents? No.
3396. I suppose there would be an equal number of advocates on both sides; and the Government man would have to decide after all? Yes; I do not think any benefit would be derived from such a Board. If an accident be reported to the inspector, and he furnishes a full report to the Minister for Mines, that is quite sufficient.
3397. What mines have you worked in besides these? I worked in the Wallaroo Mine, York Peninsula, for twenty-four years.
3398. Where did you first learn mining? In Cornwall.
3399. In your honest opinion, is anything omitted by the management here that could be done in order to secure greater safety to the men? Not one iota, that I know of. If men would only act with a little more care and caution themselves, a great number of the accidents might be prevented. It is through carelessness and neglect on the part of the men that accidents are brought about.
3400. And I suppose error in judgment sometimes? Yes.
3401. In your experience, do you know of any place where men are better cared for, better paid, and have their safety better looked after, than in Broken Hill? I never saw anywhere men looked after like they are here. I have been surprised myself sometimes, when I have gone through, to see the safety provided for men; and, since an inferior class of men have come here representing themselves as miners, it has made me exercise more care than ever in providing for their safety.

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3402. You do not concern yourself whether men belong to a union or not? I believe in a union; but I do not believe in the A.M.A. taking in every man, whether a "sundowner" or "fencer" who never saw a mine before, and enrolling him as a miner, and protecting him as a miner. The other day I gave a party of men an order to go to the store and take what tools they required for hard rock. They went to the storeman and said, "We don't know what to get." They actually did not know what to get out of the store to prepare for hard rock. They came back to me again; and I said, "Go to the diggings; I do not want you."
3403. In reference to the chambers that are cut underground, what height should the back be from the men working? That depends on the nature of the rock.
3404. I am referring to the open stopes? The system that we adopt in hard faces, where the rock is hard and massive and we use machine drills, is this: We put timber close up within 5 or 6 feet of the ground, then cover the timber with 10 x 10, on to which we blast. We carry the stope forward two sets high, perhaps 14 or 15 feet high, allowing the ore to remain underfoot. When sufficient work has been done, I take the men out, clear all ore away, and put up the timber.
3405. Fourteen or 15 feet is the greatest distance the back is ever away from the men? Yes; but scarcely that, because the men are standing on the ore.
3406. After the ore is taken out you put in your 10 x 10 timber? Yes.
3407. In connection with explosives, have you ever known any accident to occur through faulty fuse—fuse with a knot in it? I have known an accident to occur where the fuse had been lit sixteen hours previously. Just as the third shift came on the hole went off. Fortunately the men were not close to it; and the only damage done was a slight injury to one of the party. That was brought about by the fuse hanging fire. Of course that occurred twenty years ago.
3408. But I mean of recent days? I know of no recent cases.
3409. As to the quality of the fuse and explosives you use, are they of the best quality you can get? Yes. We had a complaint some time back about an explosive, and we wrote to the parties about it; and they came here and tried it themselves. Any time a complaint is made we always make inquiries about it, and see that we get the best explosives forwarded.
3410. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You say, Mr. Thomas, that a charge of glycerine compounds only requires to be kept air-tight? That is all.
3411. Any further weight than sufficient to keep the charge air-tight, in your opinion, is unnecessary? Quite so.
3412. In all places where men are asked to go in your mine, there is no crushed drive? No.
3413. In all those places there are 7-ft. 2-in. legs? Yes. Of course they might be compressed half an inch or an inch in places; but that is neither here or there.
3414. How often is the magazine opened? Twice a day.
3415. For what two shifts? The afternoon and the morning shifts.
3416. One of the regulations under the Mining Act says that no explosive shall be taken into a mine except in a case or canister? In our mine it is taken down in card-board boxes.
3417. You do not think it is absolutely necessary that it should be kept in some safer contrivance than that? We have got them there; they are there in the store ready for use, and fitted with locks and keys, if the men would only use them.
3418. There has been some evidence here that they are not procurable in Block 10, or are not in use. Of course, I do not doubt your word for one moment; but if you have no objection, I would like you to produce one of the canisters to the Commission for examination? I will try and get one down this afternoon.
3419. You have already stated that 6 lb. of explosive is insufficient in many cases for men to have in use at one time? Yes.
3420. But still there is a regulation to that effect; of course I take it that this inquiry is to inquire into whether regulations at present in force are sufficient or not;—you think that regulation should be amended? Of course it should.
3421. In what way would you amend it? I would recommend that it be left to the discretion of the manager as to what quantity should be left in the men's possession.
3422. No man would know better than the manager? No.
3423. And the regulation providing that an iron or steel tamping bar shall not be used in charging holes for blasting, unless mounted with at least 4 inches of copper, should, in your opinion, be also erased? I believe in wood.
3424. That regulation is really out of date? Yes.
3425. In your opinion, is a wooden rammer sufficient for tamping a powder-hole? For black diamond-grain powder it is not. That is a thing that very few miners nowadays know how to use.
3426. *His Honor.*] What would you use for tamping that? A copper bar, or an iron rod with 4 or 5 inches of copper at the end of it.
3427. You do not think it necessary to have them supplied now, because there is no use for them? No; we do not use that powder now.
3428. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] We know that powder is still being used in places? It is used sometimes where they want to quarry stones.
3429. I believe a good deal of it is in use in the Proprietary Mine? I have never seen any in use for a long while.
3430. *His Honor.*] When you speak of black diamond-grain powder, you mean gunpowder? Yes.
3431. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You think it necessary that provision should be made for some other rammer as well as a wooden one? I should say a copper rammer for black powder.
3432. That would be very expensive, would it not, for a long hole? You need only have about 4 inches of copper. I do not mean that the whole of the rod should be of copper.
3433. *His Honor.*] In making a regulation would you distinguish between the two;—as you have to deal with powder, you would allow a copper-tipped tamping-bar for powder, and for powder only; but no metal bar should be used for any of the glycerine compounds? That would be it.
3434. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Do you not think that a copper bar could be procured almost as cheaply as an iron bar copper-tipped? No; there is a great difference between the price of copper and iron, and the cost of splicing a bit of copper on would be nothing.

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3435. Would the increased cost of a copper bar compensate for the increased safety it would give? No; an iron rod with a copper tip would be just as safe; on account of the shoulder the iron could not strike the sides of the hole.
3436. *His Honor.*] What length of tipping would you make compulsory at least? Four inches would be quite sufficient, with a shoulder.
3437. If a bar were constructed in that way, there would be no risk? None whatever.
3438. Are tamping-bars always constructed in that way? Yes, the copper is always much larger than the iron to which it is fastened.
3439. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You say that the shoot in Kelly's shaft is kept as safe as it possibly can be kept? Yes; I send men through it every week, and if we find any leakage we at once stop stuff from being sent down and have repairs effected.
3440. Do you think there is any danger in mullock being tipped into that shoot while men are being lowered or raised in the hauling compartment? I question whether mullock has been tipped in while men have been descending or ascending.
3441. But you will admit that it would be dangerous, were it done? I do not see how it would, because there is a footway between the winding-shaft and the mullock-pass. If mullock did happen to get into the footway it could not get into the winding-shaft.
3442. What is the centering between the winding-shaft and the footway? Ten by four; and to that is nailed 10 x 2 planking. The mullock shoot is closely timbered all the way up with 10 x 4.
3443. As to the sinking of shafts. What is a usually safe distance to sink under a pent-house? About 150 feet.
3444. Do you think that is a fair distance to be sunk? I think you could sink to 1,000 feet, if you have the two winding-shafts secured by a ground pent-house, and only one shaft open—a permanent footway running all the way down.
3445. In your opinion you might just as well go 1,000 feet under the rope as 150 feet? Every bit of it; all you want is a good rope and a careful man on top to land the trucks you send up.
3446. I suppose you would like to see the two compartments closely centered off? Yes.
3447. And the danger from the rope breaking would not be greater at 1,000 feet than 100 feet? No.
3448. You are agreed that a course of training for boys should be adopted? Yes.
3449. Would that in your opinion have a tendency to remove the disability of the mines in procuring competent men? I think so.
3450. I suppose young fellows of the town who serve their apprenticeship here would be better adapted for work required of them here than good men imported for the purpose? Yes; a lot of these boys working now on top would, if you took them underground, be better than two-thirds of the men. They will do what they are told; the others are so thick-headed that they cannot do anything. One does his work with a free will: the other takes everything as a burden.
3451. It would be no drawback to the companies? The companies would profit by it.
3452. *Mr. Williams.*] And the men? Yes, and the men as well.
3453. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] On what standard would you put an apprentice? I think a boy should do four years before he could be recognised as a full-blown man entitled to a man's pay. I took my boy with me when he was about 15; and I worked him up until he was 20 before I got full pay for him; and you know better than I can tell you what sort of a man he is.
3454. A lot has been said about this question of apprenticing boys; that the companies would take advantage of it, and would force a lot of boys into places that they should not be forced into, and therefore interfere with the employment of a number of men; they would simply give the apprentices a small wage, and expect to have the same work performed by them as by a man at the current rate? I do not think that any mine would expect a man to take a boy in of (say) 16 years of age, and do with his assistance the work of two practical men; but, if a competent man has had a boy with him for three or four months, the boy will then do more work than two-thirds of the men who are here to-day representing themselves as miners.
3455. Under the contract system, no difference should be made? Not the slightest.
3456. If a set is worth £5 to six men, it is worth £5 to three men and three boys? Yes.
3457. Do you think there would be anything gained in restricting the number of apprentices to the number of men employed? No, I do not fancy that at all. I think it should be left entirely to the management. I think it should also be left to their discretion to decide with whom the boys should be put.
3458. On the Barrier you will admit there are not the same advantages for men to take boys as in mines you have been accustomed to in other parts? The same advantages are held out in my mine that I have been accustomed to elsewhere. Any man could take in his boy; and I would give them a price for the work done.
3459. But I refer to the different phases of mining. A man might take a boy into a stope and keep him there for five years, and all he would learn in that case would be but a puff of a candle so far as mining was concerned? I always change the men about from hard ground to soft ground, and *vice versa*.
3460. Boys should have the opportunity of working in all kinds of ground? Yes, they should be put into every variety of place, always of course avoiding risky places.
3461. In charging long holes, do you think it would be absolutely safe to break up the pellets before putting them in? I have proved that it is by practical experience.
3462. But that would not answer in a ragged hole? If you break the plugs into fine pieces, there is not the same chance of their getting stuck. Plugs, when put in whole, are liable to hang across the hole.
3463. I suppose you know pretty well the regulations under the Mining Act? Yes; there may be a thing or two I am not exactly acquainted with.
3464. You say you have no printed general rules on your mine? No; we give all instructions verbally, which answers just as well as any printed rules.
3465. You state that when you were in the Proprietary they had printed rules? Yes.
3466. In your opinion was there anything in those rules more than a man with ordinary experience would know himself? No; a practical man would know the whole thing without looking at it.
3467. You say if there were forty inspectors you would do just the same as you are doing now? Yes; I am doing my level best to protect the life and limb of the men.
3468. But, seeing the extent of the Albert Mining District, is it your opinion that one inspector is sufficient

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sufficient to carry out the inspection of all the mines in the district? Yes; I have never seen officers on any mining field attend to their duties better than they do on the Barrier, and, because of that, the inspector has less work to do. He knows that the officers could not do better even if he were constantly with them. If an inspector were appointed to every two men, we would still have accidents.

3469. I admit that; but we cannot forget that this district is pretty well 300 miles long, and it is necessary for the inspector to be at the very end of it sometimes; and, seeing that there are about 6,000 men within a radius of 2 miles along this line of lode, do you not think there should be one within easy distance of the Hill at all times? I do not see that at all. If the inspector were to go through the mine I am connected with every time I went through myself, it would make no difference at all, because we do everything that possibly can be done to protect the life and limb of the men. If the inspector be 500 miles away from here it would not make any difference to us, and if anything occurs in his absence we make a full report to him on his return.

3470. As to this proposed Board of Inquiry to investigate all minor accidents;—do not you think such a Board would be an advantage, seeing that sometimes the officials of the mines are wrongly accused of carelessness or neglect in the case of accidents? Look at the time that man was killed on the dump. Mr. Slee, Mr. Hebbard, and myself, cautioned the party where this man was killed; but directly we turned our backs they took no notice of our caution, with the result that this man was smothered. Well, we were censured for that, although the men admitted that we had warned them.

3471. But would not an inquiry prevent the blame from being put on the wrong shoulders? In the first place the inspector could go the man who meets with an injury, and obtain from him a statement; and then go to the officer in charge at the time of the accident and obtain a statement from him, and after making observations for himself he could draw his own conclusions, and make a report to the Chief Inspector of Mines. That is being done now; and I think every accident is thrashed out just as much as if we had a Board of Inquiry.

3472. But an accident might be brought about owing to the neglect of the inspector. Of course, I am speaking generally, and not making any particular reference to our present inspector; and, human nature being human nature, he would naturally make his own case as good as he could. He may tell the truth, but not the whole truth? I would like to see the man that ever did.

3473. Further, it might be stated among people outside that the inspector, even if he were not, was to blame, and was not therefore a proper party to make the inquiry? My experience of the inspector here is that he is no favourite of our party; he is generally on the side of the men. He is always down on me whenever he can get a slant. However, I do not believe in this Board of Inquiry. I think the inspector can always get sufficient evidence to thrash the matter out. If the inspector misrepresents the cause of an accident, the parties concerned can appeal against it.

3474. You will admit, then, that it is necessary the inspector should at all times be within an easy distance of the Hill; a man might live for twenty-four hours after meeting with a serious accident; and, should the inspector see him before he died, he would be able to collect the principal evidence surrounding the matter? I differ from you there. I have never seen a man in my life who, after meeting with a serious injury, could tell you how it occurred.

3475. That would be in the case of an unforeseen accident;—I can speak of one or two accidents where the injured persons, although they died ultimately, were able to give a correct statement as to how they met with their accidents? You might have more experience in that than I have. I have never seen a man, under those circumstances, give evidence that could be relied upon.

3476. As to those underground chambers. How do you go about opening out the stope? We carry it up two sets high, and go forward two sets, and then come back and put in one set.

3477. You would not open it to any great width? No, not if the ground is any way treacherous.

3478. It has been said that explosives are not kept as safely in Block 10 as they should be; that they are allowed to lie about in the stopes? Every man has been informed from time to time that he has not to keep his explosives closer than 30 or 40 feet to the face, and that he must keep them in a secure place. If directly a party blasts you must have a man over them to compel the putting away of the balance to a safe corner, no mine would pay; you would want more officers than workmen.

3479. You think what is required is to penalise them in the event of their committing a breach of that rule? Yes, if you could place a fine upon them it would do good.

3480. *His Honor.*] You think they ought to be compelled to use the proper canisters or boxes supplied? Yes, and there must be some sort of a fine imposed to make them do so.

3481. I understand you do try to make them do so? Yes; but instead of using them for their explosives, they make water-cans of them.

3482. Have you got them in stock? I believe we still have some.

3483. I understand you found it so hard to make the men use them for their explosives that you have given up the idea of ever bringing them into use? Yes.

3484. And now it is the habit not to use them? Yes; but the dynamite is in cardboard boxes; it is not carried down loosely.

3485. Are those cardboard boxes fastened round with a cord? Yes.

3486. Are they made of strong cardboard? Yes.

3487. Is it cardboard or mill-board? I could not say what is the difference between the two.

3488. Mill-board is stronger than wood really? I do not mean to say that the substance of which these packages are made is stronger than wood; but it is as good as wood, and is of some thickness.

3489. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Do you think the use of the canister should be enforced? I do not see that the canister is in any way safer than the packages. If the men take proper precautions, when they take a charge of gelatine out of a package, to bind the package up again, it would be equally as safe as a canister.

3490. But we must admit that it is easier to put down the lid of a canister than to tie up a package? I admit that; but I have seen them not even cover the canister.

3491. *His Honor.*] But a man who would do that would be quite certain to leave open a package too? Yes.

3492. And with a lazy, careless man there would be more temptation to leave a package open than to leave a canister open? Some of them would not close the package; and some would not close the canister.

3493. Of course some would smoke on a powder keg? Yes; we have them up there now. You have almost to knock them down with a stick to keep them from the magazine with a pipe stuck in their jaw.

3494. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You are not prepared just now to suggest any amendments in the regulations under the Mining Act? No. R. Thomas.
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3495. *His Honor.*] Do you not think that written regulations would be useful for one class of men;—you do come across men who know very little of mining, but who try to find out as much as they can as they go along? Yes, there are instances.
3496. Sailors, for instance? Yes. Printed rules should be posted about the mine. If we find intelligent men trying to pick up information, we try all we can to help them. We put them in easy places, and show them things as they go along. But there are others who think they know the whole business; and you cannot teach them anything whatever, nor can you do anything with them.
3497. *Mr. Williams.*] You understand that the two principal objects desired by this Commission are—firstly, to find out the causes of accidents; secondly, to devise means to prevent the occurrence of accidents? Yes.
3498. And also to ascertain whether the regulations under the Mining Act are sufficient, if carried out properly, to prevent accidents occurring; and also, as far as possible, to find out what has been the cause of the recent increase in the number of accidents. You admit that accidents have occurred? Yes.
3499. And several recently? Yes. They come and go in spurts, as it were.
3500. You think there has been an increase in the number of accidents lately? Yes; not only in the mines, but in the district. They seem to come in a crop.
3501. You said that if men understood the law, and obeyed it, there would be less accidents? I said something to that effect.
3502. And you cannot expect a man to obey a law unless he knows it? No.
3503. You have no printed laws; you prefer the men to learn them by word of mouth? Yes.
3504. Do accidents occur through incompetency of the men employed? Yes, a lot of those small accidents occur through the men not knowing their business.
3505. You believe it is possible for men not knowing danger to fall into danger? Yes.
3506. And therefore you have been endeavouring to instil into the men the things required of them in order to satisfactorily perform their work? Yes.
3507. You said just now that you would want one inspector to every two men? I said things would be no better if we had an inspector to every two men.
3508. If you placed a boy in a mine under his father, there would in that case be an inspector, as it were, to the two? At first that would work all right; but after a little while the boy would get stubborn; and it would then be better to place him with a stranger. I do not believe altogether in putting a boy to work with his father; he should be put with a stranger.
3509. You do not mind a man's complaining to you about anything? No; I would thank a man for doing that.
3510. One of the causes of accident is, it is stated, that men break the laws. Have you ever brought any of those men down here before the Police Magistrate for breaking the laws? No.
3511. Would you give the inspector the power of administering the oath when making inquiries concerning the men and the employers? No, I would not. If he cannot rely upon a man's statement, then it is for the higher authorities to step in.
3512. Do you believe in men having certificates? Yes.
3513. If a man came to you with a certificate, you would give him a job to see whether he was as able as the certificate represented him to be? Yes; of course I would first look at the signature at the bottom of the certificate.
3514. As to the probability of an engine-driver's falling down in a fit. Was it the practice in the Cornwall mines for the engine-driver to have a fireman? No; the engine-driver had to do his own stoking.
3515. There was no man nearer to him than the brace-man? No; the pumping-engines have a driver and a fireman.
3516. As to finding explosives on the furnace floor. You said it would be difficult to ascertain which truck they came from? Yes.
3517. You have known explosives to be found on the feeding-floor? Yes; they have been found there occasionally.
3518. Have they ever found their way into the rock-crushers? We have had breakages in the rollers; but I do not think it has been due to explosives.
3519. *Inspector Hebbard.*] Do you think there is any more risk in carrying dynamite in its own package than carrying it in a tin? Not the slightest.
3520. You think there is no more danger in leaving it in the package underground than in the tin? No, there is no more danger.
3521. *His Honor.*] On the whole, you would consider it more satisfactory if it were kept in a secure metal canister? Yes; the Government should be asked to pass a law compelling the men to use canisters for their explosives, and to keep them closed; failing which they should be liable to six months' imprisonment. That is the only way to bring the thing about.

John Warren sworn and examined:—

3522. *Mr. Edwards.*] Your name is John Warren? Yes. J. Warren.
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3523. You are general manager of the Broken Hill Proprietary Block 10 Company, Limited? Yes.
3524. How many years' experience have you had in mining? From when I was 14 years of age to the present time I have been engaged in mining.
3525. How many years altogether? Considerably over forty years.
3526. In what mines have you had experience? In all kinds of mineral but coal.
3527. Both in Cornwall and Devonshire? And in New Caledonia and various parts of Australia.
3528. This inquiry is being held to inquire into the causes of accidents that have recently taken place in mines of this district. Do you think accidents have increased in any measure in this district recently? I do not know about the district; they have increased with me in some degree.
3529. To what extent;—how many fatal accidents have you had? Four.
3530. During what period? Since the commencement of 1890.
3531. What number of men do you employ? In 1890 there were thirty-seven men employed.
3532. Since then? During the past two months we have been employing over 600.

- J. Warren. 3533. What do you think would be the average during the six and a half years the mine has been working? Close on 300, speaking from memory.
- 21 July, 1897. 3534. To what do you attribute the cause of the accidents that have taken place? Firstly, to the increased number of men employed.
3535. Secondly? Through carelessness and the want of interest of the men employed.
3536. Are the men competent that are employed below? Numbers of them are not.
3537. Have you done your utmost to procure competent men? We have.
3538. You did not import any men? No; not since the strike.
3539. Can you suggest anything other than is done at present with the view of preventing the recurrence of accidents? I do not see that any further precaution can be taken. It rests, to my mind, simply with the men themselves.
3540. Are your subordinate officials competent? They are; they are competent, practical miners, every one of them.
3541. Is the system of timbering a good one? Yes, it could not be improved upon.
3542. Your mine is thoroughly secured? Yes, no mine is more so, so far as I can see.
3543. And thoroughly ventilated? Yes.
3544. Have you any working rules on the mine; or do you depend upon the instructions given to the men by the shift-bosses? We have no printed rules. We have a copy of the Proprietary rules in the office. They were adopted at the time of the strike, and are supposed to apply to all associated mines.
3545. And, besides, you have Government regulations? Yes.
3546. Of the four fatal accidents that occurred on your mine, only one, I think, was underground? There was only one in the face.
3547. That was a man named Thompson? Yes.
3548. Could that accident have been prevented by any forethought or care on his part? It seemed to me an error of judgment on the part of the man himself.
3549. It arose through his not securing the overhanging ground? Yes; the comrade who was with him said they barred down all ground they considered unsafe, and resumed work.
3550. Is there any stint of timber required for securing the ground? There is an unlimited supply in Block 10 for the men to use.
3551. Are the men encouraged to report any dangerous places? I should expect them to do so.
3552. If they do not report dangerous places, can you prevent accidents? No; it is impossible for the underground manager to see every point of the mine every day.
3553. Are the men closely supervised in their work? Yes.
3554. And every precaution taken to protect the men against themselves? A greater precaution than on any other field on which I was ever located.
3555. During the forty years' experience that you have had, do you know of any other place in the world where men are better paid and better precautions are taken for their safety than at Broken Hill? No.
3556. In reference to explosives; you buy these yourself? Yes.
3557. Are they of the best quality? The best class that can be obtained.
3558. One of the Government regulations says that not more than 6 lb. of explosive shall be taken down into a mine by a workman at one time. Is that a workable rule where you are using rock-drills? I do not think that rule is understood properly. 6 lb. is not much to give to a party for twenty-four hours.
3559. Would it be sufficient for one shift? No, not for machine drills.
3560. Another rule says that it shall not be kept in a mine except in a case or canister. Are canisters provided at the mine's store for men who want them? Yes.
3561. Do they use them? No; not for the purpose for which they were made.
3562. Who made them for you? They were made specially through Messrs. Harris, Scarfe, and Company, of Adelaide.
3563. Have you got some of them in stock still? Yes.
3564. What do men use them for? For water-cans.
3565. Another rule says that an iron tamping-bar shall not be used, unless tipped with copper;—they are not used now, are they? No; no iron rods are used in our mine.
3566. What rods are used? Soft-wood ones.
3567. Do you believe in a copper tamping-rod? The whole made of copper might do very well; but a soft-wood rod is as good as copper, in my estimation.
3568. Would a copper-tipped rod be serviceable, supposing the copper were of greater thickness than the rod? I think it better to dispense with the iron rod altogether.
3569. Even if that part of the rod made of copper were thicker than the iron? Yes; the iron might strike near the collar of the hole and make fire there.
3570. Then you think it would be safer to abolish the metal rod altogether? Yes.
3571. Wood would be sufficient for all purposes? Yes.
3572. Would it be sufficient for powder? Yes, I think so.
3573. Under the present regulation, a missed-hole is not to be unrammed or drawn. What course would you adopt with regard to it? I think it would be preferable to withdraw the charge.
3574. The charge or the tamping? A portion of the tamping, to within a couple of inches of the explosive.
3575. Of course you would not withdraw the charge of glycerine compound; nor would you touch it? No. I would withdraw the tamping.
3576. Would it be a safe practice for men to put in another hole close to the missed-hole? I should prefer certainly to withdraw the tamping and try to explode the hole.
3577. Have you ever known of explosives being scattered about and being found in other parts of the workings amongst the ore? No; not in Block 10.
3578. I suppose that could occur? I have seen a plug of dynamite intact in the bottom of a hole.
3579. But what I mean is this: Supposing you put in a hole near a missed-hole; would it not be possible for the second charge to throw out the first charge unexploded, and scatter it amongst the ore? Yes; it depends upon the distance between the two charges.
3580. Mr. Thomas told us of some dynamite plugs having been picked up near the stone-breaker on the surface. That did not come to your knowledge? No, it did not.

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3581. Is the machinery on your mine suitable for its purposes and safe, so far as the lowering and raising of men is concerned? I think so.

3582. It has been suggested that the contract system is productive of accidents to the men, in consequence of their having to hurry through their work in order to make wages at it;—is there any foundation for that? Not in my opinion. With me, during the past six months, the men have lost on an average 15 per cent. of the hours they should work, and my impression is that, if they can afford to lose nearly a day a week, there should be no occasion for them to rush through their work.

3583. Do they on an average lose a day a week? It works out a shade over 15 per cent; and that is nearly a day a week.

3584. How is that lost? Through neglect of labour.

3585. I suppose, sometimes by sickness? I think it is oftener through other causes than sickness. Anyhow, they do not turn up to their work.

3586. Do you notice that that frequently occurs on the Monday after pay-day? Yes; frequently.

3587. That might be from sickness the source of which could have been prevented? Yes.

3588. Does the contract system induce the competent men as well as the inferior men to come forward? There are some competent men among them, but of course there are numbers who do not know a pick from a shovel, so to speak.

3589. Have you had occasion to discharge many men for incompetence? That is a daily occurrence.

3590. It has been stated that "bulling" is a dangerous practice? We have no need for "bulling" in the mine under the present circumstances; but, so far as "bulling" is concerned, I see no danger in it.

3591. It only requires care? That is all.

3592. Is there necessarily an increase of danger in a deep hole, as compared with a shallow hole? No; I should say not.

3593. I suppose a deep hole would do more work than a good many shallow holes? It stands to reason that the deeper you can get your charge of explosive the better chance it has of doing the execution required of it.

3594. You have had no movements underground of any magnitude? No; only just a slight shrinkage, which occurs in all mines where large bodies of ore are removed.

3595. You know Kelly's shaft at the 415 feet level? Yes.

3596. It has been stated that the timber in the plat there is all crushed and splintered? Yes; the timber is crushed there very badly; but the danger is only in the timber itself. The roofing of the plat is a hard capping of ironstone that covers the whole width of the ore-body there. If at any time we took the timber out, there would not be an ounce of mullock fall.

3597. Behind the timber it is all mullocked up? Where the timber is crushed there is no mullock at all. What has caused it to crush is this immense body of rock sinking in a mass. Where the ore has been removed, filling has been put in, and that too has caused a slight shrinkage. The whole body of this ironstone has subsided, possibly, a foot or more; and, if the timbers were removed, not an ounce of rock would come away.

3598. Is it safe? There is no danger there so far as I can see, with the exception perhaps of the timber.

3599. It has been said that a source of danger to the men is the practice of passing mullock down a shoot in the same shaft, only a different compartment, as that used for raising and lowering men; and that it is continued while the men are passing up and down? No mullock could possibly get into the cage shaft.

3600. And the moment the lining is broken through, it is repaired? Yes.

3601. In the event of any movement taking place in the ground below, and the men being ordered out, who should have the authority to say when they should go back? The man who orders them out.

3602. If the inspector were called in, you would leave the responsibility to him? Yes.

3603. On the question of increasing the number of inspectors: it has been said, and very truly, that this is a very large mining district, embracing districts as far away as Mount Brown and Tibooburra;—but do you think an increase in the number of inspectors would tend to lessen the number of accidents? I think not. If you had an inspector for every party of men in the mine I do not think it would make much difference in the number of accidents.

3604. Could you do more than you are doing at present to prevent accidents? No.

3605. You do not wait until the inspector comes round to tell you of danger, but look to it yourself? Yes.

3606. Supposing new regulations were framed, what course would you adopt, or would you suggest, for the purpose of making them known to the men;—the present instructions are verbal, I believe? Yes.

3607. Do you think the object would be attained by providing every man who came on to the mine with a printed copy? Yes.

3608. In addition to those on the mine? Yes.

3609. And would you have penalties imposed upon the men if they committed breaches of them? Yes.

3610. I suppose you yourself are not brought much in contact with the men? No.

3611. You simply lay out the work? Yes.

3612. And then you have your foreman to see that it is attended to? Yes.

3613. Who is the best judge as to whether a face is in a safe or unsafe condition? The men themselves, I should say.

3614. And, after them, the shift-boss? Yes.

3615. And then the foreman? Yes.

3616. And then the manager? Yes.

3617. At present, the change of shift takes place either in the plat or at the brace? Yes.

3618. Do you think any further safety would be provided if the men, before leaving the face on change of shift, were compelled to point out to their mates coming on the condition of the face? I do. If any danger was known to the off-going shift, they would then, before they left, point it out to the on-coming shift; in fact, in many cases in the old country the men are bound to relieve in the face; and it was attempted here after the strike.

3619. I suppose, owing to the width of the ore-bodies here, this is not easy ground to work? I do not think it is easy.

3620. I suppose dangerous places are continually appearing in the mine? There is always danger in this hard, flawy ground. The explosion shakes more rock than it brings down; and the danger is that the men might not pull all the loose ground down.

- J. Warren.
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3621. Firing takes place just about the relief? I think the men on contract fire when it suits them.
3622. There is no hard-and-fast rule in this respect? No.
3623. A man is allowed to fire at any time? Yes; unless it interferes with others working on the same face.
3624. Has it ever been brought under your notice that missed-holes have been left? No.
3625. In order to prevent men from leaving missed-holes without notifying their mates—and this has been done;—would that be met by compelling the men to change in the face? They could not well meet their comrades without telling them of a miss, if there was one. At present they miss them altogether.
3626. Would that entail much loss of time on the men, taking an average right through? It would not make a difference of ten minutes a day.
3627. It would entail the same difference to the mine? No; only to the men.
3628. You think it would be safer? Yes.
3629. It has been suggested that, while men are being raised and lowered at change of shift, two engine-drivers should be in the engine-house, in case one should fall down in a fit, or something;—do you think there is any occasion for that? I do not think the community is so liable to fits as all that.
3630. Do you think the presence of two men in the engine-shed would give rise to conversation, upon which would follow neglect of work, and very likely an accident? I know that in well-arranged mines no man is allowed in the engine-room except the engine-driver.
3631. And his whole attention is supposed to be on the engine, the rope, and the signals? Yes.
3632. In sinking from the bottom of a shaft that is unprotected, with three compartments, do you think, in order to protect the men working below, pent-houses are necessary for more than two compartments? I do not see any need for a third pent-house.
3633. At what distances should the pent-houses be put? It all depends upon the depth of the shaft. 100 feet is the usual lift from level to level, and that is what we adopt.
3634. As to the engine-drivers having certificates;—I suppose it would be an advantage if they all had certificates? If they obtained them through a proper channel; but, whether or not, I would prefer to give a man a trial first.
3635. No matter what certificate he possessed? Yes.
3636. The mere fact of a man's having a certificate would induce you to give him a trial, to see what he was made of? Yes.
3637. With a view to getting over the difficulty of incompetent men, do you think the system of apprenticing lads would be beneficial;—do you think that would get over the difficulty of inexperienced men? Yes; to a very great extent.
3638. At what age do you think a youth should go underground? Sixteen years, according to the present Act.
3639. I suppose you went under younger? Yes—before I was 14.
3640. How long should an apprentice be compelled to work before he could be entitled to call himself a miner? That would depend upon the lad himself.
3641. But you would have to make some limit, I think, as to time? Many would be as good after two years as they would be all their life. When I was 18 I was a better man than I have been since, so far as labour is concerned.
3642. A man, after five years' experience, would be a better man than after two years' experience? Certainly, he would have more experience in the different classes of ground.
3643. Do you think a youth who went in at 16 would, in all cases, when he arrived at 18, be entitled to demand a miner's wage? I would make no hard-and-fast rule.
3644. It would depend upon the individual? Yes.
3645. As to the shift-bosses and foremen having certificates. Of course, there is no Board in existence now that could give them; but, if there were, do you think it would be an advantage that these officials should possess them? I do not see it.
3646. I suppose you would have to get all the mines in the different colonies in line before you could work it well? Yes; I feel that if I had fifty certificates I would not be any better than I am now. That is my own feeling in the matter.
3647. In reference to the minor accidents, it has been suggested that a Board of Inquiry should be appointed, to consist of representatives of the managers and the men; some have suggested twelve, others seven, and others three;—do you think it would be of any advantage to have such a Board to inquire into all minor accidents; or do you think an inquiry by the inspector would be sufficient? I would leave it to the inspector.
3648. *Mr. Pollinghorne.*] You say the men in your employ lose 15 per cent. of their time? Yes; of the underground men.
3649. Have you taken any notice whether this time is lost by the better class of men? I think it is about equally divided between the competent and the incompetent men.
3650. That, in your opinion, will not bear out the justification of men saying that they have to rush their work, in order to earn what is considered a livelihood, under the contract system? Yes; that is my idea.
3651. I believe the system of sinking a shaft, as adopted in Block 10, is a little bit different from that adopted in some of the other mines; I believe you use the windlass? Yes.
3652. You do not use the air-winch? We have used it, but are not using it now.
3653. Do you think the same precaution should be taken with sinking with an air-winch as when sinking with a windlass? I think 100 feet is quite far enough to sink in all cases.
3654. You believe that explosives should be kept in canisters, and provision made for a penalty where a breach of that is committed? Yes.
3655. You quite agree that the regulations should be such that the men should be get-at-able as well as the companies? Yes.
3656. I dare say you have read the Regulations under the Mining Act of this Colony? Yes.
3657. Do you think they are sufficient? There is room for improvement.
3658. One or two of the regulations have been questioned, especially the rule restricting the quantity of explosives to 6 lb., that a workman should have in his possession at one time in any one place;—you do not consider that quantity sufficient? I do not.
3659. And you consider a regulation a very poor one which must, of necessity, be broken? Yes; and I consider

- consider the first clause (sub-section *a* of Rule 3), as to carrying a week's supply into the mine, is a big mistake. J. Warren.
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3660. You have your explosives stored above ground in magazines—not stored down in the mine? Yes; the men take down at 8 o'clock in the morning, and 4 o'clock in the afternoon, what they require.
3661. Tho 6 lb. provided for in the Regulations is not sufficient? No; not for machine-drilled holes.
3662. Then that sub-section should be amended? Yes.
3663. And sub-section *d* should also, you think, be amended? Yes.
3664. And sub-section *e*? Yes; I think the tamping should be unrammed to within a couple of inches of the explosive.
3665. If 1 foot of fine tamping, say sand, were put into a hole, and the charge missed fire, would it be necessary to withdraw any of that tamping? Yes.
3666. Do you not think that the insertion of another cartridge on top of that fine tamping would be sufficient to explode the previous charge? I do not think it is to be relied upon. I would certainly recommend that portion of the tamping be withdrawn. In taking out the excavation for the buildings on the mine, the contractor exploded a hole some 10 or 12 feet deep, and shifted an immense body of rock. After the explosion a plug of dynamite intact was found in the bottom of the hole. Now, if the explosion of all the balance of that heavy charge was not sufficient to put off that plug, how much more chance is there of a miss with a light charge which has to force through 9 inches of material.
3667. How did you account for that plug being left intact? My impression is that the plug above it got across the hole, and this left a space between the two plugs, which acted as a cushion, and prevented the explosion of the first plug put in.
3668. You cannot say it was because of a defect in that plug? No.
3669. *His Honor.*] You cannot say whether that plug was used afterwards? No; I took it out; and it seemed sound enough.
3670. *Mr. Williams.*] You have studied the rules under the Mining Act, and endeavoured to carry them out? Yes.
3671. I suppose you would be surprised if I told you that you are the first witness who has said that? I would not be surprised at anything now-a-days.
3672. You believe in apprenticing boys? Yes.
3673. Underground? Yes.
3674. And on top? Yes; I am training boys now to look after the machinery.
3675. You are not in favour of certificates being issued to miners unless they are issued by some practical Board? No.
3676. You say that a certain number of the men under you are incompetent? Yes.
3677. In case any movement should be inaugurated to educate men to be better workmen, would you do anything to advance such a movement? Yes; I would be happy to do anything in that way.

William Rowe sworn and examined:—

3678. *Mr. Edwards.*] What is your name? William Rowe. W. Rowe.
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3679. You are underground manager of the Central Mine, the property of the Sulphide Corporation (Ashcroft's Process), Limited? Yes.
3680. What experience in mining have you had? I have had thirty-three years' experience.
3681. From what mines did you get your experience? From mines in England and Australia; it is hard to name them, there being so many.
3682. Have you been mining all through the thirty-three years? Yes.
3683. How long have you had charge of the Central? About four years.
3684. Have you noticed any increase in accidents in your mine lately? No; I cannot say that I have.
3685. How many fatal accidents have you had in that mine since you have had charge of it? Three.
3686. What were they caused by? One (Brokenridge's case) was by falling down a shaft.
3687. How was that occasioned? He got out of one cage, and fell down the other compartment. He came down on to the plat by the eastern compartment of the winding-shaft, and stepped across from the plat into the western shaft.
3688. *His Honor.*] He seemed to be under a mistake as to which compartment the cage was in;—absence of mind, apparently? Yes.
3689. *Mr. Edwards.*] What was the second accident? The man's name was Pendergast. He got into a disused drive. We had been firing some distance away, which shifted the ground in this old drive; and a sulphide rock fell upon him.
3690. Did his work take him into that place? No.
3691. I suppose the men firing did not know he was there? No.
3692. The third accident? The man's name was Harvey. He was engaged in drilling a hole in the open-stope on the 400 level; and a "tom" close by interfered with his position somewhat; and to have more convenience he knocked it out, with the result that stone came away and struck him down.
3693. It was said the other day that that accident was caused by want of sufficient timber to protect the ground;—is there any truth in that statement? Not in the least.
3694. The man who said that—Berndt—admitted that he was only speaking from hearsay;—is timber supplied in sufficient quantities to protect the ground where the men are working? Yes.
3695. Where are men supposed to get their timber? At different places. Some from the plat; and others have it taken to them.
3696. Is there any ground whatever for the statement that men incur risks through want of timber, through not being able to get it? Not that I am aware of.
3697. Do they lose time in looking for timber? It is provided in the contract that they have to take their timber from the plat.
3698. Is timber supplied there on all occasions for them? Yes.
3699. How many men have been employed—the average number—since you have been there? I could not say exactly what the average has been.
3700. How many have you now? 366 underground.
3701. How many on the surface? I do not know. 3702.

- W. Rowe. 3702. It has been stated that the ventilation in that mine is not sufficient; that places in the mine are unfit to work in;—is that true? It is false.
- 21 July, 1897. 3703. Are there any places in the mine where the air is light? Yes, one—the western main drive at the 500-foot level.
3704. Where is the air light there? Just in the drive itself.
3705. Are any means being taken to improve the air there? Yes; we have laid pipes.
3706. And you are pumping air down? We will be shortly; we have not started to do so yet.
3707. Are men working in the drive? Only a few.
3708. Do those men who are working there complain about the air? They have never complained to me.
3709. Where was Berndt working? In section No. 3, 500-foot level.
3710. Was that in the same drive? No.
3711. He had no reason to complain of section 3 in that level, so far as the air was concerned? No reason whatever.
3712. How was that supplied with air? By a cross-cut.
3713. Then, if he says that the ventilation is not sufficient there for the men to work comfortably, he is not saying what is correct? No.
3714. Have any other men complained? No; I have not heard anyone complain about that place.
3715. Are you there frequently? Yes; two or three times every shift.
3716. That is during the daytime? Yes.
3717. It has been said that the contract system is a cause of the increase in accidents;—is that your experience? No.
3718. What is your experience? I think if we had more contract we should have fewer accidents.
3719. Why;—does it bring about a better class of men? Yes.
3720. What is the average rate of wages in the Central under the contract system? From 10s. 6d. to 11s.
3721. It is said that in order to earn a daily wage of 9s. they have to hurry through their work, and are compelled to run risks they would not take if working on day-labour? I cannot see it.
3722. Who plots out the ground for them, and fixes the prices? I do.
3723. Can men working in the ordinary way, without bustling themselves, earn that money? Yes.
3724. From 10s. 6d. to 11s.? Yes.
3725. That is the average rate through the mine? Yes.
3726. Are the shift-bosses under you competent for their position? Yes.
3727. They have been chosen because of their being practical and experienced men? Yes.
3728. It has been said that you have some underground open-cuts in your mine, which are worked in a dangerous manner? I do not know how they bring it in.
3729. What height are they opened out to? Various heights. Generally from 10 to 12 feet above where the men are working.
3730. What is the width of that big open-cut on the 500-foot level? Fifty feet.
3731. What height? Twelve or 14 feet in one place; there are different stopes.
3732. When the men are working in that, how high above them is the back? About 12 to 14 feet from the ground-sill. Of course, it is worked up by timber to a considerable height.
3733. But the men are never more than 12 or 14 feet from the roof? No.
3734. Before putting the timber in, how do you make it safe? By building "pig-styes."
3735. When the stope is completed, and all worked out, what timber do you put in then? We then put in the permanent standing timber.
3736. Is that open chamber worked in a careless or reckless manner, or in such a manner as would lead to accident? No.
3737. Has any accident occurred there? No, excepting Harvey's accident.
3738. Did that take place there in that particular place? At the 400-foot level. The timber was standing round him at the time.
3739. It was in one of those chambers? Yes.
3740. And it was timbered up? Yes.
3741. The permanent timber was standing? Yes.
3742. You say that he brought the accident upon himself by removing the "tom"? Yes.
3743. Who put in the "tom"? The timberman.
3744. With the exception of Harvey's case, have you had any accident underground at all? Yes; the cases I have already cited—the accident in the disused drive and the fall down the shaft.
3745. Has any accident been occasioned through want of timber? No.
3746. Is everything done there by yourself and your subordinates to protect the men from injury? Yes, everything possible.
3747. Do you find you always get competent men? A number of them are very inferior—very incompetent men.
3748. What are some of the minor accidents that have happened to men? In one case a man missed a drill, and knocked the tip off one of the fingers of his mate. In another case a man's ear was partly knocked off from the same cause.
3749. Those are accidents which it is impossible to guard against? Yes.
3750. What do you do with men of that sort? Send them off.
3751. Have you had occasion to discharge many men for incompetency? Yes, a good few.
3752. Have you done anything to get good men? Yes.
3753. I believe the Central Mine imported men from Ballarat? Yes.
3754. Was the local labour market exhausted before that was done? Yes.
3755. Do you know Shinnick? Yes.
3756. Is he a competent miner? I do not think he is fit to hand tools to.
3757. Did he do any work while down on the one shift he was there? Very little.
3758. He is not a safe man to be entrusted with tools? No.
3759. As to this man Berndt;—have you anything to say with regard to him? Only that he has not been mining more than twelve months. Previous to that he was mullocking.
3760. How long should a man be underground before he could be considered as a miner? Not less than five or six years. Of course, some learn faster than others.

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3761. Berndt told us that it was the practice to fire shots too large underground, and that the ground was insufficiently secured and timbered;—if that does take place, is it the fault of the management or the fault of the men? 7 feet 4 inches is the deepest hole ever fired in the Central.
3762. Berndt said that there was not only an insufficiency of timber, but that the laths shot away were not replaced? It is the men's duty to replace the laths they shoot away.
3763. And whose duty is it to report where laths have been shot away and not replaced? The men's. They should report to the shift-bosses.
3764. And if that is done are repairs effected at once? Yes.
3765. Is it the practice of the men to strip the floors? Yes.
3766. And that is to save themselves the trouble of going to the plat for fresh timber? Yes.
3767. When you catch a man doing that, what do you do? Discharge him.
3768. At once? Yes.
3769. Is the stripping of the floors a matter of frequent complaint? Yes. It is a very hard matter to find out who are the men who strip the floors.
3770. *His Honor.*] What is the rule in the stopes as to stripping floors or leaving floors open? If we find the men who do it we discharged them.
3771. Is it the rule to leave every floor covered until all under is filled? Yes; that is the rule of the mine.
3772. Unless used as a shoot; and then they are railed off? Yes.
3773. *Mr. Edwards.*] I suppose sometimes those handrails are knocked down? Yes.
3774. Is it the duty of the men to report that to the shift-bosses? Yes.
3775. Do they do it? Very seldom.
3776. Shinnick said that when he was taken down there they had to walk on the caps and struts for a long distance to get to their work? Of course they would be covered over with laths.
3777. I understood him to say that they walked simply on the naked struts and naked caps;—could that happen without your noticing it? No.
3778. Is there any place in the mine, where men are at work, to reach which they have to walk on the tops of the caps and struts? Not that I am aware of.
3779. He said that as far as he could see there was no one to care for or watch whether the floors were covered or not? A man is employed in those stopes purposely to keep those floors covered and to see to the guard-rails.
3780. *His Honor.*] What do you call him? The timberman.
3781. That is part of his duty? That is his duty.
3782. *Mr. Edwards.*] Kelly blames the timberman for throwing a lump of sulphide on to his toe;—was the timberman to blame in that case? The man himself was to blame.
3783. It was Kelly's own fault? Yes.
3784. How did the accident come about? A stone was standing on the timber, which the men on the previous shift had tried to bar down. When Kelly and his mate came on they broke it with a hammer, and neglected to take down some loose stone, leaving it standing on the timber.
3785. If they had taken down that loose stone, the accident would not have happened? No.
3786. Was it his duty to have made the place secure before commencing work? Yes; every man is supposed to secure his own place.
3787. How far back from the face should the timber be when you are using big shoots? In some cases 12 to 20 feet.
3788. The timber is put as close to the face as the shooting will permit? Yes.
3789. And that is a matter left to the discretion of the men? Yes.
3790. You say the deepest hole you have put in is 7 feet 4 inches? Yes.
3791. Is the practice of "bulling" a dangerous one? Very seldom we "bull" any holes in the Central.
3792. Is it a dangerous practice? I cannot see it.
3793. In case you do "bull" a hole, what time do you think should elapse until you put the charge in? That would depend upon the position of the hole. If you could water it, the charge might be put in within half an hour. Where you have to let the hole cool naturally, I should say leave it two and a half hours.
3794. In the case of missed-holes, what plan do you adopt? We take out the tamping.
3795. You would not go down to the charge itself? No.
3796. And you then fire another primer? Yes.
3797. *His Honor.*] How near to the charge do you think it is safe to go, and proper to go, so as to ensure the charge going off? It would certainly depend upon the depth of the hole.
3798. What thickness of tamping would you leave between the primer and the charge? About 8 or 10 inches.
3799. You think the primer would be sure to explode the charge with that thickness of tamping between? Yes; I do not remember seeing any miss at that distance. Of course it would depend a lot upon how you rammed. With a very loose hole it would be safe to leave a foot.
3800. Then the distance would depend on the solidity or looseness of the tamping? Yes.
3801. Would you consider it too risky to take the tamping out to within 3 or 4 inches of the original charge? I would not care about doing it myself.
3802. You would not go so close? No.
3803. *Mr. Edwards.*] In reference to Kelly, do you know that he complained about the place he worked in? He was only there an hour and a half.
3804. When he first went to work, did he complain about the place—did he make any report to the shift-boss? It was not reported to me.
3805. Have you ever known of missed-holes to be brought about owing to bad fuse? One has been reported to me.
3806. Was the fuse proved to be bad in that case? Yes.
3807. It did not go off at all, I suppose? No.
3808. Some fuse has knots or joints in it, I believe;—are the men compelled to use that? They generally cut the joint off.
3809. What is the character of the explosives you get—good or bad? Very good.
3810. The men are in the habit, I believe, of clearing out of the face as soon as the whistle goes;—would it

- W. Rowe. it be safer if the change of shift were to take place at the face instead of at the plat or brace as at present?
 In my opinion it would.
- 21 July, 1897. 3811. Have you ever known dangerous ground to be left in the face? Yes.
 3812. And the mates coming on have not been aware of it? Just so.
 3813. I suppose some of them are really reckless and careless, and indifferent as to how their faces are left? Yes.
 3814. Would it inconvenience the men if the change took place at the face? It would make them a few minutes later in getting up.
 3815. What average would it be throughout the Central? It might be ten minutes.
 3816. And you think accidents could be avoided in that way? I do.
 3817. Could that accident of Harvey's have been avoided in that way? No.
 3818. That was not on the change? No.
 3819. You think it might prevent accidents, through dangerous places being left, and the out-going shift not acquainting their mates of them? Yes.
 3820. Have you ever known missed-holes to be left in the face? Yes, but very few.
 3821. Have the mates been informed? Yes, always.
 3822. Do you think there would be fewer accidents under the day-labour system than under contract? I think there would be less accidents under contract than on day-labour.
 3823. Why? Because then we should get a better class of men.
 3824. There would be fewer accidents under the contract system than on day-labour? Yes.
 3825. You are working on contract now? Only about one-half.
 3826. You think if the contract system were adopted right through the mine there would be fewer accidents? Yes.
 3827. You would get a better class of men? Yes.
 3828. I suppose it is impossible to tell whether a man is a miner or not until you have seen him at work? It is very hard to say whether a man is a miner or not until you have seen him at work.
 3829. You cannot tell well unless you see a man at work? No.
 3830. Do you think a system of apprenticing youths to mining would be a good thing to provide for? Yes; that would enable us to get a better class of men than we have at present.
 3831. At what age should boys be apprenticed? From 16 to 18.
 3832. What time should they serve? Five years.
 3833. It would take that time to make them miners? Yes.
 3834. In reference to the machinery you have there, is it in good order? Yes; so far as I am aware.
 3835. I think most of your plats and principal workings are lighted by electricity? Yes.
 3836. Does that go through the mine? Yes, to different parts.
 3837. In taking the explosives into the mine, how are they carried—what are they carried in? Canisters.
 3838. Specially provided by the mine? Yes.
 3839. Do you think that 6 lb. of explosive is sufficient to be in use at one time? Yes.
 3840. Could you work the mine with that? Yes.
 3841. Supposing you were working with machine drills? Then very likely it would take 6 lb. for one hole.
 3842. It would not be sufficient then? They would have to travel to the magazine oftener.
 3843. If you had eight holes, they would have to make eight trips to the magazine? Yes.
 3844. That would be waste of time? Yes.
 3845. Is 6 lb. an unreasonable amount for one hole? No.
 3846. Where are the explosives kept? Underground. We have magazines on the different levels underground, away from the drives.
 3847. You have no underground rules? No.
 3848. You work under the Government regulations? As near as possible.
 3849. How do you instruct the men as to what they are not to do? Verbally. I either do it myself or the shift-bosses do it.
 3850. Do you frequently instruct them? Yes, very often, when there is cause for it.
 3851. All your orders and working rules are given to the men verbally by the shift-bosses and yourself? Yes.
 3852. To what depth would you sink an uncovered shaft without protection in the shape of pent-houses to the men? 200 or 300 feet.
 3853. Would you work with the whole three compartments open? I would close one and a piece.
 3854. That would be half of the shaft with a pent-house over it, and the other half open? Yes.
 3855. Is that the practice you have adopted lately? That is the practice I have seen adopted at different places.
 3856. I think you put down the new (Kintore's) shaft? Yes.
 3857. What depth is that? 670 feet.
 3858. How was that sunk? It was sunk in different sections.
 3859. At the same time? Yes; sunk from the surface to the 500-foot level in sections.
 3860. How many different sections? Four.
 3861. Were they all worked at the same time? Yes.
 3862. All worked in the same way? No; some up and some down.
 3863. That was carried through without any accident? Yes.
 3864. And I believe it came out within an inch? Yes.
 3865. What was the distance between the lifts there? 100 feet.
 3866. Do you think the appointment of additional inspectors will prevent accidents? I do not think so, myself.
 3867. I suppose you are not afraid of an inspection at any time? I would not care if an inspector were kept in the mine.
 3868. Provided, of course, he was a competent man? Yes, of course.
 3869. Your mine is open at any time for inspection? Yes.
 3870. Additional inspection would not make any difference to the way in which you are working your mine, so far as safety is concerned? No.
 3871. You are doing everything to prevent accidents happening to men? Yes.

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3872. You have heard said something about a "butcher's bill" from Broken Hill? Yes.
3873. You say that everything is done to take care of the men? Yes.
3874. A suggestion has been made that a Board of Inquiry should be appointed to inquire into minor accidents;—do you think the inspectors should be sufficient in themselves to make those inquiries; or do you think a Board of Inquiry would be of any assistance to the men? I think the inspector is quite sufficient to make all inquiries.
3875. Are all your accidents reported at once? Yes; as soon as we can send word.
3876. Did you report that accident where the man received an injury to his ear, and that other one where the man lost the tip of his finger? The "injured ear" accident occurred a long while back; but the "finger-tip" accident, which occurred more recently, was reported.
3877. So the smallest accidents are reported at once? Yes.
3878. To the inspector? Yes.
3879. In reference to the engineers at the surface whose duty it is to lower and raise the men: should they be certificated men? Yes.
3880. How many engine-drivers should there be in the engine-house at the one time? I should think one would be quite sufficient.
3881. It has been suggested that the driver might fall down in a fit: do you think that two being in there would tend to prevent accident? That depends upon the class of engine. Some engines are so constructed that, directly the driver takes his hand off the handle, action is stopped.
3882. I suppose two men would be likely to produce accidents? Yes; they might engage in conversation, and allow it to interfere with their strict attention to their work.
3883. I suppose the drums on all your engines are fitted with strong brakes? Yes.
3884. And all your cages are supplied with safety appliances? Yes.
3885. And you tell us that an ordinary, competent man can, under the contract system, earn a fair day's wage without any hurry or bustle at all? Yes.
3886. Do you notice any unnecessary loss of time on the part of the contractors? Yes.
3887. About how much? Twenty to twenty-five are absent after every pay.
3888. I suppose that is owing to their drinking habits? I could not say, because I have never seen them there drunk.
3889. If they are drunk you do not allow them on the mine? No.
3890. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You say that safety appliances are attached to your cages now in use? Yes.
3891. Do you think it should be made compulsory that they be attached to every cage used for lowering and raising men? Yes.
3892. And that the latest appliances to prevent overhauling of the cage should be used? Yes.
3893. *Mr. Edwards.*] The latest appliances are not always the best? No.
3894. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] We will say the latest approved appliances? Yes.
3895. As to the question of having an extra engine-driver on duty at change of shifts. You will admit that there is a probability of a man's falling down in a fit while engaged in drawing a load of men to the surface? It would be a very rare occurrence.
3896. But it is possible? Yes; nothing is impossible.
3897. You have seen men down your mine fall to the ground with fits? I cannot say that I have, although I have heard of it.
3898. I have seen them. They have appeared as well as you could wish to see a man, and, without any warning, have fallen down in a fit. If that occurs underground, it is quite possible it may occur on the surface, and the engine-driver may be the man; and it is quite possible that, at the time, he might have twelve men or more at his mercy. Generally, on a railway train, if they have a distinguished party on board, such as the Governor or the Commissioners, you find two of the most careful men obtainable in charge; and, on the same principle, I think that while the men are being hauled up a shaft, two men should be on duty. Of course, the extra man need not be on duty longer than it takes the shifts to change. Do you think then, taking all things into consideration, that the extra cost that would be involved, would be sufficient to put against the possibility of a dozen men being dashed into eternity? I have never known yet of two drivers being stationed in the engine-house; and I do not think it is necessary.
3899. It has been commonly said in Broken Hill that the open-cut system underground is being carried on to a dangerous extent;—what is the usual height in opening out on to the sills? 10 to 12 feet.
3900. Then you clean out and put your sill-timber in? Yes.
3901. That is sufficient room to enable you to put your sill-timber in so that you can build from it? Yes.
3902. A man is then in a position to watch the ground above his head? Yes.
3903. In the case of Pendrieth. It has been stated by you that you thought he was in an unused drive, which he had no right to be in? Yes.
3904. Was that drive unnecessarily dangerous? Just around the entrance from the stope there was some ground hanging loosely.
3905. Was there a possibility of guarding that old drive so that men could not use it? You would have to put the guards very thick to keep them out. When a man wants to smoke, he gets into some very curious places.
3906. You said, in respect to apprenticing, that by putting boys underground the tendency would be to breed a better class of men to take the place of the incompetent men now at work on the Barrier? Yes.
3907. You think the only way to breed a good class of miners is to train men up from their boyhood? Yes.
3908. Do you think you could do anything towards making proficient miners out of the incompetent men now on the Barrier? No.
3909. You said it would be necessary for apprentices to serve five or six years? Yes.
3910. You do not mean to say that it would take your son six years before he could do as much work as you? I do not know.
3911. Well, take the average boy? That is a question very hard to answer.
3912. You do not think six years should be the fixed limit? Very likely my son would learn more from a stranger. I think it is a very bad habit to put the son to work with his father.
3913. Should it be a fixed limit, or be left to the discretion of the manager? I certainly think it should be left to the manager.

3914.

- W. Rowe:
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3914. If you had a fixed time, it would bear very hard on some of the young fellows who could learn in a shorter time? Yes.
3915. You think the general rule that explosives should be kept in a case or canister should be adhered to? Yes.
3916. What, in your opinion, would be the best course to take to compel men to comply with the regulations;—would you impose penalties? Yes.
3917. Both for the company and for the men? Yes.
3918. Do you think that in all cases it is necessary to change in the face? Yes, I do.
3919. You say that you have magazines at different levels underground? Yes.
3920. Are these magazines close to the men? Yes. Men are employed whose duty it is to charge holes, and they take the explosives from the magazines, and distribute them wherever required. In the case of contractors, they have their dynamite delivered to them by the shift-bosses in such quantities as they require.
3921. You have your own regulation in that respect, which you consider quite good enough for all requirements? Yes.
3922. You think the 6 lb. provided for in the Act is not sufficient? Not for machine-drills.
3923. It is necessary that that regulation should be altered? Yes.
3924. *Mr. Williams.*] You would not confine your teaching to boys? I would have no objection to training an intelligent man; but I would not give him 9s. a day during his apprenticeship.
3925. Is that plat where the man fell down the shaft in the same condition now as regards light as it was when I worked there? Exactly the same.
3926. What light do you get there other than that thrown by your own candle? None whatever.
3927. Do you think the placing of a lamp there would prevent the recurrence of a similar accident? No, I do not. Very often men seem to go about with their eyes closed. If a candle is sufficient to work by, why is it not sufficient to light you to the cage?
3928. Is there any light at the 200-foot level in the south shaft? It has not been in use for two years.
3929. What about the middle shaft—that is, where the accident occurred? No; it was in the north shaft.
3930. You have got electric light on the plat in the new shaft? Yes.
3931. Do you bring men up shafts other than that? Yes; we bring them up the other shafts as well.
3932. Do you not think it would be better to have lights provided in the plats of those other shafts? I do not see any necessity for it. I do not see that it would be any advantage to have a light on the plat, and I have never heard of that being done, only on the Hill.
3933. Have you been down any collieries? Yes; I have seen a light there on the plat. They generally have a lamp.
3934. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] I believe it is the custom to have guard-rails put up to the shafts? Yes.
3935. Were there guard-rails at this particular plat from which the man fell? Yes; he admitted himself that he stooped under the guard-rail.
3936. *His Honor.*] What is the height of the guard-rail? About 3 ft. 6 in.
3937. *Mr. Edwards.*] All places like that have hand-rails to them? Yes.
3938. *His Honor.*] It is not usual to light the plat? It depends upon the amount of traffic. If there is a great amount of traffic we might provide light, but not otherwise.
3939. *Mr. Edwards.*] Do you know of any mine in the world where men are better cared for and better paid than they are here? No.

THURSDAY, 22 JULY, 1897.

Jeremiah Andrew sworn and examined:—

- J. Andrew.
22 July, 1897.
3940. *Mr. Edwards.*] What is your name? Jeremiah Andrew.
3941. You are shift-boss on the Central Mine? Yes.
3942. I think you were the shift-boss when Christopher Kelly was employed there? Yes.
3943. When he met with the accident to his foot? Yes.
3944. If Kelly had taken the precaution that an ordinarily careful man would take, could he have prevented that accident? Yes.
3945. Was the ground safe enough for a man to work in? Yes.
3946. Is it true that sufficient timber was not supplied to the men to enable them to secure themselves? There has always been plenty of timber in the mine since I have been there.
3947. Has any person ever asked for timber, and been refused it? Not to my knowledge.
3948. How long have you been in the mine? Nearly four years altogether.
3949. Where is the timber placed in the mine? In the plat, chiefly.
3950. And where have the contractors to get it? On my shift, they had it trucked into them.
3951. Do you know if any delay has ever occurred in supplying contractors who have asked for timber, on your shift? No.
3952. It is said that the air in the Central is very bad,—is there any truth in that? It is not very bad there now.
3953. How is the air at the 400 and 500-foot levels? The 400-foot level is pretty good.
3954. And the 500? I do not work there.
3955. Where was Kelly working? On the 400 level.
3956. These big open stopes are on both levels? Yes.
3957. On the 500 and on the 400? Yes.
3958. He says the one on the 400 level is worked in a dangerous manner? It is quite safe enough if a man attends to his work properly; it is well secured with timber.
3959. How far above the men's heads is the back kept as a rule? Only one set; that is the usual height, of course.
3960. In the open-cut, I mean? About two sets.
3961. That would be about 14 feet? Yes.
3962. As they get higher, do you bring timber after them? Yes, as fast as we can get it in.
3963. And should there be any dangerous ground, pending the placing of this timber in position, how do you support it? We put in bulkheads, or "pig-styes."

3964. Have you ever known any accidents, except that one to Kelly, to occur in those underground open-cuts? Not since I have been there. J. Andrew.
3965. Are they worked in a way safe to the men? Yes. The hanging stone (if any) is always barred down before the men go in to work. 22 July, 1897.
3966. Wages men are employed to bar down before the contractors are allowed to go to work in these places? Yes.
3967. Can you see anything further that could be done by the boss to protect the men from accident further than what is being done at present? Everything possible has been done; and, if men meet with accidents, it is their own fault.
3968. What is the deepest hole you have fired on your shift? About 6 feet.
3969. It has been said that too large charges are put in, and that the holes are too deep to be safe for the men;—is that an exaggeration, or is it the fault of the men if it is done? That I cannot say. I have been charging there for six months, and have not met with any such case.
3970. As "powder-monkey"? Yes.
3971. Was it your experience that charges were too heavy? No; I have never charged a hole too heavily that I know of.
3972. Do you "bull" the holes? No; we have "bulled" no holes since I have been there.
3973. What do you work with? Hammer and drill.
3974. Are machine drills used in those big open stopes? Not at present.
3975. Were they used? Not since the open-cuts were started.
3976. Was it on your shift that Kelly met with his accident? Yes.
3977. How was it occasioned? It occurred through his doing work that he need not have done—through doing work I told him not to do.
3978. You told him to let that stone alone? Yes; it had been there a good while.
3979. Was it safe? Yes; we had tried it on several occasions. He went up with a hammer, and broke it down, but did not take the trouble to notice that other stuff came from behind, a piece of which, later on, came down on to his foot.
3980. Was there anything to prevent his taking down that stone that fell on his foot? No; it was lying there, and he had only to take his pick and send it along to where the other stone went. If he had left the first stone alone the accident would not have happened.
3981. Did you tell him to leave it alone? Yes; and the men working alongside told him to leave it alone.
3982. Is it the practice of the men going off shift to point out to their mates coming on the condition of the face; or do they clear out of the stope as fast as they can, and get up to the surface? They generally meet their mates; sometimes, however, they miss them.
3983. Would it not be better if they had an opportunity of pointing out to their mates the condition of the face? It might be; but I have worked in a place, and never knew who my mates were. I never saw them.
3984. I suppose it would have been safer for them if you could have pointed out to them the condition of the face? It might be a little safer to adopt that plan; but, as I have said, very often you do not know who is following you.
3985. But, by changing in the face, you would know then who were your mates? Yes.
3986. If the change of shift took place in the face, would it delay the men much? It would make a considerable difference to the men getting up.
3987. What time? Half an hour.
3988. Not to every man? No; but it would take some men longer than that.
3989. But, even though it would incur a delay, would it not tend to minimise accidents? It might.
3990. Do men leave missed-holes in the face? Sometimes.
3991. Would it not be better to lose half an hour than have it in your mind ever afterwards that you caused another man's death? But you can see your mate, and tell him of any danger.
3992. But supposing you missed him? The other one would stay down for the next cage, and would be sure to meet him.
3993. But, apart altogether from the delay it might incur, do you not really think it would be safer if men were compelled to meet their mates in the face, and point out to them anything dangerous? It would be better, I suppose, as far as that goes.
3994. Is every care taken in lowering and raising men in the mine? Yes.
3995. In reference to the men employed there: are they all competent men, or otherwise? No; some of them are sent up very soon after they come down.
3996. They are not fit to go into a mine? No.
3997. How long did Kelly work in that mine? About an hour and a half.
3998. Then you cannot say whether he is a miner or not? No.
3999. *His Honor.*] Could you not tell by the way he shaped? I never stopped to see him shape. I had a lot of other work to attend to after I pointed out to him his place.
4000. There is nothing for you to go by then? No. When I got back, he was hurt.
4001. *Mr. Edwards.*] There are no written or printed rules for the underground working in that mine? No.
4002. Do you give your men instructions when you put them on? Yes, sometimes; but I do not put them on—the manager does that.
4003. But when you put them into a stope to work, I mean? I give them instructions then.
4004. Supposing new men come in, do you give them any advice or instructions what to do? Yes; I always tell them what to do.
4005. Do you know Shinnick? I am not acquainted with him, but I know him by seeing him around the town.
4006. You have never seen him working in a mine, and do not know whether he is a miner or not? No.
4007. Do you think the contract system has anything to do with the increase in accidents? Not the way they work there, because all they have to do is to bore holes.
4008. Have they time to do their work well and carefully, having regard to their own safety, and earn a full day's wage each shift? Yes.
4009. Is there any necessity for them to bustle over their work, or to take unnecessary risks, in order to earn at the rate of 9s. a day? I do not think so.

- J. Andrew.
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4010. Do you think that, if there were additional inspectors, any further precautions could be taken in the mine than are taken at present? I do not think it would make much difference. We always do all we can for the safety of the men.
4011. You say the timber is lying handy to the men to secure the ground if they like to use it? Yes.
4012. You do not know the particulars of Harvey's case from your own observation? No; I know nothing about his case.
4013. I suppose the use of metal tamping bars is prohibited altogether in underground work? Yes.
4014. Only softwood tamping-bars are used? Yes.
4015. *His Honor.*] What is your opinion as to tamping down a charge of gunpowder? We never use it.
4016. Supposing you were to use it, would you then require some sort of metal bar, or would the wooden tamping-bar be heavy enough? I think a wooden tamping-bar would be as good as any other.
4017. You think you could get enough pressure on the powder with a wooden rod? Yes; I have charged several holes that way, and found the wooden rod to act all right.
4018. In any case, of course, you have got to get your tamping on to the charge, and your charge down into the hole, whether it is dynamite or anything else; and a wooden bar, you think, is sufficient at all times? Yes.
4019. *Mr. Edwards.*] What do you do if you have a missed-hole? I put in two or three more plugs, and fire.
4020. And, if they do not explode the charge, what do you do then? I would put in plugs and primers until she did go off.
4021. You would not put in a hole alongside it? No.
4022. It has been proposed that a Board of Inquiry be appointed to inquire into all accidents other than fatal ones;—do you think that would be of any benefit to the men, or do you think a report by the inspector would be sufficient? I think a report by the inspector would be quite sufficient.
4023. You think it would be quite sufficient if the inspector made an inquiry immediately after an accident occurred? Yes.
4024. In reference to the engines used for lowering and raising men;—how many drivers in the engine-house have you always seen? Only one at a time.
4025. Do you think that is sufficient? Yes.
4026. You do not think two are necessary? No.
4027. I suppose the probability of a driver's falling down in a fit is very remote? If a man fell off our engine, it would stop of its own accord.
4028. It works automatically? Upon a man's releasing his hold of the handle, steam is shut off, and the engine stops.
4029. Has there been an increase in accidents in the Central lately? No; there has been nothing very serious at all.
4030. With the exception of Harvey's accident? That is the only one.
4031. I believe men take the tips of their mates' fingers off sometimes, instead of hitting the drill? I have had that done several times to myself; at least, I have been knocked.
4032. A man has hit you on the hand instead of hitting the drill? Yes; and very often has hit me on the legs too.
4033. I suppose bad language is prohibited in the stopes? Yes; but of course it is enough to make a man use a little bad language when he gets a knock like that.
4034. I suppose you have had a good many years' experience underground in different mines? Yes.
4035. Where did you first start work? In Cornwall.
4036. In any of the mines that you have worked, was any precaution taken for the safety of the men that you have not noticed here? I think the Central is as good a mine as I have ever seen as regards taking care of the men. In other mines, I have seen the men left to themselves, in pairs; and any provision for their safety they had to make themselves.
4037. Here the men have shift-bosses always round amongst them? Yes.
4038. I suppose you went underground when you were young? When I was about 15.
4039. Do you think a system of apprenticeship here would raise the standard of the men as miners? I do not know; it might. A lot of boys do not care to go underground.
4040. I am speaking of boys 16 or 17 years of age? It would be a good thing, if they were allowed to go in with good men who would train them up.
4041. How long should a boy work before becoming fit to be called a miner? Some would get on in two or three years.
4042. It depends on the boy? Yes.
4043. In your mine, as in others, there is no distinction drawn, whether a man belongs to a union or anything else? No.
4044. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You say your name is Jeremiah Andrew? Yes.
4045. Can you tell His Honor what experience you have had underground—how many years' experience, approximately? It is four years since I did steady work underground. I have worked sometimes underground, and sometimes at other things.
4046. The principal part of your mining experience, I believe, has been picked up on the Barrier? The greatest part of it at the one stretch.
4047. Are you strictly a shift-boss in the Central Mine? Yes.
4048. Then it is not true that you are a "powder-monkey" in charge of a certain stope? Not now. I was a "powder-monkey."
4049. Is there not some place in the No. 4 level where the air is bad? No; there is one stope that is a little warm; but the air is not bad.
4050. Is there any possibility of getting sufficient air there to cool it? We have got appliances up at each end of the 400 to regulate the air.
4051. Oh, yes; that is, in the main drive? Yes.
4052. I believe everyone will admit that there is plenty of air going through the drive; but is it a fact that in some of the western workings there is not sufficient air? No; they are all pretty good.
4053. *His Honor.*] Do you adopt any means to throw the current into any place you find short of air; or do you let it find its own way? We let it find its own way.
4054. Do you know what bratticing is? Yes.

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4055. Have you ever adopted that plan? It has never been done there in my time.
4056. Do you not think you would get those places that are rather warm into better condition by trying that? It is not more than about 20 or 30 yards away from the main shaft.
4057. What causes the heat—does it seem to come out of the ground; or is it for want of air? It is coming out from the old stope.
4058. It seems to be something coming from the mine itself? Yes.
4059. Has it anything to do with any fire that is burning anywhere? No fire has been in the Central since I have been there.
4060. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Is it a fact that men, in order to secure themselves in the set where they are working, have to take away laths from other sets because of there not being sufficient laths sent underground to meet requirements? They do that of their own free will, because they will not go and get them.
4061. What do you do? If they take them away, we go and replace them.
4062. Is it not true that some of the stopes are quite void of laths, to the danger of the men working there? They are all covered over, to the best of my knowledge.
4063. And are always so kept? As far as they can be so kept. Sometimes firing breaks them down, and they have to be re-covered.
4064. With reference to Kelly's accident: you say he took down a piece of stone he had no right to take down;—was it necessary to take down that piece of stone before a set of timber could be put in? It was not in the road of any timber going in.
4065. Not in the road of laths that were being put over a set that had been put in? No.
4066. Then what was his object in taking it down? I could not say; I never asked him.
4067. He must have stated some reason when you told him it was all right, and to leave it there? He never said any more about it. Instead of working where I told him to, he went in the opposite direction altogether.
4068. And what was his reason for doing that? I am sure I could not tell you.
4069. What is the system adopted by the shift-bosses at change of shift;—is one of them supposed to remain in the plat? Not that I am aware of.
4070. Where are the shift-bosses at change of shift? In the changing-house.
4071. Until all the men are down? Yes.
4072. To adopt the system of changing in the face, what would be the result;—how long would the men going off have to wait in the face for the men coming on? I do not know; I have never yet seen it tried.
4073. *His Honor.*] Have you never been on a mine where that system was adopted? No.
4074. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Then you do not think it would be of great benefit to change in the face? I do not see where the benefit would come in.
4075. In regard to these open-cut stopes underground;—is it not a fact that some of them have been carried as high as 30 feet before any timber was put in? Not that I am aware of.
4076. What, in your opinion, is a safe height to go before the sills are put in? The ground is hard enough in our stopes to go as high as you like, if you could get up to shoot it down. It is all solid ground.
4077. Is it not very flawy ground, and likely to flake? It may be a bit flawy; but it is not bad.
4078. You think it is safe? I would sooner work in that cut than under the timber.
4079. It is not carried above two sets high? That is the most it has been carried since I have been there.
4080. You are speaking of the open-cut on your level? Yes.
4081. The present Mining Regulations do not provide that safety appliances shall be attached to the cages where men are being lowered or raised;—is it your opinion that there should be a regulation enforcing the adoption of safety appliances? I suppose it would be a good thing to have safety appliances.
4082. They are now in use, I believe, in the Central? I think so.
4083. *His Honor.*] Do you mean safety-brakes—safety catches? Yes.
4084. Is the safety-hook (a detachable hook to release the cage in case of overwinding) in use? I could not say.
- Mr. Polkinghorne:* I do not think they are, your Honor, from what the manager informed me. I think they have one of those disengaging hooks at the Proprietary.
4085. In how many mines did you work in the old country? Only one.
4086. Did they use the disengaging hook? Every man had to climb there: it was a ladder shaft.
4087. Shallow sinking? It was down about 80 fathoms.
4088. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Do you think an additional mining inspector is required for this mining field? I do not know. Perhaps it might not be out of place if there were another one, but I think one is sufficient.
4089. But you must bear in mind this district is of vast extent, and do you think the Hill should be without an inspector at any time? It would not be amiss to have an inspector here at all times in case there is anything requiring his attention.
4090. In order to have one here all the time, there must of necessity be two at least? Yes.
4091. You do not know much about the Mining Regulations under the Act? I have never read them; I have seen them posted up.
4092. What, in your opinion has been the principal cause of most of the accidents in this district during (say) the last two years? Through men not looking after themselves enough; they are in too much of a hurry to get over their work.
4093. What causes them to hurry over their work in such a manner? I suppose it is because they want to make as much money as they can.
4094. Are not the prices given for the work sufficient to enable them to get a fair average pay unless they hurry over it? Not in some places.
4095. Then men will rush through their work to make only a fair living? Yes; but I have seen men who were making 11s. and 12s. a day rushing through their work with the hope of making still more.
4096. I suppose you have seen some with very low pays? Yes; I have had very low pay myself, especially when working in Block 11.
4097. You did not work in Block 11 very long? I worked there long enough; I should be better off if I had never seen it.
4098. Did you work there long enough to recognise what was the cause of your having such a small pay? The price was not too bad if we had only had the dirt kept away from us.
4099. *His Honor.*] When was that? Twelve months ago.

4100.

- J. Andrew. 4100. *Mr. Edwards.*] I understand the cause was the delay in getting away the dirt that you broke down? Yes; the ore was coming too quickly; the shoots were full, and we could not get rid of it.
- 22 July, 1897. 4101. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] What was your experience as far as that block went;—was it worked as safely as it was possible to work it? I believe so; I never saw anything dangerous.
4102. You never heard of an accident while there? Nothing serious.
4103. *Mr. Edwards.*] Are the canisters in which to take ammunition into the mine used by the men? We used to have tins to carry the fractureur in.
4104. *His Honor.*] Are the tin canisters supplied now? We have now got wooden boxes in our mine.
4105. *Mr. Edwards.*] Made specially for ammunition? Yes.
4106. Are they considered to be better than metal boxes? They are just as good, I believe.
4107. Made with hinged lids? Yes.
4108. Good, strong hinges? Yes.
4109. And a clasp on the lid? There is no clasp.
4110. How are the lids kept down, then? They can only open a certain height; and, as soon as the fractureur has been put in, down they go.
4111. What size are those boxes? Handy for a man to carry about—not too heavy. They hold about two and a-half packages of fractureur.
4112. Have these been adopted because they are found, on the whole, to be better than metal boxes? I could not say.
4113. You do not know why they have been adopted? No. I think they were adopted because the tin boxes did not hold enough.
4114. What did the tin boxes hold? Only a packet.
4115. Are these wooden boxes carried backwards and forwards between the working-places and the magazine; or are they left in one place? They are taken to the magazine at the end of the shift, and locked up.
4116. The explosives are not carried in their own packets? No, in boxes.
4117. Are these boxes in use all over the mine? I believe so.
4118. They are, in your part? Yes; in the 400.
4119. Is it not a fact that those boxes were introduced because the men used the tin boxes as water-cans? I could not say. I have never seen any person since I have been there carrying water in the tin boxes.
4120. I believe the system in the Central is different from that in the other mines;—you have a man there to deliver the explosives when required? Any man who requires fractureur on my shift has to come to me for it. I keep the key in my pocket; and no contractor, or any man in the face, can get fractureur unless he comes to me.
4121. What brought about that? I think it was because of the magazine's having been set alight once or twice.
4122. *His Honor.*] It is the key of the magazine you keep? Yes.
4123. *Mr. Edwards.*] And you go yourself to the magazine? Yes; or if I am too busy, and the man who wants a charge is one I can trust, I give him the key, and let him go himself. Generally, I go myself.
4124. You or he takes the box to the magazine; and the explosives are placed in it? Yes.
4125. The boxes themselves are not locked? No; they are placed in the magazine, which itself is locked.
4126. But when in use at the stopes? They are not locked then.
4127. What do you use them for? To carry fractureur about while charging holes.
4128. Then you use the fractureur at once? Yes.
4129. And if there be any left over? I take it straight back to the magazine and lock it up.
4130. It is never allowed to be stored away in the stope for future use? No.
4131. That is a different system from that in force in any other mine? Yes.
4132. It is the best system, I suppose, in the opinion of the management? Yes.
4133. *His Honor.*] You do not know anything about the open-cut on the surface? No; I have never worked there, except for a little while some time back.
4134. *Mr. Williams.*] You have said something about the engine up at the Central stopping if the driver fell off his seat? So far as I am informed, it will.
4135. Have you ever seen it done? No.
4136. Who informed you that it would? The underground manager.
4137. When did he tell you? Before ever she was put in.
4138. You do not know of your own knowledge that it is so? I have never seen it proved.
4139. You say you worked in Cornwall? Yes.
4140. What mine? The Great Western Tin-mine.
4141. Where is that mine situated? In the western part of Cornwall.
4142. How long did you work in Cornwall? I was there several years.
4143. How long did you work underground as a miner? I was underground with my brother for several years.
4144. How many years have you worked in this country at mining? About five or six years altogether.
4145. Have you been working continuously at mining since you have been on the Barrier? No.
4146. What have you been at other than mining since you came to the Barrier? On the open-cut.
4147. Whom did you work for? Bennett.
4148. You found things conducted pretty well while he was there? Yes.
4149. There were very few accidents under Bennett? There were none very serious.
4150. Some occurred after he left? I think so.
4151. From what you know of Bennett, you think he was a fairly competent man to be in charge of a quarry? Yes.

Richard Parkinson Finan sworn and examined:—

- R. P. Finan. 4152. *Mr. Edwards.*] What is your name? Richard Parkinson Finan.
- 22 July, 1897. 4153. What are you in the Central Mine? A shift-boss.
4154. How long have you been mining? As near as I can recollect, fifteen or sixteen years.
4155. Where did you get your experience? In pretty well all the colonies, excepting New Zealand.
4156. In quartz? In quartz and alluvial. 4157.

R. P. Finan.
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4157. What level are you shift-boss on? The 400-foot level.
4158. Do you know a man named Shinnick? Yes; I believe such a man worked on my shift.
4159. How long did he work? As near as I can recollect, one shift.
4160. Did he work through that shift? Yes.
4161. He said he was not provided with tools, or timber, or anything else to go on with? There was an abundance of timber, and plenty of tools, if he had looked for them.
4162. Did he ask for the tools? Yes.
4163. Did you give them to him? I went round myself and got him the tools.
4164. Was there any difficulty placed in his way by the shift-boss? No.
4165. Was the ground ready for him? Yes.
4166. Did he shape well? From what little I saw of him, I would not say he was a miner.
4167. He tells us he had to walk over the naked struts and caps to get to his work;—is that so? No.
4168. Are the floors and the stopes leading up to his place covered? Yes.
4169. Are all the floors intact; or do you sometimes take them up? They are never taken up, to my knowledge.
4170. Are any of them stripped of the laths? It is decidedly against the rules to strip the floors of their laths.
4171. If laths are stripped, who does it? We generally try to find out who strips them, and, if we get hold of the parties, they do not come there any more to work. I have not heard of anyone stripping the laths on my shift.
4172. What do you do if you catch them? They are sent up.
4173. To get their time? Yes.
4174. In the open stopes, how far do you keep the back from where the men are working;—what is the greatest distance? The average distance would be 10 or 11 feet.
4175. Would two sets be the limit? That is the limit.
4176. About 14 feet? Yes.
4177. It is said they are worked in a dangerous manner? They are worked as safely as it is possible to work them.
4178. Is there any precaution not attended to which could be adopted with a view to prevent accidents, as far as you can see, in the Central? Not so far as I can see.
4179. How long have you been working in the Central? Four months.
4180. Where were you working before then? I had just come from Victoria; but previous to that I had about six years' experience on the Hill.
4181. In what mines? Block 11 chiefly, the Proprietary, the British, and Block 10.
4182. Have you noticed any increase in the number of accidents during the last six months? I have never taken any particular notice.
4183. I mean in your mine;—have there been any accidents on your shifts? No.
4184. Not necessarily a fatal accident, but any serious accident? No serious accident has happened on my shift.
4185. How do you find the men down there;—are they experienced men? You do see good men, but they are very scarce.
4186. You see a good man sometimes? Yes.
4187. What are all the rest? Duffers.
4188. How are explosives used in your mine? They are taken to the magazine; and from the magazine the men take them as they want them.
4189. What do they carry them in? A wooden box.
4190. You were not on the shift when Kelly dropped a piece of mullock on his toe? No; I was not.
4191. Do you know anything at all about Harvey's case? That was before my time.
4192. How is the air in that level? The general run of the air is very good. It is a little hot in some places.
4193. Is that owing to the want of ventilation, or to the heat of the ground? It is the natural heat from the ground, I think.
4194. That is in the sulphide stopes, I suppose? Yes.
4195. It is brought about by the decomposition of the sulphide ore? Yes.
4196. The decomposition of the ore throws out this heat? Yes.
4197. Apart from the heat, is the air good? Of course you cannot expect the quality of the air to be too good in those hot places.
4198. At change of shift the men do not report to their mates coming on the condition of the face? Sometimes they do not.
4199. I suppose sometimes they do not know who is going to follow them? No, sometimes they do not.
4200. I suppose they leave dangerous places in the face sometimes? If there are any dangerous places, they generally tell the shift-boss; and he tells his mate.
4201. They sometimes forget to tell the shift-boss? I do not know; I cannot say that.
4202. Of course you would hear nothing at all about it if they did? No.
4203. Supposing the change of shift took place in the face, they would be able to acquaint their mates then of the exact condition of the face; and that might prevent accident? To a certain extent it would.
4204. It might occasion men a little loss of time on each shift? Yes.
4205. Are the men on contract rushed about in their work, or have they plenty of time to protect the ground, and still knock out a fair day's pay for a fair day's work? It all depends on the kind of men contracting.
4206. A competent miner could knock out a fair average wage? According to the prices now, they ought to. The prices are better now than what I have seen them.
4207. In working in other mines in Victoria, either quartz or alluvial, have you ever found any places where the men are better looked after than on the Barrier. Of course, in some of the small mines, you can look after the men better; but, in big mines—for instance, the Star of the East, in Ballarat—the men there are looked after no better than, if as well as, the miners on the Barrier.
4208. What depth is that mine working? Something considerably over 1,000 feet.
4209. Do you find the air in the Central as good as the air in that mine? It is far better.

- R. P. Finan. 4210. You never find miners there troubled with "miners' complaint"? No; I have never heard of such a thing on the Barrier.
- 22 July, 1897. 4211. That is a common complaint over there, is it not? Yes.
4212. *His Honor.*] It is a form of lung disease? Yes; it is a lung disease.
4213. A form of consumption peculiar to miners? Yes.
4214. *Mr. Edwards.*] I think it is attributed solely to bad air? Yes.
4215. Are those underground open chambers in the Central worked in a careful manner, or are they worked in a reckless or dangerous manner? I have never seen them worked in a reckless or dangerous manner.
4216. Is the back always within sufficient reach of the men working at it? Not from the sill; but there is always timber there for them to build a "pig-stye," to see what the back is like.
4217. Is there any scarcity of timber at all for the men there? No; I cannot say that I ever saw what you may call a scarcity of timber. You would never see a piece of bad ground underground, but what you would find timber to hold it up, without stripping the laths from the floors.
4218. I believe some men would rather strip the floors off the stopes than go to the plat for timber? Yes; some would do it.
4219. Did this man Shinnick give any reason for leaving his shift? Not to me, personally. I believe he said the price was insufficient.
4220. It was the price, and not the bare struts, that frightened him? I do not think it could have been the latter.
4221. That statement that he had to walk over naked struts and naked caps, and over high, floorless stopes, is untrue? To my knowledge it is untrue.
4222. It was on your portion of the mine, and you ought to know whether it is true or not? It is untrue.
4223. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Have you noticed any increase in the number of accidents during the last six months on the Barrier? I have not been here six months.
4224. Did you not say you were engaged on the Barrier for a period of six years some time previously? Yes.
4225. How long were you away from the Barrier? About eighteen months.
4226. Then it is within two years since you worked on the Barrier before? Yes.
4227. During the time you have been back have you noticed any increase in the number of accidents, compared with what there were before you went away? Certainly accidents have been of more frequent occurrence since I came back than when I was here previously.
4228. What, in your opinion, has been the chief cause of the increase? The neglect of the men.
4229. Their neglect to do what? To have a look round in their face when they go in. I have seen men start to work in a place that you would not put a dog in; and upon your telling them that the ground was not good, they would say, "It is all right," and in ten cases out of twelve they would afterwards abuse you behind your back for your want of knowledge.
4230. How many accidents have occurred directly under your eye through the men not being careful when going on shift;—do they meet with accidents frequently when going on shift? No; but I have seen men working in places where they had no business to work; and, no doubt, had they worked there very much longer, the ground would have come down on them.
4231. Would it not be your duty, when you see men working in direct danger, to send them away? Yes.
4232. Is there any other reason that you can assign for the accidents? No, not that I could say.
4233. Has the increase been caused through a number of incompetent men being employed? I should say that would tend to increase accidents.
4234. You do not think that the employment of competent men would cause an increase in the number of accidents? No; I believe if there were more competent men on the Barrier there would be less accidents.
4235. Have you looked carefully through the regulations under the Mining Act of this Colony? I have looked through them, but have not made a thorough examination of them, and cannot say that I know them.
4236. I believe all your instructions are given by word of mouth? Yes.
4237. And that is the practice throughout the Central? Yes.
4238. You, as a shift-boss, endeavour to get the regulations under the Act carried out; and yet you do not know what they are? I do not see what you mean.
4239. There are certain regulations under the Mining Act that have to be carried out in connection with mining; and you say you are a shift-boss, and men have to work under your instructions, but you do not know what instructions to give them? Will you give me an instance, please?
4240. *His Honor.*] You do not remember them by heart? No.
4241. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Can you, from memory, give us one clause under General Rule 3?
- His Honor:* I think it hardly fair, *Mr. Polkinghorne*, to ask questions on numbers only.
4242. Clause *a* of General Rule 3 says:—
Gunpowder or other explosive or inflammable substances shall not be stored in the mine in any quantity exceeding what would be required for use during six working days.
- Do you consider that that clause is as it should be? Yes.
4243. Do you remember whether that is in the rules or not? I believe I have seen that.
4244. Would you be surprised if I told you that there is a clause in the rules saying that a workman shall not have in his possession more than 5 or 6 lb. of explosive? I would not be surprised at anything in these times.
4245. Of your knowledge, you could not say that there is such a rule? No; I could not say.
4246. Clause *b* says that:
Explosives shall not be taken into or kept in the mine except in a case or canister.
- Do you consider that clause sufficient to meet all requirements? Yes.
4247. The next clause says that:
A workman shall not have in his possession at one time in any one place more than 6 lb. of explosive.
- Do you think that that clause should be inserted in any new set of rules that might be framed;—take glycerine compounds, for instance—would 6 lb. be sufficient for a man, or too much? Well, I reckon 6 lb. is ample.

4248. In all cases? Certainly not in all cases; but, in the general run, 6 lb. is quite sufficient.
4249. *His Honor.*] Do you supply fractureur to the men as they require it, or are they allowed to keep a supply at hand in the stope? I supply it only for immediate use, except in cases where men are working a great distance away from the magazine, when I supply them with sufficient to do them the shift.
4250. In that case, some part of the explosive would be kept for a time in a box or something;—it would not be in the magazine; and it would not be in immediate use, but would be kept by until wanted? Yes.
4251. At the end of the shift, what is done with any that might be left over? The mates coming on take charge of it. It is an understood thing among the competent miners, upon coming on, to see whether they have enough fractureur; if they have not, they go back for some.
4252. If you are shift-boss in that part of the mine, they would ask you? Yes; if I am in charge of the magazine.
4253. What about the key of the magazine? I have a key to the magazine; and, if a man comes to me in a hurry for explosives, and I am busy, I lend him the key, and he brings it back to me.
4254. Will you give the key to any man? Only to men that I know I can trust. I would not, for instance, give the key to contractors; but I would not hesitate in giving it to a wages-man.
4255. What if a contractor comes for powder when you are busy? You have to leave your work and supply him yourself. If I am too busy, I send a wages-man with him to supply the explosives.
4256. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Why would you not give the contractor the key;—is he more dishonest than a wages-man? A contractor will make as much as he can; and if I were contracting, and not making good wages, and a man gave me the key, I would endeavour to make it pay.
4257. *His Honor.*] In what way? In more ways than one.
4258. You do not mean to say that you would steal the explosive? I would not steal the explosive; but I would not say that I would not take it.
4259. You mean to say that you would use perhaps more than the legitimate quantity? Yes. For instance, supposing I am contracting, and I am firing a hole, and it is "heavy going." It is considered three plugs will do the business; I go to the shift-boss; he gives me the key; on my way to the magazine I begin to think that, perhaps, three or four plugs would make things more sure; and, when I leave the magazine, I have five plugs, which all go into the hole.
4260. And three would probably be enough? But putting in an extra plug or two saves you a lot of labour.
4261. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Then it does not follow that because a man is a contractor he is a bigger rogue than a man who is on wages? Certainly not.
4262. The same man you would trust to-day because he was a wages-man you would mistrust to-morrow were he a contractor? Yes; as far as taking explosives from the magazine is concerned.
4263. *His Honor.*] You do not wish to tempt a man to make a violent explosion? It is for the purpose really of preventing waste of explosives that I adopt that course.
4264. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Is a contractor in the Central charged for the explosives he uses? Yes.
4265. And that is the reason why you have to take that precaution? Yes.
4266. *His Honor.*] How are they charged? So much a packet.
4267. And you think they would attempt to take more than they would be charged for? A man is but human.
4268. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Have you had any experience in open-cut work on the surface? No.
4269. You have already stated that the open-cuts underground are only carried to a height of 14 feet? Two sets high.
4270. You said 14 feet? Yes.
4271. In starting a stope with a sill-set, how many feet of ground do you want to take down before getting up the second set? There is a 7-foot leg and a 6-foot leg—that is 13 feet. Your sill-set would be 7 feet high, and your next set 6 feet; making, in all, 13 feet.
4272. I think it would take 16 feet. However, do you think, in carrying a stope 14 feet high, a man is in command of the back sufficiently to see whether it is shaling off? Not in all cases; but, by rigging "pig-styes," they bring themselves into full view of the back.
4273. You have to clean the ore out and remove the "pig-styes" to put in your permanent timber? Not always.
4274. What chance have you to get the ore out and put the sills in if the "pig-styes" are left in; and if they are not left in, how are you going to escape if the back should be shaling? The open-cuts are carried two sets high. The ground is very hard. Before taking away the "pig-styes" we look to make sure that the back is good; and in this hard ground the back is good generally; and in that case we are quite justified in taking out the ore to put in the sills.
4275. You have never seen any accidents brought about by the back shaling? No; I have not.
4276. One portion of the duty of this Commission is to inquire whether accidents are brought about by the incompetency of the managers or subordinate officials;—what is your opinion as to the competency of the managers and the subordinate officials along this line of lode, so far as your knowledge goes? I will admit, as regards the shift-bosses, that I have seen incompetency in places; but I cannot say the same as to the managers.
4277. You have seen incompetent shift-bosses, but you cannot say the same of the managers? No.
4278. Has any greater risk been run by reason of incompetency on the part of those shift-bosses; or have any accidents occurred? I cannot say that accidents have occurred through incompetency of shift-bosses, though I have seen risks run.
4279. *His Honor.*] How many instances can you give of incompetent shift-bosses? In my experience on the Barrier?
4280. Yes? I can call to my mind four.
4281. Were they long following the occupation of shift-bosses; or were they discharged, and other men put into their places, on account of their incompetency? Two were discharged for not being capable.
4282. What became of the other two? I could not say. I know that one of them is a miner now.
4283. Not a shift-boss? No.
4284. And the other—is he still a shift-boss? I do not think so.
4285. How long were those two, who were discharged, acting as shift-bosses? As near as I can recollect, four or five months.

- R. P. Finan. 4286. How long did you know of the others, whose discharge you did not actually hear of at the time, being in the position of shift-bosses? That I could not say, exactly.
- 22 July, 1897. 4287. About how long? About six months.
4288. Have you any idea how they came to be appointed shift-bosses when they were incompetent? That is a thing we very seldom hear. It was common talk that two of them became shift-bosses through social influence.
4289. As to the other two? They were what we say "pitchforked" into their positions.
4290. Through influence? Yes.
4291. Relationship to somebody, or friendship to somebody? Relationship.
4292. That was the talk amongst the miners? Yes.
4293. With those exceptions, as far as your experience goes, is the choice of shift-bosses generally founded on real merit, or real belief in their merit? Yes; real merit—real grit in the men.
4294. Do you know at present of any shift-bosses who are incompetent? I do not think that is a fair question.
4295. I am not asking for the names? I do know shift-bosses whom I believe to be incompetent.
4296. Is that a strong opinion of yours, or merely a suspicion as to their competency? I should say it is a fact.
4297. Do you think it is a fact known to others, or only to yourself? It is known to others.
4298. Known to the management of the mine in which they are? That I could not say.
4299. How long have those men whom you have in your mind been in the position of shift-bosses? —
4300. Do you wish not to answer that question for fear of identifying the men? Yes.
- Mr. Edwards: Do you not think the men's names ought to be mentioned, your Honor?*
- His Honor: I will allow anyone to press for the names; and then I will decide.*
- Mr. Polkinghorne: I think, in justice to the witness, that if he submits those names to your Honor or to Mr. Edwards, it will be sufficient. I do not think any witness should be compelled to give names publicly.*
- His Honor: I think you are right, Mr. Polkinghorne: that question should not be answered except in writing.*
- Mr. Edwards: Your Honor will understand that, in representing the mines, I am here to find out any abuses, just as much as your Honor is for the purposes of the Government. It is the desire of the management, just as much as it is the desire of the Government, to have the workings of the mines carried out under the best possible conditions; and, should there be any defects that have hitherto remained undetected, they will be only too glad to see them revealed, so that steps may at once be taken to remedy them.*
- His Honor: You will write down the names, and hand them to me, Mr. Finan.*
- Witness: But, before I write down any names, I would ask if you really think it is fair for me to do so? Would it not be fairer to subject them to an examination?*
- His Honor: I cannot subject them to an examination.*
- Witness: I consider it a very unfair thing for me to put them down while Mr. Edwards is here.*
- His Honor: I understand, Mr. Edwards, that you will give me your word that you will not in any sense publish the names Mr. Finan will write down, except to inform the management of them under a similar pledge of secrecy. Of course, they will exercise their own discretion in determining whether they will make further or special examination as to the competency of the men; but they shall not, directly or indirectly, inform the men of the fact that Finan has mentioned their names; nor shall they inform any other person of the fact. You give your word, Mr. Edwards, that that course will be adopted.*
- Mr. Edwards: I will adopt your Honor's suggestion. Of course, it is only right that the management should have these men thoroughly tested to ascertain whether they are competent or not; and, if they are found to be incompetent, I feel certain one course will follow very quickly.*
- His Honor: You pledge yourself to adopt the course I have suggested?*
- Mr. Edwards: Yes, your Honor.*
- His Honor: Then I will ask you to write down the names, Mr. Finan.*
- Witness: My opinion is that it will injure all parties concerned.*
- Mr. Edwards: If it turns out that they are not incompetent, it will not affect them; and it will not affect you in any case.*
- His Honor: I decide, Finan, that it will not injure you in any way; and I direct you to write the names down. [Witness wrote something upon a piece of paper and handed it to his Honor.] I will hand this paper to you, Mr. Edwards, under that pledge which you have given.*
- Mr. Edwards: Certainly, your Honor.*
4301. You spoke about the mine being naturally heated in some places;—is there any system on the mine of keeping a regular course of ventilation, as, for instance, by using one shaft as a down-cast and another as an up-cast, or is the ventilation reversed in accordance with the direction of the wind? There is no system in connection with down-cast or up-cast shafts. If there is more than sufficient air in any place, an endeavour is always made to carry the surplus to those hot places.
4302. How is that done? By a pipe.
4303. Not by diverting the air by bratticing? No; that has been done, I believe, on the big mine.
4304. Successfully? Partly.
4305. Do you use fans in the Central? No.
4306. You say the heated part in the Central is near one of the shafts? Yes.
4307. And whether the air from the heated part happens to pass up the shaft nearest to it, or goes round and passes up another shaft, is, I understand, a matter of accident? Sometimes it depends on the current of air on the surface. In one shift you will find the wind in a drive going one way; and in the next shift it is going in an opposite direction.
4308. And wind in one direction will give better ventilation than when in another direction? Yes.
4309. You have never studied the subject of ventilation carefully? Only from practical experience.
4310. Have you not thought of any way by which those heated stopes could be better ventilated than they are at present? There is only one place in the Central that could be better ventilated.
4311. How could that be done? By carrying air from the shaft into the hot place by means of pipes.
4312. Without using a fan? Yes; immediately north of the shaft there is a winze, up which, when they

they are hauling ore, or when the cage is coming down, the air is forced from the shaft. Had they a bell-mouthed pipe over this winze, connecting it with the heated drive, matters would be improved.

4313. Is anything of that kind going to be adopted? I believe so.

4314. At any rate some care is being taken to try and improve the ventilation of the heated part of the mine? Yes.

4315. Taking advantage, I suppose, of the lightness of the heated air to encourage an up-draft from it? Yes.

4316. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Are there some portions of the Central mine that have plenty of air in them? Yes; there are portions where you have to shelter your candle.

4317. That would be coming from the north shaft to the south shaft? Yes.

4318. There is an abundance of air in that drive, I believe? Yes.

4319. Has there been any attempt to divert portion of that air into some of the other workings? The air itself naturally disperses in different ways.

4320. Is there not a very strong direct current from the north end to the south end of the drive? Yes.

4321. Where are the principal workings? North of the central cross-cut there are workings, about 50 or 70 feet north from this current.

4322. Fifty or 70 feet from the Central cross-cut? Yes; it might be 100 feet.

4323. Has there been any attempt to get part of that strong current diverted to that western stope? No; there is going to be. The manager was speaking of it only last week.

4324. You think plenty of air is taken down into the mine for all purposes? Yes, plenty.

4325. It only wants to be divided up, and sent into places where required? There are not many places where it would be necessary to do that; only two places to my knowledge, and very slightly then.

4326. How is this western stope connected with any other level? There is a drive.

4327. Is there any connection made with the upper level? No.

4328. How is the air taken up into the stope? It is only in a distance of eight or nine sets; and the air is good. Certainly it is a little hot; but that is only the heat from the ground.

4329. How high is the timber taken up? Only one set high and two sets wide.

4330. Do they intend to put a rise through there for air; or are they only opening up the stope? They are opening up the stope.

4331. There was a creep on that level some three or four years ago, was there not? I could not say. I was not there three or four years ago.

4332. Is this stope being opened up round about where there is some crushed ground? Not to my knowledge.

4333. Then, it is true that one portion of the Central is hot? Yes.

4334. How long is it since you commenced to open up this western stope? It might be, as near as I can recollect, six weeks ago. It might be more; I could not say positively.

4335. Do you think it necessary that copies of the regulations and the working rules should be given to the men, so that they may have a chance of reading them? No, certainly not. They are stuck up there in the most conspicuous places of the mine; and everyone has plenty of opportunities to read them. They are stuck up both underground and on the surface.

4336. But, if they had them to put in their pockets, there would be no excuse for their not reading them? Certainly there would be no excuse then.

4337. They would not be able to say then that they had no chance to know what the regulations were? No.

4338. Something has been said about bad air in some of the mines in Victoria bringing about "miners' complaint." You do not know of any such thing here? I have never heard of such a thing here.

4339. I believe you said you had six years' experience here previous to two years ago? Yes.

4340. Have you seen anything on the Barrier resulting from bad air or from bad workings, equally as bad as the "miners' complaint"? It is a matter of opinion between "miners' complaint" and lead.

4341. Which, in your opinion, is the worse? For my part I prefer the lead, and severely too, because you are soon done with it. With the "miners' complaint" you linger for years; while with the lead, if you take it in time, you have a chance of getting over it; and in some cases it only attacks you slightly. The "miners' complaint" is a very slow death. I think, given plenty of air—which, in the majority of cases I have seen, has been so—the men on the Barrier should live longer than the men in those mines I have work in in Victoria.

4342. But, if sufficient ventilation were provided for the men in the mines in Victoria, there would be no greater risk from illness than here? Of course, over there, you can get tons of air into the mines; but the workings in some cases are so far in that it would not pay the men to take in air with them. The men there work on tribute.

4343. Then it is the men who simply take upon themselves their own "butchering"? Necessity compels them. If you had children and they wanted bread, you would be a very poor specimen of a man if you did not try to get them some. Besides, the majority of men on tribute get faith in the workings, and would hang on until they died.

4344. In the event of a portion of a mine becoming dangerous to the men, and if they were called out, who should say when they were to return to work, provided the inspector had not been called in? I should say that the man who took the men out would be the man to say when they should go back. If he was competent enough to judge that the place was not safe, he ought to be competent enough to judge when it was safe.

4345. If the inspector ordered them out? The inspector should then say when the place was safe for them to go back.

4346. In sinking a vertical shaft, what distance do you think it is safe to work with a rope hauling directly over your head. Say a shaft is down 600 feet, it is a three-compartment shaft, and you want to continue it. In that case would it be safe for you to have the dirt from the bottom hauled direct to the surface, with the hauling compartment open all the way up; or to what distance do you think they should go with the rope over your head? I should say 100 feet would be a fair limit. Should you be sinking from the bottom of a 600-foot shaft, I do not think the dirt should in any case travel higher than 100 feet above the men's heads.

4347. Do you think engine-drivers should be certificated? Yes; I think it should be like in Victoria, where the engine-drivers have to have a first-class certificate before they can drive in a shaft like the Kintore.

- R. P. Finan. 4348. Or in any shaft where men are being hauled, or are working under a bucket? Yes.
4349. As to the change of shift. How much longer would it take to change a shift of men in the Central, if they had to change in the face, instead of at the brace or plat, as at present? I think it would take a considerably longer time—in fact, you could not say exactly, because men, when they get together, would, after talking about the ground, very likely start confabulating about politics or something else; and, all the time, the platman would be waiting for them to come out.
4350. *His Honor.*] But politics will not keep a man down when he wants to get out? There are men who are so taken up with their work that they will explain everything in minute detail, no matter what time it takes them.
4351. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You think they would waste time, and go too far? I believe they would.
4352. Then the chances are that there are more odds against changing in the face than changing in the plat or at the brace? I believe if men knew who their mates were it would be a lot better, and they would then be able to explain to them individually. When your mates of to-day are working somewhere else to-morrow it makes it very difficult, because you do not know who has been put on in their place. A pair might be working in a face to-day; and perhaps some work is required to be done in another part of the mine, and they are cut out for it. Another pair is put on in their place; and they, of course, do not know who are their on-coming mates; and the on-coming men in their turn are looking about for their old mates, being unaware that a change has been made.
4353. *His Honor.*] Can you suggest any improvement on the present system which would ensure, without waste of time, a communication between the men relieving and the men coming off? I have no suggestion to make as to that.
4354. I understand you to say that you do not think a rule providing for the compulsory changing at the face would be an improvement? Of course, that is only my opinion.
4355. On the whole, what do you think is the best system yourself? The best system, I should think, is to have some means of knowing who follows you.
4356. But could you make any rule that would ensure the men being able to communicate with each other as to the state of the face, other than one which would compel them to meet at the face? I do not see that you could lay down any hard-and-fast rule.
4357. There is always a chance of men going on and finding themselves wanting in what would be to them very valuable information for the purpose of securing their safety? Yes; if those men knew their mates it would not be necessary for them to change in the face, because they could then see their mates on the surface or at the plat.
4358. But could you devise any rule which would make it certain that they should know who was coming on, that they should not miss, in fact, the chance of communicating with one another? The only way would be to not change the men about so much, but to keep them in the one place.
4359. But the changing of men about cannot always be avoided? No; not always.
4360. *Mr. Edwards.*] One cage is going up loaded with men, and the other coming down also loaded with men, all the time the change of shift is going on, so some people cannot possibly meet? When I was contracting we always managed to see one another without meeting in the face.
4361. *His Honor.*] That is it. You must devise laws for the careless men, and, if possible, prevent them from doing mischief to others? The only way I can see out of the difficulty is for the men to always use every endeavour in their power to find out who their mates are.
4362. *Mr. Edwards.*] You tell us that, very often, men do not know who have to follow them? They do not.
4363. And sometimes even amongst a party one man is laid up at home, and another comes in his place; and you do not know who he is, and perhaps do not see him through the fortnight? Yes; that is possible.
4364. Then how are you going to acquaint him of danger if you do not see him? That would be dangerous.
4365. Would it not be safer if you had an opportunity of pointing out to him anything dangerous in the face? In that case it would be.
4366. The only objection is that they lose a certain amount of time;—in other respects it would be a good thing? Not necessarily.
4367. *His Honor.*] Would it be practicable for the shift-boss to act in all cases as a medium—I suppose he would have too many messages to remember? Not only that; by the time he had explained to the first man, the last man would be in his place working.
4368. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Then the only thing is to keep the duffers out; which would do away with the necessity of framing a rule to that end? Yes.
4369. *Mr. Edwards.*] I suppose, if you took all the duffers out, work would stop? You would find very few men left.
4370. *Mr. Williams.*] Can you tell us that it was really because of your ability that you were appointed as a shift-boss? I am labouring under that delusion, at any rate.

James Joseph Shaw sworn and examined:—

- J. J. Shaw. 4371. *Mr. Edwards.*] Your name is James Joseph Shaw? Yes.
4372. You are the engineer in charge of Baxter and Saddler's open-cut on the Proprietary Mine? Yes.
4373. And you have entire charge of that? Yes.
4374. Since when? 1st October, 1892.
4375. That was when the open-cut was first introduced? Yes.
4376. In reference to the gear that you have up there;—who has the superintendence of all the gear and the machinery—ropes, chains, blocks, and tackle of every description? The foreman carpenter.
4377. What is his name? Alfred Dean.
4378. He has charge of all ropes, chains, &c.? Yes; but he has nothing to do with the machinery.
4379. In what condition are the cranes and lifting machinery, used in the cut? I consider them first-class.
4380. They are safe, and fitted for the purpose for which they are used? Yes.
4381. What number of men have been employed on that cut since you have had charge of it? Taking an every-day average for the past five years, I should say 300.

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4382. These men are employed on day-labour? Yes.
4383. Over them you have how many gangers? The number varies. Just now there are four. We have had as many as a dozen when a lot of men have been there.
4384. What is the greatest number of men you have had employed there? Five hundred.
4385. What quantity of material have you taken out of those cuts? One and a half million yards, or 2,000,000 tons.
4386. And what quantity of explosives have you used? Close on 500 tons.
4387. Consisting mainly of gunpowder? Yes.
4388. Since 1892, how many fatal accidents have you had in the cut? Four.
4389. Will you just tell us shortly the particulars of those accidents? The first accident occurred to James Cable, a horse-driver. He was taking a load out of the tip, but turned round as he was going out, and tripped over the rail, and one of the wheels took off his leg. He died from shock. On 29th December, 1894, a navy named John Olds was killed by stuff from off the batter.
4390. Do you know how that was occasioned? He was working in the tunnel after working-hours, cleaning it up, and the ganger was "bulling" a hole above him. When the "bull" was ready to go off, the ganger sent word down to the men to get away. This man went into a place of safety, but before the "bull" went off he came out, and thought he would have time to pass where the stone would fall. He did not have the time, however, and the stone caught him. He acknowledged the warning in the first instance, and said "All right"; and, after retiring to a place of safety, he should not have stirred from it until he received the signal "All right" from the ganger. The third case was the accident to James Dwyer, or Maguire—I am not certain as to the name—which took place in January, 1895.
4391. How was he killed? It is the usual custom for men to go out early in the morning, before the gang start work, to bar down loose stones, and make the place safe for the day's operations. He was barring down a stone, and somehow tripped; and the stone caught him. The third accident occurred on one of the inclines on the last day of February, 1895. The man's name was Richard Dyas, a navy. He was working down at the foot of the incline; and the man on top of the incline omitted to chock an empty truck; and it ran over the top of the incline to the bottom.
4392. *His Honor.*] The man who omitted to place a chock under the truck wheel was committed for manslaughter;—what was the result?
- Mr. Edwards:* I defended the man; and the Judge withdrew the case from the jury under section 13 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.
- Mr. Williams:* Who was the Judge?
- Mr. Edwards:* I cannot remember; I think it was one of the Supreme Court Judges. In that case the truck was drawn up the incline, and on to the level; and, on its reaching the level, it was this man's duty to put a block down to stop it from working back. He, however, omitted to put the chock across the rails; and the wind caught the truck, and started it going.
- His Honor:* The real question seemed to be whether it was a single act of forgetfulness, or whether it was one of a series of acts of carelessness. I presume that the Judge concluded it was a single act.
- Mr. Edwards:* Yes; evidence was called to show that he was a man who had been very careful up to that time, and that he was a man of good steady character.
4393. *Mr. Edwards.*] You know the Government regulations relating to surface work? Yes.
4394. You know the surface rules of the Proprietary Mine? Yes.
4395. Are those regulations strictly observed by your men, so far as you know? Yes.
4396. Do you instruct your gangers to strictly observe them? Yes; and I see that they do.
4397. Are you on the open-cut every day? Yes.
4398. During all working hours? From 8 o'clock till 5 o'clock.
4399. How many parties of men have you working in the cuts? Four.
4400. Your time is occupied in going from one party to another? Yes.
4401. And in inspecting the machinery, and looking after the mechanics that you have employed? Yes.
4402. Are the men asked to take any unreasonable risk in that cut? No; certainly not.
4403. I believe you leave the employment of men to your gangers? Yes; they put on the men and discharge them.
4404. You never interfere at all? No; if I notice anything wrong with a man, I go to the ganger.
4405. You never give any instructions to the men yourself, except through the gangers? No.
4406. So they have absolute control over the men in the cut for the time being? Yes.
4407. Any interference by you is through the ganger? Yes.
4408. Have you ever had any complaint from the gangers or from any of the men as to any of the plant being defective or worn out? No.
4409. Have you ever had any complaint from the men, or any other persons, that the men working in the cut are rushed about by the gangers? No.
4410. Or slave-driven in any way? No.
4411. Do you know as a matter of fact that they are? I know that they are not. I have had over twenty years' experience in railway work; and I can say that the work here is less arduous.
4412. Will you tell us, Mr. Shaw, what qualifications you have. I think you are an Associated Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, London? Yes.
4413. And how many years' experience have you had in the colonies on railway works and in these open-cuts? Twenty years'.
4414. In all the colonies? Yes; Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.
4415. In connection with the permanent batter in the open-cut; is that left in a safe condition? Yes.
4416. The work is done under contract with the Proprietary Company according to plans and specifications? Yes.
4417. And those plans and specifications have been observed by you, as representing the contractors? Yes, to the best of my ability.
4418. As to the working-face; that is continually altering? Yes.
4419. It alters with every shot fired? Yes.
4420. Is the working-face kept in as safe a condition as the nature of the work will allow? Yes; men are sent up to bar down any loose stuff that there might be; and, should they get the batter too steep, the work is stopped until it is brought down again. Whenever there is any loose stone, work is stopped until men go up and bar it down. We always keep a safe working-face for the men. 4421.

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4421. You use the "chinaman" in this work? Yes.
4422. That is not the real name for it? No. It is the old movable shoot that has been in existence from time immemorial.
4423. How long have you known this system of the "chinaman" to be in use? Over twenty years. [*A plan showing the working of the "chinaman" was placed before the Commission for inspection.*]
4424. *His Honor.*] Was it formerly known by any particular name? Of course, the "chinaman" is only part of the tunnel.
4425. *Mr. Edwards.*] You do not know why it is called the "chinaman"? No.
4426. Do you know of any safer method for working a cut than by the "chinaman"? No, I do not; it is much the safest. Wherever the cutting is deep enough to put a drive in, it is done. Of course it is just a question whether the height of the cutting warrants the driving of this tunnel.
4427. It is safer, I suppose, than having a line of trucks along the face, and men shovelling between the trucks and the slope? Yes; and with the "chinaman," two men would do as much as fifteen or twenty men under the other system.
4428. And if a run of ground took place with the "chinaman" they would have a better chance of getting away? Yes. Two men are actually engaged in pulling stuff down; and they would be able to get away if they saw a run of ground coming down. If a lot were filling into trucks they would not be able to get away.
4429. As to the trimmers in the tunnel with the trucks; are they protected? They are under cover.
4430. There is no danger to them? None whatever.
4431. Is there any extra danger in working those cuts at night, providing you have an efficient electric light? I do not think so; it is just a matter of light.
4432. Have any serious accidents occurred in the cuts at night? We have never had an accident at all at night.
4433. Are the gangers that you have under you experienced men? Yes; old experienced gangers from different railways. They are paid big wages, and are the best men procurable. That is why we employ them.
4434. They are men who have been in the service of Baxter and Saddler on railway works for some years? Yes; they have proved themselves to have ability; and for that reason the firm have retained their services.
4435. Under your contract the Proprietary Company have, I believe, to supply you with sufficient light? Yes.
4436. When the light has been at any time defective, have you stopped work, or have you gone on? In cases where the light has not been sufficient, we have just given notice to the electric light staff of the company, and it has been remedied at once. In cases where it has gone out through some cause, we have knocked off work.
4437. You are in the habit of using long holes for explosives in the cut? Yes, at times.
4438. Is that absolutely necessary for the work? We consider it much better than putting in a lot of shallow holes. There is the same danger in charging a shallow hole as in charging a deep hole; and it is therefore much better to have one deep hole instead of half a dozen shallow ones. And, the deeper you get your explosive down, the less danger there is in the case of a premature explosion. In a shallow hole a premature explosion is very dangerous, since the stuff is scattered all over the place; with a deep hole the ground is only lifted.
4439. In deep holes the explosive merely lifts and shakes the whole burden; in the other it scatters the stones, and is much more dangerous? Yes.
4440. Is there any greater danger in the operation of charging a hole 18 feet deep than in charging one 15 feet deep? I do not think there is. The 18-foot hole would require a little more tamping; but that is of minor importance. There is no danger with tamping.
4441. In order to get the full force of the explosive in the bottom of the hole, you resort to "bulling"? Yes.
4442. Is there anything dangerous in the operation of "bulling" a hole? Not to an experienced man.
4443. In tamping a hole for "bulling," what sort of a bar do you use? We do not tamp a hole when "bulling"; we just make it air-tight.
4444. I mean when charging? A wooden rod.
4445. Is the use of an iron or steel rod absolutely condemned or prohibited on the works? Yes.
4446. Are wooden rods provided in sufficient numbers, and handy to the men to use in all cases? Yes; and there are always plenty of spare ones about.
4447. So there is no necessity to use anything but wooden rods? No.
4448. You find that, even for heavy explosions, you can get your powder home quite well enough with wooden rods? Yes.
4449. When holes are being charged, where are the men? The charging of deep holes is done after working hours.
4450. After the men have left the face? Yes.
4451. All the big holes are charged after they have left the face and gone home? Yes.
4452. When big rocks are brought down, you put blisters on them? Yes; you make a depression in the stone and put dynamite in it, and cover it over to keep the air from it. Another way is to put a plug in about 6 inches, and pop it. A pop is a very shallow blast on a small scale.
4453. *His Honor.*] And a blister is put on without any boring at all? Yes; you avail yourself of a little depression in the stone.
4454. *Mr. Edwards.*] Are men put at a safe distance from pops and blisters? Yes.
4455. Have you signals for the purpose of warning men when a charge is about to be fired? Yes.
4456. What are they? Men are sent round with red flags in all directions; and the word "Fire" is shouted out.
4457. Is ample warning given? Yes.
4458. You say that is strictly observed? I do not say it is for every shot that is fired. I have watched them, and the foreman has watched them, and we always take notice that warning is given.
4459. Have you ever had any accident from that? No.
4460. During all the time you have been in charge of these cuts you have never had an accident from an explosion? No fatal accident.
4461. Have you had any accident of a serious nature? There was an accident in the ironstone, which resulted in a man getting his face knocked about, but he was at work again after a while. That is the only accident I know of.
- 4462.

4462. *His Honor.*] Was that caused by stuff flying from a shot? I do not know exactly how it was. I believe he was charging a shallow hole in ironstone, and it went off prematurely. I J. J. Shaw.
4463. *Mr. Edwards.*] Was he the "powder-monkey"? Yes. 22 July, 1897.
4464. He did it himself? Yes.
4465. He was back at work after a short time? Yes; he had to be taken to the hospital, but was back again to work after a little while, and is still there.
4466. Is water supplied by the contractors for the purpose of keeping down the dust, particularly in the ground containing lead? Yes; water is laid on by us.
4467. Is there any stint in the water supplied;—can men have as much as is necessary for the purpose of keeping dust down at all times? The foreman has a boy to put the water on. We have to keep the dust down. I do not know whether the men are consulted.
4468. A boy is there for that purpose? Yes; he puts the water on with a hose.
4469. Have you ever heard any complaints about there not being sufficient water, making it injurious for the men working there? No.
4470. I believe sometimes you blast away some of the water-pipes? Of course in an accident like that there would be no water, but the matter would be rectified and put right as soon as possible. That would be the only time water would not be on the face; but it would be only for a little while, as it does not take very long to re-lay a pipe.
4471. With regard to the drinking water for the men,—is that kept in proper receptacles? We had canvas bags; but the men themselves prefer buckets made out of powder-kegs, which are looked after and kept filled by a boy.
4472. I suppose these powder-kegs are washed out and kept clean? Yes; a boy is told off to do that. In the summer time, when oatmeal is used, they have to be cleaned out two or three times a day.
4473. You cannot very well give them oatmeal in bags? No; they would turn sour.
4474. Is it true that water is kept in a dirty bucket and covered with a dirty bag? No; that is not true.
4475. Do you drink water out of the same vessel as the workmen? Yes.
4476. Have you ever had occasion to complain of it? I have gone along the cuts, and found the water getting low. In those cases I have disrated the boy for being neglectful. In every gang there is a boy to look after these buckets, and it is his duty to keep them full; in summer time he keeps oatmeal in them.
4477. If a man says that the water is kept in a dirty bucket, and is covered with a dirty bag, it is not true? Not so far as my knowledge goes. It is always kept in clean kegs under a clean cover.
4478. In winter time too? Yes.
4479. Have you ever had any complaints about it at all? No.
4480. You work with skips on planes, and also with the "flying fox"? Yes.
4481. Are men compelled to stand under those skips or "flying fox" when they are being raised? No.
4482. In lifting the skip into the truck, or other receptacle for dirt, the jib of the crane swings round? Yes.
4483. Before the skip is lifted, is warning given to the men to stand aside? Directly the rope takes the strain, the cry is given, "Stand from under." The men then have to stand back until the crane swings round. Of course, this operation is only necessary when you first put the crane down. As it gets away from the face, trucks are brought into use; and then the men are clear of the jib altogether.
4484. There is no necessity for any man to stand in his place when the crane is swinging over his head? He is not allowed to stand there.
4485. Have you any difficulty in shifting men away? Some men are very careless; and the gangers find it their hardest duty to keep men from getting hurt. I have known a man to be dismissed because the foreman would not have him there. When "Stand back" was cried, he would not stand back.
4486. Do you know that as a matter of fact this man O'Brien, who has given evidence in respect to the cuts, was dismissed for the very same thing? The ganger reports to me that he was. The ganger was so afraid that this man would get hurt that he had to get rid of him. He said to me one day, "If I do not get rid of that man, I will be up for manslaughter before very long."
4487. When the crane is on the bank, and you have to lift a good height, is the same warning given to the men? Yes.
4488. Is there any necessity for them to stand in danger from the skip attached to the crane, or from the "flying fox"? No, not at all. If a man stands under, and does not take notice of what he is told, he is dismissed.
4489. Have you ever had an accident from the "flying fox" or crane? No.
4490. Something was said about the ropes breaking, and its being the duty of no person apparently to look after them, and that the straps around the skips were made of flat iron instead of round iron, which caused the eyes in the straps to cut the hooks away. I suppose these things wear away the same as everything else? Yes; it is the foreman carpenter's duty to go round every morning and examine all ropes, chains, hooks, and rings; and, if he sees a rope wearing, and it is too bad for use, he puts a new one on. If the ganger during working hours sees a rope bad, he sends at once for the foreman carpenter, who puts a new one on; and in the meantime work is stopped.
4491. Have you ever had an accident from a rope breaking? Not the slightest accident has occurred from the breaking of a rope.
4492. Or from a hook breaking? No.
4493. Mr. O'Brien said that he approved of swivel-hooks in preference to plain hooks;—have you tried swivel-hooks with the crane? On the incline, you cannot use them; but, with the lifting crane, we use them.
4494. O'Brien said the chief objection to working there was the manner in which the skip was hauled, and that he had been struck with it on several occasions;—did you ever have any complaint in that respect? No.
4495. He said that with your firm the men are slave-driven and hurried, and that no precaution is taken for the safety of life and limb? It is not true.
4496. He said that the men are worked more quickly than they should be, and, in consequence, they have no time to look about; which results in frequent accidents;—is that true? No, it is not.
4497. He says, further, that sometimes notice is given that a skip is being hoisted, and sometimes not? Notice is always given. All accidents have come to my knowledge; and they have to be reported to the general manager of the Proprietary mine; O'Brien's name, however, has never been on the accident list.
- 4498.

- J. J. Shaw.
22 July, 1897.
4498. He claims that you charge 6s. for a shovel. I suppose they can buy their shovels wherever they like? They can buy them where they like; I do not want them to buy from me; they know that.
4499. How long has O'Brien been with you? I could not say. They tell me he has been there two years. I did not know him until lately.
4500. It has been said that if they looked up every time warning was given, their services would be dispensed with? There is no truth in that. I might here say that any man is at liberty to tell the ganger if he sees anything wrong; and the ganger will get it rectified.
4501. O'Brien also says that it is particularly dangerous to work in the cuts at or after midnight, because at that time the ground settles down. Did you ever notice anything like that? No.
4502. He says that he has repeatedly seen the regulation broken that no shots shall be fired until five minutes after the warning has been given the men to leave the face; he considers that rule, in fact, a dead letter. Is there any truth in that? I cannot say how long after the warning is given the shots are fired; but I know the men are out of danger; and that is proved by the fact that none of them have been hurt.
4503. When did you last work at night-time under the electric light? Thirteen months ago.
4504. Do you propose to work again under the electric light? Not that I know of. I cannot say whether it will be again necessary.
4505. Can you get whatever light you require from the Proprietary? Yes.
4506. Up to any candle power? Up to all that is necessary.
4507. He said there was a disease called "straight back," and that if a man was found straightening his back too often he would be dismissed? Every time he has to look out, or get away, he has to straighten his back.
4508. But, if a man did get a pain in his back, and had to straighten himself, would he be sacked? No; that is a gross exaggeration.
4509. He said the skips, when returning from the truck after the ore had been deposited, hung by four chains; but that when they were coming back after delivering mullock, only two chains were fastened? I think he must be alluding to the "flying fox." In the case of the crane, the two outside chains of the skip are let go; and, by doing this, the skip, upon being raised, empties itself.
4510. And when it comes to the ground the chains are hooked on again? Yes.
4511. And it is fitted with rings, so that men can draw it in? Yes.
4512. It is absolutely necessary to let go two chains in order to empty it into the truck? Yes.
4513. And I suppose the other two chains are quite strong enough to hold it? Yes.
4514. Have the men ample opportunity of getting out of the road of the skip as it comes back? Yes; they are warned. As I explained before, when these little trucks are in use the men are not near the crane. When the empty skip comes round, it rests on the truck; the men are not there. It is then run into the face.
4515. He complained about some medical fund. I think it is your practice to keep back a small amount from the men's wages for use as an accident fund in cases of accidents, by which a man is provided with medical attendance and sent to the hospital; and I think in no case of a fatal accident have the relatives not been compensated in some way? In the four cases of fatal accidents that have occurred, money has been given by the firm, and subscriptions raised. Of course, in all cases of accidents the injured persons are provided with medical and hospital attendance free of charge, the charges being met by this accident fund.
4516. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You say there have been four fatal accidents in the open-cuts? Yes.
4517. Have there not been some serious accidents as well? One man had his leg broken; and ultimately it had to be amputated at the ankle. His name was Rolfe.
4518. Are there not some very peculiar circumstances about that case, I mean as to the way in which he got his leg fractured? I can explain how it occurred. He is an old ganger; and, as there was no room for him in that position, he was put in a gang as an ordinary worker. A big boulder happened to be on the face, and he was told by the ganger to put a pop in it. The stone was not near where they were working, but on an old face. He was getting ready to put the hole in for the pop—picking off the flakey stuff, it is said; and a larger piece than usual sliced off, and cut him on the leg, breaking it right across. He was by himself at the time.
4519. Is he still in Broken Hill? No; I think he is now in Newcastle.
4520. He was never employed by the firm afterwards? We raised a lot of money for him; and the firm gave him a big subscription. I fancy he went to Cockle Creek, where Mr. Saddler is one of the directors. I know he went over there, and I gave him a letter to the firm.
4521. No doubt you have heard that there were some peculiar surroundings? I know that he applied to the general manager for assistance, because he had lost his leg while doing work under his charge. He was taken to the hospital, and was kept there for a long time; we did all we could for him. He told me himself that it was a pure accident. He said that as he was being carried out of the cut.
4522. *Mr. Williams.*] You say Mr. Rolfe has been a ganger for you? Yes.
4523. His name is Fred? Yes.
4524. Do you reckon him a capable man? Yes.
4525. To have such a man under you would be a feather in your cap? I found him to be a thoroughly experienced man.
4526. You said he applied to the general manager. Who was the general manager;—was it in Mr. Stewart's time? Yes.
4527. Did he make a complaint to Mr. Stewart about you? Not that I know of.
4528. How much money was given to Rolfe by the firm, independently of any outside subscriptions? We gave him £50. I believe he is now in light employment over at Cockle Creek.

Henry Day sworn and examined:—

- H. Day.
22 July, 1897.
4529. *Mr. Edwards.*] What is your name? Henry Day.
4530. You are a ganger in the employment of Baxter and Saddler? Yes.
4531. How long have you been working for them? Three years.
4532. In the open-cuts up here? Yes.
4533. Do you know a man named O'Brien? Yes.

4534.

H. Day.

22 July, 1897.

4534. John O'Brien? Yes.
4535. You, as ganger, have the hiring and dismissing of men? Yes.
4536. How many men do you generally have in your gang? Thirty or forty—sometimes less, sometimes more, and sometimes as many as fifty.
4537. Mr. Shaw is engineer of works? Yes.
4538. But the men are entirely under your supervision? Yes.
4539. You hire them, oversee them, and dismiss them? Yes.
4540. Do you remember when O'Brien was working in your gang last? I could not tell to a month or two.
4541. Do you know why he left? I discharged him.
4542. Why? Because he would not obey orders.
4543. What orders were they he would not attend to? In the last instance, he was on the incline splitting a boulder alongside a skip; and, when they gave him the signal to stand back, he stood there, and would not leave. If the driver had started when signalled, the skip would have swung round and caught O'Brien, probably breaking his leg. I then distinctly told him that he would have to obey orders or clear out of the cut. He opened his mouth and said "Do you mean it?" I said, "Yes; I will be up for manslaughter through you." That is the reason why I discharged him.
4544. Was he a good man? He was an ordinary man.
4545. He said the men were hurried, and no precautions were taken for their safety? He told a falsehood. I am very careful in anything of that kind.
4546. He said they were worked so quickly that they could not look round for their safety? I do not know about working quickly; it would take two or three gangers to make him work quickly.
4547. He said frequently accidents occurred on account of the men being rushed? I have never had an accident during the three years I have been there.
4548. You have never had an accident under you? No.
4549. He said he had been struck three times with a skip? Not under me.
4550. I believe he came on afterwards with Mr. Thompson? Yes.
4551. You are the ganger he referred to in his evidence? Yes.
4552. He said that the ropes and hooks were frequently in a bad state of repair, and that it was, apparently, no one's duty to look after them? I have never known a rope to break since I have been with Baxter and Saddler; nor have I known a hook to give way.
4553. Has any accident ever happened in consequence of the breaking of a rope or hook? No; not while I have been there.
4554. Before a skip is raised, what warning is given? To clear away.
4555. Who gives it? The ganger; or, should he be not at hand, the "hooker-on," who would signal before he hooked on to the crane.
4556. Is sufficient time given to the men to clear away? Most decidedly.
4557. Is there proper supervision of the ropes and hooks? Yes; they are all well looked after.
4558. How often are they inspected? Every morning.
4559. If you see the strand of a rope giving? If I think it is unsafe to work it, I stop work, and send one of the "nippers" over to the rope overseer, who comes and has a look at it. If he thinks it is not safe, work is stopped until it is replaced.
4560. Are men asked to work in unnecessarily dangerous places? Not at all.
4561. You say there has been no serious accident with you? No accident at all.
4562. None whatever? No; none whatever.
4563. During the three years? None whatever.
4564. As to the "chinaman";—have you known that system long? I think it is about the first thing I met with about thirty years ago; but they did not call it the "chinaman" then.
4565. What did they call it then? In the old country, they called it an underlay heading. "Chinaman" is a new name, which I never heard until I came to these colonies.
4566. Is there any danger in working it? Not at all, with precaution.
4567. How many men do you have on the "chinaman"? Two.
4568. Is it safer than filling into trucks in front of a face? Yes, most decidedly. The face is right away from you altogether; and all the stuff is in front of you—nothing on the wings whatever; and it is guided into the trucks in the tunnel.
4569. With reference to explosives;—I suppose you have had a good deal of work with them? Yes.
4570. Do you charge your own holes? Yes.
4571. Is there any more danger in charging an 18-foot hole than a 15-foot hole? No.
4572. When charging holes, where do you put the men? They are away.
4573. The charging and firing of holes takes place after the men leave work? Yes.
4574. Only a blister or a pop is fired while they are there? Yes; if a rock is too large to move by hand, you simply make a blister or a pop, and shatter it in that way. For a pop, you put in a hole to a depth of 4 or 5 inches, and insert a couple of plugs and a primer; and in firing blisters a somewhat similar course is followed.
4575. And the men are warned away? Yes.
4576. And you have red flags? Yes.
4577. No accident has taken place with explosives while you have been there? No; there was one accident since I have been there, but not under my charge. The man, whose name, I think, was Ryan, met with the accident while firing a hole. He was under Mr. Smith's charge.
4578. What was he? A "powder-monkey."
4579. How was that accident brought about? From what I have heard, he was charging the hole himself in the morning before the men came on, so as to prepare for the day's operations—it was summer time. He must have been running a steel bar down the tamping-hole to clear it; and it exploded.
4580. A man named Smith was ganger? Yes; he is now contracting for himself in Block 11.
4581. That was through using a steel tamper? I only go by hearsay.
4582. What do you use? Oregon.
4583. Have you had any occasion to use anything else? No; Oregon is safer than anything else. If you are in ragged ironstone, and the Oregon picks up a bit of stone, it will not hold it, but drop it.
4584. You "bull" these holes first of all before you put any powder in? Yes.

4585.

- H. Day. 4585. Is there any danger in that system? No.
- 22 July, 1897. 4586. In the case of deep missed-holes, what do you do? If I had a deep missed-hole, I should not work. Say I had a deep-missed hole at dinner-time; I would not work that afternoon; I would let that hole go for two hours. I would know the distance from the powder to the top of the hole. The rule is, when charging a hole, to tie a string on the tamping-bar, which gives you the exact distance. You tamp with fine mullock, which you can safely withdraw to within a foot of the charge.
4587. You take the tamping out to within 1 foot of the charge; put in some dynamite with a primer; and fire it again? Yes.
4588. In those long holes, do you depend on a single fuse? For anything over 6 feet we use a double fuse.
4589. Do you think two hours long enough to leave a missed-hole? Yes; in my experience the gun-cotton in the double tape fuse sometimes sets fire to the material of the fuse, and should there be a break in the powder the material will go on smouldering for some considerable time before it reaches the gun-cotton again. You put a reel of fuse round a post to pull the wrinkles out, and in doing this you probably burst it. That is how the breaks in the gun-cotton are brought about; and, in consequence, miss-fires.
4590. Have you ever had fuse with knots or splices in it? The gun-cotton is lapped 8 or 9 inches, and this part you cut out when firing a deep hole.
4591. Is there any necessity for the men to stand in the road of danger as regards the skips or the "flying fox"? No.
4592. O'Brien was sometimes working three skips at a time—one alongside the other—and had to keep filling them in as fast as he could go, there being no time to get out of the way. He has stated that: is there any truth in it? No; I am very careful upon that point, and it is surprising to me more accidents have not occurred. If you speak to some of the men there they are that ignorant they would not get out of the way.
4593. He says you gangers use terrible language? I do not see that at all.
4594. If you see a man in a dangerous place, and you ask him to get out of the way, and he does not, you would then? No, I would not; I would discharge him.
4595. Is there any more danger at night, if you have good light? No; the day gang takes every precaution to make things safe before the night gang comes on.
4596. He says that at midnight the ground settles down in some peculiar manner? I have never known the ground to creep at night.
4597. Is the working-face kept as safe as possible? Yes.
4598. Are there any precautions you could take that are not taken for the safety of the men;—is there anything that can be adopted in order to make the work safer for the men? I could not adopt anything: everything that could be done has already been attended to. I have had thirty years' experience on public works, and I cannot see where anything can be done in those cuts to make them more safe than they are to-day.
4599. I suppose you have worked as a navy right through? Yes; since I wore trousers.
4600. Have you ever had to complain of the light? I complained one night, and on that night we knocked off at 12:30, and the light went out at 1 o'clock. I sent a boy down for the electric-light man, and after he came up, I said, "No good starting, chaps; knock off."
4601. You would not allow them to work in the dark? No.
4602. Did you ever find the light defective, so as to make work dangerous? I have seen the light sometimes flicker for a few minutes; and that has been caused, I think, through the increased pressure put on when the lights were being lit throughout the mine.
4603. He said sufficient water was not laid down to sprinkle the chloridising ore? O'Brien only worked for me for about three days in that ore, and during that time there was plenty of water there.
4604. Have you ever had any scarcity there? No.
4605. I suppose pipes will break sometimes? Taking it right through, there has been a continual supply.
4606. He says the drinking water is kept in a dirty bucket with a dirty bag thrown over it? I drink the same water; and I feel certain that if there was a dirty bag over the bucket I would chuck it away myself, and I believe every man in the gang would do the same.
4607. Have you boys there, to get water? Yes.
4608. How many times through the day are the buckets washed out? I think every morning and dinner time.
4609. And fresh water put in? Yes; I make a wooden house for the water, and cover it round with clean sacks. We had water-bags there at one time; but it was found that they kept the water so cold as to give the men chills, and, for that reason, they had to be discarded. The kegs keep the water at a nice temperature for the men, and do not waste the water.
4610. What sort of a bag do you cover them with? A clean four-bushel sack. The place where the water is kept is covered over with timber, which keeps it cool; and bags are hung down the front to keep out the dust.
4611. O'Brien distinctly stated that men had to stand under the skips; that it was not a case of doing so of their own free will;—you say that is not true? It is not true.
4612. Did you receive instructions from Mr. Shaw to observe strictly the surface rules of the company? Yes.
4613. And have you always done so? Yes.
4614. Mr. Polkinghorne.] You will admit that your instructions to the men are not at all times carried out? They are not.
4615. When the men are sinking with the jib-crane, is it necessary that they should stand back? Three sets of men are working—one set (four men) to a skip: that is twelve altogether. These men are engaged in filling; but, of the twelve, one set—four men—are never in danger, because the skips are dragged from them; and, of the others, four are in danger one time, and eight the next; and it keeps at that—four and eight—all the time.
4616. You always sink under the crane? No; you sink at the end of the jib.
4617. You do not sink with the "flying fox"? Yes, I do.
4618. You go down deeper with the "flying fox" sometimes? Yes.
4619. In that case, the skips would lift perpendicularly, and not drag as they would in the case you just quoted of the three sets of men? Yes.

4620. It would be necessary at all times for all the men to stand back when the skip is lifted to the "flying fox"? Yes.
4621. Is there always a man kept on the bank to give warning to the men when the skip is going down and coming up? Yes; and a man is also stationed below. There is one on the top, and one at the bottom.
4622. And while that skip is travelling from the bottom to where it strikes the cable, the men are supposed to stand clear? Yes.
4623. That is always followed out? Yes.
4624. *Mr. Williams.*] From whom do you get your instructions? From Mr. Shaw.
4625. In sinking, you go down in 25-foot lifts? Yes.
4626. You say plenty of water is provided for the men to drink? Yes.
4627. How is it provided? It is Stephens' Creek water, and is stored in a 400-gallon tank in the cut, into which is run a pipe.
4628. You dip the water from that tank? No; it is not dipped; it is drawn.
4629. And how do you use it for laying the dust? Pipes are laid.
4630. Who sees to the sprinkling—the boy? Yes; or, if he is not there, the "ironstone" man.
4631. How many boys have you for that purpose? One to each gang.
4632. The "ironstone" men and these boys are supplied by the company? Yes.
4633. What is the name of the boy you have there now to attend to the ropes? I cannot think of his name.
4634. You know there is a boy there? Yes, undoubtedly.
4635. Who is in your place while you are here? The other ganger.
4636. Does that boy do anything else besides lay on the water? You are not required to lay the water on; you have only to turn on the tap.
4637. If there is anything wrong with a rope, you send a boy to see about it? Yes; he is my boy.
4638. Whom do you send him to? To Mr. Dean, the foreman of the ropes.
4639. How long has Mr. Dean been carrying out that work? He was here three years ago when I came to the Hill.
4640. He has not been appointed to anything extra lately? He was overseer of the whole lot three years ago.
4641. You cannot say whether he has been promoted? No.
4642. You are instructed by Mr. Shaw to carry out the work according to the regulations of the company? Yes.
4643. Do you know the company's rules? I know the dangerous parts of the rules, and stick to them.
4644. You said that the lights occasionally flickered for a few minutes? Yes; just for a few minutes after extra pressure was put on for the mine lights.
4645. They are a little better now? I do not know; I have not done any work at night for twelve months.
4646. How many days did O'Brien work for you? He worked for me three separate times.
4647. He has worked there for two years? I do not know how long he has worked there.
4648. What are the names of the gangers he has worked under? Mr. Thompson is one; but he might have worked for the lot for all I know.
4649. Did any of them ever "sack" him? I believe Mr. Thompson "sacked" him.
4650. Did you "sack" him? Yes.
4651. Did Mr. Thompson tell you he had "sacked" him, and did he give you his reason for doing so? If any ganger said anything to me about a man I had under me, I would keep that man on in spite of him.
4652. What did you "sack" O'Brien for? The last time I discharged him was because of his refusing to take notice of warnings.
4653. Would you be surprised if a Member of Parliament was to state that he stood on top of those open-cuts, and watched the skips going up and the men working away underneath, and that no warning was given? I defy any Member of Parliament to say that ever any man was underneath and did not get warning.
4654. So far as you are concerned? Yes, of course.
4655. You cannot speak for any of the other gangers? No.
4656. I am speaking of Block 11? Oh, I know nothing about them.
4657. Where did the horse and cart go over;—was it in your cutting? No.

Alfred Dean sworn and examined:—

4658. *Mr. Edwards.*] What is your name? Alfred Dean.
4659. You are the foreman carpenter in the employ of Baxter and Saddler, and are under Mr. Shaw? Yes.
4660. What are your duties? To look after the whole of the plant.
4661. Does that include the inspecting of ropes, chains, and hooks? Yes.
4662. When do you inspect the ropes, chains, and hooks? Every day.
4663. Do you ever miss? No, never. Every day I make an inspection.
4664. As a general rule, what time do you make an inspection? The first thing in the morning.
4665. Are the ropes ever allowed to wear out and to become dangerous? Sometimes they get worn.
4666. What do you do then? They are removed; and new ones put on.
4667. Have you ever known worn ropes to cause an accident? No.
4668. As to hooks;—are they expected to break? Yes.
4669. And are they repaired as required? Undoubtedly.
4670. A man named O'Brien gave evidence the other day that it seemed to be no one's business to look after hooks and ropes, and that the trucks came down with a run, at times? I know of one rope letting the truck go down the incline. The truck came into contact with the bridge, which caused the rope to give way.
4671. It was a winding engine? Yes.
4672. And it was a case of the rope giving or the bridge giving? Yes.
4673. Something had to go? Yes.
4674. Was that owing to the rope's wearing out? No.
4675. He says the strands wear out one by one, and, if you pick up the rope, it is like picking up a bundle of needles? That is not the case. Of course a rope will wear; but because a rope is worn a little it does not

A. Dean.
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- A. Dean. not follow that you should take it off. Should, however, a strand be broken, the rope is then taken off, and a new one put on.
- 22 July, 1897. 4676. What do you do immediately on discovering a rope to be in an unsafe condition? Work is stopped until a new one is put on.
4677. I suppose your business takes you round into the cuts frequently? Yes.
4678. And you see the way in which the skips are worked? Yes.
4679. Do you know if men are allowed to stop under the skips? They are always cautioned to keep from under the skips.
4680. You have a gang under you? Yes.
4681. They are always roping and repairing, doing nothing else? Yes.
4682. What tradesmen have you? Carpenters and blacksmiths.
4683. Who does the roping? I have another man with me; but I, principally, do that part myself.
4684. What experience have you had in that sort of work? I have been with Baxter and Saddler four and a half years; previous to that I have had experience for—well, I will not say all my life-time.
4685. At any rate you have been four years and a half on this work with Baxter and Saddler? Yes.
4686. When shots are fired, is warning given; or is it omitted? I cannot speak about that; it is out of my line.
4687. All you can speak of is as to the condition of the running gear; and you say that that is kept in good order? Yes; if there is anything dangerous at all I always report to the gangers, and request them to keep the men out of the way until I make things secure.
4688. Has any man ever been injured by a broken hook or by a broken rope, since you have been on the job? No, never. A safety hook was straightened out one time because of the man's having hooked the first part instead of the second part.
4689. How many feet of rope are in use at the present time in this quarry? Very nearly 4,000 feet; we have used as high as 6,000 feet.
4690. What rope is it? Steel wire, from $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch.
4691. And during your time not one accident has occurred through the breaking of a rope? Never an accident; although sometimes a rope has carried away.
4692. Are all means taken to prevent injury to the men by providing the best gear? Yes.
4693. And if you want any further ropes you have only to apply to the manager? Yes.
4694. I suppose you drink out of the same buckets as the men? Yes, when going through the cuts.
4695. In what condition have you found the drinking water? We get the best obtainable, either condensed, or from Stephens' Creek.
4696. Is the water kept in a clean receptacle? It is kept in a bucket or a bag; but the men prefer a bucket.
4697. The water is kept in a clean condition? Yes; it is kept in a cool place, and is covered over.
4698. Is there anything for a reasonable man to complain of in reference to the drinking water? I do not think there is.
4699. Do you think anything further could be done in respect to the ropes you have under your control, with a view to preventing any accident? I cannot recommend anything.
4700. You think every necessary precaution is taken? Yes.
4701. I suppose, if you want further assistance you can have it, and as much as you like? Yes.
4702. There was a complaint that the straps around the skips are made of flat iron, instead of round iron? Flat iron is the proper thing; round iron would not do. In fact, I do not think anyone ever saw round iron around a skip.
4703. He said the flat iron cut the hook away;—is there any truth in that? No; flat iron is the proper thing.
4704. I think all the hooks you use on the cranes are of the tumbler class? The hooks used have a single turn; in the tumbler hooks there is a double turn, and they are used on the incline road.
4705. Plain hooks are used on the skips, and tumbler hooks on the inclined plane? Yes.
4706. Can you suggest any improvement in the hooks that are used? No, I cannot. We have never had any hooks break; but we have found them straightened out because of the men not hooking them on properly.
4707. When O'Brien said that no one was in charge of the hooks or ropes, he must have been speaking wildly? I have been appointed to look after those things; and I have attended to my work.
4708. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Has anyone else got the looking-after of those ropes? No.
4709. You have sole control of the running-gear in all its departments? Yes.
4710. Is it not true then that the company also keeps a man to look after the running-gear in Baxter and Saddler's cuts? I do not know of anybody else.
4711. You say you inspect the ropes and gear every day? Yes.
4712. Was it possible for you to inspect the gear every day without O'Brien's having a chance of seeing you? No; he could see me in the parts he was working in.
4713. Were any of those ropes ever tested? No, we have not tested them.
4714. I suppose the load put on them is never up to the strain given to them by the maker? No; the lightest rope we use is the half-inch, and the breaking strain of that is 6 tons, single part. We never use less than two parts, and sometimes use three; and the heaviest load we have lifted is $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons.
4715. *Mr. Williams.*] How long have you been appointed specially to look after these ropes? Four and a half years.
4716. Who appointed you? Mr. Shaw.
4717. Are you engaged as a practical roper? I am engaged as a foreman carpenter.
4718. And as a carpenter you have practical experience? Yes.
4719. Have you ever been a sailor? I have been to sea as a ship's carpenter.
4720. Had you anything to do with ropes there? Yes.
4721. You obtained pretty good experience there? Not so much as I have on the Hill.
4722. You have had experience of different kinds of ropes here? Yes.
4723. They are mostly steel ropes? Yes.
4724. Do they keep a stock of ropes? Yes.
4725. How many at a time, say of half-inch? I think we have about 4,000 or 5,000 feet on hand.
4726. And you cut from that as required? Yes. 4727.

4727. What is about the average length of the rope in use? On the "flying fox," the half-inch rope is between 500 and 600 feet in length.
4728. You have got about 4,000 or 5,000 feet in stock? Yes; I think we have more.
4729. What is reckoned about the shortest rope used on the "flying fox"? I believe that is about the shortest in connection with the running gear. Of course we have stays much shorter—about 150 feet.
4730. The running-gear always wears out much quicker? Yes.
4731. How long would it take to wear out a good rope? It might last three months.
4732. It wears out gradually? Yes.
4733. How often do you examine the ropes? Every day.
4734. What are the men doing? Working.
4735. They stop hauling for you to examine the ropes? No.
4736. How do you manage? It is not at all necessary to stop work to examine the ropes.
4737. Supposing one or two wires were broken, you would not condemn a rope for that? No.
4738. By and by you might see a strand coming loose; you would condemn it then? Yes, straight away.
4739. You would not splice it? No, it would be too far gone.
4740. You would not repair it in any way? No.
4741. You would not be surprised if that was not so along the line? I would be surprised to hear of a rope's being repaired. As soon as I see a strand broken I have the rope taken off.
4742. When a rope is running along, how can you tell whether a strand is broken? If a strand is broken, the part will open out, making it very easy to discern.
4743. How long would you allow it to hang before you would condemn it? It must come off at once; it could not run through the blocks.
4744. What space have you got in the blocks? Three-quarters of an inch.
4745. If a rope was broken, upon coming to one of those blocks it would tear out? The strand that was broken would be stripped back.
4746. How many cranes have they got in use? We have no cranes working at present; they are all idle.
4747. Are the "flying foxes" all idle? No.
4748. How many? Only one.
4749. Only one "flying fox" is working at present? Yes.
4750. And no cranes? No.
4751. How are they hauling stuff up? On the inclined road.
4752. How many men have you got attending to the ropes? Only another man and myself.
4753. And you look after the ropes every day? Yes.
4754. If anyone was working in the cut, and saw a rope unstranded, what would be done? The ganger's attention would be drawn to it, and he would report the matter to me.
4755. How long does it take to replace a rope (say) 500 feet long? It could be done in two hours, and spliced too.
4756. The men or the gangers are not allowed to look after the ropes? No; if anything is wrong they report to me, and I attend to it.
4757. *Mr. Edwards.*] I think a man from the sailor gang of the Proprietary goes through the open-cut ropes occasionally? A man used to go round and inspect the ropes.
4758. Have you seen any other man in the cuts inspecting the ropes? I have seen the Mining Inspector.
4759. How often? About two or three times in the week sometimes; at other times I might not see him for a month.
4760. He might be there and you not see him? Of course.
4761. *Mr. Williams.*] Have you ever seen him test them? No.
4762. *His Honor.*] I suppose these ropes are all supplied by good makers, whose test can be relied upon? Yes.

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FRIDAY, 23 JULY, 1897.

William Harry sworn and examined:—

4763. *Mr. Edwards.*] Your name is William Harry? Yes.
4764. You are one of the contractors on the open-cut in Block 11? Yes.
4765. How many years' experience have you had in work of that nature? I have had forty years' experience in such work and railway cuttings, &c.
4766. How long have you had the contract there? Between three and four years.
4767. What is the average number of men in your employment? Between forty and fifty at present, sometimes more and sometimes less. The actual number at present is, I think, forty-five.
4768. I believe you have had one fatal accident in the quarry? Yes.
4769. During the years that you have been working in these cuts, have you ever had any other fatal accident? No, that is the only one.
4770. That man's name was James Taylor? Yes.
4771. Is every precaution taken by you to protect your men from injury? Every precaution that I can possibly think of.
4772. I believe you make no distinction as to the men you employ, as to whether they belong to any union or not, so long as they are competent men? No, and I never have done so.
4773. You are a contractor under the Proprietary Company? Yes.
4774. And the surface rules of the company are observed by you? Yes; I work under those rules.
4775. Are those rules strictly observed? So far as it is possible. Men disobey them sometimes in spite of what we do.
4776. How many gangers have you under you? Two—one to each shift.
4777. At the time of Taylor's death, had you Humphreys as ganger? Yes.
4778. Was he a capable and competent man? Yes, as competent a man as ever I met. I have known him six or seven years.
4779. Is he working as a ganger for you now? No, he has left.
4780. You say he is as careful a man as ever you met? Yes.
4781. Is the working-face kept as safe as the nature of the work will permit? Nothing has ever been left that would be likely to fall down. The batters are perfectly safe.

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- W. Harry. 4782. Is there any increase of danger in working the open-cuts at night? Not in the least.
- 23 July, 1897. 4783. How are you provided in the matter of light? There are plenty of lights, and no shade or darkness is thrown from them. They are swinging incandescent lights; and it is impossible for them to throw shades.
4784. Have you movable lights? Yes, they are all movable lights. I have three lights in the face; and only three men are working there; so they are well provided.
4785. Have you ever had any serious accident at night? Never; with the exception of Taylor's accident, there has never been the least sign of one, not even a jammed finger or foot.
4786. I suppose you have worked the "chinaman" for years? Yes; it is an old idea, but not under that name. "Chinaman" is a Broken Hill name.
4787. It is called all sorts of names? Yes; "Cousin Jack," "Irishman," and such like, just according to what the navy takes it into his head to call it. He generally names it after the man on whom he has the greatest set; and I suppose that is the reason why it has been named here the "chinaman."
4788. Is it a safe system? To my mind it is far safer than filling waggons; because, if the waggons were drawn along the foot of the batter for immediate filling, the men would be shovelling between the foot of the batter and the wheels; and, if anything fell down, they would be caught between the two. In the "chinaman" there is a "get-away."
4789. There are generally only two men on the "chinaman"? Yes; sometimes there is a man pulling stuff down to them, but not always. The stuff generally runs down of its own accord, for the whole shift perhaps.
4790. The men working on the "chinaman" are exposed to no danger? Not in the least. The men working on the "chinaman" work there from choice. Taylor worked there of his own choice. They get more wages; and they work there from choice.
4791. I suppose the use of the "chinaman" reduces the number of men? Yes, considerably.
4792. Has it any other effect? It cheapens the work to the benefit of everyone.
4793. With the exception of Taylor's accident, you have had no serious accident there? No, none at all; there might be now and then a bruised finger or a bruised foot; but that happens everywhere. A stone might roll down even if the cut was not carried higher than the table, and it would gather enough weight to make a bruise.
4794. Is care taken to bar down everything on the face? Yes; work is always stopped until all loose stuff has been barred down.
4795. In reference to explosives and the use of explosives;—is care taken to have the men in a place of safety when holes are being charged? There is a tunnel close by, under the "chinaman," which is away from all danger.
4796. You have had no accidents from the use of explosives? Never in my life.
4797. Do you use much in the quarry? Yes; I believe I use too much. My explosive bill last month was £100.
4798. What quantity? I could not say from memory; I know I have got the bills for the amount I stated.
4799. £100 a month? Yes.
4800. You chiefly use powder? Yes; and dynamite.
4801. Is there any greater danger in using a deep hole, than a shallow one? Not so much, if a proper man is in charge.
4802. What depth do you put in holes up there? We are not allowed to go more than 15 feet; but I would prefer to go 25 feet in some places where necessary.
4803. Would you explain why a deep hole is safer than a shallow one? In the first place, it is put in ground that will carry the explosive better in a deep hole than in a shallow one. If you put a deep hole down you put it in the ground that will be certain to do the work required; and, if the ground is even and solid and good to bore in, there is no danger if you go 40 feet. I would prefer always to put a 30-foot hole down in solid ground. Everything depends on the ground. If you make a hard-and-fast rule limiting a hole to 15 feet, the batter at that depth might be weak, and the charge would blow out there; whereas if it had been put down 25 feet the burden would have been brought. Again, a deep hole simply lifts the burden, and does not scatter it all over the place, as does a shallow hole.
4804. Someone has said the practice of "bulling" holes is dangerous;—is that your experience? I do not believe in "bulling"; it is a modern idea; I have knocked it off for some time; it is expensive.
4805. Have you knocked it off on the ground of danger or of expense? On the ground of expense. It is a new idea that was never used until recently; not until dynamite came into use. Before that we did not "bull."
4806. There is no particular danger in the process? No; I have had "bulls" do what the shot was supposed to do. I have seen that two or three times. My opinion is that it is cheaper to go down 2 or 3 feet further, and do without "bulling." You get what you "bull" for by going down another 2 or 3 feet.
4807. If you did not "bull" you would have to go down deeper? Yes.
4808. Then this is an experiment on your part, to see whether you can do without "bulling"? Yes.
4809. I suppose you have not proved it yet, whether you can concentrate a charge in a narrow hole? I have not proved it yet.
4810. When you are putting a blister on a rock, or putting in a pop, where are the men placed? Pops and blisters are all the same; of course a blister is put on to save the trouble of boring a hole.
4811. Are the men put in a safe place? Yes, the same as when firing a charge. Pops are equally as dangerous when among ironstone as an ordinary charge.
4812. You use that rule, that men be withdrawn from the face when charging or firing? Yes; I do all I can to enforce it; but sometimes it is impossible to make the men observe it.
4813. Do you lift by skips? No.
4814. Have you any difficulty with the men through their being incompetent and not attending to the rules, or through their being careless? I have never had more than seven or eight competent men at the one time since I have been in Broken Hill. There are very few competent men in Broken Hill to-day.
4815. How do you account for such a scarcity of competent men in Broken Hill? The labour trouble has been the cause of it.
4816. Can you give me any idea of what quantity of stuff you have lifted since you have been in the open-cut? I could not say. I am now on the second contract. I lifted about 80,000 tons in the last contract.
- 4817.

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4817. As to the trucks and machinery you use for shifting it—are they in perfect order? Yes; as good as can be. If anything wants doing, I have only to apply to the mine; and they do it.
4818. Of course, you keep carpenters and blacksmiths to look after these things? Yes.
4819. When the men are barring down from the face, have you life-lines where necessary? Yes, in every place; no man is allowed to go up the face without a rope.
4820. Is there anything you can suggest in the way of regulations for the future that will prevent accident, or compel careless men to be a little more careful? The men, so far, do not even take care of themselves. Men come to work with a "don't care" sort of feeling; they do not care what they do; they do not seem to care about their own safety. I have to go round the cutting three or four times every day, and also at night, to see that the loose stones are knocked down. Men never take the least pains to see whether there is anything over their heads. A man will sit down and eat his "crib" under a stone that is likely to come down on him every minute, and should anyone be coming along and draw his attention to it he says "All right; it will stop there."
4821. Do you know a man named Shinnick? Yes.
4822. Did you offer to engage him? Yes.
4823. You offered him work in the open-cut? Yes. He told me in the street here, in the presence of two or three people, that he could not get work on the Hill because he was black-balled. I said, "You come up and I will give you work;" he said, "You will sack me;" I said, "If you can do work the same as any other man, I will have you; you come up." He never came.
4824. What bars do you use for tamping? Wooden bars; I have never seen anything else used anywhere I have been for the last forty years.
4825. *His Honor.*] For tamping powder as well as for tamping dynamite? Yes.
4826. You use a good deal of powder? Yes; we use mostly powder. Dynamite only wants pressing.
4827. You find a wooden rod sufficient to tamp powder? We use nothing but wood.
4828. You do not require iron or metal? No.
4829. *Mr. Edwards.*] You put large charges in? Yes; sometimes three kegs of powder.
4830. You find wooden bars sufficient for powder? It does not want tamping at all; that is a mistaken idea altogether. I have charged thousands of holes with nothing but dry sand.
4831. *His Honor.*] That is with powder? Yes.
4832. *Mr. Edwards.*] If boring into solid rock, can you do that? Yes; for three years in Victoria I did not use even a tamping-rod or scraper.
4833. Is the use of an iron bar restricted in Victoria? When I took charge of the works there I gathered up the tamping-bars and had them sold for old iron, and adopted sand instead. I have never seen a tamping-bar used here where I am.
4834. Can you prevent your men from doing reckless things? No. I remember, when I was a boy, 7 or 8 years of age, gathering up bits of brick and pottery, to make stuff for tamping, which the old men used to put in with a tamper to make it solid. I was under the impression for years afterwards that those old men were trying to make the tamping as solid as stone. As I grew up, I began to look round, and found it was impossible to make it as solid as stone, and that, if the charge were kept air-tight it would be the same thing. I tried sand, and succeeded. No tamping is required at all.
4835. *His Honor.*] You find that the work is quite as effective without tamping? Yes.
4836. *Mr. Edwards.*] Is it possible to prevent men doing reckless things? No.
4837. Would any system of rules or inspection prevent that? No; scarcely a day passes that a man does not do something for which I have to check him—things that risk his own life.
4838. *His Honor.*] Do you think that if rules were framed, and the men could be fined for committing a breach of them, that would have any effect? I do not think so. Men here are being fined every day for being drunk, and they keep on getting drunk; and it would be the same way with the men in the cuts. I have seen a man who has used powder for years, sit on a full keg, with a keg half-full alongside with no covering on it, with his pipe alight in his mouth, smoking away as unconcerned as if he were squatting on a log in front of his tent.
4839. *Mr. Edwards.*] You do not think rules would stop a man of that sort? No; I do not see what good these rules are. I have seen men light fires at the foot of trees in the bush on which were stuck "Fire" notices, and go away and leave them burning. Rules never trouble some men.
4840. Are loose packages of dynamite ever left about by the men? Not to my knowledge. I have seen it done, but not in Broken Hill.
4841. I suppose you have a "powder-monkey"? Yes.
4842. Is he a careful man? Yes; he is a very good man.
4843. He does not allow loose explosives to knock about the quarry? No; I have never seen any.
4844. It has been said by one of the witnesses that the batter in that cut is very dangerous—is that true? No; it is not true. It is perfectly safe. It may look dangerous to any person who goes there perhaps once a year; but it is perfectly safe; there is not a crack of any kind.
4845. It may appear dangerous to people who know nothing at all about it? There is no danger whatever, and never has been. Of course it requires a good deal of care should there be any cracks on top; but as soon as you work back beyond the cracks things are perfectly safe. There has not been the least move there since the fire.
4846. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You say that, in your opinion, tamping is not required for any charge? Yes.
4847. Why is it then that you use sand? I take the word "tamping" to mean "ramming," and when I said no tamping was required I meant no ramming was required. I do not want to insinuate that nothing is required over the charge, but that it does not want ramming.
4848. In your opinion the cause of not being able to get competent men has been the labour troubles? Yes.
4849. How do you make that out? Good men that I knew over in Victoria refused to come over here and work for me, for the reason that they would have to join the union here if they did. That was one reason; but since the strike they refuse to come over because of the reception they get in the way of abuse and foul names. They are abused in the streets, and cannot get into a boarding-house for lodgings; nor will any hotel serve them with a drink. Everywhere they go they are insulted. That is the reason now why men will not come here, or why they will not remain here if they do come.
4850. Is that the rule now, or the exception? It is the rule. I have men now who have to fight for their

W. Harry. lives every week. One man has to fight for his life every Sunday. It is a disgraceful thing that such a thing should be; but it is a fact. The name of free labourer is enough to get any man a thrashing at any time from a dozen or fourteen roughs.

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4851. Is there no law in Broken Hill? There is law; but the police are not always there. I am looked upon as a champion of the free labour party; and a man has only to work for me to get his name up. My men are looked upon as free labourers, but they are not.

4852. I suppose you would not like me to say that I was a free labourer? You are a free man.

4853. I am a free labourer. *Witness*: I am very glad to hear it.

4854. But I am a member of the Union;—the men you have got under you are a pretty fair class of men? About half a dozen of them are; the rest are inferior. I want some to-day, and cannot get them. Twenty came for work, but I could not put one of them on. I learned years ago to know a man by sight.

4855. I suppose you have been mistaken sometimes? Not often.

4856. You are a pretty good phrenologist then? Yes.

4857. What is the average batter on the east side of the cut you are in? That is a moving batter—the working batter.

4858. Do you move away your material from the top, or do you undercut it? I take it from the top. I know better than to work at the bottom before I take the top out.

4859. It has been stated that the best system is to undermine first, and then shoot down the top? I have never seen a practical man do that.

4860. You say then that the top must be taken away first? Yes, decidedly; otherwise there would be a smash up every time you took the top down.

4861. You say you make no difference as to whether a man belongs to a labour union or not? I have never made any difference. I only want a man to do what is asked of him; and if he does not do that he can go.

4862. I believe you have only had one accident in your open-cut? That is all.

4863. You said just now that you have had no serious accident? Yes.

4864. What about the man that was crushed with a truck a few weeks ago? He was at work yesterday.

4865. That was a serious accident? No; it was an accident that would have happened anywhere.

4866. There could not have been greater precaution taken to prevent that accident? No, not at all. He simply had to keep away between the waggon and the side of the tunnel. It was a pure accident; he never blamed any one. The horse, I believe, was partly the cause of it. The horses I have got up there, I am very proud to say, teach the drivers. This was an instance. The horse this man had been driving was killed two days before the accident, and the fresh horse, not being accustomed to the work, wanted some handling. The horse was accustomed to the work, but had not been down for two months.

4867. You recognise that there should be regulations under which the work should be carried out? I have worked on bigger works than these without any regulations at all; and have had no accident. The employers of labour that I have ever been engaged with have always made it a point to have no accidents, if possible, because they do not pay; they take away from the profit. I have never yet met employers who have been careless of the life and limb of their employees.

4868. You will admit that there are laws required in the country to govern the people? Yes; we would be in a bad state without them.

4869. Laws must be made for the protection of life and limb? I do not object to regulations at all, but I say that the men will not read them, and you cannot force them to it.

4870. Could not a regulation be enforced to make them carry out the regulations? Whether that would be interfering with the liberty of the subject, I do not know; but I wish there could be. I would relieve me. I would be able to sleep better at night if men would take more care of themselves.

4871. Should men be made responsible for their carelessness or insufficient thought? I do not think it would be fair to punish all men for not thinking; thousands of men cannot, and never do, think. I would not like to see a man imprisoned for a neglect of something which he did not really understand. I would like to see something done to make things better, but really I cannot see how it could be brought about.

4872. *His Honor.*] Do you not think a man would take the trouble to think, if he knew that by not doing so he would get into trouble? I would like to see something brought about to make them think. I have told men repeatedly to cease work so soon as ever they see anything dangerous; and I have got a standing order to that effect posted on the work; but it is no good.

4873. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You have to work in your quarry under the rules and regulations adopted by the mine for the surface workings? Yes.

4874. Is there anything more in those rules than an ordinary man ought to know? The men reckon they do know them. I put one down in the cut, and drew their attention to the rule as to the hours of firing, which I thought it might be difficult for them to remember; they said, "Oh, we know all about that"; but at the same time I am certain they had never read them before. I do not know what idea you could adopt to make the men read the rules; I have one set posted up where they sit down to eat their crib; and I do not believe one of them has ever attempted to read them. You cannot bring old me to do anything fresh; they are very conservative as a rule; they will do just what they have been accustomed to do; and all the regulations in the country will not affect them.

4875. What, in your opinion, is the principal cause of the accidents that have lately taken place in the mines and quarries? Men being incompetent, and perhaps not sober.

4876. Do you provide against men that are not of sober habits? Yes; so soon as I see them the worse for liquor, I send them off; but it is possible men may come on to work apparently perfectly sober, and have only just got over a heavy drinking bout; and whether they are fit to take care of themselves I cannot say, but I should think they are not. I have known men to drink £6 17s. in six days; and work every one of those days. I do not know what really could have been their state; they did not appear to be the worse for liquor; but still the effect must have been on them. I cannot speak from experience on these things, as I have never taken drink myself. I see men passing my place at nearly every shift more or less drunk. Whether they work or not I do not know; but I know that they pass my place on their way to work.

4877. You say the principal causes are incompetency and drunkenness? Yes.

4878. How shall we remove the incompetency? I could not say; I give that up.

4879. Is one inspector, in your opinion, sufficient for this district? So far as I am concerned, I do not want any inspector at all; I do my own inspecting.

4880.

4880. Have you ever seen the Mining Inspector there? Yes, often; not too often. He has never had any occasion to find fault. He cannot come too often for me. W. Harry
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4881. It would be better for you to have him coming round? I would not depend upon any inspector; I can look after my men myself: I do not think if there was an inspector to every man they would prevent accidents; the possibility is that the inspectors would get killed with the rest of them.
4882. Do you think an increase in the number of accidents has been caused through incompetency of the managers, shift-bosses, or men in charge? I do not know anything about mining; but, so far as I have seen, every care appears to have been taken on the Proprietary during the four and a half years I have been up there. Of course, I have never been underground. If inspections are carried out as much below as above I rather pity those working underground.
4883. *Mr. Williams.*] You have no brother or friend in Broken Hill, I believe? I take care to have no friends in Broken Hill.
4884. You buy a man's labour, and you endeavour to give him a proper wage for it? Yes.
4885. And there your contract with him finishes? Yes.
4886. You show no fear or favour to any man? No.
4887. You say you know a man named Shinnick? Yes.
4888. You offered him a job in your quarry, and he did not turn up? No, he did not.
4889. Do you remember my asking you for a job? No.
4890. I asked you for a job, did I not? I could not tell you. I know Shinnick, and remember his asking me, because he is an agitator.
4891. You do not remember a man's asking you for a job, because he would like to work in your cutting on account of its being carried out in a scientific manner? No.
4892. You said just now you wanted men? Yes.
4893. How many would you require to-morrow morning? Ten.
4894. You want competent men, and you do not care what nationality or association they belong to? No; I would not care if they were Chinamen; but I bar "Cousin Jacks" sometimes.
4895. Very good; but would you ask them if they were "Cousin Jacks"? No; I know them by sight.
4896. Supposing they went up to you and said, "Give us a trial, boss, and, if we are not worth anything, pay us nothing"—would you try them? Not many would make that offer.
4897. If you had them to-morrow, would you give them a show? No; because you would send some duffers up there.
4898. I would go up myself if I had a chance. You said you do not believe in a man's being imprisoned for neglect? Yes.
4899. What steps would you suggest to enable men to be taught the law? I would let every man think for himself; and not try and think for him, as you do.
4900. Supposing you saw men going wrong for the want of thought, would it not be your duty to think for them? Unfortunately, I have to do so; but in the early days—forty years ago—in Victoria and South Australia, there was a class of men totally different from that of to-day. Men in those days did not want the care and watching that men want nowadays, and there never was any accidents to speak of.
4901. Did not that arise from the fact that they had been trained to their calling from their early youth? Yes; but at present men go to work with a sort of indifference, because they are told to do as little as possible, and to say all they can against their employers. The unions all over the colonies have been the cause of these incompetent men.
4902. You believe in free labour? Yes, for the simple reason that every incompetent man is protected by the unions.
4903. *Inspector Hubbard.*] You spoke about a horse being killed;—would you mind explaining how that accident occurred? It was on the incline, and was brought about by the carelessness on the part of the lad below who hooked on. It was a safety hook; but he did not hook it properly; and it came undone, and killed the horse. Of course, those safety hooks are as safe as can be if any care be used. When this accident happened I asked both the driver and the lad how it was brought about; and they both said that the thing was right when it left the incline. Of course, I could not believe that. If it had been a man killed, instead of a horse, it would have been exactly the same thing; they would have both sworn that the hook was right when the truck left the bottom.
4904. *His Honor.*] I suppose it would be impossible to devise a hook which could be worked safely even if a good deal of carelessness were shown? I have adopted another hook now—a straight hook, with a ring in it; it is better than the tumbler, because it must be fixed properly before it will work.
4905. *Mr. Williams.*] You have never had a man injured on the "chinaman"? No.
4906. Did the inspector on any occasion ever order you to withdraw men from your cutting? I think he said once that if a thing was not altered I would have to take the men out.
4907. You altered that certain thing? Yes.
4908. And did not stop the work? No.
4909. *His Honor.*] There was use, then, for the inspector in that case? But he thought the work more dangerous than it really was. It looked dangerous from where he stood. However, I acted on his suggestion; and I do not think he has ever had any complaint to make as regards me.

William Smith sworn and examined:—

4910. *Mr. Edwards.*] Your name is William Smith? Yes.
4911. You are a contractor on the open-cut in Block 11 under the Proprietary Company? Yes.
4912. How long have you been working there? Twelve months come August next.
4913. Before that you were ganger for Baxtor and Saddler? Yes.
4914. For how long? Three years.
4915. I think you have had two fatal accidents in your quarry? Yes.
4916. One was to a man named Gaynor, who was hit with a skip? Yes; that was the first one.
4917. Was he standing under the skip when it was lifted? No; he was some 20 feet away.
4918. Was he warned of the danger he was in? The ganger warned him to shift to one side. I was not there personally; but, according to the ganger's statement and those all around him, he stood looking, and never offered to shift.
- 4919.

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4919. The second man's name was Ryan? Yes; he was caught by a stone that fell out of the face.
4920. Was he warned of any danger at the time? The ganger called out to him to look out.
4921. That stone did not fall out of the face where men were working? No; and when it struck the ground it took a different direction. It fell on to a ledge and bounced off.
4922. Had care been taken to bar down all dangerous stone before that? Yes; the ganger goes round at the commencement of every shift. According to my orders, he sees that everything is correct previous to starting the men.
4923. Besides these two fatal accidents, have you had any serious accidents? No.
4924. Is every care taken of your men? Yes; every precaution is taken for the benefit of the men.
4925. How many have you working under you? At the present time about ninety.
4926. What is your average, about? We have had over 200 at the one time. Ninety is the smallest number we have yet had.
4927. Do you find that you have competent men? A greater portion of them can only use a shovel; if you put a jumper in their hands they would not know what to do with it; and if you gave them a drill, they would not be able to strike it.
4928. Do you change your men repeatedly? It is of daily occurrence.
4929. You know the surface regulations of the Proprietary? Yes.
4930. Are they strictly observed by you and your gangers? Yes.
4931. How many gangers have you? Four.
4932. You use the "flying fox" for lifting your dirt? For the lode alone.
4933. You have trucks on the incline for your mullock? Yes.
4934. Are the men warned when the skip from the "flying fox" is being lifted? If they are working in close proximity, they are always warned before the "flying fox" is started; they are warned when it is being lifted up, and when it is coming down. The man who hooks on and hooks off gives the warning.
4935. Are men rushed about in their work? They are allowed ample time to take care of themselves; in fact, they are authorised to do so.
4936. Are men asked to take any unreasonable risk not incidental to their work? Not to my knowledge.
4937. Is it against your orders for them to do it? Yes; I always tell the gangers if they have any doubt at all to cease work.
4938. Are your ropes and tackle examined? A man daily comes round there; we call him the "roper." Anything he condemns I have to abide by.
4939. And renew it at once? Yes.
4940. Have you had any accidents from broken ropes or gear? None at all.
4941. I believe a truck ran away once;—how did that happen? Through the rope's coming over the flange of the wheel, which allowed it 15 feet before it became taut; and this caused the coupling to give way. Two men were slightly injured, one being away one day and the other two days. They are both up there now.
4942. In the case of a break-away on the incline, have you any protection? Yes; what we call "man-holes."
4943. I think that since that accident you have had an alteration made in the drum? Yes; a 9-inch flange has been put on, and it is impossible for the rope to come off now.
4944. In addition to that, you have "man-holes"? Yes, in every fourth set of timber in the heading there is protection offered the men.
4945. What explosives do you use—powder or dynamite? Both.
4946. What depth of hole do you put down for powder? As far as 15 feet.
4947. Is there any danger in putting a hole down deeper than 15 feet? There is less. There is less danger in deep holes than in shallow ones.
4948. What tamping-bars do you use? Soft wood.
4949. Do you prohibit the use of iron and steel bars? I do not allow their use, if I know it.
4950. Is it possible at times to prevent men doing reckless and foolish things? You would want more men to look after them than you really had as work to do that.
4951. What do you do when you find men guilty of carelessness? Discharge them.
4952. Is that the cause of your having so many discharges? Yes.
4953. Do you "bull" holes for those deep holes? Yes.
4954. Anything dangerous in that? Not in the least.
4955. Do you believe in "bulling"? Yes, I do. I have had great experience in "bulling."
4956. You concentrate the whole of the charge at the bottom of the hole? Yes.
4957. That is the main object? Yes; to get the explosive as low down as possible, and as concentrated as possible; it then lifts the burden all the better.
4958. Is there any danger in "bulling"? If men do not carry it out in a practical manner there might be danger; but there is no danger in it if the man understands his work. I have never used anything else for some years.
4959. For how many years? Ever since dynamite came into use.
4960. Who charges the holes? The "powder-monkey."
4961. Is he an experienced man? Yes.
4962. What is your rule with regard to men being in the face when big holes are charged? The big holes are charged after the men leave off.
4963. And in case of blistering or popping the stones that come down, where do you put the men then? There are three or four different cross-drives in the bottom of the cut where they can get.
4964. Is warning given before either of these operations takes place? Yes; the men are sent away before the fuse is lit.
4965. Are you there when blasting goes on? Yes.
4966. I think while you were with Baxter and Saddler you had one slight accident to one of your "powder-monkeys"? Yes.
4967. That is the only accident you had? Yes, barring a hurt I got myself.
4968. How did Ryan's accident happen;—he was the "powder-monkey"? Yes. I was not there at the time; but I believe it was through charging his hole with a scraper. It was broken country; and the hole choked on him; and he took to ramming it with the scraper, which is against all rules. He told me himself

himself afterwards that he was trying to clear the hole with the end of his scraper. I was not there until about four minutes after the accident, and so cannot say myself how the accident occurred.

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4969. It was early in the morning, before the men were at work? Yes.

4970. He injured one of his eyes? He has lost one of his eyes in consequence of that accident.

4971. That was purely his own foolish action? Yes; it was really his own stupidity.

4972. Can you suggest any alteration in the way of carrying out the work which would tend to prevent accidents in the future? I really cannot see anything to better the present system of working. There is one thing—I have seen several remarks made about miss-fires. I consider in a miss-fire that it is less risky to prick it out than to bore a hole alongside. In a deep hole you know exactly where the powder is; and if it misses you can jump the hole out to within 15 inches of the powder, put in two or three plugs of dynamite and a primer, re-tamp it, and then set the lot going. If you bore another hole, you do not know what side of the powder you are getting to. I am positive that there is less risk in recharging than in boring another hole alongside. I have drawn many a one myself.

4973. What instrument would you use for jumping the stuff out? I would use a jumper with water.

4974. There is no danger if you have water? No.

4975. How long have you been practising that system? I have been thirty years at it.

4976. You must have water to keep your tamping wet? Yes. You want to let the water down lightly as you work, and when you get too much of it swab it out, and then let more down until you have again to swab it out. By doing that there is no danger in pricking to within 15 inches of the charge.

4977. You locate the position of the powder by your tamping-bar when putting the charge in? Yes; any practical man will always do that; he will mark on his tamping-bar the depth of the powder before he puts his fuse in, and then measure the fuse and make a mark on it, so that he will know when it is down.

4978. It has been said that the "chinaman" is a dangerous system? I cannot see where it comes in. I consider it safer than men being down in the cut with either skips or waggons.

4979. How many years have you worked with the "chinaman"? Over 40; but it was not called the "chinaman" then.

4980. It is a very useful thing? Yes, it is.

4981. Is the light at night defective; or is it good? I consider the light ample for all purposes. I myself cannot see how you could in any way better the light. If I require any extra light I make a report; and it is at once put on.

4982. Can you get as much light as you want? Yes.

4983. There is no stinting on the part of the company? No; if I want an extra light it is fixed without charge.

4984. To what cause do you attribute the accidents in the cuts? Gaynor's accident was brought about by his own stupidity in not getting away when asked to get away.

4985. Of course, the last accident that happened, that to Ryan, was an unforeseen accident? It could not have been avoided, because if he had been as quick as lightning the stone would have caught him. He made a run to get out of its way; but it struck a ledge and bounced across on to him. If he had not moved he would have been safe, but no one was to know that the stone was going to take such an erratic course.

4986. In shooting in the face, what precaution is taken? The ganger with his men bar down the loose material before the morning shift start; and this is again done at dinner-time.

4987. In what condition is the working face kept? I am always looking around there myself; and if I see anything that I am doubtful about I say to the ganger, "Take it down at once; better to do that than be sorry afterwards." I always impress that upon the gangers—to be sure and take down anything they are in doubt about; and tell them that it is far better to do that than to be sorry afterwards. I really think that the men in my employ carry out their instructions to the letter.

4988. I suppose you see the inspector round there occasionally? Yes.

4989. Do you carry out the instructions he from time to time gives you? Yes; if ever he makes a remark about anything I endeavour to take action at once.

4990. And your work is also inspected by officers of the Proprietary Company? Yes; two or three of them come round; and if there is anything that does not suit them they inform me; and, of course, I have the matter attended to.

4991. What limit of time would you fix for the re-charging of a hole after being "bulled";—would you fix any hard-and-fast limit of time, or leave it to the discretion of the men? I have "bulled" a hole myself on the Hill, and charged it within five minutes afterwards. Of course, in that case I put a keg of water down the hole.

4992. You are speaking of holes you can get water into? Yes.

4993. In that case you think there should be no fixed limit of time? No, there should not.

4994. If you do not use water, what time would you fix? Ironstone keeps the heat longer than the burden, and I would give it an hour.

4995. What do you think is the cause of danger in charging a hole that has been "bulled"? I have never known an accident to occur in charging a hole that had been "bulled."

4996. You always assume that there is a risk in charging immediately after a "bull"? When you are in doubt, put in a tamping-bar, and leave it there for five minutes; if it comes out cold you can charge with immunity.

4997. Do you think there is a risk of small portions of the fused used in the "bull" remaining smouldering about the hole? No; the "bull" would blow it all out.

4998. You cannot say that there is any fixed rule that could be made which would meet all cases? I cannot see where you could improve upon the present practice.

4999. The present practice is what? To use a short fuse, and, where possible, water.

5000. The time is left at present to the discretion of the men? A man will always put in his tamping-bar if he has a doubt about it, and try whether the hole is still hot.

5001. You do not think that any hard-and-fast rule could be made that would meet all cases fairly? I do not see how it could come in.

5002. In cases of missed-holes, do you think there ought to be a hard-and-fast rule as to the time? I should certainly say that an hour should elapse before withdrawing the charge.

5003. *His Honor.*] Do you think an hour would be sufficient? Yes.

5004.

- W. Smith. 5004. You have heard of cases where missed-holes have gone off considerably beyond that time? I have read of it, but never witnessed it. I have seen, in Tasmania, a 20-foot hole not go off until after thirty-five minutes.
- 23 July, 1897. 5005. So you would name an hour as a safe limit? Yes.
5006. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Have you got a man in your cut to look after the gear? No; the Proprietary Company have a man to attend to that.
5007. How often does he inspect the gear? He is there every day. If he condemns anything I have to abide by it, and at once.
5008. That is in the agreement? Yes.
5009. And anything he points out has to be at once made good? Yes.
5010. You know the surface rules of the Proprietary Company? Yes; I have got them at the cut.
5011. Do you think they are sufficient, if adhered to? I do.
5012. So far as you know, are they always adhered to in your cut? So far as I know, they are. I would not like to go and swear that they are, because there are some men who are that stupid that it is almost an impossibility to get them to carry out rules, unless you are standing over them all the time.
5013. Is it your instructions that they should be carried out? Yes; and the gangers' instructions, too.
5014. Do you think there is anything more in those rules than any ordinary practical man ought to know? No.
5015. Do you think there should be a regulation in connection with the working of those open-cuts as to the quantity of powder that should be in use at one time? I cannot see that a regulation to that effect is necessary. The magazines are close at hand; and powder can be taken out at any time.
5016. One of the surface rules says that, in the event of a charge missing fire, no workman shall return to work within an unsafe distance of the missed-hole until it has been exploded, and that those particular persons who are engaged in effecting the explosion of the missed charge may only return to their duty when there can be no further doubt that the charge has missed;—have you anything to say as to that rule? We have knocked off altogether on several occasions when we have had missed holes; and we have also knocked off when there has been a missed-hole in the adjoining contract.
5017. You think an hour is sufficient time to leave a hole? I think it is ample.
5018. You do not think it is unsafe to jump the tamping out of a missed-hole? I contend that there is not the same risk, if properly carried out, in taking the tamping out as there is in boring a hole alongside.
5019. Do you think it necessary that tamping should be settled in a hole so as to make it necessary to use a jumper to jump it out? If you did not tamp a deep powder-hole you would lose a lot of power. Say I have a 14-foot hole. I tamp it solid for a distance of 6 feet above the powder, and then fill the balance with loose stuff.
5020. *His Honor.*] So long as it does not shoot the tamping out, the powder must do its work? Yes; but if you did not tamp it at all it would not do its work.
5021. Have you seen it do that? Yes; the more it is confined the better the effect.
5022. And you would use a wooden tamping-bar? Yes.
5023. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Then pouring in fine sand is not so effective as settling the tamping on the charge? Dry sand is a thing I have never used.
5024. From your varied experience, you could form an opinion? I do not think it would require tamping at all if you had sand; the weight of the sand would in itself be sufficient.
5025. Have you ever used the jumper here in taking the tamping off a charge? I have used it myself personally; but I would not like another man to do it. When I was ganger for Baxter and Saddler I did my own "powder-monkeying" for a long time.
5026. Then you think that that general rule as to not unramming a charge is more often broken than adhered to? Yes; and it is less risky not to adhere to it.
5027. In your opinion, that rule is not required? I do not think it is required; in fact, I think it would be better if it were cut out as regards open-cut work, where deep holes are put down. I have never seen an accident occur in the whole of my experience through jumping a hole out; and I have jumped scores out myself. If you use water, and take proper precaution, there is not one-tenth the risk there is in boring a hole alongside.
5028. What, in your opinion, has been the principal cause of the accidents that have taken place in the district? I cannot see where there has been any accident through carelessness on the part of the management. So far as I can see, it has generally been the carelessness of the individual himself. In the case of Ryan it was not his fault. The ganger himself had been on the face and barred down everything he thought was loose; still this piece came out. There was no carelessness about it.
5029. Have you noticed any increase lately in accidents? No.
5030. In the district, I mean? There was the Tarrawingee accident; and there were two here on the Hill within a few days of one another; and that was an unusual thing. It was just like a chapter of accidents. I think, however, that the percentage of accidents for the quantity of men at work is very low.
5031. Do you think that there has been an increase in fatal accidents lately? No; excepting the one week when those several fatal accidents occurred.
5032. Do you think that working in the open-cuts at night has a tendency to increase the number of accidents? I cannot see where it comes in. I think if you refer to the reports of accidents you will find that very few have occurred on the night-shift.
5033. You think it is quite safe to work them at night? In the past twelve months I have only had, I think, one accident; and that was when the truck went down the incline, and slightly injured two men.
5034. Do you think the services of an additional inspector are required on this field? I cannot see where there is use for him; we could not take any more precaution than we are already taking at the present time.
5035. But when we remember that this district is 300 miles long, and that 6,000 men are working within a radius of 2 miles, do you not think an inspector is required for that radius alone? I am speaking of the Hill; of course, I know nothing of the outside district.
5036. You think there should be an inspector on the Hill at all times to report to whenever accidents occur? I was under the impression that we had one here.
5037. But if he happened to be up at Tiboburra you would probably have to delay your work for some time if an accident occurred. You would have to wait a week or ten days, perhaps longer, before the inspector returned? Yes; but I have never seen anything like that occur.
5038. *Mr. Williams.*] You say that if Dean condemns a rope, you have to attend to it? Dean does not concern me at all.

5039. But if he inspects a rope and condemns it, you have to attend to it immediately? Dean is the inspector employed by Baxter and Saddler; the man who comes round to me is employed by the Proprietary. He comes round every day.
5040. What is his name? Really I could not tell you. The last man's name was Sullivan; but there is a new man on now.
5041. Can you tell what sort of a man he is;—is he an iron man or a wooden man? He is a sailor, I believe.
5042. You take every precaution to prevent accidents to your men? Yes.
5043. As a matter of fact, when they die you take such interest in them as to see that they are put underground? If men die under my employ, I pay them respect, and follow them to the grave.
5044. You are then doing your duty as a man and as a brother. When you see men in danger you order them to cease work? Yes.
5045. You believe in withdrawing a charge when it misses fire? Yes; not the charge, but the tamping.
5046. And you would recommend that advice as a brother? Yes.
5047. You would not ask your brother to go and bore a hole alongside a missed-hole, if you did not care about doing it yourself? I would not.
5048. If your brother was here, and he charged a hole for the purpose of firing it and you found that there was no necessity for it, you would ask him to withdraw the charge? I would not ask him to withdraw the charge; I would then let him fire it.
5049. You would let him fire it at his own risk? I understand you to say that if he put it in and it was not required he should withdraw it. I would let him fire it.
5050. If you were withdrawing a hole, you would put enough water in to stop an explosion? Yes; let the water be constantly running—that is, in a deep hole.
5051. In putting water in you would prevent friction or heat arising from friction? Yes.
5052. And you not only put the water in, but you would take it out with a scraper? I would use the scraper as a swab.
5053. You prefer using a wooden rod to a metal one? Yes.
5054. You do not believe in using a metal rod on any occasion? No.
5055. You get as much light as you require up there? Yes.
5056. And if you wanted a little more you could have it? Yes.
5057. They give you what is considered a fair light? Yes.
5058. The Proprietary gives it? Yes.
5059. If you want any more you ask for it? Yes.
5060. And if you want any more and you do not ask for it, then it is your own fault if the light is bad? Yes.
5061. You know what it is to suffer from any accident; and that makes you more careful of your fellow men? I have been very careful all through my life.
5062. I think I asked you for a job on one occasion, but you were full-handed. You get the light supplied to you free of charge? Yes.
5063. When you want light, you say, in fact, "Let there be light," and there is light? Yes, I send in an application; and a man comes over from the electric department and puts the light up wherever I want it.

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Samuel Mayne sworn and examined:—

5064. *Mr. Edwards.*] Your name is Samuel Mayne? Yes.
5065. You are underground manager, I think, of the South Mine? Yes.
5066. Before being appointed underground manager you were an underground foreman? Yes.
5067. For how long? Two years.
5068. About two years ago you had a very serious accident in the South Mine? Yes.
5069. That was caused through the ground giving in one corner of a stope? Yes.
5070. *His Honor.*] The men were killed by the force of air? Yes, the whole stope came in; and these men were in the drive, and were blown down.
5071. *Mr. Edwards.*] I think you went down to the stope, and ordered the men to the surface? Yes.
5072. And you came up and changed your clothes; and these men delayed in the drive? Yes, they thought they were quite safe.
5073. You had ordered them away from work; and there was no necessity for them to be there? That is so.
5074. Unfortunately, they did not come to the surface; and the rush of air through the drive killed them? Yes.
5075. With the exception of that, what other accidents have you had in the South? Three within the last seven years. One fell down a shoot; another fell down a set; and a third was killed by stuff coming from off the back.
5076. How were those accidents caused—take the first one, the fall from the shoot? We could not find where he got into the shoot. Where he was working it was covered over and guarded. He must have fallen through away from where he was working.
5077. You could never find out how he got there? No.
5078. Was that shoot generally covered over? It was at all times except when being used; but there were guard-rails round it.
5079. Were the guard-rails up when you found him? Yes; where it was supposed he went through it was close sollarred over.
5080. Then you could never tell how he got down there? No.
5081. If he had fallen down there someone must have replaced the plank; perhaps some person passing, and not knowing that anyone had fallen through, had covered it over again? Yes.
5082. As to the other man? The second accident was brought about by the man's falling down one set. His mate had taken a lath up; and he stepped back through the opening made.
5083. Ought that lath to have been taken up? No; a fresh one should have been got.
5084. *His Honor.*] His mate, in taking up that lath, acted contrary to the rules of the mine? They often take up one or two for air.

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5085. *Mr. Edwards.*] The third accident? Some of the back came away.
5086. Who was the man? Ellis.
5087. How long ago did that happen? Two and a half years ago.
5088. Was that brought about by the carelessness of any person? There was one piece to put up to form the full set; and they were lifting that up when the ground came off from the back, and crushed Ellis down.
5089. Were any laths in? The back laths were in; and it came through them, breaking off two of them.
5090. Was every reasonable precaution taken? Yes; when the back laths are in we always consider it safe.
5091. Your mine is well ventilated? Yes; there is no complaint to make in that respect.
5092. Those three accidents extend over seven years? Yes.
5093. How many men have you employed? 420 altogether; 250 underground.
5094. Have you noticed any increase in accidents in your mine lately? Nothing more than usual. Accidents must occur in a big mine where there are lots of men working.
5095. Have you any underground rules for the men? No; they are told the rules by the officials every day.
5096. Are your shift-bosses competent men? Yes, they are thoroughly practical men.
5097. Is timber supplied to the men for the purpose of securing the ground they are in? As much as they want; and should the ground at any time be thought dangerous they are shifted until the timber is put in.
5098. They are not allowed to work in places where timber is required if timber is not handy to secure it? No.
5099. Is it against your orders that men strip the floors off the sets? Yes, we discharge them for doing that; but it is difficult to find out who are the culprits.
5100. Have they to go to any trouble in getting timber? No; it is brought up close to them.
5101. And before going for it they will take up the floors? Yes.
5102. Do you find men careful? Competent men are; it is the incompetent men who cause accidents.
5103. Are there more competent men than incompetent men in your mine? Yes.
5104. As a rule you find the men competent in your mine; and they obey orders? They have to be competent, or they are discharged.
5105. You have discharged some for not obeying orders? Yes.
5106. Have you kept a record? No.
5107. How do you take your explosives down? We take a case into the magazine down below; and it is taken from there in tins as required.
5108. Do you believe in withdrawing part of the tamping in the case of a missed-hole? I believe in re-charging. We do not tamp holes full; so long as you make them air-tight it is sufficient. There is no need to meddle with a hole at all, so long as you put a fresh charge on top of it.
5109. You object to putting in a hole alongside a missed-hole? Yes, that would be dangerous; because the concussion in putting down the new hole would probably explode the missed-hole.
5110. Do you think additional inspectors would prevent accidents in the future? No; unless they could find a thoroughly practical man who could see through 20 feet of solid wall. The inspector we have is quite sufficient.
5111. What tamping-bars do you use in the mine? Wooden ones.
5112. Soft-wood? Yes; and hard-wood.
5113. Are metal bars prohibited altogether? Yes; we will not have one on the mine on any account.
5114. Do you "bull" their holes? Not often.
5115. I suppose there is no danger in doing that if it is properly carried out? No; not if the hole is allowed to cool.
5116. In the case of a missed-hole, how long would you leave it before touching it? It all depends; sometimes an hour, sometimes more, sometimes less. I often leave it to the discretion of the men.
5117. Have you had any serious accidents with reference to explosives? No.
5118. You have good "powder-monkeys"? The men charge their own holes. If a man cannot charge his own hole he is no good.
5119. I suppose men on going off shift often leave their face in a dangerous condition? Not often.
5120. Do they sometimes? Not that I remember. If they do they always acquaint the shift-bosses.
5121. And in case of a missed-hole? That is always reported.
5122. You have never heard of a missed-hole being left, and no report being made? No.
5123. I suppose it would be safer if the men coming off shift had an opportunity to point out to their mates anything dangerous in the face? Yes; sometimes men stop, if there is anything dangerous, and point it out.
5124. If they do not stop, it is possible for them to miss their mates? Yes.
5125. Do you not think it would be a benefit if change of shift took place in the face? I do not think it would.
5126. Why? It would be loss of time to the men.
5127. But apart from that? I think the present system is quite good enough.
5128. You see we want rules for careless men? I do not think there would be any advantage in changing in the face.
5129. I suppose the great objection would be the loss of time to the men? There would be a good deal of loss of time to the men.
5130. But it would be a matter of additional security? Well, I might say it would as far as incompetent men are concerned.
5131. That is what I mean;—supposing you get men entirely reckless? I think they ought to be made to change in the face.
5132. That is if you did not get rid of them at once? Yes.
5133. For breaches of instructions what do you do? Discharge them.
5134. What quantity of explosive do you allow men to use in the face? They do not carry explosives into the face unless they are going to charge.
5135. A rule here says that not more than 6 lb. shall be used at one time in the one place. If you had a series of machine-holes you would require more? Yes.

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5136. That rule might be eliminated altogether? We rarely use more than 5 lb.
5137. But suppose you have about six or seven machine-holes? They do not fire more than three or four together.
5138. How much do they take each? 5 lb.
5139. For the whole lot or for each? For the whole lot.
5140. That is with machine-holes? Yes.
5141. What depth do you put them in? Three to 5 feet.
5142. I suppose you sometimes use more in certain work in the mine? Yes; sometimes we use more.
5143. Then it would depend upon the nature of the work the men are at as to the quantity of explosive they would require? Yes.
5144. A hard-and-fast rule limiting the amount to 6 lb. would not be a workable rule? You require to take in more than 6 lb. sometimes.
5145. Is there any reason why the quantity should be limited? No.
5146. The result to a man if 6 lb. went off would be the same as if 12 lb. went off? Yes, just the same.
5147. Do you think there is any necessity to have a Board of Inquiry to inquire into minor accidents; or do you think the inspector would be sufficient? I think the inspector would be quite sufficient to make inquiries into things of that kind.
5148. Do you report all accidents to him? Yes.
5149. And the place is left until he has an opportunity of seeing it? Yes.
5150. It is never interfered with? No.
5151. He has the opportunity of investigating the thing immediately, on the spot? Yes.
5152. Can that be improved upon in any way? I do not think so.
5153. Do you think he is a better judge as to the cause of accidents than a man who has no experience? Yes.
5154. I suppose, when men are ordered out of the ground by one of the underground officers, that officer should have the right to say when the ground is sufficiently safe for them to return? Yes.
5155. And when the inspector is called in he should be the man to put the men back? Yes.
5156. In continuing a shaft, what depth of uncovered shaft would you allow above the men? I never allow more than 100 feet, and always keep a penthouse in.
5157. Is that necessary? Yes, where working overhead; but if a shaft is used for nothing but sinking it does not matter whether you have a pent-house or not.
5158. I suppose you have the most suitable machinery for the working of the mine? Yes.
5159. It has been suggested that at change of shift, when men are being lowered or raised, two engine-drivers should be in the engine-house, in case one man should fall down in a fit? I have never known of such a thing to occur, and I think it safer to have one than two.
5160. I think you agree with the suggestion that they should have certificates? There are lots of good men who have not got certificates. I have employed miners with certificates, and they have turned out to be no good.
5161. Then you do not think a certificate is any guide at all? No.
5162. You would put a man through his facings when you took him on, whether he had a bushel of certificates or none at all? Yes.
5163. And I suppose certificates for miners would be utterly absurd? Yes.
5164. Or for shift-bosses? Yes; if you want certificates you can get bushels of them at a shilling each.
5165. Do you think that a system of apprenticing lads to mining would tend to produce a better class of miners? I am sure it would. If we discharged a lot of the men now on the mines, and put on these boys, they would be better workmen right from the very start.
5166. What age? Eighteen.
5167. How long should they serve before they would be entitled to call themselves miners? Some would make good miners in twelve months; others, again, would take years. As far as working is concerned, I was as good at 18 as I am now.
5168. They would not get all their experience in twelve months? No.
5169. They would be able to use a hammer and drill; but they would not be experienced in the various phases of mining? No.
5170. Would you fix a term? I think it should be left to the discretion of the manager as to when they should go into the face as men.
5171. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Have you noticed any increase in the number of accidents on the Barrier during the last twelve months? No, not particularly, especially when you take into consideration the class of men employed at present.
5172. But have you noticed an increase? I have not.
5173. What is the chief cause, in your opinion, of the accidents that have recently taken place in the district? In most cases, through incompetent men and their neglect.
5174. Is there a dearth of competent men on the Barrier? Yes; there is.
5175. What has brought about the great number of incompetent men on the Barrier? I could not say.
5176. There are more men on the Barrier now than are employed, I believe? There always are, go where you will. Some will not work so long as they can get a few shillings to go and have some beer.
5177. Do you think the risk is increased by the employment of incompetent managers and shift-bosses? I do not know of any who are incompetent. All the managers and bosses I know along the line are competent men. I am not personally acquainted with all of them; but of those I do know I think they are well qualified for the positions they fill.
5178. In your opinion are the Regulations under the Mining Act sufficient for the safe working of the mines and quarries in this district? Yes; if carried out.
5179. Do you endeavour to carry them out in your mine? Yes.
5180. What is the penalty for breach of any regulation by your employees? We often discharge them; and sometimes we only caution them.
5181. But for any flagrant breach they are discharged? Yes.
5182. Is there any truth in the assertion that in many places in the South Mine not sufficient laths are provided to keep the stopes covered? I wish they would have a look at our timber bill; quite sufficient laths are always on hand.

- S. Mayne. 5183. What are your instructions in regard to stopes before they are filled? To keep them all covered. I have one now ten floors high; and it is covered from top to bottom with laths—thousands of laths; but it is not necessary at all times to keep the stopes covered.
- 23 July, 1897. 5184. But is it necessary to keep them covered under the working-faces? Yes; of course it is.
5185. You believe every set should be kept covered in that case? Yes.
5186. *His Honor.*] Is that one of the principal troubles you have got to contend with—the men stripping laths where they have no business to do so, instead of taking the trouble to get fresh timber? Yes, that is one of the most difficult things we have to contend with.
5187. You would be in a better position if, instead of sacking a man for doing that, you could get him fined? Then some of them would never have any pay.
5188. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] With reference to the fatality that occurred in the South two years ago, would that accident have occurred if there had been an air-way through that stope on to the level above? There was an air-way; but it was not quite sufficient for the rush of compressed air that took place.
5189. The men met their deaths in the drive? Yes.
5190. You had ordered them out on the stope? Yes.
5191. There was no specific order from you that they were to go to the surface? No; they could have gone, but they thought they were safe where they were.
5192. I suppose if nothing had happened, you would have said that they did quite right in staying there until the cages came on at 4 o'clock. You would have thought they were perfectly safe there. You had no idea that if a fall did take place it would be followed by such a dire result? It was quite unforeseen.
5193. No blame was attached to anyone? No.
5194. Do you think, from your knowledge, that it is safe that a stope should be worked to the height that stope was without having greater communication through than there was in that case? It was quite safe at the time.
5195. It has been stated that it was hot in that stope? The sulphide was warm; but the air was good.
5196. It is not true that men could not work on the top part of that stope more than five minutes at a time? They have worked there more than five hours at a stretch; if they could not work longer than five minutes at a time it would not pay to work the stope.
5197. As to Vivian's getting down the shoot? He was working—like—on this floor; and the shoot was over on the other set.
5198. The floor under the one on which he was working was open? No; it was covered.
5199. The one he was on and the one under him were covered? Yes.
5200. He could not walk in from anywhere unless a lath had been lifted? No.
5201. What was the name of the man who fell down the one set? I could not tell you his name now; he had not been working there long; very rarely I ask a man his name.
5202. *Mr. Williams.*] Were those men at liberty to come to the surface; or were they forced to stay down until 4 o'clock? I am referring to the big accident. They were at liberty to come up.
5203. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] There is no regulation at present in force under the Mining Act making it compulsory that the mining companies attach safety appliances to their cages;—do you think there should be a provision in the Act to that effect? I think it would be very advisable.
5204. And appliances to prevent over-winding, such as a disconnecting hook, or something to sever the rope? I do not think they are of any use; we tried them and lost a cage through them.
5205. Were there no safety appliances on the cage as well? There was not at that time; it was seven or eight years ago.
5206. *His Honor.*] But it is a fact that there are several thoroughly accepted hooks to prevent overhauling at present in use in England and America? I have heard of them.
5207. They are not commonly used here? No.
5208. There have been no accidents here from overhauling? No.
5209. But there have been in different parts of the world? Yes.
5210. So on the whole you would approve of a safety-hook being made compulsory? Yes.
5211. Not only the safety-brake, but the safety-hook also? Yes.
5212. *Mr. Williams.*] As to the man falling down the shoot;—the place was covered over and railed in? Yes.
5213. You do not think it possible he could have got there unless one of the laths had been moved? I do not.
5214. When you went to the place you found the laths over it? Yes.
5215. You made inquiries, and could not find out whether anyone had removed a lath and then put it back? Yes.
5216. His mate knew nothing about it, only that he had gone? Yes, that was all.
5217. One of the truckers found him in the shoot; and the shoot was covered over with laths; but, for all that, he must have fallen through? Yes. An inquest was held; and four or five of the men who had been working there gave evidence.
- His Honor: The end of it was that no one could find out how he got there.*
5218. When a place is warm, men sometimes take up a lath to get air? Yes.
5219. It is quite possible, then, that this man may have taken up a lath and slipped down, and afterwards someone came along and replaced it? I do not know.
5220. Did you see the inspector down the mine any time previous to that big accident? I often saw him down.
5221. He was down a week before the accident occurred? Yes.
5222. Did he make any complaint to you just before the accident that the stope should be better ventilated? I could not tell you now.
5223. Is it possible that he advised you to improve the ventilation of that place before the accident occurred? We had sufficient ventilation up there, without increasing it. We had improved the ventilation before the accident occurred.
5224. You said you would like to get rid of incompetent men, and put boys on? I said it would be a good idea if apprentices were put on in place of some of the incompetent men.
5225. You have worked your way up from a miner on the Hill? Yes.
5226. From a miner to a shift-boss, then to foreman, and then to manager? Yes.

Joel Phillips sworn and examined:—

5227. *Mr. Edwards.*] Your name is Joel Phillips? Yes.
5228. You are general manager of the Broken Hill Junction Silver Mining Company, Limited, and of the Broken Hill Junction North Silver Mining Company, Limited? Yes.
5229. Who is the underground manager of your mine? Charles Bennetts.
5230. How many years' experience have you had in mining? Forty-five years. I first started on the surface, doing work such as boys generally do—dressing ore, &c.; and afterwards went underground, working first with my father, and then with other parties.
5231. How long have you had charge of the Junction? Five years.
5232. How many do you employ there on an average? About 300 or 320.
5233. This Commission is to inquire into causes of accidents that have taken place in the Broken Hill district lately, and to get at the reasons of them, to prevent a recurrence in future. Have you noticed an increase in accidents lately in your mine? I do not think so. We have not had many accidents altogether—nine, I think, altogether, in five years.
5234. How many fatal accidents have you had? Not one.
5235. And of the nine accidents? Most of them were slight accidents.
5236. Have you had any fatal accidents on the Junction North? No, not one.
5237. What has been the nature of these other accidents? The most serious accident was the breaking of a small bone of a man's arm. A small stone came down the shaft, and struck him on the arm.
5238. Are the men under you competent and skilled men—the underground manager and the foreman? Yes; and they are all good practical miners.
5239. I believe most of the men you have are men that you have brought up from Moonta? They are strangers. We have got some very good men; but some are inferior. We have a lot of very good men in the mine.
5240. Can you suggest how accidents are caused in the mine;—can you suggest any means by which they can be prevented, further than the precautions taken at present? I do not see how there could be any further precaution taken. We take every precaution we can to prevent accidents.
5241. You had a creep the other day in the Junction? Yes.
5242. No accident was occasioned through it? No.
5243. You knew the ground was going? Yes; I knew for some time that the ground was very heavy.
5244. The men had means of getting away without endangering themselves in any way? Yes; there were several ways to get away from it.
5245. I suppose that ground must have come? Timber would not have kept it.
5246. The wole of that is, I think, if not completely repaired, very nearly fixed up? We have not meddled with it very much where the crush took place. We are putting in new drives round the sides to get at the solid ground. No one is working in the crush.
5247. Is the timbering carried out under a good system? Yes.
5248. And you have had as much filling done as possible? Yes.
5249. You use dynamite, of course, underground in your mine? Yes.
5250. Do you "bull" your holes? They may sometimes, but very seldom.
5251. It has been said that the practice of "bulling" is a dangerous one? I do not see that there is any danger in it. "Bulling" comes in as a rule where deep holes are bored.
5252. What time would you leave a "bulled" hole before putting in the charge? That would depend upon the quantity of explosive that had been put in for "bulling." If only a small quantity of explosive were put in, a few minutes would suffice; that is, where you have water to put in. You can generally tell by the tamping-stick whether the hole is cool or not.
5253. In the case of a missed charge, would you withdraw the tamping or put in another hole alongside;—which is the safer? The rule is to draw portion of the tamping, and re-charge; and then the concussion will send off the original charge.
5254. Within what distance of the charge can you withdraw the tamping? I would not be afraid to go within 1 foot.
5255. And, at that distance, by putting in more dynamite you can explode the missed charge? Yes; often with 2 feet on top you can explode it.
5256. You have had no accidents from falls of ground underneath? I do not remember anyone being hurt from a fall of ground.
5257. Is plenty of timber supplied to the men underground to secure the places in which they are working? A good supply of timber is always on hand.
5258. Where do they get it? There is always a stack of timber at the mouth of the shaft on the surface, and whenever there is a chance it is sent down to the drives, where they can get it easily and without trouble.
5259. I suppose only wooden bars are used for tamping below? Yes; that is all I have seen.
5260. Do you use machine drills down there? Yes, just now.
5261. There is a rule that no man shall have more than 6 lb. of explosive in use at the one time;—would that quantity be sufficient for machine drills? No. He would want more, or else have to make three or four journeys to the magazine when charging.
5262. Where is the magazine? Aboveground.
5263. How are the explosives taken into the mine? They are generally taken down in their packets. We had canisters; but the men would not take the trouble to use them; they used them for water-cans instead.
5264. The explosives are in cardboard boxes? Yes.
5265. Do you think cardboard boxes are sufficiently safe to carry explosives in? Yes; I think so.
5266. When men are ordered out by one of the mine officers on account of the ground's being apparently unsafe, on whom should the responsibility rest of telling them to go back? The underground bosses always consult me before men are put back; and I have a look to see whether the place is safe.
5267. And where the inspector orders men out you always refer to him before the men go back? We have never had any serious trouble with the ground, only this last big creep.
5268. Do you think that additional inspectors on the field would prevent accidents? I do not think so.
5269. If you had a dozen different inspectors could you do more than you are doing at present to prevent any

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- J. Phillips, any accident in your mine? I do not see how I could. We have taken every precaution to keep all places secure.
- 23 July, 1897. 5270. You have worked on gold-reefs as well as in copper-mines? Yes.
5271. Have you ever known men to be looked after better, or better cared for, than at Broken Hill? I have never seen any place where men have been better provided with timber than at Broken Hill.
5272. And every care taken for their safety? Yes.
5273. What time would you leave a missed-hole before allowing the men to go back to it? I think the rule is not to allow the men to go back in the same shift; they are supposed to leave it for the rest of the shift; it might be eight hours; and it might be only four.
5274. What do you think should be the limit? I think one and a half hours, or perhaps one hour, would be long enough.
5275. Supposing you are putting down a three-compartment shaft, how many compartments would you close? The whole, except the one that the stuff is being hauled up. The rule is to go 100 feet; but I would not be afraid to go 150 feet.
5276. There would be no danger in going 200 feet? No.
5277. I suppose that depends upon the men that are sinking? Yes.
5278. Do you think a system of apprenticing youths would be of any advantage to the mines of Broken Hill? I think it would be a very good idea.
5279. What time should they serve? I should say three years.
5280. I suppose your machinery is suitable in every way for the lowering and raising of men? Yes; we have good winding-engines for hoisting the men; they are also used for hoisting the ore.
5281. It has been said that as a matter of further safety two engine-drivers should be in the shed when men are being hoisted or lowered, in case one man might fall down in a fit? I do not think it is necessary to have two drivers; I have never seen it.
5282. Might not two men being in the shed be more likely to lead to accident? Yes; their attention might be taken away from their work by talking.
5283. Would you have those men hold certificates? I think they should.
5284. I suppose you would not appoint a man on a certificate alone; you would give him a test? I would like him to have a reference from some other place showing him to be a competent man.
5285. Do you think it would be an advantage if men were to change in the face instead of at the plat or brace? I do not think there should be a hard-and-fast rule to change at the face, because at present they blast as the last thing.
5286. They could alter their hours of blasting? They fix the time for blasting so as to allow for ventilation.
5287. To change in the face might cause loss of time; but would it not be a matter of greater safety and security to the men if the in-coming shift were to have the face pointed out to them? Where men are working with the pick they should, I think, change in the face, as there is nothing to prevent their doing so; but where they are blasting they could not very well do so, because it is an advantage sometimes to blast at the change of shift.
5288. I suppose the loss of time to the men is the only objection to their being compelled to show their mates the face? Yes, that is all; there is no objection otherwise.
5289. I suppose you have never had missed-holes left in the face and not reported? I do not remember that ever occurring.
5290. Is there any truth in the statement that accidents are occasioned here by incompetent managers or incompetent shift-bosses? Not so far as I know.
5291. Your brother, Thomas Phillips, is underground manager of the North Junction Mine? Yes.
5292. He has shift-bosses under him? Yes; they are appointed through me.
5293. The evidence you have given in relation to the Junction will apply equally well to the Junction North? Yes.
5294. I believe the creep in the Junction North has been secured? Yes; all that is required; but there is part of the ground that has collapsed that will not be required again.
5295. All portions now being worked are safe and secure? Yes.
5296. No accident has happened in that mine? There was a slight one yesterday. A wheel came off a truck, and struck a miner who was standing in the plat.
5297. Was that owing to any carelessness? I do not think so. I do not see how it could be called carelessness on the part of anyone. The wheel dropped off as the braceman was turning the truck round.
5298. Was the man at the plat severely hurt? I do not think it was anything serious; he got a nasty blow on the chest.
5299. With the exception of that, you have had no serious accident? No.
5300. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] What are your instructions to the men in respect to the covering of sets with laths? Every thoroughfare is supposed to be covered or railed off.
5301. Under where men are working? Yes.
5302. If they are working up six or seven floors, are all the floors underneath the working-face covered? Not all the way from top to bottom. The faces above and below where the men are working are covered.
5303. But under a working-face how many floors do you consider it is safe to leave? We generally keep two or three floors in under where men are working—sometimes two, sometimes three.
5304. All the other places are guard-railed off? They are often left open; but any place where men are liable to step in is guarded by rails.
5305. You consider that two or three floors under the working-floor should be left covered, and that that would be sufficient? Yes.
5306. Do you think it safe to uncover all sets excepting the one you are working on? If you are working in a soft place with a pick, one should (I think) be sufficient.
5307. But supposing a lump came down, and a man went through the floor? It would be as well to have a second floor.
5308. No accident has occurred in the Junction through a man falling through in that way? I do not remember any. We had an accident the other day brought about by a man jumping under the batten nailed up to keep him away; but if men will jump into places like that we cannot help it. We cannot cover the passes over; we must keep them open.

5309. You say your magazine is on the surface? Yes.
5310. Do men take explosives into the cage with them? I think they do generally.
5311. Do you not think that should be prohibited? We have never had an accident with explosives yet.
5312. Should an explosion take place in the cage it would be a serious one? Yes; there is no question about that.
5313. Not only for the men in the cage, but for the mine? Yes.
5314. Do you think then that taking explosives down with them in the cage should be prohibited? It might be prevented by getting a man to take the explosives down after them.
5315. What, in your opinion, has been the chief cause of the accidents that have occurred in this district during the last twelve months? I could not tell you; I do not go outside of my own mine much.
5316. I suppose you have got an opinion? I could not tell what the principal cause is.
5317. Do you think that the regulations and provisions under the Mining Act of 1874 are sufficient for mining as it is carried on to-day? I think so. We cannot do more than we are doing; and it would make no difference to us if you made any number of Acts.
5318. It has been pointed out that there is no power to impose a penalty on the men should they commit a breach of the regulations. Do you think if provision was made for a penalty in connection with some of the rules it would tend to prevent accidents? Make what penalty you like, if a manager is taking all the care possible he can do no more.
5319. But do the men at all times follow out the instructions of the manager? If men would follow out the instructions of the manager some accidents would not occur. I have known accidents to occur through men not doing what they were told; but we have had no serious accidents.
5320. Do you know if it is true what the paper says about Jones, who was hurt at the Junction North;—is the accident likely to prove fatal? I saw him yesterday at his house; and he looked very well; and I heard this morning that he had a very good night, and is improving.
5321. Do you think that sufficient provision is made for the men to know what the regulations under the Mining Act are? The regulations are posted up in the most conspicuous places, where the men have to go every day; they cannot help seeing them.
5322. Have you got any rules other than the Government regulations? We have not got any printed code of rules.
5323. All verbal? Yes.
5324. I think you said it is safer to take off some of the tamping from a charge than to bore a hole alongside? Yes; there is just as much danger, perhaps more, in boring a hole alongside as in taking out portion of the charge.
5325. One of the rules says that a charge of powder shall not be unrammed? That rule is broken very often.
5326. *Mr. Williams.*] You should put another primer in? Yes; take out the tamping to within 6 inches or a foot of the charge, and put another plug in.
5327. Could you suggest any improvement on that method? No.
5328. You have tried electricity? Yes; but have gone back to the old system.
5329. You prefer the old method to electricity? Yes.

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John Evans sworn and examined:—

5330. *Mr. Edwards.*] What is your full name? John Evans.
5331. You are underground manager of Block 14 mine? Yes.
5332. How many years' experience in mining have you had? Twenty-seven altogether in mining, and twenty-five underground.
5333. How long have you been underground manager of Block 14? Two years and four months.
5334. I believe there have been no fatal accidents in that mine since 1892? Yes; it is five years ago.
5335. When Mr. Lane was general manager? Yes.
5336. And Mr. Simpson underground manager? Yes.
5337. Have you had any serious accidents underground within the last two or three years? No.
5338. Any accidents laying men up for a time? About a fortnight is the extreme.
5339. A man has been laid up for a fortnight? Yes.
5340. That would be from what cause? A stone fell on him, and cut his head.
5341. Is the ventilation in your mine good? Yes, it is perfect.
5342. I think we had a witness named Bourne from Block 14 the other day. He is working on the mine now? Yes.
5343. Is he a good steady workman? He never lost a shift until last Wednesday night.
5344. He said there was some dangerous ground in a pass or ladderway that men were in the habit of going past; he said he had not pointed it out to the shift-boss or underground manager? I asked the man about that; and he told me that Bourne refers to some considerable time back, and the ground has long since been secured.
5345. So far as you know, are there any dangerous places in your mine not secured? None at all.
5346. Is it the duty of the men to report dangerous places at once to the shift-bosses, or to you? It should be.
5347. Are they instructed to do so? Yes.
5348. Are they encouraged to do so? Yes.
5349. Are the men provided with plenty of timber to secure the ground? Plenty of timber is always at hand.
5350. What sort of shift-bosses have you got under you;—are they competent men? Yes, they are all competent.
5351. How many have you got? Three.
5352. How many men do you employ underground? For the last eight and a half years the average is 400.
5353. Do you find the men competent? They are of all classes and sorts. You have to find men for places, and places for men.
5354. Have you more incompetent than competent men? I do not think so; I think I have more competent than incompetent men.

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5355. Could many of the smaller kinds of accidents that now occur be avoided if you had more competent men at work? As a rule we do not have much in the way of accidents in our mine; but I think if the men had been competent some of the accidents that have occurred would not have been brought about.
5356. Can you suggest anything that could be done, and that is not now being done, by which accidents could be avoided? Nothing at all.
5357. Do you think if you had additional inspectors knocking round the mine, accidents would be prevented? Not unless they could look through the ground. As far as the ground goes now, one inspector is enough. If one could look through ground a little way he might tell you something fresh.
5358. Have you printed rules to work by? Yes; we have rules posted up.
5359. They are on the same lines as the Proprietary rules? Yes, I think so.
5360. In addition to them you have the Government regulations? Yes.
5361. Do you know if men make themselves acquainted with these rules and regulations? I could not say.
5362. They are stuck up so that they can read them if they like? Yes.
5363. In addition to that, the shift-bosses tell them all their duties, and warn them of what they should not do? Yes.
5364. Could you give any idea as to the movement of the men during the last twelve months, principally those taken on and those got rid of? I could not; I have no idea.
5365. As to explosives—I suppose you only use wooden tamping-rods? Yes.
5366. Metal ones are prohibited? Yes.
5367. Do you “bull” holes? No.
5368. You use just the plain hole? Yes.
5369. In the case of a missed-hole do you draw the tamping, or put in another hole alongside? We generally put in another plug and detonator, and fire it again.
5370. You find that in all cases effectual? I think that is the safest plan.
5371. Do you think a system of apprenticing youths might be adopted in Broken Hill with advantage? I think it would be better.
5372. At what age did you go underground? Twelve.
5373. That is a little young? Yes.
5374. What age would you suggest for boys up here? I do not think they should go underground before 15 or 16.
5375. And how long do you think they should serve before becoming miners? I do not think they should serve any time; some may be only two years, while others may be four or five years, before they become efficient.
5376. Do you think that changing at the face would prevent accidents through over-hanging ground being left? I do not think it would in our mine.
5377. You haul from one shaft alone? Yes.
5378. And it would take a considerable time to get the men up? Yes.
5379. Apart from the loss of time, it would be a protection? No, I do not think it would; the shift-bosses are made acquainted with any dangerous places.
5380. It would be a means to preserve the in-coming shift from danger? If one man were to stop, it would be sufficient.
5381. Is your hauling machinery good? Yes; it is in good repair.
5382. How many engine-drivers do you think you ought to have in the shed when raising and lowering men? We have only one; and if you had more they would talk and neglect their duty.
5383. In the case of men being ordered out of dangerous ground by you; would you be prepared to take the responsibility of ordering them back again; or would you call in the inspector? I would take them back when I thought it fit.
5384. If the inspector were called in, you would leave the responsibility on his shoulders? Yes.
5385. As to the floors in the stopes: do you keep the laths on, and, if so, up to what time? They are pretty well covered until mullocking is put in.
5386. Do you notice the men take the laths off? Sometimes.
5387. Is that against the rules? Yes.
5388. What do you do? Discharge them, if I can find them.
5389. How are those stopes secured where the floors have been taken off? The laths are re-laid, or else battens are put round in the shape of railings.
5390. When working out a stope, how many floors do you keep secured under the floor on which the men are working? We generally keep two sets secured underneath.
5391. You think that is sufficient? Yes.
5392. I hope Bourne did not get into trouble with the men or the management for giving evidence the other day? He did not get into trouble with the management; I do not know how he will shape with the men. Really, I do not think there is anything in it.
5393. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Have you got safety appliances attached to your cages? Yes.
5394. Do you think it should be compulsory for all mining companies to have safety appliances attached to their cages used for lowering and raising men? Yes, I think it would be safer.
5395. Do you think it would be a further degree of safety to have disconnecting hooks or thimbles to prevent the overhauling of cages? That might be safer.
5396. Is there any truth in the assertion that some of the boys employed on Block 14 are below the age prescribed by the Act? There was one.
5397. It has been said that there were two—one by the name of Graham, and one by the name of Doon? Doon's parents misrepresented his age; and, on making inquiries, we find that he is two months short of 16. The other boy is over 17.
5398. As to having two engine-drivers in the shed at change of shift, is there not a probability of a man's falling down in a fit? I have never heard of such a case; but I think there is a greater probability of talking being indulged in if you have two drivers in the shed; and that would be a greater danger than the probability of a man falling down in a fit.
5399. You think engine-drivers in all cases should be certificated? A certificate is very good provided the man merits it. I remember on one occasion on Broken Hill where there were two non-certificated men

- men driving the engine; and the other, who was a certificated man, was discharged for neglecting his duty. J. Evans.
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5400. That may be so; but still the certificate did not make him neglectful? And the certificate does not make a man competent in many cases.
5401. He was in that case discharged for being neglectful; not for being incompetent? He was discharged for nearly knocking a man's head off.
5402. What, in your opinion, has been the chief cause of accidents in this district? I could not tell you about the district; I have been pretty well at the one place ever since I have been on the Hill.
5403. Have you noticed any increase in the number of accidents during the last twelve months? There has been a decrease in our place.
5404. You have not watched what has been going on outside your mine? No, not at all.
5405. There is a rule under the Act saying that a man shall not have in his possession at one time in the one place more than 6 lb. of explosive. Do you think that rule is sufficient? No; it is often broken.
5406. What course do you adopt in your mine? In the machine-drilled holes the men can have just what they require; but in the hand-drilled holes not many of them take more than 6 lb. In our place, they go to the magazine and get what they require in a canister, and, immediately after using, return the canister again with any balance.
5407. Is work carried out in your mine under contract, or by day-work? Pretty well all on day-work, at present.
5408. And that is the rule of the mine—that the men take what they require, and return what they do not use? Yes.
5409. *His Honor.*] When? Immediately after they have charged their holes.
5410. What if they want to charge any more holes during the shift? They have to go and get some more.
5411. You do not find that inconvenient? No.
5412. Where is the magazine? We have a magazine on each level.
5413. They have not to go very far? No.
5414. Who is in attendance at each magazine? Boys.
5415. A boy at each of them? Yes.
5416. Do you not think that is rather a dangerous occupation for boys? I do not think so; they seem to do it very well; they have never had any mishaps.
5417. You say the ventilation in your mine is good? It is perfect all through.
5418. And you think the matter of changing in the face would not conduce to the lessening of accidents or to the benefit of the mine or the men? I do not think it would.
5419. *Mr. Williams.*] You say you believe in having floors covered to within two sets of the level where the men are working? Yes.
5420. You say you have boys in charge of the magazines? Yes.
5421. And they are doing pretty well? Yes.
5422. No accidents have occurred through their being employed? No.
5423. Do you think it would be safer to have experienced men in charge of the explosives? I do not think so.
5424. *Mr. Edwards.*] What became of Doon? He was knocked off; he did not come back after it was discovered that his age was under 16.
5425. And he is now out of employment? Yes.
5426. Who made that rule that boys must be 16? The Lead Commission, I believe.

Thomas Phillips sworn and examined:—

5427. *Mr. Edwards.*] Your name is Thomas Phillips? Yes. T. Phillips.
23 July, 1897.
5428. You are the underground manager of the Broken Hill Junction North Silver-mining Company, Limited? Yes.
5429. How many years' experience have you had in mining? A little over thirty years'.
5430. And how long have you been in charge of the Junction North? Twelve months.
5431. Your brother, Joel Phillips, is general manager? Yes.
5432. Have you got good shift-bosses under you? Yes.
5433. Competent men? Yes.
5434. And how many men have you employed there? 130, I think.
5435. How is the mine as regards safety, so far as the timbering is concerned? Since I have been there it has been very good.
5436. You had a creep there the other day? Yes.
5437. Is that all secure now? Yes, all the ground that we are working in.
5438. Have you had any fatal accidents in that mine? No.
5439. Have you had any serious accident? No, not since I have been there.
5440. What about that man who was struck with a wheel off a trolley? That occurred the day before yesterday, and is not very serious.
5441. Have you had any men disabled for any length of time? No, I am not aware of any being disabled for more than a day or two.
5442. You have no printed rules for the underground working? No, only the Government regulations.
5443. You and your shift-bosses give instructions verbally? Yes, daily, to the men.
5444. How do you stand with regard to your men; are they competent? I have got a very fair number of men.
5445. Where did you get them? Principally from here.
5446. Is your machinery suitable for its purposes? Yes.
5447. How many engine-drivers do you keep on at change of shift? Usually two, for a time.
5448. Do you think that two are absolutely necessary? I think it is as well to have two.
5449. What have you seen in other places? I have usually seen two kept on during change of shift.
5450. And that is your practice? We have not carried it right out.

- T. Phillips. 5451. Do you not find them liable to have a yarn to each other and neglect their work? Not for that time; they are only together half an hour.
- .23 July, 1897. 5452. *His Honor.*] Do the engine-drivers' shifts overlap at that time? Yes.
5453. Before one goes off the other has come on? Yes.
5454. So that, generally, when a cage is coming up loaded with men at the change of shift, two drivers are in the shed? Yes, very often.
5455. Is that in consequence of any rule, or wish that you have expressed; or is it only that it happens generally so? It has not been made a strict rule.
5456. Do the men prefer it themselves; or how is it that it does happen? I have never heard them express a wish to have more than one.
5457. It is the rule generally for men not to go on before they can help it? The driver generally comes on a little before his time.
5458. You find they do work it that way, as if they preferred it? Yes.
5459. *Mr. Edwards.*] Is plenty of timber supplied for the men to secure the ground? Yes.
5460. Where is it kept? At the surface; and it is sent down as required.
5461. Is anything left undone that you could do to prevent accidents? I do not think so.
5462. Do you think additional inspectors would prevent accidents? No.
5463. What is your practice as regards blasting;—I suppose you "bull" the holes there sometimes? It has not been necessary to do that.
5464. Do you use rock-drills? No.
5465. The mine is only being opened out? Yes.
5466. In fact you are prospecting in the mine in places? Yes.
5467. You have not used rock-drills in it yet? Not yet.
5468. I suppose you have used rock-drills before you came to this mine? Yes.
5469. There is a rule about not more than 6 lb. of explosive to be in use at one time. That would not be sufficient for a rock-drill? No.
5470. How is your explosive taken into the mine? It is taken down in the cages.
5471. Have you got canisters or boxes for it? It is generally tied up in a packet.
5472. Is that taken for storage, or for immediate use? For immediate use.
5473. Have you got any storage below for powder? Yes.
5474. Away from the workings? Yes, we keep a little stored.
5475. Is it a magazine? It is a drive that is not used; it is away from the workings.
5476. *His Honor.*] Not a regular magazine, but a drive that acts as one? Yes.
5477. *Mr. Edwards.*] I suppose only wooden tamping-bars are used down below? Yes.
5478. Metal bars are prohibited altogether? Yes.
5479. *His Honor.*] What practice do you follow in giving out powder? The shift-bosses get the powder for the men.
5480. Is it under lock and key? Yes.
5481. Who keeps the key? The shift-bosses.
5482. The shift-bosses always serve the powder out? Yes.
5483. *Mr. Edwards.*] So that it is really a magazine, although not a properly constructed one? Yes; we are always obliged to put a little on one side; we could not take it up and down as required.
5484. Do you think it would be an additional security to the men if they changed at the face;—would not men then have an opportunity of pointing out to their mates coming on the condition of the face? A man goes round and sees that everything is all right at each shift.
5485. That is where you are employing a small number of men; where you employ a large number of men, that would not be possible? No.
5486. What do you think about apprentices; do you think they would be an advantage;—do you think it would be an advantage if you were allowed to apprentice youths to mining underground? I think there is no better time for them to learn than when young.
5487. I suppose you learnt pretty young? I was underground when 15 years of age.
5488. And you have been under ever since? Pretty well all the time.
5489. How old should a boy be before he is allowed to go in? Sixteen, according to the Act.
5490. *His Honor.*] What age would you suggest? I think 16 is quite young enough.
5491. *Mr. Edwards.*] How long would you make them serve before they could call themselves miners? I think twelve or eighteen months, if the youth be smart.
5492. It would be according to the man? Yes.
5493. In your stopes, when do you take your floors off;—do you ever shift them? We have to shift them when throwing stuff down.
5494. When filling? Yes.
5495. When a man is working on the top floor, how many floors would you leave under him? The greater part is being filled; and there are not many floors under where we are working.
5496. As you take the laths up you put in mullock? Yes.
5497. Do you find the men ever rob the floors of laths to save themselves the trouble of going to the plat for timber? They would if allowed.
5498. When they take the laths up, do they put any protection round them? We have them battened off, ready for filling.
5499. However, the floors are looked after; and you have never had an accident from that cause? No.
5500. *His Honor.*] In your opinion—apart from your experience in that mine—how many floors under a working-floor would you make it compulsory to have securely covered with laths? I think within two floors of the working-floor should be covered.
5501. There should be two sound floors underneath the working-floor? Yes.
5502. And below that you see no necessity to keep the floors closed? No; not so far as the working-floor is concerned.
5503. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You have two engine-drivers on at change of shift;—are we to understand that it is your wish that two should be there at change of shift? I think it would be safer, and would be the best course to adopt.
5504. How long have you been on the Barrier—residing permanently? Twelve months.

5505. *His Honor.*] Do you think you could arrange with engine-drivers to agree that their shifts should overlap to such an extent as would cover the time it takes the men to come up? Yes; and that would be the best thing to do. T. Phillips.
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5506. With a small increase of pay? Yes; they would be agreeable to that.

5507. And that would not be any great extra expense to the mine? No; it means merely half an hour.

5508. Just to make an overlap? Yes.

5509. *Mr. Edwards.*] You would not have a hard-and-fast rule though, because some mines only work one shift? No; I would not have any hard-and-fast rule on the matter.

Edward James Horwood re-called and further examined:—

5510. *His Honor.*] You spoke of the system of apprenticing that was in force aboveground at the Proprietary Mine? The general manager referred to such a system. E. J.
Horwood.

5511. I want to find out whether the youths are apprenticed to the management, I believe; because men in charge of different portions of the works where apprentices are taken are changed very often. I have not seen any of the documents relating to apprenticeships, and cannot, therefore, speak for certain on this matter. 23 July, 1897.

5512. The system is somewhat on the same principle as that obtaining at Mort's Dock, I suppose? Yes, your Honor; they are apprenticed to the establishment.

5513. You have not actually got any copies of the forms used? These matters are attended to by the chief engineer and his department; and, consequently, I am not thoroughly acquainted with the details. I think they have forms for each apprentice.

5514. There is a regular form, of course—a printed form? Yes; I believe so.

5515. I should like to have one of those forms? I will endeavour to get you one, if obtainable.*

Christopher Kelly re-called and further examined:—

5516. *His Honor.*] I understand you wish to give some evidence as to your experience and competency as a miner? Yes. I notice that Mr. Thomas stated in his evidence that Mr. Shinnick and myself had both been discharged because we were no kind of miners and had no idea of the work. To disprove that, I will now, in the first instance, hand your Honor a credential from the manager of the Mount Euriovie Tin-mining Company, New South Wales, and lately of New Zealand. It is dated 10th September, 1888. C. Kelly.
23 July, 1897.

5517. What is your trade? General blacksmith and horse-shoer.

5518. You were working at this tin-mine, partly as a miner, and partly as a mining blacksmith? Yes.

5519. What other experience have you had? I was for three years in a coal-mine in New Zealand; first in helping the men up the boards with their trucks, from that to horse-driving, and then to mining, at which I served six months.

5520. Beyond that, what experience have you had in mining? I was then apprenticed as a blacksmith; but after I had served six months we had a row, and the indentures were cancelled. I then went as an improver, and afterwards started mining by roughing it on reefing-fields. I was for five years underground, as a tributor and on wages.

5521. Not blacksmithing? No; but I occasionally sharpened tools for the men.

5522. And then you came over here? Yes; under that manager whose name is attached to the credential I handed you.

5523. Then you say you are, although a blacksmith, also a miner by occupation? I am not afraid to take up work in any capacity as regards mining. As to Mr. Thomas's statements. I will tell you that, when Mr. Shinnick and I first made a start in Block 10, Mr. Thomas's son, the foreman, came round and had a look at us when we had two sets of timber in; and he passed the remark that, if every set of timber was put in as those two sets were, Block 10 would have the best sets of timber along the line of lode. The monthly dividends, and the decrease in the number of accidents, on that mine show that the men are not incompetent. It is splendid, indeed, for Mr. Thomas to call his employees "fencers" and "sundowners." Mr. Thomas has a great habit, when men get through half a set, to stop them, and not pay them; and—another thing—if you are in good ground, they won't take the ore away; and you have to stay off two shifts before it is cleared. Mr. Thomas further stated that the time on the plat at the 415-foot level, at Kelly's shaft, was not unsafe to an experienced miner; but I do not agree with him. When timber is bent and splintered in all shapes, it shows that it wants retimbering. Again, often we have been nearly smothered with dust from the stuff being shot down the shoot at change of shift. The sulphides do contain lead; and I say this, that the gas in those gold-mines in Victoria is easily got rid of, and is not as severe on the men as lead. Put the Victorian miner and the Broken Hill miner out in the streets, and you could pick the Broken Hill miner out very easily. I wish also to refer to Mr. Rowe's statement. He said that I met with my accident through breaking up a rock. I say I did not. I did not interfere with any rock. The shift-boss then comes in with another statement, which even contradicts the underground manager's, saying that I had no business to touch that stone. If we had not touched that stone, and had allowed it to fall on us, then "Dead men would tell no tales." Mr. Andrew goes on to say that I did not start where I was put. Our mates who came on in the next shift can prove that he is wrong; and I question whether the shift-boss or underground manager knows the date on which I met with my accident. Nearly every week you hear of accidents occurring in the Central. I thought my first object in coming here was to show things that wanted attending to, in order to prevent accidents in the future; but I can plainly see that the old sore of 1892 is still to the fore. I know that in the early days of the Barrier Mr. Thomas was discharged from the Proprietary Mine by Mr. Harper for his brutality to the men. Plenty of men can give evidence here as well as Mr. Shinnick and myself; but they won't come; they know too well what would be the result. Mr. Andrew said I was only one and a half hour working in the Central. That is not true; I was two and a half hours there, spending nearly an hour looking for tools and water before we could make a start. There is another thing I would like to call attention to; and that is, in going southward on the 415-foot level towards Campbell's shaft of Block 10, about half way the drive is only about 4 feet high; and if there was any creep men could not pass on. I believe they

*NOTE.—His Honor was afterwards informed that the apprenticeships were arranged verbally only.

- C. Kelly. they have since started on the east side to make a drive; but for what purpose I do not know. While I was there we had to sometimes carry timber on our shoulders, and crouch down, and get along like goats. While I was in the Central I picked up half a dozen plugs of fracture lying on the sill-floors.
- 23 July, 1897. 5524. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Were you compelled to go through that crushed drive you speak of in order to get your timber? There was no other way; that was the only road.
5525. You had to go through this crushed drive in order to get to Kelly's shaft? Yes; we were working on the Central boundary. If they have a set on one man, it is a shame (I think) that the whole party should be made to suffer. When Mr. Harper was here, I was only working one month underground at McGregor's shaft, Block 11. I had the offer of being an underground boss; but I preferred to go up and work on the surface at my trade. Mr. Harper is the best and most practical manager we have ever had here. We shall have to have stronger social and political influence to bear on those mines before justice is administered to the worker.

James Hebbard sworn and examined:—

- J. Hebbard. 5526. *His Honor.*] Your name is James Hebbard? Yes.
- 23 July, 1897. 5527. You are Inspector for the Albert Mining District? Yes.
5528. When were you appointed? I was appointed as inspector in December, 1891.
5529. Was there another inspector before you; or are you the first inspector? There had been an inspector here, but he died.
5530. What was his name? William Rue.
5531. What is the extent of the Albert Mining District? I think Tiboburra is considered the limit to the north, and that is a distance of about 200 miles.
5532. What are the boundaries of the district itself;—what distance might you have to go if any fresh discoveries were made further north? My district has never been defined; the other inspectors do not come this way further than Cobar, and I conclude that my district extends to the Queensland and South Australian borders, and to the Darling.
5533. Has it never been marked off on any map, or described in any proclamation? The inspector for the Albert Mining District simply has his headquarters at Broken Hill; the other inspectors have theirs in Sydney.
5534. Is there any inspector stationed between here and Sydney? Not resident.
5535. Mining is going on at various other places outside of Broken Hill within what you consider to be your district? There may be ten or a dozen men engaged in actual mining at Mount Browne and Tiboburra, the balance being puddlers. The mining at White Cliffs is intermittent, depending mostly on the amount of work available on the stations. Their work there consists almost entirely of paddocking.
5536. How far is White Cliffs from here? About 160 miles. There is no actual mining there, except in turning over ground in the manner of deep trenching.
5537. Is that north from here? About 60 miles north-west from Wilcannia.
5538. That is E., N.E. from here? Yes. Then there are about 110 men engaged at Tarrawingee, and perhaps sixteen or seventeen at Thackaringa.
5539. How far is Thackaringa? From 25 to 30 miles from here by buggy; it is 6 miles this side of Cockburn, which you reach by train.
5540. What are they doing there? Mostly fossicking. The lodes do not go down very deep there; they are of an undulating formation. Nearly every man there is a "hatter."
5541. Simply open-trenching? Not that exactly; every thing can be done with a windlass. Nearly every man there is on his own hook, and sends his ore either to Port Pirie or Dry Creek.
5542. Do these other mines outside Broken Hill require you to leave headquarters on any occasions? A day, or a day and night, or two days, will suffice for a visit to any of them, excepting Mount Browne and Tiboburra, which take about twelve days. I have not been up there for over two years; and the Chief Inspector does not consider it necessary for me to visit those places frequently.
5543. Practically, then, is there any work for you outside Broken Hill, except at Tarrawingee? There is Tarrawingee, The Pinnacles, and Thackaringa; also Yuba, where there are a few men working.
5544. The Pinnacles you can almost call Broken Hill, I suppose? Yes; you can reach them in an hour. There is also a small party of men working at Balaclava, engaged in opening up a copper lode. This lode is being opened up by men from the Moonta copper-mines; and it is situated towards Menindie.
5545. Then it is possible you may be taken away for a day or two from here? Yes, when I visit Thackaringa I generally take a run over to Yuba at the same time; and to do this double visit it requires me to leave here by the express at night, and to be absent from the Hill until the second evening.
5546. You would come back the second day after leaving? Yes.
5547. You would be away two nights and two days? Yes.
5548. There is nothing doing at Silverton? No, nothing at all.
5549. What do you say in your opinion—quite apart from all question of salary—as to the necessity or expediency of there being another inspector for the whole Albert District, in addition to yourself? I do not think there is any necessity for it, your Honor; and I have already reported in that way to the Department.
5550. Assuming, of course, that your salary would remain as it is now, and looking at it as a New South Welshman having to pay for the inspector, is that what you say? I do not think there is work for another inspector. Of course, I should be very pleased to have one for company.
5551. He would have to put in all his time loafing? Yes; unless we travelled together.
5552. That is your opinion then? Yes, that is my candid opinion.
5553. You think you can do the whole of the work with perfect ease? Yes.
5554. It does sometimes happen that you are sent for very suddenly? Yes, sometimes.
5555. Well, then, supposing you are away at one of these outside place? If a fatality occurred they would have to wait until I could come back. That has been done. A fatal accident occurred during one of my trips to Mount Browne; and they waited.
5556. Of course it is not absolutely essential that you should see the man who is killed? No; there is no rule to that effect. It has been the custom, at my request, for every place where an accident of a serious nature or resulting in death occurs to be left untouched until I view it. There is nothing in the regulations to compel that.
- 5557.

5557. How many days on an average in the month are you away from Broken Hill? My visits outside are so very irregular that I could hardly strike an average. Half a day will do for the Pinnacles; and since I have been in the district I have not visited Thackaringa once in three months, because there is no fear of danger arising there from any infringement of the regulations. J. Hebbard.
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5558. No sufficiently deep mining? No; the deepest they are working there, or have worked there for the last eight or nine years, is not more than 50 feet vertical. The lodes are small, and the enclosing rocks hard.

5559. So that, practically, you can spend the whole of your time in Broken Hill? Yes.

5560. And you do not think another man is wanted here? I do not.

5561. When was the system first instituted of reporting to the Minister all accidents that happen? I do not know; but I believe it was commenced some few months after my appointment. When I came here I found absolutely no records of any sort; and anything I wanted to know regarding accidents I had simply to fish out the best way I could. I then recommended to the Chief Inspector that he should request the managers to report all accidents; and a circular conveying such a request was ultimately sent out from the head office to all managers. There is nothing in the regulations providing that they should report accidents.

5562. Do you remember the date of that circular? I could not say. I think it was sent out on two or three occasions, when it was thought that accidents were not always being reported.

5563. You find that all accidents are now reported? Yes.

5564. And you make a report to the Chief Inspector? Yes.

5565. And the Chief Inspector reports to the Minister, or do you report direct to the Minister? All my correspondence is sent direct to the Chief Inspector.

5566. To Mr. Slee? Yes.

5567. And he sends it on to the Minister, if he thinks it necessary? Yes.

5568. Is every accident reported? I use my discretion as to whether I send a full report on. When I make my annual report I state the number of fatalities, and serious and minor accidents, and also the number of accidents which I had considered so slight as to be not of sufficient consequence to report to the Department.

5569. You do report anything of sufficient consequence? Yes.

5570. How long has that been done for certain? For certain, about four years.

5571. That being so, what do you say as to the increase of accidents within the last year or two—say within the last two years? I do not think there has been a noticeable increase. We get accidents in spurts; the same as this last spurt, where we had four fatalities, and an accident resulting fatally, in forty-eight or fifty hours.

5572. Which cases were those? They were the cases which brought the discussion on in Parliament. Timothy Ryan and James Taylor were killed on the same day; and a few hours afterwards James Kennedy and Henry Sawyer met their deaths at Tarrawingee; and a couple of days after, William Andrewatha met his death.

5573. It was these five fatalities that attracted public attention? Yes.

5574. Up that time you had not noticed any increase? No; it did not strike me that any increase was noticeable.

5575. On recollection, has it struck you that there was an increase? I do not think so, not in proportion to the increased number of men employed. Within the last eighteen months the mines show an increase of 1,600 or 1,800 workmen.

5576. As to the cause or causes of accidents, in a general way. Have you formed any opinion as to any prevailing cause or causes, as to any special want of care, or anything of that kind, on the part of any person or persons, resulting in accidents? In visiting places where accidents have occurred, particularly underground, I frequently have to make a mental note of the fact that the accidents might have been prevented had some little precaution been taken.

5577. On whose part? On the part of the men. Every individual face in a stope is absolutely in charge of the men who are working it; if they cannot safeguard themselves, no instructions from anyone else will do so; unless they are at the same time absolutely forced to do certain things that are often left undone.

5578. Have you had occasion sometimes to remark upon carelessness in the management? No.

5579. You remember no occasion on which you have had cause to notice carelessness in the management? I cannot call to mind any particular instance. So many accidents came under my notice that you must excuse me if I cannot remember the exact circumstances in every one of them.

5580. The general impression left upon your mind is that the cause has been rather carelessness upon the part of the men? I would not say carelessness for a moment, your Honor; I should be inclined to think that it was not carelessness altogether that caused accidents, but, perhaps, error of judgment.

5581. Some act which was unavoidable so far as the management was concerned? Where men are working in a stope together, the management cannot have anything, or can only have very little, to do with their safety. If they provide the men with all the tools and material they require for working the stope, that is practically all they can do for the individual safety of the men.

5582. Except to make rules which, if the men carried them out, would help them to secure their safety? Speaking apart from my position as inspector, I would not give a finger-snap for rules. If the men have not got such knowledge as to know what is essential to their safety in carrying out their work underground, I do not think it is any good tying rules round their necks.

5583. There are some few general rules which are useful for information to men who are not quite up to the mark in knowledge? Yes; but I do not think mining operations can be carried on by rules.

5584. Not by hard-and-fast rules going too much into details? The safety or danger of workmen in a mine is largely a matter of common sense.

5585. It would be well to have general rules in some cases; for instance, if a man could be sharply fined for stripping floors? If the fine could be recovered I think it would act as a deterrent against carelessness.

5586. A fine, with imprisonment for non-payment? Perhaps a rule in that direction might have some good effect.

5587. Has it struck you in the course of your going through the causes of the different accidents that that has, or has not, been virtually the source of many smaller accidents and some bigger ones? It is only occasionally that things of that sort have happened in later times; there used to be a good deal of it one time

- J. Hebbard. time; but accidents of that description very seldom occur now. I remember two or three cases where men have fallen through; and this is brought about sometimes by a man treading on a broken lath after shooting.
23 July, 1897. 5588. I suppose you hardly know of a case where a man has been seriously injured through falling through one floor? It would largely depend on the manner of his falling; if he fell in such a manner as to strike his head on something hard, he might receive serious injury. Take Harvey's case, for instance; it was not the stone falling on him that killed him, but his falling back and fracturing the base of his skull.
5589. Serious risk is generally involved by a man's going down several floors? Yes; but from my experience it must be very rare that that can happen. I have had to serve one or two notices on companies for not having laths on the floors; but my action was very prompt; and at the time the notices were served there was, I believe, a scarcity of 10 x 2 timber through the failure of their ship to come in to Port Pirie; and the companies were struggling on, meanwhile, the best way they could.
5590. How long ago was that? I think the case where that occurred was quite recently, either at the end of last May or the beginning of June.
5591. Did any accident happen in consequence of the shortage of timber? I did not hear of any. The juries in Broken Hill have declared that verbal notices from the inspector to the managers are not sufficient; and I therefore serve with written notices wherever I think the matter is of any importance at all: and I must say that they have always been obeyed.
5592. As to the question whether the rules and regulations under the Act are sufficient to ensure the safe working of a mine, especially in regard to explosives and the system of timbering. There is a set of regulations of course? Yes.
5593. No doubt you have noticed a peculiarity in the regulations, when compared with the Act, which has been the subject of certain legal decisions. I will not ask you what conclusion you have formed: at the same time, you have, no doubt, formed a very definite opinion on that matter. But, supposing the rules are within the powers of the Act, you might (I think) express an opinion as to whether they want amending? As applied to this particular district, I think if the rules that are in daily practice in this district were embodied in our regulations that would be as much as could be done.
5594. You think the rules of the mines are good ones generally? Yes.
5595. There is only one set of rules in force here? Yes; the Proprietary have a set for the surface, and a set for underground; and they are practically the outcome of my conversations with the managers at different times. I had a hand in their framing; in fact they were sent to me for revision.
5596. As to that rule *re* boring a hole alongside a hole that has been missed fire? I think that is a very dangerous practice. Even if there were a greater amount of risk in attempting to refire a hole by withdrawing portion of the tamping, that risk is soon over; whereas in the other case you are exposed to risk all the time you are boring the fresh hole.
5597. How long should a missed-hole be left? I do not think a missed-hole should be seen to, at any rate, within an hour.
5598. You think an hour would be sufficient to provide as a minimum? I think so.
5599. As to removing the tamping;—how near to the surface of the explosive do you think it safe or expedient to remove tamping? I think it could safely be removed to within 2 or 3 inches; but I do not think there is any necessity, from my experience, to go so close to the charge.
5600. On one side, you want to be sure that you get near enough to the charge to be reasonably certain that you put it off by the shot you merely put in for the purpose of exploding it; and, on the other hand, you do not want to go closer than you can help. Looking at both sides of the question, how far do you think it is reasonable to go? Not within 6 inches of the explosive. I do not think there would be any added danger in going 3 inches, provided the depth of the hole were correctly ascertained; but really I do not think there is any necessity to go within a foot. I have myself exploded a missed powder-hole with 18 inches of tamping left in it.
5601. And that is more difficult to explode by detonation than nitro-glycerine? That will be the question. When you have got dynamite inert, I think it is much more difficult to explode than grain powder by concussion.
5602. Supposing you were framing a rule, would you think it expedient to frame one providing some minimum distance within which you should not be allowed to go in drawing the tamping? If I were framing a rule, I would say, in the case of a powder-hole miss-fire, to go within 1 foot of the powder. In the case of dynamite, I would not like them to press the tamping upon it at all; it should be something soft that there would be no occasion to remove in case of a miss-fire. I would not allow a nitro-glycerine or dynamite hole to be tamped in any way.
5603. Then you say you would not allow anything to be removed because there would really be nothing to be removed? Tamping is both the material used and the operation of putting it there. When I say I would not allow it to be tamped, I mean I would not allow it to be rammed.
5604. But, in dealing with a missed-shot in nitro-glycerine compounds, what limit would you provide? In charging a hole I would begin by limiting the tamping to so many inches; and then there would be no need to remove anything.
5605. Where would you place the limit? Not more than 6 inches of material should be placed over the charge.
5606. You would let a man close the collar? Yes.
5607. That is very effective? According to my reading and experience, if you have absolutely excluded the air from the charge, you have provided all the conditions for a perfect explosion.
5608. You do not think it matters whether you close the collar or not? No, not if the tamping is down on the charge itself.
5609. If you could imagine the tamping being shot out as the first step in the explosion, before any disruption took place, then the fact that the collar was closed would make a great difference on the final effect of the shot? Yes, I believe it would; the same as putting a cork in the muzzle of a gun.
5610. You would provide that there should be no tamping or cover of more than 6 inches on the nitro-glycerine compounds; and in that case you would simply provide that in all cases of missed-holes with these compounds the tamping should not be removed, but a fresh charge of one or two plugs should be put on the top to blow the original charge up? Yes.
5611. And that would apply to all explosives except powder? Yes; to roburite, rackarock, and all others.
5612. Gunpowder is the only slow explosive now? Yes.
5613. And so very little of it is used that it practically does not apply to mining operations? Yes.

5614. In what other respects do you think the regulations would be better for amending? There are a lot of things that might be done to bring them up to the ordinary requirements of this district. Rule 1 reads: "Adequate amount of ventilation"; and that leaves something very discretionary in the power of the inspector. J. Hebbard.
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5615. You think there ought to be a provision, as in coal-mines, for a certain fixed quantity of air? Yes, or else that the temperature in any part should not be allowed to rise above a certain point. The air in all metal-mines is good enough in quality, provided it is sufficient in quantity. There is nothing deleterious, except what is given off from the breath. At present the only test we have is the common-sense one of seeing how a candle will burn. There is nothing in the regulations to guide you as to what shall be stipulated as an adequate amount.
5616. Do you think 100 cubic feet per minute for each man and animal should be supplied, as in coal-mines;—do you think that would be practicable or expedient? I do not know that that amount could be given, or that it would be necessary; because there is very little, if any, noxious gas to pollute the air.
5617. Of course in many coal-mines there is no sign of noxious gas, except that given off from the breath? I think it would be much better in metal-mines if the question of an adequate amount of ventilation was based upon the temperature.
5618. What would you provide as the limit of temperature? I could not say definitely without some thought on the matter. I think we should find most of our mines pretty comfortable if the temperature did not rise above 80. The atmosphere underground is different from that on the surface.
5619. Eighty would not be too low a limit? I believe the limit fixed in Victoria is a good deal higher—95, I think. Broken Hill is Heaven to a lot of the mines in Bendigo. [*Mr. Polkinghorne: The south drive in the Central was 75 last summer.*] I think the limit should be obtained by some series of experiments extending over a given time. That would be the best way to arrive at what should be an adequate amount of ventilation.
5620. But still that would not be sufficient by itself, would it;—you might have a cool part, where the temperature never rises above 80; and yet the ventilation might be very bad? It seems to me that you can govern the amount of air in any of these mines by temperature.
5621. Would you leave it this way: That the ventilation should be such as the inspector approved, and that the temperature should never be allowed to exceed a certain fixed limit? I would not leave it to the discretion of the inspector.
5622. Not as to the amount of ventilation? No.
5623. Then you would have to provide for a specific quantity of air passing a given point within a certain limit of time, as they have in coal-mines. Yes; something of that sort. I think the better way to arrange it in these mines would be by the temperature, instead of by the quantity of air passing per minute.
5624. But, then, do you not see the difficulty;—you might have one very cool part very badly ventilated; temperature does not always rise with bad air? The hot places are almost invariably the places where little air gets to.
5625. If you were to drop a thermometer and candle together down a great many holes, you would find the candle going out from carbonic acid, while there would be very little change in the thermometer? The acknowledged test here is from the burning of a candle; and that, with the temperature, would (I think) be quite sufficient.
5626. You might make the minimum quantity less than 100 feet? Yes, that would be a good way; but I think the other would be the handier.
5627. Could you provide for both—that a certain quantity of air shall pass a certain point in a given time; and that the temperature in no working-place shall be allowed to exceed a certain fixed limit? The only difficulty in that is that in lots of places in these mines you could not have a certain amount of current passing a given point. Supposing you were driving a long drive to make some connection for the ventilation.
5628. In coal-mines it is managed by bratticing, as well as by furnace or fan? That makes me think that the temperature test would be the most convenient—the very remote possibility of the presence of carbon dioxide in metal-mines.
5629. As to the limit of time after "bulling," do you think any fixed limit of time should be provided; or should it be left to the discretion of the men carrying out the work? The man who is carrying out the work can always tell very readily whether a hole is ready to charge, by putting his tamping-bar down. There certainly would not be any explosion where he could bear his hand to the stick upon drawing it out of the hole.
5630. You do not believe in the possibility of any piece of smouldering fuse being left in it? The force of the explosion would blow everything of that kind clean out of the hole. I think water might be thrown in as an additional precaution.
5631. Do you think that is a matter that requires any additional regulation; or should it be left to the discretion of the men? I do not think it would do any harm to limit the time to one hour before charging.
5632. Meanwhile, other work could be going on? Yes.
5633. You believe, with most of the witnesses, that there is no necessity to use a metal tamping-rod at all, even with powder? If I were going to charge a powder-hole to-morrow I should not like to tamp it with a wooden rod; and it has been my experience that I can procure a copper bar cheaper than a copper-tipped one.
5634. Do you think it safer to have a copper tamping-bar only; and would you exclude all other metal tamping-bars? I do not think there is any harm in allowing the use of metal tamping-bars, provided they are copper-tipped, or wholly copper.
5635. You would allow a bar tipped with copper? Yes.
5636. How much tipping? Six or seven inches. I do not think that the length provided for in the regulations is sufficient. Where nitro-glycerine compounds are used there is no necessity for a metal bar at all. There may be occasion to use powder in a mine; and then a heavier bar than a wooden one is necessary.
5637. But with a wooden bar a few feet long you can put on a very considerable amount of squeezing pressure? You can put a little pressure on, but powder wants to be rammed in the same way as you drive your ramrod into the barrel of a gun. You produce a better explosion by doing that with the gun; and I am sure it is the same in the other case.

- J. Hebbard. 5638. So you would not modify the rule to exclude metal tamping-bars altogether? No, certainly not.
5639. Would you make it a regulation that nothing but a wooden tamping-bar should be used in the case of any explosive except powder? No, I would not do that either. I do not see a bit of harm in using a metal bar of any description in putting a plug of dynamite into a hole. As far as the danger of doing it is concerned I would just as soon put dynamite into a hole with an iron bar as with a wooden stick—I mean so far as the danger of friction is concerned.
5640. You think there would be no danger from a spark? No.
5641. Would it not be possible that one spark might set it sizzling? No; you must have a flame to set it on fire. I do not think there is any danger in pressing home a charge of dynamite with an iron bar, or with any bar that you might like to use.
5642. You would not encourage it? I think the operation can be done just as well with wood; but there is no danger with metal.
5643. You would make it compulsory to use wood in all cases; but you do not think that an iron bar copper-tipped for 6 inches would be dangerous? I have no objection to a copper-tipped bar.
5644. Do you not think there is a risk, in using an iron bar tipped with copper, in a rough hole, of its causing sparks by friction of the iron on the sides of the hole somewhere near the collar; and of the spark's dropping down on to some powder that may be hanging on the side? That might occur.
5645. The Tarrawingee accident, for instance. That must have been caused in some way like that, unless they were ramming through the bag with the bar? Of course, you can only theorise upon these accidents.
5646. It may have been the compression of the air that caused the explosion. You could put terrific force on a plug with a 1½-inch steel bar 21 or 22 feet long, if you rammed it down 5 or 6 feet with one push? Yes.
5647. I think you said that a bar of copper throughout was less expensive than an iron bar copper-tipped? That is my experience as a manager. Wherever I have been managing I have always had bars all copper, and found them a good deal cheaper than joining a piece of copper on to an iron bar, even if copper were 15d. a pound.
5648. How many pounds would an 8-foot bar probably weigh? I never had a bar that long. In mining operations, if you have a bar 3 ft. 6 in. or 4 feet long it would be a very long one. It does not run to much.
5649. Do you not think it would be better to provide that it be made of copper entirely, if a metal tamping-rod were required? Yes, it would be cheaper.
5650. As to the quantity of explosive to be entrusted to any one man? I think from my knowledge of the regulations that what that regulation means is this: At the time it was framed it was the custom for each pair of men to take their powder in a can underground, and store it close by where they were working. That is what the regulation means, in saying that a man shall not have in his working-face more than 6 lb.—one can-full.
5651. What regulation would you substitute for that? I would make the regulation read that a man shall not be allowed to take into his working-face more explosive than is actually required for the firing about to take place.
5652. Then you would pass over the possibility of his wanting to put in other shots shortly afterwards; you think it would be better to give him the little trouble of going for a fresh supply than to let him run the risk of storing any surplus in the face? He should not keep any explosive in his working-face at all; he should keep it back some short distance, and then bring in the quantity he requires.
5653. You would let him keep a quantity stored back in a quiet spot? Yes.
5654. How would you limit that? I do not know how to limit that except by common sense.
5655. Generally speaking, fetching the powder would mean going up in the cage? No; it is the general practice in all mines to take underground as much as you think you would require for your shift; and, unless it was a hard face working with machines, I suppose 5 or 6 lb. would always be a long way outside the limit of any requirements for two men.
5656. And where machines are used the chances are there would be magazines underground? Not in all cases.
5657. They might bring down a larger quantity in excess than—larger in proportion to the larger quantity they would want; and how then would you frame a regulation to meet all cases? That no workman take into the face more explosive than absolutely required for the firing about to be done. There should be nothing kept in the working-face except that required for immediate use. He should only bring it into the working-face just as he was about to fire or ready to fire.
5658. Then you would not make any regulation as to the quantity he might keep at a distance from the face? I do not see how you could; because the quantity would be so variable.
5659. You would allow each mine to adopt its own regulation as to the way in which it distributed explosives? Yes.
5660. You observe that in the evidence there have been three distinct systems of distribution spoken of? That is according as it is most convenient. In some of the mines, where they are working under contract, the men practically go to a shop underground, and buy what they want for immediate use. The only restriction placed upon them is that they shall not leave any in their face. In the Proprietary Mine, when a man comes to a magazine he buys what he wants to use. In places where they work on wages mostly there is not that restriction; a man simply goes and asks for what he wants, and gets it.
5661. You think it would be enough to provide that a man be not allowed to keep at his face any quantity of explosive in excess of what he was using at the time? Yes; I think that would cover the general run of cases.
5662. That would apply to drives as well as to stopes? Yes.
5663. The best term to use would be "working-places"? Yes.
5664. In what other way do you think the regulations might be amended? I do not see how I could make a direct statement. Perhaps I should be able to answer questions if they were put to me. I might here refer to clause 17 of the regulations, which I consider very indefinite. It says:—
- Every steam-boiler shall be provided with a proper steam-gauge, water-gauge, and safety-valve; and at least once in every six months every boiler shall be subjected to a hydraulic test.
- I do not know of anything more indefinite than that clause. Of course, the six-months' test is complied with; and it has been an arrangement between the managers and myself that it shall exceed the ordinary working

working pressure of the boiler by at least one-third, and that a record of the test shall be kept in a book at the mine, and signed by the engineer and at least one of the assistants who observed the test; and in that book shall also be noted every detail of repair subsequent to the last test.

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5665. One-third over the ordinary working pressure of the boiler? Yes; that, I thought, was the best way to interpret the clause.

5666. That is the load indicated by the safety-valve? Yes.

5667. Is there any provision for keeping the safety-valves on these land boilers locked? Every word about boilers is contained in that clause that I have read. There is nothing at all under the regulation to prevent a mine manager doing anything; except for clause 3, which gives the inspector authority to step in wherever he sees danger. There is no regulation whatever applying to the safety-valve.

5668. You think it would be wise to have a regulation in that direction? Yes.

5669. That regulation as it stands is of no earthly use? None whatever.

5670. What regulations should be provided for steam-boilers would be a very big question? Yes.

5671. I suppose you would hardly like to go into it? As far as the safety of boilers is concerned, I think the actual practice that is now followed out, and has been followed out since my intervention, is about the only thing that can be done. I know that in boiler insurance the test is very strict; the valves are kept locked, and all that kind of thing. For practical purposes I require them to merely set the valves to blow off at certain pressures indicated; and that is done every six months.

SATURDAY, 24 JULY, 1897.

James Retallick sworn and examined:—

5672. *Mr. Edwards.*] Your name is James Retallick? Yes.

J. Retallick.

5673. You are general manager of the British Broken Hill Proprietary Mine? Yes.

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5674. How many years experience have you had in mining? Thirty-five to forty.

5675. First in Cornwall? Yes.

5676. And afterwards on the Lake Superior mines in America? I was in Cumberland for two years, and from there I went to the Lake Superior mines, where I put in two years; thence to California for six months; and the balance of my time was put in on the Comstock line of lode, Nevada.

5677. You were twenty-two years there? Yes; I was for twenty years in the one mine.

5678. How long have you been here? About six years.

5679. What is the average number of men that you have had under you? Since the strike, about 210. We have had as many as 500, and as few as 50.

5680. Have you noticed any increase in accidents in your mine lately? The only accident we have had took place last year, excepting one of five years back.

5681. You have had three accidents? Yes.

5682. What were they? White, Barnes, and another.

5683. What was the first accident? The one to Barnes and White.

5684. What was the nature of that? It was brought about by an explosion.

5685. Was it an explosion of a hole they had put in themselves? The hole that killed them was an old one, and they had started to drill into it again.

5686. *His Honor.*] They were drilling into an old "bottom" Yes.

5687. Which was supposed to have been fired, but had been partly left unexploded? Yes.

5688. *Mr. Edwards.*] You never satisfied yourself as to whether it was an unexploded hole or an exploded hole with part of the charge left? No.

5689. There were three holes; and this one was in the centre? Yes.

5690. They were about 2 feet 6 inches apart? Yes.

5691. And it is quite possible that the two outside holes may have shot away the fuse, and left the fractureur in the hole? Yes.

5692. *His Honor.*] It may never have exploded at all? Yes, the two outside ones may have exploded before the middle hole had time to explode, and knocked away the fuse.

5693. *Mr. Edwards.*] Who were the men who put in the three holes, and tried to fire them;—the same men who were killed? I could not tell you; there were six men in that drive.

5694. But did Barnes and White sink these particular holes? I could not say; it might have been the men on the former shift.

5695. What was the nature of that accident where the man was crushed in the stop? A rock from the back came down on top of him.

5696. Was he working on contract? Yes.

5697. With the exception of those two accidents, have you had any other fatal accidents? Not since I have been there. Up till nine months ago there had been only one accident on the British.

5698. Have you had any serious accidents? One only, I think.

5699. How did that happen? Men were passing down timbers one to another; and the mate above called out to the one below to look out; and he answered back, "All right"; but he slipped back for his candlestick, and, in doing so, a strut caught him and broke the cap of his knee. There was another accident, where a man was injured by a truck because of his foot getting caught in the track.

5700. They were all the accidents you had there? Yes.

5701. In the majority of cases do you find the men you have up there experienced or inexperienced? We have some very good men up there; but a lot are inexperienced.

5702. Have you any printed working rules underground? They are stuck up about the shaft.

5703. Those are the Government regulations? Yes.

5704. You have no printed working-rules? No; but written rules at all flats.

5705. What shift-bosses have you? We have three shift-bosses for the miners, and three for the truckers.

5706. Are they competent, steady, men? Yes; they have all been in mines since boyhood.

5707. Is the mine sufficiently secured as far as timber goes? Yes.

5708. There is a sufficient supply of timber? Yes.

5709. Where is the timber kept? On the plat.

5710. And the contractors get it from there? The drilling is done by contract; and the timber is put in by the company.

5711.

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5711. *His Honor.*] The company exercises its own discretion, through its officers, as to how the timbering should be carried on through the stopes? Yes.
5712. *Mr. Edwards.*] You have magazines on each level? Yes.
5713. And how are the explosives taken from the magazines to the workings? In boxes.
5714. Provided by the mine for that purpose? Yes.
5715. There is one rule in the Government regulations, that not more than 6 lb. of powder or fractour shall be used at one time;—that is insufficient? Yes; we want 15 or 20 lb.
5716. Would a rule be reasonable allowing a man to have in his possession 6 lb. after he has fired? He should not have any; he should know how much he wants.
5717. Then no man should have more than is actually required? No.
5718. Is the ventilation in the British good throughout? Yes, very good throughout. At the 400 it is not too good; but we are starting a winze there now.
5719. Will that give you all the air that is required? Yes; in fact we are blowing in there now. Of course when the winze is through we shall be able to do away with our fan.
5720. You "bull" holes there occasionally? We do not "bull."
5721. How long should a missed-hole be left before being touched? One and a half hour.
5722. Is that long enough for a missed-hole? Yes.
5723. I suppose you have had a lot of experience in explosives? Yes; where I came from there were only a few missed-holes.
5724. What is your experience about drawing the tamping of a missed-hole, or putting in another hole alongside it;—which is the safer practice? Drawing the tamping. I would never think of putting in another hole alongside; that would be very unsafe; in fact, I never heard of it before.
5725. If, in faulty fuse, the column of powder was broken or separated, do you know if the cotton would smoulder on and ultimately reach the powder below the fault? Yes, it will sometimes.
5726. *His Honor.*] You think it is possible that the cotton may carry the fire on over the fault? Yes.
5727. *Mr. Edwards.*] I suppose that is merely theory; because it is impossible in the case of a late explosion to tell how it was delayed or what took place;—it is merely guess-work? The way to test the matter would be to take a fuse, light it, and see the result.
5728. But then the conditions surrounding a fuse in the open-air would be altogether different from those underground? I think it would be a very good idea if the Department made experiments in this direction.
- His Honor:* I shall certainly suggest that that be done.
- Mr. Edwards:* Would your Honor let us know the result?
- His Honor:* Yes; I will see that it is furnished you.
5729. You supply the best fuse possible? Yes.
5730. And, if there is a splice in a fuse, the men need not use it? No; they can cut it out and throw it away.
- Mr. Edwards:* With regard to the experiments it is proposed the Department shall carry out, I think it would be well if, at the same time, experiments could be made on all fuses, as to their quality, &c.
- His Honor:* Yes; that might be done.
5731. To what cause do you attribute the great majority of accidents on the mines here;—is it to want of care on the part of the managers, or want of proper precaution on the part of the men? I think it is due to the men's own neglect. It was through their own neglect that Barnes and White were killed. The third man also showed neglect, because all the timber he wanted to secure the place was on the floor ready for him.
5732. Did it come out in evidence whether he had sounded the back before he took the risk? You could see the back easily enough; and it would have been all right had he put in a tom. You cannot get any boss or foreman in the world that can go round and make men do these things.
5733. So these two accidents were attributable solely to the men's own neglect? Yes.
5734. It is recognised as an unsafe thing to sink in a "bottom" without testing it? No experienced man would do it.
5735. It must be, then, owing to inexperience or neglect that these two accidents occurred? Yes.
5736. Or, in the case where the man was crushed, it might have been due to want of judgment? Yes; men will run chances; I have done things a thousand times over that I would not let other people do.
5737. Of course in your case it would be wilful neglect, and not want of judgment? Yes.
5738. In reference to the floors on the stopes, are the laths kept on, or are they taken off? They are always kept on.
5739. You do not take them off until you begin to fill with mullock? No.
5740. In all cases where men are working on the top floor you leave covered floors beneath them? Yes.
5741. How many floors should be left underneath where a man is working? They should be all left, I think, until you start to fill.
5742. *His Honor.*] But supposing there should be a very great demand for timber, and you wanted to strip laths, then now many floors below where a man is working would you make it compulsory that the laths should be left? I think two would be enough; but it is the ladder-way that you want look to.
5743. *Mr. Edwards.*] Can you suggest any additional precaution that can be taken in addition to what is observed now, with a view of preventing accidents in the future to men? No; we have all along been doing our best. Everything possible is done to prevent accident.
5744. Do you think additional inspectors will prevent accidents? No; I think if we had ten inspectors on every shift accidents would happen all the same.
5745. Do you think an elaborate system of rules and regulations will prevent accidents? No.
5746. Do you think it is possible that too many rules and regulations are likely to bring about accidents? I think if men are cautioned too much they do not then look about enough themselves.
5747. Do you know any part of the world where men are better cared for, or better looked after, than in Broken Hill? They are looked after better in Broken Hill than anywhere else. There is too much here altogether about the men. I have heard more here in a month than during all the rest of my life. It is possible to wet-nurse men too much, and then they do not look after themselves.
5748. *His Honor.*] In other places, if you wanted experienced men, had you any difficulty in getting them? No.
5749. And if you want experienced men here, what is your chance of getting them? When we want men here

here we have to take them as they come; and we do not know whether they are experienced or not until we try them. When we proved them we find some experienced, and some not; and the latter we send up to the surface. J. Retallick.
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5750. Have you more difficulty here than in other places you have been in in getting experienced men? Yes.

5751. That being so, I suppose it is more necessary to have rather stricter rules than those obtaining in other mines you have been on, to prevent men from doing risky and stupid things on account of want of experience? That may be so; but I never saw mining laws stuck up before in my life. If a man got killed, it was an accident; the company did its best to protect the workmen.

5752. If a man got killed it was his own look out; and that put them on their mettle? Yes.

5753. Of course, that is very well for a man who knows his business; but, if a man comes here (say) from a coal-mine, and works in a stope, although he might be a good man, you would not expect him to know the ins and outs of ore-mining; he would want some instruction? Men, when they come on, get instructions straight away.

5754. You think that if he were a good man he would find out very soon from other men what to avoid? Yes; very soon after he had started his work.

5755. *Mr. Edwards.*] Do you think the system of apprenticing youths would help to increase the standard of the underground miner in Broken Hill? Yes.

5756. You went underground when young? Before I was 10, and have been working underground ever since.

5757. At what age do you think a youth should be allowed to go into the face to be apprenticed? 16 or 17.

5758. And how many years should he work before being entitled to call himself a miner? That all depends.

5759. What is the shortest limit of time you would allow? Three years.

5760. I suppose a man at 19 or 20 is just as good as he ever will be? Yes.

5761. That is, if he is smart? Yes.

5762. And you could never knock mining into some men? No.

5763. Do you think it is necessary for the safety of the men that they should have a Board of Inquiry, consisting of a member appointed by the men, one by the management, and another by the Government, to inquire into all mining accidents; or do you think the inspector should be sufficiently competent to inquire into all accidents that take place? I think the inspector would be the most competent to make inquiries.

5764. I suppose it is not the most difficult thing in the world to get at the cause of an accident, if a man is on the ground immediately after? No.

5765. And there would be a greater probability of one man getting at the cause than two men prejudiced either way, and a third man who knows nothing about the business? Yes.

5766. Your hauling machinery is all in good order? Yes.

5767. It has been suggested that for fear an engine-driver should fall down in a fit there should be two in the engine-shed at the change of shifts, when men are being lowered and raised;—have you ever known of that practice in your experience? No.

5768. Do you think it would be safer to have two? They might engage in conversation and neglect their duty; and for that reason I think one would be better than two.

5769. In the case of dangerous ground, or any movement, and the underground manager or shift-bosses ordering men out, who should be the proper person to say it is safe for the men to return to work? The shift-boss; or whoever calls the men out.

5770. And if the inspector were called in, you would put the responsibility upon him? Yes.

5771. I understand that with the exception of the accidents you have mentioned, there have been no accidents in your mine at all? Yes, that is so.

5772. And up till nine months ago there had only been one accident in your mine since it was opened? Yes.

5773. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You say it was neglect on the part of Barnes and White that they met with their death? It must have been.

5774. You are able to come to that opinion; yet you have not arrived at the actual cause of the accident? It is a well-known fact that there was an explosion.

5775. But is it not rather far-reaching to say it was neglect on the part of the men, when you have no idea what gave rise to the explosion? I think every man who sinks in an old "bottom" without testing it first shows recklessness.

5776. Has it been proved that they were drilling in an old "bottom"? Yes; you could see the mark of the drill.

5777. The evidence stated that they bored into an old "bottom"? I claim that no man should put up a machine to drill in a face until he has first proved all the holes. He should clean them all out, and make sure; and then there is no danger. I have always seen that done.

5778. Barnes and White were engaged by you for the British Mine;—were they known by you to be experienced men? They were not engaged by us at all. Two men took a contract; and they got four others to come in with them, among whom were Barnes and White.

5779. In your opinion, they started to bore in the old "bottom"? In the old "bottom"; or near it. It would not be exactly in the old "bottom," from what we could see after the explosion.

5780. I suppose you have started many a hole within 3 or 4 inches of an old "bottom"? Yes; but I have always tested the old "bottom" first.

5781. You say you have run many a risk that you would not permit any man to run. That was not recklessness on your part, or want of judgment; still it would be on the part of the men? Say a man goes on who has not had much experience. He may be working a piece of ground, and be afraid of it. I would say, "Come back here; I will do that myself." That is done hundreds of times when old miners see young hands in difficulty.

5782. If in such a case you had met with an accident, would it have been through carelessness or an error in judgment? It would not have been carelessness.

5783. Would it have been error of judgment? No; it might have been recklessness.

- J. Retallick. 5784. It would be an error of judgment if you thought it safe enough? If you look at it in that light, it might be.
- 24 July, 1897. 5785. Have you ever met with an accident? I have never been in a shift where an accident has occurred. The men I have been with generally knew what they were going to do, and always looked around. I never worked in a dangerous place in my life but what I had a place in my eye to jump to quickly.
5786. Regarding miss-fires;—it would not be a miss-fire if the cap went off? No; there would be an explosion; but the charge would still be there.
5787. Have you ever taken any notice what has caused the miss in such a case? No.
5788. Sometimes a miss is brought about by a stoppage in the fuse? Yes.
5789. Do you think it is possible for the material or outside covering of a fuse to carry on the fire in the event of there being a break in the powder? Yes; the outside covering will smoulder.
5790. I believe that you work some of your sulphide stopes in the open-cut style? No; we work the stopes to 10 or 12 feet high, and then fill them.
5791. They are generally called in this inquiry underground open-cuts. You carry them 10 or 12 feet high before putting in sill-timber? Yes.
5792. That is the limit? We have not put any limit on yet; some only go to 8 feet in height, while one is 15 feet.
5793. What is a sufficient height to go to get your sill-timber in? It takes 9 feet for us to put in a sill set of timber. You want to carry the stope high enough, so that there can be put 3 feet of filling on top on which to blast, so as not to injure the timber.
5794. It is not true that you carry some of those stopes between 30 and 40 feet high without putting timber in? No.
5795. Do you think the drivers employed on winding engines in lowering and raising men should be certificated men? I do not think that it is necessary. Some of the best drivers I have ever seen in my life have been miners picked out of the mine. Of course, I would not put them on to some of the big engines, and I would not take this man or that man, or any man that I did not know.
5796. You must have some knowledge of the men you put there, in the interest of yourself and the company? Yes.
5797. As we have to have engine-drivers, would it not be better that only the holders of certificates from a responsible Board should have those positions? It might be as well.

James Hebbard re-called and further examined:—

- J. Hebbard. 5798. *His Honor.* Yesterday afternoon we were dealing with the regulation regarding the testing of boilers in relation to engines, and its absurdity was pointed out? *Witness:* Yes; I would like now, your Honor, to refer to the matter of ventilation again. In giving my evidence yesterday I overlooked the fact that in these mines here there are patches of sulphide that are very hot, owing to decomposition; and I do not think the temperature test would apply to them. As a general thing, therefore, I think it would be better to apply the quantity test.
- 24 July, 1897. 5799. The heat coming from the sulphides would be coming from the ores when actually stoped? Yes.
5800. And the difficulty is that you could cut off hot air coming from unworked sulphides, but could not do that with sulphides being worked? No.
5801. Discretion as to the heat would have, in that case, to be left to the inspector? Yes.
5802. There was a point that touched me in Mr. Retallick's examination as to explosives—as to the proper rule in dealing with old "bottoms." What are known as old "bottoms"? An old "bottom" is a piece of a hole that has been left, owing to the burden not having been torn to the bottom.
5803. I suppose re-boring in an old "bottom" may save a good deal of work? Yes; and sometimes it is absolutely necessary to bore in an old "bottom" so as to get the hole in proper position.
5804. There ought to be some regulation to prevent miners re-boring an old "bottom" without investigation of some kind;—what rule do you think there ought to be as to that;—what would be the simplest provision to make? Some rule making it compulsory to examine a "bottom" before boring in it. I do not think any work ought to be done in a face while there is any explosive in a hole anywhere.
5805. Or while there is a hole that may have explosive in it? Yes.
5806. Even when you have three holes charged, and distinctly hear three shots, there is a possibility of some unexploded explosive being left in the bottom of one of those holes? It has occurred that you get a very effective explosion, and all the burden is removed, still you find one or two plugs of dynamite in the bottom.
5807. That being so, do you think it would be expedient to leave it to a man to examine the hole by looking into it? By either looking into it or trying it with a scraper.
5808. Would it be safe to try it with a scraper? Perfectly safe. I have no hesitation in saying that, with nitro-glycerine, you can use any metal tool you like with perfect safety.
5809. But, suppose the explosive was of the nature of fulminate of mercury;—you could not then use metal? No; but we have no explosive of that nature.
5810. But such an explosive might come into use? Yes; but, of course, explosives will always be altering; and, in like manner, with the rules; or, at any rate, it will be necessary that they should.
5811. With powder, you could not? No; but powder is obsolete, except in open-cut work.
5812. Do you not think it would be better to have a pop put in? Then some of that may be left unexploded.
5813. You think, then, the hole should be carefully cleaned out in all cases? An examination should be made as to whether there is any explosive in the bottom; and, if so, it should be fired.
5814. Then you would put another charge in—one plug, I suppose? Yes; or whatever was necessary. I would not for a moment bore in an old bottom of any description unless perfectly satisfied that there was no explosive in it.
5815. The rule should be that the hole be carefully explored; and if any explosive were found in it an explodent should be put in to clean it out? Yes.
5816. That would make sure that nothing would remain? Yes.
5817. It would be again examined before re-boring? Yes. You cannot do away with the practice of boring in old bottoms or near them, because they are sometimes in the very identical place where you want to put in your hole.
- 5818.

5818. And you would be in nearly as much danger by boring alongside a "bottom" (say) to within 8 or 9 inches or a foot? Yes, almost as much danger; because the immediate vicinity of the bottom of a hole is always to an extent shattered. In this particular case referred to in the British, I saw the place before anything was removed from it. There had been three conduit holes: and it was necessary, in that particular instance, that they should begin to bore their hole right at, or very close to, the end of an old hole; by the position the machine was in, I judged they had been boring exactly at that point; it looked as if the drill had been pointing right to that spot. In that particular instance there was any amount of opportunity of examining the bottom of the hole without any trouble, because the face of the drive was clear of dirt. These men had cleaned out the dirt themselves; there was no more dirt there than a handful or two, which this last explosion had broken. I do not think there was any excuse at all for those men, except that, from the appearance of the face, it looked as if all the holes had been exploded.

5819. You think they were misled by assuming that all the three holes must have gone off? Yes; they were misled by the appearance of the face; the holes had done their work; and the face looked absolutely clear.

5820. That shows the necessity of enforcing the rule that men shall not bore in or near an old "bottom" without taking proper precautions? Yes.

5821. I suppose a good many people are still of opinion that it is impossible for part of a charge to remain in an exploded hole? I do not think any practical man holds that view. Of course these regulations are not meant for the best men, and for the safety of men who have had experience; and I think a clause of that sort would have a good effect.

5822. Is there anything more with regard to explosives that it strikes you to suggest? I do not know that there is. I might say that from what I see it is the general practice in the mines to take every sort of care in handling explosives. Personally I do not attach much importance to the question of great care in handling dynamite. I have often carried it in my shirt myself.

5823. Looking at the regulations again, is there anything else that it strikes you to suggest as a modification or alteration or addition? I think with reference to safety-hooks and safety-grippers that it should be made compulsory to adopt both of them. Safety-hooks to prevent overhauling, and safety-grippers to prevent the cage dropping. Safety-hooks are not in use except in one or two cases; but the safety-grippers are in use throughout.

5824. There are several forms of safety-hooks to which no possible objection can be made? Yes.

5825. Do you think that providing safety-gear will make everyone so careless that the result will be worse? I certainly do not. With regard to the open-cuts, I would point out that there is absolutely no provision in our regulations for any such work.

5826. They are quarries, in fact? Yes. There is only the merest reference to any such work; and that is in the definition of terms, where it says "or other excavations."

5827. "Other excavations" seems to cover them? But there is nothing in the way of regulations that in any way points as to how these cuts should be worked.

5828. Do you think provision should be made as to the batter or anything of that kind? I think there should be a fixed minimum batter; and something should be left to the discretion of the inspector as regards safety after that.

5829. If quarries were brought under the Mining Act, in some cases they might consist of granite or sandstone, which it would be quite safe to allow to overhang? I would certainly not allow rock of any description to overhang or to be even perpendicular; because pieces may become detached by the action of the air, and constant examination may not be deemed necessary. If the face is left anything like perpendicular there is a chance of injury resulting; whereas, with a fair batter, the stone, if going to fall, takes a long while to fall, and gives warning as it is coming down.

5830. You are aware that plenty of railway cuttings are absolutely vertical? But it does not matter about killing a few of the general public, so long as they are not miners.

5831. What would you provide as to a minimum batter? I do not think in any case that it ought to be steeper than 1 in 5—1 horizontal to 5 perpendicular.

5832. That, of course, would be a great deal too steep for some kinds of rock? Yes.

5833. Therefore, after all, do you not see you would have to leave it to the discretion of the inspector? After the minimum had been fixed.

5834. But an angle of 30 degrees would be only safe in one instance, whereas in another it might be 90 degrees, which would leave an angle of 60 degrees to be dealt with? Of course it would leave a lot to the discretion of the inspector; but, if there was something stated in the regulations, then you would have something to work on.

5835. Would it not be likely to lead to this result: there may be careless inspectors, or inspectors who do not like to take too much on themselves; and an inspector might be induced to accept the minimum angle—from the vertical—laid down when a very much smaller angle from the horizontal would be necessary, and so be led into taking a greater risk than if he had no starting-point? One contention against the regulations is that they leave too much to the discretion of the inspector. I do not think that there should be more than is absolutely necessary left to the discretion of the inspector.

5836. If you fixed it at one horizontal to five perpendicular, would not an inspector be inclined to accept that as having something more in it than it really could have; whereas, if the matter were entirely open, he would conclude that a much smaller angle—from the horizontal—would be appropriate? As for myself, it would not affect me in that way.

5837. Do you not think it might affect many men in that way? It might.

5838. Could you not suggest some other means for determining the proper angle? The inspector now can get on what batter he wants.

5839. Should there be a dispute over the batter between the inspector and the manager, who would settle it? If I did not get my way I would serve him with a notice, and the moral influence of that notice would have effect, because he would not like to have a fatal accident, and that notice brought in against him. The inspector generally manages to get his own way.

5840. The question is whether you could improve upon that by giving any hard-and-fast angle? Why I brought this matter forward is because there is no reference made to those open-cuts in the regulations; and up to now it has been doubtful whether the inspector had any right to interfere in any open-cut or quarry.

- J. Hebbard. 5841. That ought to be clearly expressed? Yes; at the present those words "or other excavation" are the only ones in the regulations which can be made to apply to the open-cuts.
- 24 July, 1897. 5842. Is there any other matter, in addition to the question of determining the batter, that you think ought to be specifically provided for in regulations dealing with the open-cuts? I do not see anything in the general practice of the work that would lead me to make any other suggestions. I noticed particularly that Mr. Stewart, in talking of the method in which they should be worked, spoke about putting in the "bottom;" which meant undercutting the top. That has never been the practice, and I have never seen any attempt at undermining the face since the very first days of the open-cuts. Abraham Baxter started to undermine; but I would not have it; we fought it out; and he had to come to my way.
5843. Do you think it would be as well to have a rule prohibiting undermining? I do not think it is necessary, because it is not the practice.
5844. It is a very dangerous practice? My reason for prohibiting it here was that they were railway men, and knew nothing of the condition of the lode under the surface. The ground was all undermined; and, if they had left their working-face in that condition, any slight lurch of timber underground at that particular point might have affected the face and brought the whole lot down on to the men; whereas with a certain amount of slope the danger would be very much decreased.
5845. Do you think it better again to leave the matter to the discretion of the inspector; or to provide that undermining should not be allowed, unless by special permit or something of that kind? I think it would be as well to disallow undermining.
5846. You can always get at it from the opposite system—breaking down from the top? Yes.
5847. And it is much safer? Yes.
5848. And you have then a batter? Yes.
5849. Does any other point strike you in relation to the open-cuts? No.
5850. Lighting, and all that sort of thing, has to be left to the approval of the inspector? Yes.
5851. And I suppose work of this nature, for a large part of the year, could be done very much better at night than in the day-time? Yes; the only trouble is that a man has to sleep at day, which is impossible in the hot weather. If I had my way I would abolish the night-shift altogether.
5852. Still, the miners would object to the abolishing of the night-shift altogether? In many places, only two shifts work; and, in some places, only one.
5853. And that is found to work better? Yes; in a place worked by two men instead of six you can produce 25 per cent. more work for the same money. The two men working at the one place continuously are following their own idea; whereas, in working three shifts, you have three separate ideas. Breaking ground is so much a matter of judgment that different sets of men must affect progress considerably.
5854. You think also that a man who has the opportunity of sleeping at night is a much better man to do work? Yes; if a man has to do hard manual labour he must of necessity get his proper rest. If a man goes a whole week through with an average of only three hours sleep a day, he is not much good at the end of the week. They cannot sleep in the day-time in this hot climate.
5855. *Mr. Edwards.*] You would not abolish the night-shift by regulation? Oh, certainly not. That is only a matter of opinion.
5856. *His Honor.*] It has been to a very great extent, I understand, stopped in the open-cuts? Yes; it is only on Block 11 where any night-shift is being worked; and then the work is for only sixteen hours in the twenty-four.
5857. As to the heading system, which goes here by the peculiar name of "chinaman";—what is your opinion as to that? I thoroughly agree with the evidence tendered by the men running the open-cuts as to the difference in danger.
5858. How is there a difference? When the open-cuts were worked on the level, and there was not much opportunity for a "chinaman," the minor accidents that occurred in the way of men letting stones fall on their feet, stones breaking in men's hands, bruised shins, legs, &c., more than outnumber the accidents that have occurred since the "chinaman" has been in use.
5859. You think the "chinaman" is not only a great saver of labour, but also of risk? Yes.
5860. Is the open-cut work specially dangerous as contrasted with underground work? I think not. If the quantity of material removed per accident were contrasted, I think you would find that there has been three or four times as much material removed from the open-cuts per accident as underground.
5861. If you take the quantity of ore won there would be a different proportion? Yes; but that would not be a fair way to put it. The quantity of material moved should be taken.
5862. The mullock has to be got to fill the mine; and the more mullock put in the safer the mine? Yes; the mines would not have been working to-day only for the mullock put in.
5863. As to working at night in the open-cuts, whether the system is dangerous. That would resolve itself on your evidence into this question: Whether there is a substantial element of risk resulting from work being done at night? I do not think so. The practice is that blasting and barring-down shall be done by day-light; and there is nothing for the night-shift to do except to remove material.
5864. Is the "flying fox" worked at night? Not now.
5865. There would be, perhaps, a little more risk in the use of the "flying fox," or a skip let down by a crane at night than in the day-time? Yes; because of the moving shadows.
5866. Therefore it is not necessary to go into regulations for the purpose of safe-guarding the lives of persons employed in that kind of work, unless it were in relation to lifting skips and the use of the "flying fox" at night. Supposing the crane or "flying fox" were used at night, do you think there is any regulation which ought to be adopted to minimise the risk in that respect? I do not think so. The practice at night is exactly the same as in day-light.
5867. It is always a case of "Stand from under"? Yes.
5868. What do you say as to competency on the part of the managers and subordinate officials;—what is your experience as to whether or not the risk to the miners has been increased by reason of incompetency on the part of the managers and subordinate officials; going down to the shift-bosses? I have not seen any incompetency. Of course, as far as the actual work of many of the shift-bosses is concerned, I do not see very much of it; but I personally know a good number of them, and am of opinion that they are men capable of doing their work.
5869. Have you any duffers in your eye at present? No.
5870. You do not know of any man who is incompetent? No.

5871. As to the best means of making known to all persons statutory enactments and regulations. Assuming that certain regulations are made and to be enforced, what is your opinion as to the best way to give the men a good opportunity of knowing what they are, and to try, if possible, to get them to find out for themselves what they are? I do not think it would entail a great deal of expense or trouble if the regulations were put up in book form. I think they could easily be supplied at a penny each; and a copy could be given to every man when engaged. J. Hebbard.
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5872. You think that would be better than to give him a sheet to stick up in his house; or would you give him both? I think if he were supplied with a copy of them it would be his own look-out if he did not know the provisions in them; and I do not think the cost of supplying the books would be greater than that of supplying calico posters, which would cost about 6d. each, and last only two or three months. I think it would be cheaper for the companies to adopt that plan.

5873. As a matter of fact, I do not think the expense of printing should be thrust on the companies at all; the books should be sent out by the Department. However, that is a matter of detail. You think a man should be supplied with one when first employed, and then afterwards be supplied with one at (say) a penny? Yes.

5874. You think the rules being printed in book-form would lead to their being read more? Yes.

5875. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] As to that explosion in the British;—in your opinion, is it not possible that the middle hole of the three had not exploded at all? That might have been possible.

5876. If, as in this case, you had to blast three bottom holes in a drive, which one would you attempt to put off first? The middle one.

5877. And it is quite possible, if the middle hole missed, that the other two would do their duty so well as to make it appear that the whole had gone off? Yes; and in this case the clearness of the face may possibly have led them to believe that every hole had done its duty.

5878. I believe you said you have not noticed any increase in the number of accidents in this district in excess of the increased number of workmen? I do not think there has been any increase; it has not been noticeable; it is not impressed upon my mind that there has been an increase, except that we had four or five men killed within a couple of days a little while back.

5879. You have records for some time back of all accidents that have occurred? Yes; for the last four years.

5880. Can you say from memory what was the number of accidents during the first of the four years? I could not say from memory; the annual reports by the Department would give the information.

5881. Of course, that would be a means at your disposal to know whether there had actually been an increase? Yes.

5882. What do you assume the percentage of non-fatal accidents has been to the number of men employed? Accidents are divided into two or three classes.

5883. Take all accidents that are reported to you other than fatal accidents? There are lots of things reported to me that should not be called accidents at all. For instance, I can show you a report where a man upset a billy of tea on to his foot; which was sent to me as a minor accident, because it occurred on a mineral lease. If you come to my office any day I shall be most happy to show you any information of that kind that I can. Speaking generally, I think, if you include every sort of occurrence that has been reported to me, there would not be more than fifteen or sixteen casualties per thousand men employed. With regard to fatal accidents, I remember the figures for last year. In December last the total number of men employed was 6,013; and the fatalities for the year numbered twelve. For the previous year I think the numbers would be something like 4,500, and twenty fatalities, including those who were killed in the accident at the South. I think, taking it all round, that the percentage of fatal accidents is about 2.4 per 1,000.

5884. You think sixteen per 1,000 would cover everything? The number may be more than fifteen or sixteen; I am only speaking from memory. There are any amount of little things that are reported to me that I think should not be reported at all, and that are not worth mentioning in any sort of way.

5885. If a bone were broken you would consider that of sufficient importance? Oh yes anything in the way of broken limbs, bad bruises, and any injury to the head.

5886. *His Honor.*] They are all recorded in the Department? The reports of the companies to me are kept at my office; and I report from them to the Department. My reports are filed at the Head Office.

5887. You have to cull out a lot of little things that are trifling? Yes; I would like to mention here that there is no provision in the regulations compelling mine managers to report accidents to anybody. At present it is a mere matter of courtesy between the managers and myself.

5888. You think there should be a short clause providing for that? Yes; with all due respect to everyone concerned, I do not think this district has had fair play. I am absolutely certain that accidents in other portions of the Colony are not reported with anything approaching the care they are here. In other parts, the inspector is in the mine to-day, and may not be there again for another six months; and any small casualties that occur are not reported at all. The Barrier district, owing to my care in having every little casualty reported, shows a very much larger number of accidents than other districts; and unfairly so. I will give an instance. When managing at Orange, I never knew of an accident being reported to anyone concerned; and that was only five years ago. I have known of broken legs, broken arms, and other serious accidents, to occur, and no steps whatever to be taken to report them. That is why the Barrier to-day stands out so conspicuously above the rest of the Colony; but, in reality, it is no worse than any other mining district.

5889. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You think the regulations are not sufficient? I do not think they are; although as an officer administering the Act, I do not think I have any right to express an opinion.

5890. Is it your opinion that the number of accidents in mines and quarries has been largely increased through the provisions of the Mining Act being insufficient? No; I do not think so. If you built regulations to cover everything here, you could only embody in them such things and rules as are already in practice here.

5891. You said that the open-cut is not specially dangerous? I think that is quite manifest to anyone who looks at it.

5892. You have stated the best means you know of to make known to all persons employed what the regulations are? Yes.

5893. In regard to those open-cuts underground, have you, as inspector, ever seen them carried to what you considered a dangerous height? No.

- J. Hebbard. 5894. You have never had to caution the management for that? No.
- 24 July, 1897. 5895. It has been stated that they have been carried to a height of over 30 feet? I have never seen it. The greatest height I have seen would be perhaps a little more than sufficient to take the first two sets in. The difference between this hard sulphide ground and the other parts of the mines has been such that almost a new system of working has had to be evolved. We have had four mines working on that particular class of ground, viz, The British, Block 14, Block 10, and the Central; and now there is the Central South. They have all got a little different style; but, by-and-by, we shall have, I think, one system which will be just as universal as the present square-set system. As far as my experience of them is concerned, I think that absolutely the safest method so far adopted has been in the British, and there no permanent timber is used except that forming the level of the gangways to and from the stope. That system, I think, will be the one that will be adopted by-and-by throughout the mines where these large bodies of hard sulphide are being worked. To put in ordinary square-set timber in this class of ground, where there must of necessity be heavy blasting, is, I think, a great mistake. Timber there is of no use except as staging; and if you can make the mullock serve as staging you have something very much better than built-up timbers.
5896. *His Honor.*] Is the British in very hard ground? Yes; as hard as any of them.
5897. The lode itself is very solid? It is one solid mass of sulphide. Their method of working has been to strip the whole of the lode contained between the two walls to the height of 9 or 10 feet, or whatever is necessary for putting in the sill-timbers. Wherever the width or the flatness of the ground made it apparent that there was the possibility of something falling, "pig-styes" have been built. As the work proceeds, the mullock is brought in after the men, and sections at a time are filled in; and after that has been done the next run of stoping is proceeded with. The tailings from the concentrating mill are put in as filling. In Block 10, so far, their method has been to work with the ordinary timbers; advancing three sets, and then coming back and putting in one. The timber is always kept a given distance from the working-face; and the men are always within a reasonable distance of the back. In the Central, the lodes are very wide; and they thought it not expedient to stope the ore in the direction of its strike, but to cross-cut it. The cross-cuts were driven through the ground first: and then they were widened out and heightened. When five sets wide had been obtained, they proceeded to take out the broken ore; and, as it was taken out, they erected timber five sets wide and three sets high. All means were taken to steady the timber, but notwithstanding that, in heavy blasting big lumps of rock would come down and knock the timber about like skittles. I was there myself one day when over thirty sets were completely knocked out by one blast, although they were wedged and blocked to the ground at every point possible. They collapsed like a pack of cards.
5898. It is not the practice to bring ore out, as a rule, except in very large masses? That is the nature of it. It is better to attempt to bring it out in big masses than in small pieces, because the flying of rock from a small shot is much more violent than in big explosions. I think, on an average, the highest point at which the back has been above the bottom would not be more than 20 feet. The only time the back is not left within reach of the men is between the time of clearing the broken dirt and the erection of the timbers under it. It is absolutely impossible in that sort of ground to keep the timbers so close to the working-face as is possible in ordinary ground. The blasting is so violent that no timber can be made to stand near it.
5899. And that very hardness makes it safe to leave these large arched chambers? Yes, they are always of necessity arched; it would be utterly impossible to carry them level. If any weakness is observable, a prop, "pig-stye," or stack of some kind, is always built under.
5900. Can a weakness be detected in the case of a back 20 feet overhead? The weakness would be observed before they cleared the dirt; and, if there was any weakness while the dirt was there, they would break it down on to the dirt.
5901. Is that ore of a nature that the air acts on quickly? No; any shattering done is usually the result of firing.
5902. It is of too hard a crystalline nature for air to act quickly on it? Yes.
5903. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Then you do not think the air would act on it to any great extent? No.
5904. *His Honor.*] Which is the form of sulphide that gives off heat? Generally, the more friable sort.
5905. I suppose the fact that ore does not give off heat to a certain extent indicates that the air is not acting on it, and *vice versa*? What is technically termed "winding" or flaking is not in the nature of decomposition. The hot sulphides are either connected with some large natural cavity in the mine, or with a series of small ones.
5906. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] You have never had to stop operations in any of this places because you thought it dangerous for workmen to be in them? Sometime ago a notice that I served on the Central Company was to the effect that a certain stope had better not be proceeded with until filling had been done. The stoping had got ahead of the filling operations. In this particular stope, there was so much of this sett timber standing, without any possibility of its being loaded or steadied with mullock, that I considered it a trap. A shot might, at any time, have knocked a lot of it down. In this case, the manager agreed with me, and he stopped further stoping until mullock was brought in.
5907. Are they now being worked as safely as could be? Yes, I think so, under the circumstances. You can only form your conclusions as to the safety or otherwise of any place by something occurring to prove it dangerous.
5908. *His Honor.*] You are all learning every day? Yes; and the alteration in the method of working these sulphide stopes is a case in point. It is utterly impossible for them to be worked on the ordinary square-set system.
5909. *Mr. Edwards.*] On the question of ventilation: I do not know whether you have arrived at any decision on that point;—how are you going to fix it;—will you limit the temperature, or limit the quantity of air to each man? I told His Honor this morning that, after reconsidering the matter, I did not think the temperature test would answer.
5910. But you did not say as to the limit of quantity of air you would allow to each man; in a coal mine it is limited to 100 cubic feet for each man; but you would not want so much in these mines, I suppose? I think the limit might be placed here at 50 cubic feet.
5911. Suppose you were running a drive, would it be possible to give 50 cubic feet to each workman? When talking of 50 many feet of air to the minute, you are talking of air supplied by artificial means of ventilation

ventilation. If you have to drive 200 or 300 feet away from the ordinary current, it is absolutely impossible to expect that you are to a certainty going to have any certain number of feet in that end. J. Hebbard.

5912. *His Honor.*] Could you not have ordinary galvanised iron pipes, rolled and soldered, and a fan used at the outer end to drive the air in? Even that will lead to trouble. I have seen, in plenty of places in hard ground, where the vibration of air in blasting would flatten the pipes. 24 July, 1897.

5913. The vibration of the air alone? Yes.

5914. Could they not be covered with mullock? That would necessitate sinking the drive a foot lower.

5915. If they were laid in the corner of the drive? I do not think it is practicable to lay pipes on the bottom.

5916. You can only simply direct the air into the mouth? Yes.

5917. *Mr. Edwards.*] Of course, it is to the interest of the mine to have plenty of air? Yes.

5918. At the same time, a hard-and-fast regulation insisting upon a certain quantity of air might hamper operations considerably;—I take it that the 100 feet provided in coal-mines is to allow for prevention of choke-damp and other gases peculiar to coal-mines. Some coal-mines are perfectly free; but you can never tell when choke-damp or these other gases might appear. We, however, are perfectly free of that here. So do you not think 50 feet is rather a liberal allowance where those things have not to be accounted for. You see, if you had two men in a face, that would mean 100 feet passing every minute? I do not think, except in very exceptional cases, that the ventilation is less than that now. I think the great majority of the working places in the Broken Hill Mines have ventilation equal to that required in coal-mines.

5919. How would it do to put 50 feet as a standard limit, and leave a little elasticity to the inspector?

5920. *His Honor.*] Yes; put it in that way—that the management shall supply 50 cubic feet per minute for each man, unless they get a special permit from the inspector? Yes; that would do.

5921. *Mr. Edwards.*] That would meet cases where it is necessary to contend against bad air, while putting in a drive to make a connection to better the ventilation? Yes; I think in making connections it should be left to the discretion of the inspector; also when prospecting or developing work is being carried on. In those cases it would be well to allow the inspector the discretion to let work be carried on with a less quantity of air than 50 feet for each man.

5922. Do you know the quantity of air a man takes into his lungs and vitiates every minute? According to one of the latest authorities, one-fifth of a cubic foot per minute; and, on that assumption, 50 cubic feet per minute would give a man any amount of air.

5923. Supposing we had a man of less experience than yourself, and who was possibly a harder man than he should be; do you see the difficulties he could throw in the way of the management? I do not think we should cut that too fine. Our mines will be getting deeper all the time, and, possibly, hotter, owing to the decomposition of the sulphides. I think, if you are going to fix any limit on the ventilation, you should make a very ample one.

5924. As they get deeper, it might be impossible for them to supply the quantity of air that you insist upon in your rules, although a less quantity might be ample for all purposes? I do not think it would be impossible to provide it, and I am pretty well certain that the shafts in operation along the line of lode are sufficient to provide an ample supply of air.

5925. That is all right enough at the present depth. (*Witness*): The depth will not make any difference.

5926. I suppose you will have to sink your levels as you sink your shaft; and the deeper you go, do you not find it more difficult to keep up the supply of air? Not if you have a connection between the two shafts. A shaft will draw just as well at 3,000 feet as it will at 300 feet.

5927. How has this difficulty with the ventilation occurred in Bendigo? Because there is no connection.

5928. What is the ventilation there? I could not say.

5929. My object is this: I do not wish to have any rule passed that might in any way operate harshly upon the men who are working; at the same time, I do not want any rule passed that will hamper operations; and the question is, whether, in passing a rule that 50 cubic feet per minute shall be supplied for each man, you are not giving more than is absolutely necessary? I am not saying absolutely that 50 feet should be fixed as the limit; and I think that such a question as that should be gone into thoroughly before determining upon anything finally.

5930. *His Honor.*] It is a matter you would like to see referred to some of the best experts? Yes; and I would like to go very thoroughly into the matter myself before suggesting any fixed standard.

5931. *Mr. Edwards.*] You think a most careful investigation should be made; in fact, a fresh inquiry instituted to go into that particular subject, before a regulation is framed fixing any limit? Yes.

5932. The difficulty is this: that most of the scientific men you get on ventilation are men without practical knowledge so far as mining is concerned;—whom would you suggest as being the best experts to give evidence, apart from book-men or theorists? I really do not know. Even with practical men the difficulty might arise that they would probably know that there was an insufficient amount of ventilation, and not know the reason of it, or how to increase it. All I wanted to say on the matter is this: that the rule under the regulations is not sufficiently definite, and that, in carrying out my duty as regards ventilation, there is absolutely nothing to go on except my own feelings in the matter. In metal mines, when a candle will burn well you are generally supposed to assume that the air is right enough.

5933. That being so, could it not be left to the discretion of the inspector? The manner of the burning of a candle is the only guide an inspector has; but even when a candle burns all right there may not be enough air to admit of the mine's being worked comfortably.

5934. It would be absurd to make comparison between these mines and coal-mines as to ventilation? Yes, of course.

5935. *His Honor.*] It comes to this in the coal-mines now, that they are about the healthiest places to work in as a rule—healthier, in fact, than in the open. (*Witness*): There is not very much to complain of as regards the ventilation in these mines; and, as far as my experience goes, I say absolutely, without fear of contradiction, that the ventilation here is a long way better in every sort of way than in any of the mines I have been in in other parts.

5936. *Mr. Edwards.*] Then you have to provide for greater depth, more men, and the consequent increased difficulty of ventilation; you want to protect men, and at the same time not hamper operations? I know work has to be done sometimes in mines where the air is heavy, and where it is light. It may be necessary

- J. Hebbard. 24 July, 1897. to make new means of ventilation through a stope that has not been worked for a long time, for instance in Block 11 after the fire, where, to ventilate some of the stopes, the men had to work under difficulties; still, the work had to be done. All such matters as that would have to be left to the discretion of the inspector; and it would be nonsense to talk about bad ventilation in such cases, inasmuch as the very object of the work was to improve the ventilation.
5937. It is a most important subject with reference to works? Yes.
5938. And you do not know, from your experience, whether a man requires 45 cubic feet, or 5 cubic feet, of air a minute? It has never been in my experience a necessity to measure the air; and that has never been the method adopted here of arriving at the adequacy or inadequacy of the ventilation.
5939. You do not know from practical experience the quantity of air required for a man to work with? No.
5940. You think it is such an important subject that making a regulation in a hasty way for it might be productive of great evil either one way or the other? Yes. I want to say that my reason for mentioning this matter of ventilation is that it is absurd to have a clause merely stating that an adequate amount of ventilation shall be supplied.
5941. You would leave it this way, that the mine shall provide such ventilation as shall be deemed necessary by the inspector for the time being? Of course, you might have an unreasonable inspector. I think it always advisable that not too much be left to any man; it would be much better if he had something to work upon, which should always be the case.
5942. With regard to the open-cuts; I suppose you will admit that both Mr. Stewart and Mr. Baxter have had greater experience in open-cut work than you have? Most decidedly.
5943. You have heard Mr. Stewart say that he had 20,000,000 tons of stuff moved in one mine at Tharsis? Yes.
5944. And you know Mr. Baxter has moved a lot? Yes.
5945. In reference to undercutting a face; I suppose, when Mr. Stewart said that, he did not mean to make the overhanging dangerous; there are degrees of undercutting? Mr. Stewart in mentioning the operation of undercutting gave, I think, a wrong impression. The toe is at the base, and is the solid portion still left, which is blasted out by a series of small holes. It was that, I think, that Mr. Stewart referred to.
5946. You blast away the toe; and that straightens the face to a great extent? Yes; but it would not be undercutting. I do not think it is intended, or ever has been intended, that any of the operations in the open-cut would be facilitated by undercutting; and I think that Mr. Stewart conveyed a wrong impression when he spoke upon this matter. He meant to cut the solid toe right into the face.
5947. *His Honor.*] Not under the face, but up to the face? Yes.
5948. *Mr. Edwards.*] I suppose you know that the universal custom in railway cuttings is to undercut, and to have an overhanging burden? I have never had any experience in railway cuttings. I know when Mr. Baxter came here he wanted to undercut the face, and I managed to prevent him.
5949. You had good reason then because of the cut being over old workings? Yes.
5950. But a great deal now is on solid ground? Yes.
5951. However, no accident has ever happened here from undercutting? There has never been any undercutting done; I promptly stopped it.
5952. Something was said by a witness, I think his name was W. Williams, about some winze that was not protected at No. 3 level? I have seen the winze any amount of times, and I have been down in it three or four times.
5953. I think he stated it to be a very dangerous place? I think what Mr. Williams said in regard to that winze was absurd. So long as he nailed the boards up after he blasted them off it would have been right enough; and I do not think even an iron framing round that brace would have stood the heavy firing.
5954. He said there was no protection round the brace. (*Witness*): That is all nonsense; a framing was formed of 10 x 10; and on the outer side of that was 10 x 4.
5955. What is your idea about having two engine-drivers in the engine-house during the raising of men? I think if it were made the rule it would have to be broken in the greater number of instances. If there was only one shift employed, they would have to engage another engine-driver; and the same would apply to where there are only two shifts. Where there are three shifts, of course they could work it.
5956. About changing in the face; do you think it would have the effect of preventing accidents? I do not think that any good would be done by making that the rule, because it is quite as easy for men to meet and exchange their ideas about their work at any place other than the face; and, in fact, in nine cases out of ten it is more convenient.
5957. But the thing is this: can you describe anything as accurately and as well as you can point it out on the spot? Yes, you can.
5958. You could describe the condition of a face, or the position of a missed-hole, as accurately as if you had a man in the face and showed it to him? Yes; I could tell within 6 inches of any spot.
5959. Supposing you did not know who was following you? I would make it my business to find out. That is where they make the great mistake, not meeting.
5960. But in order to get over that difficulty? I do not believe in having anything to do with incompetent men; and I am certain of this—that, if a competent man is relieving me, I can indicate to him just as plainly in two minutes by word of mouth the position of any missed-hole, or dangerous or treacherous ground, as I could by pointing it out.
5961. That is when the men are competent; but, even then, supposing you did not meet your mate, and the shift-boss, who has forty different messages, omits to tell him, how would you get over that? I think it would be quite safe to make a rule that the men being relieved should be met somewhere by the men relieving them.
5962. But would you not fix a place;—they could not meet at the plat, because there would not be enough room for them; and they could not meet at the brace very well? As a matter of fact they could meet in the plat easily enough, or in the level leading to the plat.
5963. If they can meet in the plat, why not meet in the face? Because as a rule the blasting is done at relief of shifts; which enables the air to clear during the time occupied in changing.
5964. Why cannot they fire a bit earlier, so as to let the face clear before the relief comes on? The work is cut out to be done in a certain time; and if they were to fire half an hour sooner they would either have to work under pressure or do less work.

5965. It may be wrong, but I understood from some of the witnesses that they had no fixed time for firing; that they put in a shot and fired whenever the condition of the ground demanded it? The general rule is that all firing shall be done at relief of shift.

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5966. On some parts of the mines, men work for a fortnight without firing a shot; still, they are in dangerous ground? Yes.

5967. There would be no explosion there to interfere with them? I do not think, so long as the men meet their mates, that there is any good to be obtained by making them meet in the face; and I am absolutely certain that by so doing you will cause a lot of irritation and do no good by it.

5968. But how are you going to meet the men coming on, in the case, say, when a man is sent on from the office. You know that on Mondays half the men are not at work, and their places are taken up by strangers altogether. How is a man to know a stranger, unless he meets him in the face? I will admit that there are difficulties there.

5969. I think men not meeting in the face is a fruitful cause of accident; men leave missed-holes for instance.

5970. *His Honor.*] You can tell a missed-hole by there being no report; and the next shift should not work in that face; but, if they received no warning, they would start work, and, in all probability, be immediately killed? Of course, there are difficulties about it, but I really think that, if a rule were made that men should change in the face, the inconvenience and difficulties in carrying it out might possibly lead to more trouble than there would be advantage gained. Men can always find the shift-bosses on relief.

5971. And then you would have to provide that men should not go down until they had communicated with the shift-boss? I think it would be well to make a provision that the men going off should meet the men coming on.

5972. But the question is where? —

5973. *Mr. Edwards.*] The witness from Block 14 said that men run off and leave their faces in wild confusion, and that at 4 o'clock they are only too anxious to rush up to the cage? Yes.

5974. If it were possible to arrange it, do you not think it would prevent accidents? I believe accidents have occurred which would have been prevented had the men relieved in the face. I do not think it would in any way be a loss to the men should relieving be done in the face; they go down at 8 o'clock, and come up soon after 4, and they can only work three eight hours in the twenty-four; therefore, if a little is taken off of one shift it is put on to another; it works round, as it were; it is all equalised, whether changing is done underground or in the changing-house.

5975. *His Honor.*] The two risks, I understand, are loose ground, which does not necessarily occur only where blasting operations are carried on, and missed-holes? With a missed-hole you cannot relieve in the face.

5976. Not literally in the face, but as near to the face as would be advisable. What happens when missed-hole is reported to the men going on shift. Those two men cannot go to the face at all for some little time? A man who has any opinion of himself will not leave a missed-hole to his mate, but would rather stay two hours, and work it off himself.

5977. But still the two men are there? They would be put on to something else; they would not be compelled to be idle because of a missed-hole.

5978. *Mr. Edwards.*] The cases I had in my mind were where holes had been charged but not lit? That would be failure of duty; and if a man failed to do that he would fail to do anything.

5979. *His Honor.*] How would you provide that men should be able to meet one another, and advise of things in the face? It seems with Mr. Edwards that the difficulty is who is the mate; but I do not think that difficulty occurs very often now.

5980. They might miss their mates by crossing? It is the custom, according to the evidence, for only one man to go up at a time.

5981. I did not understand that to be the rule? It is the general practice.

5982. What is the object? So that they can meet their mates.

5983. But they might miss even then? There is little probability of that.

5984. Unless they meet in the face, you cannot suggest any rule by which it could be absolutely assured that they would not miss one another? No, I cannot. It comes to this, that if you want to make absolutely certain of the men meeting each other they must meet in the face.

5985. If a rule of that sort were made, do you think it would lead to very great dissatisfaction? Yes; it would be worse than taking a shilling off their pay.

5986. It would not keep them away long; it would take them just so much longer as it takes a man to get from the brace to the face? Yes.

5987. That may run into ten minutes or a quarter of an hour? I do not think it would average that.

5988. Therefore you think it would not really be a hardship, although it would be looked upon as a hardship? There are certain prejudices you cannot prize out of a miner's heart with a crow-bar; and it is little things of this sort that go to inflame them, and create much irritation, although in reality there are no substantial grounds for it.

5989. Do you know of any mines where it is the rule to change in the face? No; but I know of plenty where it has been tried, but has always had to be dropped on account of its not working properly.

5990. You cannot see a way of getting out of the dilemma? No; only by changing in the face; and there the remedy would be worse than the cure. I am absolutely certain that if any attempt be made to bring it about, that men shall change in the face, there will be a hole blasted at fifteen minutes to 4, so that the relief cannot be effected in the face.

5991. *Mr. Edwards.*] I suppose it would be quite possible for the mines to say you cannot blast beyond a certain time? And then the men would say we must blast when we find it necessary.

5992. *His Honor.*] How about making a regulation providing that word shall be left in the plat;—could that be managed? I have seen that plan adopted; a slate has been hung up, and anything to be communicated was written down.

5993. And you can safely assume that miners can write, or, if not, get some one else to do it for them? Yes.

5994. Do you think that could be managed? I think it would be very cumbersome here, and would not work out.

5995. Supposing it only applied to matters considered dangerous, such as miss-fires or dangerous ground, could it then be enforced? I think it could.

5996.

J. Hebbard. 5996. In that case, a man would be bound to make an entry, and would also probably see his mate; if he should, however, miss his mate, the entry would be there? Yes; I do not think there is much fear now of men not meeting their mates, or not being able to recognise them. Things that way are better now than they used to be.

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5997. Why? The contract system has made men take more interest in their work; it is to a man's interest to make his mates understand the work he has been doing.

5998. Is it, in your opinion, expedient that managers, or under-managers, or shift-bosses, or any men employed in looking after men on mines, should not be liable to be summoned on juries? I do not see that that should make any difference. It should not matter what the *personnel* of the jury is.

5999. *Mr. Edwards.*] That is not the question; it is as to officers having to leave their men? There is usually somebody to take their place, and I do not see that that makes a great deal of difference.

6000. This is in reference to an application made by mine-managers to be relieved from service on juries. In Victoria, any man who has charge of twenty men or more is exempt from serving on a jury; and an application has been made here to have all mine-managers, shift-bosses, and men who have more than twelve men serving under them, exempt from jury service? I think it is advisable that a man in that position should not be dragged away from his position more than possible.

Mr. Edwards: *The Circuit Court and the District Court were held at the same time on the last occasion; and I think eight officers from the Proprietary were in attendance. Considering the nature of their work, they ought to be as exempt as I am.*

6001. *His Honor.*] A mine-manager may get on a case lasting three or four days; and, during that time, the mine would be without his services? I think, considering the duties of a mine-manager, he should be exempt.

6002. Would you apply that to shift-bosses? I do not think there is any necessity to go so far as that, because, in that case, there are so many doing practically the same class of work.

6003. *Mr. Edwards.*] I suppose you would say that the foremen and heads of different departments and engine-drivers should be exempt? Yes. As to engine-drivers, every engine has its own personality; and no man is master of any engine until he has had some practice with her; and, if the other two men worked for him, they would break the law, because of their working more than eight hours a day. It would also give rise to a very great danger to allow a man to work an engine more than eight hours at a time.

6004. *His Honor.*] As to certificates for engine-drivers? If a certificated engine-driver came to me I would give him a test.

6005. Still, if you advertised for an engine-driver, you would rather choose from a number of certificated men than from men without certificates? Yes; because I would be certain, then, that they knew something about the principles on which an engine is constructed.

6006. Although practice is most important in the matter of engine-driving, theory is very useful? Yes; I think a man is a little better if he knows something of theory. He ought to know an engine's workings; and (I think) he should be certificated.

6007. You do not believe in miners being certificated? No. If a man can handle a hammer in the various positions, it is pretty safe to assume that he knows the rest. I think it is quite true that there are a number of incompetent miners on this field; in fact, there is no doubt about it. They may be handy men in other capacities, but they are certainly not miners. In viewing the scenes of accidents, this much has been very patent to me; that if the men concerned in them had done what any reasonable men would have done, the accidents would not have occurred; and it is this that leads me to think that incompetency is the cause of a large number of accidents.

6008. *Mr. Polkinghorne.*] Is there any regulation in the Act providing for the number of shafts? No.

6009. Do you not think there should be,—should not the Act insist that there be two shafts carried to the level of the deepest workings on every mine?—

6010. *His Honor.*] Or one shaft divided into compartments—an up-cast and a down-cast? All shafts are like that; but *Mr. Polkinghorne* means two distinct shafts. I do not think that, in a mining district, there is any necessity for that provision, because one mine never stands by itself; and there is always some way of communicating to some other mine.

Mr. Polkinghorne: *There is one mine in Bendigo whose workings are a good many feet below any of the other workings on the field, and it is impossible, in that case, to make a connection.*

Witness: *Would you compel the company to carry down another shaft?*

Mr. Polkinghorne: *I think you should compel them to make a communication from the lowest level to other workings, so as to encourage a draught.*

Witness: *I think it is very desirable that two shafts should be connected at the lowest level possible; and here there is no difficulty in doing that because of the number of shafts.*

His Honor: *You would leave that to the inspector; because, if provision be made that a certain amount of air be supplied to working-places, it will have to be done somehow.*

Mr. Polkinghorne: *If a mine had two shafts, there would also be a means of escape; and, as an instance pointing to the necessity of such a provision being made as regards metal-mines, when I was in Bendigo the men were delayed underground for sixteen hours, and were underground altogether twenty-four hours, before they could get out. That was brought about by the breaking of a rope, which resulted in the shaft being so knocked about that the cages could not travel either up or down.*

6011. The risk is generally done away with by large mines always requiring two shafts, and by mines working near one another making connections? Yes; the only mines here that are not in the position of being able to connect with the others are the North and the Consols. They are the only two not connected at present; of course, I do not say that they should be connected.

6012. You do not think it would be practicable or fair to enforce in metal-mining the rule that is in force in coal-mining—that each mine shall have two shafts? I do not think it would be possible, because, when a metal-mine is opening, there is no telling what is in it.

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**ROYAL COMMISSION APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE WORKING OF
MINES AND QUARRIES IN THE ALBERT MINING DISTRICT.**

APPENDICES.

Appendix No. 1.

EXHIBIT "A."

THE BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COMPANY, LIMITED.

RULES AND REGULATIONS to be observed (in conjunction with the Government Mining Regulations of New South Wales) by all underground workmen, including braccemen, brace-truckers, winding-engine drivers, and all other men employed in or about the shafts, on the surface, who are connected with the underground department.

1. All workmen connected with the underground department shall work shifts of 8 hours, less 20 minutes for "crib."
2. Any workman arriving late will lose one shift.
3. No workman shall be permitted to enter or remain on the mine while in a state of intoxication, or to bring intoxicating liquor on the mine.
4. Lowering and hoisting men, &c.—No workman shall enter a cage under any circumstances till the signals, specified on the signal code, have been given and received. When a cage, resting on chairs, requires to be lowered below that level, the engine-driver after receiving the signal to lower shall, before lowering, raise the cage about 3 inches to allow the chairs to be withdrawn. Brace and platmen, and any who may be authorised from time to time to attend to this matter, are strictly forbidden to withdraw the chairs till the cage has been raised as above stated. When both cages are in gear, the engine-driver shall not move either cage before receiving signals for both of them. Shift-bosses on duty when shifts are changing shall remain at the plats underground and at surface brace until this operation is completed. No signal shall be given to the engine-driver affecting any cage unless such cage is at the level from which the signal is to be given.
5. All workmen are prohibited from entering any place throughout the mine where not absolutely required by duty to be at the time.
6. Workmen shall not remove or interfere with any precaution for the safety of the underground employees, such as coverings over, or guard-rails around shafts on surface, winzes, ore-shoots, or other dangerous places, and shall keep all such places in the vicinity of their work as it proceeds, properly covered or railed-off. As a matter of common safety, any workman who shall observe, or come to the knowledge of any damage to, or deficiency in, any part of the workings, any defect or flaw in the cages, chains, ropes, or chairs, or in any part of the engine, machinery, gearing, or plant used in or about the mine whereby the safety of workmen or others may be impaired, shall be bound forthwith to communicate same to the shift-boss or foreman. Workmen are prohibited from tampering with any marks which may be made in any part of the workings for the guidance of the workmen or the management; or interfering without authority with any part of the machinery, gearing, or plant, in any way whatever. If in the various mining operations underground the workmen notice any undue pressure on the timbers, or any movement or disturbance in the ground which might be in any way considered dangerous, they shall immediately convey information of such to their shift-boss who shall at once advise the foreman. It will be the duty of the shift-boss whose attention has been directed to such matters, to fully explain (before he leaves the mine) to the shift-boss who relieves him, the nature of the movement in the ground, or anything else which may require special attention, and the relieving shift-boss having been so informed shall notify the workmen under his charge of any danger or indication of same. If at any time a movement in the underground workings should occur which would be at all likely to cause a subsidence on the surface, it will be the duty of the shift-boss in charge of that particular section of the mine to immediately notify his foreman about it, and the foreman shall, without delay, inform the contractor, the contractor's foreman, or anyone in charge of the surface work immediately over where the movement underground is taking place, so that the men may be withdrawn from the open-outs or other surface work. If the shift-boss cannot quickly find his foreman, he must himself convey the information to those in charge of the surface work.
7. Blasting Underground.—Before the fuse in a charged hole is lighted, due notice must be given by the man or men in charge of the blasting by calling out in a loud voice not less than three times the word "Fire!" the number of holes charged, and the number of the floor on and the direction in which the holes are, as for example: Two holes, seventh floor, north end; or three holes, fifth floor, south end; or four holes, ninth floor, east side; or five holes, tenth floor, west side. After the fuses are lighted, the men in charge of the blasting must guard the passages leading to where the blasting is being carried on, and they must prevent anyone from going dangerously near to the holes. If a hole has missed fire, the place where the missed-hole is must not be approached in less than ONE HOUR AND A HALF from the time that the fuse in such missed-hole was lighted; danger notices must be put in conspicuous places warning persons to keep away, and a man must be left to guard the place. A charge of explosive of any kind which has missed fire shall not be unrammed, and a fresh hole shall not be drilled within an unsafe distance of the missed-hole. When blasting in the square-set timbering, where the material to be blown out by the blast will fall upon the plank flooring of the square-sets, such flooring must be protected by laying loose planks or timbers across the regular floors, and the flooring must be further protected by a sufficient mass of loose ore or mullock laid upon the floors which are likely to be affected by the material blown out by the blast.
8. Smoking is strictly prohibited underground and during working hours on the surface.
9. Shift-bosses are fully empowered to discharge or suspend workmen under their charge for neglect of work, idleness, or insubordination.
10. All tools (hammers, gads, picks, &c.) shall be left at the face on quitting work, and the "planting" or secreting of tools of any kind is strictly forbidden. All blunt tools shall be delivered at the plats by the workmen using them.
11. Any employee or any other person, or persons, found removing from the mine specimens of ore, tools, candles, or any other property belonging to the Company will be liable to criminal prosecution.
12. Pay-day is on alternate Saturdays, the Company retaining three days' pay.

The above Rules are framed for the purpose of facilitating the work in the mine, and for the safety and benefit of all workmen on contract or otherwise. As it is impossible in print to provide a rule for everything, employees are required, under pain of dismissal, to strictly comply with any rules or instructions which may be made and given verbally by the management from time to time, and are further required personally and individually to exercise every care to prevent accidents to themselves or to their fellow-workmen.

Broken Hill, August, 1896.

A. STEWART,
General Manager.

Appendix No. 2.

EXHIBIT "B."

THE BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COMPANY, LIMITED.

RULES AND REGULATIONS to be observed (in conjunction with the Government Mining Regulations of New South Wales) by all surface workmen, contractors, and others in all departments of the Company's operations.

1. All surface workmen shall work eight hours daily on shifts, as required.
2. No workmen shall be permitted to enter or to remain on the Company's property while in a state of intoxication, or to bring intoxicating liquor on the mine.
3. Any employee coming to work late will lose one shift.
4. Shift-bosses are fully empowered to suspend or discharge any employee for neglect of work, idleness, or insubordination.
5. The workmen shall keep all dangerous places, in the vicinity of their work as it proceeds, properly covered or railed off, and shall not remove any precaution for the safety of workmen in the open-cuts, metallurgical plants, or elsewhere, such as the coverings of air passages, ore shoots, winzes, guard-rails, fences, or danger notices. As a matter of common safety, any workmen who shall observe, or come to the knowledge of, any damage to, or deficiency in, any part of the mine, whereby the safety of workmen or others may be impaired, shall be bound forthwith to communicate same to the shift-boss or foreman. Workmen are prohibited from tampering, or interfering without authority, with any part of the machinery, gearing, or plant in any way whatever.
6. Any person or persons found removing specimens of ore, candles, tools, timber, or any other property from the mine or the Company's works will be liable to criminal prosecution.
7. Smoking is strictly prohibited during working hours.
8. Blasting on the surface and in the open-cuts (excepting "bulling" of holes) is only permitted between the following hours, viz.:—2 a.m. to 2.30 a.m., 6.45 a.m. to 7.15 a.m., 12 noon to 12.30 p.m., 5 p.m. to 5.30 p.m., 9 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Should blasting be considered necessary in any exceptional case at times other than above, it may be done only with the permission of the Company's surface foreman. When shots are about to be fired, contractors, or those in charge of blasting operations, must station men with red flags at all approaches to the work to warn off all persons by calling out, and repeating in a loud voice, the word "Fire," and at the same time displaying the red flags; and notice must be specially given to all persons inside of buildings within a dangerous distance of where the blasting is going on. All persons so warned must retire to places of safety, and in order to give such persons an opportunity to so retire, no charge shall be fired until five minutes shall have elapsed after the giving of the first warning, and such warning shall be continued until the whole of the charges shall have been exploded.
9. No holes are to be charged (unless for "bulling" purposes) with any kind of explosive whatsoever whilst workmen, other than those actually engaged in charging, are in the quarries or cuts, and before placing the charge in any hole for the purpose of "bulling" it, the powder man (known as the "powder-monkey") shall give due warning of his intention to charge same, when all workers are required to leave the part of the face or work which will be affected by the explosion (whether prematurely or otherwise) of the "bulling" charge. The powder man must repeat the warning immediately before exploding the charge. Before charging a "bulled" hole, sufficient time shall be allowed to elapse for the hole to cool off, varying according to the nature of the material and the weight of the charge, and every care is to be taken to ascertain that the hole is cool before beginning to charge for the blast. In the event of a charge of any kind of explosive missing fire, no workman whatever shall return to work in the quarry or open-cuts within an unsafe distance of the missed-hole until the blast therein has been successfully exploded, and those particular persons who are engaged in effecting the explosion of the missed-charge may only return to carry out their duty where there can be no further doubt that the charge has missed.
10. A charge of powder or other explosive which has missed fire shall not be unrammed, and a new hole must not be drilled within an unsafe distance of the missed-hole.
11. After a blast, and before men return to work at the foot of a face or batter, all loosened material shall be barred down in order to prevent accidents happening through unexpected slips of earth and rock, and while men are working at the foot of a face or batter, contractors shall at all times keep the faces or side batters in a safe condition, both as regards inclination of slope and absence of overhanging material.
12. A safe exit from open-cuts or quarries for the use of all men employed therein shall be made and maintained in good order by the contractors.
13. Where cranes or other overhead appliances are used, workmen shall not stand under the skip or load or within reach of such overhead appliances.
14. Pay-day is on alternate Saturdays, the Company retaining three (3) days' pay.

The above Rules have been framed to facilitate the work of the mine, and for the benefit and safety of the men employed. As it is impossible, in writing, to provide a rule for everything, workmen are required under pain of dismissal to strictly comply with any rules or instructions which may be made and given verbally by the management from time to time, and are further required personally and individually to exercise every care to prevent accidents happening to themselves or to their fellow-workmen.

A. STEWART,
General Manager.

Broken Hill, August, 1896.

Appendix No. 3.

EXHIBIT "C."

THE BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COMPANY, LIMITED.

No. _____

Underground Contract.—Stoping.

THIS AGREEMENT made the _____ day of _____, 189____, to terminate at _____ p.m. the _____ day of _____, 189____, between _____

(hereinafter styled the Contractors) of the one part and the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, limited (hereinafter styled the Company) of the other part: Whereby the Contractors agree to carry out the work enumerated below, subject to all the conditions and agreements hereinafter set out, and to take all personal risks and responsibilities underground.

1st. To stope the ore situated _____

from such positions as may from time to time be defined during the progress of the work, and in such quantities as may be required by the General Manager or whom he may appoint.

2nd. It is hereby agreed that the work of stoping will consist of mining the ore, breaking it into a suitable size, handling and dumping it into the shoots, sorting the ore from the waste material or mullock which may occur in the lode, removing and handing the framed timbers from the shoots nearest the point of work, and placing and blocking each square-set securely into position. The waste or mullock must be deposited in the open sets to form bulkheads as directed by the General Manager or whom he may appoint.

3rd. Sufficient men must be employed when necessary to obtain an increased quantity of any special grade of ore as may be required by the General Manager or whom he may appoint.

4th. The General Manager reserves the right to change the locality of the work providing circumstances, in his opinion, demand such a course; also to substitute one or more Contractors for any number of shifts for those signing this contract if, in his opinion, such a course is rendered advisable from any cause whatever.

5th. _____ men are to be employed in this Contract who shall be competent miners, and whose names must be submitted for approval to the General Manager, or to whom he may appoint, before work is commenced.

6th.

- 6th. The Contractors agree to do any timbering which may, in the opinion of the General Manager, or whom he may appoint, be necessary to secure the ground for safe working, and the price as stated below shall include all such timbering.
- 7th. This Contract is to be carried out subject to the rules of the Company, which are now, or may at any time hereafter be posted about the mine, and the Mining Regulations of New South Wales, so far as same require anything to be done or omitted to be done by the Contractors or any other persons employed in connection with this Contract, which said Rules and Regulations the Contractors hereby agree to fully recognise and observe.
- 8th. The Company agrees to pay at the rate of £ _____ for each square-set completed in accordance with the foregoing conditions, and to the satisfaction of the General Manager, or whom he may appoint.
- 9th. In the event of one or more of the Contractors not working full time, he or they will only be entitled, as his or their share, to the portion of the proceeds based on the actual number of shifts worked by him or them.
- 10th. The amount of work mentioned above is approximate only, and the General Manager, or who he may appoint, may determine this Contract at his option, providing circumstances in his opinion demand such a course.
- 11th. The Company shall incur no liability to any person whomsoever employed in connection with this Contract by reason of any injury or loss arising out of this Contract, or the work to be performed thereunder.
- 12th. Payments will be made fortnightly to each person employed in connection with this Contract upon the Company's timekeeper's certificate, and the Contractors hereby authorise and direct such payments accordingly, and the Company may retain 25 per centum of the amounts due; and if the Contractors or any of them, or any person employed in connection with this Contract, at any time make default in the performance or observance of anything on their or his part to be performed and observed, in pursuance of this Contract, the balance so retained as aforesaid shall thereupon be absolutely forfeited, and all the rights of the Contractors thereunder immediately cease.
- 13th. The Company will provide all candles and tools required for this Contract.

The expression "The General Manager," where used herein, shall be deemed to mean and signify the General Manager, or Assistant or Acting General Manager for the time being, of the Company, or any person he or any of them may from time to time appoint to represent him or any of them hereunder.

Given under our hands at Broken Hill, in the Colony of New South Wales, the day and year first above written.

Signed by the Contractors, in the presence of—

Appendix No. 4.

EXHIBIT "D."

THE BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COMPANY, LIMITED.

No. _____

Underground Contract.—Drives, Cross-cuts, &c.

THIS AGREEMENT made the _____ day of _____, 189____, to terminate at _____ p.m., the _____ day of _____, 189____, between _____

(hereinafter styled the Contractors) of the one part and The Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Limited (hereinafter styled the Company) of the other part: Whereby the Contractors agree to carry out the work enumerated below, subject to all the conditions and agreements hereinafter set out and to take all risks and responsibilities underground.

- 1st. _____ men are to be employed in this Contract who shall be competent miners, and whose names must be submitted for approval to the General Manager before work is commenced.
- 2nd. The General Manager reserves the right to substitute one or more Contractors for any number of shifts for those signing this Contract or employed in connection therewith, if, in his opinion, such a course is rendered advisable from any cause whatever.
- 3rd. In the event of any one or more of any of the persons employed in connection herewith not working full time, he or they will only be entitled as his or their share to the portion of the proceeds based on the actual number of shifts worked by him or them.
- 4th. The Company will provide all candles and tools required for this Contract.
- 5th. Payments are to be made fortnightly to each person employed in connection with this Contract upon the Company's timekeeper's certificate, and the Contractors hereby authorise and direct such payments accordingly, and the Company may retain 25 per centum of the amounts due, and if the Contractors, or any of them, or any person employed in connection with this Contract at any time make default in the performance or observance of anything on their or his part to be performed and observed in pursuance of this Contract, the balance so retained as aforesaid shall thereupon be absolutely forfeited and all the rights of the Contractors thereunder immediately cease.
- 6th. The amount of work mentioned above is approximate only, and the General Manager may determine this Contract at his option, providing circumstances in his opinion demand such a course.
- 7th. The Company shall incur no liability to any person whomsoever employed in connection with this Contract by reason of any injury or loss arising out of this Contract or the work to be performed thereunder.
- 8th. This Contract is to be carried out subject to the rules of the Company, which are now or may at any time hereafter be posted about the mine, and the Mining Regulations of New South Wales, so far as the same require anything to be done or omitted to be done by the Contractors or any other person employed in connection with this Contract, which said rules and regulations the Contractors hereby agree to fully recognise and observe.
- 9th. The Contractors agree to do any timbering which may in the opinion of the General Manager be necessary to secure the ground for safe working, and the price as stated below shall include all such timbering.
- 10th. The Company agrees to pay at the rate of £ _____, completed in accordance with the foregoing conditions and to the satisfaction of the General Manager or whom he may appoint.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

STOCKTON COLLIERY DISASTER.
(RETURN RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 18 Report from Printing Committee, 7th October, 1897.

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

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

(*Mr. Fegan.*)

SCHEDULE.

*Part I.—Inquest on bodies of C. Smith and G. Curran.

No.	PAGE.
*1. Mr. Inspector Dixon to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, reporting deaths of Smith and Curran (with minutes). 2 December, 1896	—
*2. Telegram—Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to Mr. Inspector Dixon, asking for report on deaths of Smith and Curran. 2 December, 1896	—
*3. Telegram—Mr. Inspector Dixon to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, reporting adjournment of inquest. 2 December, 1896	—
*4. Telegram—Mr. Inspector Dixon to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, reporting adjournment of inquest. 3 December, 1896	—
*5. Telegram—Mr. Inspector Dixon to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, reporting result of inquest. 9 December, 1896	—
*6. The Coroner, Newcastle, to Under Secretary of Justice, forwarding depositions taken at inquest (with minutes). 19 December, 1896	—
*7. Under Secretary of Justice to Principal Under Secretary, forwarding copy of verdict and rider. 10 December, 1896	—
*8. Minute by Minister for Mines in connection with recommendation of jury	—

* Part II.—Inquest on Second Fatality.

*1. Mr. Inspector Dixon to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture—Telegram, reporting second fatality. 4 December, 1896	—
*2. Minute by Minister for Mines concerning second fatality	—
*3. Mr. Edden, M.P., to Minister for Mines—Telegram, suggesting special inquiry. 4 December, 1896	—
*4. Mr. Dick, M.P., to Minister for Mines—Telegram, suggesting special inquiry. 4 December, 1896	—
*5. Messrs. Dick and Edden, M's. P., to Minister for Mines, asking that investigation be instituted. 4 December, 1896	—
*6. Mr. Fegan, M.P., to Minister for Mines—Telegram, asking for special inquiry. 4 December, 1896	—
*7. Inspector of Police, Newcastle, to Inspector-General of Police, reporting second fatality. 4 December, 1896	—
*8. Telegram—Mr. Inspector Humble to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, reporting inspection of Stockton Mine. 7 December, 1896	—
*9. Telegram—Minister for Mines to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, ordering strictest supervision to be exercised by Inspectors at Stockton Mine. 9 December, 1896	—
*10. Inspector Dixon to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, asking for further instructions <i>re</i> supervision of Stockton Mine. (Minute by Minister attached). 9 December, 1896	—
*11. Minister for Mines to Mrs. Curran, expressing sympathy. 10 December, 1896	—
*12. Minister for Mines to Mr. J. Bailey, expressing sympathy. 10 December, 1896	—
*13. Minister for Mines to Mrs. H. Sweeney, expressing sympathy. 10 December, 1896	—

* Omitted by the Printing Committee.

NO.	PAGE.
*14. Minister for Mines to Mr. McAlpin, sen., expressing sympathy. 10 December, 1896.....	—
*15. Minister for Mines to Mrs. T. McAlpin, expressing sympathy. 10 December, 1896	—
*16. Minister for Mines to Mrs. Sneddon, expressing sympathy. 10 December, 1896.....	—
*17. Minister for Mines to Mrs. Charlesworth, expressing sympathy. 10 December, 1896	—
*18. Minister for Mines to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, stating that Inspectors should take steps in accordance with Act if danger is anticipated in working of Stockton Mine. 12 December, 1896	—
*19. Mr. Inspector Dixon to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture—Telegram, acknowledging receipt of above. 12 December, 1896	—
*20. Mr. J. Curley to Mr. Fegan, M.P.—Telegram, asking that Minister's sanction be obtained for production of Stockton Colliery Plan for Inquiry. 9 December, 1896	—
*21. Telegram—Minister for Mines to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, approving of production of plan at Coroner's Court. 9 December, 1896.....	—
*22. Mr. Inspector Dixon to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, acknowledging above. 9 December, 1896	—
*23. Messrs. Inspectors Dixon and Humble to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, reporting on inspection made of the Stockton Colliery. Enclosure attached. 14 December, 1896	—
*24. Mr. Jas. Curley, Secretary, Amalgamated Miners' Association, to Mr. Fegan, M.P., asking for depositions of Mr. Burt, taken at first inquest. 14 December, 1896	—
*25. Mr. Inspector Humble to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture—Telegram, reporting progress of inquest and resumption of work at Stockton Mine. 15 December, 1896	—
*26. Mr. Inspector Dixon to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture—Telegram, reporting progress of inquest. 17 December, 1896	—
*27. Mr. Inspector Dixon to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture—Telegram, inquiring <i>re</i> Professor Threlfall's report on gas from Stockton Mine. 16 December, 1896	—
*28. The Coroner, Newcastle, to Under Secretary of Justice—Telegram, inquiring <i>re</i> Professor Threlfall's report on gas from Stockton Mine. 18 December, 1896	—
*29. Under Secretary of Justice to the Coroner, Newcastle—Telegram, acknowledging above. 21 December, 1896.....	—
*30. Mr. Inspector Dixon to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture—Telegram, reporting adjournment of Inquest. 29 December, 1896	—
*31. Mr. Inspector Dixon to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture—Telegram, asking for Professor Threlfall's report on gas taken from Stockton Mine. 4 January, 1897.....	—
*32. Mr. Inspector Dixon to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, reporting result of inquest. 13 January, 1897	—
*33. Telegram—Coroner, Newcastle, to Under Secretary of Justice, reporting result of inquest. (Minute by Minister of Justice attached) 13 January, 1897	—
*34. Telegram—Under Secretary of Justice to Coroner, Newcastle, stating that Minister of Justice was inquiring <i>re</i> further action <i>re</i> "Stockton Inquest." 14 January, 1897	—
*35. Coroner, Newcastle, to Under Secretary of Justice, reporting inability to forward depositions taken at inquest. 14 January, 1897	—
*36. Under Secretary of Justice to Crown Solicitor, forwarding copy of telegram (attached to No. 39) and reporting result of inquest. 14 January, 1897	—
*37. The Crown Solicitor to Under Secretary of Justice, acknowledging above, and forwarding report of Mr. Wilshire, Prosecuting Officer. 14 January, 1897	—
*38. Memo. by Mr. E. H. Wilshire, Prosecuting Officer, <i>re</i> Stockton Inquest. 14 January, 1897	—
*39. Under Secretary of Justice to Inspector-General of Police, forwarding copy of telegram from Coroner, Newcastle, and reporting result of inquest. 14 January, 1897	—
*40. Mr. Inspector Lynch to Superintendent Larkin, Maitland, reporting on inquest. 15 January, 1897	—
*41. Superintendent Larkin to Inspector-General of Police, <i>re</i> disagreement of Coroner's Jury on Stockton disaster (with minutes). 16 January, 1897.....	—
*42. Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to Mr. Inspector Dixon—Telegram, asking for report on inquest. 18 January, 1897.....	—
*43. Mr. Inspector Dixon to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture—Telegram, acknowledging above. 18 January, 1897	—
*44. Messrs. Inspectors Dixon and Humble to Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture—Report on Stockton Colliery disaster. 15 January, 1897.....	—
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*46. {	—
*47. Report by Professor Threlfall on samples of air collected in Stockton Mine. 22 December, 1896	—
*48. Messrs. Inspectors Dixon and Humble to Mr. D. McAuliffe, Manager, Stockton Colliery, making certain recommendations. 14 December, 1896.....	—
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Part III.—Correspondence and Decision to hold Court of Investigation under section 23, "Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896," into Stockton Colliery accidents.

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2. Telegram—Minister for Mines to Hon. G. H. Reid, M.P., Premier, asking approval of appointment of Judge Murray to hold Court of Investigation. 15 January, 1897.....	5
3. Hon. G. H. Reid, M.P., Premier, to Minister for Mines—Telegram, approving above. 15 January, 1897	5
4. Minute by Minister for Mines, deciding to hold Court of Investigation. 15 January, 1897.....	5
5. Mr. Dick, M.P., to Under Secretary for Mines, suggesting that further investigation be held. 13 January, 1897	6
6. Mr. Dick, M.P., to Under Secretary of Justice, pointing out necessity for further investigation (with minutes). 13 January, 1897	6
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STOCKTON COLLIERY DISASTER.

PART III.

Correspondence and Decision to hold Investigation under Section 23, Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, into Stockton Colliery Accidents.

No. 1.

Minute by The Hon. the Minister of Justice.

Subject :—Stockton Inquest.

I HAVE had a consultation with the Minister for Mines in reference to this matter, and learn that he determined, when the accident was repeated, to have an inquiry under the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act (sec. 23) as soon as the inquest was concluded.

It does not appear that another inquest is called for, provided the inquiry under the Act is proceeded with, as, under this course, a competent person, with assessors having special knowledge, will hold an investigation in open Court for ascertaining the causes and circumstances of the accident, after which the persons so appointed will report to the Minister, stating the causes of the accident and its circumstances, adding any observations which they may think right to make. This will ensure a finding. To hold another inquest would, as pointed out by Mr. Wilshire in his report, necessitate not only the exhumation of at least one of the bodies, but a long inquiry, with perhaps the same unsatisfactory result, while I understand no further evidence can be obtained other than of the character already submitted. The Coroner may be informed and requested to forward papers at once.

A.J.G., 14/1/97.

Wire sent to Coroner, 14/1/97.

Telegram from The Under Secretary of Justice to The Coroner, Newcastle.

Sydney, 14 January, 1897.

PLEASE forward all papers in connection with Stockton inquest, as Minister for Mines intends having investigation under section 23 of Coal Mines Regulation Act. Minister of Justice, for this and other reasons, does not think another inquest necessary.

No. 2.

Telegram from The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to The Premier.

Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 15 January, 1897.

STOCKTON Colliery Accident: After prolonged inquiry, jury disagreed and were dismissed. It is necessary to come to some determination as to cause of accident, and Ministers in town, Messrs. Brunner, Gould, Cook, and myself, decided that it was desirable to carry out my original intention of holding investigation under new Act which gives this power. It is thought Judge Murray and two competent assessors, as required by the Act, should be appointed to hold the inquiry. Matter urgent. Kindly let me know whether you concur as to appointment of Judge Murray.

SYDNEY SMITH.

No. 3.

Telegram from The Premier to The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Lorne, Victoria, 15 January, 1897.

QUITE concur as to Murray and inquiry.

G. H. REID,
Lorne.

No. 4.

Memorandum by The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Department of Mines, 14 January, 1897.

SECTION 23 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, provides that:—

Where it appears to the Minister that a formal investigation of any explosion or accident, and its causes or circumstances, is expedient, the Minister may direct such investigation to be held, &c.

When I received the telegram on December 4th, apprising me of the accident at the Stockton Mine, I was of opinion that the case was one in which the provisions of section 23 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act should be brought into operation, and a special investigation held as to the causes and circumstances surrounding the occurrence. In view, however, of the Coroner's inquest, I decided to defer action until the jury had deliberated, as it would be inadvisable to have two inquiries proceeding at the same time.

As the inquest is now concluded, and the jury failed to arrive at a verdict, I have, after consultation with the Minister of Justice, decided that the investigation shall now be proceeded with, so that some determination may be arrived at as to the cause of the accident.

S. SMITH.

No. 5.

No. 5.

W. T. Dick, Esq., M.P., to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Sir,

Newcastle, 13 January, 1897.

I have the honor to draw your attention to the result of the Coroner's inquest on the Stockton fatality, and to request that you will be kind enough to suggest to the Minister the importance of having the matter further investigated with a view of arriving at the cause of the deaths.

I have, &c.,

W. T. DICK.

It was decided yesterday that an investigation is to be held under the 23rd section of the Act. Resubmit on Monday next as to the persons to be appointed to make the inquiry.—D.McL., 15/1/97.

No. 6.

W. T. Dick, Esq., M.P., to The Under Secretary of Justice.

Sir,

Newcastle, 13 January, 1897.

I have the honor to direct your attention to the result of the inquest on the Stockton fatality, which is not only unsatisfactory to the relatives of the deceased and the general public, but also to the mine officials. I desire to point out the necessity for further searching investigation. The matter is far too grave to allow it to remain in its present condition. Will you kindly suggest to the Minister the necessity for instituting some other form of inquiry? I do not know whether a second Coroner's inquest is possible.

I have, &c.,

W. T. DICK.

Submitted. The Minister may, perhaps, approve of the effect of his minute, dated 14th instant, being conveyed to Mr. Dick, though it appears in this morning's paper.—G.M., 15/1/97. Approved.—A.J.G., 15/1/97.

No. 7.

The Under Secretary of Justice to W. T. Dick, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Department of Justice, Sydney, 16 January, 1897.

Referring to your letter of the 13th instant, calling attention to the unsatisfactory result of the inquest held respecting the Stockton fatality, I have the honor, by direction of the Minister of Justice, to inform you that it does not appear that another inquest is called for, in view of the fact that the Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, whom he consulted in the matter, had previously decided, on the termination of the Coroner's inquest, to have a separate inquiry held, under the provisions of section 23 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE MILLER,

Under Secretary.

No. 8.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to His Honor Judge Murray.

15 January, 1897.

The Government have decided to hold an inquiry as to the cause and circumstances connected with the Stockton Colliery accident, as provided for in the 23rd section of the Coal Mines Regulation Act. I am desirous to ask whether you will accept position on Board, with the assistance of two assessors; and, if so, the earliest date when you would be prepared to commence the investigation.

D. C. McLACHLAN,

Under Secretary.

No. 9.

His Honor Judge Murray to The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Sir,

Drummecvin, Mittagong, 15 January, 1897.

In reply to your telegram received by me this afternoon, asking if I would accept a position on a Board to be appointed to inquire into the Stockton Colliery accident—I presume as Chairman or President of such Board—I have the honor to inform you that I am prepared to undertake the duties of the office offered to me as soon as arrangements can be made for the constitution of the Board.

I have to request that you will give instructions that a copy of the last Coal Mines Regulation Act, which I have not the means of procuring here, be posted to this address to-morrow, to be received by me in the ordinary course of post on Sunday morning, with all particulars of the matter which it may appear that I should be informed of. If it then seems to me that the work of the inquiry can be expedited by my presence in Sydney on Monday, I will go to town by the early train.

I have, &c.,

C. E. R. MURRAY.

P.S.—I have, of course, assumed that there is no probable chance of this inquiry lasting so long as to clash with the performance of my duties as a "Court of Review," under the Land and Income Tax Act.—C.E.R.M.

No. 10.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to
John Thwaites, Esq.

Department of Mines and Agriculture, 21 January, 1897.

PLEASE say if nominated whether you would accept appointment as an assessor in holding an investigation of the accident at the Stockton Mine, and of its causes and circumstances, under section 23 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act. Kindly favour me with an immediate reply.

D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary.

Telegram from John Thwaites, Esq., to the Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Adamstown, 21 January, 1897.

YES; if nominated will accept appointment.

JOHN THWAITES.

No. 11.

Alfred Edden, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Hon. Sir,

Adamstown, 10 February, 1897.

As the House is not in Session, I am forced to trouble you on the following matter, viz., the appointment of Mr. John Thwaites as assessor to the Stockton Inquiry. It is looked upon as ignoring all the miners' representative men; not that anyone can put a finger on Mr. Thwaites' character. It is being discussed as wrong all over the district, and I am charged as the man that has recommended him to you, and so caused his appointment. I suppose he was recommended by some one; and I don't think you do things in a corner, and I ask you to kindly state who did recommend him, and so clear me from a charge that is doing me great injury. I have offered to resign my seat, so you will see how it stands with me. Awaiting an early reply,

I have, &c.,
ALFRED EDDEN.

Mr. Edden replied to.—D. McL., 10/2/97.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to Mr. A. Edden, Esq., M.P.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 11 February, 1897.

I am desired by Mr. Secretary Sydney Smith to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date regarding the appointment of Mr. John Thwaites as one of the assessors in connection with the Stockton Inquiry, and to say, in reply, that you did not make any recommendation on Mr. Thwaites' behalf, as you state you have been charged with doing. To the statement that you did, the Minister can give an emphatic denial, if it be necessary.

Mr. Smith wishes me to explain that Mr. Thwaites was first known to the Department when his name was prominently brought before it as a suitable appointment to make as one of the Board to select the examiners under the new Coal Mines Regulation Act; and although he was not appointed to that Board, yet the inquiries made at the time as to his qualifications and general character were such as to cause his name to be brought up when the appointment of an assessor on the Board of Inquiry had to be considered. The Department, before selecting him, gave the greatest consideration to his claims, and it comes as a surprise to the Minister if Mr. Thwaites has not the confidence of the general body of miners, as, from the exhaustive inquiries which were made before his appointment, it was considered he was in every sense a good and practical miner, with a knowledge of the work, gained not only here but in England; and was, moreover, held in general esteem and repute throughout the mining community. Your letter itself confirms this, as you state that Mr. Thwaites is a man no one can put their finger on as to his character.

I have, &c.,
D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary.

Mr. Dixon.—Can you say whether there is any general dissatisfaction as to Mr. Thwaites' appointment; and, if so, whether there are any grounds for it?—D. McL., 11/2/97.

I am not aware that there is any general dissatisfaction as to the appointment of Mr. Thwaites. If such were the case I should have certainly heard it. Mr. Thwaites is a thoroughly practical miner, with both Home and Colonial experience. He is well known in this district as an honorable, just man, with a character beyond reproach.—J. DIXON, 17/2/97.

Submitted.—H.B.S., 18/2/97. For the Minister's information.—D. McL., 19/2/97. Seen.—S. SMITH, 20/2/97.

No. 12.

W. T. Dick, Esq., M.P., to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Sir,

Newcastle, 17 February, 1897

I have the honor to suggest that the whole of the evidence taken at the Coroner's inquest, and at the subsequent examination before Judge Murray, together with the addresses made by the various representatives present, be combined and published. Such a publication would be of the utmost value as an instruction to mine managers, under-managers, and miners. It would tend to lessen the risk of danger from such causes, and would draw the attention of all concerned to various vital points in the new Act, to which sufficient attention has not been directed.

I have, &c.,
W. T. DICK.

The

The expense of printing the large amount of evidence taken would, I think, be considerable. The publication of the report of the Court of Investigation would serve all practical purposes.—H.W., 18/2/97. The Under Secretary.

Submitted.—H.B.S., 19/2/97. D. McL., 19/2/97. To await receipt of report.—S. SMITH, 19/2/97. Inform Mr. Dick that we are awaiting the publication of the report of the Court of Investigation.—H.B.S., 23/2/97. Mr. Dick informed, 23/2/97. Resubmit in a fortnight. Resubmitted, 10/3/97. In a week.—H.B.S., 10/3/97. Resubmitted, 17/3/97. Chief Clerk,—I do not think that it is intended to publish the report and evidence, unless called for by Parliament; perhaps this paper might be submitted to the Under Secretary.—H.W., 18/3/97. Put by.—H.B.S., 18/3/97.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to W. T. Dick, Esq., M.P.

Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 23 February, 1897.

Date of letter under reply:—17 February.

Subject:—Stockton Colliery Disaster. Suggesting that the whole of the evidence taken at the Coroner's inquest, and at the subsequent examination before Judge Murray, together with the addresses made by the various representatives present, be combined and published.

Reply:—The Department is awaiting the publication of the report of the Court of Investigation.

I have, &c.,

D. C. McLACHLAN,

Under Secretary.

(Per A.F.)

PART IV.

Proceedings of Court of Investigation into Stockton Colliery Accidents; also, Report of Court.

No. 1.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to His Honor Judge Murray.

Sir,

Department of Mines, 20 January, 1897.

I am directed to forward a copy of the evidence taken at the Coroner's Court in connection with the Stockton Colliery fatality, and to inform you that, if anything further transpires in this matter, you will at once be notified.

I have, &c.,

D. C. McLACHLAN,

Under Secretary.

No. 2.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to His Honor Judge Murray.

Sir,

Department of Mines, 21 January, 1897.

I am directed to forward two copies of the depositions taken at the inquest into the deaths of Smith and Curran, which were the first to take place, viz., on the 2nd ultimo. One copy is the newspaper report, the other is the copy of the depositions that have been furnished by the Inspectors.

I have, &c.,

D. C. McLACHLAN,

Under Secretary.

No. 3.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to Mr. John Thwaites, Adamstown.

Sir,

Department of Mines, 22 January, 1897.

I am directed to forward a copy of the depositions taken at the inquest in connection with the accidents at the Stockton Colliery for your perusal, and to inform you that a copy of the depositions taken at the first inquest, as well as of the joint report of the Inspectors, will be ready for you at this office on your arrival on Monday morning. I am to add that the evidence is to be treated as confidential.

I have, &c.,

D. C. McLACHLAN,

Under Secretary.

No. 4.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to Mr. D. A. W. Robertson, J.P., Helensburgh.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 22 January, 1897.

I am directed to forward a copy of the depositions taken at the inquest in connection with the accidents at the Stockton Colliery, for your perusal, and to inform you that a copy of the depositions taken at the first inquest, as well as the joint report of the Inspectors, will be ready for you at this office on your arrival on Monday morning. I am to add that the evidence is to be treated as confidential.

I have, &c.,

D. C. McLACHLAN,

Under Secretary.

No. 5.

No. 5.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to John Thwaites, Esq., Adamstown.

Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 22 January, 1897.

Re Stockton accident: Will you please attend at this office on Monday next, at noon, so that the Court may hold its preliminary meeting? A railway pass and a copy of the depositions taken at the second inquest are being forwarded to you by to-night's mail.

D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary.

No. 6.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to D. A. W. Robertson, Esq., J.P., Helensburgh.

Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 22 January, 1897.

Re Stockton accident: Will you please attend at this office on Monday next, at noon, so that the Court may hold its preliminary meeting? The second assessor has been appointed.

D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary.

No. 7.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to His Honor Judge Murray.

22 January, 1897.

THE Minister has now appointed the assessors, and thinks that a preliminary meeting should be held at this office on Monday next, at noon. Messrs. Robertson and Thwaites have been so advised.

D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary.

No. 8.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to The Crown Solicitor.

Sir, Department of Mines and Agriculture, 27 January, 1897.

With reference to the recent fatal accident at the Stockton Colliery, I am directed to inform you that the Secretary for Mines and Agriculture has decided that a formal investigation shall be held under section 23 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, and for that purpose has appointed His Honor Judge Murray (President) and Messrs. D. A. W. Robertson and J. Thwaites (Assessors) to hold the inquiry.

As it is desirable that the Department should be represented at the investigation (which will take place at Newcastle on Tuesday next and succeeding days), I am to request that you will be good enough to instruct the proper officer of your Department to be present during the inquiry, to watch the proceedings on behalf of this Department.

I have, &c.,
D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary.

No. 9.

Telegram from Mr. H. D. Wood to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Newcastle, 28 January, 1897.

FIND Mr. Humble not able to complete examination work before Wednesday evening next week. Would, therefore, suggest Court arrive Newcastle that evening. They can then, at 10.30 a.m., Thursday, inspect mine with Messrs. Dixon and Humble, and proceed to take evidence on Friday. Old Court suitable, and there is a retiring room for Judge and assessors; am arranging for furniture. Have informed Company that they may be represented; will also inform Mr. Curley and relatives of deceased miners. Constable Knight, Stockton, instructed to notify witnesses that they may be required next week. A constable will attend Court, to serve summonses, &c. Presume Mr. Inspector Dixon will have *locus standi*? Please, reply, if suggestion approved, so that I may make necessary arrangements.

H. DALRYMPLE WOOD.

Minister says inquiry must go on as arranged.—D. McL., 28/1/97.

No. 10.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to Mr. H. D. Wood.

Sydney, 29 January, 1897.

ALL arrangements have been made for the Court to take evidence on Wednesday next, and the Minister thinks no alteration should be made. The Court arrives Newcastle on Monday, and Minister considers they should proceed with the investigation without delay. Mr. Dixon will meet them on arrival, and can go with them down the mine. Minister is pleased with arrangements you have made. Inspector Dixon will be able to arrange with the President as to his standing in the Court. Mr. Wilshire will also attend on behalf of the Department.

D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary.

No. 11.

Telegram from Mr. H. D. Wood to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Newcastle, 30 January, 1897.

HAVE arranged for Court to inspect Stockton Mine, 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, with Mr. Dixon. Have informed Mr. Thwaites and Mr. Curley that Court would begin to take evidence on Wednesday, and that they might be represented. Hope to complete arrangements to-day for furniture. Examination not yet concluded.

H. D. WOOD,
Coal-fields Office.

Inform His Honor Judge Murray.—D.McL., 30/1/97. His Honor duly informed.—W.D.W., 30/1/97.

No. 12.

Telegram from His Honor Judge Murray to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Mittagong, 1 February, 1897.

REGRET that I am compelled to postpone the Court of Investigation in consequence of an attack of sciatica. You will receive letter to-morrow explaining. Expect to be sufficiently recovered in a week to go on with the work. Have telegraphed to Secretary. Hope no serious inconvenience will be caused.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
President.

No. 13.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to Mr. H. D. Wood.

1 February, 1897.

JUDGE MURRAY has wired that in consequence of an attack of sciatica he is compelled to postpone Court of Investigation for a week, when he expects to recover. Will you please notify those concerned, and you might also give notice to the Press. The other arrangements you have made will of course be altered to suit the circumstances.

D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary.

No. 14.

Telegram from Mr. H. D. Wood to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 1 February, 1897.

HAVE informed Press, Mr. Thwaites, Mr. Curley, the Inspectors, and Stockton Company of postponement of Stockton inquiry. Have asked police authorities to let witnesses know. Furniture and room in readiness for Court.

H. DALRYMPLE WOOD.

No. 15.

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

5 February, 1897.

COURT of Investigation, Stockton accident, will arrive Newcastle Monday night; leave Newcastle 10 a.m. Tuesday to inspect mine, and commence sitting on Wednesday. Please see that plan of mine is available for Court, and let Mr. Humble know. Mr. Winchester might see that Court-room is in order. Mr. Wilshire will not, I am afraid, be able to attend for first day or two.

D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary.

No. 16.

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

Newcastle 6 February, 1897.

YOUR wire re Court of Investigation received, and instructions noted.

JOHN DIXON,
Inspector of Collieries.

No. 17.

Telegram from His Honor Judge Murray to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Mittagong, 5 February, 1897.

I SHALL be able to go to Newcastle on Monday. Am telegraphing to Secretary, giving full instructions.

C. E. R. MURRAY,
President, Court of Investigation.

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No. 18.

Telegram from The Secretary, Court of Investigation, to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Newcastle, 10 February, 1897.

Will you please wire whether Mr. Wilshire, of Crown Solicitor's Office, will attend Court of Investigation here to-morrow.

E. C. WRIGHT,
Secretary.

Reply:—Mr. Wilshire will not be able to attend till Friday, as he is engaged on important case at Lithgow inquiry. Had better, perhaps, proceed in the meantime.—D.McL.

No. 19.

The Secretary, Court of Investigation, to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Court of Investigation, Stockton Colliery Accidents.

Sir, Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 15 February, 1897.

I have the honor to inform you that the Court appointed to hold an investigation into the accidents which took place at the Stockton Colliery on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th December last, sat at Newcastle daily, from the 10th instant to the 13th instant inclusive. Evidence was taken, and addresses on behalf of parties represented at these sittings were heard. The Court, upon rising on Saturday, the 13th instant, adjourned *sine die*.

It is the intention of the members of the Court to hold a meeting in Sydney on Wednesday, the 24th instant.

I have, &c.,
E. C. WRIGHT,
Secretary.

Seen.—D.McL., 15/2/97.

No. 20.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Sir, Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 16 February, 1897.

With reference to your letter informing me that a formal investigation was to be held at Newcastle, before Judge Murray and assessors, concerning the Stockton Colliery disaster, and requesting that the Mines Department be represented by an officer of this Department, I have the honor to inform you that Mr. Wilshire, the prosecuting officer, appeared on behalf of your Department. The depositions taken at the inquest were put in as evidence, and some of the principal witnesses before the Coroner were further examined, also Mr. Dixon, Chief Inspector. As, however, the matter had been exhaustively dealt with at the coronal inquiry, few fresh facts were elicited.

I have, &c.,
GEO. COLQUHOUN,
Crown Solicitor,
(Per C.E.P.)

For the information of the Minister.—H.B.S., 17/2/97. Seen.—S. SMITH, 18/2/97.

No. 21.

His Honor Judge Murray to The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Court of Investigation, Stockton Colliery Accidents.

Sir, Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 4 March, 1897.

I have the honor to forward herewith, in duplicate, the report of the Court appointed on the 22nd day of January last, to hold an investigation into the causes and circumstances attending the fatal accidents which took place in the Stockton Colliery on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th days of December, 1896. Attached to the report is a tracing of a plan showing some of the important workings of the colliery.

I also beg to submit a copy of the evidence and addresses taken and delivered in open Court at Newcastle, as well as minutes of the proceedings and sittings of the Court.

I have, &c.,
C. E. R. MURRAY,
President.

The report and evidence with plan were sent to the Attorney-General; copies are also with the Crown Solicitor.—D McL., 11/3/97.

No. 22.

Report of Court of Investigation.

Sir, Sydney, 4 March, 1897.

We, the persons appointed by virtue of the provisions of section 23, of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, to be a Court to inquire into and report upon the causes of and circumstances attending the fatal accidents which took place at the Stockton Colliery on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th days of December, 1896, having completed our investigation, have now the honor to report as follows:—

Before taking the oral testimony which is attached to this report, we decided that it was expedient to adopt as evidence in this investigation the depositions taken by the Coroner at Stockton, in the course of the inquests held on the bodies of Curran and Smith, whose deaths are the subject matter of the accident which

which occurred on the 2nd of December, and on the bodies of Cockburn, Bailey, T. L. McAlpin, S. S. McAlpin, Charlesworth, Sweeney, Gascoigne, and Fitzpatrick, whose deaths constituted the second accident. But, before finally taking this course, we, by notice in sundry newspapers, invited all persons who wished to be represented at the investigation, held in open Court at Newcastle, to attend the hearing, and Mr. Dixon and Mr. Wilshire alternately appearing for the Department of Mines and Agriculture, Mr. Curley, on behalf of the Colliery Employes' Federation, the Stockton miners and the relatives of some of the deceased, and Mr. O'Sullivan for the Stockton Colliery Company and its officers, and no other persons suggesting that they had a *locus standi*, we informed all present of our intention to thus use the evidence taken at the inquests, adding that we should allow any of the witnesses to be further examined by any party, for which purpose we would, if requested, compel the attendance of the witnesses required. We invited objections to this course; all freely assented. We then proceeded to call Mr. Dixon, whose evidence had not been taken on either inquest, and afterwards called Gould, Burt, Jury, and Ellis. Messrs. Humble, McAuliffe, and McDonald were afterwards called, partly at our suggestion and partly by desire of Mr. Curley and Mr. O'Sullivan. We invited the production of any other witness whom any person present might wish to examine, or who might come forward to volunteer evidence, but the parties preferred to leave matters as they appeared on the depositions and the evidence taken, and no person tendered his testimony. Seeing no need to go further, we closed the Court, after hearing Mr. Curley and Mr. O'Sullivan, who elected to address us on the facts proved. In addition to the oral evidence taken, the tracing map herewith was also before us, and we had occasion to refer to the general map of the mine, which is, however, required for use at the colliery, and which we allowed, after its production in Court to be taken back. The tracing will sufficiently explain the evidence, and is the only plan we consider necessary to attach to our report.

Before hearing evidence, we made such a personal inspection of the mine as we judged expedient, for the purpose of informing ourselves of the locality.

To render the plan, which is generally very clear, and practically speaks for itself, fully intelligible, it is necessary to explain that the seam of coal worked at Stockton is double, consisting of a lower seam, serviceable to a thickness of about 7 feet, and a top seam, good for about 9 feet, separated by a band of blue shale, known as the morgan, 6 feet and upwards in thickness, and by some commercially useless coal. The lower seam only, as shown on the plan, has been generally worked, though in places the workings are in the top coal. The main return air-way shown rises from the lower to the upper level as it approaches the furnace drift, which is in the top seam; the same level is shown continuing thence through No. 3 door round the down-cast shaft, and contains No. 2 and No. 1 doors. This drive opens on the shaft at a stage some 14 feet above the bottom, the skips of coal for the furnace being raised to this stage taken in through No. 1 door, and then run round, on tram rails, through No. 2 and No. 3 doors, to the furnace, and returned empty in the same way. On the same level is shown the prolongation in a straight line, in a southerly direction, of the main return air-way, till it meets the narrower drive running to the eastward, crossed by two stoppings with trap doors; the ladder, further on, marks the descent to the bottom coal, whereby access is gained from the top level to the trap door "Z," formerly one entrance to No. 3 district, but now built up solid, or to the main engine plane. The drive again, on which the skips start from the down-cast shaft is continued across the prolongation of the main return air-way, to the westward, and is marked on the plan "to top seam by rope road." The tail rope, which hauls the trucks, empty so far as coal is concerned, outwards on the engine plane (along which it is led overhead on sheaves) runs from the down-cast shaft—having descended therein from the surface to the upper stage—along this "rope road" as far as the drive which turns off at an obtuse angle, by which it is led to the bottom level. But the "rope road"—which is thenceforth only a rope road in name—continues, on a down grade till it meets the main road or going bord (or "ganning bord") of the No. 3 district, passing over the "travelling road bottom seam." About the point marked "d" is now a solid stopping. Here was originally a large door; that was taken away some years ago, and a stopping, with a trap-door in it, was substituted; this again was removed some time about the middle of 1896, and was not rebuilt until after the two fatal accidents, the subject of this inquiry. This explanation will, it is hoped, clear up some difficulties presented by the tracing, by reason partly of its attempting to set out two levels on one ground plan.

The tracing does not show the workings on the north-east side of the haulage road. These, bounded on the east by the main return air-way for some distance, are also abandoned. They are affected with falls to a great extent. Unfortunately there is known to be a communication in the upper seam between these old workings and the No. 3 district, at the point marked on the plan with a red cross, where a bord has been broken through over the main road. No attempt has been made to get at and stop this communication, to attempt to gain access to which would probably be very difficult, if not impossible, and would certainly involve great risk. The consequence of the existence of this communication is that these old workings have become more or less charged with the noxious gases generated in No. 3 district, and that—failing the means of closing the connection—it has become necessary to seal off a large extent of these workings, a task involving the erection of many stoppings of great size, several of which have to be built under very difficult conditions. These not having yet been completed, it has been deemed proper to protect the men working at the furnace from the risk of poisonous gases exuding into the main return air-way by erecting across it a galvanised-iron partition, extending into and dividing the furnace drift, so as to direct all the return air to the furnace, and prevent its affecting the men, whose position of safety is now the seat on which Smith and Curran met their deaths; to which pure air, direct from the down-cast, is now supplied by means of regulators placed for the purpose in Nos. 1, 2, and 3 doors—No. 3 district being, of course, completely locked off by the stopping in the "rope road." At a point in the main return air-way, not far from the furnace drift, where the head of a partly fallen bord provides an outlet from the old workings, we were made aware very decidedly—on our visit to the mine—of the presence of "fire-stink," as described by the witnesses, drifting out of the opening, accompanied by an extingutive gas; but whether this latter was carbonic acid or nitrogen in excess we had no means of deciding.

In order to follow the course of events that led up to the accidents on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of December, it is necessary to go back about three years, when (*vide* Mr. McAuliffe's evidence), in consequence of a crush on the pillars bounding the main haulage road, the brick stoppings at the entrance to the abandoned bords broken off that road were so affected as to permit a serious waste or leakage of air through these stoppings by way of the No. 3 district direct to the furnace. It was to effectually cope with

with this leakage that Mr. McAuliffe, the manager, says the stopping at "d," with a manhole or slide-door for easy access to No. 3 district, was built, and not for the purpose of preventing poisonous gases, known to be generated in the abandoned workings, from being drawn—or, rather, forced—along the rope road to the furnace, or, on the other hand, in case of a careless use of Nos. 1 and 2 doors, driven by impulsion from the down-cast into the main engine plane. This object would appear equally legitimate, if not more important; but, unquestionably, a stopping placed in this position would correct or control wasting of air through the crushed stoppings referred to. Owing to the litigation arising from an alleged subsidence of strata under certain properties over this No. 3 district, to permit an inspection by experts, the slide-door in the stopping "d" was opened in 1893, and on occasions up to 1896, but appears to have been closed after each inspection, thus sealing off the district. In August, 1896, another inspection was made by several experts; but on this occasion, if not earlier, the stopping, with slide-door, was entirely removed, as stated by Mr. McDonald, for the purpose of more promptly clearing out the gases which had accumulated. Unfortunately, this stopping was never replaced, until after the accidents.

On Monday night, the 30th of November last, Gould, a bricklayer, temporarily employed unloading coal at the furnace, working under direction of the furnace-man, Smith, left the No. 3 door open (to save trouble) for some considerable time longer than was necessary to pass the skips of coal through to the furnace. Feeling sick and giddy, and suspecting that the cause was bad air, and having an appointment with Henry Burt, the night officer, at another part of the mine, he, as soon as he was able to meet Burt, reported the circumstance to him. That officer—although Gould's evidence is somewhat unsatisfactory on the point—rightly concluded from what Gould told him that the matter was sufficiently serious to justify an immediate inspection. Proceeding to the furnace, Burt examined its vicinity, and also between No. 3 and No. 2 doors, and found no indication of a smell or of gases likely to produce the effects described by Gould, and by Smith, the furnace-man, who, on being questioned, said he also felt ill when No. 3 door was open. Burt, although certainly aware that the men felt ill only when the No. 3 door was left open, that the stopping at "d" had never been replaced, and that poisonous gases, if present at the furnace, could only come from the No. 3 district by way of the "rope road," and with No. 3 door open—contented himself with an examination of the locality in its ordinary working condition, under which danger could not well be expected to exist. In fact, the experience of all the witnesses who inspected the entrance into No. 3 district when the No. 3 door was shut, and the ease and rapidity with which the current was reversed on the morning of the 4th of December, indicate a tendency of the air to flow down the rope road and to escape by some outlet, possibly the disused overcast, and only to take the opposite course under the strong inducement held out by the leaving open of No. 3 door for some time. The levels, and the direction of the established currents, would appear to favour this theory.

Burt, it would appear, reported Gould's and Smith's complaint to the under-manager, Mr. McDonald; and it was also brought under cognizance of the manager, Mr. McAuliffe. Mr. McDonald, on the morning of Tuesday, the 1st of December, and also on the same night, made an inspection of the furnace and for some 200 yards along the going bord from the door "Z," and found nothing to indicate danger from any cause. Mr. McDonald, however, like Burt, although fully aware of all the surrounding conditions, and from whence and by what means Gould and Smith must have been affected, did not think, or take the trouble, to make his inspection under the conditions prevailing when Smith and Gould were attacked, namely, with the No. 3 door open, thus providing direct communication with the No. 3 district, from which he and Burt admit dangerous gases could only be expected. Burt, on his inspection, and previously, had warned the furnace-man as to the danger of leaving doors open; and Smith gave his promise that the doors should be shut in future. On Tuesday, the 1st of December, about 9:30 p.m., Smith, the night furnace-man, on that occasion assisted by Curran, proceeded to his work as usual.

On the morning of Wednesday, the 2nd of December, about 4 a.m., Jury and Coulson, deputies employed to make the statutory inspection of the mine before the miners began work, proceeded in their usual course to the furnace. On opening the No. 1 door, from the fact of the air rushing through in the direction of the furnace, they became aware of some defect in the ventilating arrangements. This they verified by finding No. 2 and No. 3 doors open, the latter permitting a current of air to pass from No. 3 district to the furnace. On the furnace side of No. 3 door the bodies of Smith and Curran were discovered; and, with commendable energy, under great difficulties, owing to the existence of foul air, extinguishing their lights, the bodies were removed by Jury and Coulson to a place of safety outside of No. 1 door. Coulson then reported the sad event to the under-manager, Mr. McDonald, who was soon on the scene. Jury, Coulson, and McDonald, emphatically asserted on that morning that the gas was black damp, owing to its extinctive properties, and to its having a smell. Mr. McDonald thought the smell was somewhat different from that he had usually found accompanying black damp. Mr. McDonald then inspected the "rope road" for some distance, and found everything as on his former inspection, except for the presence of the black damp which he detected. Mr. Humble, inspector, having been duly apprised of the deaths of the two men, visited the furnace and surroundings about 8 p.m., with the manager and Mr. McDonald. Mr. Humble at once detected the odour of "fire-stink," and informed the manager and under-manager of the fact. Shortly after this, Mr. Dixon, the Chief Inspector, joined the party; and that gentleman was the first to suggest the very proper course then adopted—an inspection of the part under the only conditions in which danger from the gases generated in No. 3 district was likely to arise, namely, by the opening of No. 3 door. This having been done, in about ten or twelve minutes it became apparent, from the odour of "fire-stink," and from the fact that a light continued to burn, that carbon monoxide was being produced by a gob-fire in some part of the district. Mr. Dixon and Mr. Humble then notified the manager of the fact, and that, being a defect and a menace to the safety of the men employed in the colliery, the defect would require to be remedied. Mr. McAuliffe, it is clear, on this occasion was fully impressed with the opinions of the inspectors; but Mr. McDonald, notwithstanding their emphatic warning, and the presence of this peculiar benzine-like odour—or "fire-stink"—seemed to treat the opinions of the inspectors with something akin of contempt, holding that the gas which caused the death of Curran and Smith, and which was at this time being discussed, was black damp.

During the course of the day—Wednesday—it was decided by the management to remedy the defect complained of by the inspectors; and, accordingly, by means of knocking out a stopping at No. 20 bord, on the main intake or haulage road, and bratticing across the road, a current of air was directed into the No. 3 district, finding its way by sealing through the workings as approximately shown by the blue arrows on plan, through the "rope road," and through the No. 3 door (propped open) to the furnace.

It

It was the intention of the management to send a party to explore the workings on the afternoon of Thursday the 3rd of December; but, in order to give more time for the air to clear out any gases which might have accumulated, the departure of this party was deferred till 9:30 the same evening.

The explorers—a party of twelve, all told—Mr. McDonald, the under-manager, leading—first having left two of their number, Alexander McDonald and Benjamin McAuliffe, at the furnace, went by way of the dismantled stopping at “d” on the “rope road” into the old workings, as shown by the green line on plan, as far as No. 16 bord. In proceeding thus, from the foregoing remarks it will be noted that the party was advancing *against* the air, and meeting any noxious gases that might be produced in the workings. No inconvenience or ill effects seem to have been experienced by the party until No. 16 bord was reached by Mr. McDonald, who then called a halt, and gave an order to retreat. In the vicinity of No. 11 bord, Bailey very suddenly gave signs of distress; and, in assisting Bailey, others soon gave way to the effects of the poisonous atmosphere they had been unconsciously inhaling. The explorers appear to have stuck to one another nobly up to the point when, from physical and mental exhaustion, further assistance would have been suicidal, and useless. Struggling and staggering on, Jury, Ellis, Wm. McAuliffe, and Burt finally reached the trap door “Z” in a state of exhaustion; but, without delay, proceeded to the shaft and gave the alarm to the manager and others. The manager, having secured some assistance, promptly entered through the trap door, and succeeded in rescuing alive Mr. McDonald and his son, James McDonald; but, in doing so, was himself affected by the gas, and rendered unfit to take further part in the proceedings. Rescuers continued to arrive; but, unfortunately, in the haste and confusion, and with the principal officials of the colliery either totally or partially prostrated from the effects of the noxious gas they had inhaled, with no controlling authority, zeal outran discretion, and several paid the penalty with their lives of their noble but misdirected efforts. Of the exploring party, Cockburn, Bailey, and the two McAlpin’s—of the rescuers, Charlesworth, Sweney, Gascoigne, and Fitzpatrick—were found dead or dying in the mine; another of the attempting rescuers, Thomas Sneddon, died in the hospital a few days afterwards from the effects of the poison he had breathed.

Between midnight on Thursday and 1 o’clock on Friday morning, Messrs. Dixon and Humble arrived on the scene; and, under their direction, prompt steps were taken to reverse the current, thus permitting the rescuers to be either in or within touch of fresh air. Firm measures were taken to restrain the ardour of the rescuers; thus accomplishing the object in view, without further loss of life. At 11 a.m., on Friday, the 4th of December, the last body, that of Fitzpatrick, was recovered at No. 11 bord, as shown on the plan. Finally, at a meeting of experts, on Saturday, the 5th of December, with the concurrence of the inspectors—but in the absence, and without the approval, of the manager—it was decided to seal off the No. 3 district, and the other districts connected therewith, by means of brick stoppings at all openings into intake or return air-ways.

Dealing with the events recorded in the depositions taken at the inquests, and the evidence adduced before the Court, in the order of time given in the foregoing *resumé*, it will be apparent that the primary cause of the accidents was the removal of the stopping at “d.” Mr. McAuliffe maintains that this stopping was originally intended to control the leakage of air from the stoppings along the main haulage road, which had suffered from a crush; and that, the crush having ceased, it was not considered necessary to replace the stopping at “d” after the inspection by the colliery managers in August, 1896. It is somewhat singular that, the crush having ceased long before 1896, and the No. 3 district having been inspected on several occasions from 1893 to 1895, the slide, or trap, door in this stopping being closed after each inspection, on none of these former occasions did the propriety of leaving this slide-door open occur to the management. It would also seem strange, and inconsistent with the good relations existing between the manager and under-manager, that the question of replacing or leaving open this stopping had never formed the subject of conversation between these gentlemen. From the evidence of some of the under officials, it appears clear that no instructions had been given to them to rebuild it. It would almost appear, therefore, that the matter had been entirely overlooked; although the officials, having made several inspections of the district, in doing so passing through this dismantled stopping, must have been well aware that this formerly effectual safeguard against the emission of gases from the district was not in existence. With this stopping removed, persons having occasion to pass through the No. 1 and No. 2 doors practically entered the No. 3 district, and would be brought in contact with any noxious gases generated there and finding their way by any means towards the furnace. When the No. 3 door was opened, the way was clear to the up-cast; and there was nothing to prevent foul air or gases from pouring forth out of these old workings so long as the No. 3 door remained open. Having known that these workings did generate carbonic acid gas, that no attempt was made, as a matter of good mining practice, to ventilate this abandoned district, giving it an outlet into a return air-way with sufficient volume of ventilation from other districts to neutralise or dilute to a reasonable extent any dangerous gases produced, it does seem a most regrettable circumstance that no colliery official ever suggested, or appears to have ever thought of, the advisability, as a matter of safety, of either erecting an additional door or replacing the dismantled stopping on the “rope road,” to hold under control any gases collected in No. 3 district when No. 3 door was opened. The necessity of this course was made all the more obvious, apart from the danger arising from the unavoidable opening, necessitating a prompt closing of the door, to pass through the skips of furnace coal, by the knowledge the manager appears to have possessed of doors having been carelessly left open on former occasions. But—altogether apart from such knowledge—the experience which every employer must possess of the carelessness of men, especially when the conditions of their employment tempt them to commit certain acts of negligence to save labour to themselves, should have led the management to the conclusion that it was most unwise to allow the security from death or illness of the furnace-men, as well as possibly, of other workmen, to depend upon the proper closing and keeping closed of this single door, which there was so much temptation to leave open dangerously long. And they should also have known that any sudden fall in general atmospheric pressure might seriously aggravate the risk incident to the leaving of a working, in connection with an abandoned part of a mine, in the position of the uncorked neck of a bottle containing poisonous gases. Burt, the night deputy, was also aware of the No. 3 door having been left open on the night Gould complained. Burt reported the fact to the under-manager. He was also cognizant of the No. 3 door having been left open on a former occasion, although he states he did not report the circumstance to his superior. From the fact that he remonstrated with, or warned, the furnace-men to be specially careful to close the doors, it would almost appear that he, at least, had some doubts as to the security afforded by this single door. Every official seems to have been fully aware of the
necessity

necessity for enforcing Special Rule No. 28, and of the serious consequence that might result from leaving a door open; but, apparently, beyond cautioning offenders, no serious step, such as fining or prosecuting workmen for a breach of the rule, seems to have been taken by the management. Clearly, Smith's and Curran's deaths were due to inhaling some poisonous gas; but the proximate cause was, undoubtedly, in spite of the warning of Burt on the previous night, and in contravention of Special Rule No. 28, the leaving open of a door which they were bound to close promptly after passing through it. Had the discipline of the mine been strict, and had persons leaving doors open been promptly and severely dealt with, it is much less likely that these two men would have dared to risk the consequences following upon their neglect or wilful breach of the rule; and it is highly probable that lax discipline is at least indirectly responsible for their deaths. The inspection of this locality by Burt and McDonald after the complaint made by Gould and Smith can only be regarded as perfunctory and incomplete. If they had taken the course promptly suggested by Mr. Dixon on the Wednesday morning—that is, the opening of the No. 3 door—they could not have failed to discover noxious gases; and Curran and Smith would now, in all probability, be alive.

Considerable diversity of opinion has been expressed as to the nature of the gas which caused the deaths of Curran and Smith. The manager and Mr. McDonald, and the deputies, have emphatically designated it as black damp. Dr. Hester, at the first inquest, seemed also to favour this theory; while, on the other hand, the inspectors (Messrs. Dixon and Humble) hold by carbon monoxide. Jury and Coulson, who found the bodies, assert that the gas extinguished their lights; that it had the "smell of black damp"; and Jury says he detected an acid taste. When the inspectors reached the scene of the accident the gas did not then extinguish the light, but the smell was quite pronounced, and they had no hesitation in ascribing the cause of death to carbon monoxide accompanying the volatile hydro-carbon, which has the benzine-like smell peculiar to "fire-stink." Those who favour the black damp theory are evidently labouring under some misapprehension with regard to the smell. Neither carbonic acid nor carbon monoxide has a smell; and the odour detected was, undoubtedly, "fire-stink," or the characteristic smell known to be given off during the partial destructive distillation and partial imperfect combustion of carbonaceous matter, in which process both of these gases are generated in proportions varying with the supply of oxygen. There can be no reason to doubt that the composition of the gas inhaled by Curran and Smith was essentially different from that afterwards found by the inspectors on the Wednesday, and the explorers and rescuers on the Thursday night. Whether the poisonous element predominating was black damp—a mixture of carbonic acid and nitrogen—as the management claim, or carbon monoxide, as the inspectors maintain; and whether the extinction of the light was due to carbonic acid, or, as the inspectors assert, to an excess of nitrogen; or, whether carbon monoxide was then present to a dangerous extent, is, in the absence of an analysis, pure conjecture. One fact, however, seems beyond dispute, that, at the time Jury and Coulson discovered the bodies, the gas did extinguish lights, and, therefore, did not support combustion. The point is only important in so far as it might justify the subsequent action of the management in the assumption that the difficulty to be dealt with was black damp; but, in face of the warning of the inspectors, to be hereafter referred to, such a contention is perfectly untenable.

The inspectors having, on the Wednesday morning, arrived at the scene of the accident, and, after inspection, satisfied themselves that the pungent odour then so pronounced was "fire-stink," indicative of combustion of carbonaceous material in some part of the No. 3 workings, and that certain deadly gases, including carbon monoxide, were being generated, at once notified the manager, then present with the under-manager, of a grave defect, which was a menace to the safety of the colliery, and required him to remedy the same. It has been contended that this notice should have been in writing; and there seems to exist in some minds the impression that, in a way that it is hard to understand, the failure to give notice in writing had some connection with the calamity of the following night. It is difficult to discover any substantial ground for such a contention. Section 20 of the Act very properly gives a discretionary power to the inspector; and if an inspector were to serve written notice to managers in respect of every matter requiring attention, this would lead to interminable correspondence, and would cause needless friction and distrust where nothing but good feeling and a spirit of loyal co-operation should exist. An inspector must, in the course of years, be in a good position to gauge the professional knowledge and general disposition of the managers in his district, and to determine to whom and under what circumstances it would be expedient to give a written notice. Moreover, in this instance, two inspectors were present when the notice was given to the manager in the presence of the under-manager. Again, it is quite clear that Mr. McAuliffe was open to reason and conviction, and would not treat the inspectors' opinion lightly; and the fact that he immediately (whatever opinion may be formed as to his method) took steps to remedy the defect is the best proof that the inspectors' confidence in the manager was not misplaced, and that under some circumstances and with certain people a verbal notice would receive, probably, more attention than a formal written notice, the giving of which might cause irritation and annoyance. If the inspectors had had to deal with an unbelieving, opinionative man, with little knowledge of the dangerous properties of the gases, such as Mr. McDonald appears to be, it is very probable that a written notice would have at once suggested itself. But even if a written notice had been given to Mr. McAuliffe, he could not have done more to give effect to it than to proceed, as he did forthwith, to remedy the defect. It has been suggested also that the inspectors should, at this time, have required the manager to replace the stopping at "d." It is no part of an inspector's duty, and is clearly inadvisable, for him to suggest how a defect is to be remedied. The course to be pursued under such circumstances is to notify the manager of a defect, and to see that the defect is cured, leaving the management to adopt such methods as their experience may suggest or their circumstances permit; though an inspector should always be ready to consult with a manager who seeks his advice; and, if he is aware that what he considers a dangerous or foolish step is contemplated, he should at once express and give reasons for his disapproval.

It is perfectly clear that Mr. McAuliffe and Mr. McDonald were warned in the most emphatic terms by the inspectors, that "fire-stink" was being then given off; and that they understood that this odour was, in the opinion of the inspectors, produced by a fire in the No. 3 district. Mr. McDonald, it is true, ascribed it then—and in his evidence before the Court maintained—that it was due to the fermentation of old wood in water; but that conviction, however sincere, would not exonerate Mr. McAuliffe or himself from the consequence of any action taken subsequently in defiance of the inspectors' warning. This, unfortunately, seems to have been what actually happened; the steps taken to discover in order to remedy the defect, being based on the assumption that (incredible as it may appear in the face of the inspectors'

inspectors' warning) black damp, as on former occasions, had only to be dealt with, and that a vigorous coursing of the ventilation through the old workings would clear out the poisonous gases accumulated therein, when, in point of fact, had they reflected a moment upon the subject of their conversation with the inspectors, and given due weight to their opinion—that of experts approved by the State—both the manager and under-manager must have perceived that the probable effect of increased ventilation would be to fan the flame and increase the production of deadly gases.

Here it may be well to deal with the point raised by Mr. Curley, namely, that the management were under an obligation to make an inspection of the workings before taking an exploring party, and that the inspection by Mr. McDonald did not comply with General Rule No. 7. It was contended that, before an exploring party may be sent into a mine with the object of discovering or locating a mischief, an inspection must be made and duly recorded; but a careful reading of the section in the light of common sense appears to lead to the conclusion that the word "exploration" used therein is really almost synonymous with "inspection": the "competent person" having a right to conduct his examination with the help of others, whose services he utilises for the purposes of "inquiring into the cause of danger, or for the removal thereof, or for exploration." To contend that the unfortunate "competent person" must go alone, practically as far as the exploring party is intended afterwards to follow, and may on his return—if he should ever come back—take a mate with him, is utterly to stultify the rule and its framers. The management did not claim that the inspection by Mr. McDonald was more than a superficial examination for his own satisfaction; moreover, while there is nothing in General Rule 7 to limit the inspection to one man, the consensus of opinion seems to be that it would have been most unwise to send one man, and that, in point of fact, safety would lie in numbers. Clearly, the number of men forming an exploring party must be a matter for the discretion of the management; and, when penetrating old workings likely to contain noxious gases, more danger is likely to result from an undue limitation than an unnecessary extension of the numbers of a party. These men were not taken into the workings to follow their usual avocation, but for the purpose of helping to inspect and remedy a defect complained of. If, as Mr. Curley contended, an inspection should have been made as far as the explorers intended to go, it is difficult to see what good purpose the explorers could serve by virtually repeating the operation. In point of fact, the explorers might quite reasonably be designated an inspecting party.

During the course of Thursday the 3rd of December, Mr. McAuliffe, Mr. McDonald, and Mr. Cockburn, seem to have had a conversation with reference to the inspection or exploring of the old workings in No. 3 district. But it is material to remark that this conference, if it may be so termed, did not take place until *after* a large part of the work of sweeping out the district from No. 20 bord towards the "rope road" had been completed. This would indicate that—inasmuch as it appears to have been known from the first that an approach could not be made from bord No. 20—the decision to enter in face of the air had been arrived at before the conference took place; a contrary decision would have amounted to a reversal of a scheme evidently adopted on the Wednesday. The subject of noxious mine gases seems to have been discussed at this meeting. This would imply that it was thought that gases other than black damp, usually met with in this colliery, might have to be dealt with in the course of the inspection or exploration. The manager appears to have been aware of the route to be taken by the party; but, beyond advising Mr. McDonald to take fresh men, he issued no further instructions to his subordinate officer. He states that he intended to join the explorers, but arrived late, and did not make haste to come up with them. A party of subordinate officials and workmen, under ordinary circumstances, would await the arrival of the manager; but, apparently, it was understood that he was not to be present, and his absence caused no comment. The manager, on his arrival, finding the party gone, went to the furnace. It is a matter of great regret that he did not personally supervise this exploring or inspecting party, as the circumstances were of such a grave and unusual nature as to demand the best knowledge and experience available to direct operations. He explains that he was considerably upset by the deaths of Curran and Smith; that he had been attending to the funeral arrangements; and that he was not in a fit condition for superintending such work as exploration. Mr. McAuliffe, apparently, is a man of a keenly sensitive nature; and there is no reason to doubt that the circumstances were such as to cause mental distress in a man occupying a responsible office; but his position was not analogous to that of a manager having to deal with a mine swept by an explosion, causing death and destruction in every direction; and there seems hardly sufficient reason for his delegating his duties on this occasion to Mr. McDonald. It was all the more incumbent upon him to assume control, inasmuch as his under-manager had somewhat contemptuously treated the views of the inspectors, and was an opinionative man, ignorant of the nature and properties of such deadly gases, and likely to permit prejudice to warp his judgment. Mr. McAuliffe was entitled by section No. 3, subsection (i), of the Act, to delegate his duties to the under-manager; but, as provided by subsection (ii), this delegation of authority does not relieve the manager from his personal responsibility; and, being aware of the route to be taken by the exploring party, he must be held personally responsible, equally with the under-manager, for the course of action adopted.

Under the leadership of Mr. McDonald, the exploring party entered the No. 3 workings by way of the dismantled stopping at "d," and followed the course shown by the green line on plan, thus facing the return air and the possible products of combustion from the fire believed by the inspectors—but not by the leader of the party—to exist in the workings. This, as events proved, was a fatal mistake, which should never have been made by colliery officials of considerable experience, presumably accustomed to act with deliberation and judgment. Mr. McDonald explains that he thought he had to deal with black damp, as on former occasions; and, being a firm believer in the fermentation of old wood, he did not recognise, or did not heed the warning given by the pungent odour present throughout the workings; and he considered—as the manager also thought—that the vigorous current of air which had coursed the district for some thirty-six hours had removed all danger. This explanation, if offered by men ignorant of the fact that a gob-fire would produce deadly gases, might, to a certain extent condone their blunder; but neither the manager nor the under-manager can plead ignorance after the emphatic and unmistakable warning of the inspectors. A danger signal was given by these gentlemen which was deliberately ignored by the management—an act of indiscretion that led to the deaths of nine men. It is perfectly true that no one seemed to anticipate danger. The very fact of Mr. McDonald's being accompanied by his own son, and Mr. McAuliffe's brother and nephew being members of the party, would imply, on the part of the management, a sense of security not warranted under the circumstances. None of the party seemed to apprehend danger in the slightest degree, a fact inexplicable in the case of Jury and Cockburn, men evidently of a superior type, and

having

having a considerable knowledge of the gases met with in coal-mines. The explanation appears to be that the manager allowed his better judgment to be overruled by his reliance on Mr. McDonald, and the explorers, with equally mistaken but commendable confidence and respect for the position and experience of their immediate superior, the under-manager, did not exercise the caution and judgment which a full sense of responsibility might otherwise have brought forth. There was also one consideration, very far from legitimate, which acted possibly on the mind of Mr. McAuliffe—certainly on that of Mr. McDonald. It was this: the inspectors had expressed an opinion which involved the conclusion that Smith and Curran had been poisoned by carbon monoxide; the management contended that carbonic acid was the cause of their deaths. This difference of opinion was involved in the further question whether there was or was not a gob-fire burning. Dr. Hester's evidence, given on the Wednesday, tended to the conclusion that the men died of carbonic acid poisoning. On Thursday the inquest was adjourned till the following Tuesday. Before it could be concluded, Mr. McDonald at any rate was anxious to prove by actual inspection that he was right and the inspectors were wrong. Not believing in the existence of a gob-fire, he could not suppose that expedition was essential to locate or extinguish it; his strong opinion and decided inclination practically overruled Mr. McAuliffe's wavering faith in the judgment of the inspectors.

Apart from the one vital blunder of advancing in face of the air, there appears to be no reason for taking exception to the measures adopted by the explorers. Placing chalk marks on the roof was a very proper course, usually followed when traversing old workings, and not in apprehension of any special danger to be encountered. The *personnel* of the party was unexceptionable, being made up of colliery officials mainly, with other colliery employees, able-bodied and accustomed to mining work.

All the way to No. 16 bord, where a retreat was ordered, no inconvenience or ill effects were apparently experienced; but the insidious nature of carbon monoxide being considered, this is not to be wondered at, and, unquestionably, the unfortunate men must have been unconsciously inhaling the gas from the start. At this point a fall is said to have been heard by some members of the party, and there is no reason to question the fact. Falls may always be expected in old workings, and when the roof is alternately affected by the action of heat from a gob-fire and by a fresh current of air, a condition of matters arises when falls would almost certainly occur. It is probable that this weighed with Mr. McDonald, and, in fear of their retreat being cut off, he ordered the party to return. At this time signs of distress were shown by several of the explorers, and it is reasonable to suppose that the consequence of inhaling the gas in the advance were aggravated by the gas belched forth from the old bords by means of the rush of air caused by the fall. But the sound was, in fact, not heard by most of the party, and the effect on the flames of their lamps appears to have been very trifling; the size of the bords, with an average section, when intact, of over 100 square feet, and the extent of the workings, covering nearly 30 acres of ground, and giving at least 15 acres of actual excavation, would provide ample scope for absorption of concussions. The effects of this fall must have been quite local, and had the route traversed in the advance been as free from poisonous gases as it is described to have been by the survivors, the party, when retreating, would soon have reached a region of comparative safety. The fact that six men were prostrated at a considerable distance from No. 16 bord, and that four only reached the trap-door, "Z," after great difficulty, evidently inhaling this deadly mixture all the way, is convincing proof of the insidiousness of the gas and the misplaced confidence of the explorers when advancing.

Mr. McDonald having been rendered unconscious in the retreat, his responsibility would cease there; and other under-officials—Jury, Ellis, and Burt—having got out only after a struggle, and suffering from the gas they had inhaled, were not (although they afterwards rendered noble assistance in the rescue work), in a fit condition to take charge, and could not be reasonably held responsible for anything that followed.

Mr. McAuliffe having been alarmed, and having obtained assistance, headed the first rescue party, and, following a natural impulse, entered the poisonous atmosphere without hesitation, and succeeded in rescuing the two McDonalds. If he had hesitated, in order to alter the ventilating arrangements, or to secure the safety of the rescuers, it seems probable that the two McDonalds would not have been brought out alive. Had he also, as he asserts, been able to command sufficient assistance to send in from time to time fresh parties of rescuers, it is probable that the bodies of the explorers might have been recovered without the sacrifice of a single rescuer. Unfortunately such assistance was not immediately available, and when he returned with the two McDonalds, Mr. McAuliffe was himself so overcome by the effects of the gas he had inhaled as to be unfit for further duties. Rescuers arrived, but Mr. McAuliffe and his principal officials being laid low (with the exception of the mechanical engineer, Mr. Sampy, placed in charge of the trap-door), there was no controlling authority, and the rescuers were, until the arrival of the inspectors, at liberty to follow their noble impulse to save life without the guidance and restraint of the officials. It is not a matter for surprise, therefore, that so many of these men, some of them probably ignorant of the dangerous character of the atmosphere they had entered, and unacquainted with the locality, were sacrificed to their misdirected zeal.

With the arrival of the inspectors, effective measures were taken, needless to detail, to enable the rescue work to proceed with reasonable safety; order was restored, a wholesome restraint was placed upon the rescuers, and further loss of life was averted. If the inspectors had not appeared at this time—lamentable as the loss of life actually was—there is good reason to believe the sacrifice would have been much greater.

Mr. Sampy, the engineer in charge of the trap-door, from the nature of his duties, would not come in contact with the general body of the men, and his authority would not, perhaps, be recognised, by miners eager to rescue their fellow-workmen. Nevertheless, he appears to have done his utmost to exercise some control, and to prevent men from re-entering the trap-door when unfit for further exertion.

The mode adopted by the management for clearing and entering the old workings was claimed as the only practicable method, but this contention will not bear investigation; and, in point of fact, Mr. McDonald, in cross-examination, could see no insuperable difficulty in the manner suggested by the Court, namely, to replace the brick stopping at "D," place a brattice stopping on the main intake at the old stables at No. 1 bord, and remove the trap-door at "Z," thus causing a current of air to be diverted into No. 3 district along the going bord, finally returning by way of No. 20 bord to the main intake or engine plane, thence by way of the door at the disused air-crossing to the main return air-way, and so direct to the furnace. In other words, the current of air which entered at the No. 20 bord, and thereafter traversed No. 3 district, could, with slight modification of the arrangements, have been very easily reversed, thus giving every facility for the thorough inspection of the district, the explorers taking fresh air with them right up to the gob-fire or seat of trouble. It has been contended on behalf of the

management that the course adopted on this occasion was identical with that followed formerly, when experts had occasion to enter these old workings; but the circumstances were of an entirely different character then. At that time, only the accumulated carbonic acid had to be dealt with; and a vigorous ventilation would undoubtedly sweep out entirely, or break up and isolate to a harmless extent, all black damp or noxious gases. On this fatal evening, however, different conditions altogether existed, which the management, although warned, failed to realise. They should have recognised that the retorting of coal was in active operation in this working, producing certain gases of an extremely dangerous nature; and that the effect of increased ventilation would be to generate still greater quantities of gas, and, in fact, intensify the evil. To enter and inspect this district with ten men, in such a manner as to expose and bring every one in contact with the products of combustion of a gob-fire, for a distance of some 500 yards from fresh air, displayed either gross ignorance or an indifference to danger not usually found in men occupying responsible positions. When the party actually started, the previously pent up gases having been removed by the sweeping of air through the district, the smell had been appreciably reduced, but still manifested itself perceptibly. The inspectors had warned the management that this smell denoted the presence of a deadly gas, known to be terribly insidious and deceptive in its action; and there was every reason to believe that a certain substantial portion of the air met at the eastern end of the going bord was sealing down the "double heading"; and that, therefore, as the explorers passed that point, they would not only lose some of the air that was meeting them, but would also encounter a more and more vitiated current, as they approached the point, about bord 19 or 20, where the fire, if it existed, was supposed to be. On cross-examination by Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Humble, in the course of his evidence, given before the Court of Investigation, said that on the Thursday evening, the 3rd of December, he was incidentally informed by Mr. Cockburn of the intention to explore on that night, and of the mode of entry to be adopted; and he does not appear to have, as might be expected, raised any serious objection or given an emphatic caution. This conversation took place at the Technical College, a considerable distance from Stockton; Mr. Humble's attention would be taken up with his duties at the College; Mr. Cockburn was in a hurry to leave; and there really does not appear to have been time or opportunity for such reflection as might have led Mr. Humble to attempt to exercise the indirect authority which, we think, his position as inspector would have justified in opposition to the project. Mr. Cockburn's action in putting his affairs into Mr. Humble's hands (*vide* Mr. Humble's evidence) would indicate that he had some strong doubts of the safety of the expedition. This gives colour to the suggestion that he had deferred to Mr. McDonald's strongly expressed opinion rather than that he was following out his own ideas. Mr. Humble freely admitted this conversation; and we do not feel justified in imputing blame to him under the circumstances. It appears that the fact that he had thus become aware of the proposed exploration was not communicated to the manager or under-manager. In the course of his evidence, Mr. Humble afterwards said that he had, in a rather hurried conversation with Mr. McDonald on the Wednesday, specially warned him to take the air with him if an exploration should be attempted; and he gathered from Mr. McDonald's conversation that he was anxious that an examination should be made.

After all that has occurred, and the unmistakable evidences at the present moment of a gob-fire being in active operation in these old workings, the obstinacy of Mr. McDonald in scouting the idea of there being such a thing in existence, and in accounting for the odour of "fire-stink" by the fermentation of old wood, is almost inexplicable.

The immediate object of the exploring party was to inspect the old workings, and to locate the position of the gob-fire, with a view to its extinction, if possible, or, failing that, to its being confined to a small area. This was a very obvious and very proper course to pursue—to conserve the interests of the proprietors and the safety of the employees. From the evidence of the inspectors and Mr. McAuliffe and his under-manager, it appears that there would have been no difficulty whatever in reaching the locality of the fire with perfect safety, except for the ever-present risk of a fall. The inspectors, however, seem to have anticipated some difficulty, owing to broken ground, in sealing off the fire—an opinion not shared by the management. Be that as it may, however, no effort was made either to extinguish the fire or to confine it within a limited area, although such action could have been taken promptly and with reasonable safety. It is to be feared that the shadow cast by these lamentable accidents warped the judgment of the gentlemen responsible for the decision to leave these old workings to their fate.

Having in view the only alternative left—if this fire was not to be conquered or controlled at its inception—namely, to seal off an immense area of abandoned workings charged with dangerous gases, and bounded on two sides by a main intake air-course and travelling road leading direct to the working faces, and that from this main road, bords had been broken off in a most reckless fashion in former years; that each of these old bords was closed by frail brick stoppings, up to 14 or 16 feet in length by 9 or 10 feet in height, and in thickness only 9 inches; that the conditions were as unsuitable as it is possible to conceive for the sealing off of a gob-fire; that, in point of fact, there appears to be no other instance known of a district being sealed off under such unfavourable conditions, fraught as they are with danger to the colliery, and greatly depreciating the value of the shareholders' interests;—it is a matter for extreme regret that the original intention of the management (bad as the methods proved to be), to confine the fire, was not vigorously carried out, and that the course recommended by the experts, in the absence of the manager and under manager, and without the benefit of their local knowledge, was not adopted only as a last alternative after all other measures had failed. The final stoppings had not been completed at the date of the Court's inspection; but sufficient noxious gases were present to indicate a gob-fire still, probably, in operation. To relieve the pressure of gas on the stoppings along the engine plane, an outlet might be provided at a point near the furnace on the main return, as, in Mr. Humble's opinion—accepted by the Court as evidently correct,—it is inexpedient to leave a large area of old workings absolutely sealed, with the almost certain result of the forcing out of noxious gases at various points, especially in the case of a fall of the barometer, and the possible forcible destruction of stoppings by sudden increases of internal pressure caused by falls or otherwise.

From the report of the inspectors to the Honorable the Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, and, in the course of this investigation, the Court has been made aware of certain misfortunes or difficulties the Stockton Colliery Company has experienced in the course of its comparatively short life. Water, and the intrusion, in former ages, of igneous rock "cinderling" the coal, have been a source of great expense; and the latter cause of trouble has considerably hampered the management in developing the colliery under ground. It has, however, been apparent that, apart from these difficulties imposed by nature, the colliery operations have been subject to serious interruptions, and the shareholders' interests

have

have been sacrificed, by reason of a reckless and improvident system of mining, calculated to invite disaster. As early as 1889 (*vide* Mr. Humble), when the colliery was practically in its infancy, a crush took place, stopping work for some weeks; and similar trouble has been met with in later years. From an inspection of the plan, it is obvious that this trouble was due, not to unforeseen causes, but to the absence of adequate provision in the way of pillars to protect the workings from the pressure of the superincumbent strata, known to consist largely of water-charged sandy alluvium, the security of the main shaft even being from the same cause not above suspicion. This absence of provision for the protection of ordinary workings is regrettable enough; but, when main roads have suffered from the same cause, and as operations have extended matters have not improved materially, one is astonished that the management of a large colliery, warned by costly experience, should not adopt a system of mining fairly certain to ensure safety, and ultimately to prove the more profitable. The absence of sufficient barriers, or pillars of coal, to support main roads and isolate different districts, seriously increases the difficulty of sealing off this fire, and has certainly intensified the danger. Although the extent of an inspector's power and duties under section 20 of the present Act and section 25 of the Act of 1876 are debatable, we are of opinion that this section—practically identical in each statute—enables an inspector to question the mode in which a mine is being worked in relation to the size of the pillars, and, generally, the support left for the stability of the workings, and the disposition of the main roads as affecting ventilation; and we think it is a matter for regret—though we have no doubt that they were pursuing, in their own opinion, a proper course in refraining from interference—that the inspectors in the Northern District have not, seeing the very peculiar mode in which excavation of coal has been conducted, taken advantage of the powers conferred upon them by these sections, and so brought the question to an issue, whatever the immediate result might have been. We are also strongly of opinion that it is the duty of an inspector, where he has a doubt as to the extent of his powers, and believes that their exercise would be beneficial, to put them in force at all hazards, though he should always be careful to avoid unnecessary or irritating action.

The system of breaking off headings from a main haulage road, forming an intake for a large section of the mine, cannot be too strongly condemned. All such roads should have a return air-way on each side, to carry off the air from old workings direct to the up-cast shaft. In this particular instance the old workings are bounded by a main intake air-way for many hundreds of yards; and the effect of a large fall there would probably be the expulsion of a dangerous quantity of gas, which would be carried into the working places. The outlet to the return air-way suggested would, by putting a slight pressure from without on the stoppings, or inducing an indraught in the case of a blown-out or damaged stopping on this road, tend to check the emission of dangerous gases, or to confine them to the old workings. The objection to this course would be the tendency to feed the fire with fresh air, but it would be the less of two evils; and it is, under the circumstances, apparently necessary.

There has been, in the past, a general tendency to consider the working places and travelling roads as being the all-important parts of the mine; and it is to be hoped the lesson taught by these accidents will not be lost upon mining men, and that greater attention will be paid in future to the supervision and ventilation of old workings and parts of a mine other than the actual working sections. There can be no question as to the safety afforded by the continuous ventilation and inspection of abandoned districts—where pillars are not extracted, and where vast spaces are left for the accumulation of gases, fraught with peril to those employed in the mine. The ventilation at all collieries should be ample to provide for the constant renewal of the air in old workings, in addition to the places in actual operation; and, where this cannot be accomplished, sealing off the district altogether, or arranging an outlet properly regulated into a main return air-way, supplied with an overwhelming volume of air, should be imperative. Either of such courses could have been adopted at the Stockton Colliery, if good management had existed from the first; and it is evident that had proper forethought been exercised in such matters by the management, the lamentable loss of life on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of December last would have been averted.

We, therefore, taking into careful consideration all the circumstances attending these accidents, have arrived at the following conclusions:—

1. The immediate cause of the accident of the 2nd December was the extraordinary recklessness and obstinate disobedience of orders on the part of the men Smith and Curran; and, probably, of the former especially, inasmuch as Curran was, to a certain extent, under his control, and had not personally received, and may have been unaware of, the warning given to Smith.
2. The proximate causes of the accident were:—
 - (1) The permitting of a system whereby the only protection of the furnace-men from poisonous gases, known to be generated in No. 3 district, was a single stopping on hinges—as it has been appropriately called—placed in such a position as to tempt them to leave it open. In this relation, we think there was a serious want of consideration on the part of all concerned in the management of the mine. It is very unfortunate that the removal of the stopping in the rope road was not discovered by the inspectors before the accident happened; as they would, presumably, have called attention to its absence as a defect to be remedied; but we do not find that their failure to discover this danger implies any want of care on their part.
 - (2) A certain laxity in the discipline of the mine, which probably conduced to the negligence of the men.
3. In attempting to find out, at once, by exploration, the seat of the mischief which the inspectors had required to be remedied, the management acted properly; though the motive which partly operated on Mr. McDonald's mind—namely, the wish to prove himself in the right, and the inspectors in the wrong, before the close of the first inquest—was not a legitimate one; but—
4. The action of the management of the colliery in sending the exploring party into No. 3 district on the 3rd December was ill-considered; and the primary cause of the deaths of all the men who were killed on that occasion—as we find, by the inhalation of carbon monoxide—was, directly or indirectly, the adopting of a plan of entering against the air,—an act, under the circumstances, most injudicious, and one that no man of experience in coal-mining could reasonably approve.
5. It would have been better if Mr. McAuliffe had himself undertaken the leadership of the party of explorers. We assume that he really thought there should be no delay in the carrying out of the inspection; and we believe that he felt justified in delegating this very important duty to the under-manager, suffering, as he was, from mental distress and from fatigue; but we think he should, nevertheless, have made a real effort to do the work himself. G.

6. The course pursued by Mr. McAuliffe and all other officers of the mine after the second accident was proper and reasonable under the circumstances; and their conduct was that of brave men honestly doing the best that was practicable to save life, under conditions of great danger to themselves.
7. The inspectors, on their arrival, adopted a proper method to prevent further loss of life, and acted with discretion, vigour, and courage, in directing and personally assisting in the work of recovering the bodies of the rescuers who had lost their lives. Their conduct also on the occasion of the first accident was highly to be approved, and they displayed energy and quick perception. Mr. Dixon, especially, deserves to be commended for his action in placing No. 3 district in the same condition in which it was when Smith and Curran met their deaths, as a preliminary step towards discovering the cause.
8. The general course of working of the mine has been such as to tend unnecessarily to the happening of such accidents as these with which we have had to deal, by leaving abandoned districts in a dangerous condition; and, in this relation, the powers and duties of inspectors should, we think, be made the subject of special consideration.
9. As a conclusion naturally drawn from our former findings, we further are of opinion that both the manager, Mr. McAuliffe, and the under-manager, Mr. McDonald, are, by reason of incompetency and gross negligence, unfit to discharge their duties as manager and under-manager, respectively—their incompetence being shown by their inability to distinguish “fire-stink” from other and totally different gases met with in coal-mines, and their gross negligence consisting in their adopting, under circumstances of evidently considerable risk, and in the face of the warning given by the inspectors, a dangerous, instead of a safe and practicable, mode of entry into the old workings.

We have, &c.,

C. E. R. MURRAY,
President.
D. A. W. ROBERTSON,
Assessor.
JOHN THWAITES,
Assessor.

The Hon. Sydney Smith, Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

[Here follows plan, with Depositions and Exhibits at Inquest on second fatality, Part II.]

No. 23.

Evidence.

EVIDENCE taken and addresses delivered at Newcastle on the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th February, 1897.

WEDNESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY, 1897.

The Court appointed to hold an investigation into the fatal accidents which took place on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th days of December, 1896, at the Stockton Colliery, met in the old Court-house, Newcastle, at 10 a.m.

Present :

HIS HONOR JUDGE MURRAY (President),
DANIEL ALEXANDER WILBERFORCE ROBERTSON, Esq. (Assessor),
JOHN THWAITES, Esq. (Assessor).

By His Honor's instructions, the Secretary read the following notification, showing the authority of the Court:—

COAL MINES REGULATION ACT, 1896—SECTION 23.

I, Sydney Smith, Secretary for Mines and Agriculture for the Colony of New South Wales, being of opinion that a formal investigation into the fatal accidents which took place on the second, third, and fourth days of December, 1896, respectively, at the Stockton Colliery, in the Colony of New South Wales, is expedient, do hereby, in virtue of the powers conferred on me by section 23 of the “Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896,” direct such investigation to be held. And I hereby appoint Charles Edward Robertson Murray, Esquire, one of the District Court Judges for the Metropolitan, Suburban, and Hunter District of the Colony of New South Wales, being a competent person, to hold such investigation. And I hereby appoint Daniel Alexander Wilberforce Robertson, Esquire, and John Thwaites, Esquire, being persons possessing special knowledge, to act as Assessors to the said Charles Edward Robertson Murray in holding the investigation.

Dated this 22nd day of February, 1897.

SYDNEY SMITH,
Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Mr. T. D. O'Sullivan intimated that he appeared on behalf of the Stockton Colliery Company.

Mr. James Curley said he was present on behalf of the Colliery Employees Federation, the Stockton miners, and the relatives of some of the deceased.

Mr. John Dixon, Senior Inspector of Collieries, announced that he represented the Department of Mines, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. E. H. Wilshire, of the Crown Solicitor's Office.

His Honor asked whether there was anyone else who wished to be represented, or to have a *locus standi* in Court. There was no response to His Honor's question.

Mr. William Humble, Inspector of Collieries, who was present in the Court, withdrew upon His Honor intimating that he would be called later on as a witness.

His Honor : I think that the fairest plan to adopt would be to call, first of all, Mr. John Dixon, Senior Inspector of Mines. Mr. Dixon is one of the most important witnesses, and did not give evidence at the inquest. I think he should give his evidence first.

This proposition was agreed to.

His

His Honor : As to the evidence given before the Coroner's Court, we propose to accept it as primary evidence, but not as conclusive evidence. The Court will, however, allow any witness to be further examined or re-examined by anyone concerned. Is there any objection to that course being adopted?

Mr. Dixon : I have no objection, Your Honor.

Mr. O'Sullivan : No, your Honor.

Mr. Curley : No, your Honor.

Mr. Curley : Will the evidence taken at the inquest be open to comment?

His Honor : Yes.

Mr. Curley : Has it already been carefully perused by the Court, your Honor?

His Honor : Yes.

* Mr. John Dixon, Senior Inspector of Collieries, was called and sworn :—

His Honor : Will you, Mr. Dixon, give your own clear account from beginning to the end of the circumstances within your knowledge attending the whole of this matter?

Mr. Dixon : I will, your Honor.

Mr. Curley : Before beginning with Mr. Dixon, I would like to ascertain, your Honor, whether the inquiry covers the whole of these accidents, or simply the later accident.

His Honor : The inquiry covers both accidents.

Mr. Dixon said : I have been inspector of collieries for fourteen years and eight months. I was appointed under the old Act, and continued under the present Act. Before that, I was employed at everything in connection with coal-mining and shale-mining. I have had forty-four years' experience as a miner in the old country and in this Colony. I have worked at everything in the pit, from the trap-door up. I have been through the whole curriculum. I managed a small mine at Mittagong for some time.

His Honor : Have you studied coal-mining from a theoretical point of view?

Mr. Dixon : I have studied the matter for a number of years from a geological point of view, and am a Fellow of the Geological Society. I am besides a practical man.

His Honor : Have you studied chemistry and mineralogy?

Mr. Dixon : Yes.

Mr. Curley : I would draw your Honor's attention to the presence in the Court of Mr. Thomas, manager of the Minmi Colliery.

His Honor : Do you wish, Mr. O'Sullivan, to call Mr. Thomas as a witness?

Mr. O'Sullivan : I have no intention, your Honor, of calling Mr. Thomas as a witness, but simply wish to receive instructions from him on matters of expert knowledge.

His Honor : Under these circumstances, I do not think there can be any objection to Mr. Thomas's presence. I understand that you, Mr. McAuliffe, are present as representing the colliery?

Mr. McAuliffe : I am, your Honor.

His Honor : Will you please continue your statement, Mr. Dixon?

Mr. Dixon : Yes, your Honor. On the morning of the 2nd December last a messenger sent by Mr. Humble informed me that two men had been found dead at the furnace at Stockton, and that Mr. Humble had already gone over. I at once proceeded to the pit, at which I arrived a little after 9 o'clock. I descended the shaft, and on landing at the bottom met Mr. Humble and Messrs. McAuliffe and McDonald. They had explored the vicinity of the furnace, and were about to take the cage to the surface. At my request, as I wished to see the scene of the accident for myself, they came back with me to the furnace where the two men had been found. We then went down the rope-road in the direction of the abandoned workings of No. 3 district. On reaching the point where a door had been taken down at some time or other, I thought that I should like to obtain the same conditions as we supposed the men were under when they met their death. To this end we opened the No. 3 door, which is the door leading to the furnace, and through which door would pass the air from the No. 3 district. Near this door, and where the heading turns off to go to the furnace, we placed a lamp on the floor of the rope-road to see what action the gas coming from the No. 3 district would have on it. We could at once see that it was something more than black damp, as it would not extinguish the lamp. The door had been opened about twelve minutes, as near as I can remember, before we noticed a peculiar smell, which I at once recognised as fire-stink. We shortly afterwards closed the door. I was satisfied, the moment the noxious gas came up the rope road, that it was fire-stink, or what we commonly call in a mine "gob-stink." I said, "That is fire-stink." I was positive of it, and made the remark in a rather surprised tone, having never heard of fire-stink in the mine before. After shutting the door the gas retreated down the slope and the surroundings became comparatively clear. We then came up the shaft, and Mr. Humble and I went home. In the afternoon we attended the inquest on the two bodies; also next day.

His Honor : The four of us were together when the conversation took place as to the fire-stink. At the moment I noticed the smell Mr. Humble said, "Yes, that is it." We all then had a general conversation on the matter. Mr. Humble and I remarked that the smell was no doubt accompanied by a dangerous gas, and that it was a menace to the men at the furnace, and might prove also a menace to the whole of the men in the pit. We had some considerable conversation over the matter, and I thought at the time, and think now, that we thoroughly impressed the position of affairs on the mind of Mr. McAuliffe; at all events he seemed to drink in with avidity what we said. We asked him, in accordance with our positions as inspectors, to have the difficulty remedied. Seeing the condition the mine was then in, any one at the furnace might at any time be overcome by the same noxious gas and lose his life, should the No. 3 door be left open. We impressed on Mr. McAuliffe that the matter should be remedied as speedily as possible, and I am positive that he was satisfied, and agreed with what we said. We did not suggest in what way the difficulty should be remedied. We thought the death of the two men had resulted from carbon monoxide coming from a gob-fire. Both Mr. McDonald and Mr. McAuliffe appeared to understand what we meant by carbon monoxide; but Mr. McDonald seemed rather sceptical on the point. He thought the difficulty was black damp.

His

* NOTE.—The evidence of this witness was put in at the Court of Inquiry as Exhibit No. 11 by Mr. Wilshire, and read 23rd March, 1897.

His Honor : Can you mention any remark that led you to believe that Mr. McDonald thought the cause of the men's death was something else than carbon monoxide?

Mr. Dixon : I asked Mr. McDonald if he noticed the smell. He said he did not notice anything peculiar, and he did not seem to recognise it as fire-stink in the way I did. The smell was very strong to me.

His Honor : Was it stronger than the smell we noticed on our inspection of the mine yesterday which came out from the opening off the left side of No. 6 heading, near the furnace.

Mr. Dixon : It was just about the same strength, perhaps a little more pungent. I likened the smell to benzine.

Mr. Dixon (continuing) : After this conversation we came to the pit-top, and we renewed it when we reached the office. I left the colliery, and my colleague did the same, under the impression that the matter would be remedied as speedily as possible. From what we could learn from Mr. McAuliffe, he seemed to be anxious to remedy the matter, and appeared very sorry that the accident had occurred. I came away under the impression that the matter would be remedied as speedily as possible; but I heard nothing as to the way it was intended to remedy it. On the Thursday night following a messenger called on me at about five minutes to 12 at my house and told me that a certain number of men had gone into Stockton pit about 9:30 that night, and that some had lost their lives, while others could not be found. As the messenger had a cab, I sent him round to pick up Mr. Humble, and shortly afterwards, about 1 o'clock on Friday morning, I arrived at the pit and descended. I then met Mr. Humble along the road. We went to the first trapdoor (marked Z on plan). We saw a person in charge of the door, and some people sitting around. We asked how many men they thought were inside; but they did not appear to know. We then went up to No. 20 bord to see what was going on there. We found the stopping had been broken and a current of air was being taken in. We at once decided to close up that stopping and knock out the trapdoor in the stopping marked Z on the plan, so as to reverse the current of air, which would enable us to penetrate the workings safely with the air instead of against it, as had been done by the explorers. By this time some rolls of canvas, with hammers, nails, &c., had arrived. We at once started to erect brattice from the stopping marked Z. By taking this step we were able to search for the bodies without further loss of life. I measured the air at the orifice in the stopping that we had knocked out, and I consider that in from five to ten minutes we had a flow of 10,000 cubic feet of air coming in that way. We kept working at the canvas until we had it hung for, say, 66 yards, when we found the flow of air not returning up the rope road. It was continuing on, we did not know exactly where. We got some men to go ahead of the brattice, and by temporarily bratticing off the bord openings on both sides of the going bord—not, however, before ascertaining whether there were any bodies in those bords—we managed to keep a current of air sufficient for all purposes with us, in spite of the scaling coming through the brattice to the furnace, as we could not make the brattice air-tight. The bratticing was a very difficult work to carry out, and, with much trouble, we could only make it partially air-tight. We kept men bratticing up until we got to the top end of the going bord, and then, having found all the bodies except Fitzpatrick's, thinking he might be in one of the headings we had temporarily bratticed off, we took down the stoppings, and sent men to explore each heading, and then finally closed them up. After five hours' search we ultimately found Fitzpatrick's body at No. 10 bord. [*The witness here referred to the plan of the colliery workings, and described the headings and bords through which the air was forced, &c.*]

Mr. Dixon (continuing) : I am satisfied that the air was getting away and going over the overcast. It could not escape over 20 bord anywhere else. I measured the air at the top of the going bord, and reckoned there were 3,000 cubic feet coming in per minute. We were satisfied that 3,000 feet was good enough for us, especially as we were in a great hurry to get to the bodies.

To His Honor : For thirty men that would be 100 feet each. I forget how many men we had with us.

To Mr. Robertson : If we had had time to make better arrangements we could have obtained enough air to have reached the seat of the trouble. We would have bratticed up every opening we were suspicious of.

To His Honor : There was a certain amount of scaling along the rope road, as we could not successfully tighten the brattice. We started with between 10,000 and 11,000 cubic feet of air. We put the leakage down to the flow back along the rope road. If we had closed the rope road I think we would have very nearly doubled the current.

To Mr. Robertson : If we had had time to make proper preparations, we would not have had any difficulty in reaching any part of the district that was not inaccessible before; and, if the air could have been brought in with proper preparation, we might have got 10,000, 15,000, or 20,000 cubic feet. If it had been a matter of investigating the district only, and not an urgent one of recovering bodies, we would have had no difficulty in bringing in this quantity of air. [*The witness here further explained the plan to the Court.*]

Mr. Dixon (continuing) : I had to close the double heading so that the fresh air would not scale away instead of going up to the top of the going bord.

Mr. Robertson : Having found a scale of air coming through the double heading in the direction of No. 20 bord, that would imply that there was a contrary scale when the air was entering 20 bord?

Mr. Dixon : Yes.

His Honor : The block shown on the plan is known as the 10-acre Block?

Mr. Dixon : Yes.

His Honor : And was the subject of a dispute?

Mr. Dixon : Yes.

His Honor : It is represented as clear on the plan—as not having been touched; but, in point of fact, how would you show on that where the actual workings had gone round the upper (north) corner of the block?

Mr. Dixon : The top corner of this block has been entered by a number of bords and cut-throughs, and in consequence there is a connection.

Mr. Robertson : According to the plan there was no connection between No. 3 district and the other district (Gardner's Heading)?

Mr. Dixon : No.

Mr.

Mr. Robertson : The district to the east and north of the engine plane appears to be connected with No. 3 district by a sort of overcast at No. 17 bord?

Mr. Dixon : That is so.

His Honor : No. 17 bord connects the east side and the west side?

Mr. Dixon : Yes.

His Honor : Supposing foul air is being generated in No. 3 district, that would be the only way you could account for fire stink passing out on to C heading?

Mr. Dixon : Yes.

His Honor : C heading does not connect directly with No. 3 district.

Mr. Dixon : No; No. 3 is a distinct district.

His Honor : There is a connection which takes this stink over the main road into the east side?

Mr. Dixon : Yes.

His Honor : You have not been on the overhead connection at No. 17 bord?

Mr. Dixon : No, I cannot remember it; I may have seen it. I have not inspected Stockton Colliery regularly for many years. The other side of the main road appears to be very foul now from the fire stink oozing out of the bord end.

Mr. Robertson : The district has been shut off to the east of the engine plane; do you not think if the same time and money had been expended in blocking No. 17 it would have been spent to better advantage?

Mr. Dixon : There is a lot of fallen ground there, and it may be a difficult matter to get at it and remedy it properly. It would be rather a risky thing to get there now.

Mr. Robertson : There is fresh air there now?

Mr. Dixon : Yes; but when you are going through fallen ground you hardly know where to steer at times.

Mr. Robertson : Practically it would have been a very much more effectual way of sealing off the district?

Mr. Dixon : Yes.

To His Honor : We were ten hours recovering the bodies. We were five hours looking for one (Fitzpatrick's) body. During that time the whole of the rescuing party did not appear to suffer from poisonous gases until towards the latter end of the shift when Jury seemed to be a little affected; but I could not wonder at it, as he had been in the gaseous part so long, having been at the pit from the night before, when he went in with the first party. In our operations we sent two men at a time down a bord and made them come into the fresh air every few minutes.

His Honor : You were present when a sample of the air was taken?

Mr. Dixon : Yes; I filled one jar myself in Professor Threlfall's presence.

His Honor : Comparing the smell of the air from where the sample was taken by Professor Threlfall with what you observed when you first smelt the air coming out of No. 3 district, what do you say as to the relation between the two?

Mr. Dixon : Professor Threlfall mentions the word benzine in his report, and that is the name I gave to that smell myself. The place from where we took the air for analysis smelt the same as we smelt all the night long—just about the same strength. It was quite strong enough for anyone to be certain that it was a benzine smell which is one of the first products of distillation.

His Honor : How do you explain the formation of carbon monoxide accompanied by this benzine smell?

Mr. Dixon : Carbon monoxide is simply where there is one atom of oxygen taken up. Carbonic acid is two of oxygen and one of carbon. In carbon monoxide there is an atom of oxygen gone, and this CO is one of the first things that come off in distillation of coal in an old bord. There must be a red heat to bring it off, and as a rule it is accompanied by a benzine smell. Proper distillation can only be got with a liquid. This is a destructive distillation or sublimation, when a solid body is undergoing destruction by a red heat. There is of course incomplete combustion, which is brought about by a short supply of air.

His Honor : What experience had you before this in similar cases?

Mr. Dixon : This is the eighth colliery in this colony that I have had experience in in underground fires, and I must say that there was no mistaking the smell when it came from a gob-fire.

His Honor : What were the collieries?

Mr. Dixon : One was in Greta, Brown's Colliery at Minmi, Thoruley Colliery, A. A. Company's Old Pit, Hillside (Merewether), and No. 2 Ferndale; also that at Lithgow, where eight men lost their lives in 1886. In each instance I have noticed the peculiar smell of benzine, which cannot be mistaken. Brown's Colliery was fired by soot accumulating in the return air-way, and so was Lithgow Colliery; Greta was fired by the furnace. The gob-fires I have experienced were in Thoruley, Hillside, A. A. Company's Pit, and Stockton. In each case it was a gob-fire pure and simple. I watched its action in A. A. Company's Pit, having been a workman there. I can state pretty well now from past experience when gob is heating—that is, spontaneous combustion. I was the first person to discover the heating of coal in the A. A. Company's mine. My experience is, your Honor, that a gob-fire is more likely to take place where there is a great percentage of iron pyrites. Other people differ from me; but what I have stated I believe to be the case. I never knew these fires to break out until the clay-shale came away, and as soon as that falls it forms a sort of wet blanket upon the heated small coal. The heated substance must be covered over with something before this spontaneous combustion can take place.

To Mr. Robertson : The first place in the A. A. Company's mine where I ever found coal heating was a place where there was a current of air playing on the small coal at the bord end. I used to plant my tamping stick into it, and on one occasion, when I pulled it out in the morning, I could hardly bear it in my hand, it was so hot. I drew the attention of the foreman to it. I believe that the gob-fire was owing to the extra amount of iron pyrites present at the time.

Mr. Robertson : Would the circulation of a good current of air have a cooling effect and tend to stop a gob-fire?

Mr. Dixon : As a matter of fact, if you keep the place cool you would not get a gob-fire.

Mr. Robertson : But could you, in any large area, spare sufficient air to put it through every bord?

Mr.

Mr. Dixon : Well, if you could supply sufficient cool air, especially in old workings, and confined it to a given course down each bord, you might obviate a gob-fire. (*Continuing*.) I do not believe in furnaces. I do not believe in underground furnaces—the day has gone by for them; and I do not believe in having a reservoir of gas. The area of old workings is on the increase. There ought to be some system in a mine to cause sufficient ventilation. As regards the course I would recommend to be adopted in the absence of a sufficient volume of air to ventilate the old workings, I see no harm in having an open end to a return air-way, but not to a furnace; I do not believe in having any place of that kind sealed up. Of course you cannot help it in the case of a gob-fire.

To His Honor : I have known carbolic acid to put out gob-fires.

To Mr. Robertson : The conditions must be very favourable to get an effectual seal of a gob-fire. If I can hear certain sounds which my experience has taught me, I can tell whether there is any air going in. Here you have something like a mile of main road, and there would be getting on for fifty or sixty stoppings. As to whether I think it possible to seal up this gob-fire—supposing that there is one (and Mr. Humble and I say we believe there is)—until the other stoppings are sealed up and we get the normal pressure of the No. 3 district, I cannot say positively. My own opinion is that it would go through a plastered stopping. In the No. 3 district nearly all the stoppings are sealed up, but where the poisonous gases are now the stoppings are not built. The by-products coming from that gob-fire—we suppose there is one there—are bound to be coming out there, while being engendered, until the other stoppings are built. After I hear the sounds, after the other stoppings are built, I will be able to give a definite opinion as to whether there is a gob-fire there; I am awaiting the issue of events to see if the other stoppings will render it safe. I have never heard of a gob-fire, or seen anything of one, in a mine where there is such a large area with so many as fifty or sixty stoppings. It is unfortunate that it should be so, but it is so. As to the Lithgow accident, that was owing to a big fall in the roof. The small coal stoppings were forced out by a fall of the roof. I cannot say whether the pillars had been taken out between there (Lithgow) and Eskbank. I did not see the pillars. Several acres of ground came away in one big body.

Mr. Robertson : Can you state what were the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Lithgow accident?

Mr. Dixon : That they have complete stoppings.

Mr. Robertson : Did not the Commission point out the danger of an old working being sealed off in proximity to working places?

Mr. Dixon : I really forget now; it is such a long time ago. I do not know that they recommended brick stoppings. The effect of a fall forcing out a stopping would be that some of the old noxious gas would come out. As regards the Lithgow accident, the question is about a fall of such magnitude coming away.

His Honor : Is there any risk of a gob-fire spreading in a mine;—if it is well sealed off, is there any risk of the fire, if there is one there, becoming serious to the surrounding country?

Mr. Dixon : Providing the fire were to come through, I think it would go through the whole district. If it is well sealed off, I expect it to be put out—that is, if it is hermetically sealed off.

His Honor : If the highest temperature in the mine is 78, what would that indicate?

Mr. Dixon : It would be a question of how much heat was coming from the seat of the fire.

His Honor : If “fire-stink” was coming from it, would it indicate that there is a large or small fire?

Mr. Dixon : I believe that the fire was not a month old when the accident happened. I believe it was only an incipient fire. I believe it will go out when that district is sealed off. I think I look for the extinctive gas being able to put that fire out. It must go out when it cannot get anything to live upon. I look upon a lot of small coal in a gob as a heap of porous matter. A certain percentage of oxygen enters the pores, and incomplete combustion takes place owing to the want of more oxygen. That tends to destructive distillation or sublimation. One of the first products given off by incomplete combustion is naphtha, which carries with it benzine, and is invariably accompanied by carbon monoxide gas. This distillation is caused by red heat, and, as a supply of oxygen cannot again be readily supplied to those pores, the gob-fire naturally dies out for want of oxygen. Take away the oxygen and it naturally dies out. Chemical action is done after the first oxidation. Away comes the naphtha and benzine, and then comes this carbon monoxide and free nitrogen. Hydrogen, to some extent, is also given off in the process of destructive distillation. Carbonic acid is a virulent poison, and, when inhaled to the extent of 10 or 15 per cent., it lays violent hands upon you, and you are dead directly. Carbon monoxide infiltrates into the blood. A person can live in it until the blood has about 2 pints in it. A person may travel a considerable distance in this gas without feeling its ill effects until the infiltration is complete. Then the person desires to lie down and death ensues. It is a direct poison through the blood to the brain. The whole system afterwards becomes affected, causing weakness in the limbs, dimness of sight, loss of memory, and then unconsciousness. I have seen men stricken down with it. Sulphuretted hydrogen is composed of about 95 per cent. of sulphur and 5 per cent. of hydrogen, and also acts on the blood and brain. It smells like rotten eggs, and as soon as a person smells it he ought to get out of it, as 1 per cent. is dangerous to life. That is quite distinguishable from carbon monoxide. When poisoning takes place from carbon monoxide, the blood is turned scarlet. When poisoning ensues from sulphuretted hydrogen, the blood is a dark brown. I knew Curran well. I have known him for twenty years. I have read Dr. Haldane's report on his examination of persons about the face and ear who have been poisoned by carbon monoxide. I noted Curran's appearance around the ears and jugular, and saw signs of pink in the skin. I came to the conclusion that Curran and Smith both died from carbon monoxide. Dr. Hester made a *post mortem* examination of Curran and believed it was a case of carbonic acid poisoning. I think he was well seized of the facts before he made that *post mortem* examination. I think Dr. Hester's attention was drawn to the question whether it was carbon monoxide or carbonic acid poisoning before he made the *post mortem*. Of course, the jury came to the conclusion that the death of the two men was due to carbonic acid and other gases, and that is a very wide range. After-damp is the product of an explosion of fire-damp, and the result of that explosion is free nitrogen, steam, and a percentage of carbonic acid and carbon monoxide; but it is only of late years that they have come to discover carbon monoxide in after-damp. Nitrogen is not a poison; it is a dilutant.

To Mr. Robertson : Carbon monoxide has only been suspected in after-damp in quite recent times. Inspector Atkinson and Dr. Haldane have been bringing these things to light. Everything used to be attributed to carbonic acid.

Mr.

Mr. Robertson : Is it not conceivable that at the time of Smith and Curran's death, carbonic acid may have been present in large quantities, and that it may have been followed up at a later stage by carbon monoxide ?

Mr. Dixon : I would rather think it was through an extra supply of free nitrogen.

Mr. Robertson : Mr. Jury mentions an acid taste about the carbonic acid ?

Mr. Dixon : I have never tasted that acid taste in carbonic acid. I have been amongst it many a time. I have travelled with 3 feet of it on the floor. I have a habit when amongst gases of keeping my mouth shut and breathing through my nose. That has, perhaps, saved my life. There is nothing improbable about carbonic acid killing these men.

Mr. Robertson : Is it not possible that Smith and Curran may have been suffocated by carbonic acid gas, and that after that, that gas was diffused ?

Mr. Dixon : I want to know where the settlement of the carbonic acid gas would be to environ the carbon monoxide. There was a man mortally sick at the furnace the night before the accident to Smith and Curran. I noticed the pink hue in the skin of Curran about the lobe of the ear and about the neck. I am prepared to abide by what Dr. Heister has said after making his *post mortem* examination, because he is a scientific man in his own profession. I don't bow to him in coal-mining matters. I presume that it was at the meeting of colliery managers that it was decided to seal off the No. 3 district. We have had in evidence that the meeting was held. There was a meeting of managers, and at that meeting it was decided to recommend Mr. McAuliffe to shut the place off. I did not say that there was no difficulty in reaching the seat of the fire. I said the seat of the fire might be reached if proper precautions were taken. We might have reached further on than we did.

Mr. Robertson : Would it not have been better to have endeavoured to have extinguished the fire ?

Mr. Dixon : That's a mighty question. If the fire was in the top drive, it would have been a heavy undertaking to extinguish it. It is best to try and circumscribe an underground fire. It was not a panic decision to do as was done, but we knew we had eleven men dead already. I knew most of these men who were killed, and it affects me more than anything else. Men, at a time like that, might not think at the time just the same as they do afterwards. I have said that, providing a current of air was forced into the No. 3 district, it might be possible to manipulate all the air current to get further round. It was thought by the managers that the best way would be to seal up the district. To carry fresh air on to 18, 19, and 20 bords would, if there was a gob-fire, probably blow the whole thing into a blaze. If you put fresh air on to a smouldering fire you will probably blow the whole thing into a blaze. It is a serious matter to seal off such a large area of the mine.

To His Honor : I have a knowledge that No. 3 district was cleared of noxious gases on two or three occasions in order to let certain gentlemen in who had to give evidence in a court case. And there was more than one case. I was present—I think it was on December 5th, 1895—when a visit was made in connection with a court case. The air travelled through 20 bord, and came through a slide door. The slide was pulled back to let the return air through. The party went through the slide door marked "Z" on plan. That was when I was in that district last. The procedure adopted was done to clear away the noxious gas in that district. There was a good current of air on that occasion ; but it is so long ago that I can scarcely remember all about it now. There had been a falling bord, as far as I could make out. Sometimes the covering over a bord might be softer than that over another bord. Where the roof was soft it would fall ; where there was a big stone it would stand. On the occasion of the inspection for the court case, the air was comparatively pure. It was pure enough to live in, and for us to be able to do what we did. There was not the slightest suspicion of benzine there ; and there was no sign of fire or heat. I did not feel distressed in any way. Since this accident, the return air-way from No. 3 has gone by the name of the rope-road. After December, 1895, I did not go again to inspect the colliery. I do not, of my own knowledge, know that the stopping on the rope-road had been knocked out. I heard after this accident that this stopping had been knocked out. I had been under the impression that that stopping with the trapdoor had been left there and was there still. As an expert I say that it was not expedient to knock that stopping out.

Mr. Thwaites : When the No. 3 door was opened, had the foul air from No. 3 district a direct course to the furnace ?

Mr. Dixon : Yes, a direct course to the furnace.

Mr. Thwaites : If the stopping and man-hole door had been rebuilt, would the air have had the same effect on Curran and Smith at the furnace ?

Mr. Dixon : No.

Mr. Thwaites : If the No. 2 door had been opened, and the No. 3 door had been shut, would the poisonous gas then have had a connection with the furnace ?

Mr. Dixon : No.

Mr. Robertson : When that stopping was down, on every occasion that a man had to pass through at No. 2 door, he was virtually getting into No. 3 district,—it was the neck or approach to the No. 3 district ?

Mr. Dixon : It is a very crooked neck.

Mr. Robertson : If the gas was coming out, it was very unwise to leave that stopping out ?

Mr. Dixon : If they knew the gas was coming out from that district towards the furnace—and they knew that gas was coming out—I think it was very unwise. The effect of that No. 3 door being opened every time skips had to pass in and out would be to allow the noxious gas from the No. 3 door to go direct to the furnace, and this would happen every time the skips would have to be taken to and fro.

His Honor : In some instances it is a fact that if you leave any patch of country underground alone, after it has been worked and abandoned, carbonic acid gas would be present. If I suspected any gas in pits in the old workings in this district, it would be carbonic acid gas that I would suspect. If I had a reservoir of gas, and a ventilating fan, I would not hesitate for a minute to clear the gas out, unless there was gob-fire. That is the way I look at No. 3 district.

His Honor : You would not expect a short or slight draught to blow out such a heavy gas as carbonic acid ?

Mr. Dixon : No. I could understand it accumulating, but would not expect it to come up that hill so readily as the other mixture. Carbon monoxide has a lower specific gravity than carbonic acid gas.

Mr. Curley: I saw Mr. Curran's body, and from his appearance judged that his death was in consequence of inhaling carbon monoxide. I saw the whole of the bodies taken out later on, with the exception of one of the McAlpins. I saw Thomas McAlpin's body, but did not notice any frothy mucus about the nostrils or mouth. I did not notice him particularly about the face, and could not say for certain what appearance he really had. I paid more attention to his body. As a rule people poisoned with carbon monoxide are limp; but he was not—his was the stiffest body we got. I examined the bodies of Gascoigne and Sneddon closely; it was by lamp-light in the pit. I did not see Sneddon afterwards at the hospital. If there had been a frothy mucus at the mouths of these two men I would say it was an indication of any sort of gas. They might have died in some sort of throes—trying to vomit perhaps. I would not consider the mucus at the mouth anything to go by. It would not indicate to me sulphuretted hydrogen. That gas does not breed from a gob-fire. You get sulphurous acid but not sulphuretted hydrogen. Sulphuretted hydrogen is generated from water and decayed matter, and there is no water near the fire at Stockton. There is no considerable moisture given up in No. 3 district; it is a very dry district. There is no drainage from any other district into it. The Stockton Colliery is classed in the Northern district, which is one district.

Mr. Curley: The case of a man who was affected by gas in the mine prior to the death of the two men having been reported to the manager, do you, in your opinion, think he ought to have looked into the matter and seen for himself as to the cause of the complaint?

Mr. Dixon: The manager has got officers under him to do his work should he be absent. If he could have got to the place himself I would say yes, he should have made an investigation; but I do not say that it was imperative for the manager to do it. He has capable officers under him, and at this particular time the under-manager had the mine in hand, and made an inspection.

Mr. Curley: When a serious matter of this kind crops up, do not you think that the manager himself should attempt to make a personal inspection?

Mr. Dixon: If the manager is not urgently engaged on something else, I say yes; as a responsible person he should make an inspection, and try and get rid of the cause of complaint.

Mr. Curley: When you made inspection on the 2nd December, after the two deaths had occurred—when you made the experiment with the light, did you then know that the door in the stopping was out?

Mr. Dixon: Yes; I knew there was then direct communication with No. 3 district.

Mr. Curley: Did you ask why that door was removed?

Mr. Dixon: I do not remember; I do not think I did so right on the spot. I had heard that it had been removed. It had been knocked down to let the return air in when certain people inspected those workings in August last.

Mr. Curley: Did not the stopping being out surprise you into making some remark to the manager, seeing that there was only the furnace door to keep back the foul air from No. 3 district?

Mr. Dixon: It surprised me, but I do not think I made any specific remark to the manager about the stopping being out. Mr. Humble had been down the mine before me and made an inspection, and I therefore did not make any specific remark about it.

Mr. Curley: If that door had been put up at once would not that have allowed the management to look around?

Mr. Dixon: Yes.

Mr. Curley: How long would it have taken to put the stopping in—one similar to what was there before?

Mr. Dixon: Not many hours; the one there now was placed in position in about twenty-four hours after the second fatality.

Mr. Curley: How long did it take you to force the air into No. 3 district?

Mr. Dixon: We got up to the top of the going bord, as near as I can remember, about 3-30 in the morning. We would have been up quicker only we had the heading ends to shut off as we went up, to make sure of the current going upwards.

Mr. Curley: Can you tell us how long it took to get up to the cinder dyke, shown on the plan?

Mr. Dixon: It was about 3-30 in the morning when we got to the top of the going bord, which is beyond the dyke.

Mr. Curley: When you mentioned to the manager that the "fire-stink" indications were a menace to the colliery, did you not think it necessary to hand some communication to him?

Mr. Dixon: No, as it would be met by Rule 1, section 47 of the Act.

Rule 1, section 47: An adequate amount of ventilation shall be constantly produced in every mine to dilute and render harmless noxious gases to such an extent that the working-places of the shafts, levels, stables, and workings of the mine, and the travelling roads to and from those working-places, shall be in a fit state for working and passing therein. The ventilation so produced shall be the supply of pure air, in quantity not less than 100 cubic feet per minute for each man, boy, and horse employed in the mine, which air (in that proportion, but with as much more as the inspector shall direct) shall sweep along the air-ways and be forced as far as the face of and into each and every working-place where man, boy, or horse is engaged or passing, main return air-ways only excepted.

Every mine, except such as are worked on the longwall system, shall be divided into districts or splits of not more than 70 men in each; and each district shall be supplied with a separate current of fresh air. The in-take air shall travel free from all stagnant water, stables, and old workings. In the case of mines required by this Act to be under the control of a certificated manager, the quantity of air in the respective splits or currents shall at least once in every month be measured and entered in a book to be kept for the purpose at the mine.

We considered, Mr. Humble and myself, that that warning was as good as any we could give. We talked the matter over with the manager and his over-man, and we took it that our verbal instructions to the manager were definite. We assumed that a gob-fire was in the abandoned workings, which, if allowed to burn, would be a very serious matter. At that time I thought a gob-fire to be in existence in an incipient state.

Mr. Curley: Does not section 33 of the Act stipulate that notice should be given in writing?

Section 33: All notices under this Act shall (unless expressly required to be in print) be in either writing or print (including lithograph), or partly in writing and partly in print (including lithograph), and all notices and documents required by this Act to be served or sent by, or to an inspector may be either delivered personally, or served and sent by post by a registered letter; and if served and sent by post, shall be deemed to have been served and received respectively at the time when the letter containing the same would be delivered in the ordinary course of post; and in proving such service or sending, it shall be sufficient to prove that the letter containing the notice was properly addressed and put into the post.

Mr. Dixon: I contend that notices can be either in writing or verbal and base my contention on section 20, and on Rule I of section 47.

Section 20: (1.) If in any respect (which is not provided against by any express provision of this Act or by any special rule) any inspector finds any mine or any part thereof, or any matter, thing, or practice in or connected with any such mine, or with the control, management, or direction thereof by the manager to be dangerous or defective, so as in his opinion to threaten or tend to the bodily injury of any person, he may give notice in writing thereof to the owner, agent, or manager of the mine, and shall state in the notice the particulars in which he considers the mine or any part thereof, or any matter, thing, or practice to be dangerous or defective, and require the same to be remedied, and unless the same be forthwith remedied shall also report the same to the Minister.

Mr. Dixon: I contend that section 20 provides that the inspector *may* give notice, not that he *must* give notice.

Mr. Curley: Does not section 33 apply to all notices?

His Honor: I think it is hardly a question of great importance whether Mr. Dixon wrote or gave verbal instructions to the manager.

Mr. Curley: I want to lead up to Part 3, Supplementary, of the Act, section 59, subsection (ii), which has a very important bearing on the point.

Part 3, Supplementary, section 59, subsection (ii): Every person who is guilty of an offence against this Act for which a penalty is not expressly prescribed shall be liable to a fine not exceeding, if he is an owner, agent, or manager, or under-manager, twenty pounds, and if he is any other person, two pounds for each offence; and if an inspector has given written notice of any such offence, to a further fine not exceeding five pounds for every day after such notice that such offence continues to be committed.

His Honor: That does not touch the question before this tribunal to any appreciable extent.

Mr. Curley: Should the inspector give a written notice about a defect, it imposes upon him the duty of being there the following day to see that the defect is being remedied; and I want to ask Mr. Dixon if he was there the following day.

His Honor: Whether Mr. Dixon gives a written notice or not it is his duty to be there.

Mr. Curley: I admit that; but it would be imperative if the written notice had been given. Did you attend, Mr. Dixon, the day after to make inquiries?

Mr. Dixon: No.

Mr. Curley: Did Mr. Humble?

Mr. Dixon: I cannot speak for Humble.

Mr. Curley: I thought you acted conjointly in this matter.

Mr. Dixon: Yes, we did; but I do not know whether Mr. Humble was at the pit the next day. We were at the inquest most of the time.

Mr. Curley: General Rule 7 says:—

“If at any time it is found by the person for the time being in charge of the mine, or any part thereof, that by reason of inflammable gases prevailing in the mine, or that part thereof, or of any cause whatever, the mine or that part is dangerous, every workman shall be withdrawn from the mine or part so found dangerous, and a competent person appointed for the purpose shall inspect the mine or part so found dangerous, and if the danger arises from inflammable gas, shall inspect the mine or part with a locked safety lamp; and in every case shall make a true report of the condition of the mine or part; and a workman shall not, except in so far as is necessary for inquiring into the cause of danger or for the removal thereof, or for exploration, be re-admitted into the mine, or part so found dangerous, until the same is stated by the person appointed as aforesaid not to be dangerous. Every such report shall be recorded in a book which shall be kept at the mine for the purpose, and shall be signed by the person who made the inspection.”

At the time that you made your inspection, Mr. Dixon, you considered that certain circumstances in connection with No. 3 district made it somewhat dangerous?

Mr. Dixon: Yes.

Mr. Curley: You informed the manager of that?

Mr. Dixon: Yes.

Mr. Curley: Is it your opinion that this district should have been thoroughly inspected before taking men into it?

Mr. Dixon: You could not make an inspection without taking someone in.

Mr. Curley: Do you think that an inspection should have been made?

Mr. Dixon: We have it in evidence that an inspection was made. Mr. McDonald says he got up 300 or 400 yards.

Mr. Curley: I think you are wrong; I think he said 150 or 160 yards. [Upon looking up the evidence, it was found that an inspection was made for a distance of 160 yards from point marked Z.]

Mr. Dixon: Mr. McDonald examined that district as a competent person, and satisfied himself that the place was safe.

Mr. Curley: Do you think that the point he intended to take men to should have been inspected?

Mr. Dixon: I cannot say, as there is no telling where he wanted to take the men to.

Mr. Curley: From the evidence, Mr. McDonald only inspected 160 yards, leaving 500 yards not inspected prior to the men entering;—would you regard that as a mistake?

Mr.

Mr. Dixon: I would regard it in this way: that it wanted inspection.

Mr. Curley: Do you regard the want of inspection of 500 yards a serious blunder?

Mr. Dixon: I do not understand the way you are putting that question.

Mr. Curley: General Rule 7 provides for an exploration party, and the question is, how many men you would have go in with the manager to make up the party?

Mr. Dixon: The manager could not go in by himself and make an inspection; he must be accompanied by some one.

Mr. Curley: You say the underground manager, when you made your inspection, was sceptical about the views that you enunciated regarding what transpired in the locality inspected;—do you think, in the face of that, he was the right man to send to lead the party, being so sceptical on the question.

Mr. Dixon: I could not answer that. I said he appeared to be sceptical; not so sceptical.

Mr. Curley: You knew the dangerous gases that would have to be contended with, I presume, and you no doubt impressed that upon the manager?

Mr. Dixon: I may say again I never thought they intended to penetrate No. 3 district, and the message coming to my place informing me of the accident was the first intimation I received on the matter.

Mr. Curley: You knew the under-manager's opinion?

Mr. Dixon: Yes.

Mr. Curley: That he thought it was black damp?

Mr. Dixon: Yes.

Mr. Curley: Did you not think there was a danger in sending this man on an expedition, with his peculiar view?

Mr. Dixon: I never knew he was going to be sent on such an expedition.

Mr. Curley: Do you think the manager should have gone there himself?

Mr. Dixon: Yes; I think the manager should be on the spot as well as the under-manager if they are exploring, provided he is not engaged on other urgent duty. I believe the manager was fully seized of everything in detail as to what we said about gases being there.

Mr. Curley: Do men usually look for their lights to go out when penetrating a district containing black damp?

Mr. Dixon: We know men do it, but it is not a wise thing to do.

Mr. Curley: Do you think it a mistake to imagine they can travel with impunity until their lights go out?

Mr. Dixon: Yes; wherever gas is met with, fresh air should be carried along with the party.

Mr. Curley: How would you look upon this exploration?

Mr. Dixon: Simply in this way: that it was a grave error of judgment to go in from the rope-road in the face of the return current. It should not have been done. I never thought that anyone would have gone down the rope-road in the face of a current of air.

Mr. Curley: After you had made the inspection, and closed No. 3 door, did you discover at that time that the current of air was going in some other direction when the door was closed?

Mr. Dixon: I discovered that the gas seemed to retreat down the rope-road.

Mr. Curley: Do you think it went over the overcast?

Mr. Dixon: I do. I think it retreated down the rope-road until it found its equilibrium in the No. 3 district.

Mr. Curley: That being so, was there not a return over the overcast, and would not these circumstances be fully apparent to the management of the colliery?

Mr. Dixon: Yes; that there was an overcast there, and a return.

[The Court, at 1 p.m., adjourned till 2 p.m.]

Upon the Court resuming at 2 p.m. (Wednesday), Mr. John Dixon was re-called.

To Mr. Curley: I did not, when this inspection took place, ask the manager what experience he had had in gases; and I did not ask the under-ground manager, because I do not talk to managers and under-managers as I would to a school-boy. I have been in the vicinity where gob-fires have been shut off in times gone by. Mr. Humble and I could see that everything hinged on that No. 3 door being open or shut. On making the inspection, we said that it was carbon monoxide which was present in the mine, and Professor Threlfall says the same. Professor Threlfall came to that conclusion upon examining the air which he took in the mine. There was one bottle which he said he did not expect to get any good result from because it had not been properly sealed. He told me so when we came to the surface the day the samples were taken. He was not properly satisfied with it at the time. The products from the kerosene pump never came down into the No. 3 district, but passed into the "C" heading-way. They never went into the No. 3 district. I cannot tell you how long that pump was in operation, but I think it has ceased to operate for eight or nine months or more; it was put into the mine, I think, about three years ago; I have seen it at work; I do not know the quantity of oil used per day, but I saw it at work one time. I was present at the consultation of managers. I did not make any communications to the manager of the mine to the effect that it might be desirable to have a consultation with some of the other managers. I did not know that we were going to meet till the Saturday. I think the whole trend of the arguments was to shut the whole place up—to seal it up—so far as I remember. I do not think the matter of confining the fire into a smaller area was discussed. The only place where gas is now escaping is in the "C" headings, which have not yet been sealed off. That has not been done yet. I think there will be forty or fifty stoppings now alongside the engine-plane. They are 9 inches thick. There is a patrol stationed on the main road. There has not been any inspection of the top drive or bords in the top drive since the accidents. The top and bottom drives in the No. 3 district are now totally abandoned. Round the "C" heading the work of stopping is still going on.

Mr. Curley: Are you fully satisfied that the whole of these deaths were from carbon monoxide?

Mr. Dixon: As I said this morning, I would not like to go in the face of Dr. Heester's evidence in regard to the first two deaths. In the case of Curran, I thought at the time that he had died from carbon monoxide; but I do not say so much of the other man. As a matter of fact, after I have known a person I cannot bear to see him dead. I knew them alive, and did not want to see them after. I saw two

two when I came over—Cockburn and Bailey—and after that Sneddon, Charlesworth, McAlpine, Sweeney—about eight altogether. I think Dr. Haldane is the greatest authority on the high colouring of the blood in this sort of poisoning. I have not read “Taylor’s Manual of Medical Jurisprudence.” I have not read “Foster’s Text-book on Physiology.” It has been a moot question for many years in regard to colliery explosions, and, just now, they seem to be arriving at some settled conviction on the matter. In regard to the first two cases of death, Mr. Humble thought, as I did, that it was “fire-stink” that was in the mine. I think it was the duty of the manager to regard our opinions. Such a fall as McDonald described, if he could hear it, would have the effect of disturbing any noxious gas that might be there, and forcing it out. I have heard that it in no way affected the light. I know that most of the witnesses did not hear it; they only felt something slightly. On the following Monday, Mr. Humble and I heard a fall in No. 20 bord. No doubt that was caused by the fresh air which had been passed in. I am of opinion that it is highly probable that a fall had taken place. Well, it might have been only the morgan falling, and been just enough to displace the gas. The bords have stood there for years. There would be a certain heat in the old workings, and the fresh air passing in would tend to cool the strata, and that, I believe, is why there are more falls at night-time than in the daytime—owing to the cooling of the pit after the heating during the daytime. If it had been a big fall in No. 3 district, where the exploring party were, it would have affected the light; it would have deflected the light or put it out. I would not say the fall was one of any very great extent. When I made the inspection, I did not make any inquiries whether the managers had made inspection of the locality prior to that accident. I heard that McDonald had been down there a fortnight before. I do not think there would be any reports of inspections entered in the colliery books between the time of the accidents and now. I have not had time to go to the pit, owing to the work which I have had in the office. I know that inspections are to be made when anything dangerous takes place, and that the inspectors have to record them in a book. Yes; that is the law. In one or two places in the back return, the “C” heading way, I found this benzine smell. It has, at times, affected my light; it has put it out. I believe that it is nitrogen set free, as a product of a gob-fire, which has put my light out. I cannot remember whether the subject of free nitrogen was discussed at the time we had conversations with the manager and under-manager; so much was said. In my opinion, there was, at the time of the investigation of the accident to Smith and Curran, no effect upon the light, except that it was deflected a little. I think that Mr. McAuliffe could, at the time of the inspection, see the effect upon the light. I think he said in his evidence that the gas affected the light. From that, I judge that Mr. McAuliffe was well seized with what we said, and that he would know that it was a gas of a very dangerous character—a gas that would have to be approached with every caution. I did not feel anxious to be at the colliery on the following day. I was in Stockton. I was at the inquest, and that went on till about 5 o’clock. The colliery was idle. We knew that the colliery would not start work until the defects had been remedied—namely, until the pit had been cleared of the bad air which the inspectors had described as a menace. The manager had told me that. I had it from the manager’s own lips. It was on the Wednesday—the day after the first two men were found. At the time the inspectors cautioned the manager about the nature of the mixture in the mine, we did not call attention to the fact that the stopping and trap-door ought to have been replaced between the No. 3 furnace-door and the old workings. The policy of the inspectors had been, not to dictate how a manager should manage his colliery, which would mean taking complete control of the colliery. I, as an inspector, have no right to go and suggest to the manager how he is going to do his work. I have been inspector now nearly fifteen years, and that is how I have always acted, and I will stand or fall by it. I would step in and stop a manager if I thought he was going to endanger men’s lives. Men’s lives were lost by what the manager did. If I had been down the pit the following day, or in the colliery office, I should have asked what they were doing. We—Mr. Humble and I—never dreamed that they were going to try to penetrate into No. 3 district as far as they went. I did not suggest any remedy at all. The place was stopped off on the Saturday evening after the accident. I did not suggest the rebuilding of the stopping and slide door; if I did, I cannot remember it. [At this stage, Mr. O’Sullivan put in a copy of the *Special Rules of the colliery* (marked Exhibit “A”).]

Mr. Dixon (to Mr. O’Sullivan): In regard to the samples of air taken in the mine by Professor Threlfall, the first sample was useless, the second contained carbonic oxide, and the third carbonic acid. The district in question would be an extremely difficult one to seal off effectually. In view of the decision arrived at at the first inquest, and of the evidence given by Dr. Hester, that the men, Curran and Smith, had died from inhaling carbonic acid gas, it was quite within the bounds of reason for a party of explorers to have entered the district with the idea of trying to locate the cause of the trouble. The smaller the space it (the gob-fire) could be confined to the better. The desire to locate it was, I understand, in order to confine it to a small area. I do not say it was imperative for them to get near the locality of the trouble. I do not say there was any great cause for them to go in and do it. My contention is that the fire was the cause of the trouble in this case. This gob-fire—supposing there is a gob-fire—would be generating noxious gases all the time.

Mr. O’Sullivan: When you went into No. 3 district in December, 1895, did you not go in facing the air current?

Mr. Dixon: Yes, I did; but the conditions were not the same in this case as they were then, as it was then black damp, and it can be swept out and would not generate again while we were travelling. I knew that all the gas that had been there was swept out. I was told that black damp had been found in that district. I have never crawled on my stomach in that district, and I have never seen others do so. I climbed up a fall once, but did not crawl up. I cannot remember being on my stomach. It was grave error of judgment for anyone to go in on the rope-road if the conditions were the same as Mr. Humble and I found them. I say if the same sort of odour was present as we found on the morning of the accident to Smith and Curran, it was an error of judgment. I am prepared to say that. I say if the conditions were the same, and if that benzine smell were coming out. At the time of seeking the bodies on Friday morning, we had 3,000 cubic feet of air with us in the innermost heading at the top of the going bord, and this returned to the overcast and into the “C” heading back to the pump at the bottom of the furnace shaft. I never said that the 3,000 feet reached the No. 16 bord; I said to bord No. 10. Probably we could have got enough air to have served our purpose as far as the exploring party went. We lost 7,000 feet of air going behind the brattice to the furnace. We were going in to get dead men—and, perhaps, a living man if we could; and, as long as we found enough air for our purpose, we were satisfied. I believe we could have got in in that fresh current, and could have got in as far as McDonald and his party

party went. Falls have been likely to take place in that district, and, as a matter of fact, have taken place there. The fall in No. 3 district was not of the magnitude of the fall at Lithgow, where the small coal stoppings were blown out. There is no analogy between the fall at Lithgow and the one at Stockton. I do not believe in anyone travelling in the face of a return air current. If you are going into gas, the plan is to take fresh air with you.

Mr. O'Sullivan : If it were wrong to go into these workings in this instance, why was it not wrong in the previous instance, when you went in with them ?

Mr. Dixon : The party did wrong in going in against the current. With the air going with us we got to 16 bord, under Brackenridge's property.

Mr. O'Sullivan : At the inquest we were told by McDonald that the danger they expected to meet, if any, was black damp, and that he subjected the workings to a thorough clearing out of thirty hours, putting in 20,000 cubic feet of air a minute. On the previous occasion when you went in, the workings were subjected to a similar clearing out, and it was then found they were properly cleaned out ; on this latter occasion I presume they were also properly cleaned out. In face of that, do you think there was an error of judgment in going in to the workings ?

Mr. Dixon : Yes.

Mr. O'Sullivan : Was it not one on the previous occasion ?

Mr. Dixon : As I have already said, the conditions were entirely different on the two occasions.

Mr. O'Sullivan : But Mr. McDonald disbelieved the gob-fire theory ?

Mr. Dixon : That is his fault ; he was too sceptical.

Mr. O'Sullivan : But we have no proof that there is a gob-fire there, or was one ; moreover, the accidents that have occurred from carbon monoxide in this and other districts have not been serious ones, with the exception of Lithgow ;—is that not so ?

Mr. Dixon : Lithgow is the only serious one that I know of besides Stockton. No one has been killed by them in this district, except at Stockton.

Mr. O'Sullivan : Had there been sufficient men to take out the explorers that night, do you think they would have been got out safely, though overcome ?

Mr. Dixon : According to the evidence—yes.

Mr. O'Sullivan : Do you think that Mr. McAuliffe's action, when he heard of the accident and the men being in there, in rushing through the trap door, was the best one, and that if a delay had occurred until more elaborate preparations had been made, lives would have been sacrificed ?

Mr. Dixon : I quite agree that Mr. McAuliffe did what I would have done myself had I been in his position.

Mr. O'Sullivan : In point of fact, his prompt action saved two men's lives ?

Mr. Dixon : Yes ; and I believe if Mr. McAuliffe had had relays of men as resolute as himself and as strong, they would have recovered the party.

Mr. O'Sullivan : It would have been a mistake at that moment to have adopted your proceedings ?

Mr. Dixon : Yes. When we got there we considered that there was no life inside, and that enough men had been knocked down, five men having been lost in endeavouring to recover one man. We, therefore, stopped the men from going in until the conditions were made more favourable.

Mr. O'Sullivan : Do you not think it probable that the return air you sent in in a contrary direction, might, perhaps, have found its way over 17 bord ?

Mr. Dixon : No ; I think it found its way over the overcast. It may have gone both ways, but I hardly think it went over No. 17 bord.

Mr. O'Sullivan : Dr. Hester had not given his opinion when you formed your idea that the cause of death was carbon monoxide ?

Mr. Dixon : No.

His Honor : How does the ventilation come from No. 3 shaft ?

Mr. Dixon : It comes along a main road to two districts, which it ventilates, and then passes on to the furnace.

His Honor : Does the direct draught from No. 3 join the return draught and come down C heading ?

Mr. Dixon : Yes.

His Honor : The other air that goes up the main road for a considerable distance and returns along C heading is greatly diluted ?

Mr. Dixon : Yes. The gas noticed at the inspection yesterday gets mixed with 5,000 cubic feet of air coming out of the inner workings.

His Honor : As far as the percolation of carbon monoxide out of No. 3 district across No. 17 bord is concerned, for every volume of oxygen that somehow or other gets to the gob-fire after the combustion, there are about two volumes of gas given off ; therefore a very small percolation of air would cause a greater return than the quantity that percolated ; consequently there would be a continual increase in pressure ;—that would account for it forcing out at any point ?

Mr. Dixon : Yes ; the heat would cause expansion and turn solid carbon into a gaseous state. The benzine smell we noticed yesterday might simply be the product left. It may not be associated with the burning fire at present, nor with the carbon monoxide, but the probabilities are that it is.

Mr. Robertson : As to the fire-stink now being given off on the C return, do not you think it is from an act of combustion ?

Mr. Dixon : No ; I would not say so.

Mr. Robertson : You think the fire may now have been extinguished ?

Mr. Dixon : I would not say that ; I do not think it has had time. I would not say the fire could be extinguished under seven weeks. There is a lot of broken ground at C heading which may have been pretty well permeated with this foul air from No. 17 bord ; but they are going on with the stoppings, thus confining it, and it is now taking the line of least resistance. We will never know where it is coming from until these stoppings have been built. The effect of your getting atmospheric air on to a fire is, that the porous body (small coal, &c.) swallows up the oxygen, and the nitrogen is set free and permeates the whole of the district.

Mr. Robertson : Is not the gas that extinguished the light yesterday, when we inspected the mine, likely to be black damp ?

Mr.

Mr. Dixon : We could settle that point by having it analysed.

Mr. Robertson : When a manager is made aware that a door has been left open by some employee, do not you think it is the duty of the manager to deal with the offender?

Mr. Dixon : Yes.

Mr. Robertson : Especially when knowingly and wilfully done?

Mr. Dixon : Yes. I hold that if a man or a boy in a pit go through a door they should see that it is shut, the same way as they found it; and the duty of the manager is to be stringent on this point.

Mr. Robertson : Would you consider it a prudent course for Mr. McAuliffe to have inspected the No. 3 district single handed?

Mr. Dixon : No.

Mr. Robertson : Then, for safety, two or more persons should make the inspection?

Mr. Dixon : Yes. It is not right for any man to go single-handed and inspect an old working; you should take a good relay of men with you. We, when searching for the bodies, took the precaution of leaving men a few yards behind us, so that if any of us dropped they could rush up and bring us out.

Mr. Robertson : Is there any special rule being proposed in which the minimum number of men to enter old workings is two?

Mr. Dixon : Not that I know of.

Mr. Robertson : It is so. Under certain conditions it would be a prudent and safe course for the manager to send nine or ten, or more, men into old workings?

Mr. Dixon : Yes.

His Honor : You think the safest plan is to have the men so many yards apart, going in two and two?

Mr. Dixon : Yes; you should never go in singly, nor have your men in a body. In the rescue work at Stockton the men were placed a certain distance apart—never out of calling distance nor out of sight; and the men were not allowed to remain any time in the foul air.

His Honor : You have given us all the evidence you can, Mr. Dixon, have you not?

Mr. Dixon : Yes, your Honor.

His Honor : Have you any witnesses you wish to recall, Mr. Dixon?

Mr. Dixon : No, your Honor.

His Honor : Mr. O'Sullivan, have you any further questions you would like to put to Mr. Dixon?

Mr. O'Sullivan : No, your Honor.

His Honor : Have you, Mr. Curley?

Mr. Curley : Yes, your Honor.

His Honor : Will you kindly put them?

Mr. Curley : You have said, Mr. Dixon, that if more men had been there at the time that Mr. McAuliffe went through the trap-door, probably more men might have been got out?

Mr. Dixon : Yes.

Mr. Curley : Would not that have aggravated the danger—would they not have been incurring more risk?

Mr. Dixon : No, I do not think so; because Mr. McAuliffe was carrying out two men at a time, carrying one on and dropping him, and then going back for the other.

Mr. Robertson : Was it not said in evidence that sixteen men were in?

Mr. Dixon : Yes.

Mr. Robertson : You would not consider that a small number?

Mr. Dixon : No.

His Honor : You would not have allowed a man to go in the second time?

Mr. Dixon : No; and that is where a number of men available would have come in. They would not all have gone in at once, but in parties.

His Honor : You stopped men from going in?

Mr. Dixon : Yes; when we first got to the place we did not think there was a living man in the workings, and would not let the rescuers go in. We took up the work, and were successful by reversing the current of air. The circumstances under which Mr. McAuliffe and I went in were very dissimilar.

His Honor : A man may be on the point of falling from carbon monoxide without suffering at all?

Mr. Dixon : Yes; he might go on for twenty minutes and feel all right, but at the end of that time he wants to sit down, and does not feel inclined to get up again. The gas has then saturated the blood, and he dies.

The Court, at 3-20 p.m., adjourned till 10 a.m. the following day (Thursday).

No. 24.

THURSDAY, 11 FEBRUARY, 1897.

The Court sat at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment.

Mr. E. H. Wilshire, of the Crown Solicitor's Office, was present.

His Honor : Unless you, Mr. Wilshire, wish to close your case, the case is now open for you to proceed with it. We have four witnesses here—John Gould, Henry Burt, Robert James Jury, and John Ellis; but it may be that you wish to recall some of the other witnesses. It is open for you to do so if you so desire. However, those four witnesses are here now.

Mr. Wilshire : It may be that I may have some questions to ask Mr. Dixon at a later stage, but at present, having seen only what appears in the Press, I have nothing to ask him. We have nothing further at present, so far as the Department (Department of Mines) is concerned.

His Honor : You do not wish to call any evidence on the part of the Department?

Mr. Wilshire : No, your Honor.

His Honor : Is there anyone else who wishes to ask Mr. Dixon any questions?

Mr. Curley : There is one question, your Honor, I would like to ask Mr. Dixon.

His Honor : Very well.

Mr. Dixon was recalled.

Mr.

Mr. Curley: In regard to the pillars in the Stockton Colliery, is it not a fact that several pillars have been crushed there in the history of this mine;—falls have taken place, have they not?

Mr. Dixon: Yes; at different periods falls have taken place over some of the pillars. These falls may have occurred through the pillars being left too thin. An unusual quantity of timber has been required in the mine in consequence of the necessity for keeping the surface intact. The pillars are required to keep the surface intact; they do not want the surface to come away. It is possible that in some of the old workings the forest of timber keeping up the surface would be on the road to decay. The whole of the peninsula is water-logged. It is not desirable to have a fall of roof which would let this quicksand and water into the workings. The colliery is heavily timbered. It is the best timbered colliery in the country. There is a gang of men kept to renew the timber in the old bords. I suppose the timber is decaying in the old workings where the men cannot get to it to renew it.

Mr. Curley: Do you think there is any danger of the roof pressing on the pillars and affecting these stoppings in the No. 3 district?

Mr. Dixon: Well; it's a peculiar question. When I cannot see the place I cannot say that the falls which have taken place would indicate danger, as the fallen *debris* that comes down always acts as a buttress to the pillars. It is a question which wants careful consideration. I inspected that colliery for a number of years in years gone by.

Mr. Curley: Is it really not a question of doubt what will transpire in the colliery—that is, if there is a doubt about the pillars?

Mr. Dixon: Well; it's a question of doubt what will transpire in any colliery. I am not going to prophesy what is going to happen in the Stockton Colliery, or in any other colliery. I cannot speak as to futurity. I think that that is a question which should not be put to any mortal man.

Mr. Curley: I do not think you are the judge in this matter. What good will stoppings be if the pillars fine away?

To Mr. Robertson: I would sooner trust to the coal pillars than trust to timber, because timber must decay.

To His Honor: The whole district is water-logged. In some parts there are 80 feet of quicksand and clay.

To Mr. Robertson: Adequate pillars should be left in every colliery to ensure the safety of the main road. It is an exceptionally thick coal at Stockton, and very clean. The pillars in a 20-foot coal would have to be very much larger than in a 6-foot coal. The back main roadway travelling alongside the intake road has been crushed for a considerable distance. Bords have been driven away from the main road. This very much increased the difficulty of sealing off the old workings.

His Honor: This tracing of the colliery workings before the Court, as far as you know, is approximately correct?

Mr. Dixon: Yes.

His Honor: I understand it is not the proper practice to open the bords into the main travelling road?

Mr. Dixon: In laying out a pit on scientific principles there should be at least three roads, one main road and two branch roads. In the Stockton mine a great many of the bords were driven from the main road which was then termed a heading. In the early days of the mine the road was opened out more like a prospecting heading than anything else.

His Honor: The idea has not been originally to utilise it on the large scale on which it is now utilised?

Mr. Dixon: No. In laying out a mine my idea is that Nature should be followed as much as possible, but on scientific principles. I believe in always having a good retreat—that is, a wall of coal on either side of the main road.

Mr. Robertson: As a matter of economy in the working of the coal it is advisable to use large pillars?

Mr. Dixon: Yes?

Mr. Robertson: Have not the proprietors been put to great expense in this case owing to the mine not having been laid out properly at first?

Mr. Dixon: Yes. Of course they had a lot of cinder to contend with that other people did not. They had to prospect about many times to again strike the coal. The road is bottomed on a leader from a volcano, a big dyke, and this dyke threw everything out of reckoning. No one knew what was on the west side.

Mr. Robertson: But still the operations ought to have been conducted on good mining principles?

Mr. Dixon: Yes; I believe a place should be plotted down on paper first and followed if possible, if Nature will allow it. If Nature will not allow it then bring in art.

Mr. Robertson: From lack of good mining principles this property is very much depreciated.

Mr. Dixon: Yes; the Company has had difficulties to contend with ever since the pit was sunk. Nature's difficulties have been aggravated through the neglect of good mining principles at the inception of the pit.

John Gould, being duly sworn, said, in reply to His Honor: The evidence of mine, taken at the inquest, is correct. I was employed in the mine as a bricklayer. I cannot remember how long it was before my conversation with Smith that I was last employed only at the furnace. I think it was about a couple of weeks. I had not, on previous occasions to the one when I spoke to Smith, noticed any peculiar smell in the mine. I had not, on any former occasions, noticed any peculiar smell—nothing that affected me or anyone else. On the particular occasion when I noticed the smell I was helping the furnace men to unload skips. It was on December 1st—a Tuesday night. No; it was on the Monday night, I think. That was when I first noticed the smell. I noticed the smell as soon as I went in. I described the smell as something like benzine. I was working for about a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes before I began to feel any effects from it. I then felt a kind of shakiness. It affected my head. It was a sort of dizziness. When I felt too bad I went away. I think I was about there for about three quarters of an hour. When I felt bad I went and changed my things. They were lying on a table. I rushed out from where the smell was, and closed the door behind me. It was the No. 3 door. As soon as I got outside the door my lamp went out, and I fell there. I picked myself up eventually. I scrambled down to the bottom, where

where I sat for about twenty minutes—down to the travelling road. I came round in a bit. I went up to No. 48, where Burt, the night overman, was, and told him that there was a bad smell there, and that it affected my legs. He went directly up there to have a look. He left me. After that I was sent by the wheeler to unload props. For about an hour and a half I was working there. It was very hard for me to work. I was shivering. I was weak on the legs; but had no headache. There was a sort of general weakness about me. It went off eventually. I suffered altogether for a couple of hours, I think. The next day I got over the effects altogether. When I spoke to Smith he did not appear to express any opinion as to the cause of the smell. I only just told him about a smell being there. I did not tell him about the benzine smell. I did not describe the smell to him. No word was used by him or me to describe the smell. The word "fire-stink" was not used. I have not before, when working in the mine, felt the same sensations as I did on the night in question. The thing was quite new to me. I do not know anything about the knocking of the stoppings out of the rope-road connecting with No. 3 district. Brickwork was my work; but after that in the mine. I worked at the stoppings. I could not say who put in the stopping originally in the rope-road just where the rope turns off. That was done before my time. I know it was knocked down. In putting in the stoppings, the bricks were set in mortar. The work was done well—as well as we could do it. Parts were well cleared away to bring the work up to solid ground. It was 9-inch work, and it was made so as to get a good grip of the sides and top.

To Mr. Robertson: I did not mention to Burt that I had fallen down. My light was extinguished while I was in the mine. It was extinguished by the draught.

His Honor: As you went through the No. 3 door?

Mr. Gould: Yes.

Mr. Robertson: Who left the door open?

Mr. Gould: Smith. (*Continuing.*) I think it was quite unusual to leave the door open. I think that Smith, owing to his being an old hand in the colliery, would know all about the effect of leaving the door open. I could not say whether the men were in the habit of leaving the door open.

To His Honor: The doors were opened while the skips were being taken through. The door was not closed immediately skips were taken through. One skip was taken through at a time. We ran the skip in and then the door was closed. It was not left open longer than was necessary to take the skip in. We then unloaded the skip.

Mr. Robertson: How long might the door have been left open;—was it half-an-hour or three-quarters of an hour?

Mr. Wilshire: If Your Honor looks at the evidence of this witness you will see my note.

His Honor: Yes, I see it.

Mr. Robertson: How long might the door be left open?

Mr. Gould: It was left open on one occasion for a good while. Four or five skips were run in, and I think we took in the first two skips and closed the door, and then the other two were taken in, and the door was not closed. We did not close the door on every occasion.

To His Honor: We fixed the door open. It keeps open of itself. It falls to, if we leave it open almost too wide.

His Honor: Smith did make some statement to you about this smell, did he not?

Mr. Gould: Smith said, "It's rather strong to-night." There was no more conversation about the smell; none at all. There was no conversation about the orders to keep the door shut. There was no conversation about the source of the smell, and about where it probably came from.

To Mr. Robertson: I have been at the Stockton Colliery thirteen months. I got a copy of the special rules. There is something in the special rules about leaving a door open. If we left a door open it was a breach of the rules.

To His Honor: I do not look upon myself as a collier.

Mr. Wilshire: As to that night when you made the complaint to Burt, is it not a fact that you had the door propped open for three-quarters of an hour;—is it not so?

Mr. Gould: I cannot say so; I don't recollect.

His Honor at this stage decided to allow Mr. O'Sullivan, if he thought fit, to examine the witness first.

Mr. O'Sullivan: I would like to draw attention to Rule No. 28. It says:—

"No workman or other person shall injure any air-courses, brattice, or stopping, or leave open wholly or partly any door, or do any other act whereby the ventilation of the mine may be affected, or the lives of the men or the property of the owners may be endangered."

To witness: Do you know of that rule?

Mr. Gould: I know there was a rule saying we had to close doors. I did not, when I spoke to Burt, tell him that I felt ill. From what I said, Burt might treat it as a trifling affair.

Mr. Wilshire: On that night had not the door been open for over three-quarters of an hour?

Witness hesitated.

Mr. Wilshire: Just think. Didn't you prop it open?

Mr. Gould: We didn't prop it open.

Mr. Wilshire: About how long was it before you were affected?

Mr. Gould: I can't exactly say. It must have been three-quarters of an hour, I suppose. (*Continuing.*) I know that when the door was shut I felt all right. Smith also said to me, that when the door was shut it was all right, but that was afterwards—after I left him. When Burt got there the door was shut. By that time the furnace would have cleared the air, and Burt would not have noticed anything. I never mentioned to Burt that the door was kept open. I knew it was wrong to keep it open.

Mr. Curley: Didn't you tell Burt that night when you met him that there was a very strong smell coming from No. 3 district?

Mr. Gould: I never mentioned that. I never mentioned No. 3 district. When the door was open I said, "There's a very strong smell to-night." I think that's what I said, but I don't remember exactly

Mr. Curley: Did not you state that you had been affected that night, and that you had fallen down, or something like it?

Mr. Gould: No.

Mr. Curley: Did you mention it some time during the next day to the manager or anybody?

Mr. Gould: No.

Mr. Curley: Then how can you explain it being reported to the underground manager?

Mr. Gould: I believe it was reported to the underground manager. If it was reported to the underground manager, there must have been a complaint made.

Mr. Curley: Are you sure you did not say anything to Burt about the strong effect it had upon you; how you were completely overcome by it; how it affected your knees and you could not walk; and how you had a difficulty in breathing; and that you had never felt like that before in the colliery?

Mr. Gould: I do not remember.

To His Honor: I did not tell Burt that I had been knocked over.

His Honor: Do you ask us to believe that?

Mr. Gould: Yes; that is the truth. I did not tell him.

His Honor: Do you say you did not tell Burt about being weak in the knees and falling down?

Mr. Gould: I did not tell him. That is the truth.

His Honor: Then why did not you tell him?

Mr. Gould: I was beginning to get all right then.

His Honor: Because you were beginning to get all right then, you did not tell him how you had been affected?

Mr. Gould: No.

To Mr. Curley: I thought Smith would have told Burt about the occurrence. I had no particular conversation with Smith about it.

Mr. Curley: From the time you left that door open you appear to give a somewhat conflicting statement. I think you told us at first that there were only four skips taken through. When you were examined on a previous occasion, did not you say there were only four skips?

Mr. Gould: Yes; it was either four or five.

Mr. Curley: You said this morning you took two in and then closed the door, and afterwards took the others in?

Mr. Gould: Yes.

Mr. Curley: Did not you tell us on the first occasion that you only took four altogether;—is not that a fact?

Mr. Gould: I do not exactly remember. My mind is partly erratic to-day. I was working hard yesterday and had not much sleep last night. My mind is wandering a little.

His Honor: Will you try and put it together again, please, if you can?

Mr. Curley: Try and answer. All these statements cannot be correct. Would you rather rely on this statement as against any statement you made before?

Mr. Gould: The statement I made before was accurate.

Mr. Curley: Would you rather rely on the statement you made previous to this as against any statement you are now making for accuracy; you say your mind is wandering;—now, would you rather rely on that previous statement?

Mr. Gould: Yes, certainly.

Mr. Curley (to His Honor): If the witness is incapable of giving evidence to-day, as he seems to be, I do not think he is a proper witness.

Mr. Gould (to Mr. Curley): When I met Burt that night it was quite accidentally. I knew he would be where I saw him. I went to him to get instructions about my work. I casually mentioned to him about the smell in the mine. My memory was clearer on the previous occasion than it is now. When I saw Burt I said to him, "The air is very bad up there to-night."

His Honor: Is this correct: "I met Burt in the pit and said to him, 'There is a very strong smell up by the furnace to-night'?"

Mr. Gould: Yes.

His Honor: You swore that you said this to Burt?

Mr. Gould: Yes.

His Honor: Burt said, "I will go up and see." You then appear to have said, "I was completely overcome by it." You state now that you did not say to Burt that you were completely overcome by it. Is this your signature attached to the evidence which you gave at the inquest?

Mr. Gould: Yes.

His Honor: And was the evidence read over to you before you signed it?

Mr. Gould: Yes.

His Honor: In the face of that, you say now that you did not tell Burt you were completely overcome by the smell. Remember, you gave this evidence three weeks after the accident; a much longer time has elapsed now. Did you or did you not tell Burt that you were completely overcome by the smell?

Mr. Gould: I cannot remember.

His Honor: If you cannot remember now, and if you did swear to that effect on the 23rd December, was it or was it not correct?

Mr. Gould: It was correct.

His Honor: If it was correct, then you must have told him you were completely overcome?

Mr. Gould: Yes.

His Honor: You say that in point of fact you were completely overcome. Whether you told Burt that or not, you were in fact completely overcome?

Mr. Gould: Yes.

His Honor: Did Smith tell you that he had himself not only noticed the smell, but felt the effects of it?

Mr. Gould: No.

His Honor: Are you quite sure of that?

Mr. Gould: Yes.

Mr. O'Sullivan: Are you not of a very nervous temperament?

Mr. Gould: Yes.

Mr. O'Sullivan: After you fell you say you sat down, and afterwards met Mr. Burt. You tell us now that you did not tell him about the effect of this gas upon you. Could you explain why you did not tell him? If you did not, would it be a kind of shame that you should have fallen over from the effects of the gas?

His

His Honor: That is hardly the style of question, Mr. O'Sullivan, to put to a witness who is in your favour.

Mr. O'Sullivan: Until this morning I was under the impression that this witness was hostile to my clients; he certainly was hostile at the inquest.

His Honor: Under the circumstances it is not judicious to suggest answers to the witnesses.

Mr. O'Sullivan: Do you remember being cross-examined at the last inquest, Mr. Gould?

Mr. Gould: Yes.

Mr. O'Sullivan: Were you in a fit condition at the last inquest to give your evidence?

Mr. Gould: Yes.

Mr. O'Sullivan: I would like, your Honor, to put the question to Mr. Gould why he did not explain to Mr. Burt.

His Honor: Without suggesting a reply to the witness, the question might be put.

Mr. O'Sullivan: Supposing, Mr. Gould, you did not tell Burt that you were affected in this manner, can you now explain why you did not tell him;—you are of a very nervous temperament?

Mr. Curley: I would like to know, your Honor, how Mr. O'Sullivan obtained knowledge of the witness' nervous temperament.

Mr. O'Sullivan: The witness' demeanour in the box signifies it. Your memory, Mr. Gould, about this occurrence is as good now as it was when you gave evidence at the inquest?

Mr. Gould: No; my memory is wandering at present.

[The witness withdrew.]

Henry Burt, being duly sworn, in reply to His Honor, said: I have already on several occasions given evidence upon this matter, and that evidence is correct. I am night deputy overman at the Stockton Colliery. On the Monday night, 1st December, I was down near the No. 48 district, when Gould came to me and said he felt sick and a little giddy, and that Smith felt the same. I asked him if he had left the No. 3 door open. He said, "Yes, while running the skips through."

His Honor: Whatever he said, you concluded it was some bad air coming through No. 3 door?

Mr. Burt: I could not imagine at the time that it was so, having never heard of bad air there before.

To His Honor: I made it my business to go and see what was the cause of the mischief. I found the door shut and everything all right. Smith, too, said he felt a little queer, but that after shutting the door he felt all right. When I made this visit there was no draught coming up the rope-road to the furnace. I did not try what the effect was in opening the door. I noticed a strong draught of pure air from the intake shaft when I opened the door to pass through. After that I went to Mr. McDonald and reported to him what Gould had told me. It was about 1 o'clock when Gould made the report to me. I did not go straight to Mr. McDonald then, but straight to the furnace, and made an examination. It was about 6 o'clock, some hours afterwards, when I saw Mr. McDonald. I see him every morning, when I report all matters to him that I think it my duty to report. I informed him of what Gould had said to me, that he felt giddy and sick; also that I went straight to the furnace, and found nothing detrimental; that the doors were closed and the air was pure; that Gould had told me that he had kept the door open while the skips were going in, and that Smith, too, had felt a bit sick and giddy. I could not form any conclusion as to the cause of the sickness and giddiness of the men, as there was nothing to go by. At the time I thought it might perhaps be black damp coming out of the No. 3 district; that was the only way I could account for it. I mentioned that to Mr. McDonald. I did not go with Mr. McDonald when he made the examination. As to the stopping that had been in the continuation of the rope-road leading to No. 3 district, there had been a regulating board there, but it had been knocked out. The door, which was a small, sliding one, was in a frame. The sliding door was the last there; it was knocked out about twelve months ago. Before that there had been a large door further up in the rope-road; I could not say when it was taken out. It was where the stopping is at the present time. The sliding door was substituted in place of the large door. The large door had not been specially put up to close off the No. 3 district when it was put out of work; it was there when the district was working. Subsequently nothing was put up there until since the accident. It did not strike me that if No. 3 door was left open, in the absence of the stopping there might be a draught to the furnace. I have never found anything there to complain of. No. 20 board had been opened on different occasions to let the air in from the engine plane; it was closed on each occasion after it was done with, and kept closed. There were other means for the air to get in; it could come over the overcast. But the overcast never worked properly; it never drew the quantity of air required. I cannot say why it was originated. I do not think the air-way between the No. 3 district and the overcast was completely stopped. I know that the air, when it was reversed at the time of the accident, passed away over the overcast. The communication was not a good one; I do not think it was completely closed at any time. I was aware that if the No. 3 door was left open it would draw from the No. 3 district, and I concluded that black damp was coming from that district when Smith and Gould complained. I merely reported these men's complaints to Mr. McDonald; no conversation took place. I accompanied the party who went into the mine to try and find out the cause of the mischief that resulted in Smith and Curran's death. We went a few yards up the double heading, as far as the fall. As we went along the going bord the air was fresh all the way in to the fall. The smell was about the same in the going bord as in the heading. The air was meeting us, but very slightly; you could not feel it. There was very little air coming down the heading; the main body of air was coming along the going bord.

To Mr. Robertson: When Gould reported that he was sick, and Smith likewise, I could not form an opinion at the time as to the cause of the sickness. When I went back, everything seemed to be correct. When it was reported to me that both Gould and Smith were sick, I thought there must be something wrong, and immediately went to the furnace to see what it was. I thought it must be black damp. The only way black damp could come to the furnace was by No. 3 door. It did not occur to me at the time to open the No. 3 door, to test whether foul air was coming in there. I went down the rope-road to see if I could find anything. The door was shut, and there was nothing to suggest anything wrong. When I reported this matter to Mr. McDonald, I suggested that it might be black damp. I did not have any conversation with Mr. McDonald as to opening the door to see where the black damp was.

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The bottom was full of men at the time who had to be attended to, and we could not converse further. I am aware that it is a serious matter for two men at the same time to report being giddy; if it had been one man only I might have thought it was due to something he had been eating. When I reported the matter to Mr. McDonald I thought that was sufficient. I was the responsible officer, and virtually in charge at the time. I felt it was my duty, on receiving a complaint of this nature, to investigate it thoroughly. I thought I did sufficient at the time; now I can see that I should have opened the door. There was no smell whatever when I went back to the furnace; the air was as pure as possible, and all doors were shut.

His Honor: Did it strike you, considering the enormous quantity of air coming to the furnace from all sources, that when the No. 3 door was open there must be something pretty bad to affect two men, since it would be mixed up and diluted with a large quantity of air before reaching the men?

Mr. Burt: It would not be mixed with the "C" heading air until it got within a few feet of the furnace. The air coming from No. 3 district would mix with the air coming up from the travelling road, and leaking from the shaft.

To Mr. Robertson: On this occasion I reported the circumstances of the doors being left open to Mr. McDonald. On one other occasion I found the No. 3 door open, and did not report it. I recognise that leaving a door open is a very serious matter—the most serious matter that can happen in a mine. The men have been cautioned a great number of times about the No. 3 door; but I have no reason to suppose they were in the habit of leaving it open.

His Honor: Was the caution because you suspected the doors had been left open, or because of the very great temptation there would be to the men to leave the doors open, on account of their having to bring the skips through three doors, one after the other?

Mr. Burt: Yes, because of the temptation.

His Honor: There was a very great temptation to leave No. 2 or No. 3 door open?

Mr. Burt: Yes.

His Honor: Did it never strike you that, in the face of that strong temptation, it was a very dangerous thing to leave the stopping out of the rope-road?

Mr. Burt: I did not think there was a great deal of danger in leaving that stopping down. I can see now that there was some danger in it, but did not see it before.

To His Honor: I had been in No. 1 bord some months previously, and found no bad air. There was no idea of ventilating the old workings by leaving the stopping down, because if a draught did go through it, it would only bring out the bad air, if any, in the district. If we wanted to ventilate the old district we would take the draught direct to the furnace without passing over any workings, or else dilute it with an enormous quantity of air should we have to pass it over any workings.

To Mr. Robertson: I know that on two occasions, when the No. 3 district was ventilated, black damp was met with.

Mr. Robertson: Knowing that No. 3 door, when opened, established a connection with No. 3 district, did not you think it a risky thing to leave the stopping down?

Mr. Burt: I did not think so if No. 20 bord was stopped off.

To Mr. Robertson: No. 3 door established a connection between the furnace and the old workings. These workings had generated black damp on former occasions. I cannot say why the stopping was not rebuilt. I have never had any conversation with the manager concerning it. I have had thirty years' experience in mining. As a practical man, considering the small quantity of black damp found in the old workings on former occasions, I did not think there was any danger should No. 3 door be left open.

Mr. Robertson: You consider, as a practical man, that the No. 3 district is now completely sealed off with stoppings?

Mr. Burt: Some more stoppings are to go in yet.

Mr. Robertson: Can it ever be properly sealed off?

Mr. Burt: I could not say. To a certain extent the stoppings will, I think, always leak, but not sufficient to do any damage.

Mr. Robertson: Do you know that there is a connection between the old workings on the east side of the main road and No. 3 district by way of No. 11 bord?

Mr. Burt: I have heard of a connection between the east and west side, but in what bord I could not say. I worked as a miner in No. 3 district; but, as a miner, I only travelled into my own workings and out again. I did not have any general knowledge of that district.

To Mr. O'Sullivan: I was in No. 3 district last three weeks before the accident. I found nothing but pure air; there was no effect on the light, nor any smell. I have never made any definite time for my visits to the furnace. I made it a regular practice to go once or twice every night, barring this Tuesday night. My approach could be known to the two men at the furnace, as the current of air leading to them would cause them to hear me some distance off, and in sufficient time to enable them to close the doors, if they were open, before my approach. I warned the men on several occasions about leaving the No. 3 door open, and Smith promised me that it would not occur again.

To Mr. Wilshire: I visited the furnace once or twice every night. I always found the air all right when the doors were shut. The doors were always shut when I visited the furnace, except on the one occasion that I mentioned to His Honor. I had been visiting the furnace about three months prior to the accident. It was in 48 district I met Mr. Gould. He appeared to be all right then, and had been working before I saw him. I at once went up to the furnace and found everything pure. The doors were shut, and everything was all right. I then went down the rope-road, but could trace no smell. The only words Gould said to me were "I felt a little giddy and sick when running the skips in." I asked him if he had the doors open, he said "Yes, all the time we were running in the skips." I remonstrated with him then. I said he knew it was wrong. They had done it for convenience more than anything else. Gould did not say he had fallen down; he only said he felt sick. He did not make out that he was very seriously effected, only slightly sick and giddy. Smith was at the furnace when I went there. I did not have any conversation with him about Gould. He said Gould felt giddy and sick. He said he felt the same, but not as bad as Gould. He admitted that as soon as he shut the door he felt all right again. It was then that he told me he would see that it never occurred again.

To Mr. Curley: When I was in No. 3 district, three weeks before the accident, I went in as far as the first right-hand heading. After leaving the furnace I generally used to walk down the rope-road a trifle,

trifle, but on this occasion I went further, and down into No. 3 district, to see whether there were any falls, or anything else that might want attending to. I usually ceased work at 6 o'clock in the morning. My visits to the furnace were at all times. I could not make any definite time for my visits. My first inspection, as a rule, could not be made at any particular time. I went after I had directed the men in their work—sometimes one time and sometimes another time. It was never two nights alike. I went there at whatever time I had a chance to get away. On the night that Gould complained to me I went direct to the furnace; it was then about 1 o'clock. Sometimes it was before and sometimes after midnight before I made my inspection. I know, by report, about the time Curran and Smith were found the following morning.

Mr. Curley: Seeing that these two men (Smith and Gould) made that report to you on that particular night, were you not anxious to visit the furnace again the following night?

Mr. Burt: Mr. McDonald reported to me that he had just left the furnace, after having inspected it all through. I thought that was quite sufficient, seeing that he is a more competent man than myself.

To Mr. Curley: That was at 9:30 when we went down. I did not make inspection again on that occasion until 4 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Curley: Did it not occur to you that something might come up again with regard to the foul air there, and that it would be necessary for you to make an inspection?

Mr. Burt: I did not think it necessary to make an inspection. I did not expect any foul air so long as the doors were kept shut.

Mr. Curley: As Gould had told you that the doors were left open, as an official, did you not think it necessary to again visit the furnace and see whether the foul air was still present, or the doors left open against the rules of the colliery?

Mr. Burt: I took the man's word that he would see the door was kept shut in future.

Mr. Curley: But when men had reported to you that they felt sick and giddy, and had been affected by foul air, did not that make you desirous to see that those duties were carried out faithfully?

Mr. Burt: On that occasion I did see that they were carried out.

To Mr. Curley: It has been necessary all through for me to go to the furnace. Sometimes once and sometimes twice a night. I did not consider it more necessary for me to be there the following night any more than usual.

To Mr. O'Sullivan: When I inspected at 4 o'clock on the morning of the two deaths, it was within the time of my duty to inspect. I had before inspected at that hour, and sometimes later.

*Robert James Jury, on being called, said: Will I be allowed expenses, your Honor?

His Honor: Oh! that will be all right.

The witness was then sworn.

To His Honor: I have already been examined on two occasions; that evidence is correct. I have altogether been employed as fireman at this mine for nearly two years—that is, at the Stockton Colliery. I have also been employed at other mines. I also attend to the brattice at the Stockton Colliery. When I say that, I mean to say that it is part of my duty to see that the ventilation is in proper condition. On going into the mine we used to go to the furnace every morning to see that the furnace-men were there and at their positions. That was the first thing we did. The same system which was adopted on the occasion of the visit by the exploring party had been adopted on two other occasions—that is, in regard to knocking out the stopping at No. 20 bord and allowing the air to come up round the rope-road. I cannot say when it was knocked out on the second occasion that it was knocked out. The idea of knocking out the stopping in the rope-road was to allow the air to go direct that way to the furnace. I should say the stopping would be about 6 feet wide by about 8 feet high. I have never measured it; that is approximate. It is good solid ground there. I do not know, as far as I am aware of, that there would be any great difficulty in building it up again. I could not say whether some of the bricks would be taken for other purposes. I do not know very much about that stopping. I know the door must have been opened to admit of the air going in that direction. If not, the air could not have gone in that direction; I know it did go in that direction. I have no knowledge of the reason why the stopping was left out. I suppose it would take a bricklayer about a day to put the stopping up again. I took the thermometer in when the exploring party went in. I had the thermometer at the furnace on the night previous. On the night of 3rd December I asked McDonald whether I could take it down; it was on my own property. I took it from the furnace on the night of the 2nd December. I did it to compare the air coming from the No. 3 district as compared with that of other workings. I took it down after the death of Curran and Smith. I knew that the idea of a gob-fire was entertained; I could not say by whom. I could not say that it had been suggested by Mr. Dixon and Mr. Humble to Mr. McDonald that a gob-fire was there. I smelt a smell something like kerosene. There was not a high temperature. I did not suspect it was "fire-stink"; I do not know what it was. I thought this peculiar smell might arise from the decomposition of wood, or from the chemical action of water on the wood in the mine. There was a lot of water in the mine, and I thought the effect of that on the wood might cause it. I had some experience of a gob-fire on the A.A. Company's mine about ten years ago, but the smell from it was altogether different from the smell I experienced in the Stockton mine at the time of the disaster. The smell in the Stockton mine was a kind of kerosene smell, but in the case of the A.A. Company's mine the smell was just like the smell from heaps of burning refuse on the surface at a colliery; also the effect on the breathing at the two mines was entirely different. In the A.A. Company's mine the temperature was also very high. I had the idea that some process was going on causing this very disagreeable odour. Through the ventilation—as I suppose—on the Wednesday night it was very much better. I did not notice that peculiar smell at the furnace. When the No. 2 and No. 3 doors were open there was foul air coming on to the furnace. I thought there was a slight smell of sulphur. I did not take much time to notice, because we wanted to get out the men. I was not present with Mr. Humble when the experiment was made. On the Wednesday night I smelt an odour like "fire-stink." There was no smell to be detected, however, when the doors were closed. I had always found them closed up to the morning when we

NOTE.—The evidence of this witness was put in at the Court of Inquiry by Mr. Wileshire as Exhibit No. 7, and read, 23/3/37.

we found the two men. I noticed an acid taste in my mouth. I am not aware that sulphurous acid gas produces an acid taste in the mouth. I know, from reading the authorities on ventilation of mines, that black-damp has a slightly acid taste. That can be found in Williamson's work on Coal-mining; you can find it in Robert Peel's work on Coal-mining; you can find it in J. H. Merivale's work; and I believe also in Mr. Pamely's work. I would not say that I noticed a perceptible current near the double heading. We went in about 15 or 20 yards. There might have been a little air coming down. There might have been a little finding its way there.

Mr. Robertson: You took a thermometer with you, and had some conversation about a fire in the workings?

Mr. Jury: I had an idea that someone had said there was a fire. I got poking among the small coal. I did not suspect a fire; but I wanted to convince myself. I would not think it probable that there was a fire, because I should then have expected more heat coming along. In old workings, one wants to get all the information one can. I thought that there might be some chemical action going on on the old wood there—the action of water on old wood (I think I have read, somewhere) gives off some peculiar odour. I cannot say what I would have done if I had expected a fire. I cannot say that I ever heard, among the party of explorers, anything said about a fire. The way the exploring party went in was not conducive to conversation. We went in two or three feet apart. We did not stop anywhere for conversation, I think. I found an acid taste in my mouth at the furnace. Our lights were extinguished when we were going in for Curran and Smith. Our lamps died out from black damp. I am positively certain that the gas that killed Curran and Smith was not the same as that which killed the other men. I have been in both, and have been affected by both, and I am certain that they are different. In the case of Curran and Smith, found dead at the furnace, our lights were extinguished by the foul air; but, in the second case our lights burned brightly, and the effect on me, bodily, was entirely different. I do not know why this stopping on the rope-road was built. As regards whether I, as a practical man, think that only one door was sufficient to keep the bad air back, I don't know. We had no previous trouble. There was no smell. When these doors were as they should be, this smell never came out. Through the doors being left open, the black damp came out. My belief is, that hundreds of thousands of cubic feet of black damp came off from these old workings previous to anything else coming off. Carbon monoxide might have come off after. The object of putting up double doors is to prevent waste of air.

Mr. Robertson: Is it not an additional precaution?

Mr. Jury: I know it is a practice to put up double doors. I think it is an additional security. (*Continuing.*) I am certain it prevents waste of air. It is also easier to pass through doors when they are double, especially when there is heavy pressure, as there is in that mine. There had been nothing to suggest the need of double doors.

[The witness then showed on the tracing before the Court the position in which bratticing was put up on the occasion of the visit of the exploring party, and showed also the course which the air travelled.]
Witness added: When we found Fitzpatrick, the air was very foul in that particular locality.

To His Honor: I am quite certain that the air was very foul where we got Fitzpatrick's body.

To Mr. Robertson: If Mr. McAuliffe and others had not rushed in right off, I don't think the two men—the two McDonalds—could have been saved. If they had stopped to make greater precautions they would have brought out corpses, that's all. I believe they ran a risk in going in to fetch out the bodies, and I believe that if there had been plenty of help at that particular time all might possibly have been got out alive.

To Mr. Thwaites: I said in my evidence that No. 2 and No. 3 doors were left open on the morning of the 2nd. If No. 3 door had been shut, and No. 2 open, I do not think the furnace would have drawn from No. 3 district. If No. 3 door had been shut, the deaths of Curran and Smith would not have occurred.

To His Honor: On going into the No. 3 district Mr. McDonald told us to keep 8 or 10 yards apart. We only went a short distance along the double heading; I could not say how far. We did not go in further than about 15 or 20 yards. We did not get as far as No. 16 bord in the double heading; we came out by way of No. 1 bord, and got as far as 16 bord. At that point (16 bord) the temperature was 78. I would not call that a risk sufficient to call for alarm in travelling through old workings. There was a smell all the way in. I do not remember hearing any fall; I was very busy doing other things, and a fall may have occurred and escaped my notice. I cannot say that I heard one. I felt no distress until we turned to come back. Then I felt myself going over. It is impossible for me to say whether it was Williams or the Government Inspectors who first suggested knocking out the stopping and carrying the air in with them. Williams was the first man I heard suggest it. No. 2 door is simply one of two doors to make an air-lock.

[The Court, at 1 p.m., adjourned till 2 p.m.]

Upon the Court resuming at 2 p.m. (Thursday) Robert James Jury was recalled.

To Mr. O'Sullivan: I was at the furnace on Wednesday night. The air was tested there with a lamp on several occasions during the night, and on each occasion it put out the lamp. The air was tried about every half hour. The light was placed close to the ground, and in other positions. On every occasion the air extinguished the light. Towards Thursday morning it did not extinguish the light so quickly as it did during the middle of Wednesday night. The air seemed to be clearing towards morning. I would gather from the light going out that there was a lot of black-damp coming out of the No. 3 district; so much so that it extinguished the light. The last test with the light was made towards 6 o'clock in the morning. The result then showed that the air was clear, as it did not extinguish the light nearly so soon as it had done a few hours previously. I have been reading up a lot about theoretical mining. I have been engaged on the study of mining a number of years. I intended to sit for the last examination, but was unable to do so owing to my illness, arising from this accident. I was not reading up solely at the time of the accident because of my intention to sit for an examination, but because I am always anxious to gain all the knowledge I can on mining. I could not say that that would account for my having carried a thermometer with me on the night we went into the No. 3 district. I generally like to make observations, and on this occasion took the thermometer with me for that purpose. I know the overcast marked on the top point of the plan. I have been given to understand from those who frequented that part of the pit that very little air can get over it on account of the fall. The overcast
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has been bricked up since the accident. I have no idea of the quantity of air that was passing through 11 bord on the night of the accident. I cannot say whether there was a good, free current. I never measured the air on any occasion that night. Before the retreat of the party there was sufficient air, otherwise I would not have gone past that point (11 bord).

To His Honor: There was sufficient air, provided it was good.

To Mr. O'Sullivan: I was a member of the exploring party and one or two rescuing parties. The distance from the trap-door that the party entered and No. 16 bord is about 400 yards. I think that about an hour elapsed from the time that I went in with the exploring party through the trap-door until I got back to that point; but I am not borne out by other witnesses in this opinion. I cannot say, when I went in with the rescuing party, how long it was before the bratticing was put up. Some of the men who were overcome were in for about twenty minutes only, and I can instance one case where a man was carried out within that time.

To Mr. Wilshire: I was in this district for an hour—at least, so I think—and came out all right, although I was pretty well done up. Another man went in afterwards, and was carried out within twenty minutes overcome. The only conclusion I can draw from that is that either the power of the gas had increased or there was a very great difference between the powers of endurance of the two men; but my opinion is that the power of the gas had increased. I know that this district was cleared out on a former occasion. On the former occasion the air was not playing on the district so long by several hours as it was on this occasion. I would say that the air was playing on the district a longer time on this occasion than on any previous occasion that I know of.

Mr. O'Sullivan: We are told by Mr. Dixon and Mr. Humble that the amount of air at the top of the going bord after the brattice was erected was 3,000 feet;—what is your opinion?

Mr. Jury: I never saw the inspectors measure the air.

Mr. O'Sullivan: I do not think they measured it other than by their lights.

Mr. Jury: That is a very rough and ready way. I do not think there were 3,000 feet.

To Mr. O'Sullivan: The doors in the air-pit were slung so as to open against the current and close with the current.

Mr. Robertson: What was the area where the air was measured?

Mr. Jury: I should say about 48 feet.

Mr. Robertson: Might not 3,000 feet be passing almost imperceptibly?

Mr. Jury: I do not think there was 3,000 feet; there may have been, but I do not think there was.

To Mr. Wilshire: Prior to the accident, as fireman, I visited the furnace every morning. I went on at four o'clock in the morning, and always went direct to the furnace. I never found the air bad at the furnace, nor the doors open. I did not know it was the practice of the men to leave them open. If I had known that such was the case, I would have corrected them. I never heard anything about the complaint made by Gould to Burt until it came out in evidence. I never heard anything from Smith about the air being bad at the furnace. I saw Smith every morning at the furnace. He never made any complaint. He was always on the night shift, and consequently I always saw him at four o'clock in the morning. I always spoke to him, and he always had an opportunity to make a complaint if there was anything to complain about. I do not say that I am of opinion that this is not a gob-fire in the mine. I was under the impression that the chemical action of stagnant water on decayed wood would give rise to the smell said to be fire-stink. I have seen this view expressed in one of the standard works on coal-mining, that a peculiar smell is given off in this way. I am not thinking of sulphuretted hydrogen. I do not think that white damp is given off by decomposition of wood in old workings. I believe that foul smells do arise from that cause. I cannot quote the authority I refer to just now; I will very gladly look it up and send it along, if it is thought desirable. Smith had been at the furnace before his death about twelve months. I always found him a careful man. All the time he was there, I never thought he would carelessly leave open the door.

[At the request of the parties in the Court, Mr. Robertson scaled off the distances between several of the points marked on the plan: From trap-door marked Z to No. 11 bord is about a quarter of a mile; from the furnace to No. 16 bord, about 700 yards; from the double heading to No. 16 bord, about 420 yards.]

To Mr. Curley: It was very close to the furnace in the No. 3 return, where we tested the air with our lights. The No. 3 door was open at the time. There was a pretty good current coming from No. 3 door after the air had been introduced at No. 20 bord. The district was being cleared at that time. The last time we tested the air with a lamp was about six o'clock. We were coming off then; we had been there from seven o'clock or half-past nine on Wednesday night—half-past seven, I think. I had been in No. 3 district before I went in exploring. I have travelled through the old workings in No. 3. I would not say that I have a close knowledge of the places in that district. I went with those who knew the district well. We took plans, and with their aid I could find my way over such parts of it as could be travelled.

Mr. Curley: You speak about decayed wood and the action of water;—was there any water in that district?

Mr. Jury: Yes; water was lying in portions of it.

To Mr. Curley: So well as I can remember, there was very little water dripping from the roof. There was water lying in pools on the floor. I was not at any consultation that took place before the exploration party went into this district. I only heard a warning from the manager to the under-manager. I offered no opinion myself.

His Honor: What warning did you hear?

Mr. Jury: Mr. McAuliffe said to Mr. McDonald, "Be sure and take fresh men out for the exploration work"—that is, men who had not done a shift just before; men who had had a rest.

Mr. Robertson: Did you anticipate then that they would meet with difficulty?

Mr. Jury: No; I only thought that it was advisable to take precautions.

Mr. Curley: When you noticed this peculiar smell, can you account for you not being so distinct about it as Mr. Burt. Mr. Burt's evidence was very clear and distinct on the matter. He states that it was the same smell he had noticed when he went there after the two bodies were found?

Mr. Jury: I have nothing to do with Mr. Burt.

Mr. Curley: Can you account for that conflict in your opinions?

Mr. Jury: I cannot attempt to account for it. I am here only to give my own opinion.

Mr.

Mr. Curley : In those books you say you have looked into, do they not warn men against going into districts until thoroughly ventilated, where gases are given off in that way, such as sulphuretted hydrogen ?

Mr. Jury : That is very vague.

Mr. Curley : Yet you say you noticed a sulphurous smell ?

Mr. Jury : Yes, I did.

Mr. Curley : If a warning is given in that direction in a book, do not you think it is worth while taking notice of ?

Mr. Jury : Yes.

Mr. Curley : I suppose it is understood that all exploration work is attended with more or less danger ?

Mr. Jury : There is always some danger, otherwise it would not be termed exploration work, and experienced men would not be chosen to carry out the work.

Mr. Curley : Were you not aware that the return air was loaded with poisonous gases ?

Mr. Jury : If I had been sure that the return current was loaded with poisonous gases I would not have gone in against it.

Mr. Curley : Had you not some intimation that there was something peculiar in the district ?

Mr. Jury : There might have been something peculiar yet not very dangerous.

Mr. Curley : You knew two men had been found dead previous to this ?

Mr. Jury : Yes ; but I do not believe that that particular kind of gas killed those two men at the furnace. That was my belief, and I am still of that opinion.

Mr. Curley : You say that very large quantities of black-damp came out of the No. 3 district ;—how do you reconcile that with the fact that the inspectors, in company with the manager and Mr. McDonald, when making an inspection on the Wednesday, put a light down on the floor, left it there, opened the door, brought out those deleterious gases, and the light still burned ?

Mr. Jury : I think, previous to Messrs. Dixon and Humble and the manager going to the district that morning, there had been large quantities of black-damp drawn out, and I am quite certain that a large quantity was drawn off afterwards.

Mr. Curley : If drawn off before and afterwards, and this was an intermediate examination, how could the circumstances be different at this examination ?

Mr. Jury : I do not know, except that they did not keep the doors open to bring the black-damp out. I feel sure that it was black-damp that killed Smith and Curran. I am quite certain that up to 6 o'clock on Thursday morning black-damp was coming from those old workings.

Mr. Curley : Did you make any protest against going into these old workings ?

Mr. Jury : No ; if I had thought there was any danger I would not have gone in.

To Mr. O'Sullivan : In giving evidence before the Coroner's Court, I stated that I had noticed a gob-fire ten years ago in the A. A. Company's pit. The smell it gave off was nothing like the smell met with at Stockton at the time of the accident. At the A. A. Company's mine at that time we could push our hands into small coal and experience considerable heat—this small coal had been thrown back only a few days previously.

To Mr. Robertson : I am of opinion that the gas that extinguished my light was black damp. I know that it has been suggested that the extinguishing of the light might be due to free nitrogen, and that might probably be the cause ; but whether free nitrogen or black damp I am quite satisfied it was not a gas that supported combustion. I am quite sure that it was the gas that extinguished the lights on each occasion and not the draught.

To Mr. O'Sullivan : When we were testing the current, the following pit officials were present, Messrs. McDonald, John Ellis, Henry Jones, and others, I think. I know Mr. McDonald was there nearly the whole of the night. Sometimes he would go back and hold a light in the current and sometimes I would ; alternately we would test it. The general conclusion arrived at was that the light was extinguished by the foulness of the air, and that it was black damp. If there had been any considerable portion of carbon monoxide in that gas, I cannot say whether the lamp would have burnt. There seems to be a great difference of opinion about carbon monoxide.

Mr. O'Sullivan : The latest books seem to indicate that it is rather the presence of free nitrogen that acts as an extinguisher ?

Mr. Jury : Yes ; but these new ideas must be borne out first by practice before they can be believed. The gas that killed Smith and Curran was a gas that would not support combustion, and therefore I think the causes of the two accidents are entirely different.

To Mr. Robertson : I think that the fact of some men being knocked over in twenty minutes, and others not until an hour has elapsed, might be due to difference of constitution. I can quite understand the fact that one man might last out for an hour, while another would go under within twenty minutes. The fact of a man getting out from these workings might be due to his persistent struggling and strong will.

His Honor : As to the length of time you were in the pit with the exploring party : When you are walking, say in a street, do you know your usual pace ;—could you not reckon the time from the distance you cover ?

Mr. Jury : I could not estimate the time in that way.

To His Honor : When I turned back I kept on walking at a steady pace. Now and then I made a very short stop only. I think I walked a little faster than 2 miles an hour. It occurred to my mind that we were an hour in the workings ; but my mind was a little affected that night. The distance from the foot of the shaft to where I turned back is about 600 or 700 yards. It would have taken about twenty-five minutes to travel each way, if going at only 2 miles an hour. I cannot remember how long I stopped before turning back. I have always been of opinion we were an hour in the workings. I cannot say at what rate we came back as I was unconscious at times. I must have struggled out mechanically. The return I think took very much longer than going in. The other men who went in were all accustomed to the pit. There was only one who was not a miner, and he was a surveyor's assistant, and knew the pit workings thoroughly. I could not gauge their capabilities to stand the gas. I should think from their build that they could have stood it better than I, but yet some of them went down more quickly than I did.

John Ellis, being duly sworn, said, in reply to His Honor: I am trolly weighman at the Stockton Colliery. I gave evidence at the inquest, and that evidence is correct. I was one of the exploring party. I was asked to go in, but did not know exactly what was on. I made no question about it; I went in as a matter of duty. I noticed a smell at the furnace on the Wednesday night, when I was there; and I again noticed the smell when I was standing near the second door. My work would generally keep me on the main road looking out for horses and ropes. There was some talk about the timber on the part of McDonald and Cockburn. McDonald said he thought it was metals and water and the fermenting of timber. It was not thought to be the same gas as caused the death of the two men at the furnace. Black-damp was supposed to be the cause of the death of the two men, Smith and Curran, through their sitting down and falling asleep. Black-damp was known to have been present on former occasions in No. 3 district. It was—the No. 3 district—to my knowledge, sealed off, all but the rope-road, from the intake to the main air course. The object of clearing out the district was to find the origin of the smell which had been noticed. Curran and Smith were affected before the clearing out took place. I don't know whether it was the black-damp which killed them. There was a slight smell at the very time the men were killed. It was the smell that continued all along. On the Thursday night when we went in, the smell was much lighter, as if it had been reduced by the clearing out. It was something similar to the smell of an extinguished lamp—something like kerosene. I have had no experience of benzine; I don't know the smell of benzine. The smell becoming so peculiar, it was proper to find out what was happening in No. 3 district to occasion that smell. I am not aware that in the course of conversation which took place there was any allusion made to "fire-stink." I never heard what "fire-stink" was. I never heard the expression before. There was not in my knowledge any mention of a gob-fire burning. I was away from home from 6 in the morning till 9.30 in the evening. Mr. McDonald asked me to come to work at half-past 1 o'clock in the day. It was a little before 6 o'clock in the morning of the Thursday that Mr. McDonald asked me this. When I went at half-past 1, I saw Mr. McAuliffe and Mr. McDonald and others at the colliery office. Mr. McDonald told me to come back at 6 in the evening, but a message was sent to me afterwards at my home, telling me not to come till half-past 9 o'clock in the evening. We went down into the mine, and McDonald said, "It's a great deal clearer"; and I think it was generally spoken of as much clearer—much lighter. I did not notice any difference in the smell until we got to about No. 11, and then it seemed to be a little stronger if anything. The smell seemed to increase suddenly. I did not hear a fall. I observed a slight concussion. It seemed to come over me as a slight shock. I felt a sudden change come over me. Mr. McDonald was then just about giving the order to return. He was about 50 yards in front of me.

To Mr. O'Sullivan: When down the mine that night, it was at the furnace side of No. 3 door that the black-damp put the lights out. As time went on, the air got purer. We made the last test before I left at 6 o'clock in the morning. The air was a great deal clearer then. The conclusions drawn from the tests made were that the smell and the black-damp were decreasing rapidly. I did first receive instructions to come back at 1.30 p.m. I don't know if a test was made then. I did not make any inquiries about the test having been postponed. The smell was not as great, or as strong, on the Thursday night as it was on the Wednesday.

To Mr. Curley: I do not know that the test made at about 5 or 6 o'clock was the final test. The air, between 5 and 6 o'clock, was much clearer. The light did not go out then. On previous occasions it had gone out. The distance between No. 2 and No. 3 doors I could not exactly say; Mr. Robertson measured the distance and said it was about 23 yards.

To Mr. Thwaites: The No. 3 door was opened on the Tuesday night. On the next night the air was much clearer.

His Honor (to Mr. Wilshire): Are there any witnesses you wish to call, Mr. Wilshire?

Mr. Wilshire: Well, I sat all through the inquest, your Honor, and heard what the witnesses said. I don't know of any others who will throw any light upon the matter. I do not know of any to suggest.

His Honor (to Mr. Curley): Are there any witnesses you wish to call, Mr. Curley?

Mr. Curley: I would like to call Mr. Humble.

Inquiries were made as to whether the attendance of Mr. Humble could be secured that afternoon; but it was found that Mr. Humble was away attending to some of his duties. It was thereupon decided to call Mr. Humble on the following day.

Mr. Curley intimated that he would like to call the Minister for Mines as a witness. Under the Act, Inspectors were to be allotted separate districts, and he would like to know why that had not been done. He explained that he would like to examine the Minister as to the way he administers the Act in regard to the appointment of inspectors to different districts.

His Honor: How can that in any way appertain to the inquiry before this tribunal?

Mr. Wilshire: I must object, on behalf of the Mines Department, your Honor, as the Minister can throw no light upon the matters before the Court.

Mr. Curley: If it was the intention of the Act that these districts should be mapped out, why was it not done at the inception of the Act? They should be mapped out by the Minister, I presume, as he is at the head of the Department. Had that been done, each particular inspector would have been looked to as responsible for his particular district, apart from any other inspector.

His Honor: A line must be drawn somewhere.

Mr. Wilshire: All the Court has to do is to make an investigation as to the causes and circumstances of the accidents. How the Minister can come in as to the appointment of inspectors, and the way he should appoint them to any particular district, I cannot see.

His Honor: Inquiries have to be limited to immediate causes, and I think, Mr. Curley, that these circumstances which you wish cleared up by Mr. Sydney Smith cannot come within the province of the Court. I do not at present see that there is any need for sending for the Minister. I do not think that the question of his action can come within the province of this Court of Inquiry. Mr. Curley does not know of any other witness at the present time that he would care to call?

Mr. Curley: Only the Minister, your Honor.

His Honor: The presence of the Minister is not material to the case. That question can be gone into on the cross-examination of Mr. Dixon or Mr. Humble.

Mr. Curley: I could not get anything more definite from Mr. Dixon, because he has already said that the Northern district is one.

His

His Honor: Would Mr. Dixon kindly give the boundaries of the Northern district?

Mr. Dixon: The Northern Coal-fields district is approximately bounded by a line running from Lake Macquarie to Gunnedah in the north-west; thence to the Macleay River, following its course to the ocean; and then along the coast to the other side of Lake Macquarie.

To His Honor: The bulk of the work lies on the Hunter. There is some work going on at Gunnedah, also at Greta. Our work is geographically concentrated in one district, with some very much dispersed out-branches. When we had an Examiner of Coal-fields, and the three of us were inspecting, we each kept a certain run of collieries, and, as a rule, when an accident happened, the inspector who visited that district received direct notification of the accident without it going through the Examiner. That practice still obtains. The reason I went with Mr. Humble to Stockton was to assist him. If I were free of the Examiner's duties I would have my own collieries to visit. I have been taken to other districts. The last few years I have been going up as far as Capertee and down south in Mr. Rowan's district. I think it is impossible to parcel the Northern district into three or four divisions. The work could not then be properly carried out. It is better to leave it as it is. It is a very important thing for one inspector to have the assistance of another. I, as a rule, as senior inspector, have always travelled with an inspector if he wanted my advice. Our inspections cover coal and shale mines only. No mining is at present going on along the Macleay, but that part has been inspected. There is only a small area of carboniferous country in that locality. Our furthest workings are at Gunnedah.

His Honor: Have you any witnesses, Mr. O'Sullivan, you desire to call?

Mr. O'Sullivan: No, your Honor. Every question I would like to ask has already been asked at the previous inquiry. Possibly, however, Mr. McAuliffe and Mr. McDonald would like to be called.

His Honor: It is the intention of the Court to call those gentlemen.

[The Court, at 4:5 p.m., adjourned till 10 a.m. the following day (Friday).]

No. 25.

Evidence.

FRIDAY, 12 FEBRUARY, 1897.

The Court sat at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment.

**William Humble*, being duly sworn, said:—

To His Honor: I have given evidence before on this matter, and that evidence is correct.

His Honor: I would suggest that Mr. Wilshire ask Mr. Humble any questions he might wish.

To Mr. Wilshire: The stopping at the road leading into No. 3 was, I understand, knocked out in August last. The benefit of the stopping was that it separated No. 3 workings from the furnace. It sealed off No. 3 workings to a certain extent from the furnace. The No. 3 workings were connected with other parts of the mine at another point. The stopping prevented a free flow of air through the old workings up to the furnace. As long as this stopping was intact the air in the old workings would be stagnant; no current whatever would be passing through. In my opinion, it was advisable to have that stopping there. Seeing that it was put in in the first case, it was advisable to leave it in. Apart from the question of carbon monoxide generating in these old workings, it was advisable to have it there. If there were no fire-stink it would be as well to have those old workings separated from the other part of the mine, although, if there were no carbon monoxide, there would have been no danger to men at the furnace or anywhere else. There was always a possibility of carbon monoxide occurring in these old workings. It was not until after the accident that I became aware of the stopping having been knocked out. The reason given for knocking it out was that it cleared out the No. 3 workings in August last much sooner than if they had simply opened the door in the stopping itself. By taking out the stopping they made a bigger aperture. The knocking out of the stopping really converted No. 3 door into a stopping on hinges. This made it all the more necessary that the door should be kept closed.

Mr. Wilshire: If that stopping had remained intact, would this gas, in your opinion, have generated, there being no current of air?

Mr. Humble: There is still a possibility that gas would have been generated; but it certainly would not have harmed the furnace-men.

To Mr. Curley: A little air might have got into that locality from some other quarter, but the exit would have been in the "C" heading return, along which a large quantity of air was flowing. I was quite satisfied that there was an outlet to the "C" heading from No. 3.

Mr. Curley: Seeing that there was an outlet there, was not that all the more reason that the stopping should have been left intact?

Mr. Humble: I think the stopping ought to have been left intact.

To Mr. Curley: When I was examined before the Coroner's Court I did not recollect the last time I had been at the furnace. I said it was some considerable time before the accidents occurred. I have thought the matter over since. I have no clear recollection of the time; but I think it was some time during the strike last year. I really could not say positively. It was somewhere in the winter months. I made a note as to the dates that I visited the mine. I visited it in May and April, it must have been on one of those visits. I have not made any inspection of the furnace during the night time. I have made a night inspection of Stockton Colliery, but it did not include the furnace. I do not ask the furnace-men any questions in regard to the air during my visits of inspection. I claim when I go to a furnace, or when I go to any place, I can see the state of the ventilation myself. If I find it all right then, I conclude that, seeing it under ordinary circumstances, it is all right at other times.

Mr. Curley: You knew last time you were in No. 3 district that other people thought that there were some foul gases in that mine.

Mr. Humble: I knew that black-damp had been cleared out of No. 3 district.

Mr. Curley: After it had been cleared out, would you not expect it to generate again?

Mr. Humble: Yes, I would.

Mr. Curley: Having this knowledge, did you not think it worth while to put a question or two to the furnace-men.

Mr.

*NOTE.—The evidence of this witness was put in at the Court of Inquiry by Mr. Wilshire as Exhibit No. 9, and read 23rd March, 1897.

Mr. Humble : I did not think it necessary to put any questions to the furnace-men.

Mr. Curley : You have been the principal inspector of this colliery for some years ?

Mr. Humble : Yes ; about six, I believe.

Mr. Curley : When you made this inspection after the accident, you say you had no knowledge previously of the stopping being out ;—did you get that knowledge that day ?

Mr. Humble : I cannot say whether it was on the second or the third ; it was certainly during the time we were investigating one of the two fatalities ; I think it was on the second.

To Mr. Curley : I was present when Mr. Dixon, the manager, and under-manager were there on the Wednesday after the first accident, and when the manager's lamp was put down on the floor. The No. 3 floor was open, and we were testing what was coming out of the No. 3 district. A large volume of noxious gas was coming out. The principal ingredients were carbon monoxide and perhaps free nitrogen, they come together usually ; but carbon monoxide was the predominant compound. So far as I could see, the light was not affected. The door was open perhaps fifteen or twenty minutes altogether. I believe I opened the door myself. About ten minutes passed before we got the strong disagreeable smell. The door might have remained open a few minutes after that, but not for very long. I know we closed it soon after noticing the disagreeable smell.

Mr. Curley : That would indicate to you pretty clearly that the other stopping had been taken away ?

Mr. Humble : Yes, that indicated to me that the other stopping had been taken away ; but I knew it had been taken away an hour before that.

Mr. Curley : Knowing that it had been erected there before—and you have said already that its removal came as a surprise to you—did you not at that particular juncture, at the time you made the inspection after the first accident, think it necessary to point out to the manager that it ought to be re-erected.

Mr. Humble : I do not think we did point it out to the manager at that time, because he was fully seized with the idea that it would have been better if the stopping had not been taken out.

Mr. Curley : Did you think the stopping should not have been taken out ?

Mr. Humble : Yes.

His Honor : Are we to understand, Mr. Humble, that you knew the stopping had been originally knocked out for the purpose of clearing the district, and you thought it had then been restored, and that you were surprised to find that it had not been restored ; or did you not know even of the knocking out of the stopping originally for the purpose of clearing the district ?

Mr. Humble : I did not know that the stopping had been knocked out until after the deaths of Curran and Smith. I assumed the same mode of procedure would have been adopted in August last as was adopted when I was in those workings in December, 1895—that is, opening the man-hole door in the stopping.

His Honor : Your surprise was that it had been knocked out at all, not that it had not been rebuilt ?

Mr. Humble : My surprise was not so much at it being knocked out, but that it had not been replaced.

Mr. Curley : Having had six years' experience in that district, and knowing of these foul gases being generated, did it not occur to you when this inspection was made that a remark might have been made to the manager then that that stopping should be put up again ?

Mr. Humble : I was not aware that the stopping had been taken out.

Mr. Curley : You admit that you were aware just before this inspection ?

Mr. Humble : An hour or two before the accident to Curran and Smith, I was made aware that the stopping had been taken out.

Mr. Curley : When this inspection was made to investigate the accident to Curran and Smith, and you saw the foul air coming up then, and you had a knowledge of that stopping and the door being taken out, did it not occur to you then to point out the necessity of rebuilding the stopping ?

Mr. Humble : No ; I pointed out to Mr. McAuliffe that this mixture coming from No. 3 district was a danger to the men in the mine, and would have to be remedied. We left the matter of remedying it to himself.

Mr. Curley : But you know very well if that stopping had been there the No. 3 district would not have been a menace to the furnace-men ?

Mr. Humble : Yes.

Mr. Curley : And knowing that the stopping had been there, surely the idea would have occurred to you as a practical man that it was necessary for that stopping to be put there again ?

Mr. Humble : Perhaps it was necessary ; but there was virtually a second stopping in No. 3 door if it had been kept closed.

Mr. Curley : But, according to the principles of scientific mining, you must know that No. 3 door is not a stopping in the true sense of the word ?

Mr. Humble : I know it is not a stopping, because you do not usually move a stopping on hinges ; but that door when closed was practically a stopping.

Mr. Curley : But had not the door to be opened several times to admit of skips coming into the furnace ?

Mr. Humble : Yes.

Mr. Curley : It could not have been so good then as a stopping ?

Mr. Humble : No.

Mr. Curley : And, even if it were desirable to penetrate into that district, there was a slide-door on that stopping which would make the workings accessible ?

Mr. Humble : Yes.

Mr. Curley : With the knowledge of those facts, did it not appear to you desirable that the defect should be remedied ?

Mr. Humble : We told the manager it should be remedied. We are not called upon to tell him what to do. We assume the manager knows his work, and will do it accordingly.

Mr. Curley : If you knew something had been done that made the mine defective, which you say yourself came as a surprise to you, would it not surprise you into making some remark ?

Mr. Humble : I expressed myself that I was surprised that the door was taken away.

Mr. Curley : Did you tell the manager to replace the door and stopping ?

Mr.

Mr. Humble: No.

His Honor: It did not occur to you to tell the manager to replace the stopping?

Mr. Humble: No.

His Honor: In regard to the opinion you offered at that time as to the gases coming out of that district, are you still of that opinion?

Mr. Humble: Yes.

Mr. Curley: Had you read Dr. Haldane's report before this accident?

Mr. Humble: Yes.

Mr. Curley: And you know what he states with regard to the appearance of the bodies?

Mr. Humble: Yes.

Mr. Curley: Were you anxious to see the bodies to ascertain yourself whether those conclusions were fully borne out?

Mr. Humble: No, I am not anxious to see a dead body at any time; I, however, noted one body particularly—the body of my friend, Cockburn. I thought at the time, when I saw him lying at the office, that he was not dead but asleep, his colour being so high and his features so calm.

Mr. Curley: Do you think that all the bodies presented the same appearance?

Mr. Humble: I understand that Dr. Hester swore they did so. I did not see any of the others except Curran and Smith. I did not notice anything particular about them, as they were covered with soot.

His Honor: I ask you again, do you think that the manager fully realised the statement that you made to him?

Mr. Humble: Yes, I think so. I think the manager was fully aware of the dangerous character of this gas from what we said.

His Honor: It is a very important question, what was said on the occasion of the conversation when the manager and under-manager were present, just after you went into the mine after the death of Curran and Smith?

Mr. Humble: I do not pretend to be able to remember the exact words. The first part of the inspection was made by myself, accompanied by the manager and the under-manager. I travelled down the road leading into No. 3 district, and then detected what I thought was a smell of fire-stink, and said so to the manager. I said, "That smell is very like fire-stink," but it was very slight. We travelled further down; and the under-manager, I think, said, "Well, our lights are likely to go out." Our lights did not go out; and I think I then said, "That satisfies me it is fire-stink." We returned to the shaft bottom and met Mr. Dixon; Mr. Dixon accompanied us, and we went to the furnace a second time. In travelling down the rope-road we came to a point where Mr. Dixon proposed that we should place the mine under the same conditions as when those men were found. We did so by opening No. 3 door. Five or ten minutes after the door was opened we were assailed by a strong, disagreeable smell. The smell then came up much stronger than when we met it before. When the door was closed the air was stagnant. About 2,000 or 3,000 feet came up the second time, sufficient to give off a very strong smell. Mr. Dixon said it was fire-stink. We told the manager it was highly dangerous. Both the under-manager and manager were present when we stated this. We said it was a menace to those men working at the furnace, and that it would have to be remedied.

His Honor: Did you use any words to describe what it was?

Mr. Humble: Only the word "fire-stink."

To His Honor: Mr. McAuliffe—I do not remember what he said—practically agreed that it was not black-damp. At first Mr. McAuliffe and Mr. McDonald were inclined to believe that it was black-damp. After hearing our statement, Mr. McAuliffe was inclined to believe that it was fire-stink. His utterances led us to conclude that. He said the smell was quite different to what he usually experienced with black-damp; and, therefore, it was quite likely what we said was correct. Mr. McDonald held to the opinion that it was black-damp. He said, "There may be some other gas with it, but the large proportion is black-damp." After meeting Mr. Dixon we went down about half-way between the furnace and the road end leading into No. 3—some distance past the branch-off of the rope-road. We came down to that stopping which your Honor saw on Tuesday morning (to that point—the stopping was not there then). Mr. McDonald said that there might be some other gases mixed with it, but it was really and virtually a black-damp mixture. Although we reiterated our opinion, yet he seemed to be firmly convinced that it was black-damp. Mr. McAuliffe said that the smell was quite different from what he usually experienced with black-damp; and, therefore, he was prepared to believe what we said had some truth in it.

His Honor: Mr. McDonald then stood up against you while Mr. McAuliffe came to your opinion?

Mr. Humble: Mr. McAuliffe appeared to agree with us.

His Honor: Was it a quiet, ordinary conversation?

Mr. Humble: Yes; the conversation was quiet, ordinary, and calm. It was not a heated one in the slightest degree. Of course, we took very great pains to explain that this gas was the gas we had experienced with such deadly effects in other places.

His Honor: Did the conversation amount to as much as a discussion;—was it less or more excited than the little discussion that took place at point Z the day the Court inspected the mine?

Mr. Humble: I think it was even calmer than that conversation.

His Honor: As you came back, did the discussion continue?

Mr. Humble: I think not; the discussion ceased as we came back towards the cage and ascended to the surface.

His Honor: Did Mr. McAuliffe and Mr. McDonald, during the remainder of the time, appear to change their opinions?

Mr. Humble: No, I do not think either of them did.

His Honor: You did not change your opinion?

Mr. Humble: No, I still held to it. Mr. Dixon, I think, took the greater part in the conversation, because I recognised him as having greater experience than myself.

To His Honor: I think I said that that was the same gas that had rendered me unconscious in the Thornley Colliery. I would not say for certain that I said this; but I know when I was speaking, during our conversation with the manager and under-manager, I had that experience in my mind. All through we had the benzine smell. I believe whenever we get that smell it is always accompanied by carbon monoxide.

His

His Honor : If there be a dangerous proportion you can detect it whether anyone is in front of you with a lamp or not?

Mr. Humble : Yes ; the smell is so strong.

His Honor : The sense of smell to a man who is accustomed to mining is fairly well cultivated?

Mr. Humble : Yes ; he has to make much use of that sense. I have detected fire-damp where it could not be detected by a lamp.

His Honor : As far as actual smell is concerned, neither nitrogen nor carbonic acid has any smell of its own.

Mr. Humble : No ; but they are always accompanied in a mine with other ingredients that have a smell. We are told that fire-damp has no smell, but we can usually ascertain its presence by the sense of smell.

His Honor : There may be a feeling which is not exactly a smell?

Mr. Humble : There may be. I can detect any of those gases by my nose before the lamp shows it.

To Mr. Robertson : I say that fire-damp pure has no smell, but it is usually accompanied in a mine with other gases that give off a smell.

Mr. Robertson : Would it not be more correct to say "accompanied by other ingredients?"

Mr. Humble : I have never found fire-damp but what it was accompanied by other gases which give the odour.

His Honor : Is there any taste in the mouth due to the presence of carbonic acid in the air in large bodies ; if you noticed an acid taste in the mouth, what would you put that down to, without noticing what any smell indicated?

Mr. Humble : I should put it down to the presence of either sulphurous acid or sulphuretted hydrogen.

His Honor : Would sulphuretted hydrogen give an acid taste?

Mr. Humble : I have not had much experience with this gas. I understand it has an acid taste ; but it has a very strong smell. If it had a taste and no smell, then it would not be sulphuretted hydrogen.

His Honor : As to that question of leaving a disused part of a mine in what may be called a possible barometrical connection with a working part (say) with a furnace, as a matter of practice, what do you say of that ; is it a fairly proper course to pursue or otherwise?

Mr. Humble : In my opinion, the proper course to pursue is to have at least one outlet ; but usually best if the outlet is into the main return, where the air is flowing away to the shaft. I do not think it would be the proper thing to seal off old workings completely. If a district is abandoned, I do not think it is advisable in all cases to seal it off completely.

His Honor : Would you then provide for a continual small draught through the district?

Mr. Humble : No ; I should provide that there be an outlet, so that the pressure of gas inside would never exceed the ordinary atmospherical pressure in the mine.

His Honor : Then you consider that leaving out that stopping, supposing there were means provided for preventing the setting up of a draught through the old workings, was the proper course to pursue?

Mr. Humble : I do not mean that leaving out that stopping was right, because it was not connecting that district by way of a return. Anything coming out of that stopping practically came straight to the furnace undiluted. If it had been connected with a large return of air it would have been different.

To His Honor : I believe there is a communication through the overcast. I have never travelled there. I was told there was one, and feel satisfied there is one. The plan shows it, and the officials who have been on the mine for many years say there is one. I do not think there was any need to take down the stopping, since there were two other outlets which were sufficient to allow of the gas exuding from the old workings so as to give a barometrical connection to the outside. If there was no barometrical connection the pent-up gases would probably blow out the stoppings.

To Mr. O'Sullivan : I remember inspecting the mine before the stopping was ever erected. I presume it was erected to remove the possibility of any black-damp or noxious gas coming from No. 3 district to the furnace. It is not conceivable that it was erected to save the scalings from the brick stoppings along the main heading.

Mr. O'Sullivan : If the brick stoppings were fractured along the main road, would not the air then come straight back to the furnace if some provision had not been made such as this?

Mr. Humble : If that provision had been made the sealing would still have come back. It would prevent scalings coming back to the furnace by the rope-road, but they would come back by another road.

Mr. O'Sullivan : You remember that this district was left not sealed up for a couple of years after it was abandoned?

Mr. Humble : No ; I do not remember that. I remember that when I passed through the district in 1894 with the overman the stopping and man-hole door were in then.

Mr. O'Sullivan : You cannot recall visiting that district seven years ago?

Mr. Humble : The district was at work at that time.

Mr. O'Sullivan : Five years ago?

Mr. Humble : Yes ; a few men were still working in it five years ago.

To Mr. O'Sullivan : I have no recollection of ever visiting the pit and this stopping not being in, after the workings were abandoned. I had no knowledge on the Thursday night of the state of the ventilation at 9:30 when the explorers went in.

Mr. O'Sullivan : Any opinion you have expressed on their action in going in has been founded on what you heard, I take it?

Mr. Humble : No, on what I have seen ; because, if the conditions were the same, the circumstances were the same.

Mr. O'Sullivan : You have said they were foolish to enter, but you did not qualify your statement?

Mr. Humble : I say so again. They were foolish to go in against the current of air, and there was no necessity to explore.

Mr. O'Sullivan : You had some slight knowledge that the exploring party were going to examine this district?

Mr. Humble : I had no knowledge until a very short time before the exploring party went in, and then I was far away from the colliery.

Mr.

Mr. O'Sullivan : Did you, then, know the way the current was turned on, and the way they were to enter ?

Mr. Humble : I was then informed.

To His Honor : I obtained that information from Mr. Cockburn, one of the men who was lost. Mr. Cockburn was a very great friend of mine. I met him at the Technical College. He had run away to get himself ready for the mine, and he told me then that it had been proposed to go into the district that night to explore. He had not been asked to tell me that. It cropped up in an ordinary way. He felt it his duty to tell me of his private affairs, as he thought there would be danger attached to the undertaking, and that is how he came to tell me that an exploring party were going in.

His Honor : As far as the action of the management was concerned in not communicating to the inspectors their intention of making this investigation, can you say, as a matter of practice, whether that was a usual or an unusual course to adopt ?

Mr. Humble : I think it was a usual course to adopt. They do not, as a rule, tell us what they are going to do. It is quite usual to take such steps. They were under the impression that the exploration of these old workings was not a serious step.

His Honor : You had indirectly suggested to them that it would be a serious step ?

Mr. Humble : Yes.

His Honor : The way you look at it is this : that they held a different opinion from yours ?

Mr. Humble : Mr. McAuliffe was quite satisfied that what we said was worthy of attention, but he still thought that by putting in the air current in a particular direction they would be safe, even should our theory be correct.

His Honor : But neither the putting in of a current for the purpose of sweeping out the district, nor the sending in of a party, had been suggested to you in any way ?

Mr. Humble : No ; it was mentioned to me indirectly by Mr. Cockburn as a secondary matter. He had previously told me about his private affairs, and thought he should tell me this.

To Mr. O'Sullivan : Mr. Cockburn had a fairly good knowledge of ventilation. He was a very studious man. He had a theoretical knowledge of all the gases, and had practical experience with two of them. His knowledge would be equal to the manager's knowledge as far as carbonic oxide was concerned. I remember meeting Mr. McDonald on the Wednesday before the big accident, at lunch time, and had a discussion with him then. I met him between the colliery and the hotel in which the inquest was being held. The mode of entry was then not mooted at all. I said to him that this mixture was highly dangerous, and that it was not safe to approach it unless he had a current of air with him. I was coming down from the colliery office to the hotel to attend the inquest. Mr. McDonald walked down with me. He talked in such a strain as to let me know they were desirous of knowing the cause of this fire-stink. I told him that it was highly dangerous to approach it without taking a current of air with them. I then had to go and attend the inquest.

His Honor : Did he agree with you, then, that it was a fire-stink, or did he stick to his old opinion ?

Mr. Humble : He said then that he was not so strong in his opinion as he had been on the day before. His words were : " I am not so strong in my opinion as I was yesterday, although I still believe it is black-damp to a large extent." Of course my opinion that it was carbon monoxide did not vary. This conversation took place on Thursday morning.

Mr. O'Sullivan : Did you then suggest that he should take some brandy, or some such remedy as that, when exploring ?

Mr. Humble : No ; I do not remember that.

Mr. O'Sullivan : Your suggestion that he should take the air with him was on account of yourself having been overcome on one occasion when neglecting to do so ?

Mr. Humble : No ; I did not neglect to take the air with me at Thornley. I was overcome there because of my anxiety to detect explosive gas, of which we had some trace. We had the current of air close to us then—within 3 or 4 yards of where I got my dose.

To Mr. Robertson : When I discover a serious defect in the mine, it is my duty to notify the manager. It is not part of my duty to suggest a remedy. That would be taking the responsibility of the mine upon our shoulders, and that is not desirable, as we cannot always be at the mine.

Mr. Robertson : To remedy this defect, might it not have been necessary to leave the stopping open ; it has been suggested that it should have been built up ;—might it not have been necessary that it should have been left open ?

Mr. Humble : They would have to close the road to remedy the defect.

Mr. Robertson : It was your duty, after giving warning, to inspect the mine, and see that your warning had been attended to ?

Mr. Humble : Yes.

Mr. Robertson : You say that there was no necessity to explore ?

Mr. Humble : Knowing as I do the physical conditions of No. 3, that it is practically broken ground, the pillars narrow, and the bords heavily fallen ; knowing that, I considered there was no necessity to explore with the view of getting close to the fire and sealing it off. It could not be sealed off. The only thing that remained to be done was to seal it off in the way that has since been done.

Mr. Robertson : Do you not think it the duty of the management to endeavour to reach the seat of a fire and discover its extent ; at all events, to ascertain whether it could be sealed off ?

Mr. Humble : Had the district been an ordinary one, and not broken, perhaps it would then have been advisable to try and locate the seat of the fire ; but in this case, if they had found the seat of the fire, they could not have sealed it off, except at the places where it has since been sealed off.

Mr. Robertson : The sealing off that has been done is of a very extensive character, and not so perfect as would have been the case if only one-quarter the area ?

Mr. Humble : No.

Mr. Robertson : But do you not think they should have endeavoured to reach the seat of the fire, to ascertain its compass ?

Mr. Humble : No.

Mr. Robertson : If you had had time to make more elaborate preparations, would you have had any difficulty in reaching the supposed seat of the fire ?

Mr. Humble : I think it might have been reached safely if proper precautions had been taken.

Mr.

Mr. Robertson : Do you not think it was premature to abandon that district without making any effort to subdue the fire or locate it ?

Mr. Humble : Not under the circumstances. From what I know of this district it is broken ground ; and even if they had got close to the fire they could not have sealed it off there.

Mr. Robertson : Do you not think the manager was justified in entering this district and exploring it ?

Mr. Humble : Perhaps he was. I do not think it was his bounden duty to do so in the interests of his employers.

Mr. Robertson : You have said there would be no difficulty in reaching the seat of the fire ?

Mr. Humble : Yes.

Mr. Robertson : Do you think a manager would be justified in abandoning a district without having made an effort to reach the fire ?

Mr. Humble : Yes ; considering the physical conditions I have told you of. If he had got to the seat of the fire he could not have made any practical attempt to seal it off there ; he would simply have had to come back and seal it off at the place where it has since been sealed.

To Mr. Robertson : The district has been sealed off at the only place where it could be sealed. I admit that the work is not quite perfect. The sealing is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile in length. I do not know whether the fire will ever be put out. Short of flooding the mine, the method adopted is the only practicable way they could do it. In Stockton there is plenty of water, and the facilities for extinguishing a fire are very good.

Mr. Robertson : You said no danger would have been encountered in exploring if proper precautions had been taken ?

Mr. Humble : Yes.

Mr. Robertson : You have spoken of bords being crushed ;—do you approve of bords being broken off the main intake ?

Mr. Humble : It is a very bad practice.

Mr. Robertson : The falls that have occurred in this mine did not indicate very good mining practices ?

Mr. Humble : No ; I think the main road should be flanked on each side by a large pillar of coal.

Mr. Robertson : The only danger to be apprehended from No. 3 district you said was from carbon monoxide ?

Mr. Humble : I think that was the danger they had to meet the night the exploring party went in.

Mr. Robertson : You said the only gas to fear was carbon monoxide ?

Mr. Humble : I mean that the only gas that would have endangered the lives of the furnace-men was carbon monoxide.

Mr. Robertson : The old workings were known to contain black-damp ?

Mr. Humble : Yes ; but there is this difference between carbon monoxide and black-damp ; black-damp will put the light out before it endangers any lives.

Mr. Robertson : You are pretty positive that the deaths of Curran and Smith were due to carbon monoxide ?

Mr. Humble : Yes ; in my opinion all the deaths were due to that. I believe that the predominant compound in the mixture that killed those two men was carbon monoxide.

Mr. Robertson : Can you account for the fact that your lights were not extinguished, and yet you were in the same gas that killed Curran and Smith ?

Mr. Humble : The mixture supported combustion, and that is why I consider Curran and Smith were not killed by black-damp. There may have been other ingredients, but still be a dangerous amount of carbon monoxide.

Mr. Robertson : It is quite possible then that Curran and Smith might have met their deaths by carbonic acid ?

Mr. Humble : Yes ; but it is my opinion that it was carbon monoxide. The carbonic-acid gas may have helped to kill them, but it is my opinion that if there had been nothing but carbonic acid they would not have been killed. I do not mean to say that they could not have been killed by carbonic acid ; but if there was nothing but black-damp present, they would have been warned of danger by the extinguishing of their lights. They would then have recognised their danger and got away.

To Mr. Robertson : I do not believe those men would have sat down on that seat and died if their lights had been extinguished. Although the lights were fixed on the caps, I think these men would have known if they were out. Perfect safety would be secured, so far as ventilation is concerned, in old workings, by circulation of fresh air. If the volume of air circulating in a mine is sufficient to permit of the old workings being ventilated, that is the best means to ensure their safety.

Mr. Robertson : Could that have been done in this case ?

Mr. Humble : No ; because the supply of air was insufficient.

To Mr. Robertson : The aggregate amount of air circulating in the Stockton Mine varies from 45,000 to 50,000 cubic feet, according to the atmospheric conditions, and is just sufficient to ventilate the present workings. I am aware that the Annual Report states about 25,000 cubic feet ; but that is the actual quantity of air used to ventilate the working-places only. The difference between 25,000 and 50,000 cubic feet is simply going to waste or passing through the old workings without reaching the men. In our report it is deemed necessary to give the number of men working in the mine, the number of splits, and the aggregate quantity of air being utilised for the men—not the aggregate quantity of air in the mine. I do not think they could have spared sufficient air to have aired that old district and other old districts in Stockton. I was not aware that 100,000 feet were circulated in 1881. That could be accounted for by the extreme point of the working-places being much closer to the shaft in 1889.

Mr. Robertson : It is hardly a proper course to pursue to reduce the air to 40,000 feet, and extend the workings at the same time ?

Mr. Humble : The furnace was probably driven at its maximum when it produced 100,000 feet. At the same time the air circulated through a very small area. Now the workings are more than a mile away from the shaft, and the length of air-ways has been increased. The friction, therefore, has been increased ; and now, with ordinary work at the furnace, you get about 50,000 cubic feet. If you have ample room in the air-ways you get better results than if you have them small and contracted.

His Honor : The angles of turning are very important ?

Mr.

Mr. Humble : Yes.

His Honor : If you can only get a small quantity of air through some means must be adopted to prevent friction?

Mr. Humble : Yes; they have reduced friction by the connection of No. 3 shaft with the workings.

Mr. Robertson : With No. 3 shaft facilities for ventilation are better now than in 1880?

Mr. Humble : No; if you made another shaft the furnace would not give any more air.

Mr. Robertson : As the area of operations increases, is it not the mining practice to maintain the ventilation, or, perhaps, increase it?

Mr. Humble : Yes; as the area opens out more ventilation is required, and I think it is well to have power sufficient to double the ventilation required for ordinary working conditions, so as to be prepared for any unforeseen circumstances that may occur.

Mr. Robertson : Did you observe in Mr. Threlfall's report that he shows no free nitrogen?

Mr. Humble : Yes; I am aware that he shows black-damp.

Mr. Robertson : Does that in any way qualify your opinion as to the probable cause of the deaths of Smith and Curran?

Mr. Humble : No; I still think that the predominant compound in that mixture was carbon monoxide. I think that wherever carbon monoxide is given off there is always free nitrogen with it.

His Honor : Does not Professor Threlfall say in his report that there was an insufficient supply of oxygen in the air which he took from the pit?

Mr. Humble : Yes.

His Honor : And, that being so, that would account for the excess of nitrogen which you were assuming to be in the atmosphere?

Mr. Humble : Yes.

His Honor : If a portion of oxygen was taken from the air to form carbonic acid and carbon monoxide, there would be a relative excess of nitrogen left?

Mr. Humble : Yes.

His Honor : You do not assume that nitrogen is given off—because there is nothing to give off nitrogen—there is nothing in the pit to give it off?

Mr. Humble : I do not assume it, your Honor. (*Continuing.*) As far as the exploration went, I was of opinion that if an exploration were necessary the explorers should have the air with them. If it was expedient to make a search for the fire, and try to put it out, it should have been done in the way your Honor suggests, namely, to carry the air with them. That method would only be to ensure the safety of the men. After the accident, it was not expedient to search for the fire. In point of fact, it was bad to feed the fire at all. The fire would be fed by the air passing over it. The difference consists in the men having to breathe the air coming from the fire, and, in the other case, breathing the fresh air going to the fire. All the conditions show that it must be an incipient fire if there is a fire at all there. In regard to the chance of being able to extinguish the fire in the No. 3 district, my experience is this—that it is scarcely possible in a mine where the stoppings are so numerous to completely seal it off. If there is a fire there, and it is not put out, the result will be the destruction of the mine. If the fire cannot be put out by stoppings, I think the next best thing would be to stop the mine working, and to flood it with water. To flood the mine would mean the stopping of work for an indefinite period, and would be throwing the mine entirely out of gear. I believe it is in some of those bords which have fallen. It will be almost impossible to get there to put it out with the hose. If they had a hose, they might play upon the fallen rock for a time, without, however, reaching the fire. The only justification which the managers had for making the exploration in the way they did was to ascertain the extent of the fire. It might have been of great satisfaction to the managers to know exactly what was going on. The percolation of a very small quantity of air would be enough to keep the fire going. The fire would keep itself alight if only fed to the extent of next to starvation. I am going by the experience which I have gained at the Seaham Colliery. In the case of the trouble there, there were only two stoppings—one in each shaft—and yet there was enough air to keep the fire alight for five months. The fire was confined to one bord when they first saw it. Probably one of the causes of this fire being alive for five months was that the mine was practically full of fresh air when the shafts were sealed off, and the fire would draw upon this fresh air by diffusion.

His Honor : I suppose, on the question of whether the working of the mine has been on a proper basis—I take it, it would have been better if those wide bords had not been turned off from the main road?

Mr. Humble : Yes. On the north-east side, there are bords turned out of this back heading; but that does not, in my opinion, provide sufficient coal to support a main road.

To Mr. Robertson : The fire at Seaham was sealed off about August, 1895; and, six months afterwards, it was reopened. When opened, it was found that the fire was more extensive than before. I believe that the reason of the shafts being sealed off was that a large fall took place at the front of the fire, and almost covered some of the men working at the fire. The falls brought out a large amount of extinctive gas, and they thought it was dangerous. The fire was, at the time, confined to a small area. There were exceptionally favourable conditions there for the sealing off which was afterwards done. It is quite permissible to try and seal off any part in a mine provided proper precautions are taken. I know rule No. 7. I certainly do not think that, to comply with it, it would have been prudent to send in one man to explore the district. The safety might lie in numbers. I see that rule 7 reads:—

If at any time it is found by the person for the time being in charge of the mine, or any part thereof, that by reason of inflammable gases prevailing in the mine, or that part thereof, or of any cause whatever, the mine or that part is dangerous, every workman shall be withdrawn from the mine or part so found dangerous, and a competent person appointed for the purpose shall inspect the mine or part so found dangerous, and if the danger arises from inflammable gas, shall inspect the mine, or part, with a locked safety lamp; and in every case shall make a true report of the condition of the mine or part; and a workman shall not, except in so far as is necessary for inquiring into the cause of danger, or for the removal thereof, or for exploration, be readmitted into the mine or part so found dangerous, until the same is stated by the person appointed as aforesaid not to be dangerous. Every such report shall be recorded in a book, which shall be kept at the mine for the purpose, and shall be signed by the person who made the inspection.

There were no men working in the affected district. The exploring party were admitted to comply with the provisions of rule 7. To send a number was more prudent than to send one man in. *To*

To His Honor : I think it would have been better to send less men in, but I think it was better to send ten men than it would have been to send one in. It is always assumed that the leader of the party is competent to lead, and that he will keep the men in comparative safety.

To Mr. Robertson : Cockburn was a very cautious man, and I think his caution was a little bit more noticeable than usual that night. He was a new official there. I think he had been at the Stockton Colliery three months only. He spoke to me about private affairs, and I was much surprised he should do so. He had been sufficiently long, and knew Mr. McAuliffe well enough to have offered suggestions if he thought them necessary, but he had not been there sufficiently long to know the geography of No. 3 district. I think that if he had been aware of any danger he would not have gone in as he did. I think it has been said that there was some conversation in the office as to what they were likely to meet. It is just possible that, Cockburn being young in official life, he thought he was justified in going by what the older men than himself thought.

To His Honor : Cockburn was a man of about 32 years of age. He had been out eight years in July. As a young man he was a miner; but he studied, and got a second-class certificate in Great Britain. I think he had been at the Colliery about three months. By studying text-books, a student would get a fair theoretical knowledge of the gases met with in mines. Cockburn would not have been likely to have had much experience of carbon monoxide, because, in the mines of South Durham, where he worked, gob-fires are few and far between.

His Honor : In your opinion, is the management of mines more careful in Great Britain than—we will not say in New South Wales—we will say in Australia?

Mr. Humble : Well, the managers in Britain have a great many more dangers to contend with. I think that if our managers here had as much to contend with, they would be just as careful. In Britain they go down a great depth; 1,000 feet is nothing. Cockburn, from his nature, was not likely to set up his opinion against that of an older man with more experience. He was not the kind of man to set up his opinion against Mr. McAuliffe's or Mr. McDonald's.

To Mr. Robertson : I think Mr. McAuliffe did right in going in as he did to rescue the two McDonalds. I think I should have done the same thing under the same circumstances. His prompt action saved these two men's lives.

To His Honor : It would have undoubtedly been the best way if the exploring party had carried the air in with them. I think that, considering the circumstances, I should have done the same as Mr. McAuliffe did when going in to rescue the McDonalds. I think that fifteen or twenty minutes after the change was made in regard to the ventilation there was a current of air flowing up the going-board. I believe that a certain amount of this air would have gone up directly the stopping marked "Z" was knocked out. Knowing Mr. McAuliffe as I know him, I do not wonder at him doing as he did in attempting the rescue of the McDonalds. I think that his anxiety to get the men out induced him to go in without considering the reversal of the current of air.

To Mr. Robertson : I think that if Mr. McAuliffe had stayed to reflect he would have done as I was suggesting just now. I am assuming that Mr. McAuliffe was at the trap-door, and had to do something by himself. If he had stayed to reflect the only thing he could have done would have been to knock out the stopping with the trap-door in it. By doing so the two McDonalds would have been supplied with fresh air in a very short time; and, therefore, their lives would not have been in danger, for we know that William Sneddon was taken out alive after he had been in the noxious atmosphere five or six hours. He was lying in one of the side bords, and would, therefore, not get the benefit of the air-current so much as if he had been in the going-board, where the McDonalds were found. It was a natural thing for the manager to do as he did. The great point was to recover the bodies safely, and without further loss of life.

To Mr. Thwaites : Two sections of the one seam have been worked in some part of the No. 3 district. The ground there is very much broken. That is why I do not think they could have sealed off at the point near to where the fire was supposed to be. This being so, the only sealing off that could be done was at the point where they have since done it.

Mr. Thwaites : Do not you think it would have been better for the party to have taken steps to satisfy themselves of the existence of a fire, seeing that they were so near to where it was supposed to be?

Mr. Humble : On general lines it might have been better; but owing to the physical conditions existing in the No. 3 district it was almost impossible to do the sealing off near to where the fire was supposed to be. It is possible that the fire could be put out, and thus far they were justified in going to search for it. If they had found a fire, and it had been a very small one, they might have put it out by other means than scaling off. There was not, when the managers were there, a strong smell of gas.

Mr. Thwaites : This leads me to think it would have been better for the management to have found out whether there was a fire, considering the possibility of their being able to get enough water to put it out.

Mr. Humble : It is quite possible that they could have got enough water to put out the fire if it had been a small one.

Mr. Thwaites : Was the No. 3 door open when they cleared out the district?

Mr. Humble : Yes.

Mr. Thwaites : When the gas was being cleared out the furnace-men would be working in it?

Mr. Humble : When they were feeding the furnace fire, yes; but there was one good place where they could remain in the intervals in comparatively fresh air.

Mr. Thwaites : Had the furnace-men to remain at the furnace?

Mr. Humble : The furnace-men had to be on, attending at the furnace; but, as you know, it only takes a man two or three minutes to poke up a fire, and after that he can come back and sit down in a mixture of comparatively pure air. If Curran and Smith, instead of sitting where they did sit, had rested a short distance from this point, they would have been in a roadway along which was passing 28,000 cubic feet of air, which was comparatively fresh.

His Honor : Where they did sit was at the seat near the No. 3 door?

Mr. Humble : Yes.

To Mr. Wilshire : One of the reasons for the men sitting where they did was that there was no draught there.

To Mr. Robertson : There would be a draught when No. 3 door was open. They were sitting in the draught, then, of course. I know nearly all the managers who, by invitation, went to the colliery—went down

down the mine. I am pretty positive that one or two of the number did not go down the mine. I remember one saying that he did not intend to go down; but, if you ask me his name, I cannot now say. Those who did go down did not get very far, I think. The managers went down soon after the Minister for Mines, Professor Threlfall, and others came up. I do not know how far they got into the going bord. I was at the meeting of mine managers, but left before the finish. Mr. Jonathan Dixon was there as the manager's representative. I am not sure about Mr. McDonald being there.

To Mr. Curley: As regards whether the air went in more than 160 yards, I heard at the inquest one of the officials say he had been through the top end of the going-bord, and that it was clearing out nicely. There would be two bords between 16 bord and where the fire was supposed to be—a distance of 28 or 30 yards.

Mr. Curley: Taking into consideration that the inspection was only made for 160 yards, would you call that a sufficient inspection, knowing that foul air was coming out?

Mr. Humble: No; I would not call it a sufficient inspection—certainly not. (*Continuing.*) I know that clause 7 says that when the person in charge of the mine finds danger he must withdraw the men, make an inspection, and afterwards record the result of the inspection in a book. I felt pretty certain that the manager did not intend to start working the mine until the defect was remedied. It is highly probable that the manager told Mr. Dixon so. The exploring party were simply an inspecting party. They were simply going in to make an inspection—what they termed an exploration. I consider an exploration as simply an inspection. If you go to explore, you are also going to inspect. I say I do not consider that ten men were necessary; but it was better to take ten men than to take one or send one. I consider that all of the ten were not necessary. A smaller number would have done. The number of men would depend on the number of points they had settled on in their minds to go to. If they settled on many, it would take eight or ten men. If they decided to go as they did, I think less than ten men would have done. All these things must be judged by the circumstances surrounding them. There was an inspection in the first instance. We have had it in evidence that an inspection was made by at least two of the officials to the top end of the going-board. I know that an inspection has been made in accordance with Rule 7, but that no report has been made as to the result of that inspection. I know that when an inspection is made it should be recorded in a book. The managers present by invitation to advise were:—Messrs. William Turnbull, Croudace and his son, Frank; Thomas (Minmi), Thomas (East Greta), Croft, Fletcher, Mathieson, Neilson; but several more as well that I forget the names of just now.

Mr. Curley: In regard to the samples of air taken by Professor Threlfall, I suppose they can only be taken as approximate of the state of what the air was?

Mr. Humble: Yes; I think Professor Threlfall only regards them as approximate. The .3 per cent. of carbon monoxide which he gave was the mean of several percentages.

Mr. Curley: So that there might be several constituent elements there not shown in the report of the analysis?

Mr. Humble: Well, if they are searching for one element or compound they may reject anything else not material for the purpose in view. Professor Threlfall says nothing about free nitrogen, except inferentially, as His Honor has pointed out—that the analysis showed there was an insufficient supply of oxygen; therefore, there must have been free nitrogen. The whole trend of Mr. Dixon's and my own experience is that this gas was the same as that which overcame me at Thornley Colliery. As regards the difference of opinion between Mr. McDonald and Mr. McAuliffe, I think the under-manager ought always to submit to the orders of the manager—not to the opinions of the manager.

Mr. Robertson (after drawing attention to Rule 7) asked: Were these men admitted for the purpose of working in the district?

Mr. Humble: No; not for working, as we look on it. They were going in with the under-manager to try and find out where this fire was. (*Continuing.*) Rule No. 7 evidently takes in exploration as well as any other kind of inspection. Those men were admitted for the purpose of exploration. Exploration is, practically, inspection. I think Rule No. 7 covers a contingency of an exploring party of ten men.

To Mr. O'Sullivan: The management have complied with Rule 7 with regard to the exploration. The rule allowed them to send in an exploring party. As regards the help which was given to the explorers when they were overcome I think it had to be given immediately. I think it took upwards of an hour to fix the brattice up. Directly the first few yards of brattice were put on there was air passing along the going-bord. Mr. McAuliffe did, I think, under the circumstances, what I would have done if I had been in his place.

**Daniel McAuliffe*, manager of the Stockton Colliery (being duly sworn), said, in reply to Mr. O'Sullivan:—That the stoppings indicated on plan was knocked out about the middle of last year. It was knocked out so as to allow a bigger current of air to travel the engine plane and enter the old workings at No. 20 bord for the purpose of clearing them out. It was originally put in to save scaling through the brick stoppings in the main heading, and so to prevent the fresh air returning to the furnace. [*At this stage the witness showed on the plan and tracing before the Court the methods adopted for ventilating various parts of the mine.*]

Mr. O'Sullivan to witness: With regard to the methods used for clearing out the No. 3 district, on occasions prior to the accident—what methods were adopted on previous occasions?

Mr. McAuliffe: The methods were exactly the same on those occasions. On previous occasions, however, the district was cleared out in about six or seven hours. On this occasion the process was carried on for about thirty hours.

Mr. O'Sullivan: About what volume of air passed through every minute?

Mr. McAuliffe: About 20,000 to 25,000 feet.

Mr. O'Sullivan: Did you brattice across the main heading?

Mr. McAuliffe: Yes.

Mr. O'Sullivan: While the party went in, Mr. McAuliffe, was your furnace specially watched?

Mr.

[*NOTE.—The evidence of this witness was put in at the Court of Inquiry by Mr. Wilshire as Exhibit No. 13, and read 24th March, 1897.]

Mr. McAuliffe: I think there were three men at a time attending the furnace. To keep the furnace bright we ran three men at a time.

His Honor: As far as you are personally concerned, you had nothing to do with the way the mine was worked in the early days.

Mr. McAuliffe: Well, I have been ten years at the colliery. I have been manager for seven years on the 19th June.

The Court, at 12:50 p.m., adjourned till 2 p.m.

Upon the Court resuming at 2 p.m. (Friday), Mr. Daniel McAuliffe was recalled.

His Honor: Have you any questions, Mr. Wilshire, you wish to put to Mr. McAuliffe?

Mr. Wilshire: No, your Honor.

His Honor: Have you, Mr. Curley?

Mr. Curley: Yes, your Honor.

To Mr. Curley: The reason why the stopping was put in in the first place was to prevent scaling from the main intake to the furnace. Owing to a movement in the ground along that roadway, we found the stoppings becoming broken, and consequently we had to put in this stopping to prevent the air returning to the furnace through No. 3 district. It was put in about three years ago. A door was put up first, and afterwards a stopping with a slide door in it. The stopping was removed when we entered that district to examine it at the time the lawsuit was on. No. 3 district was supposed to be cleared out with the slide door open, according to the evidence; but I am not positive about that. The overman and Mr. McDonald cleared the district out. I was manager at the colliery during the time that was going on. When we got word to examine that district I told the under-manager what was wanted, and the next day the district was cleared out ready for examination. The first examination took place in December, 1895. Three or four examinations have been made since then. I cannot say exactly at which examination the stopping was removed. I presume it was removed at the first examination. I cannot give any definite time when it was removed. I know the district was cleared out, and reported to me as ready to be entered, which I did on the different examinations. The stopping was removed to clear out the district.

Mr. Curley: If you could have cleared it out sufficiently when the slide door was there, what was the reason for taking it out?

Mr. McAuliffe: I think that is proof, and the greatest reason why it was knocked down, that the district was not cleared out sufficiently.

To Mr. Curley: Previous to the exploration party going in, I received no word from Mr. Cockburn that he had seen Mr. Humble. I have only learnt that lately. Cockburn did not make me acquainted with any conversation that had taken place that night between him and Mr. Humble. I think it was the under-manager who suggested that the chalk-marks should be put up.

Mr. Curley: Had you no apprehension with regard to the men being overcome when they went in?

Mr. McAuliffe: Our intention was to play the air on until we were satisfied the district was in a state to allow of their entering without danger.

Mr. Curley: But that is not a direct answer;—on that particular night had you no apprehension that there was a possibility of the men being overcome in going into that district?

Mr. McAuliffe: No; I had no apprehension, because it had been reported to me early in the day that everything was cleared out nicely, and that they could have then entered easily.

Mr. Curley: Had you been down there yourself?

Mr. McAuliffe: No.

Mr. Curley: Did you never think about making a personal inspection yourself?

Mr. McAuliffe: I was so engaged with looking after the bodies of Curran and Smith, and arranging for the burials, that my time was pretty well taken up, and the overman was, therefore, reporting to me from time to time.

Mr. Curley: At the time the consultation took place, did the question of distance away from the main current of fresh air that you would have to travel, to the point you intended to reach, never engage the attention of the parties to the consultation?

Mr. McAuliffe: We had the plan before us, examining it, and discussing which would be the best way to approach the fire, and where it would likely be.

Mr. Curley: Did you not discuss the probability of something unforeseen happening, and the necessity of fresh air being required?

Mr. McAuliffe: We considered we were providing for that by a good strong gang of men. If anything happened, the men in advance would have a sufficient gang behind them, who would go forward and bring them out quickly. That was our object in having a good strong body.

To Mr. Curley: We thought that possibly some danger would arise if the party reached 18 or 19 bord. The question was fully considered as to the distance that would have to be travelled to reach that point. I knew the men were going in against the current of air; but we decided there should be no approach against the current of air until we were sufficiently satisfied that we could go into the district with safety.

Mr. Curley: It amounts to this, that you never thought about any other contingency arising?

Mr. McAuliffe: I am satisfied if the contingency (the fall) did not occur, the whole of the men would have got out without any difficulty. The fall waisted the bad air on to the men.

Mr. Curley: My question relates to the time before the party went in?

Mr. McAuliffe: All I can say is, that the overman had made several visits of examination along the road previous to the party going in. Once or twice in the morning, and then in the middle of the day, when he went to the further cut-through, and came back and reported to me that everything was favourable and nice and clear.

Mr. Curley: Still, that does not answer my question.

Mr. McAuliffe: It would answer the question in this way: if men, at 12 o'clock in the day, could get up so far, allowing the air to still play on another nine and a half hours, would put that district in a still better position.

Mr. Curley: Would it not occur to you that no matter what was cleared out, unless the origin of this gas was dealt with, it would still exist there?

Mr.

Mr. McAuliffe: That is why we wanted to get in there, to deal with it as promptly as possible.

Mr. Curley: Would the idea not forcibly strike you that, independently of this clearing out that you speak so emphatically about, there would still be existent the cause that was promoting this very deleterious stuff?

Mr. McAuliffe: But we were trying to locate the gas, so as to deal with it.

Mr. Curley: But the question I want you to answer, if you will, is this;—did any other contingency about the introduction of fresh air, &c., arise at the consultation?

Mr. McAuliffe: At the consultation we unanimously agreed to adopt this principle, not to enter the workings unless they appeared to have cleared sufficiently to allow us to do so with perfect safety.

Mr. Curley: Did anything occur to your mind that something would happen while the men were in the workings?

Mr. McAuliffe: We considered that an emergency might arise, and that is why we provided for a strong gang of men, so that any emergency that might occur could be coped with.

Mr. Curley: Well, you do not appear to have thought about anything else?

Mr. McAuliffe: We considered we were dealing with all the things we were likely to meet with, and that we were using every precaution we could to deal with the matter.

Mr. Curley: When you went in with the rescuing party, did you not think of placing the mine at that particular time in the hands of some efficient man prior to your entering?

Mr. McAuliffe: You are, of course, aware that a mine is handled by the different officials according to their grade?

Mr. Curley: But did you personally, as manager of the colliery, appoint anyone in that capacity?

Mr. McAuliffe: The duties of the officials placed them in that position.

Mr. Curley: You knew McDonald was down, and you went in with the purpose of trying to rescue him and others, and you knew how some of the other officials had been affected; who then was there to fall back upon?

Mr. McAuliffe: Ellis, Jury, and Sampy. It is their duty to take charge of the mine when officers above them are knocked down.

His Honor: Did it strike you from the first that there was no risk other than meeting black-damp?

Mr. McAuliffe: I recognised in our discussion that there was something else, but that black-damp was predominant. The smell was to be accounted for, and that was the reason why the overman, Mr. Cockburn, and myself went into consultation. We could not understand this smell.

His Honor: Did that conversation, coupled with what the inspectors had said to you before, lead you to suspect that there might be a gob-fire burning?

Mr. McAuliffe: I thought if there was one that it was simply generating.

His Honor: Do you not think that the fact of letting air on to a gob-fire would excite it?

Mr. McAuliffe: Probably; but we considered we had sufficient air to dilute it.

To His Honor: We could detect a slight odour, but it was nothing like it was previously. That was the odour that the inspectors contended was caused by a gob-fire. When I put my lamp down I recognised that the biggest percentage of the mixture was black-damp. At the same time I recognised that the smell was to be accounted for. The peculiar smell might indicate the existence of a fire.

To His Honor: From the first, is it a fact that McDonald set his face against that theory? He did not think it was a gob-fire that gave rise to the smell. The smell, he contended, arose from the water in the vicinity of bord 20 decomposing the wood. Cockburn referred to his book, and considered that the predominant element was black-damp without a doubt. He admitted that the smell was to be accounted for. I think he was inclined to believe that there might be a fire generating, but in a very early stage.

His Honor: As to the conversation between Cockburn, McDonald, and yourself, what question was raised as to the smell of fire-stink accompanying carbon monoxide;—you, McDonald, and Cockburn understood that even if, in infinitesimal quantities only it was a very dangerous gas?

Mr. McAuliffe: Yes; but we thought we could dilute it sufficiently to render it so harmless as to allow of our exploring, and thus locating it.

His Honor: Did you not recognise that a man might be in it for some time drinking it in slightly and then suddenly go down;—was that not known to you?

Mr. McAuliffe: I think that point was considered by us.

His Honor: When you came to the double heading, if any air was coming down there it would be clear of the gob-fire, if the position of the fire, supposing there was one, was, as you think, in bord 18 or 19, and the further you went along the going-bord the larger would be the proportion of air coming from over or near the fire?

Mr. McAuliffe: We considered that the fire was generating and in a very early stage. We did not think it was in a very active stage.

His Honor: But still, your air would have got worse and worse the further you went on?

Mr. McAuliffe: We considered that the fire, if there was one, was in a very early stage, and that the current of air we had was capable of dealing with it.

His Honor: But the further you went on to the west, the worse the air would get, whatever stage the fire was in?

Mr. McAuliffe: That would not be necessarily so.

His Honor: If you are correct as to the position of the fire, the further you went on the greater the chance would be of meeting with air vitiated with gases coming from the fire. Very little, you say, would be flowing down the double heading. The main body of air current would be going along 19 bord into furthest heading, and thence along the going-bord. Once you got past the point where the cindered ground intercepts the cross-cuts, you would get none of that air; then you would begin to get the air that came right round, and that would pass the point where you assume the fire would be, if there was one;—did not that strike you?

Mr. McAuliffe: But we thought that the fire, if there was one, was in a very early stage. We considered that we should have sufficient fresh air to dilute the foul air and render it harmless.

His Honor: Did Mr. McDonald, by expressing his opinion very strongly, cause you to give up your opinion?

Mr. McAuliffe: My opinion was not given up. We discussed the matter, and decided not to approach the seat of the fire until we were satisfied that everything was clear.

His

His Honor: It never struck you all through that you might approach the fire to windward instead of to leeward?

Mr. McAuliffe: We would like to have got into 20 bord if possible, and went down that way; but that place was too dangerous. We considered that we would let the air travel down bord 20 to play on to the place until we could get in safely the other way—down the going-bord.

His Honor: As it struck you that it would be very much better to get into the windward instead of to leeward, did it not occur to you that it would be very much better to reverse the air?

Mr. McAuliffe: It could not be done. To go into 20 bord was our best plan, but if a fall occurred there, we should be locked in.

His Honor: The men at the furnace were those you considered, on the question of reversing the draught?

Mr. McAuliffe: Yes.

His Honor: Was not the difficulty you suggested first of all that the horses would have to be taken out?

Mr. McAuliffe: No; the horses were not in the road; they could have been shifted away in half an hour.

His Honor: The current put round that way would have shifted the bad air in the "C" heading?

Mr. McAuliffe: Yes.

His Honor: But that could have been provided for by preventing the men from going to that side of the furnace, and bringing them round to the other side where Curran and Smith had been killed. That would have been safe?

Mr. McAuliffe: If we had put up a partition as we have since done it might have been safe.

His Honor: Did it not look to you like a risky proceeding in face of the fact that you were obliged for safety to take in such a very large number of men;—did you not consider it such a very important question that you should try experiments with the air itself first?

Mr. McAuliffe: The greatest danger I anticipated was after we got in the district, in trying to locate the seat of the mischief in the various bords.

His Honor: The progress of the men up to the vicinity of the cause of the mischief you really considered not risky?

Mr. McAuliffe: No; I did not think there would be any danger up to that point.

To His Honor: I had no knowledge of chemistry before I became a mine manager. I have read up a little since. I had been for thirty-five years connected with mines, inclusive of the time I have been manager. I was deputy for three months, and overman for four years, at the Stockton Mine previous to becoming manager of it. Before that I was engaged on all classes of mining, but principally coal-mining. I was appointed to the managership of Stockton Mine about seven years ago. I have been eleven years altogether on the colliery. The colliery was opened about fourteen and a half years ago. It had been opened about three and a half years when I went to it first. Deputy was my first position in the Stockton Mine. I held that position for three months.

Mr. Robertson: When you had to clear out the No. 3 district before, you had only to deal with black-damp?

Mr. McAuliffe: Yes.

Mr. Robertson: After the conversation with the inspectors did you not think it probable that a gob-fire was there?

Mr. McAuliffe: Of course there was the smell that had to be accounted for.

Mr. Robertson: The smell would be produced by combustion?

Mr. McAuliffe: Yes; that is what the inspectors said.

Mr. Robertson: Did you not perceive, with regard to the two different opinions on this matter, that in the one case the more air you swept through the safer it would be, while in the other case, having a fire to deal with, the more air you swept through the more gas would be generated?

Mr. McAuliffe: But if it was generated would not the more air we swept through produce a different kind of gas?

Mr. Robertson: The more air you coursed in the more dangerous would it become by reason of generating more poisonous gases.

Mr. McAuliffe: But the greater the quantity of air coursed through the more the quantity of poisonous gases would be lessened.

Mr. Robertson: It does not follow that increased air will reduce the quantity of poisonous gases. 5,000 cubic feet of air might produce 1 per cent. of black-damp, and 10,000 cubic feet might produce 10 per cent.;—did it not occur to you that in taking the men against the air you were walking into danger?

Mr. McAuliffe: We considered that by going into the place carefully, and paying all attention possible to it, the way would be clear.

Mr. Robertson: With such a serious matter as this to deal with, do you think you were justified in delegating your duties to the under-manager?

Mr. McAuliffe: The curious position that I was in, attending to the bodies of Curran and Smith and the funeral arrangements, which kept me up all night, obliged me to take to my bed at the time. I was completely knocked up. I was satisfied that McDonald and Cockburn and the other men attending that party were good and careful men, and that they would not run any risks. We discussed fully the best things to do, and how to approach it; and if any difficulty was thought probable to be met with they were not to venture.

Mr. Robertson: You mentioned to His Honor that in reversing the current there would have been the difficulty of the men at the furnace;—had you not the same difficulty with the system you adopted; were the men not at the furnace?

Mr. McAuliffe: Yes, they were.

Mr. Robertson: No matter which way the current went it would pass over the men at the furnace?

Mr. McAuliffe: Yes.

To Mr. Robertson: After the stopping was removed on the rope-road, I did not have any conversation with Mr. McDonald or my other officials about replacing it. We did not think it necessary to replace it, as we had bricked right along the main heading and secured the place again. I cannot remember having had any conversation to that effect. The replacing of the stopping was not overlooked, and the

the necessity of it did not arise. We are in the habit of periodically examining the whole of the old workings of our mine. I did not see that there was any necessity for this stopping. It had been closed prior to the inspection by the colliery managers. It was then knocked out and never replaced. The stopping was first of all put in when the necessity arose to sustain the ventilation along the main intake. After the main intake was bricked all along we did not bother about the stopping until we opened it when we went into the district. I do not know whether any particular question ever arose between Mr. McDonald and myself that the stopping was not needed. The stoppings on the main road were bricked up some considerable time before the inspection by the colliery managers.

To His Honor: The door was first put in when the district was working. It was found not to be a sufficient stopping. We then put in a brick stopping, as being more effective.

His Honor: When the stopping was knocked out was it not really supposed that there might be further investigation required, and to save trouble it was not put up again?

Mr. McAuliffe: That was never discussed, because we had the stoppings in our main road attended to, and the necessity for building this one up again did not therefore arise.

To His Honor: I was confident all this time that no air could get in over the overcast into the No. 3 district. The overcast is blocked up as tight pretty well as a bottle, for about 60 or 70 yards. I have examined that corner of the district dozens of times. A line of cut-through goes through the top corner of the rectangular block (shown on plan). A small amount of air would perhaps go through that cut-through, but it would be very small. There is another in-let at 11 bord, but it is of small account.

His Honor: That being so, there would be a risk of a draught being established from No. 3 district to the furnace, if No. 3 door was opened?

Mr. McAuliffe: Only scalings coming back to the furnace.

To His Honor: It is always essential that all doors should be kept closed, irrespective of the presence of noxious gas, otherwise the air would not be diverted into the inner workings.

His Honor: Did it not strike you, as men had to go with skips through No. 3 door, that either that door should have been a double one, or else that the stopping should have been replaced for safety?

Mr. McAuliffe: No, I never anticipated any danger from that quarter. Only a little while previous to the accident both the deputy and overman inspected that district.

To His Honor: It never struck me that black-damp would be generated there, and suddenly rush up. I do not think it would come up in sufficient quantities to do any injury.

To Mr. Thwaites: I cannot tell you the exact date when this stopping was knocked out. Our present foreman says it was knocked down in December. The managers were in the mine in December as well as in August.

Mr. Thwaites: After the accident, and the inspectors said it was "fire-stink," they said to you that you ought to be very cautious—that you were to use every care?

Mr. McAuliffe: There were words used to that purport. I do not know that the words which you have used were the exact words. Everything was done to the best of our power. The inspectors told us this verbally, and I claim that I took more notice of it than if it had been in writing, because it had been under discussion.

Mr. Thwaites: I understand you to say that in the neighbourhood of 17, 18, and 19 bords it is pretty well solid ground?

Mr. McAuliffe: Yes.

Mr. Thwaites: Well; that being so, do you not think that there was no hurry to penetrate the old workings;—do you not think it would have been better to have taken the air with you, and taken more time to get to that part?

Mr. McAuliffe: Well; we thought we were getting to it, and we were making a reasonable attempt to get there as quickly as possible.

Mr. Thwaites: And that you were more likely to have got to it?

Mr. McAuliffe: Well; we discussed the matter, and we considered that we could clear it out and watch events, and that if we found that we could clear it out we would then go in. We had cleared it out before on other occasions.

Mr. Thwaites: You went in right against the current, and you were informed that the experts thought it to be a menace. I think it would have been better if you had gone with the current, and I think you would have been more likely to have got to the seat of the trouble. You say that adjacent to 17, 18, and 19 it is pretty solid ground?

Mr. McAuliffe: Yes; but it was to prevent the wide spread of the air that we were trying to get in the way we did.

Mr. Robertson: Was it ever reported to you that any of these three doors were left open by the workmen?

Mr. McAuliffe: You often hear the overman say he has been told of a door being found open. As to whether any action is taken when it is found that a door has been left open, it depends whether the person who does it does it wilfully. It is a very serious breach of the rules of the colliery. I think it would be my duty to prosecute a man if I found he did such a thing wilfully; but it is hard to prove when anyone does it wilfully.

Mr. Robertson: When you were warned by the inspectors of a serious defect which required a remedy, did you set about remedying it?

Mr. McAuliffe: Yes; and I think that the exploring party going in was giving effect to the inspector's instructions. (*Continuing*): I conceived it to be my duty to try and locate the fire and to confine it to as small a space as possible. I would, in any case, like to keep it to as small an area as possible. As regards the meeting of managers, I cannot say whether some of those managers had never seen the mine. The conditions for sealing off this No. 3 district are very difficult. When the trouble arose it was certainly my intention to get to the seat of the trouble if possible; but I left it in the hands of the managers to decide.

Mr. O'Sullivan: The night these men went in was the Thursday night, between the adjournments of the inquest, was it not?

Mr. McAuliffe: I think so.

Mr. O'Sullivan: At the inquest, you have already told us, there was a difference of opinion as to the cause of this trouble; did that cause you people to go in a little earlier than you might have so as to bring fresh evidence on Tuesday? *Mr.*

Mr. McAuliffe: We were wanting to try and locate the fire as soon as possible.

Mr. O'Sullivan: How often would No. 3 door require to be opened to feed the furnace and bring in the skips?

Mr. McAuliffe: About a dozen times daily. (*Continuing*): It would not require to remain open very long. On each occasion when it had to be opened it would have to be open for a minute or a minute and a half; otherwise, that door was supposed to remain closed. The mining managers did not express any surprise at going in against the current of air. I heard no remark from any of them.

His Honor: As experts, outside of their own position as inspectors, did it strike you at any time that it would be a very good idea to see what they (the inspectors) thought about this exploring party?

Mr. McAuliffe: Well, when they were available I have been glad to ask them. I did not ask them on this occasion.

His Honor: Practically, your action left them in the dark as to what you were going to have done?

Mr. McAuliffe: I thought that we would deal with the subject successfully.

His Honor: Did it or did it not strike you that your action was, to a certain extent, in opposition to the views of the inspectors?

Mr. McAuliffe: It might have been in opposition to the inspectors. They pointed out that a certain smell was a sign of a fire generating in an early stage. They did not suggest what should be done. I thought that the seriousness of the position would depend on the hold which the fire had got.

His Honor: That is a very dangerous gas—carbon monoxide;—that has been recognised of late years, but might not have been recognised some years ago; it caused the death of these two men, and was still coming off?

Mr. McAuliffe: One of the inspectors said so at the inquest, but Dr. Hester did not.

His Honor: Did it strike you at that time that there was a certain amount of antagonism between Dr. Hester and the inspectors?

Mr. McAuliffe: Well; I think there was a difference of opinion. We all thought that if black-damp was being given off from a fire it was in such an early stage that we could deal with it effectually. We held the opinion that it was black-damp which was in the mine. All the time I knew that black-damp could be detected by the light and that carbonic oxide could not. Some authorities tell us differently; but that is only when the proportions are rather large.

* *William McDonald*, Under-ground Manager of the Stockton Colliery, being duly sworn:—

Mr. O'Sullivan: Tell us the time you knocked that stopping out on the rope-road?

Mr. McDonald: I think, as far as I can remember, it is close on two years ago.

Mr. O'Sullivan: Perhaps you do not understand the stopping I mean. In your evidence, you state that it was knocked out two or three months ago:—was it three or four months ago?

Mr. McDonald: It would be fully that. I recollect the Wednesday and the Thursday nights at the beginning of December. I was at the furnace on the Thursday night and tested the gas with the lamp for about ten minutes. It put out the light. I continued on till 6 o'clock in the morning. Then the two men who were left in charge after that tested it regularly. [*The witness showed on plan the way the exploring party went.*] (*Continuing*), he said: My reason for changing the time for some of the men to come was because we did not think the air was clear enough to stay in any longer. The question of the desirability of moving the horses had no weight in deciding what should be done. When it was decided to knock out the stopping, there was something said about the different gases to be found. Cockburn brought a book, and I did too. He had a higher theoretical knowledge than I had, but I would not give way to him on a practical point. I was carrying a big lamp in my hand. I did not observe much deflection of the light at the time. There might have been a small deflection of the lamp, and I may not have observed it at the time. As to the mode of going in, when we started away from the furnace we left two men there with instructions to keep a good fire there while we were away. The men who went in kept 10 yards apart. Each pair kept 10 yards apart. We put chalk-marks so that any one coming after us could find their way out. I cannot say that we anticipated anyone coming in after us. I was present at the mine when the mine managers entered against the air-current. There was no surprise expressed at that. If a fall had taken place inside the workings, it is hard to say where we should have been. Some of us had to creep on our hands and knees. The air was comparatively fresh.

Mr. Wilshire: You say to-day that the horses were not considered at all?

Mr. McDonald: There was not very much consideration taken about the horses. I said on the last occasion that we should have had to take all the horses out if we were to reverse the current of air. We could not have taken in a good current of air by bratticing. The inspectors only got 3,000 cubic feet to reach 66 feet up the going-board, and they had to carry the brattice all the way with them. There is a great leakage through brattice. We could have stopped up all the cut-throughs. The way we ventilated the mine was the best to get it cleared out quickly—that is, by taking it into 20 bord. I am still of the opinion, notwithstanding what has been said to the contrary, that black-damp was the greatest thing we had to fear at the furnace. That is the only gas we expected any harm from. I was of that opinion all through, and am still of that opinion. It is safer to travel with the air; but, if a place is thoroughly cleared out, it is very little odds where you enter it.

To Mr. Curley: I think the temperature was 70 when we came down the pit, and the highest temperature observed was 78. It occurred to us to put the chalk-marks when we were going in. We always do it when we are going into these old workings. We always do that for the same purpose—so that if anyone got lost he could find his way out. It was in case anyone did not know the road, and he would have these chalk-marks to help to get him out. Always when I am going through old workings I look for some danger.

Mr. Curley: From the books in your possession, was it not indicated to you that other gases than black-damp would come from a gob-fire if there was one there?

Mr. McDonald: It had first to be established that there was a gob-fire. (*Continuing*): I know that a gob-fire had been mentioned, and that the inspectors had referred to "fire-stink." I took that phase of

* NOTE.—The evidence of this witness was put in at the Court of Inquiry by Mr. Wilshire as Exhibit No. 4, and read 23/3/97.

of the matter into consideration. It did, to a certain extent, impress me with the idea that there might be other gases. The smell was very slight when we went in. I know that a very limited percentage of carbonic oxide would affect the system. It took us from about three-quarters of an hour to an hour to go in. I am quite sure of that. That was from the time we started from the rope-road till we got to 16 bord. It is not more like twenty minutes. When the exploring party went in I cautioned the men about the trap-door, and said that would be the way out to the fresh air. In doing as we did, we recognised that time was an object. The sooner you can locate a thing of that kind the better, I think. The longer you let a thing of that kind remain the stronger it will be getting—that is, if it is a fire. In going in when I did, I was not thinking of getting anything fresh for the inquiry which was being held. As regards the opinion of the inspectors in thinking they could have reached 16 bord quicker their way, considering that they got only 3,000 feet over whole ground I do not see how they could have continued with it over broken ground.

Mr. Curley : Having the experience you have, and knowing something about carbon monoxide, and having read those authorities you speak about, do you now regard it as a very dangerous business to travel against the air-current ?

Mr. McDonald : Yes.

To Mr. Curley : But I still say my method was the best, as everything was cleared out. Any man being there at the time we penetrated those workings at half-past 9 that night would have had no hesitation in going into them. The air was very fresh, and the smell very slight all the way in. I know that a gob-fire when fed with air will produce noxious gases. A gob-fire always gives off steam and smoke. That has not been so in this case. I have never yet experienced a gob-fire but what there was either steam or smoke given off. I have never got nearer to them than in this case. I knew the inspector's opinion, and I paid a good deal of attention to it.

Mr. Curley : Did you not feel anxious before the exploration began to have the manager with you ?

Mr. McDonald : We consulted about that, but the manager was not altogether in a very fit state to go down at the time.

To Mr. Curley : Mr. Cockburn did not express to me any apprehension of danger prior to going in. He did not say that he had seen one of the Inspectors of Collieries. The manager never expressed a desire to me not to proceed until he was there. I looked upon myself as being in charge of the whole affair, and as responsible for everything.

To Mr. Robertson : When Mr. Burt reported the matter of Gould's complaint to me I at once inspected the neighbourhood of the furnace. I went up to the double heading in the morning and found that all right. I went from the trap-door of No. 3 and then came back. I went down the pit the following night about the same time the gas had been detected the night before, and found everything right. From that I anticipated danger could only come from the old workings, and that noxious gases reached the furnace through the No. 3 door, which had been left open. It did not occur to me to try the effect by leaving that door open. It had not been reported to me that the door had been left open occasionally.

Mr. Robertson : Knowing that danger could only come from No. 3 workings, I should have thought that you would have tried the effect of the door being left open, since it was the only connection between the two ?

Mr. McDonald : After going in so far, and finding nothing there, I thought the door would have to be left open for a long while before anything came out. (*Continuing*) : On reflection now, I think it would have been better to have opened the door. Under similar circumstances again I would certainly do it. The stopping on the rope-road was built to prevent the leakage from going through there and getting to the furnace. It was knocked out when the colliery managers examined the district. There was no need to replace it afterwards. The matter of replacing it was not overlooked.

Mr. Robertson : Knowing the old workings generated at least black-damp, and that there was only this one door between, do you not think it was unwise to leave that stopping as it was ?

Mr. McDonald : But we like to keep these old places clear.

Mr. Robertson : You have said that there were difficulties in the way of taking the air in with you ?

Mr. McDonald : Yes.

Mr. Robertson : Could you not have replaced that stopping on the rope-road, put a good brattice-stopping beyond No. 1, and made the stopping at 20 bord the return ?

Mr. McDonald : The air would then have had a good deal further to travel. (*Continuing*) : It is a good road. The air would have about 600 yards further to travel in going that way. There was no difficulty in the way of adopting that method, excepting that the distance was greater. We would not, however, have got the same quantity of air ; but still, I admit, we could have done it that way. It would have been much better if the area sealed off could have been reduced. I could see no difficulty at the time in reaching the seat of the fire. I do not approve of the district being shut off in the way it has been done. I do not think it will ever be perfectly sealed. If the area had been much smaller it would have been much better. Many of the stoppings are very large. It is not a question of two or three, but of fifty or sixty stoppings. They are all very large and of unusual size. I have had experience of gob-fires in Scotland, some of which cost several thousand pounds to get out.

Mr. Robertson : If you were told by a competent person that a gob-fire was in existence at Stockton, you would be very anxious ?

Mr. McDonald : We were very anxious. (*Continuing*) : I still hold to my opinion that the cause of the trouble is black-damp.

To Mr. Thwaites : When Mr. Burt reported to me of Gould being affected with the bad air, I paid a special visit to the furnace. It is not a fact that the furnace did not act right, through the day—the day I paid the special visit. The furnace always acted well. I reported to the manager what Burt told me. The stopping in the rope-road was taken down about four months ago. The manager knew that it was knocked out.

Mr. Thwaites : Was there no other outlet for any noxious gases that might gather in No. 3 district but by the rope-road ;—you said in your evidence that there was no other outlet ?

Mr. McDonald : All the others are intakes.

Mr. Thwaites : That being so, any foul air that might gather in the No. 3 district would, in the event of the No. 3 door being left open, go to the furnace ?

Mr.

Mr. McDonald: Yes. (*Continuing*) We had a conference among ourselves about going in to explore this district. The manager did instruct us to be cautious, seeing that the inspectors had already said how dangerous was carbon monoxide gas. We had a definite understanding among ourselves as to what we were going to do. I have not noticed the same smell, said to be fire stink, in any other part of the pit. The reason I think that by reversing the air it would have taken five times the time to clear the district, is because of the distance it would have to travel. The overcast would not have been an outlet for the air if it had been reversed. It did strike us as being dangerous to go in in face of the return air.

Mr. Thwaites: But seeing that there was nothing much to be gained—only getting to know where the fire was, if any—do you not think it would have been better to have gone with the current?

Mr. McDonald: If it had been possible to get in with the current we should certainly have done so. (*Continuing*): We could not have gone through 20 bord with the current. We might have changed the current.

Mr. Thwaites: Would not that have been much better, seeing that you wanted to find out where the trouble was;—would it not have been much better to have taken time, and taken the air with you? Perhaps, then, there might have been a possibility of sealing off a less area of the old workings.

Mr. McDonald: Yes, that would have been much better. (*Continuing*.) The manager did not go with us; I had full control of the party.

His Honor: Supposing you had been able to get at the fire, would you have expected to be able to extinguish it with water or seal it off in a small compass?

Mr. McDonald: We would have expected to be able to either seal it off in a small compass or remove it altogether. (*Continuing*.) There was a very fair chance of putting it out if we could have got to it. There was plenty of water and a very heavy pressure. I do not believe there is a fire in these workings in a burning state—that is, giving off a flame. I do not believe the gas that we smelt was caused by a gob-fire. I think it arose from decaying timber standing in stagnant water. I gave the inspectors all due credit for their opinion, but did not agree with them. Mr. McAuliffe was inclined to agree with them at first. I could not say whether he changed his opinion afterwards. The three of us had a talk in the office afterwards about it. After we had finished the talk we came to the conclusion that it was best to go into these old workings and examine, and make sure. It was thought then that the smell was from stagnant water and decayed timber. The idea of a fire was put on one side. We thought there was just an off-chance of one. We went in to prove whether the inspectors had made a mistake—whether they were right or wrong. If there was a fire, and if we had kept the district sealed up as closely as we could, not opening up No. 20 bord or doing anything to let any more air in, the chances are, if there was a fire that it would have spread quickly. If we had shut off the rope-road again, that would not have left the workings in such a state that very little air could have got in, as there was broken ground all along there. Not much air can get through the overcast. No. 17 bord is the only other place I know of where air can get through. A little air could get over there. There was nothing to show us then that air actually got over there. There was no smell to show us that air was getting into the "C" return. I believed a heat was being given off, but did not think there was a fire. We thought the heat did not come from a gob-fire, because there was neither steam nor smoke. When the inspectors came to the conclusion that it was a gob-fire, I came to the conclusion that it was not. In my mind, and in Mr. McAuliffe's and Mr. Cockburn's, there was no fire there at all.

His Honor: Believing the chance of a gob-fire being there to be so small, how came it that it became so urgent to locate the fire which you did not believe in?

Mr. McDonald: We thought it possible there might be one.

His Honor: Is it a fact that the great anxiety to get at it was not to put the fire out so much as to prove, before the inquest on the two men was over, that the inspectors were wrong and you were right;—was not that the principal reason for your action?

Mr. McDonald: No; it was to get there so as to prove whether there was a fire or not, and, if so, to have it attended to as soon as possible.

His Honor: You expected there would be no fire there?

Mr. McDonald: We did not know exactly whether we would find a fire or not. (*Continuing*.) We found it hotter inside than outside. We found that out when we went in on Thursday. When we made up our minds to adopt the course we did adopt, we did not know it was hot there.

His Honor: So it comes back to the same thing, that when you made up your minds to clear the district out, and sent in an exploring party, you were of opinion that the cause of the smell was not fire, but rotten wood and water?

Mr. McDonald: Yes.

His Honor: And yet you thought it very necessary to do the thing as quickly as possible, on the off-chance of it being a fire?

Mr. McDonald: Yes.

His Honor: And then you swear your action was not rather for the purpose of getting some correct explanation of the death of Curran and Smith for the inquest?

Mr. McDonald: It was for both reasons. To locate the fire (if any), and to ascertain the cause of the death of Curran and Smith.

His Honor: Did it not strike you to mention to the inspectors that you were going in to see whether there was a fire?

Mr. McDonald: No.

His Honor: Were you aware that they did not know anything about the intention to send a party in?

Mr. McDonald: I know Mr. Dixon did not know anything about it.

His Honor: Did you think that Mr. Humble knew anything about it?

Mr. McDonald: He should have known about it, because we disputed in the office as to there being a fire. (*Continuing*.) I told Mr. Humble then that I was going in to see it. He told me to be very careful. He understood that I was personally going in to have a look. I said that I would see the district was properly cleared out before I went in. He understood that I meant the air would be turned in. I thought he understood that there would be some sort of inspection made. At that time he still had one opinion and I had another.

Mr. McDonald having withdrawn,—

His Honor inquired: Are there any more witnesses to be called;—do you wish to call any more witnesses, Mr. Wilshire?

Mr. Wilshire: No, your Honor; we have no more witnesses.

His Honor: Have you any more witnesses, Mr. Curley?

Mr. Curley: I have no more, your Honor.

Mr. O'Sullivan: I have no more, your Honor.

His Honor: Then there is no other witness at the present time. Now, the question is, whether any of you gentlemen who represent different interests wish to address the Court?

Mr. Wilshire: I do not wish to say anything, your Honor. I am here representing the Department to assist the Court in this investigation, but would not think of addressing the Court.

Mr. Curley: I certainly wish to address the Court on one or two points.

Mr. O'Sullivan: At present I have no desire to address the Court, your Honor.

His Honor: Possibly, after you have heard what Mr. Curley has to say, you may have something to say yourself.

Mr. O'Sullivan: Possibly, your Honor.

[The Court, at 4:45 p.m., adjourned till 10 a.m. the following day, Saturday.]

No. 26.

Addresses.

SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY.

The Court sat at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment.

Upon the opening of the Court His Honor intimated to Mr. Curley that the Court were prepared to hear his address.

Mr. Curley: Before addressing the Court I would like to draw Mr. Robertson's attention to page 22 of the Royal Commission's Report on the Lithgow Colliery, where special reference is made to the pillars. (*Continuing.*) Are the points where the bodies were found shown on the plan before the Court?

His Honor: Yes.

Mr. Curley: I would like to obtain definite information as to the actual number of rescuers?

His Honor: That question could perhaps be settled by asking Mr. McAuliffe.

Mr. Curley (addressing Mr. McAuliffe) asked:—Can you inform me of the total number of rescuers who went to the colliery on that particular morning when the rescues were undertaken?

Mr. McAuliffe: No; I cannot tell you.

His Honor (addressing Mr. McDonald) asked:—Do you know, Mr. McDonald, the actual number of rescuers?

Mr. McDonald: No; I cannot say.

Mr. Robertson (addressing Mr. McAuliffe) asked:—Were these men paid for their services?

Mr. O'Sullivan: I can supply a return from the books showing what men were paid for the rescue work; and I will undertake to supply this information.

Mr. Curley: I want the total number of men called upon to go down the pit that night, also the names.

Mr. O'Sullivan: I will have this information supplied from the books.

Mr. Curley thereupon proceeded with his address. He said:—Your Honor and Gentlemen, in reviewing the circumstances that led up to the cause of the catastrophes at the Stockton Colliery on the Tuesday night or Wednesday morning, and on the Thursday night following, probably I had better begin from the time that Gould was assisting the furnace-men at the colliery on the 30th November—the Monday night prior to the first fatality. In looking over Gould's evidence we find a discovery was made on that Monday night that highly deleterious gas was coming from the No. 3 district when the No. 3 door was open. It was of such a character that it affected Gould seriously—so seriously that he tells us in his evidence he fell down. Subsequently he reported to the night-officer, Mr. Burt, that he was completely overcome, adding that the door was open at the time. Thereupon Mr. Burt promised to make an inspection of the place. He did make an inspection, and found the doors closed and everything satisfactory, so far as he was concerned; but he also found that Smith, too, had a similar complaint to make, although in not quite so aggravated a form. Now, this was reported on to the under-manager, Mr. McDonald; and I wish the Court to bear in mind that Mr. Burt, having been told that this occurred when the door was open, would very likely in his report to the under-manager inform him accordingly. If we take that circumstance into account it would very naturally follow that the underground manager, in making an inspection of that locality, would endeavour to see whether this was borne out. He would experiment. He would open the No. 3 door. He would endeavour to see whether it was an actual fact that these deleterious gases were coming in that particular way. Whether he did that has not transpired in the evidence taken, so far as I am aware. Mr. Humble, in his evidence, said that he could account in two ways for Mr. McDonald's not having discovered the gas that Gould and Smith complained of. First, when he made this examination probably the door was shut. Secondly, he went there simply to look for black-damp. If that is so, we must come to the conclusion that he did not attempt to experiment in any shape or form; and that, in making this inspection, he thought these men who had reported were erratic; that they had no good grounds for complaint. It is to be presumed that the night-officer, when he went down with his workmen on the Tuesday night, received a report from the under-manager that everything was satisfactory and all right. It has not transpired whether he told Burt that he was to go at any stage during that night-shift to make an inspection, or to ascertain if the doors had been kept open. Now, it must be apparent to your Honor, that this question of open doors, especially in the vicinity of a furnace, is certainly a very serious matter in connection with the operations of a mine. Gould told us in his evidence that the door had been open for three-quarters of an hour. Now, there were other men in the mine on that particular night; and, whenever a volume of air in a colliery is deranged by circumstances of this character, it must necessarily seriously affect the air in connection with the workings of the mine. It, therefore, does appear certainly surprising

surprising that the night-officer did not make his appearance up to the time that we know the bodies of these men were found. At 4 o'clock in the morning, following upon this, taking the inspection of the underground manager, taking the absence of the night-officer's visit to that place up till 4 o'clock in the morning, what do we find? A discovery is made; two men are found dead at the furnace. They are found about 4 o'clock in the morning by the two men, Jury and Coulson, who made any early inspection of the colliery. These men stated the position the bodies were in. Smith was lying on the ground with his face to the floor of the mine. Curran was sitting on the seat—the usual place where they sat. They also stated they found No. 2 and No. 3 doors open. When the overman (or under-manager), Mr. McDonald, followed these gentlemen into the mine, this is the position that he stated he found the doors in: No. 2 door was shut, and No. 3 door slightly ajar—there was a small piece of coal preventing it from getting to. The position of the doors was not left as Jury and Coulson found them; nor were they so left until the Inspector of Collieries subsequently made an inspection of the locality in accordance with the Act. I am ready to admit that these doors not being left in the position in which these two men found them may probably be accounted for; and I know that there is some reason for it, by the fact that it was necessary to close them as speedily as possible, and so rectify the derangement. Of course, that would not apply very much if the furnace was actually out. It would not then be of any serious consequence, as in that case the furnace would not act as a drawing power from the No. 3 district in the same way as it would while in full blast. I only mention these circumstances incidentally, in order to point out that by leaving the doors open any longer the danger would, probably, under the circumstances, not have been increased. Now, let us take the evidence of Dr. Hester with regard to what was the cause of the death of these two men. It is not nearly so conclusive as it appears to be, when we come to examine it. Let it be strictly looked into. With regard to Curran we find the doctor states: "In my opinion, the cause of the death of George Curran was from asphyxia; I cannot say from what cause—probably, from his appearance, it was caused by carbonic acid poisoning." The doctor says he cannot tell from what cause; and then when he does say carbonic acid, he only says "probably." That is the extent of the weight of the doctor's evidence with regard to Curran's death. What does he say about Smith? He says, "In my opinion, the cause of the death of Charles Smith was syncope, due to poisoning of some kind, and not to asphyxia. In all probability Smith died a short time before Curran, on account of his heart not being thoroughly sound." If this evidence influenced the method of exploration in any way, I am afraid the decision arrived at was built on a foundation somewhat weak. To go on, we find that Inspector Humble appeared on the scene of the accident early on the Wednesday morning, and that after making an inspection of the colliery, in company with the manager, Mr. McAuliffe, and the under-manager, Mr. McDonald, he was of opinion that the fatal gas was fire-stink. At that particular time that opinion does not appear to have been of too bold a character. However, on the way out, Mr. Dixon was met, a return journey was made, and the workings were again inspected. Mr. Dixon having suggested that the mine should be placed under similar conditions to what obtained when the two bodies were found, an experiment was tried, at which were present both Mr. McAuliffe and Mr. McDonald. The No. 3 door was opened. Of course it was immaterial at that particular time whether No. 2 door was opened or not, as it was only a check door to No. 1 door. What was the result? After the mine had been put under these conditions, and a lamp had been placed upon the floor, at the expiration of about thirteen minutes according to Mr. Dixon, and from about fifteen to twenty minutes according to Mr. Humble, a strong pungent odour was noticed coming out of the No. 3 district. It did not put out the light; and the expression used by Mr. Dixon was, "By heavens, that is fire-stink." Well, after this test was over, and the door was closed, Mr. Humble walked a certain distance down the rope-road—he tells us in the direction of No. 3 district—and he discovered that, when the door was closed, he could go down the rope-road for a considerable distance without noticing any appreciable smell, as the tendency of the air-current was then in an opposite direction. At about this time, the opinion that there was "fire-stink" in the mine was emphasised; and the manager was informed of that definitely, clearly, and unmistakably, and verbally—that it was a menace to the men in the colliery; that it was a defect in the colliery; and that they (the inspectors) would expect it to be remedied. The only thing I regret is that Mr. Humble did not deem it prudent, under the circumstances, as inspector of the Stockton Colliery, to hand in a written notice to the manager. Perhaps he could not have done it on the moment, but he could have done it later. However, Mr. McAuliffe, in his evidence, goes this far: he says he took more notice of this verbal communication than if it had been a written document. Well, I cannot understand that. I think that, on such an important question as this—and a matter of such importance—a verbal statement is not of the importance of a written communication. It appears that some consultation had taken place between Mr. McAuliffe and Mr. McDonald early on the Wednesday morning, and that on that day a stopping at No. 20 bord had been broken through. It had been decided to introduce the air that way, and to make No. 3 district a return. Knowing at the time that that was the district that they would have to explore, they must have known that, unless it was cleared out thoroughly, they would have to inhale the gas coming from the No. 3 district.

Referring to the text-books on mining, Mr. Curley then drew attention to the Colliery Manager's Catechism, by W. Fairley, and said he thought that this was a book which Cockburn, and also Messrs. McAuliffe and McDonald and Jury were acquainted with. He quoted from the book the following question and answer:—

What is the composition of carbon monoxide; by what other name is it known; what is its symbol and specific gravity; and what are its properties?

It is composed of one volume of carbon and one of oxygen; its symbol is CO, and specific gravity 0.968; it is known as carbonic oxide; air containing only $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of this gas, by prolonged breathing, would prove fatal. It is inflammable, has no taste, but a peculiar odour. Carbonic acid formed at the bottom of a coal, coke, or charcoal fire, is sometimes converted into carbonic oxide by being deprived of a part of its oxygen as it passes upwards through the red-hot embers. It is found in mines after an explosion of gunpowder or dynamite, and is engendered by gob-fires.

(Continuing.) Mr. Curley said: So that your Honor will see that men being familiar with text-books of this character in connection with gases and mining work must have been familiar, at least in a theoretical way, with them. The probability of the presence of "fire-stink" must have been present to their minds when those inspectors were there. They admit, in their evidence, that they would expect something of that kind to be given off if a gob-fire existed in the workings. Now, what evidence have we that there

was

was a gob-fire? Well, some will say none. At least, that has got to be qualified by Mr. Macdonald's own statement. During the time he was in No. 3 district some months ago, he states that he noticed about No. 18 bord that it was very warm. I suppose that if he noticed that it was warm, this in itself should have indicated something to him at that time; and that appears to have been the time for close inspection. I point this out to show that Mr. McDonald himself states that it was very warm there. Therefore, there was a very high temperature. That is an indication of something. Coming back to the exploration business, I do not know that I can say very much on this point; but it appears worth noticing in some way that even Mr. Cockburn did not appear to be over confident, judging from the fact that he put all his affairs in order that day. Being acquainted with Mr. Humble as a friend, he arranged his affairs in the interest of his children, and put his things in his friend's possession. There must have been something in Cockburn's mind about something being likely to happen. We know that Mr. McDonald stated to the jury that, "if anything happens while we are in here, that's the shortest way out to the fresh air," pointing to the trap-door—the slide door. Then there were the chalk-marks, which were put as they went along the road. Even the manager, Mr. McAuliffe, does not appear to have been free from anxiety. In reply to Mr. Wilshire, he stated it was not his intention to go with the exploring party, but on the evening of the Thursday he had fixed in his mind to go, but when he went to the mine he was too late, as the party had gone down. He went down the mine, and lingered about the furnace until he was apprised by Burt of what had taken place regarding the explorers; and, while I have to express my regret that the manager was not with the party, leading it, it is some satisfaction to know he was in the mine at the time of the occurrence, and rendered some service later on in the rescue of the McDonalds. The under-manager was entrusted, it appears, with leading the exploring party, although he was sceptical from the beginning on the quality of gas from No. 3 district; and no matter what Cockburn's views might have been theoretically on these gases, he said yesterday, when giving evidence, that while he would give place to Cockburn in regard to theory, he would not do so in practice. In practice he regarded himself Cockburn's superior, but not in theory. It is surprising that, when the exploring party went in, they did not take the air current with them. I know it may be remarked "that we are all good Generals after the battle"; but Mr. McDonald has admitted that there was an outlet for air as a return in the No. 3 district over the old overcast away into "C" heading. He states in his evidence, in answer to Mr. Humble, "There is an overcast in connection with the return and No. 3 workings which would have provided an outlet for a current of air driven into No. 3 workings in the reverse way to what the air was put in." Then, again, he gives a peculiar answer further down: "I was not warned by anyone of the danger of meeting these gases. No one spoke to me of the necessity of taking fresh air in with me." Surely Mr. Dixon and Mr. Humble's idea about this matter would have been of some weight. Mr. McDonald's own knowledge of what he had read in the several standard works on the subject should have given sufficient warning itself. These works told him that carbon monoxide was one of the most poisonous gases in connection with coal-mines. How, then, in the face of that, can Mr. McDonald make this statement? Mr. Cockburn, it appears, was warned in a way. He met Mr. Humble, whom he informed that he was going into No. 3 district. If what I gather from Mr. Humble's evidence is correct, he warned Mr. Cockburn that he should not go. I do not know whether the fact of Mr. Humble not being more active in warning these men, or stopping them from doing an absurd act, would have any weight with your Honor in drawing up the report. As it is, I bring it under the notice of the Court. I am not aware that Mr. Dixon was cognizant of the intention to explore this old district. If I was, I would ask the Court to also give that fact their notice. But your Honor must not forget that Mr. Humble is the inspector for the Stockton Colliery. Coming back to the situation at the entry, the limited precautions adopted for getting out to fresh air if anything happened, and the chalk marks, if they became separated—admitting the arrangements to be bad—does it not appear to your Honor that getting on towards midnight was a most peculiar time to enter upon an exploration, especially taking into account that there was no need for hurry. At that hour everybody would be retiring to rest. You would imagine that an exploration of that character, surrounded with peculiar danger, as they must have known from the way it was carried out, would have been entered upon through the day, when everybody was about. I think this is a very pertinent question to the whole business. Again, there was a slight current, so it has been stated, coming out of the double heading. How is it men were not located in that fresh air in the double heading, a considerable distance away from the trap-door, and partly intermediate between the trap-door and where the men were found? Or, if that was not thought about, why not have had some more men about the mine in case of any unforeseen circumstances occurring, especially when it was known that ten men were going in? It appears to me that the daytime should have been chosen for the work. A staff of men could then have been handy, and at the trap-door, in the event of unforeseen occurrences taking place. The exploration takes place; ten men are in it; some are very young, and without much experience; some are experienced. Mr. Burt, of course, is an experienced man, so far as mining is concerned; but he had no knowledge of gases. Mr. Jury is a student in gases; but, notwithstanding that he has been schooled a good deal in these matters, we have the melancholy fact that he never raised any protest whatever against the party's going in. We have had no mention of any protest from Cockburn. Mr. Humble explained that from his temperament he was hardly likely to make one. Besides, he was a newly-appointed official, and would not care to question the management. It does seem surprising to me that these men, with their education, when confronted with this danger, did not raise a manly protest, and object to the men being taken in on false lines. With regard to the other men, probably some had a fair practical knowledge. One thing about Mr. McDonald that cannot pass unnoticed is that, while he went in with his own life, his son's life was with him at the same time. I admit there is that much to be said in his favour; but I do not say that it militates against the foolishness of travelling in against the intake air. It only proves that Mr. McDonald had formed a strong opinion, and was determined at all hazards to hold to it. The unfortunate part of the business is that, even after the casualties, Mr. McDonald will not come down and admit that carbon monoxide is there, notwithstanding Professor Threlfall's report and the opinion expressed by Dr. Hester. Mr. Jury, too, appears to be somewhat sceptical about the matter. We are told that some of these men were volunteers. The principal officials (Burt, Jury, and Ellis) were simply told to come to work in the ordinary way. Ellis tells us that he was at the furnace on Wednesday night, and that he was affected and felt very bad. It does not appear that he mentioned this to anyone; but he made such a statement in his evidence. How long were these men in there? What evidence have we on that point? The evidence is not very clear, and the only thing we can do is to get a fair approximation. That can only be worked out from the circumstantial evidence that has been given. For instance,

Dr.,

Dr. Hester states that he got word in Newcastle that he was wanted at the Stockton Colliery, some time before 11 o'clock. He went over to the mine in the 11 o'clock boat, and arrived on the pit-top at 11:10 p.m. Ellis tells us that when he came out of the mine he knows it was not 11 o'clock. James Goodwin, one of the rescuers, then tells us that he went down in the first cage between 10 and 11 o'clock. Roberts, another of the rescuers, says that he heard the whistle blow or give forth the warning between 10 and 11 o'clock. I think we may say that half-past 9 had just turned when the explorers entered the mine. Mr. McDonald, Jury, and one or two more went down to the furnace after they arrived at the pit bottom. Ellis, with others, stayed near the No. 2 door until they came back. Ellis also states that while at that No. 2 door he noticed even there this same smell before entering. Afterwards Mr. McDonald came back; he had not been to the furnace many minutes when he returned. They then entered the rope-road, and walked quietly on until they came to the double-heading, which they entered, and stayed there for a few minutes. Although they would be inhaling that peculiar atmosphere down to the double-heading, once in there, there would be some partial relief. They, therefore, stayed there a few minutes. I do not think it would be an unfair computation to say that when they left the double-heading it would be probably a quarter to 10. After they moved on from there (I assume that it was then a quarter to 10) they went quietly on, marking the road (the different turns) as they went with chalk; and they went on till they came to No. 16 bord; and, as soon as they got there, they had just about halted when an order was given to each of them to go back, Mr. McDonald remarking at the time, "Bailey will take the lead." And the next thing we hear of is Bailey falling into the arms of James McDonald, and exclaiming, "I'm done." In regard to the time the men were in the mine, I am inclined to think that they were not in more than twenty minutes when they became affected. Bailey was the first to be overcome. Jury, at the same time, says he felt shaky, and a dizziness came over him. Shortly after this Burt says he fell down, and that appears to be the time when the race for life unfortunately began. Bailey's condition would be a warning to all parties that the danger signal had been exhibited unmistakably. Mr. McDonald, in his evidence, says that they got to No. 16 bord, and that during the time that he stopped there he said to Cockburn, "Did you hear that?" He says, Cockburn answered, "Yes, Mac; that's a fall." Well, Cockburn is, unfortunately, not here to speak as to what did take place. Jury says he heard no fall, and felt no concussion. Burt says he heard no fall, and felt no concussion. Ellis says he felt a slight concussion, and James McDonald says he felt a slight concussion; but they both state that they heard no fall. It did not affect their lights. McDonald says he noticed a draught come on to them. The witnesses say that they did not feel anything up to this time, and from the time the order was given to return to Bailey's being overcome was simply a matter of a few minutes. I think a fair conclusion to draw—and the only one—is that these men having been in that atmosphere for something like twenty minutes from the time they left the double heading, I think they had inhaled that much poison that it began to take effect. That they were all affected at that time is not quite borne out by some of the evidence. It is stated that some struggled out, and we know that Ellis himself states that he felt nothing peculiar at the time—not till he was partly on the way out. Well, now, these are the circumstances in connection with this business. The men start to return, and eventually we find that there are only four who make their escape—Ellis, Burt, Jury, and William McAuliffe. I take it they must all have been somewhat affected. As regards the rescue work we find that the manager, as soon as he gets the information, makes all haste to give an alarm and get a rescue party formed. I suppose it was the best he could do at that particular time. The rescue party went in, and following this, a good deal of unfortunate business takes place. The manager remaining at the pit-top, after having been doing rescue work in connection with the McDonalds and Mr. Sampy, the engineer of the colliery—who, by the way, had never been taken into the consultation, although a man possessing good mining knowledge in a general way—takes charge of the trap-door. Parties of rescuers are admitted, and there is no time specified as to how long they should stay, as far as I have been able to discover. There was no standard set up that a man should not remain in more than a certain time. And it does not appear that any standard was fixed with regard to the interval which should elapse before a man was admitted a second time. It was left as a matter of endurance. It was left to them to go in and to get bodies out, dead or alive, or to become exhausted and then attempt to get out the best way they could. I will admit, your Honor, that these men acted no doubt nobly in responding to the call to go and rescue the men in the mine in the hope of saving life; but the clear, intelligent, control of the mine, under any circumstances, must never be overlooked; we have no right to give it up at any time. If not retained by the manager, surely it should be by somebody to whom he is able to delegate his authority. Anyhow, we find that men were going in more than once, and, I believe, in some cases more than twice. The men, when they got in, were permitted to wander away out of the main road—to the by-ways, so to speak—and there lose their lives; and I believe that in pursuit of Thomas McAlpin no less than five lives were sacrificed. And we have it from the evidence of Mr. Roberts—one of the rescuers—that there were no less than sixteen men in there at one time. Dr. Hester states in his evidence that he warned Sweeney and Charlesworth against going in, and that he believed Mr. Sampey heard this warning given; yet these men were allowed to run into what proved to them a death trap. And these are some of the unfortunate circumstances in connection with this business. I will again draw the Court's attention to these clauses of the Act in regard to the issue of notices by the inspectors that I have already referred to. What does the thirty-third section of the 1896 Act say? That all notices under this Act, by or to an inspector, shall be in writing, or partly in writing and partly in lithograph. I think all notices dealing with danger in a mine should be given in writing, as it is well to have a record that instructions have been given. Besides, a written notice has a much more potent force than any verbal instructions. Notwithstanding your Honor's opinion on General Rule 7, I would again bring it under the notice of the Court. The reason I am emphasising this matter is this: In the old Act of 1876 there was a clause giving the inspectors power, where men had been brought out of a mine in consequence of danger, to say that they should not go back until that mine was declared safe. It was, however, deemed expedient by the legislators to eliminate that clause when the Bill was under consideration. With regard to General Rule 7 of the present Act, it says:—

If at any time it is found by the person for the time being in charge of the mine, or any part thereof, that by reason of inflammable gases prevailing in the mine, or that part thereof, or of any cause whatever, the mine or that part is dangerous, every workman shall be withdrawn from the mine or part so found dangerous; and a competent person appointed for the purpose shall inspect the mine or part so found dangerous, and, if the danger arises from inflammable gas, shall inspect

inspect the mine or part with a locked safety lamp, and in every case shall make a true report of the condition of the mine or part; and a workman shall not, except in so far as is necessary for inquiring into the cause of danger, or for the removal thereof, or for exploration, be readmitted into the mine or part so found dangerous, until the same is stated by the person appointed as aforesaid not to be dangerous. Every such report shall be recorded in a book, which shall be kept at the mine for the purpose, and shall be signed by the person who made the inspection.

I still contend that the first part of this Rule intends that an inspection should be made. I admit that the exploration comes in later on; but I take it that the intention of the Rule is that at least there shall be an inspection, and that such inspection shall be recorded in a book, which shall be kept at the colliery office for the purpose. I wish your Honor to give this Rule a little further consideration.

His Honor: You contend that before an exploration is undertaken some sort of an inspection should be made as a preliminary to allowing workmen to go in and explore?

Mr. Curley: Yes, your Honor.

Mr. Robertson: Your contention is, that the person inspecting should go as far as the exploring party intend to go?

Mr. Curley: My idea of an inspection is this: the man in charge of the mine has a right to see that an inspection is carried out of that part to where it is intended to proceed with the exploring party; and, as manager, he should be one of the men to make the inspection, if it is a case of peculiar danger.

Mr. Robertson: In this instance, you contend that an inspection should have been made as far as the explorers went.

Mr. Curley: Yes; as far as it was intended to go. That is my idea of an inspection. I contend that a manager has no right to send men where he cannot go himself. I admit that an inspection might not be made by one man only; but it is an extraordinary thing to call that an inspection where a party of ten men is engaged.

His Honor: I take it you mean that the person inspecting should first of all make a general examination?

Mr. Curley: These are my views: if it is desirable to enter any portion of a mine to explore it, an inspection in the first place should be made of the locality in the proximity. I do not say every detail should be carefully gone into, as that would be a matter for the explorers; but the particular locality somewhere near the vicinity should be inspected before an exploration party is taken in, more especially in such a case as that under notice, where there was no hurry, as the manager states.

Mr. Robertson: What would be the necessity of an exploring party if the district had already been inspected? If it had been inspected in the immediate locality, then I would say it was not necessary for explorers to go in.

Mr. Curley: But my contention is, that there should be an inspection prior to the explorers going in.

Mr. Robertson: But is not an exploration an inspection?

Mr. Curley: Not altogether. If explorers went into a locality and noticed anything wrong, they would set to work and remedy it. I consider that the question of inspection supersedes everything, and that it should be held as a vital principle.

Mr. Robertson: You cannot define the number of people for an inspection?

Mr. Curley: I should say two or three people, or four at the outside, would be quite ample for an inspection.

Mr. Robertson: But that may be a matter of opinion?

Mr. Curley: Yes; I am only giving my opinion.

Mr. Robertson: When you admit three or four, another man might think seven or eight?

Mr. Curley: Yes; but you can go on to the absurdity, and say that one man might think a thousand necessary. (*Continuing.*) I also wish to emphasise the fact that we have no record of any written notice having been tendered to the inspector for the district with regard to the deaths of Curran and Smith. A verbal message only was sent to Mr. Humble. Coming back to the fact of the Inspector for the Stockton Colliery, and I think also Mr. Dixon, not appearing at the colliery the day after their inspection to make some inquiry; both Mr. Humble and Mr. Dixon were at Stockton at the inquest on Thursday, which adjourned about 1 o'clock; and it does not appear that they thought it worth while to go to the colliery office and inquire what was going on. I want that matter considered as well. Why they did not appears to me difficult to comprehend, especially as they knew what was transpiring when they made the inspection; and moreover, Mr. Humble admits in his evidence that that door's being out in No. 3 district came as a matter of surprise to him. I think it must appear as a surprise to your Honor that that stopping was taken out. The idea of calling the door at the furnace a stopping on hinges: why the whole thing is absurd. It seems to me singular that an inspector of this colliery did not think it worth his while to get down to the furnace, seeing that it is the most vital part of the colliery, a little oftener, and pay some attention to it. It is a surprise to me that Mr. Humble, on the last occasion he visited the colliery, did not deem it worth while to inspect the furnace. Again, it is rare that an inspection is made at night time. Surely there could be a casual inspection made now and then other than during the day time. There is another matter. The inspections made by the colliery officials should be embodied in their report books. Good administration is certainly what I would like to see exercised in connection with the practical branch of the Mines Department of this Colony. I would like to see the Act administered in a little firmer manner than appears to be the case at the present time. I hope I have not wearied your Honor. I have to express my thanks for the courtesy the Court has extended to me, and for the patient hearing it has given me.

Mr. O'Sullivan, said:—I should not have thought of addressing the Court if Mr. Curley had confined himself to the facts. I ask—Have the provisions of the Regulations of the Coal Mines Regulation Act been complied with? What evidence have we that they were infringed? What evidence of the kind is there, except that the manager neglected to enter in his book the accident which happened to Smith and Curran? It is known that the manager, at this time, was ordered to his home by the doctor. I ask—Was this accident due to an unforeseen occurrence, or to an error of judgment which any man might make, or was it due to neglect? There could have been no neglect, for, when the Government inspectors and the colliery managers visited this particular district some time back, they also went in against the return air. Now, as to the stopping, the manager explains that the No. 3 district some years ago was worked out. It remained unscalded for more than three years. It was then found that the stoppings on the main intake of No. 2 district

district were leaking, and it was on account of this that the stopping which was knocked out afterwards was erected. During the three years this district was open, the only stopping was No. 3 door, which proved in every way effectual. On each occasion of the managers visiting the mine, they entered against the current of air; and no surprise was expressed either by the inspectors or managers. It was in order to clear out the district more effectually on one of these visits of examination that this stopping was knocked out. As regards the leaving of the doors open, that was contrary to Rule 28 of the Special Rules of the colliery, a copy of which is served upon all the colliery employees, and was certainly served upon Curran and Smith. This Rule reads:—

“No workman or other person shall injure any air-courses, brattice, or stopping, or leave open, wholly or partly, any door, or do any other act whereby the ventilation of the mine may be affected, or the lives of the men or the property of the owners may be endangered.”

On the Thursday night there is evidence that the door was left open.

[Mr. O'Sullivan then proceeded to refer to the verdict of the jury at the first inquest upon Curran and Smith, and Mr. Curley took exception to the construction which Mr. O'Sullivan put upon it. His Honor thereupon quoted the verdict, and said that it was “That Curran and Smith died in the Stockton Colliery, and that their deaths were caused by inhaling noxious gases, commonly called black damp, the said gases being accumulated and caused by the doors Nos. 2 and 3 being left open; but there is no evidence before us to show how those doors came to be left open.”]

Mr. O'Sullivan: Well, the doors were left open. I submit that the exploring party was necessary in any case. First of all, it was necessary for the purpose of locating the seat of the fire, if one existed; and the reason for making the exploration as early as possible was to avoid the fire, if there was one, spreading, and to get it sealed off at an early stage. As Mr. Humble told us yesterday, it is a very difficult thing to seal off a fire in a mine where the stoppings are so numerous as they are in the Stockton Colliery. In regard to Mr. Curley's contention that Dr. Hester was not positive as to what caused the death of the men, there is what the jury thought. All the men who went into the mine were of opinion that black damp was present, though they were certainly on the look out for other gases as well. As regards the action of the manager, it is in evidence that he was at his home nervously prostrated on his bed; but when he hears of the exploring party going in, he repairs rapidly to the mine and finds that he is just too late to join; so he attends to the furnace. The air was evidently pretty good when the exploring party went in, for one of them, now dead, remarked “I could live in this for a week”; and we have it in evidence that McAlpin said, “I could live in here for a week.” The evidence of all the survivors is that the air was very good. Concerning the cause of what took place, what more likely than that it was what was thought by Macdonald—namely, a fall? Mr. Humble and Mr. Dixon themselves heard a fall after the accident; and is it not likely that that was a continuation of what was going on in the mine? Ellis speaks of sickness on the Wednesday night. He was employed at the furnace to clear out the black damp. He knew of the danger. As to Gould's evidence, I do not think anyone would call Gould a reliable witness. His evidence has been given in such a way that very little weight can be placed upon it. If he was completely overcome, it was very strange that he could walk a mile to report what had happened very shortly afterwards. These are two very conflicting statements. There is this smell noticed on the Wednesday night. I do not pretend to be able to account for it. All the authorities I have looked up tell me that carbonic acid is odourless, tasteless, and colourless. Professor Threlfall took samples in the mine. The first was no good; in the second, carbonic oxide predominated; and, in the third, carbonic acid—black damp. That supports McDonald and his opinion of black damp. I will just quote Dr. Hester. He says, “Judging from what happened to the rescue party, I should say that the poisonous gas must have increased very considerably while the exploring party were in the workings.” And again, “Restraint had to be placed on men to prevent their going in to try and rescue; and in many cases men went in who had been in before, in order to lead and show other men the way.” That is how several were lost. They escaped from those who were in charge, and that is how they were lost. Dr. Hester also said that one of the effects of carbonic oxide was to occasion dimness of sight. In conclusion, I say that whatever happened was purely accidental, and that it happened from some unforeseen occurrence that the management could not have contended against.

Mr. Robertson (addressing *Mr. McAuliffe*) asked: Can you tell me the names of your under officials who were unaffected by the gas, and were at liberty to take charge when you, Mr. McDonald, Jury, and others, were affected by the gas?

Mr. McAuliffe: I sent Jury and Ellis out into the fresh air to recover themselves. There were no other deputies except Jones, who, however, was not one of the exploring party. (*Continuing.*) Jones was fresh, and could have taken charge. He was assisting in the rescue work. All the officials except Baitey, senior, were there that night. Jones was not one of the explorers; he was one of the rescuers. He was physically quite able to take charge. Baitey was not on the scene at all that night. He was not aware of the accident. He was deputy at that time.

Mr. Dixon (in the absence of *Mr. Wilshire*, whose attendance had not been deemed necessary), addressed the Court. He said:—Your Honor and Gentlemen forming the Court,—I wish to draw attention to the fact that, as far as the inspectors are concerned, everything we have done in connection with the Stockton disaster has been made transparent to the public. We have not kept anything back; and I venture to assert that, in getting out the evidence, the questions put by the inspectors at the inquest were intelligible and lucid to everyone. We tried to make the inquiry as simple as possible, and to get all the facts we could with regard to the disaster. Mr. Humble has been referred to as the inspector of the Stockton Colliery; but in relation to the written notice which was not served, and the verbal notice which was given, I wish the Court to bear in mind that I consider myself as one with Mr. Humble in this respect; and if any blame is due to Mr. Humble it is also due to me, as senior officer. We understood, both of us, that the verbal instructions were as good as written instructions, so far as the management was concerned. All through the Stockton case I went with Mr. Humble, and I stood by him. Of course, there has been no reference made to what we did other than merely going to the pit. I think it is only right that the Court should take notice of what we did in the ten hours of rescue work. I do say that there are not two inspectors in the British Empire who could have done better than Mr. Humble and myself. I can only emphasise what I said before—that if there is any blame attributable to Mr. Humble for not having written the notice, I am here to stand by his side, and share that blame. In conclusion, I have to thank your Honor and the Court for the way the inquiry has been conducted.

At this stage the Court adjourned *sine die*.

APPENDIX TO REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

MR. CURLEY having undertaken to supply the Court with a copy of certain recommendations made by a Royal Commission appointed in England to inquire into the cause of mining accidents, and the means to be used for their prevention, forwarded, under date of 15th February, 1897, a document in the following terms:—

[Copy.]

“The Colliery Managers’ Hand-book”: by Caleb Pameley, 1886, page 320, Appendix.

Measures for dealing with Casualties.

WE consider that measures should be adopted to deal more systematically, and, if possible, more expeditiously with casualties resulting from the various sources of accidents dealt with in this report.

Collieries or mines should be required to provide an ambulance and stretchers for the purpose of conveying to their homes sufferers from injuries received while in the discharge of their duties.

Arrangements should be made for the establishment of centres in mining districts where additional appliances for accour and relief, and also special appliances for exploring purposes, should be maintained in an efficient condition, so as to be ready for use at the shortest notice.

It is most desirable that facilities should be afforded for the instruction of men in the use of special auxiliary appliances for exploring purposes, and in simple measures connected with the provisional treatment of injuries.

SPECIAL RULES for the conduct and guidance of the persons acting in the management of the Stockton Colliery, in the District of Newcastle, and all persons engaged in or about the Colliery.

N.B.—One or more copies of these Rules shall be fixed up in the principal office at the colliery; and all persons accepting employment in the colliery shall be engaged subject to the Regulations contained in them.

A printed copy of the Rules shall be supplied to every person before he is employed in or about such colliery.

Special Rules.

1. The colliery manager shall have the daily supervision and control of every shaft in the course of sinking, and every level and inclined plane in the course of being driven for commencing or opening any mine, or for searching for or proving minerals, and all shafts, levels, planes, works, machinery, tramways, and sidings, both below ground and above ground, in and adjacent to the mine, and any such shaft, level, and inclined plane belonging to the mine.

2. He shall comply with the requirements of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1876, and shall, to the best of his power, enforce the observations of the said Act, and of the General and Special Rules.

3. He shall appoint such competent persons as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of the said Act, and to provide for the safety and proper discipline of the persons employed in the mine or mines under his control.

4. The overseer shall have the daily supervision and responsible charge of the mine, under the direction of the manager, and shall give all necessary instructions to the men and boys in the pit respecting their work; and shall see that they pay due respect to the Rules and Regulations of the colliery; and shall visit every working-place in the pit daily, or as often as may be practicable, and see that the air-courses and stoppings are in a good state of repair, and that an adequate quantity of fresh air is constantly supplied to the men.

5. In the event of any sudden discharge or accumulation of inflammable gas in any part of the workings, the fact shall be immediately reported by or through him to the manager, and he shall also adopt such measures as may seem to him most advisable for the immediate removal of the gas, and work shall not be resumed in such place or places until the gas has been removed.

6. In any place where there is a dangerous appearance of fire-damp, locked safety-lamps shall be used, and no workman shall be permitted to remain where fire-damp shall be accumulated in such quantity as to burn in the inside of, or to heat the lamps dangerously.

7. The overseer, or some other person specially appointed in his place, shall personally see that the air furnaces are kept in good repair and carefully attended to, and shall examine daily, or as often as practicable, the state of the roof in the main roads and the working-places, also the state of the shaft and the guides therein; and in the event of any of the above-mentioned places being found insecure, he shall cause them to be repaired at once.

8. It shall also be the duty of the overseer to see that an adequate supply of timber is sent into all the working-places, and to see that such places are properly and securely timbered.

9. If on examination by the overseer or any other person specially appointed, any working-place shall be found insecure from a defect in the ventilation, or from insufficiency of timbering, he shall cause a danger-signal to be placed in the middle of the road, at the entrance of it, such danger-signal to consist of a board with the word “danger” printed thereon.

On-setter or Hooker-on.

10. The on-setter or hooker-on shall, subject to the directions of the manager or overseer, have the sole control of the pit-bottom, and the command of the signals up the pit, and on no account shall he allow any person to interfere with the rapping of the signal-hammer. He shall at all times when sending up waggons of coal, see that none of the coal projects beyond the side of the waggon, and shall pay the greatest attention to the signal-hammer when men are going to ride, in order that accidents may be avoided. The rapping shall be as follows:—

11. Number of raps—
 - 1 for “go on.”
 - 2 for “lower down.”
 - 3 for “men coming up.”
 - 4 for “empty cage.”
 - 5 for “go slow—door open.”
 - 6 for “small coal for engine.”

12. The on-setter shall on no account allow any person to ride in a cage with a waggon, and on no account shall any person be allowed to go across the pit-bottom while work is going on in the pit, and any violation of this Rule shall be reported to the manager immediately.

Banksman.

13. The banksman shall, subject to the direction of the manager or overseer, have the control of the pit-top, and the command of the signals down the pit, and have power to prevent strangers from descending without special instructions from the manager.

14. The banksman shall be responsible for the state of the pit-top, and shall see that the frames and the surface near the pit-mouth are kept free from coal, stones, or rubbish, and that they are cleaned at least three times a day. He shall also see that the ropes and slides are well greased, and on no account shall he allow any person to descend the shaft in a state of intoxication.

15. He shall not allow any miner or workman during work hours to descend the pit in the same cage along with his tools, but he shall send them down for him.

16. He shall examine the pit ropes and the cage-chains frequently through the course of the day, and shall report to the manager or overseer if they are found faulty, adopting at the earliest opportunity such means as will, to the best of his judgment, remedy the defects.

17. Wire-ropes shall be run through the banksman’s hands slowly, once every week, to detect broken wires.

Engine-driver.

18. The engine-driver shall have the sole control of the engine entrusted to his care.

19. He shall inspect daily the engine, boilers, drums, chains, cages, and all other machinery used for the purpose of raising men and coals from the mine; shall see that all winding-ropes be carefully attached to the drum by clamps; that boilers be blown off every twelve hours; that the pumps are working well, and that the water is regularly pumped.

20. The engine-driver shall attend constantly to his engine during the shift, and upon no account shall he permit any person to touch any of the machinery or enter the engine-house, except such persons as may be appointed so to do by those in authority over him. He shall run the ropes once up and down before men descending in the morning, in order to see that the ropes, &c., are all right.

21. The engine-driver shall at all times pay strict attention to the rapping of the signal-hammer, as specified above, and to the oiling of the engine and the pulley-wheels, and should he discover any derangements of the machinery he shall stop the engine at once and report the matter to the manager, overseer, or engineer.

22. When men are in the pit-workings the engine-driver shall not leave the handle of the engine on any account, and when men are going to ride from the bottom he shall not lift the cage until he is sure of the signal given, and when men are going down he shall see that they are all right before the cage is started, and he shall see that the men are let down or drawn up with the greatest possible care.

Colliers and Workmen.

23. No collier or other person shall descend contrary to the direction of the banksman, nor ascend contrary to the direction of the hooker-on, nor shall any person or persons ascend or descend upon a loaded skip, or attempt to get out of the cage when in motion.

24. Every collier shall in all matters relating to the workings of the mines, or to the safety of the men, obey strictly the orders of the manager or the overseer, and no man or boy shall go into any part of the pit other than where he works without special authority from the manager or overseer.

25. Every collier shall, upon leaving his place of work, take care that no lighted candles or lamps or other fires (except such as is used for the purpose of ventilation) be left burning in any of the workings he may pass through or by, unless it be under the care of some person, nor shall he leave any gunpowder dangerously exposed.

26. Every collier shall securely sprag or uphold the coal whilst boling, and shall securely prop up the roof of the board or heading where he may be working, so that accidents may be avoided; and if he shall not be provided with a sufficient quantity of timber he shall cease working, and report the same to the manager or overseer.

27. Every workman employed in any pit shall inform the person in charge of the workings of the existence of any choke or fire damp; of any insecurity of the roof, shaft, or any other part of the workings; or of any air-door being damaged or left open, immediately on its being observed by him.

28. No workman or other person shall injure any air-courses, brattice, or stopping, or leave open wholly or partly any door, or do any other act whereby the ventilation of the mine may be affected, or the lives of the men or the property of the owners may be endangered.

29. The seam of coal must be wrought strictly in accordance with the instructions of the manager or overseer. No collier shall on any account be allowed to take the tools of another.

30. Every person employed shall obey the orders of the manager or overseer, or other person specially appointed to give orders in all matters connected with the safety of the miners or the working of the colliery, and shall refrain from quarrelling, fighting, or using obscene language, or from doing anything that may cause a stoppage of the works.

31. There shall be no restriction as to the amount of any individual's daily or weekly earnings.

32. Any miner or other person employed in or about the colliery shall be liable to instant dismissal if he shall wilfully violate the foregoing Rules, or if it shall appear to the manager that the men or machinery are in any way endangered by his neglect or incapacity.

Firemen.

33. The firemen shall be in the pit four (4) hours before the workmen commence to draw coals, and shall examine carefully with the safety-lamp all places and sections where gas has previously been seen.

34. He shall suspend "danger crosses" in all places where gas is found to be dangerous and stopped, and on no account allow them to be removed until the place is considered safe, and started again.

35. All safety-lamps to be examined by the fireman before they are given out to the miners or anyone connected with the colliery requiring the use of a safety-lamp.

36. All safety-lamps shall be locked by the fireman before they leave the lamp-room, which will be in charge of the fireman.

37. Any lamp receiving any injury shall be at once delivered up to the fireman or overman, and the fact reported to the manager.

38. No smoking shall be permitted in any place where safety-lamps are used.

Furnace-men and Horse-drivers.

39. The furnace-men and horse-drivers shall be subject to the same Rules and Regulations as the other workmen, and when the pit is not at work shall obtain special instructions from the manager or overseer.

40. When day and night furnace-men are required, the one shall not leave the furnace until the other arrives, except to give information of the non-attendance of the other, in which case he shall return again with all speed to the furnace, and remain there until relieved by someone appointed by the manager or overseer for that purpose. When a day furnace-man only is employed the furnace shall be got into vigorous operation before the time for starting work in the pit, and he shall see that a clear brisk fire is kept up all day.

41. Gunpowder or other explosive or inflammable substance shall not be stored in the mine.

42. It shall not be taken into the mine except in a covered or closed case or canister, containing not more than four pounds.

43. A workman shall not have in use at one time, in any one place, more than one of such cases or canisters.

44. No steel or iron rammer shall be used, and a charge of powder which has missed fire shall not be unrammed.

N.B.—It is the particular desire of the owner of the colliery that the various officers shall at all times report to the proper authorities every individual case of neglect or wilful disobedience of the Rules and cautions abovementioned, in order that the safe and proper working of the colliery may be duly maintained.

By the 34th clause of the 39th Victoria No. 31, it is enacted every person who shall be guilty of any offence against this Act, or who shall wilfully violate or neglect to observe any provisions of this Act, or any general or special rule established hereby or hereunder for the violation or neglect of which no penalty is hereby expressly imposed, shall for every such offence be liable to a penalty not exceeding £10, recoverable summarily before two or more Justices of the Peace.

By the 33rd clause of the same Act it is enacted every person who pulls down, injures, or defaces any notice hung up or affixed as required by this Act, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding 40s.

No. 27.

Exhibit "A"—Court of Investigation. Exhibit No. 10—Court of Inquiry.

No. 28.

W. T. Dick, Esq., M.P., to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Dear Sir,

Newcastle, 19 March, 1897.

Could you kindly supply me with half-a-dozen copies of the finding of the Court of the Stockton inquiry, if published.

Yours, &c.,

W. T. DICK.

Inform, Department regrets its inability to comply with his request; but the report has not been published, except so much of it as appeared in the daily papers.—H.B.S. (for U.S.), 19/3/97.

The

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to W. T. Dick, Esq., M.P.

Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 19 March, 1897.

Date of letter under reply:—19th March, 1897.

Subject:—Asking to be supplied with six copies of the finding of the Court on the Stockton inquiry.

Reply:—The Department regrets its inability to comply with your request. The report has not been published yet, except so much of it as appeared in the daily papers.

D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary
(Per A.F.)

PART V.

Decision to hold Court of Inquiry under section 10, Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896. Proceedings of Court of Inquiry into conduct of Messrs. McAuliffe and McDonald, and Finding of Court; also Order of Minister for Mines cancelling Certificates.

No. 1.

The Secretary to The Attorney-General to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Re Stockton Inquiry.

Sir,

Attorney-General's Department, Sydney, 9 March, 1897.

I have the honor, by direction of the Attorney-General, to inform you that, after perusal and consideration of the papers in the above matter, he has decided that no criminal proceedings shall be taken.

I have, &c.,
H. POLLOCK,
Secretary.

Submitted.—D. McL., 9/3/97. Seen.—S. SMITH.

No. 2.

Minute by The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture *re* Stockton Colliery Accidents.

Subject:—Stockton Colliery Accidents.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 11 March, 1897.

I HAVE very carefully perused the full and very comprehensive report submitted by the Court of Investigation appointed to inquire into the causes and circumstances attending the fatal accidents which occurred in the Stockton Colliery in December last.

The finding of the Court is that both the manager and the under-manager are unfit, by reason of incompetence, to discharge the duties of their respective positions; and I, therefore, direct that an inquiry under clause 10 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act be held at Newcastle—the inquiry to be conducted by His Honor Judge Backhouse. The Crown Solicitor should be moved to have all documents prepared, so that the inquiry may be commenced without any avoidable delay.

S. SMITH.

No. 3.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to The Crown Solicitor.

Sir,

Department of Mines and Agriculture, 11 March, 1897.

With reference to the inquiry recently held at Newcastle in connection with the Stockton Colliery accident, and to the report of the Court as to its causes and circumstances, I am directed to state that, as it appears that the manager and under-manager are unfit to discharge their duties by reason of incompetency and negligence, the Minister desires that an inquiry shall be held under section 10 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act.

Under subsection (ii), section 10, the Minister is directed to furnish to the manager and under-manager a statement of the case on which the inquiry is instituted, and I should, therefore, be glad if you will have the proper statement of the case prepared.

The report of the Court of investigation is forwarded, together with a copy of the evidence. As it is intended to hold the inquiry at an early date, I should be glad if the matter can receive immediate attention.

It will also be necessary that some person be appointed by the Minister to undertake the management of the case, and I would ask that Mr. Wilshire, of your Department, be instructed to do so.

I have, &c.,
D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary.

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No. 4.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Sir, Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 11 March, 1897.

With reference to your letter of to-day's date, respecting the inquiry to be held as to the competency of the manager and under-manager of the Stockton Colliery, I have the honor to forward herewith statements of the cases on which the inquiry is instituted, and to state that, as the Act requires the Minister before the commencement of the inquiry, to furnish the statement of the case to the party affected, it would, perhaps, be advisable for the Minister to authenticate the same by his signature.

As requested by the Minister, Mr. Wilshire of this Department will undertake the management of the case, and should, according to the Act, be appointed by the Minister,

Kindly inform me as early as convenient where, and on which date, the inquiry is to be held.

I have, &c.,

GEO. COLQUHOUN,

Crown Solicitor.

Mr. Humble and I saw Mr. Wilshire on Saturday, and again this morning, when he approved of the statement as now amended being sent.—H.D.W., 15/3/97.

No. 5.

Memorandum by The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to Inspector Lynch.

Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 16 March, 1897.

Will Inspector Lynch please cause the enclosed letters and statements to be served on Mr. Daniel McAuliffe, manager of the Stockton Colliery, and Mr. William McDonald, under-manager of the Stockton Colliery, at the earliest moment to-morrow?

Attached hereto are duplicates of the statements, having on their back a certificate of service, which should be filled in by the officer effecting service.

The duplicates should then be returned to this office.

D. C. McLACHLAN,

Under Secretary.

Notices served, certificates on originals filled in, and papers returned herewith.—W. C. LYNCH, Inspector of Police, Newcastle, 17/3/97.

[Enclosure.]

* Statements signed for McAuliffe and McDonald, and sent with duplicate copy to Inspector Lynch, Newcastle, for service. 16 March, 1897.

COPIES of Certificates of Service.

I, CONSTABLE ALBERT F. KNIGHT, of Stockton, do hereby certify that I have served, this 17th day of March, 1897, upon the within-named William McDonald, the statement herein, by delivering to him personally, at Stockton, a true copy thereof.

ALBERT F. KNIGHT,

1st-Class Constable.

I, CONSTABLE ALBERT F. KNIGHT, of Stockton, do hereby certify that I have served, this 17th day of March, 1897, upon the within-named Daniel McAuliffe, the statement herein, by delivering to him personally, at Stockton, a true copy thereof.

ALBERT F. KNIGHT,

1st-Class Constable.

No. 6.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to His Honor Judge Backhouse.

Sir, Department of Mines, Sydney, 17 March, 1897.

I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to inform you that he has, in the exercise of the power conferred on him by section 10 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, directed you to hold an inquiry into the conduct of Daniel McAuliffe, as manager of the Stockton Colliery, in consequence of representation having been made to him by the "Court of Inquiry into the Stockton Colliery Accidents," that Mr. McAuliffe is unfit, by reason of incompetency and gross negligence, to discharge duties as such manager.

A copy of the statement of the case upon which the inquiry is instituted is enclosed herewith for your information.

The inquiry will be held at the Court-house at Newcastle, and will be begun at 2 p.m. on Monday, the 22nd inst. Mr. E. H. Wilshire, of the Crown Solicitor's Office, has been appointed to undertake the management of the case.

Annexed hereto will be found your formal appointment under the hand of Mr. Secretary Sydney Smith. †

Steps, I may add, are being taken to obtain the services of two shorthand writers, one of whom may act as Secretary to the Court.

I have, &c.,

D. C. McLACHLAN,

Under Secretary.

No. 7.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to His Honor Judge Backhouse.

Sir, Department of Mines, Sydney, 17 March, 1897.

I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to inform you that he has, in the exercise of the power conferred on him by section 10 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, directed you to hold an inquiry into the conduct of William McDonald, as under-manager of the Stockton Colliery, in consequence of representation having been made to him by the "Court of Inquiry into the Stockton Colliery Accidents," that Mr. McDonald is unfit, by reason of incompetency and gross negligence, to discharge his duties as such under-manager.

A

* Statements referred to, with proceedings of Court of Inquiry, pages 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.
† See Proceedings of Court, pages 2 and 3.

A copy of the statement of the case upon which the inquiry is instituted is enclosed herewith for your information.

The inquiry will be held at the Court-house, Newcastle, and will be begun at 2 p.m. on Monday, 22nd inst. Mr. E. H. Wilshire, of the Crown Solicitor's Office, has been appointed to undertake the management of the case.

Annexed hereto will be found your formal appointment under the hand of Mr. Secretary Sydney Smith.

Steps, I may add, are being taken to obtain the services of two shorthand writers, one of whom may act as Secretary to the Court.

I have, &c.,

D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary.

No. 8.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to The Crown Solicitor.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 17 March, 1897.

With reference to your letter of the 11th instant, respecting the inquiry to be held into the conduct of the manager of the Stockton Colliery, I am directed to enclose herewith Mr. E. H. Wilshire's authority* to undertake the management of the case, and to inform you that the inquiry will be held by His Honor Judge Backhouse at the Court-house at Newcastle, and will be begun on the 22nd instant, at 2 p.m.

A statement of the case (in duplicate) on which the inquiry is instituted was forwarded last night to the Inspector of Police, Newcastle, for service on Mr. McAuliffe; and on the receipt of the duplicate copy it will be forwarded for Mr. Wilshire's information.

I have, &c.,

D. C. McLACHLAN.

Sir,

Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 17 March, 1897.

With reference to your letter of the 11th instant, respecting the inquiry into the conduct of the under-manager of the Stockton Colliery, I am directed to enclose herewith Mr. E. H. Wilshire's authority to undertake the management of the case, and to inform you that the inquiry will be held by His Honor Judge Backhouse at the Court-house at Newcastle, and will be begun on the 22nd instant, at 2 p.m.

A statement of the case (in duplicate) on which the inquiry is instituted was forwarded last night to the Inspector of Police, Newcastle, for service on Mr. McDonald, and on receipt of the duplicate copy it will be forwarded for Mr. Wilshire's information.

I have, &c.,

D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary.

No. 9.

His Honor Judge Backhouse to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Sir,

Judge's Chambers, District Court, 18 March, 1897.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of two letters from you, dated the 17th instant, respecting inquiries to be held by me under the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, and the following enclosures:—

1. Appointment to inquire into the conduct of Daniel McAuliffe.
2. Copy of statement of case supplied to him.
3. Appointment to inquire into the conduct of William McDonald.
4. Copy of statement of case supplied to him.

I have, &c.,

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE.

No. 10.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to D. McAuliffe, Esq.

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 18 March, 1897.

With reference to the inquiry to be held into your conduct as manager of the Stockton Colliery, I am directed to enclose herewith for your use one dozen blank forms of summons.

I have, &c.,

D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary.

No. 11.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to Wm. McDonald, Esq.

Sir,

Mines Department, Sydney, 18 March, 1897.

With reference to the inquiry to be held into your conduct as under-manager of the Stockton Colliery, I am directed to enclose herewith for your use one dozen blank forms of summons.

I have, &c.,

D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary.

No. 12.

* See Proceedings of Court, pages 10 and 11.

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No. 12.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to The Crown Solicitor.

Sir,

Department of Mines and Agriculture, 18 March, 1897.

I am directed by the Secretary for Mines to forward the attached papers for the information of Mr. E. H. Wilshire, who has been appointed to undertake the management of the cases at the inquiries into the conduct of the manager and under-manager of the Stockton Colliery.

I have, &c.,

D. C. McLACHLAN,

Under Secretary.

PAPERS attached.

Report of Court of Inquiry into Stockton Colliery accidents (and tracing). Copy of evidence taken and addresses made before the above Court. Copy of report of Inspectors Dixon and Humble. Copy of evidence taken at second inquest (in three parcels). Copy of exhibits (except plan). Copy of evidence taken at first inquest. Copy of statement served on D. McAuliffe, with certificate of service on back. Copy of statement served on Wm. McDonald, with copy of certificate of service on back.

No. 13.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Sir,

Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 18 March, 1897.

With reference to the inquiry to be held into the conduct of the manager and under-manager of the Stockton Colliery, the following witnesses will be required to be in attendance, viz.:—Messrs. Martin, Coroner; William Dixon, Chief Inspector; William Humble, Inspector; Jonathan Dixon, Burt, Gould, and the two gentlemen who took the shorthand notes at the Court of Investigation.

The whole of the papers, including the plan of No. 3 district, should also be at the Court for the purpose of reference.

I have, &c.,

GEO. COLQUHOUN,

Crown Solicitor.

Mr. Wilshire asked for a summons for R. J. Jury.—H.W., 19/3/97.

No. 14.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to Mr. E. H. Wilshire.

Sir,

Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 19 March, 1897.

Adverting to my letter of yesterday's date, addressed to the Crown Solicitor, respecting the inquiries to be held into the conduct of the manager and under-manager of the Stockton Colliery, I am directed to enclose herewith additional papers in connection therewith, viz.:—A copy of the special rules of the Stockton Colliery; the appointment of the late Court of Investigation under section 23; a copy of the report of Dr. Haldane on the causes of death in colliery explosions; a report of Pameley's Colliery Manager's handbook (see pages 323-331), and also of Roscoe's Elementary Chemistry (see page 76).

The original depositions taken at the first and second inquests will be forwarded to Newcastle, as well as the original plan put in by Mr. Jonathan Dixon.

Summonses have been forwarded to the Inspector of Police for Service on G. C. Martin, John Dixon, William Humble, Jonathan Dixon, Burt, Gould, R. J. Jury.

Five forms signed by His Honor are enclosed for your use, and a further supply will be forwarded to-morrow.

The police authorities have been asked to provide facilities to enable you to effect the service of summonses.

I have, &c.,

D. C. McLACHLAN,

Under Secretary.

No. 15.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to The Inspector-General of Police.

Sir,

Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 19 March, 1897.

I am directed to inform you that an inquiry will be held at the Court-house (occasional court-room), Newcastle, on the 22nd instant, commencing at 2 p.m., by His Honor Judge Backhouse, into the conduct of Daniel McAuliffe and William McDonald, manger and under-manager respectively of the Stockton Colliery. I am therefore to request that one of your local officers may be instructed to act as erier to the Court, and that assistance may be accorded to Mr. E. H. Wilshire, who has undertaken the management of the cases, in effecting service of summonses.

I have, &c.,

D. C. McLACHLAN,

Under Secretary.

No. 16.

Memorandum by The Under Secretary for Mines to The Police Constable at Greta.

Department of Mines and Agriculture, 19 March, 1897.

Will you please cause the enclosed summonses to be served on Mr. Jonathan Dixon, manager of the Greta Colliery, as early as possible to-morrow, and notify Mr. E. H. Wilshire, "Great Northern Hotel," Newcastle, when you have done so.

D. C. McLACHLAN,

Under Secretary

(Per H. Dalrymple Wood).

No. 17

No. 17.

Memorandum by The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to Inspector Lynch, Newcastle.

Department of Mines and Agriculture, 19 March, 1897.

Will you please cause the four enclosed summonses to be served on the persons to whom they are directed as early as possible to-morrow.

D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary
(Per H. Dalrymple Wood).

No. 18.

The Secretary, Court of Inquiry, to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Court of Inquiry into the conduct of the manager and under-manager of the Stockton Colliery.

Sir,

Newcastle, 22 March, 1897.

I beg to inform you that the Court of Inquiry into the conduct of Mr. McAuliffe, the manager, and Mr. McDonald, the under-manager, of the Stockton Colliery, was opened in the Court-house, Newcastle, at 2 p.m. to-day. His Honor Judge Backhouse presided. Mr. E. H. Wilshire, prosecuting officer, Crown Solicitor's Office, was present, and notified that he had been appointed to undertake the management of the cases. Mr. F. E. Rogers, Q.C., instructed by Mr. T. D. O'Sullivan, appeared for Messrs. McAuliffe and McDonald.

It was agreed by the parties:—

- (1.) That the two cases should be taken together.
- (2.) That Mr. Wilshire may, if he think proper, put in evidence already given by Mr. McAuliffe, as evidence against Mr. McDonald, and the evidence already given by Mr. McDonald as evidence against Mr. McAuliffe.

Mr. Wilshire then opened his cases, after which witnesses were called. At 5 p.m. the Court adjourned till 10 a.m. to-morrow (Tuesday). Mr. Rogers has undertaken to then hand in the certificates of the manager and under-manager.

I have, &c.,

E. C. WRIGHT,
Secretary.

For Minister's information.—D.McL., 23/3/97. Seen.—S. SMITH, 23/3/97.

No. 19.

The Secretary, Court of Inquiry, to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Court of Inquiry into the conduct of the manager and under-manager of the Stockton Colliery.

Sir,

Newcastle, 23 March, 1897.

I have the honor to inform you that, upon the Court resuming its sittings to-day, the certificates of Mr. McAuliffe, the manager, and Mr. McDonald, the under-manager, of the Stockton Colliery, were handed in.

Afterwards a considerable amount of documentary evidence was put in, and witnesses were called. At 5 p.m. the Court adjourned till to-morrow (Wednesday) morning.

I have, &c.,

E. C. WRIGHT,
Secretary.

No. 20.

The Secretary, Court of Inquiry, to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Court of Inquiry into the conduct of the manager and under-manager of the Stockton Colliery.

Sir,

Newcastle, 24 March, 1897.

I beg to inform you that the Court resumed its sittings to-day.

Mr. Wilshire called additional witnesses, and shortly before the mid-day adjournment closed his cases. Mr. Rogers, Q.C., thereupon opened the cases for the manager and under-manager of the Stockton Colliery.

At 4:50 p.m. the Court further adjourned till 10 a.m. to-morrow (Thursday).

I have, &c.,

E. C. WRIGHT,
Secretary.

No. 21.

Telegram from Mr. E. H. Wilshire to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Newcastle, 25 March, 1897.

Court of Inquiry concluded. Certificates of manager and under-manager cancelled.

For Minister's information.—D.McL., 25/3/97. Seen.—S. SMITH.

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No. 22.

The Secretary, Court of Inquiry, to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Court of Inquiry into the conduct of the manager and under-manager of the Stockton Colliery,
 Sir, Newcastle, 25 March, 1897.

I beg to inform you that the sittings of this Court were resumed at 10 a.m. to-day. The taking of evidence was concluded at 11 a.m., at which hour Mr. Rogers, Q.C., proceeded to address the Court. Mr. E. H. Wilshire followed, after which His Honor Judge Backhouse summed up.

The Court, on the grounds of incompetency and gross negligence, cancelled the certificates of the manager and under-manager.

Upon rising, the Court adjourned till 2 p.m. on Saturday, the 3rd proximo. There is at present, however, no intention of the Court sitting on that day; but it may be found necessary to do so.

I have, &c.,
 E. C. WRIGHT,
 Secretary.

Seen.—D.C.McL., 26/3/97.

No. 23.

His Honor Judge Backhouse to The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Court of Inquiry into the conduct of the manager and under-manager of the Stockton Colliery.
 Sir, Court-house, Newcastle, 25 March, 1897.

I have the honor to inform you that the Court of Inquiry concluded sittings to-day, and that I made an order cancelling the certificates of Daniel McAuliffe, the manager, and William McDonald, the under-manager, on the grounds of incompetency and gross negligence.

My report, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, will be forwarded to you in due course.

I have, &c.,
 ALF. P. BACKHOUSE,
 D.C.J.

Submitted for the information of the Minister.—H.B.S. (for U.S.), 29/3/97. See me *re* this.—
 S. SMITH, 31/3/97. Done, 1/4/97. Resubmit with the report when it comes to hand.—D.C.McL.,
 1/4/97.

No. 24.

The Crown Solicitor to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Sir, Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney, 27 March, 1897.

I have the honor to return herewith the papers relating to the Stockton Colliery accidents, except those put in as evidence at the Court of Inquiry, and to state that the inquiry commenced at 2 p.m. on Monday, the 22nd instant, and continued from day to day until Thursday, at 2:30 p.m., when His Honor Mr. District Court Judge Backhouse found the two principal charges fully proved, and ordered the certificates of Mr. Daniel McAuliffe (manager) and Mr. William McDonald (under-manager of the said colliery) to be cancelled, the Court was then adjourned until Saturday, the 3rd April next, at 2 p.m., in case any formal matter which might have escaped attention could be done.

By consent, the cases being practically identical, were heard together, which considerably shortened the proceedings.

Mr. Wilshire, who was appointed by the Minister to manage the case, conducted it on behalf of the Department, Mr. Rogers, Q.C., appearing for Messrs. McAuliffe and McDonald.

I have, &c.,
 GEO. COLQUHOUN,
 Crown Solicitor.

For the information of the Minister.—H.B.S. (for U.S.), 30/3/97. Seen.—S. SMITH, 31/3/97.

No. 25.

His Honor Judge Backhouse to The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Sir, Judges' Chambers, District Court, Sydney, 5 April, 1897.

I have the honor to forward, in accordance with the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1896, section 10, subsection 5, reports (in duplicate) on the inquiries which I have held into certain charges alleged against the manager and under-manager of the Stockton Colliery. The evidence which I had before me accompanies the report. In addition to these documents I forward the certificates issued, under the above-mentioned Act, to the manager and under-manager, together with the formal orders by which they are cancelled.

I have, &c.,
 ALF. P. BACKHOUSE,
 D.C.J.

For approval to record the cancellation of these certificates in accordance with section 12 of the Act.—D.McL., 6/4/97. Approved.—S. SMITH, 8/4/97. Cancellation duly recorded.—H.W., 9/4/97.

No. 26.

Report of Court of Inquiry into the conduct of Daniel McAuliffe.

Sydney, 5 April, 1897.

In the matter of the inquiry under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, into the conduct of Daniel McAuliffe, manager of the Stockton Colliery.

REPORT sent to the Honorable the Secretary for Mines, in accordance with the provisions of section 10, subsection 5 of the said Act.

The inquiry was commenced, in the Court-house, Newcastle, at 2 p.m. on Monday, the 22nd March, and was continued till Thursday, the 25th March, 1897. There was afterwards, one additional sitting, which was held in the District Court-house, King-street, Sydney, on Saturday, the 3rd April, 1897. This

This case was, by consent, heard with that of William McDonald.

The management of the case, on behalf of the Honorable the Secretary for Mines, was conducted by Mr. E. H. Wilshire, of the Crown Solicitor's Office.

Mr. McAuliffe was represented by Mr. F. B. Rogers, Q.C.

It was not necessary for me to view the mine, as nothing that I could have seen there would have helped me in the slightest in coming to conclusions, the condition of things being altered since the time of the accidents, and the representatives of both parties agreeing that such a visit would be useless. It would, also, have unnecessarily protracted the inquiry.

Taking the charges in the statement of case in the order in which they were set out, the following were my decisions on each point, and the reasons for giving them:—

Charge No. 1.—That you, as manager of the Stockton Colliery, allowed the stopping marked D on the plan put in as evidence at the Court of Investigation lately held at Newcastle, respecting the late Stockton Colliery accidents, to be removed and did not replace the same or make any provision to prevent the noxious gases in No. 3 district from escaping into the workings of the mine.

The facts were not in dispute. Some years ago, when No. 3 district was worked out, the board ends along the main road (*see tracing, Exhibit No. 1*) were closed, but the rope-road was left open, and there was no stopping at D for some time. A movement then occurred in the roof of No. 3 district, causing the stoppings along the main road to be twisted about and broken. This allowed leakage, or scaling of air into No. 3 district from the main road wherever there was an unobstructed way from the rope-road to the furnace, which happened every time that No. 3 door was opened. To prevent the leakage so caused the stopping at D was put in, and it remained till June, 1896, when it was taken out, evidently to save time in clearing out No. 3 district, to enable persons who were to give evidence in certain cases which had been brought against the Stockton Colliery Company to inspect the falls from the roof. That it was not absolutely necessary that the stopping in which there was a manhole should be removed is shown by the fact that in the previous December the district had been cleared for a similar purpose without the permanent stopping being interfered with in any way. That this stopping, for the safe working of the mine, was indispensable, is practically proved by the course adopted in the management of the mine; and not replacing it seemed unquestionably to be a matter showing gross negligence, as its absence was a constant menace to some men in the mine. There was, right up to the time of the accidents, scaling of air from the main road into No. 3 district every time No. 3 door was opened, as it had to be a dozen times a day for the purpose of replenishing the furnace. The foul air from No. 3 district was drawn to where the furnace-men were. If the stopping at D had been replaced, it would have been impossible for Curran and Smith to have brought about their deaths, which unquestionably they did by leaving open No. 3 door.

Charge No. 2.—That you did not enforce, or cause to be enforced, the special rules of the colliery, and were lax in the discipline of the mine.

This charge did not appear to be made out. The evidence simply pointed to the man Gould having made complaint on one occasion to the under-manager, which was conveyed to the manager, about No. 3 door being left open. The under-manager made an inspection, and, finding everything correct, had some doubt of Gould's statements, and took no further steps. This, certainly, does not support the general charge.

Although there is no charge with reference to No. 3 door, I think there should have been two doors instead of one.

Charge No. 3.—That you did not cause to be constantly produced an adequate amount of ventilation in the mine to dilute and render harmless noxious gases to such an extent that the working places of the shafts, levels, stables, and workings of the mine and the travelling roads to and from those working-places were in a fit state for working and passing therein.

This charge was not proved. In fact there was no contention before me that any part of the mine was improperly ventilated, except No. 3 district, when the exploring and rescue parties went in.

No. 3 district is sufficiently dealt with in my remarks relating to Charge No. 5.

Charge No. 4.—That you did not supervise and accompany the exploration party on the 3rd December last under the unusual circumstances then existing.

It certainly appeared to me that, ordinarily, Mr. McAuliffe should have led the exploring party; but, having heard his explanation as to the state of prostration in which he was—caused by the deaths of the furnace-men shortly before—and having judged him by his subsequent conduct in going down to join the party—although he was too late—and the heroic manner in which he acted afterwards when rescuing and attempting to rescue some of the men, I had no doubt that he had no intention of shirking his duty, and that the reason which he gave for his absence was perfectly *bonâ fide*.

If this charge had stood alone I should not have considered it my duty to have dealt in any way with Mr. McAuliffe's certificate.

Charge No. 5.—That, after being notified by the Government Inspectors that "fire-stink" was in the No. 3 district and gas generating therein, you allowed the exploration party to go into the said district against the air-current, thereby permitting a dangerous instead of a safe and practicable mode of entry into same to be adopted.

No doubt, as it was contended to me, it is "very easy to be wise after the event"; but, in judging of Mr. McAuliffe in allowing the under-manager to take in the exploring party against the current of air, I had to consider what were the conditions under which he acted on the 3rd December, and whether his conduct was such as would have been reasonably expected from a competent manager; although, in the light of subsequent events, the course of action taken might have proved to have been wrong.

It was and fairly might be urged in Mr. McAuliffe's favour that on previous occasions men had gone in the same way without any disastrous results, and if the conditions on the 3rd December last had been the same as existed in December, 1895, and June, 1896, it might be that something could be said to justify the course adopted. On that I express no opinion; but the conditions were not the same. First of all, Gould had made a complaint of what happened to him on the night of Monday, the 30th November. [He, by mistake, speaks of the 1st December in his evidence.] I had little doubt, from the symptoms which

he

he described, that he was then suffering from the effects of carbon monoxide ("fire-stink.") This complaint alone should have aroused the management to recognise that there was a possible danger, till then unheard of, to the men at the furnace. The complaint was followed by the terrible deaths of Curran and Smith on the night of the 1st December. Dr. Hester gave the cause of death in their cases as poisoning by carbonic acid gas (black-damp); but it was quite possible, and extremely probable, bearing in mind what was discovered afterwards, that carbon monoxide ("fire-stink") played a part in contributing to their deaths. But, assuming in favour of Mr. McAuliffe that their deaths were entirely due to carbonic acid gas (black-damp), the consultation with Mr. Dixon and Mr. Humble, Inspectors of Collieries, and the presence of the benzine smell in the atmosphere (which was coming from the rope-road out of No. 3 district) should have shown any competent manager that, at all events, a party entering by the rope-road would probably meet the insidious and dangerous gas carbon monoxide ("fire-stink"), and should have made him determined not to enter by that way. Entering against the air current might, possibly, have been justified if it had been necessary to act at a moment's notice, and where the loss of every instant was a matter of importance, such as in the case of a rescue party. But there was no such necessity. The exploring party did not enter till between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. on the 3rd December—at least thirty-six hours after the decision as to the course to be adopted had been come to. It was admitted, on the last sitting day of the Court, that the air could have been sent round the reverse way, namely, in at the trap door marked Z on the tracing, and out at 20 bord, to the main road, without any serious difficulty. Some objection was raised at the hearing, at first, that this might have shut off the pumping gear from inspection; but, as was at once pointed out by Mr. Humble, if the course suggested had been adopted, the pumps could have been approached from No. 3 shaft. The possibility of using No. 3 shaft should have occurred—it appeared to me—to any competent manager. But, if the air could not have been sent round the reverse way, some such system of bratticing as was adopted by the inspectors to enable the rescue parties to work should have been made use of. In any event, the men ought never to have been taken in by the road they were until it was made absolutely clear that there was no carbon monoxide ("fire-stink") coming from No. 3 district; and, if there had been the slightest doubt about this, the inspectors—it seemed to me—should have been consulted before any move was made.

I recognise that, in all probability, the danger to the men was increased by a sudden fall while the exploring party was in. But a fall might reasonably have been expected. I assume there was a fall, and, by reason of it, a considerable increase of danger to the men. But, if it had not taken place, I doubt whether all the exploring party would have come out. In favour of the affirmative view of this question, the opinion of Dr. Hester as to the condition of the air when the men went in was urged. But this depends on the time they were in; and, as to that, there is little more than guess—a guess, when consideration is given to what followed, worth nothing.

Charge No. 6.—That you were ignorant of the nature and quality of the gases met with in coal-mines, particularly the gas known as carbon monoxide or "fire-stink," and that you were unable to distinguish this gas from other and different gases.

I did not find this charge proved. Mr. McAuliffe seemed to have recognised on the 2nd December that the inspectors were right in the conclusions to which they had come. He is placed on the horns of this dilemma:—If he recognised carbon monoxide ("fire-stink"), he should not have allowed the men to go in: if he did not recognise it, he showed an ignorance which unfitted him to be a manager.

There was no attempt to show ignorance of other gases.

Charge No. 7.—That you were ignorant of the fact that a current of air passing over a gob-fire would cause a larger quantity of carbon monoxide gas and other noxious gases to generate.

This charge did not appear to me to be correctly stated. Up to a certain point, the current of air would have the effect described; but when the conditions of ordinary combustion by fire would be reached, less carbon monoxide ("fire-stink") would be given off.

I found, on the two matters, namely:—

Charge 1.—as to the stopping at D being removed and not being replaced, and

Charge 5.—as to allowing the exploring party to go in against the current of air,

that Mr. McAuliffe had been guilty of incompetency and gross negligence, and was unfit to discharge his duties as manager; and, as the consequence of such incompetency and gross negligence were so terrible, it appeared to be my duty to order his manager's certificate under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, to be cancelled, and I ordered accordingly. A formal order is attached to the papers.

It has not been necessary for me to set out any of the evidence verbatim, as, on most points, there was no conflict; and where there was a conflict as to facts, I took the view put forward by Mr. McAuliffe and his witnesses.

Before concluding—in fairness to Mr. McAuliffe—I wish to add that, with the exception of the two matters particularly referred to, he had, according to the evidence, shown himself competent, and, in some respects, more than competent. One piece of work in connection with shaft-sinking in difficult ground was spoken of by the Inspectors of Collieries as a great achievement. To his bravery I have already alluded.

Mr. Wright I have to thank for great and able assistance; and Mr. Roberts discharged his duty as deposition clerk in a highly satisfactory manner, bearing out my previous experience of him.

The Hon. Sydney Smith,
Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

I have, &c.,
ALF. P. BACKHOUSE,
D.C.J.

No. 27.

Report of the Court of Inquiry into the Conduct of William McDonald.

Sydney, 5 April, 1897.

In the matter of the inquiry under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, into the conduct of William McDonald, under-manager of the Stockton Colliery.

Report sent to the Honorable the Secretary for Mines, in accordance with the provisions of section 10, subsection 5, of the said Act.

The inquiry was commenced, in the Court-house, Newcastle, at 2 p.m. on Monday, the 22nd March, and was continued till Thursday, the 25th March, 1897. There was, afterwards, one additional sitting, which was held in the District Court House, King-street, Sydney, on Saturday the 3rd April, 1897.

This case was, by consent, heard with that of Daniel McAuliffe.

The management of the case on behalf of the Honorable the Secretary for Mines was conducted by Mr. E. H. Wilshire, of the Crown Solicitor's Office.

Mr. McDonald was represented by Mr. F. E. Rogers, Q.C.

In this report I would repeat and incorporate all that I have said in my report in the case of Daniel McAuliffe, excepting only what I have stated in regard to charge No. 4 set out in the case against Mr. McAuliffe.

Dealing with the charges seriatim, I report as follows :—

Charge No. 1.—That you, as under-manager of the Stockton Colliery, allowed the stopping marked D on the plan, put in as evidence at the Court of Investigation lately held at Newcastle respecting the late Stockton Colliery accidents, to be removed, and did not replace the same, or make any provision to prevent the noxious gases in No. 3 district from escaping into the workings of the mine.

I found this charge proved.

Charge No. 2.—That you did not cause to be constantly produced an adequate amount of ventilation in the mine to dilute and render harmless noxious gases to such an extent that the working places of the shafts, levels, stables, and workings of the mine, and travelling roads to and from those working places, were in a fit state for working and passing therein.

I found this charge not proved.

Charge No. 3.—That you did not enforce, or cause to be enforced, the special rules of the colliery, and were lax in the discipline of the mine.

I found this charge not proved.

Charge No. 4.—That, after being notified by the Government Inspectors that "fire-stink" was in the No. 3 district, and gas generating therein, you led the exploration party into the said district against the air-current, thereby adopting a dangerous instead of a safe and practicable mode of entry into same.

I found this charge proved.

Charge No. 5.—That you were ignorant of the nature and quality of the gases met with in coal-mines, particularly the gas known as carbon monoxide, or "fire-stink," and that you were unable to distinguish this gas from other and different gases.

Although Mr. McDonald differed from the inspectors, and seemed to hold his own opinion as against theirs, still he had had experience of carbon monoxide, or "fire-stink," in Scotland; and I saw no reason to come to the conclusion that I might deal with his certificate on the ground of ignorance in the matter herein charged.

Charge No. 6.—That you were ignorant of the fact that a current of air passing over a gob-fire would cause larger quantities of carbon monoxide gas and other noxious gases to generate.

This charge I found not proved.

I found, on the two matters, namely :—

Charge 1.—As to the stopping at D being removed, and not being replaced; and

Charge 4.—As to leading the exploring party in against the current of air,

that Mr. McDonald had been guilty of incompetency and gross negligence, and was unfit to discharge his duties as under-manager; and, as the consequences of such incompetency and gross negligence were so terrible, it appeared to be my duty to order his under-manager's certificate under the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, to be cancelled, and I ordered accordingly. A formal order is attached to the papers.

As in the case of Mr. McAuliffe, with the exception of the two matters referred to, Mr. McDonald was spoken of in the evidence as competent. His personal bravery was not questioned.

The Hon. Sydney Smith,
Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

I have, &c.,
ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

No. 28.

Order of Court cancelling Certificate of Daniel McAuliffe.

In the Court of Inquiry, Newcastle, New South Wales.

In the matter of the Inquiry under the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, into the conduct of Daniel McAuliffe, manager of the Stockton Colliery.

WHEREAS representation having been made within the meaning of the 10th section of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, to the Secretary for Mines, that Daniel McAuliffe, manager of the Stockton Colliery, situate at Newcastle, in the said Colliery, holding a manager's certificate of service under the said Act, was, by reason of incompetency and gross negligence, unfit to discharge his duties as such manager as aforesaid, the Secretary for Mines directed an inquiry to be made into the conduct of the said Daniel McAuliffe as such manager, and did duly appoint me, Alfred Paxton Backhouse, one of the District Court Judges, to hold the said inquiry, and did direct the said inquiry to be held at the Court-house, at Newcastle on the 22nd day of March, and the said Secretary for Mines did before the commencement of the said inquiry furnish to the said Daniel McAuliffe, the said manager, a statement of the case on which the inquiry was instituted, and did appoint Ernest Henry Wilshire, a solicitor of the Supreme Court, to undertake the management of the case; and whereas the said inquiry was duly held by me as such Court as aforesaid, on the said 22nd, on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th days of March last past, and on the 3rd day of April

April instant at the place appointed ; and whereas the said Daniel McAuliffe attended the said inquiry and was represented by counsel thereat, and the said Daniel McAuliffe tendered himself as a witness, and was sworn and examined as an ordinary witness in the case : Now I, the said Alfred Paxton Backhouse, after hearing the evidence in support of the case and the evidence on behalf of the said manager, and under and by virtue of the powers conferred on me under the said Act, do hereby order that the manager's certificate of service, held by the said Daniel McAuliffe under the said Act, be and the same is hereby cancelled on the ground that the said Daniel McAuliffe is unfit to discharge his duty by reason of incompetency and gross negligence.

Dated, at Newcastle, this 3rd day of April, A.D. 1897.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

No. 29.

Order of Court cancelling Certificate of William McDonald.

In the Court of Inquiry, Newcastle, New South Wales.

In the matter of the Inquiry under the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, into the conduct of William McDonald, under-manager of the Stockton Colliery.

WHEREAS representation having been made within the meaning of the 10th section of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, to the Secretary for Mines, that William McDonald, under-manager of the Stockton Colliery, situate at Newcastle, in the said Colony, holding an under-manager's certificate of service under the said Act, was, by reason of incompetency and gross negligence, unfit to discharge his duties as such under-manager as aforesaid, the Secretary for Mines directed an inquiry to be made into the conduct of the said William McDonald as such under-manager, and did duly appoint me, Alfred Paxton Backhouse, one of the District Court Judges, to hold the said inquiry, and did direct that the said inquiry be held at the Court-house at Newcastle, on the 22nd day of March, and the said Secretary for Mines did, before the commencement of the said inquiry furnish to the said William McDonald, the said under-manager, a statement of the case on which the inquiry was instituted, and did appoint Ernest Henry Wilshire, a solicitor of the Supreme Court, to undertake the management of the case ; and whereas the said inquiry was duly held by me as such Court as aforesaid, on the said 22nd, on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th days of March last past, and on the 3rd day of April instant, at the place appointed, and whereas the said William McDonald attended the said inquiry and was represented by counsel thereat, and the said William McDonald tendered himself as a witness and was sworn and examined as an ordinary witness in the case : Now I, the said Alfred Paxton Backhouse, after hearing the evidence in support of the case and the evidence on behalf of the said under-manager, and under and by virtue of the powers conferred on me under the said Act, do hereby order that the under-manager's certificate of service held by the said William McDonald under the said Act be and the same is hereby cancelled, on the ground that the said William McDonald is unfit to discharge his duties by reason of incompetency and gross negligence.

Dated at Newcastle, this 3rd day of April, A.D. 1897.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

No. 30.

Proceedings of Court of Inquiry and Evidence taken.

Proceedings of the Court, and Evidence taken at Newcastle, on the 22nd, 23rd, 24th, and 25th March, and at Sydney on the 3rd April, 1897.

His Honor Judge Backhouse constituted the Court.

MONDAY, 22nd MARCH, 1897.

[The Court sat in the Court-house, Church-street, Newcastle, at 2 p.m.]

Under His Honor's instructions, the Secretary to the Court, Mr. E. C. Wright, read the following warrants :—

Department of Mines, New South Wales.

Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, section 10.

I, SYDNEY SMITH, Secretary for Mines for the Colony of New South Wales, being of opinion that it is expedient that inquiry shall be made into the conduct of Daniel McAuliffe, the manager of the Stockton Colliery, who has been represented to me as being unfit to discharge his duties by reason of incompetency and gross negligence, do hereby, in virtue of the powers conferred on me by section 10 of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, direct such inquiry to be made, and I hereby direct Alfred Paxton Backhouse, Esquire, one of the District Judges, of the Metropolitan Suburban and Hunter District Court, to hold such inquiry, and I hereby appoint that the said inquiry shall be held at the Court-house at Newcastle, on Monday, the 22nd day of March instant, at 2 of the clock in the afternoon.

Dated this 16th day of March, 1897.

SYDNEY SMITH,
Secretary of Mines.

Department of Mines, New South Wales.

Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, section 10.

I, SYDNEY SMITH, Secretary for Mines for the Colony of New South Wales, being of opinion that it is expedient that inquiry shall be made into the conduct of William McDonald, the under-manager of the Stockton Colliery, who has been represented to me as being unfit to discharge his duties by reason of incompetency and gross negligence, do hereby, in virtue of the powers conferred on me by section 10 of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, direct such inquiry to be made, and I hereby direct Alfred Paxton Backhouse, Esquire, one of the District Judges of the Metropolitan Suburban and Hunter District Court, to hold such inquiry, and I hereby appoint that the said inquiry shall be held at the Court-house at Newcastle, on Monday, the 22nd day of March instant, at 2 of the clock in the afternoon.

Dated this 16th day of March, 1897.

SYDNEY SMITH,
Secretary for Mines.
The

The two cases were before the Court in the following terms :—

Inquiry under the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, into the conduct of Daniel McAuliffe, manager of the Stockton Colliery.

Statement of the case on which the inquiry is instituted.

To Daniel McAuliffe, manager, Stockton Colliery.

TAKE notice that, representation having been made to the Minister for Mines that you, as manager of the above colliery, holding a certificate under the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, are, by reason of incompetency and gross negligence, unfit to discharge your duties, the said Minister has directed an inquiry to be made into the conduct of you as such manager, and on the said inquiry the following acts, omissions, matters, and things will be relied upon to prove the charges against you :—

1. That you, as manager of the Stockton Colliery, allowed the stopping marked D on the plan, put in as evidence at the Court of Investigation lately held at Newcastle respecting the late Stockton Colliery accidents, to be removed, and did not replace the same, or make any provision to prevent the noxious gases in No. 3 district from escaping into the workings of the mine.
2. That you did not enforce, or cause to be enforced, the special rules of the colliery, and were lax in the discipline of the mine.
3. That you did not cause to be constantly produced an adequate amount of ventilation in the mine, to dilute and render harmless noxious gases, to such an extent that the working places of the shafts, levels, stables, and workings of the mine, and the travelling roads to and from those working places, were in a fit state for working and passing therein.
4. That you did not supervise and accompany the exploration party on the 3rd December last, under the unusual circumstances then existing.
5. That, after being notified by the Government Inspectors that "fire-stink" was in the No. 3 district, and gas generating therein, you allowed the exploration party to go into the said district against the air-current, thereby permitting a dangerous instead of a safe and practicable mode of entry into same to be adopted.
6. That you were ignorant of the nature and quality of the gases met with in coal-mines, particularly the gas known as carbon monoxide, or "fire-stink," and that you were unable to distinguish this gas from other and different gases.
7. That you were ignorant of the fact that a current of air passing over a gob-fire would cause a larger quantity of carbon monoxide gas and other noxious gases to generate.

16th March, 1897.

SYDNEY SMITH.

Inquiry under the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, into the conduct of William McDonald, under-manager of the Stockton Colliery.

Statement of the case on which the inquiry is instituted.

To William McDonald, under-manager, Stockton Colliery.

TAKE notice that, representation having been made to the Minister for Mines that you, as under-manager of the above colliery, holding a certificate under the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, are, by reason of incompetency and gross negligence, unfit to discharge your duties, the said Minister has directed an inquiry to be made into the conduct of you as such under-manager, and on the said inquiry the following acts, omissions, matters, and things will be relied upon to prove the charges against you :—

1. That you, as under-manager of the Stockton Colliery, allowed the stopping marked D on the plan, put in as evidence at the Court of Investigation lately held at Newcastle respecting the late Stockton Colliery accidents, to be removed, and did not replace the same, or make any provision to prevent the noxious gases in No. 3 district from escaping into the workings of the mine.
2. That you did not cause to be constantly produced an adequate amount of ventilation in the mine, to dilute and render harmless noxious gases, to such an extent that the working places of the shafts, levels, stables, and workings of the mine, and the travelling roads to and from those working places, were in a fit state for working and passing therein.
3. That you did not enforce, or cause to be enforced, the special rules of the colliery, and were lax in the discipline of the mine.
4. That, after being notified by the Government Inspectors that "fire-stink" was in the No. 3 district, and gas generating therein, you led the exploration party into the said district against the air-current, thereby adopting a dangerous instead of a safe and practicable mode of entry into same.
5. That you were ignorant of the nature and quality of the gases met with in coal mines, particularly the gas known as carbon monoxide, or "fire-stink," and that you were unable to distinguish this gas from other and different gases.
6. That you were ignorant of the fact that a current of air passing over a gob-fire would cause larger quantities of carbon monoxide gas and other noxious gases to generate.

16 March, 1897.

SYDNEY SMITH.

Constable A. F. Knight declared the Court open.

Mr. E. H. Wilshire, Prosecuting Officer, Crown Solicitor's Office, handed in the appended notices of appointment :—

Department of Mines, New South Wales.

Inquiry under the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, into the conduct of Daniel McAuliffe, manager of the Stockton Colliery.

To Ernest Henry Wilshire, Esq.

I, SYDNEY SMITH, Secretary for Mines for the Colony of New South Wales, in pursuance of the powers vested in me under section 10 (sub-section 111) of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, do hereby appoint you to undertake the management of the case on which a certain inquiry is to be instituted into the conduct of Daniel McAuliffe, manager of the Stockton Colliery, in connection with certain fatal accidents which recently occurred in the said colliery.

Dated this 17th day of March, 1897.

SYDNEY SMITH, Secretary for Mines.

INQUIRY

INQUIRY under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, into the conduct of William McDonald, under-manager of the Stockton Colliery.

Department of Mines, Sydney.

To Ernest Henry Wilshire, Esq.

I, SYDNEY SMITH, Secretary for Mines for the Colony of New South Wales, in pursuance of the powers vested in me under section 10 (subsection III) of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, do hereby appoint you to undertake the management of the case on which a certain inquiry is to be instituted into the conduct of William McDonald, under-manager of the Stockton Colliery, in connection with certain fatal accidents which recently occurred in the said colliery.

Dated this 17th day of March, 1897.

SYDNEY SMITH,
Secretary for Mines.

Mr. F. E. Rogers, Q.C.—who was instructed by Mr. T. D. O'Sullivan, solicitor—appeared on behalf of Daniel McAuliffe and William McDonald, both of whom were present in Court.

His Honor said that, to comply with the Act, the certificates held by McAuliffe and McDonald should be handed in.

Mr. Rogers undertook that they should be handed in on the following (Tuesday) morning.

The order as to witnesses leaving the Court was made.

It was agreed by the parties—

- (1.) That the two cases should be taken together.
- (2.) That Mr. Wilshire may (if he think proper) put in the evidence already given by Mr. McAuliffe as evidence against Mr. McDonald; and the evidence already given by Mr. McDonald as evidence against Mr. McAuliffe.

Mr. Wilshire opened his cases by putting in a tracing showing some of the workings of the Stockton Colliery. The tracing was marked "Exhibit No. 1." With the assistance of the tracing, Mr. Wilshire explained various matters and proceedings at the mine having relation to the accidents which occurred there in the early part of December, 1896.

Having concluded the explanation, Mr. Wilshire proceeded to call witnesses, the first of whom was John Gould.

This deponent, *John Gould*, on his oath, states:—I am a bricklayer, working in the Stockton pit; I remember the 1st December last; I was in the pit about 9:45 p.m. on that date; I went there to help the furnace-men to unload the skips; I noticed a very bad smell there; it was like benzine; I noticed that near the furnace; the No. 3 furnace-door was open at the time; it was kept open; I was there about three-quarters of an hour; the smell was coming through the No. 3 door; it came from the No. 3 old workings; I could tell that from the current of air; a man named Smith was with me at the time; he was the furnace-man; I said something to him when I noticed the smell; I know Mr. Burt, who was night overman then; I spoke to him about the smell that night; I was affected by the smell; I was overcome by it; I first felt weak in the legs, and my head quite giddy; I could not walk well, and fell outside No. 3 door; I had never been affected like that before in any colliery; I was there running the skips in very frequently prior to that occasion; the skips were left between doors No. 2 and No. 3; I cannot exactly remember whether No. 3 door was open or not on my previous visits; on the previous occasion I was there it was left open while we got the skips through; it was not closed after the skips were put through; I cannot say whether it was or not; I cannot remember at all whether before the 1st December the No. 3 door was left open or not; the door had been left open on several occasions prior to that after the skips had gone through; it would be left open for forty-five minutes or an hour on those occasions; I had my lights with me on the occasion on the 1st December last; my lights went out; we carried naked lights and could not keep them alight; there was not a very strong draught there; it was not the movement of the air that put them out, but some other cause, in my opinion.

By Mr. Rogers: I have never been in any other colliery besides the Stockton in New South Wales; I have been in one other in Queensland for about six months; I attribute the extinction of the lights to the gas; I know that carbon monoxide will burn, and does burn with a blue flame round the lamp; I did not shut No. 3 door; I know it was absolutely against the regulations of the mine to leave the door open; I left it open because I was under the supervision of Mr. Smith, since deceased; he knew it was open; he was alongside me all the time; there was no other cause for my feeling groggy about the knees on that occasion on the 3rd December last; I was affected in the manner described for three or four hours, but was very bad for about twenty minutes; I was taking the skips to feed the furnace; I met Burt that day and complained to him; he said to me, "Never leave that door open"; before that he had constantly warned me not to leave that door open while I was filling the skips.

By His Honor: I was not intoxicated on the night I noticed the smell, and was affected by it; on the night Smith died, McDonald charged me with being drunk; Burt, Smith, Curran were present at the time; that was on the night I had given the warning; McDonald was standing at the skips with Burt, and said to Smith "You've been drinking last night," Smith looked astonished; as I had been with Smith the previous night I took it that McDonald included me in his remark; Smith said nothing in reply to him, nor did I; on the same night McDonald said to Stratton the watchman, referring to Smith, "send that man home if he comes here again intoxicated."

By Mr. Wilshire: I was never prosecuted for leaving these doors open.

By Mr. Rogers: I know the smell of benzine; it smells like kerosene; that is the sort of smell I smelt that night.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 22nd }
day of March, 1897, before,— }

JOHN J. GOULD.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

This deponent, *Henry Burt*, on his oath, states:—I am the night deputy overman at the Stockton Colliery; in the absence of the manager at night time I have full control of the colliery and the men working there; I visit the furnace, and go through the mine generally at night; I remember the witness Gould making a complaint to me on the night of the 1st December last; it was about 1 o'clock in the morning; I told McDonald about it the next morning about 6 o'clock; I told him Gould had complained to

to me about feeling a bit sick and giddy while at the furnace; Gould told me that he left the door open while running in the coal, and after shutting the door he had felt all right; McDonald gave me no instructions when I told him this; I cannot remember whether he said anything at all then; when Gould made the complaint to me I went straight to the furnace; the air was pure and the door shut; I went a short distance down the rope-road; I did not go as far as the point "D" on the plan; I smelt no peculiar smell at that time there; only on one occasion have I found No. 3 door left open; it was about two months before the accident; I know the leaving of the doors open is an offence against the Act; nobody was prosecuted for it; I did not report the matter as there was only one skip in at the time; there was a greater current of fresh air coming out when the door was open; it came up the main shaft; I did not notice any current of air coming up the rope-road; No. 3 door naturally swings to itself; the current of air shuts it; it takes a heavy pull to open it; I knew where the stopping was at the point "D" in the plan; it was removed about twelve months ago, I think; I cannot say who knocked out the stopping; I knew it was knocked out for the purpose of ventilating No. 3 district; the removal of that stopping would allow any gas that might be in the workings to come up to No. 3 door on the rope-road; that being removed, there was nothing to prevent the gas coming out; I first received notice of the deaths of Curran and Smith about 5:30 a.m. on the 2nd December last; Robert Jury told me about it; I went to the pit bottom and saw Mr. McDonald; we went straight to the furnace, and lit the fire; doors No. 2 and No. 3 were shut when we went in; I did not observe any smell then; after lighting the fire I went to the top; McDonald came with me; the bodies had been taken out of the mine then; no steps were taken to punish anyone for leaving the door open on the occasion that Gould complained to me, as far as I know; I have been working in Stockton mine about ten years; I know No. 3 district; it is about four years since any work has been done there, I think; that district was cleaned out on two occasions; I never knew any bad gas to be found in those workings on those occasions; so far as I know they were cleaned out on those occasions on account of the actions brought against the Company by Mr. Breckenridge; on the night of the 2nd instant I was in the mine; I was for two hours at the furnace that night, but did not go through the mine; I understood there was to be an exploring party that night, but received no intimation that I was to go with them; at half-past 9 I went down with McDonald, Jury, and others; I went to the furnace; McDonald said, "We are going in to explore No. 3 workings, to see what is to be found"; we were to go in in twos, about 10 yards apart; McDonald went to the furnace, came back, joined us, and we all went down the rope-road; the green line on the plan produced (*marked "Exhibit No. 1"*) shows the way we went; the air was coming against us as we went down; I know how the district was then being ventilated; the air was coming in at No. 20 bord; McDonald was leading, and had got as far as No. 16 bord; we had not discovered anything up to that to show where the gas was coming from; it took us about forty-five minutes to get to that point; when we got to that point McDonald called on us to go back, and told Benjamin Bailoy to take the lead, as he had chalked the route we had come; young Bailey then said, "Boys, I'm about done"; this was about No. 11 bord; he had hold of a prop; he felt faint, and asked for a bottle to have a drink; I then felt faint myself, and weak in the knees; I fell down, and rolled down a fall into the heading; I could not prevent myself rolling; up to that point I had felt all right, and had not noticed anything wrong with the air; I felt no effect in my head up to that; I got up and saw Jury ahead of me; he asked me could I see the chalk-line, and I said, "Yes," and that I would show him the way out; we went along, and when we were about half-way out, another of the party—John Ellis—passed us; William McAuliffe also got out; two of the men went to the surface, and I went to the furnace, where I found Mr. McAuliffe; I cannot recollect anything that happened till I got on top; our lights burnt brightly all the way in; they were bare lamps; when McDonald gave us the order to turn back I did not hear any fall, nor did I feel any concussion of air.

By Mr. Rogers: I did not see the bodies of Curran and Smith till they were in the office; I heard that Jury saw them first; No. 3 district was open for a good while before the stopping was put in after they had ceased to work that district; there was no stopping at the point "D" for twelve months after they had ceased to work that district; Gould told me he had left the door open while they were running the skips through; the door must be opened to run the skips through; it will close itself afterwards; Gould told me he had closed the door after the skips had gone through; I have been coal-mining over thirty years; I would caution a man for leaving the door open as Gould did, and then shutting it after the skips had gone through; I reprimanded Gould for doing what he did; I cannot remember whether I told McDonald I had reprimanded Gould or not; McDonald seemed to study a lot over what I had told him; the No. 3 district was inspected from time to time to see if any falls had taken place in it; I was in there myself about three or four weeks before the accident; I went in to where the green line on the plan joins the branch green line, and about as far as the branch green line goes; I believe we were taken in by McDonald on the occasion I have spoken of to see whether there were any "gob-fires"; I got as far as No. 14 bord; McDonald and Mr. Cockburn went first; they were more than 10 paces ahead of us when McDonald told us to turn back; he did not tell us why we were to turn back; Cockburn was with McDonald at the time he told us to turn back; we turned back at once; McAuliffe has been managing the mine for three or four years; McDonald had been under-manager for about three months before the accident; McAuliffe had been under-manager for a long time before he became manager; they were not working as miners in Stockton before they became under-managers; I worked with them in the Borehole mine before they went to Stockton; I consider Mr. McAuliffe understands his business; from my knowledge of McAuliffe, I consider him a good manager; I consider McDonald a good under-manager; on former occasions when inspections have been made of this mine, the inspectors themselves have gone down against the current; twice they went into these old workings; on one occasion I went with them, and they then went in the same way as we did on the night of the 2nd December last, and against the current; we were in the old No. 3 district about forty-five minutes on the night of the 3rd December; there was a very slight smell all the way in that night, but nothing to affect us; I did not take much notice of the smell going in; it was not such as to cause me any anxiety.

By Mr. Wilshire: It was a smell I had never noticed there before.

By Mr. Rogers: There was a good current of air as we went in—plenty air for us to breathe.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 22nd }
day of March, 1897, before,—

HENRY BURT.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

By consent, the depositions of William McDonald, taken at the first and second inquests, and his evidence before the Court of Investigation, were put in by Mr. Wilshire. The depositions taken at the first inquest were marked "Exhibit No. 2," and were read.

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

Newcastle, 22nd March, 1897.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

TUESDAY, 23 MARCH, 1897.

Daniel McAuliffe's manager's certificate, and William McDonald's under-manager's certificate, were handed into the Court.

Evidence of William McDonald at second inquest read in Court. (Marked "Exhibit No. 3.")

Evidence of William McDonald at Court of Investigation, also read. (Marked "Exhibit No. 4.")

It is admitted by Mr. Rogers that the representation contemplated by section 10 has been made to the Secretary for Mines.

Evidence given by Robert James Jury at first inquest read, put in evidence, and marked "Exhibit No. 5."

Evidence given by Robert James Jury at second inquest read, put in evidence, and marked "Exhibit No. 6."

Evidence given by Robert James Jury at the Court of Investigation read, put in evidence, and marked "Exhibit No. 7."

All these depositions are put in evidence with the consent of Mr. Rogers.

This deponent, *Robert James Jury*, on his oath, states:—*To Mr. Rogers*: With George Coulson, I was the first to find the bodies of Curran and Smith; one body was sitting up with his head leaning against the prop; there was an ordinary bare lamp with him; it was Curran's body that was leaning against the prop; there was nothing but gas to have put out his lamp; the lamps of both men were out; I have worked under McAuliffe for about two years and nine months; he has always appeared to me to be a careful capable man; I have been coal-mining for twenty-six years, and have passed an examination as under-manager; from my experience of coal-mining and managers of mines, I am of opinion that McAuliffe is a careful capable manager; McDonald was under-manager for about eight months; I have the same opinion of him in his capacity of under-manager; he has always seemed a careful capable man; it was the proper thing to do to try and find out what was the cause of this gas coming out of the workings, and where it was coming from; the air had been kept going for thirty-six hours to purify that No. 3 district; under those circumstances I would not consider it improper to go in against the air current; I considered what we had to fear was black-damp; I consider that was what caused the deaths of Curran and Smith; I remember tests being applied at the furnace on the Wednesday night; we frequently tested the air to see if the district was being cleared. It extinguished our lights till towards the morning when it began to get clearer; when the exploration party went in as far as the action of the air on the lamps could guide us the air was perfectly clear; we got as far as No. 16 bord with the exploring party; I do not know for what reason McDonald gave the order to return; I was looking for heating in the coal; there is no flame with a gob-fire; it is a process of fermentation; it is combustion at a low temperature; at the time McDonald gave the order to turn back no fire had been located nor anything else ascertained to show the cause of the foul gas we were looking for; I was 8 or 10 yards from McDonald when he gave the order to turn back; Cockburn was with him at the time; I do not know of my own knowledge why the order to return was given; up to the time that order was given all the members of the party seemed satisfied with the ventilation and with the quality of air; I was satisfied myself, and I heard none of the party express any dissatisfaction with the air; there was a slight smell, but nothing to take notice of; I remember the inspectors going into the mine; they went in to assist in the rescue, and also to try and ascertain the cause of the accident; I believe the inspectors did not go further than No. 10 bord, which would be about 100 yards short of the distance I had gone; the bratticing was carried to about the point marked "X" on the plan; the air current was very poor through the brattice; I cannot say there were 3,000 feet of air coming in; I have heard that when they reached the point marked "X" they were only getting 3,000 feet of air; that would be a very weak current indeed; I cannot say how many men there were in the party, not having properly recovered myself, but I should say there were from twenty to thirty men in the party; I consider that quantity of air was very small for the number in the party; the further they went the more leakage of air there would be; there is always a great waste of air in the use of brattices.

By Mr. Wilshire: I did not examine the current lamp; it was out; I cannot say whether it had gone out through the exhaustion of the tallow in it; these lamps will burn from an hour and a half to two hours; Curran would have gone into the mine about 9:30 the previous evening; the miner carries a supply of tallow with him; I think McAuliffe has a good practical knowledge of the gases met with in coal-mines; I mean by that that he could devise a good system of ventilation of a mine, and could deal with the ordinary gases to be dealt with in a mine; at the time of the accident I did not believe the gas carbon monoxide was the cause of it; since then I have altered my opinion, and am ready to admit now that it was the cause; assuming that there was a gob-fire in the workings, it would depend upon the state in which the fire was as to whether the passage of air over the fire would increase the combustion; if the fire were in an incipient stage the air would dilute the gas; that would be the immediate effect of the air upon the fire; eventually it might increase the combustion; the divisional bratticing was only carried about 60 or 70 yards; I have heard there were 10,000 feet of air at that point and 3,000 feet at the point "X" on the plan; stopping up the bords would have increased the current; the current was returning at the back of the brattice, and getting out by the rope-road.

By Mr. Rogers: I do not mean that the 3,000 feet of air would return at the back of the brattice, but that it was too small a quantity for the number of men in the party.

By His Honor: I meant that 3,000 feet would go on and find its way out somewhere, but not that it would go back behind the bratticing.

ROBT. JAS. JURY.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 23rd }
day of March, 1897, before,— }

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

Evidence of William Humble at second inquest read, put in evidence by consent of Mr. Rogers, and marked "Exhibit No. 8."

Evidence of William Humble at Court of Investigation read, put in evidence by consent of Mr. Rogers, and marked "Exhibit, No. 9."

Special rules of the colliery put in evidence and admitted by Mr. Rogers. Marked "Exhibit, No. 10."

This deponent, *William Humble*, on his oath, states:—McDonald became under-manager at the beginning of September or August, 1896; if it were considered advisable to replace the stopping it would be part of his duty to see that it was replaced; that would also apply to the manager; if the stopping were left there, and the door closed, the atmosphere in the old workings would be a stagnant one; I have said it was necessary to have that stopping made; had that stopping been made just after the inspection had been made, in my opinion no accident could have taken place; I believe the necessity of opening and shutting the door several times every day was likely to produce the gob-fire by causing an intermittent current of fresh air; assuming that the management did not consider the replacement of the stopping was necessary, they ought to have properly ventilated the old district.

By Mr. Rogers: I think that if that door had not been left open for an hour or an hour and a half at a stretch it would have answered all the purposes of the stopping; I have known McAuliffe seven years; putting aside this affair I consider he has given the mine fair attention; he has put down shafts that have been of great benefit to the mine; but putting down the last shaft I consider he has done something that no man in Australia has ever done; he has shown great skill in the putting down of shafts; I consider that in this matter he has done nothing more than commit a very grievous error of judgment; I consider he ought never to have allowed the exploring party to have gone into the mine, or ought to have led it himself; I do not consider the exploring party was necessary; I do not believe that he for a moment thought of evading any responsibility by not going in himself with the party; I do not consider he shirked his duty in not going under the circumstances; he has done a great deal of timbering in connection with the mine, and it has been very well done; both the timbering in the shafts and where the roof is coming down has been very well done; the boring in the mine that is necessary under their lease has been fairly well done; I know that McAuliffe did not lay out the first workings of the mine; apart from this lamentable accident I think that everything he has done has been well done.

By His Honor: I have been in this district seven years; I was here when the old district in the Stockton was being worked; I was here when the stopping was put in; I do not remember when the stopping was put in; they ceased working there in 1891; I think the stopping was put in soon after the work ceased there.

By Mr. Wilshire: It was not necessary for me to go down the old rope-road every time I inspected the mine.

By His Honor: I did not shortly after they ceased the work in the old district inspect the mine to see if the stopping had been put in; shortly after the stopping ought to have been put there I saw it had been put there.

By Mr. Rogers: I have entered the mine on two occasions against the current; I did not know when I did so, that the mine had been cleared by ventilation; I knew that the mine was fairly clear when I went in; there was no fire-stink there then; there were stoppings put on the bord ends; I know that the roof was coming down and broke these stoppings; that would not allow the escape of noxious gases, the tendency of the air being to pass into the workings, and not the gas to come out; one could not assume that the air that would pass through those broken stoppings would be efficient ventilation for the workings; I know the stopping at point "D"; the scalings of the air over the broken bord ends would reach the furnace by another route than the rope-road; I know that quite recently they have made good the stoppings at the bord ends, or rather, if they have been made good it has been quite recently; some of them were not good in December last.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 23rd }
day of March, 1897, before,— }

WILLIAM HUMBLE.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

Evidence of Mr. Dixon, Senior Inspector of Collieries, taken before the Court of Investigation, read, admitted in evidence by Mr. Rogers, and marked "Exhibit No. 11."

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

Court-house, Newcastle, 23rd March, 1897.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

WEDNESDAY, 24 MARCH, 1897.

This deponent, *John Dixon*, on his oath, states:—I am Chief Inspector of Collieries; where carbon monoxide is the product of gob-fire it is accompanied by this benzine-smell; that smell is caused by the benzine which comes out of the naphtha; that smell is not produced by an explosion of fire-damp; carbon monoxide is a very variable gas; it mainly depends upon what factors have taken part in causing the explosion; I have read Dr. Haldane's report of the causes of death in colliery explosions.

By Mr. Rogers: Carbon monoxide is a gas that is not frequently met with in this district; there would not be much opportunity of a manager who had gained his experience in this district obtaining much experience of this gas; I have gained my experience of this gas in eight collieries, seven of them in this district; I have been inspector in this district fifteen years; I was here when the Stockton Mine was first started; I know that neither the present nor the previous manager had anything to do with the opening of the mine; I have known McAuliffe thirty-five years; I have known him as a coal-miner, and in the various positions he has occupied in connection with mines; I have never had occasion to regard him as other than a careful man; the shaft he has lately sunk I look upon as the best bit of mining engineering that has been done in the colonies, if not anywhere in the world; it was a feat in shaft-sinking; I remember the occasion when the water broke into the pit; I can speak very highly of what he did on that occasion; I do not know a mining engineer that could have made a better job on that occasion than McAuliffe did; he has had to contend with great difficulties in this mine; a large quantity of timbering has had to be done in the mine; the timbering has been very skilfully done; it

is

it is the best timbered coal-mine in the Colony, and I have seen them all; the pure carbon monoxide has no smell, but when it is the product of a gob-fire it has this peculiar benzine-smell; I say it was a decided error of judgment for them to go in against the air-current on the occasion of the accident; I did not hear a fall in the mine on the 4th December last, but I heard one there on the 7th December last; I heard it in 20 bord, not far from the main road; Mr. Humble was with me, and heard it also; a fall of sufficient size in the mine would have the effect of sending forward a quantity of deleterious gas, if such gas were present in the mine; I have heard McDonald say that he heard a fall in the mine on the occasion of the exploration; I think it was quite probable that a fall occurred as he said; I do not know McDonald very well, and have had nothing to do with his work in the mine; I know of him by repute as under-manager in the night-shift; I have no personal knowledge of him; I have heard nothing against him; if he were an incompetent man, I should most likely have heard of it; I believe he has done his work in a competent manner; I have seen the work he has done in the night-shift.

By Mr. Wilshire: I have heard pretty well all the evidence given in the different inquiries in connection with this accident; I have heard the witnesses say that when they went into the mine on the exploring visit they smelt a gas; I should say that that indicated the presence of carbon monoxide in the mine at that time.

By His Honor: Carbon monoxide is produced wherever there is incomplete combustion, either above or below ground, and is produced in an ordinary coal fire.

By Mr. Rogers: My theory at first was that there was a fire in the mine; McDonald seemed to doubt my opinion in the matter; I say they committed an error of judgment in going in against that air-current; they always regarded the gas as black-damp.

By His Honor: There is no benzine-smell in carbonic acid.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 24th }
day of March, 1897, before,— }

JOHN DIXON.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

This deponent, *Jefferson William Hester*, on his oath, states:—I am a legally qualified medical practitioner, residing at Stockton; on the 3rd December last I received certain information, in consequence of which I went to the Stockton pit, arriving there a few minutes past 11 o'clock; when I arrived at the trap-door I found the two McDonalds being brought out; I saw some others who were unconscious and others who were dead; I attended to those who required my attention, and on the following day examined the bodies of eight men; I made a *post-mortem* examination of the body of one of them—Fitzpatrick. The cause of death in his case was undoubtedly poisoning by carbon monoxide; I thought at the time, and still think, that there was 3 per cent. of the gas in the mine at the time; I think that in such an atmosphere a man would become helpless, and shortly after unconscious, in from fifteen to twenty minutes; from 40 to 50 per cent. of this gas must be absorbed into the blood to produce helplessness; the earliest effects would be giddiness, palpitation, mental confusion, weakness in the legs—general weakness, but chiefly in the legs; a man would probably feel the earlier symptoms in such an atmosphere in about five minutes; I also made a *post-mortem* examination of the bodies of Curran and Smith, who were killed the day previous to this; it was on the afternoon of the 2nd December last that I examined the body of Curran; in my opinion his death was caused by carbonic acid.

By His Honor: There are very marked differences in the symptoms of death caused by carbonic acid and death caused by carbonic monoxide; if death resulted from a mixture of both the gas predominant in the cause of death would bring about the symptoms showing the cause of death.

By Mr. Wilshire: A death from a very large dose of carbonic acid would be a quiet one; carbon monoxide of 3 per cent. strength would cause a perfectly calm death in about thirty-five minutes—a painless death.

By His Honor: In poisoning by carbonic acid the most marked symptom would be the engorgement of the whole blood system with very dark, venous blood; in poisoning by carbon monoxide the blood is of a bright, scarlet colour; that bright, scarlet colour is not met with in any other form of death, but is typical of death by carbonic monoxide.

By Mr. Rogers: Judging from my *post-mortem* I have no doubt that Curran died from carbonic-acid poisoning, and Fitzpatrick from poisoning by carbon monoxide; I know the Stockton Mine, and have been down it several times; given a gob-fire, with a large current of air passing over it, the increase of the current of air would not necessarily produce a large product of carbon monoxide, but would increase the production of carbon dioxide, or black-damp; I am of opinion that the amount of carbon monoxide that was in the mine when the exploration party went in could not possibly have been the same as was present when the rescuing party went in; I should say from the results that the gas must have come down on the party suddenly; from the fact of the exploration party having been in the mine for forty-five minutes, without feeling any ill-effects, and then to feel suddenly ill, I should say that there had been a sudden liberation of gas, and of a greater strength than 3 per cent.; I think, from the fact of their being in the mine for forty-five minutes, and feeling no ill-effects; then, hearing a fall, they suddenly felt the ill-effects, there would have been no danger but for the fall; there would have been no danger but for some unexpected occurrence such as a fall; the gas given off by a gob-fire with a fairly strong current of air passing over would be carbonic acid; this gas would indicate its presence by putting out the lights long before it would be injurious to the men; I saw the effects of the carbon monoxide on the men as they were brought out of the mine through the trap-door; that is, I saw them before they were taken into pure air; I saw the rescue party go in and saw them come out; from what I saw then I should say the condition of the atmosphere of the mine must have been absolutely different from the time when the men stayed in it for forty-five minutes without feeling any ill-effects.

By Mr. Wilshire: Carbon monoxide is a product of a gob-fire; it is not one of the ordinary gases of the mine; it must have been produced from some outside cause; I cannot say that there was carbon monoxide in the mine when the men first went into it, but I think it improbable that there was more than 1 per cent. there when the exploring party went in, as the effect of the gas is a gradual one; before they felt the effects of it the blood must have been absorbing it; the exact effect of a very small quantity of carbon monoxide is a matter of discussion by the authorities; there is a great difference of opinion between them; Dr. Haldane says that death would ensue in an hour and seven and a half minutes in an atmosphere of 2 per cent. of carbon monoxide.

By Mr. Rogers: I know the benzine-smell; I do not think it can accompany carbonic acid; wherever you get that smell there must be some carbon monoxide, even though it be an infinitesimal quantity; from the manner in which the bodies of Curran and Smith were found lying, and the fact of their lights being out, there was no doubt in my mind that the miners would conclude their deaths were caused by black-damp; I had given my evidence as to the cause of their deaths on the morning of the 3rd December last, and the exploring party did not go in till the night of the 3rd December; if there is combustion of carbon with oxygen the product that is always formed is carbon dioxide under ordinary circumstances; carbon dioxide is the staple product, and will always be formed if it gets the oxygen.

By Mr. Wilshire: The cause of death in the cases of the seven men besides Fitzpatrick was carbon monoxide.

J. W. HESTER.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 24th }
day of March, 1897, before,—

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

The evidence given by Daniel McAuliffe at the second inquest and at the Court of Investigation read, admitted in evidence by Mr. Rogers, and marked "Exhibit No. 12" and "Exhibit No. 13" respectively.

Mr. Wilshire here closes his cases.

Newcastle, 24th March, 1897.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

Mr. Rogers opened his cases by calling Mr. Richard Thomas as a witness.

This deponent, *Richard Thomas*, on his oath states:—I am manager of Messrs. Brown's colliery at Minmi; I have been manager of a mine for twenty-two years, and assistant manager for five years; I have been manager of a coal-mine in South Wales, and for ten or eleven years in this district. I was formerly manager of the Stockton Mine for three years; when I took charge of the mine the mine had been opened out; I have visited the mine on several occasions since my retirement from the management of it; I know that when the crush came on the No. 2 headings, the stoppings were crushed, and there was a leakage of air there; this was caused by the crushing of the roof on to the stoppings, which were crushed out; when a falling roof settles itself, it goes no further; it is impossible to say at what time a roof would settle itself; the roof had not completely settled in my time; I do not know that the stoppings have all been mended up; I know the "D" stopping in the mine; I do not know why it was put there; if the stoppings were crushed and imperfect, the intake air would take the shortest course to get out: the best way to get a full current would be to prevent all leakages along the road; while the crush was settling we would be patching from time to time. Any air that leaked through the bords would get into the road and through the place where the "D" stopping is if that stopping were not there; it was a wise thing to put in that stopping to prevent the leakage; I know the No. 3 district of the Stockton; it was worked out while I was there pretty well; it had been started when I went there, but work had not gone far; I know where No. 3 door is in the mine; if that were kept shut it would practically cause a stopping; during the time I was at the Stockton Mine I never met with carbon monoxide there; it is a very rare gas in any mine; a manager would have practically no experience of it; all he would know of it would be from his reading; I have no knowledge of any fatality from this gas; I went through No. 3 district in December, 1895, and in July, 1896; Mr. Humble was with me and a colliery official the first time, but no manager, I think; in July we had a number of managers with us; on each of these occasions we entered the mine by the trap-door (marked "Z" on the plan); we went against the current on each occasion; our object in going in on each occasion was to notice the state of the mine with regard to a claim for damages against it through a subsidence; falls were very frequent in No. 3 district; there was a very large fall at No. 11 bord extending about 50 yards; the country about No. 11 has been very subject to falls; on each occasion that I went in we had to crawl along on our hands and knees—almost to drag ourselves on our faces; from what I know of the country there, I should say it was quite likely that the exploration party on the 3rd December last heard a fall; the fact that up to that time the party had not felt any ill effects and then felt such effects would tend to show that some bad gas had been liberated by the fall; I have known McAuliffe between ten and eleven years, during which time he has been under my observation; he was the overman under me when I had charge of Stockton; I considered him a good, capable, careful, practical man; I have had good proofs of his courage also; if any danger was to be encountered he was the first to meet it; he has sunk the most difficult shaft that I know of anywhere; the timbering in the mine is also excellent.

By Mr. Wilshire: I have had some experience of gob-stink; I have detected the strange benzine-smell accompanying it on one occasion; on that occasion it affected the men; I have looked into the thing closely, and cannot find a genuine gob-fire in the Colony; in the Stockton Mine the gob-stink must have arisen from a fire caused by spontaneous combustion; I should look for other symptoms of the gas besides the peculiar smell before I made up my mind that it was carbon monoxide in the mine; smelling the peculiar smell, and seeing that it did not extinguish the lights, I should say it was carbon monoxide; as a practical miner I would not have put in the stopping at "D" as I am a great believer in not imprisoning gas in a mine; I should say the mine was safer with that stopping knocked out, and other means taken to take the gas out, and the mine kept safe by ventilation; I believe if that stopping had been in, the deaths of Curran and Smith would not have taken place; when I went into the mine there was no carbon monoxide in the mine; if there had been, I would not have gone in against the air-current.

By Mr. Rogers: If No. 3 door had been kept shut, Curran and Smith would not have met their deaths; There were other abandoned workings in the mine besides No. 3, and they were periodically visited in my time.

By Mr. Wilshire: In my opinion the stopping at "D" was put in to prevent leakages; the No. 3 door would have prevented the leakages, but not so effectually.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 24th }
day of March, 1897, before,—

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

RICHD. THOMAS.

This deponent, *John Ellis*, on his oath states:—I was trolly-weighman at the Stockton Mine; I remember the fact of the deaths of Smith and Curran; I was down the pit on the morning of their death; I was at the furnace; I picked up Smith's lamp; it was an oil lamp; there was plenty of oil in it; I was one of the exploring party; before they went down I was aware that it had been reported that the mine had been well cleared; I believe they had been clearing it for about thirty hours; I was about 50 yards behind McDonald and Cockburn going in, and I was third or fourth from the last; I did not hear any order to retreat given by McDonald or anyone else, but saw the men ahead of me turn to leave the mine; just before that I had felt a concussion of the air; I felt a rush of air towards us; up to that time no one had complained, and there had been plenty of air, good air; I did not hear anything when I felt the concussion; after we began to retreat I began to feel bad; I saw Cockburn was ill and assisted him; he had one arm round me, and he dragged himself as well as he could, and I dragged him that way for about 30 yards; I was fatigued from assisting him; up to the time the retreat began, I had no fear of anything; I have known McAuliffe about ten years; I always thought him a competent, cautious man, and very clever as a manager; I always thought McDonald a competent and good man; we were in the mine nearly an hour on the exploration trip.

By Mr. Wilshire: I did not know what fire-stink was; there was a slight benzine-smell on going in; it was new in that portion of the mine; I cannot remember the stopping at "D" being put up nor knocked down; for two years after the district had been worked out there was no stopping there at all; about a minute elapsed from the time I felt the concussion till young Bailey became bad; I do not remember any remark being made about the peculiar smell when we first went into it.

By Mr. Rogers: I was down when they began to ventilate; there was a smell then; when we went down after the thirty hours' ventilation there was a smell of the same kind, but not nearly so strong.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 24th }
day of March, 1897, before,— }

JOHN ELLIS.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

This deponent, *Daniel McAuliffe*, on his oath, states:—I am the manager of the Stockton Mine; I had nothing to do with the laying out of the mine; I took it over from Mr. Jonathan Dixon, the former manager; No. 3 district was abandoned shortly after I took over the management—a few months after; no stopping was put at "D" for two years after; it was put up there because we found it impossible to maintain our air-current to the back of the mine, in consequence of the breakages of the stoppings on the main route by crushing; the stopping at "D" was put up while we repaired the breakages; the "D" stopping remained in about three years, and was taken out in December, 1895; when it was taken out, the other stoppings at the ends of the bords had been repaired and made right; we had to examine the No. 3 district on account of an action against the company, and we found black-damp in that country on our examination; the stopping at No. 20 bord was knocked out for the purpose of clearing the district of the black-damp; after we had finished the examination, we still left the stopping out; that was because the necessity for it ceased, the district being in the same state as before we had put it in; No. 3 door was put in to check the scaling going up the rope-road; No. 3 door if kept shut would have the effect of preventing any noxious gases from coming up from No. 3 district; I never prosecuted anyone for leaving No. 3 door open; I never knew it had been left open by anyone; all the officers of the mine as well as the Government inspectors make periodical inspections of all abandoned workings in the mine. McDonald and Burt had been in No. 3 three weeks or a month prior to the date of the accident; I had been in either in August or September last; on that occasion I noticed no bad gases; neither Burt nor McDonald reported the presence of any gases to me on their last visit; I remember the accident by which Smith and Curran lost their lives; as soon as I heard of it, I sent messengers direct to Mr. Humble, before 5 o'clock in the morning; the bodies had been found about half-past 4 in the morning; Mr. Humble came first, and we went down the mine; before the exploring party went in McDonald, Cockburn, Bailey, and I, discussed the best way of going in; we thought that we would arrive at the probable seat of trouble in two or three hours; I mean we would be able to go in in two or three hours, and find the seat of the trouble; we came to the conclusion that it would be dangerous to go in by 20 bord, on account of the broken ground as it might fall and crush us or block us in; we abandoned the idea of going in by No. 20 bord, and some one suggested going in by the trap-door; someone also suggested the opening of No. 2 door and No. 1 door, and thus allow the air to flow down that way; Cockburn mentioned the possibility of flowing the air down over the overcast, but we concluded that was impossible because the overcast had been blocked up by falls; we also found that No. 17 bord was not available on the same ground; we discussed three or four methods of going in and eventually decided to go in in the way McDonald did go; at the time the men went into the mine I knew Dr. Hester had given his evidence on the bodies of Smith and Curran, and I also knew that he had given the cause of their deaths as black-damp; I also knew that when the bodies were found, all their lamps were out; I was satisfied there had been a big percentage of black-damp in the air, but with a smell; then, before the exploring party went in, I satisfied myself from the reports made to me that the district was clear; I also went to the furnace and made further inquiry, and found it was still all clear; I know the point to which the exploring party reached; I did not refuse to turn the current of air on account of the difficulty there would have been in getting the horses out; knowing the distance I had to go, I could not have carried sufficient air with me to have turned the current; it would have been possible to have sent the air the other way, but it would have stopped our pumps, and also sent the air over the furnace-men if we had done so; that would have been fatal to the men at furnace, in the same way as it had been to Smith and Curran; I did what I believed to be the very best thing under the circumstances; the matter was discussed by us all, and discussed anxiously; there were from 30,000 to 40,000 feet of air at the trap-door when the inspectors went in; according to them, they lost about 27,000 feet in going about half the distance I did; I have had about thirty-five years' experience of mining; I had never experienced the same smell before that night as I noticed then; I have not been in any coal-mine in which there has been a gob-fire.

By Mr. Wilshire: The stopping at "D" relieved No. 3 door altogether; I cannot say who ordered the stopping to be knocked down; I believe McDonald knocked it down; I think he was wrong in stating he knocked it down in August, 1896. The district could have been cleared by opening the door of the stopping, but that would have taken a much longer time; I knew black-damp was in the district before the stopping was knocked down; it was quite possible for it to be there after the stopping had

had been knocked down ; it could not have got to No. 3 door unless it were left open ; I did not make any provision for ventilating the district after the stopping had been taken down ; I did not know that noxious gas was being generated to any dangerous extent ; the idea of going in by No. 20 bord was discussed by us seriously ; I cannot remember McDonald reporting to me that No. 3 door had been left open ; I heard that Gould had been sick ; I deemed the opinion of the inspectors worth consideration, but I had never come across fire-stink ; even after their expression of opinion I thought the cause of the trouble was black-damp ; in our discussions about the best way to go in, we gave full weight to the opinion of the inspectors ; I know that during the day Cockburn and McDonald travelled about 470 yards into the district and the same distance back without any inconvenience ; the inspectors had none of the air coming down No. 3 shaft ; I am quite satisfied that the inspectors had from 30,000 or 40,000 feet at the trap-door ; the shortening of the air-course would increase the current about 100 per cent. at that particular place ; I did not give the go-by to the fire-stink after hearing Dr. Hester's opinion as to the cause of the death of Curran and Smith ; I reckoned with the fire-stink in all my discussions and in everything I did ; I could not have forced the air up without its crossing the pump-line.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 24th }
day of March, 1897, before,—

D. McAULIFFE.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

This deponent, *William McDonald*, on his oath, states :—I have heard the explanation given by McAuliffe as to the stopping at "D" ; that is correct ; before the death of Smith and Curran I had been in No. 3 district ; that was about three weeks before their death ; I went in by myself ; I noticed nothing wrong in the district then ; I first saw Smith and Curran about a quarter-past 4 in the morning ; they were dead then ; they were at No. 1 door then, having been brought out ; their deaths were reported to the inspector at once ; I knew of the evidence given by Dr. Hester ; I believed they died from black-damp ; after their death I believed there was black-damp in No. 3 district ; up to the time I heard the noise of what I took to be a fall there had been nothing to show the presence of a noxious gas in the workings ; I had been into the district with Cockburn about noon on the 3rd instant ; I went in about 500 yards, and felt no ill-effects then ; we were in for about half an hour.

By Mr. Wilshire : I went to about the point "C" on the plan on the 3rd December at noon with Cockburn ; I have not given that evidence before ; I knocked down the stopping at "D" ; I cannot fix the date when that was done ; I am almost certain it was out the first time the No. 3 district was cleared out ; Mr. Jonathan Dixon knocked part of it down ; there was not a big enough area by opening the door in the stopping ; Smith and Curran would have been all right if the door had been kept shut ; the fact of the door having been left open was reported to me on the morning of the 1st December ; notwithstanding the expression of opinion by Messrs. Dixon and Humble that there was fire-stink in the mine, I thought Smith and Curran had been killed by black-damp ; I still think so ; I have smelt gob-fire in Scotland ; it had a more sulphury smell ; I know that gob-fire gave off a very dangerous gas know as fire-stink ; I did not know that it was always accompanied by this peculiar benzine-smell ; I have to admit that the exploring party were killed by fire-stink ; heat will give off this gas without a fire ; to my mind, a fire, to be a fire, must have red coals in it ; there was a very faint benzine-smell when the exploring party went in ; the warning of the inspectors troubled me a good deal ; I gave it plenty weight ; I considered there was a necessity to get into the district quickly ; I was chiefly testing for black-damp on the night of the 3rd December last.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 24th }
day of March, 1897, before,—

WILLIAM McDONALD.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

Inquiry adjourned till 10 a.m., to-morrow.

Newcastle, 24th March, 1897.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

THURSDAY, 25 MARCH, 1897.

This deponent, *Daniel McAuliffe*, recalled on his former oath, states :—In discussing the point of reversing the air-current and sending it along 20 bord, we thought it might interfere with the men attending the suction-pumps ; that could have been avoided by sending the men down No. 3 shaft ; I did not think of that at the time, but have since seen it could be done ; I did what I considered best to try and discover the seat of the trouble ; I was influenced by what I knew of the fire in the Seaham Colliery, which had burnt for months ; I wanted to get at the fire and confine it to as small a space as possible ; it never struck me that we could send the men down the No. 3 shaft ; whatever had to be done had to be done quickly.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 25th }
day of March, 1897, before,—

D. McAULIFFE.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

This deponent, *Jefferson William Hester*, recalled on his former oath, states :—I consider there must have been considerably under '1 per cent. of carbon monoxide in the mine when the exploring party went in ; in my opinion, with an atmosphere of '1 per cent. of carbon monoxide helplessness would result in half an hour ; I have formed this opinion after consulting authorities yesterday ; I know the point the exploring party reached and the time they were in the mine, I should say it was quite impossible for '1 per cent. of the monoxide to have been in the atmosphere ; the party went about 1,200 yards altogether in the atmosphere, that is, going and coming ; four of the men were in that atmosphere while they travelled that distance, about three-quarters of an hour ; I know myself that some of the rescue party were overcome in from ten to twenty minutes ; from the facts of the case there must have been a new state of things after the exploring party had gone into the mine ; I am as certain as I can be that some sudden change must have taken place in the atmosphere ; if there was 1 per cent. carbon monoxide in the atmosphere the men would have been knocked over in two or three minutes ; a sudden liberation of such a gas would affect them quickly.

By

By Mr. Wilshire: I should say it was extremely probable that there was 1 per cent of the monoxide where young Bailey was taken bad, as days after 3 per cent. was found at a very distant part of the mine from there; I think it is extremely probable that the fall, if any took place, released a large quantity of the gas suddenly; I am perfectly certain that a body of gas which was not in action was suddenly set in action by a fall, or some other cause; I considered that fifteen minutes was quite long enough for any of the rescue party to be in; I doubt if any of them were in longer at a time.

By His Honor: I cannot say that it was impossible for carbon monoxide to have taken part in the death of Curran, but I saw no signs of its presence; the two gases—the monoxide and the di-oxide—do act together; in giving my opinion yesterday as to the carbon monoxide, I misread Haldane's report which was given to me in the witness-box.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 25th }
day of March, 1897, before,—

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

J. W. HESTER.

This deponent, *William McAuliffe*, on his oath, states:—I was employed in the Stockton Mine in December last; I remember the night the exploring party went down to find out the cause of the trouble; I was one of the party; I looked at the clock in the engine-house as I went down, and it was three minutes to the half-hour—half-past 9; we started into the district about ten minutes after that.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 25th }
day of March, 1897, before,—

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

W. McAULIFFE.

Mr. Rogers here closes his cases.

It is admitted that the stopping at "D" was removed in June, 1896, by Mr. Dixon, the late manager. Newcastle, 25th March, 1897.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

EVIDENCE in Reply.

This deponent, *William Humble*, recalled, on his former oath, states:—I heard it stated yesterday that we were getting from 30,000 to 40,000 feet of air at the trap-door; I say, as I said before the Coroner's Court, that we had from 10,000 to 12,000 feet; the 3,000 feet we were getting at the end of the brattice was quite sufficient for us; I have been overcome three times by carbon monoxide, and have met it six times; on all those occasions the peculiar benzine-smell was present; I was in the gas for twenty minutes at Thornleigh before it affected me; my legs went from under me suddenly; we took our samples of the gas in a stagnant atmosphere—a place where we could never get the current to reach.

By Mr. Rogers: I got a good dose of the gas in England: still, I went into the same gas at Thornleigh; it was my duty to do so; we had to find out the cause of explosive gas; on each occasion my head was first affected, then my legs became weak; upwards of 1 per cent. of the monoxide would knock a man over suddenly.

Taken and sworn at Newcastle, this 25th }
day of March, 1897, before,—

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

WILLIAM HUMBLE.

Mr. Rogers then addressed the Court, and was followed by Mr. Wilshire.

His Honor summed up, and concluded by saying that he considered it to be his duty to cancel the certificates on the grounds that Mr. McAuliffe and Mr. McDonald were unfit to discharge their duties, by reason of incompetency and gross negligence.

Formal orders were drawn up, and received his Honor's signature.

The Court was then formally adjourned till 2 p.m. on Saturday, the 3rd April.

His Honor had no intention of sitting again; but had some doubt as to the sufficiency of the formal orders which had been drawn up. Consequently—having no authorities at Newcastle to consult—His Honor decided to adjourn the Court till the day already named.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

SATURDAY, 3 APRIL, 1897.

By consent, the Court sat in the District Court-house, King-street, Sydney, at noon.

Mr. Wilshire submitted amplified Orders of Court, showing the cancellation of Daniel McAuliffe's manager's certificate, and William McDonald's under-manager's certificate. These orders were presented to be substituted for those issued on Thursday, the 25th March.

The amplified orders were duly signed by His Honor Judge Backhouse.

The Court, at 12:10 p.m., adjourned *sine die*.

ALF. P. BACKHOUSE, D.C.J.

PART VII.

Minute by the Honorable Minister for Mines on Removal of Stopping in Rope-road, Stockton Colliery, and Reports by Colliery Inspectors; also, Minute by the Honorable Minister for Mines on Abandoned Districts in Coal-mines, and Report by Mr. Inspector Dixon.

No. 1.

Minute by The Minister for Mines and Agriculture.

Subject:—Stockton Colliery Accidents.

Department of Mines, Sydney, 11 March, 1897.

THE Court of Investigation, in their conclusions, state that it is unfortunate the removal of the stopping in the rope-road was not discovered by the inspectors before the accident happened; and although the Court absolves the inspectors from blame, stating that the failure to discover this danger does not imply any want of care on their part, I consider it is a matter which deserves some further inquiry at the hands of the Department, and the inspectors should be called upon for an explanation why they did not discover this stopping had been removed.

S. SMITH.

No. 2.

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

Sir,

Department of Mines, Sydney, 11 March, 1897.

I am directed by the Minister to inform you that the Court of Investigation appointed to inquire into the accidents at the Stockton Colliery, state, among other conclusions arrived at by them, as to the cause and circumstances surrounding the accidents which happened on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th December last, that it is very unfortunate that the removal of the stopping in the rope-road was not discovered by the inspectors before the accident happened, as they would presumably have called attention to its absence as a defect to be remedied. I am, therefore, to ask that you will furnish him with a report as to why the removal of this stopping was not discovered when making the ordinary inspections of the mine prior to the date of the accident.

I have, &c.,

D. C. McLACHLAN,

Under Secretary.

No. 3.

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

REPORT on Stopping in Rope-road between No. 3 abandoned district, and furnace in the Stockton Colliery.

Sir,

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 15 March, 1897.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication marked "M," under date 11th instant, in which my attention is drawn to a portion of the report furnished to the Minister by the Court of Investigation appointed to inquire into the accidents at the Stockton Colliery, said Court being of opinion "that it is very unfortunate that the removal of the stopping in the rope-road was not discovered by the inspectors before the accident happened, as they would presumably have called attention to its absence as a defect to be remedied."

2. In reporting on this matter, I may be allowed to state that my last visit to the Stockton Mine prior to the time of the accident, was on 5th December, 1895. It has been stated in evidence that the stopping alluded to on the rope-road was taken out during the latter part of August last, and from that time to the time of the accident two inspections of the Stockton Colliery were made by Mr. Inspector Humble—one in October and the other in November last.

3. On the 1st October, 1896, the new Coal Mines Regulation Act came into force, and by certain provisions therein contained, considerable changes were required in the matter of ventilating the face of each working place, making additional refuge holes on the travelling roads, and in sundry other details; therefore the two inspections referred to were wholly directed to these matters, in order that the workmen might, above all other things, get the benefit of having the current of air conveyed to the working face as soon as possible.

4. Under ordinary circumstances, the road-ways and air-ways near to and in the vicinity of an underground furnace undergo no material change from year's end to year's end, differing in this respect from the face workings which are continually changing as the workings advance; and as the inspector was totally unaware that the rope-road stopping had been taken out, and not replaced, he would naturally conclude that the furnace and its surroundings would be in the same state as when he last saw them, and as a consequence would devote his attention to the inner workings, where the most important work in the shape of alterations was being carried on.

5. The site of this displaced stopping is at the entrance to a totally abandoned district, and entirely separate from any ordinary road along which persons usually travel; and therefore the removal of the stopping could not have been discovered unless the inspector had gone into or come out of this abandoned district along this road to the furnace.

6. In conclusion, I beg to point out, that owing to the peculiar situation of the Stockton Colliery furnace, in what is known as the upper portion of the seam, and the fact that it can be approached in three different directions without travelling on the rope-road, an inspector might at any time, when in the mine, visit the furnace and its surroundings without passing down the rope-road in the direction of the No. 3 abandoned workings; and in my opinion, the thought might never occur to him to pass along said road, when he believed the said district to be totally isolated from furnace influence by a brick stopping.

I have, &c.,

JOHN DIXON,

Inspector of Collieries.

The Minister wishes also to have Mr. Humble's report on this matter.—D. McL., 17/3/97. Report herewith.—W.H., 20/3/97. The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

I submit that I fail to see why I should be brought into this matter. My last inspection of the Stockton Colliery, prior to the accident, was on the 7th and 8th January, 1895, and on the 23rd September, 1895, I inspected the third shaft and openings only. On 5th December, 1895, was in the No. 3 district to see some fallen ground, as I had to give evidence before a Court on the matter. The stopping on the rope-road was at the time intact, and I was not again at the Stockton Colliery until the accident happened to Curran and Smith, in December, 1896.—J. Dixon, 13/4/97. The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

No. 4.

Mr. Inspector Humble to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Report on Stopping in Rope-road between No. 3, abandoned district, and furnace in the Stockton Colliery.

Sir,

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 20 March, 1897.

In accordance with your minute on Mr. Dixon's report, under date 15th March, instant (No. 5,845), I have the honor to report as follows:—

As stated in that report, there were two inspections made of this colliery by me between August last, when this stopping is alleged to have been removed, and the time of the accidents, viz., in October and November. As the new Act had just come into operation, and as the working places and roadways leading thereto are extensive and widely scattered, many of them being under the Pacific Ocean, I devoted the whole of the time to seeing that the men got the benefit of having the current of air at the face, and that the refuge holes were made on both engine-planes and horse-roads to meet the requirements of the Act.

These duties required that each roadway should be travelled and the face of each working place visited, in order to ascertain if the Act had been complied with in the matter of ventilation. Many things peculiar to the working of a delta colliery, such as an abundance of timber in all bords, whether working or abandoned, in the respective working districts; the matter of bore-holes in the roof, and advance headings to ascertain the nature and thickness of the strata forming the roof; and the character of the coal,—were matters which required my undivided attention during these two inspections; and therefore I did not visit the furnace and its surroundings, situated as they are in the upper seam, quite distinct and separate from any working place or travelling road.

I was totally unaware, until after the accident to Curran and Smith, that this stopping had been remove.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HUMBLE,

Inspector of Collieries.

Submitted.—H.B.S., 22/3/97. The Under Secretary. Submitted.—D. McL., 24/3/97.

Since these reports were submitted the Court, presided over by Judge Backhouse, has sent in its report, in which it is stated the stopping in the rope-road was removed in June last, and not in August, as previously assumed. It would seem, therefore, that the introduction of the new Coal Mines Act could not have been engaging the inspectors' attention at that time, and a further report from them upon this matter seems desirable.—D. C. McLACHLAN, 9/4/97.

Approved.—S. SMITH, 9/4/97. Mr. Inspector Dixon, who will please inform Mr. Inspector Humble.—H.B.S., 10/4/97. B.C. For the information of Mr. Inspector Humble.—J. Dixon, 12/4/97. Seen; further report forwarded.—W.H., 13/4/97. Please see minute on my original report herewith.—J. Dixon, 13/4/97. The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

No. 5.

Mr. Inspector Humble to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Further Report on the removal of the Stopping in the Rope-road, Stockton Colliery.

Sir,

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 13 April, 1897.

In obedience to your minute of the 9th instant, stating the Court presided over by Judge Backhouse had "sent in its report, in which it is stated that the stopping in the rope-road was removed in June last, and not in August, as previously assumed," I have the honor to report further on the matter.

I was in Judge Backhouse's Court, sitting beside Mr. Wilshire at the table, when a statement to this effect was made by Mr. McDonald, late under-manager of the Stockton Colliery, and I submit that it is, to say the least, vastly different to that made by the same person before the Coroner's Court on the 10th December last.

In the witness-box, before His Honor Judge Backhouse, he first said he thought it (the stopping) was removed in December, 1895. When asked if he was sure, he shifted his ground, and said, "Either June or July," and when further pressed he said "he was not sure—it was one of the two."

His Honor then interposed by saying to counsel for the defence, "Let it be June, as the further back it is the better for you," or words to that effect. Before the Coroner's Court, on the 10th December last (and when the consequences of his action in the disaster appeared to be much more distant than they were when he appeared before His Honor Judge Backhouse), McDonald, without hesitation and on oath, said, "There was a stopping in the rope-road; but it was removed three or four months ago. The cause of its removal was to clear out No. 3 workings."

In

In believing this statement to be more reliable than his latter utterances (which were very vacillating), I rely upon the fact that certain colliery managers asked to support the Stockton Coal Company against a claim for damages by three property-owners in Stockton, were hurriedly taken into this No. 3 district in the last week of August last, so as to be ready to give evidence in the case heard before Mr. Justice Simpson on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of September last.

Unfortunately I cannot state positively when this stopping was removed; but of this I am sure, as stated in my report of the 20th ultimo, I did not know until after the accident to Curran and Smith that it had been removed.

As on several occasions previous to the removal of the stopping, the district had been temporarily ventilated and cleared of black-damp by opening the manhole door in the said stopping, and closing the same after the workings had been inspected, I never for one moment thought that this method which had acted so satisfactorily in the past would be rejected and abandoned in favour of the entire removal of the stopping.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HUMBLE,

Inspector of Collieries.

For the information of the Minister.—H.B.S., 14/4/97.

This reply of Inspector Humble's raises a further question as to why, when he made visits in June and August, he did not inspect the stopping, the removal of which is said to have largely contributed to the accident. With regard to the date of the removal of the stopping, Mr. Jonathan Dixon stated in his evidence before the Court that it was in June last. I should like this matter of the date cleared up if possible.—S. SMITH, 21/4/97.

Mr. Dixon.—D.McL., 23/4/97. For the information of Mr. Inspector Humble.—J. DIXON, 24/4/97.

The only reasons I can give for not inspecting this stopping in June and August are as follows:—

1. Its site is in a roadway far from the working places and ordinary travelling roads of the mine. No person worked or passed anywhere near it; and therefore it was not likely to be interfered with or damaged by irresponsible persons as they passed in or out of the mine.

2. It was well built of 9-inch brick-work; was of small area, and therefore strong; and, like hundreds of similar stoppings in this and other mines, really required no inspection, simply because under ordinary circumstances a brick stopping is in as good a condition at the end of fifteen or twenty years—aye, even more—as on the day it was built. I saw this stopping some time after it was built, and being of opinion that, if left alone, it would remain for years in the same state and condition, I was not anxious to travel into an isolated and abandoned part of the mine to see it every time I made an inspection. So much prominence and importance has been given to this stopping that it appears to overshadow another matter equally as important, but which seems to have fallen into the background, namely, that even with this stopping removed the accidents, or at least the accident to Curran and Smith, would not have happened if the No. 3 furnace door had not been carelessly and culpably left open.

With reference to the second part of the Minister's minute as to the date of removal of the stopping, "and that Mr. Jonathan Dixon stated in his evidence before the Court, that it was in June last," I beg to state that Mr. Jonathan Dixon did *not* give evidence before either of the Courts presided over by Judges Backhouse and Murray. The only evidence he has given on those accidents was before the Coroner's Court on the 10th December last, when putting in a plan of the colliery. It was purely formal, as the following full and complete copy will show:—Jonathan Dixon, being sworn, stated: "I am a colliery manager, and live at Greta; I know that this inquest is being held on the bodies of eight men found in Stockton Colliery; I produce a plan of the colliery. It is a correct plan of the No. 3 workings. I also produce an enlarged plan of the No. 3 district, showing where the exploring party went in, and the route taken by them, and the trap-door through which the rescuers passed; also the points where some of the bodies were found, and the coursing of the air temporarily along the No. 20 bord. I am at present in charge of the pit, acting manager; I do not know who was in charge of the pit last Thursday. The last sketch (enlarged plan) I put in as evidence is marked 'Exhibit A.'—JONATHAN DIXON."

Mr. Inspector Dixon.

WILLIAM HUMBLE,

Inspector of Collieries, 24/4/97.

I fully agree with the above minute written by Mr. Inspector Humble; and I know brick stoppings in some of the mines in this district which are as good to-day as they were when first built over twenty years ago.—J. DIXON, 26/4/97. The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

I regret that this matter has not been so satisfactorily cleared up as I could wish; and granting that there may be the uncertainty as to the date when the stopping in the rope-road was removed (although Judge Backhouse fixes it in his report in June), I cannot, I am sorry to say, quite bring myself to believe that the inspector made the diligent inspection of the workings which the duties of the position demanded. The fact that some of the employees had at times to pass in to this rope-road in connection with their duties, made it, it seems to me, a part of the working place, and therefore everything in and about that part of the mine should have been examined. If this had been done, it would have been discovered that this stopping was down, and the manager's attention would have been directed to it "as a defect to be remedied." The Court of Investigation having stated that the failure of the inspectors to discover this danger—*i.e.*, the removal of the stopping—did not imply any want of care on their part, I will not further prosecute the matter; but I wish it to be impressed upon all inspectors that they are to make careful examination of every part of any mine they are inspecting which is in, or is in any way connected with the working places where the men are employed, or any matter or thing which may in any way be a menace or a danger to the lives of the persons working in any mine.—S. SMITH, 3/5/97.

Inspector Dixon.—D.McL., B.C., 31/5/97. Seen.—J. DIXON, 5/6/97. W.H., 5/6/97. T.L.B., 5/6/97.

No. 6.
Minute by The Minister for Mines and Agriculture.

Abandoned Districts in Coal-mines.

25 March, 1897.

THERE is one of the conclusions arrived at by the Court of Inquiry into the Stockton Colliery accidents which requires the early and earnest attention of the Department, and I wish the matter thoroughly taken in hand and dealt with at the earliest possible moment. It is to the effect that the general course of working of this mine has been such as to tend unnecessarily to the happening of such disasters, by leaving abandoned districts in a dangerous condition; and, further, that the powers and duties of inspectors should be made the subject of special consideration. By section 19, subsection (iii) of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1896, an inspector is empowered to examine and make inquiry respecting the ventilation of the mine, and this no doubt gives him full authority to inspect any place which is likely to be the cause of danger to the men working in any part of the mine. It was held in *Brough (appellant) v. Homfray* (L.R., 3 Q.B., 771), in England, that it was not sufficient compliance with the rule to cause ventilation to pass along the working-place and travelling roads, but that so much of the mine must be kept so ventilated as to render the working-places and travelling roads safe. This was a case under the Mines Act of 1860, section 10, G.R. 1, which corresponded to G.R. 1 (Ventilation), section 49, of the English Act of 1887. If the General Rule were not complied with as to any part of the mine, such as is referred to in the above case, then, under section 48 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1896, the owners, &c., would each be guilty of an offence. [For penalties see 50 (ii) and 60]. If in any respect, which is not provided against by any express provisions of the Act, or by any Special Rule, an inspector finds any mine or any part thereof—this, presumably, includes old workings—or any matter, thing, or practice in or connected with such mine or within the control, management, or direction thereof to be dangerous or defective, so as to threaten or tend to the bodily injury of any person, he has power under section 20 (i) to require it to be remedied. Mr. Attorney-General Barton, advising on the same section contained in the old Act, said that the danger must be imminent, and, as was said in an English case by Lord Esher, M.R., “he (the inspector) is not told to say what he thinks to be the remedy, nor to require that remedy to be carried out. It is for the mine-owner to remedy the matter, and if he does not he must take the consequences.”

The inspector, under section 19 (iii), has power to examine into and make inquiry respecting the sufficiency of the Special Rules for the time being in force in the mine. Section 49 (i) provides that there shall be established in every mine such (Special) Rules for the conduct and guidance of the persons acting in the management of such mines or employed in or about the mine as under the particular state and circumstances of such mine may appear best calculated to prevent dangerous accidents and to provide for the safety, convenience, &c., of the persons employed. By section 52 (ii) the Minister is empowered to propose any new special rules or any amendments of the special rules already established.

In the Metropolitan Colliery Special Rules, the following provisions have been inserted with regard to old workings:—

The under-manager.—“He shall cause competent persons to inspect once a week all old workings, wherever accessible without undue risk; and such competent persons shall report as to their condition regarding the presence of noxious or inflammable gas, condition of ventilation, and security of roof and sides, and such report shall be entered in a book to be kept at the mine for that purpose. Such inspection shall be made by not less than two (2) such competent persons (deputies).

“He shall before the commencement of each shift, make the inspection and report required by General Rule 4 (i), and shall also inspect all old working-places temporarily or permanently abandoned on the intake side of the last working-place in his district; such inspection shall be made within three (3) hours before the commencement of each shift. Including this inspection he shall make at least two (2) such inspections during the course of each working shift.”

It seems to me these are excellent rules, and provide reasonable safeguards against dangers arising from the insidious issue of gases, or noxious air, from abandoned workings, and every possible step should be taken with a view to guard as much as possible against danger to persons employed in the mine arising from these causes. Unless good reasons can be shown to the contrary, I see no reason why somewhat similar provision should not be inserted in the Special Rules of every colliery where any part of the mine is unworked and abandoned.

Although the inspectors now clearly understand that where any danger is likely to arise from the old workings, it is their duty to bring it under the notice of the management, I desire the attention of the Chief Inspector to be drawn to the extract from the Court's report, and wish him to report at once as to what other steps should, in his opinion, be taken in the existing state of the law to guard against danger arising from abandoned workings, and what proposal he has to make for the inspection of old workings by the inspecting staff.

This is a matter of vital importance to all concerned in the working of our collieries, and I trust the Chief Inspector will be alive to the duty which devolves upon him in providing such means as shall ensure (as far as human agency can) to those working in our mines, immunity from death or accident from old workings.

SYDNEY SMITH.

Mr. Dixon.—H.B.S., B.C., 26/3/97. Urgent. Report herewith.—J. DIXON, 31/3/97. The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

No. 7.

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

Sir,

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 31 March, 1897.

Referring to paper No. 6,795, under date 25th March instant, *re* abandoned workings in coal-mines, I have the honor to submit the following report for the information of the Hon. Minister for Mines and Agriculture.

1. I have carefully read the extract from the Court's report, and also noted the extract from Section 19, subsection (iii) of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, as to the powers of inspectors. I am fully aware that an inspector has power to inspect any place which is likely to be the cause of danger

to the men working in any part of the mine; and I submit that this has been done in past inspections. For whenever it has become known to me that any part of a mine has been likely to cause danger, I have made it my business to visit and inspect that particular mine, both by day and by night, until satisfied that the danger had been removed.

2. In opening out a colliery, and after the shaft pillars are formed, it is the custom to commence one or more narrow bords, which are termed the winning places of the mine. From such bords, headings are turned away, and from the headings wide bords are driven. In course of time, the whole area of that particular district is worked out, and consequently abandoned. The winning places in the meantime, are being advanced, and other districts formed. When the first districts from the shafts are abandoned, it is found necessary to build stoppings in all the openings which have been formed from the main roads, in order to comply with the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, as, for instance, General Rule 1, section 47 of the present Act provides that "the intake air shall travel free from all stagnant water, stables, and old workings"; hence the necessity for building stoppings. Such old workings are not necessarily hermetically sealed, but left with an open end or "breathing hole" into the main return air-way. As a rule, the return air is not coursed into, and through the abandoned heading and bords. This being so, in some cases an extinctive gas is generated in the old workings; but after having attained a certain volume, it gradually exudes through the "breathing hole" into the return air-way, where it is diluted and rendered harmless by coming into contact with the return air, before reaching the bottom of the upcast shaft. This method of old workings obtains when the pillar-coal is not extracted; and thus, it may be, that scores of acres of old abandoned workings are left standing on the pillar-coal. When, however, the pillar-coal is extracted, such coal is attacked at a convenient distance behind the bords working in the solid coal; and after the pillars have been taken out the immediate roof subsides and fills up all open spaces. This is called a "goaf" or "waste."

3. In the matter of the Metropolitan Colliery, for which the manager has formulated certain Special Rules in order to deal with old workings, I may be allowed to say that while I agree with the spirit of said rules, I feel it my duty to draw attention to the fact that there is but little analogy between this colliery and scores of other collieries now being worked in this Colony. The Metropolitan Colliery is a comparatively young mine, and, owing to the fact of pillar extraction, there cannot be said to be any very extensive area of old workings standing on the pillar-coal. But for the most part, the so-called old workings will be "goaf" or "waste" where the roof has fallen. The inspection of the "goaf" edge can be readily accomplished, and in a mine giving off fire-damp (such as the Metropolitan Colliery is alleged to do) the inspection of the "goaf" edge is considered to be imperative, the world over. On the other hand, there are mines in the Colony, much older than the Metropolitan, where pillar-coal cannot be extracted—for instance, Wallsend and Bullock Island, and Hetton and Stockton Collieries. Owing to this fact, no "goaf" or "waste" can be made, and as the old districts are abandoned, stoppings are built as above described.

4. I have endeavoured to make plain the two systems of old workings, viz., bords and headings sealed off from main roads, and "goaf" or "waste" formed by pillar-coal extraction. As I have already stated, a "goaf" edge can be examined without much trouble; but it becomes a serious question as to how old workings (bords and pillars) can be entered and inspected with safety. In old workings where the pillar-coal is intact, the timber which may be left in decays, and as a consequence a certain portion of the rock or shale roof falls away; and it often happens that some of the roof in old bords, which does not come with the first fall, is left in such a fractured condition as to render it liable to fall at any moment. Besides, if there is an accumulation of extinctive gas in any such old workings, they would not be in a fit state for anyone to work or pass therein until such gas were cleared away. In order to do this, a stopping would have to be taken out, and fresh air coursed through the old headings and bords. This could only be done on a day when the mine would be idle, as to divert the main current of air to clear old workings would be lessening the volume of air in the face workings. The action of the fresh cool air on the already fractured roof, would, in all probability, cause some of the roof to fall, and this alone would be a source of danger to any person or persons making the inspection. But a still greater danger than this might be brought about by introducing a large quantity of oxygen into old workings which would be to some extent heated by long standing, and being shut off from a cool atmosphere. This sudden flushing with fresh air might have the effect of inducing a "gob-fire" by a supply of oxygen, which the "gob" was not able to get while the extinctive gas abounded.

5. In conclusion, I may be allowed to state that I have entered rather fully into a description of old abandoned workings with one sole object in view, viz., to show what, in my opinion, might be a source of danger, if it were insisted on that certain classes of abandoned workings have to be inspected. I may further state that I have no objection to the new Special Rules being submitted to the colliery managers in the Colony. Neither have I any objection to do my share of inspecting the old workings, whatever the risk might be to myself. I dare go where any other man dare to go; and in scores of instances I have risked both life and limb in the execution of my duty as a Colliery Inspector, with a view to the safety of the persons employed in the mine. I have ever been fully alive to the duties devolving upon me as an Inspector, and I would not hesitate for one moment to enter a mine at any hour, day or night, if by so doing, I could prevent an accident; for, without fear of contradiction, I can honestly say that I have the interests of the coal-miners of the Colony at heart as much as any person can have; for if I were to try, I could not forget the fact that I have been one of them. I have, &c.,

JOHN DIXON,
Inspector of Collieries.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

WALLSEND COLLIERY.

(REPORTS RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 12 Report from Printing Committee, 22 July, 1897.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 1st July, 1897, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“ All reports made by the Government Inspectors on the Wallsend Colliery
“ during the present year.”

(*Mr. Watkins.*)

Report on Wallsend Colliery.

WALLSEND NO. 2 COLLIERY INSPECTION.—WALLSEND.

Sir,

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 9 January, 1897.

I have the honor to report inspection of the above colliery on Monday the 4th instant.

There are 64 minors employed in this No. 2 Colliery, 32 in bords and 32 in pillars. Forty-eight of the total number may be considered to be on one split, and the quantity of air passing in to them was 9,500 cubic feet per minute, which gives an average of 164 cubic feet each for them, and the 5 boys and 5 horses employed in wheeling their coal.

In other parts of the mine there are two groups of 8 men each engaged in the extraction of pillars, one group working at night-time, when special provision is made for their ventilation by opening a door on the engine-plane, which admits a fair current of air to pass these working places on its way to the No. 1 Colliery furnace.

The other group of 8 men were, at the time of my visit, not very well ventilated, but the under-manager (Robert Lundy) assured me that it (the ventilation) was worse than he had seen it, and he would at once take steps to increase the quantity of air flowing to them.

The ventilation in other parts of the mine was good, the brattice used in the sixteen bords at work conveying a fair proportion of the current into the face of each place.

Since my last inspection additional refuge holes have been made on the plane, and the travelling road extended and improved. Previously it was a return air-course, now it is an intake, and a great protection to the men using it on their way in and out, because it keeps them clear of the fast-running trains on the engine-plane.

The provisions of the new Act have been fairly well complied with.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HUMBLE,

Inspector of Collieries.

John Dixon, Esq., F.G.S., Inspector of Collieries, Newcastle.

Report on Wallsend Colliery.

WALLSEND COLLIERY INSPECTION.—MAIN TUNNEL WORKINGS.

Sir,

Newcastle, 13 March, 1897.

I have the honor to report having inspected the above colliery on March 8th, 9th, and 10th.

Olinaman District.

No. 1 Split.—There are 18 men, 2 boys, and 2 horses employed, total 22; and supplied with 17,100 cubic feet of air per minute, giving each an average of 777 cubic feet.

No. 2 Split.—There are 4 men, 1 boy, and 1 horse employed, total 6; and supplied with 2,000 cubic feet of air per minute, giving each an average of 333 cubic feet.

No. 3 Split.—There are 62 men, 5 boys, and 5 horses employed, total 72; and supplied with 13,200 cubic feet of air per minute, giving each an average of 183 cubic feet.

Jubilee

212—

[580 copies—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £2 14s. 6d.]

Jubilee District.

No. 1 Split.—There are 24 men, 2 boys, and 2 horses employed, total 28; and supplied with 11,850 cubic feet of air per minute, giving each an average of 423 cubic feet.

No. 2 Split.—There are 56 men, 4 boys, and 4 horses employed, total 64; and supplied with 15,360 cubic feet of air per minute, giving each an average of 240 cubic feet.

No. 3 Split.—There are 30 men, 4 boys, and 2 horses employed, total 36; and supplied with 5,281 cubic feet of air per minute, giving each an average of 146 cubic feet.

No. 4 Split.—There are 28 men, 3 boys, and 3 horses employed, total 34; and supplied with 14,000 cubic feet of air per minute, giving each an average of 411 cubic feet.

Lambton Headings District.

No. 1 Split.—There are 43 men, 5 boys, and 5 horses employed, total 53; and supplied with 11,000 cubic feet of air per minute, giving each an average of 207 cubic feet.

No. 2 Split.—There are 26 men, 2 boys, and 2 horses employed, total 30; and supplied with 6,090 cubic feet of air per minute, giving each an average of 203 cubic feet.

No. 3 Split.—There are 63 men, 6 boys, and 6 horses employed, total 75; and supplied with 13,600 cubic feet of air per minute, giving each an average of 181 cubic feet.

No. 4 Split.—There are 20 men, 2 boys, and 2 horses employed, total 24; and supplied with 7,200 cubic feet of air per minute, giving each an average of 300 cubic feet.

The working places are adequately ventilated, the wheeling and travelling roads in good condition, and there was a plentiful supply of timber on the various flats.

I have, &c.,

THOS. L. BATES,

Inspector of Collieries.

John Dixon, Esq.

Report on Wallsend No. 2 Colliery.

WALLSEND NO. 2 COLLIERY INSPECTION.—WALLSEND.

Sir,

Coal-fields Office, Newcastle, 3 April, 1897.

I have the honor to report inspection of the above Colliery yesterday.

There are 58 miners employed, 34 in bords and headings and 24 in pillars, 8 of whom work at night-time.

I measured the following quantities of air:—

No. 1 Split.—Thirty-four men, 5 boys, and 5 horses employed, and supplied with 6,300 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 143 cubic feet each.

No. 2 Split.—Sixteen men, 2 boys, and 2 horses employed, and supplied with 2,400 cubic feet per minute, being an average of 120 cubic feet each.

The 8 miners working at night-time are ventilated by a current of air, specially turned into their places by the opening of a door alongside the engine-plane.

A deputy is in constant attendance on these men, and looks after this door, opening it before they start and closing it after they finish, and before the day-shift miners are admitted.

From what I could see when I opened the door to pass through, these 8 men will receive seven or eight thousand cubic feet of air per minute while they are at work.

I afterwards visited four shift-men in the No. 3 District who were engaged in ridding through some fallen ground to recover some rails, &c. It is hazardous work, but every care is being taken for their safety.

The provisions of the Act are being fairly well complied with, particularly as regards ventilation; the men have a satisfactory amount of air carried to their working-place.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HUMBLE,

Inspector of Collieries.

John Dixon, Esq., F.G.S., Inspector of Collieries, Newcastle.

Report on Wallsend No. 2 Colliery.

WALLSEND NO. 2 COLLIERY INSPECTION.—WALLSEND.

Sir,

Hamilton, Newcastle, 21 May, 1897.

I have the honor to report inspection of the above Colliery to-day.

Fifty-two miners are employed in this Colliery, 40 during the day in bords and headings, and 12 at night-time extracting pillars.

The current of air on the main road just beyond the engine-flat measured 16,120 cubic feet per minute, and I found that 6,720 cubic feet of this was being supplied to the 40 men, 5 boys, and 5 horses employed during the day. This gives an average of 134 cubic feet each. A fair proportion of this current of air was being conveyed to the face of each place.

The 12 men employed at night-time work in two groups of 8 and 4, the former commencing at 4 p.m., when special provision is made for their ventilation.

The latter start at 12 p.m. and finish between 7 and 8 a.m. They, too, have a current of air specially supplied to them by the opening of a door alongside the main road.

I visited the working places of these men, and have no doubt that while they are at work an adequate amount of ventilation will be supplied to them. I found one of these working-places slightly troubled with black damp, which is constantly generated in the goaves of this colliery, and which at times exudes into the workings and roadways, where it is taken up by the air-current and carried into the return airways. Judging from appearances it will be cleared away in a few minutes before the men are admitted to-night.

While

While examining the deputies' report books I had reason to believe that copies of such were not kept at the colliery office, as I had previously requested they should be. Have, therefore, written a letter to manager. Copy annexed.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HUMBLE,

Inspector of Collieries.

John Dixon, Esq., F.G.S., Inspector of Collieries, Newcastle.

Sir,

Hamilton, Newcastle, 21 May, 1897.

On the 2nd of April last, while inspecting No. 2 Colliery, I requested your son and the Under Manager (Robert Lundy) to bring before your notice the requirements of general rule 38 of the Coal Mines Regulations Act, 1896, which provides that the books or a correct copy thereof "shall be kept at the office of the mine," &c., &c.

I do not know whether they spoke to you about the matter, but I naturally expected they would; and, after inspecting the mine to-day, I went to the colliery office for the purpose of seeing that such copies were duly kept. I found nothing of the kind there, and can only conclude that such has not been done, and that this part of the Act is not being observed. I have, therefore, to request compliance with the said rule without delay, and shall be glad to hear, as soon as possible, that such has been done.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HUMBLE,

Inspector of Collieries.

Alex. Ross, Esq., Manager, Wallsend No. 2 Colliery, Wallsend.

Report on Wallsend Colliery.

WALLSEND COLLIERY INSPECTION.—MAIN TUNNEL WORKINGS.

Sir,

Newcastle, 5 June, 1897.

I have the honor to report having inspected the above colliery on May 31st, June 2nd and 3rd.

Lambton Headings District.

No. 1 Split.—There are 44 men, 5 boys, and 5 horses employed, total 54; and supplied with 9,720 cubic feet of air per minute, giving each an average of 180 cubic feet.

No. 2 Split.—There are 34 men, 3 boys, and 3 horses employed, total 40; and supplied with 7,500 cubic feet of air per minute, giving each an average of 187 cubic feet.

No. 3 Split.—There are 68 men, 6 boys, and 6 horses employed, total 80; and supplied with 13,500 cubic feet of air per minute, giving each an average of 168 cubic feet.

No. 4 Split.—There are 8 men, 1 boy, and 1 horse employed, total 10; and supplied with 2,000 cubic feet of air per minute, giving each an average of 200 cubic feet.

Chinaman District.

On the day of my inspection no miners were at work in consequence of an interruption in the railway traffic, and the ventilating-fan was only going at half-speed. Two shiftmen were employed, and there was a fair current of air in circulation.

Jubilee District.

Work was also suspended on the day of my inspection of this district, but 19 men, 9 boys, and 9 horses were employed in sending small coal up the Jubilee shaft for use at the ventilating-fan. Seven other men were repairing the main roads, &c. There was a fair current of air in circulation—quite sufficient for the number of men at work.

The wheeling and travelling roads were in good condition, and there was a plentiful supply of timber on the various flats.

I have, &c.,

THOS. L. BATES,

Inspector of Collieries.

John Dixon, Esq., Inspector of Collieries, Newcastle.

Report on Wallsend No. 2 Colliery.

WALLSEND NO. 2. COLLIERY INSPECTION.—WALLSEND.

Sir,

Hamilton, Newcastle, 18 June, 1897.

I have the honor to report inspection of the above colliery to-day.

At the present time 37 men, 5 boys, and 5 horses are employed during the day. They were being supplied with 8,320 cubic feet of air per minute, which gives an average of 177 cubic feet each. An excellent proportion of this current was conveyed to the face of each working-place.

In addition to the above number of men there are two groups of 4 and 8 who work at night-time extracting pillars in other and separate parts of the mine.

These men are ventilated by currents of air specially provided by the opening of doors which during the day must be kept closed, hence the reason for working at night-time.

A deputy is in attendance on each group to see to their safety, and Mr. Robert Lundy, the under-manager, informed me to-day that he also visits those men occasionally to see that all is right and safe in and around their working-places.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM HUMBLE,

Inspector of Collieries.

John Dixon, Esq., F.G.S., Inspector of Collieries, Newcastle.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

VENTILATION OF COAL-MINES, NEWCASTLE DISTRICT.
(RETURN RESPECTING.)

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

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

“All reports regarding the ventilation of coal-mines, under the new Coal-mines Act, from the Inspectors of Coal-mines in the Newcastle District, “from the commencement of the year 1897.”

(*Mr. Edden.*)

Name of Mine.	Inspector.	Date of Inspection.	Average amount of air supplied per minute to each man, boy, and horse.	Remarks.
A. A. Co.'s No. 2	Bates	1897. 7th and 8th January.	.....	There was a good current of air circulating through all the working-places which produced adequate ventilation.
“	“	22nd and 25th March.	.....	I found all the working-places adequately ventilated.
“	Dixon	17th and 21st May.	{ 500 in No. 1 district 722 in No. 5 “ 583 in No. 3 “	{ Each working-place was well ventilated. Galley workings were well ventilated. Place of Griffiths' narrow bord near south-east main road the ventilation was splendid.
A. A. Co.'s New Winning.	Bates	18th and 19th February.	{ 196 in No. 1 split 254 in No. 2 “ 326 in No. 3 “ 461 in No. 4 “ 191 in No. 5 “ 163 in No. 6 “ 775 in Reid's heading, N.E. side of shaft.	Adequately ventilated.
“	Dixon	3rd and 4th May.	{ 250 in Emery's “ 318 in Emery's left, “ 334 in main narrow bord (left side), S.E. side of shaft. 241 in main narrow bord (right side), S.E. side of shaft. 466 in Matthew's heading, S.E. side of shaft.	Each working-place was adequately ventilated.
Bloomfield	Humble	8th March	.....	A splendid volume of air, entering by four shafts and an adit, was flowing through each working-place, and the ventilation was therefore, in my opinion, full, ample, and adequate.
“	“	7th May	.....	An excellent current of air was flowing round and into the face of each and every working-place.
Brown's No. 2	“	24th February	{ 262 in No. 1 split (middle heading) 112 in No. 2 “ (shaft “	{ A fair proportion of the current of air entering each district is conveyed by canvas brattice to the face of each working-place, and the men are now working under fairly good conditions as regards ventilation.

Name of Mine.	Inspector.	Date of Inspection.	Average amount of air supplied per minute to each man, boy, and horse.	Remarks.
Brown's No. 2	Humble	1897. 3rd May	{ 240 in No. 1 split (middle heading dist.). 156 in No. 2 ,, (14 heading dist.) }	An excellent proportion of the current of air entering each district was conveyed into each working-place.
Burwood	Dixon	17th and 26th March.	{ 168 in Nos. 1 and 2 headings 217 in Nos. 3 and 4 " 214 in cross-cut 161 in south side	The ventilation in the south side district was found adequate, and in the other districts of this colliery the ventilation was also found to be adequate, and every bord and heading was bratticed.
"	"	26th and 27th May.	{ 142 in Nos. 1 and 2 headings (left) 180 in Nos. 3 and 4 " " " 441 in cross-cut 132 in south side	With the exception of a few places on the north side, which required a few lengths of brattice on, the ventilation was satisfactory. I drew the manager's attention to this matter by letter on the 28th May.
Brown's No. 4	Humble	26th March	{ 400 in No. 1 split (south heading dist.) 324 in No. 2 " 476 in No. 8 heading split 217 in No. 9 " " 430 in No. 5 " "	A good proportion of the current of air in each district is conveyed, by canvas brattice, to the face of each working-place.
" " 4	"	13th May	{ 181 in No. 1 split (south heading district). 218 in No. 2 " " " 361 in No. 3 " (No. 8 heading district). 500 in No. 4 " (No. 10 " " " 175 in No. 5 " (No. 9 " " " 468 in No. 6 " (No. 5 " " "	A fair proportion of the current of air entering each district was conveyed to the face of the majority of the working-places. In some few places in each district the ventilation was not so good. I drew the attention of both manager and under-manager to this matter, and they promised to attend to and improve the same. They said that it was chiefly owing to the non-arrival of a quantity of brattice-cloth they were expecting. I have no doubt the matter will be remedied in a few days.
Bayley's Reward	Dixon	.....	.....	Ventilation excellent.
Cardiff	Bates	15th January	.....	The working-places are all adequately ventilated.
"	"	27th April	.....	" "
Centenary	"	27th January	216	" "
Co-operative	Humble	22nd January and 26th Feb.	{ 182 in No. 1 split 215 in No. 2 " 190 in No. 3 " 190 in No. 4 " 194 in No. 5 " 157 in No. 6 "	A fair proportion of the current of air entering each district is conveyed into each working-place near to the men at work at the face. It was not, however, so satisfactorily done as on my previous inspection in November last. Yesterday I expressed myself to this effect, and the under-manager (Mr. John Wilson) promised me he would at once take steps to force more air from the heading into the face of each working-place. This can, and, I believe, will be done in a few days.
"	"	9th and 12th April.	{ 128 in No. 1 split 240 in No. 2 " 183 in No. 3 " 210 in No. 4 " 292 in No. 5 " 157 in No. 6 "	A good proportion of the current of air entering each district was conveyed to the face of each working-place.
"	"	31st May and 1st June.	{ 186 in No. 2 236 in No. 3 240 in No. 4 211 in No. 5 190 in No. 6 140 in No. 7	A fair proportion of the current of air entering each district was being conveyed to the face of each working-place.
Durham	Dixon	6th April	.....	The headings were bratticed almost close to the face, and a good current of fresh air was sweeping the faces.
Duckenfield	Bates	1896. 29th and 30th Dec.	{ 224 in No. 3 split 213 in No. 4 " 202 in No. 5 " 132 in No. 6 " 175 in fault heading 150 in No. 4 heading split 195 in No. 5 " 160 in No. 6 " 500 in No. 8 " 142 in No. 3 "	The working-places are adequately ventilated.
"	Humble	1897. 7th and 8th April.	{ 169 in fault heading split 270 in No. 3 split 174 in No. 4 " 164 in No. 5 " 116 in No. 6 " 900 in No. 8 " 151 in fault heading split	An excellent proportion of the current of air in each district is carried to the face of each working-place.
"	"	27th and 28th May.	.....	A fair proportion of the current of air entering each district was conveyed to the face of each working-place.
Dudley	"	6th April	{ 309 in No. 1 split 178 in No. 2 " 312 in No. 3 "	A fair proportion of the current of air in each district is conveyed to the face of each working-place.
"	"	4th June	{ 426 in No. 1 split 270 in No. 2 " 173 in No. 3 " 192 in No. 4 "	An excellent proportion of the current of air entering each district was being conveyed to the face of each working-place.
Dulwich	Bates	29th January	.....	There was a good current of air in circulation and quite adequate for the number of men employed.
"	"	5th May	483	The working-places are adequately ventilated.

Name of Mine.	Inspector.	Date of Inspection.	Average amount of air supplied per minute to each man, boy, and horse.	Remarks.
		1897.		
East Greta.....	Bates.....	7th and 21st April.	{ 180 in No. 1 tunnel (south side) lower seam.	The working-places are adequately ventilated.
Elliott's	"	29th January	{ 219 in No. 1 tunnel (north side)	
"	"	4th May .....	.....	Only one man working. There was a good current of air in circulation through the working-places into the return.
Elmormore Vale	"	30th April.....	195	There was a satisfactory current of air circulating through the working-places.
Ebbw Vale.....	"	28th	{ 262 in right-hand side.....	The working-places are adequately ventilated.
Ellesmere	"	30th	{ 226 in left-hand side	
Greta	"	11th and 15th February.	.....	Ventilation adequate.
"	"	12th and 14th April.	{ 576 in dip workings (south side) ...	The working-places were adequately ventilated.
"	"	23rd January	{ 400 " (north side) ...	
Gunnedah	"	23rd January	{ 392 in south side workings, No. 1 split	Not working at date of inspection. I found the working-places in good condition and had the mine been at work I am of opinion that they would be adequately ventilated.
"	"	23rd January	{ 519 " " No. 2 "	
Hetton	Humble...	22nd and 23rd February.	{ 167 in No. 1 split (Elsdon's narrow bords).	A fair proportion of each current of air is conveyed to the face of each working-place by canvas brattice, and the men are therefore working under much more favourable conditions than they were before the passing of the Act last year. It is a great improvement.
"	"	5th April; 4th, 5th, and 12th May.	{ 187 in No. 2 " (Trouton's narrow bords).	
"	"	5th April; 4th, 5th, and 12th May.	{ 333 in No. 3 " (McCrae's heading)	A fair proportion of the current of air entering each district was conveyed to the face of the majority of the working-places. In some few places in each district the ventilation was not so good. I drew the attention of both the manager and under-manager to it, and they promised to have the necessary improvements made without delay. (Note.—Since the date of this report, Inspector Humble has notified that the improvements have been effected).
"	"	5th April; 4th, 5th, and 12th May.	{ 190 in No. 4 " (left-hand side of Hutchinson's cross-cuts).	
"	"	5th April; 4th, 5th, and 12th May.	{ 250 in No. 5 split (Hutchinson's cross-cuts).	There was only one working-place and it was well timbered; it is situated almost close to a small adit which was acting as an intake airway, and a splendid current of fresh air was passing and causing adequate ventilation at the working face. The ventilation of every part of the mine was good and ample for all its present requirements. Ventilation good.
"	"	5th April; 4th, 5th, and 12th May.	{ 371 in No. 6 split (right-hand side of Hutchinson's cross-cuts).	
Hillside	Dixon	12th April.....	{ 140 in No. 7 split (Tighe's heading district).	One man working; air splendid.
"	"	12th April.....	{ 195 in No. 1 split (Elsdon's narrow-bord district).	
"	"	12th April.....	{ 201 in No. 2 split (Trouton's narrow-bord district).	Adequately ventilated.
"	"	12th April.....	{ 166 in No. 3 split (McCrae's heading district).	
"	"	12th April.....	{ 300 in No. 1 split (Hutchinson's cross-cut district).	Ventilation adequate.
"	"	12th April.....	{ 333 in No. 2 split (Hutchinson's cross-cut district).	
"	"	12th April.....	{ 258 in No. 3 split (Hutchinson's cross-cut district).	Ventilation good.
"	"	12th April.....	{ 116 in Hutchinson's and Tighe's heading district).	
Ingancee	Humble...	11th May .....	.....	A fair proportion of each current of air is turned into each working-place by canvas brattice. Thirty men, four boys, and four horses were employed and supplied with about 6,000 cubic feet of air per minute, a fair proportion of such being conveyed to the face of each working-place.
Jenkins'	Dixon	11th May .....	.....
Kayuga	"	11th May .....	.....	Full, ample, and adequate ventilation.
"	"	11th May .....	.....
Lambton	Bates	22nd, 23rd, and 24th Feb.	{ 258 in tunnel flat	Ventilation adequate.
"	"	22nd, 23rd, and 24th Feb.	{ 200 in straight down district.....	
"	"	22nd, 23rd, and 24th Feb.	{ 353 " left-hand side	Ventilation adequate.
"	"	22nd, 23rd, and 24th Feb.	{ 137 in far flat, No. 1 left	
"	"	22nd, 23rd, and 24th Feb.	{ 114 " No. 2 right	Ventilation adequate.
"	"	22nd, 23rd, and 24th Feb.	{ 187 in left side	
"	"	10th, 12th, and 14th May.	{ 205 in tunnel flat	Ventilation adequate.
"	"	10th, 12th, and 14th May.	{ 268 in straight down district (right-hand side).	
"	"	10th, 12th, and 14th May.	{ 332 in straight down district (left-hand side).	Ventilation adequate.
"	"	10th, 12th, and 14th May.	{ 126 in far flat, No. 1 left	
"	"	10th, 12th, and 14th May.	{ 213 " No. 2 right	Ventilation good.
"	"	10th, 12th, and 14th May.	{ 160 " No. 2 left.....	
Louis Vale	Humble...	11th May .....	.....	A fair proportion of each current of air is turned into each working-place by canvas brattice. Thirty men, four boys, and four horses were employed and supplied with about 6,000 cubic feet of air per minute, a fair proportion of such being conveyed to the face of each working-place.
Maryland	"	11th and 17th February.	{ 153 in left-side split.....	
"	"	30th April	{ 156 in right-side split	Full, ample, and adequate ventilation.
"	"	30th April	{ 157	
Marshall's.....	"	8th March.....	.....	One " employed; air good. "
"	"	8th March.....	.....
Mawk's.....	Dixon	7th May .....	.....	Ventilation good.
Morris's	"	7th May .....	.....
Morrisett	Humble...	16th Feby .....	.....	Although no brattice is used (because the face of each place is close to the heading) the working-places are cool and sweet, and, in my opinion, adequately ventilated.
"	"	16th Feby .....	.....
"	"	20th April .....	.....	The ventilation of each working-place was full, ample, and adequate.

Name of Mine.	Inspector.	Date of Inspection.	Average amount of air supplied per minute to each man, boy, and horse.	Remarks
		1897.		
Newcastle Co's. A Pit.	Bates	8th and 10th February.	{ 172 in No. 1 district 125 in No. 2 " (right hand side) 157 " " (left hand side) 131 in Nos. 5 and 6 districts 144 in Nos. 7 and 8 "	The working-places were well ventilated. Since my last inspection (Feb. 8 and 10), two headings have been commenced between the faults in the No. 6 district. When these are connected, the return air-way will be considerably shortened and the ventilation improved.
" "	"	1st and 2nd March.	{ 106 in No. 1 district 148 in No. 2 " (right hand side) 109 " " (left hand side) 115 in Nos. 5 and 6 districts 126 in Nos. 7 and 8 "	I found all the working-places to be adequately ventilated.
Newcastle Co's. B Pit.	"	11th and 12th January.	{ 299 in No. 1 district 147 in No. 2 " 335 in No. 3 " 189 straight in district	The working-places were adequately ventilated.
" "	Dixon	13th and 14th April.	{ 145 in No. 1 district 153 in No. 2 " 267 in No. 3 " 159 straight in district	" "
New Park	Bates	28th Jany	335	Adequately ventilated; the refuse of the seam is now packed in such a way in the bords as to leave an air-way 4 feet wide and 6 feet high next the rib-side; this acts as a brattice, and conducts the air current to the face of each working-place.
"	"	4th May		All the working-places were adequately ventilated.
New Lambton	"	17th March		" "
New Anvil Creek	"	27th May		" "
"	"	18th "		Not working for some months. I travelled down the tunnel to the pump and found a good current of air circulating.
Northumberland	"	5th Feby.		I found a good current of air circulating through the working-places.
"	"	13th May		A good current of air was circulating through all the working-places.
Northern Extended.	"	1896. 22nd Dec.		Some men were repairing the top of the furnace shaft and the fire was nearly out. The working-places are bratticed, and it is probable that if the ventilation had been in the usual state when the mine is working, that the working-places would be adequately ventilated.
"	"	19th March		The working-places were well ventilated.
Oakvale	"	21st May	206	Ventilation adequate.
"	"	5th "		I found a good current of air in circulation, and the working-places in good condition.
Pacific	"	15th March	{ 416 in West side 323 in East side 228 in dip workings	The working-places were well ventilated.
Quarry	Dixon	30th April		The working-place was adequately ventilated.
Rosedale	Bates	29th January		Not working at date of inspection. I found the working-places either bratticed with cloth or the refuse from the seam, built in such a way as to form an air-way next the rib-side, thus conducting the air current to the face of the working-places.
Rosehill	Dixon	5th May		All the working-places are adequately ventilated. One man occasionally employed. Ventilation is as good as on surface.
Seaham	Humble	2nd March	{ 243 in No. 1 split 166 in No. 2 split 172 in No. 3 split	The mine is in a good condition, and the ventilation excellent; an excellent proportion of the current of air entering each district is forced to the face of each working-place.
"	"	29th April	{ 192 in No. 1 split 200 in No. 2 split 200 in No. 3 split	The mine was idle at date of inspection, but the ventilating-fan was running at working speed, an excellent proportion of the current of air entering each district.
Side	Dixon	30th "		There was only one working place (a narrow bord), and it was well timbered almost close to the face. The ventilation was good throughout the whole of the mine.
South Wallsend.	Bates	18th March		Not working.
South Hetton	Humble	22nd April		The ventilation was particularly good, owing chiefly to the south-east gale then blowing, which was in the right direction for entering the mouth of the adit.
South Greta	Bates	23rd December		There was no fire on at the furnace, but a fair current of air was in circulation, and if the ventilation had been up to the usual mark when the mine is at work, it is probable that the working-places would be adequately ventilated.
"	"	2nd April	264	Adequately ventilated.
South Waratah.	"	17th and 21st December.	{ 219 in No. 1 split 138 in No. 2 " 142 in No. 3 " 153 in No. 1 split 203 in No. 2 "	The working-places were all adequately ventilated.
"	"	1897. 29th and 30th March.	{ 240 in No. 3 " 735 in South-east drives, but more air is circulated when the men are at work.	All the working-places were adequately ventilated.

Name of Mine.	Inspector.	Date of Inspection.	Average amount of air supplied per minute to each man, boy, and horse.	Remarks.
		1897.		
Stockton.....	Humble...	30th, 31st March, and 1st April.	{ 140 in No. 1 split (43 district ocean winning.) 214 in No. 2 " " " 136 in No. 3 " " " 160 in No. 4 " " (48 district ocean winning.)	An excellent proportion of the current of air entering each district was conveyed to the face of each working-place.
"	"	18th, 19th, and 20th May.	{ 149 in No. 1 split (43 district ocean winnings.) 221 in No. 2 " " " 137 in No. 3 " " " 231 in No. 4 " " (48 district ocean winnings.)	A fair proportion of the current of air entering each district was being carried to the face of each working-place. In a few I thought the ventilation ought to be increased and said so to the manager who accompanied me, he at once ordered the same to be done, starting another brattice man for the purpose, this increased help would remedy the matter on the following day. Ventilation adequate.
Sunside	Dixon .....	.....	.....	Ventilation good.
Sunnside .....	" .....	.....	.....	Ventilation good.
Teralba	Bates.....	20th April .....	.....	No coal is being mined at present.
Thornley	Humble..	8th March .....	.....	The ventilation of the whole of the mine was, in my opinion, full ample and adequate, a good proportion of the air supplied owing to the frequency with which cut-throughs are driven, sweeping the working-face of each place.
"	"	7th May .....	.....	The volume of air flowing was about 4,000 cubic feet per minute. A fair proportion of which was sweeping the face of each working-place.
Wallsend Main Tunnel Workings	Bates ...	8th, 9th, and 10th March.	{ 777 in Chinaman's district No. 1 split 333 " " " 2 " 183 " " " 3 " 423 Jubilee district No. 1 split. 240 " " " 2 " 146 " " " 3 " 411 " " " 4 " 207 Lambton headings district No. 1 split. 203 Lambton headings district No. 2 split. 181 Lambton headings district No. 3 split. 300 Lambton headings district No. 4 split.	The working-places are adequately ventilated.
"	"	31st May and 2nd and 3rd June.	{ 180 in No. 1 split	Adequately ventilated. Chinaman District.—On the day of my inspection no miners were at work in consequence of an interruption in the railway traffic, and the ventilating-fan was only going at half speed. Two shiftmen were employed and there was a fair amount of air in circulation.
Wallsend, No. 2 District.	Humble	4th January.	{ 168 in No. 3	Jubilee District.—There was a fair current of air in circulation—quite sufficient for the number of men at work.
"	"	2nd April	{ 143 in No. 1 split.....	Forty-eight of the miners employed may be considered to be on one split, and the average quantity of air supplied to each man, boy, and horse in the split was 164 cubic feet. In other parts of the mine there are two groups of eight men each engaged on the extraction of pillars, one group working at night time, when special provision is made for their ventilation by opening a door on the engine plane, which admits a fair current of air to pass these working-places on its way to the No. 1 colliery furnace. The other group of eight men were, at the time of my visit, not very well ventilated, but the under-manager (Mr. Robert Lundy) assured me that it (the ventilation) was worse than he had seen it, and would at once take steps to increase the quantity of air flowing to them. The ventilation in other parts of the mine was good, the brattice used in the sixteen bords at work conveying a fair proportion of the current into the face of each place.
"	"	21st May	{ 120 in No. 2 "	The provisions of the Act are being fairly well complied with, particularly as regards ventilation, the men having a satisfactory amount of air carried to their working-place.
" .....	" .....	.....	{ 134.....	A fair proportion of this current of air was being conveyed to the face of each place. The twelve men employed at night time work in two groups of eight and four, the former commencing at 4 p.m., when special provision is made for their ventilation. The latter start at 12 p.m., and finish between 7 and 8 a.m. They, too, have a current of air specially supplied to them by the opening of a door alongside the main road. I visited the working-places of these men, and have no doubt that while they are at work an adequate amount of ventilation will be supplied to them.

Name of Mine.	Inspector.	Date of Inspection.	Average amount of air supplied per minute to each man, boy, and horse.	Remarks.
		1897.		
Wallarah	Humble...	16th February	{ 251, No. 1 split (B adit) 138, No. 2 ,, 359, No. 1 ,, (C adit)	On my last inspection I was far from satisfied with the arrangements made to convey a current of air to the face of each working-place. I laid the matter before Mr. Thomas Parton, the general manager, who promised to comply at once with my wishes. Yesterday I found great improvement; each place is now getting a fair proportion of the current of air entering each district. B adit.—The furnaces were kept at a little under working capacity, and a very satisfactory current of air was therefore flowing through each working district.
"	"	21st April	.....	Left hand split, 19,386 cubic feet per minute. Right hand split, 10,080 cubic feet per minute. C adit, 9,680 cubic feet per minute. New shaft sunk.—A wind-sail, with brattice below it, dividing the shaft into two parts, provides ample ventilation.
West Wallsend...	"	3rd and 4th March.	{ 206 in No. 1 split (east side) 279 in No. 1 split (west side)..... 285 in No. 2 ,, (,,)..... 236 in No. 2 ,, (east side)..... 192 in No. 1 split (west side)..... 237 in No. 2 ,, (,,)..... 182 in No. 1 ,, (east side)..... 256 in No. 2 ,, (,,).....	A good proportion of the current of air in each district is conveyed to the face of each working-place. An excellent proportion of the current of air entering each district was conveyed to the face of each working-place.
"	"	27th and 28th April.	{ 182 in No. 1 ,, (east side)..... 256 in No. 2 ,, (,,).....	
Wrights	Dixon	30th April	.....	The ventilation was good throughout the whole of the mine.
Wickham and Bullock Island	Humble...	4th and 5th February.	{ 208 in No. 1 split (Lithgow district) 105 in No. 2 split 300 in first left hand district. 120 in No. 1 split (Basin district).... 118 in No. 2 ,, 159 in No. 1 split (Lithgow district) 167 in No. 2 ,, (Webster's district) 333 in No. 3 ,, (first left hand district.)	A fair proportion of the current of air entering each district is conveyed by canvas brattice into each working-place.
"	"	14th and 15th April.	{ 175 in No. 1 split (Basin district) ... 168 in No. 2 ,, 111 in No. 3 ,,	An excellent proportion of the current of air entering each district was conveyed to the face of each working-place.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINING.

(RETURN RESPECTING LEAD-POISONING IN CONNECTION WITH THE BROKEN HILL MINES.)

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

The Chief Inspector of Mines to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

26 May, 1897.

I HEREWITH enclose returns for the months of January, February, and March, under the Lead Poisoning Act, which gives a total for the last three months of five persons having been lead-poisoned in the Broken Hill district. By comparison, it will be seen that there were twenty-four cases during the first quarter of 1896, and only five cases ending the first quarter of 1897, which is very satisfactory, as proving without doubt the gradual decrease of lead-poisoning in connection with the Broken Hill Mines.

W. H. J. SLEE.

LEAD-POISONING—Return in connection with the Broken Hill Mines for quarter ending 31st March, 1897, as compared with the corresponding quarter for the year 1896.

Name of Mine.	1896.				1897.			
	January.	February.	March.	Total.	January.	February.	March.	Total.
Broken Hill Proprietary ...	7	4	1	12	.....	4	.....	4
Broken Hill South... ..	1	6	.....	7	.....	.....	.....	.....
Broken Hill North... ..	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	1
Sulphide Corporation ...	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Block 10 Co.	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Block 14 Co.	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
N. B. H. Consols ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
B. H. Junction South ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
B. H. Junction North ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
British Broken Hill ...	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Silver Hill Junction ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Junction Consolidated ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pinnacles ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	12	10	2	24	.....	4	1	5

For Minister's information.—D.C.M'L., 26/5/97. Seen.—S. SMITH, 27/5/97. Lay report on Table of the House.

REGULATIONS RELATING TO LEAD-POISONING.

NEW SOUTH WALES, } Proclamation by His Excellency the Right Honourable SIR ROBERT WILLIAM
to wit. } DUFF, a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, a Knight
(L.S.) } Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George,
R. W. DUFF, } Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of New South Wales and its
Governor. } Dependencies.

WHEREAS, by the Act 57 Vic. No. 18, the Governor is empowered to make Regulations for the prevention of lead-poisoning or poisoning by lead or any other fumes in conducting mining operations: Now, therefore, His Excellency the Governor doth, in exercise of the powers conferred by the said Act, make the following Regulations, to be in force in all the Mining Districts of the Colony, that is to say:—

Employment of Females.

1. It shall be illegal to employ females in any capacity at works where lead, lead-ores, or lead-compounds are mined, dressed, smelted, or manufactured.

Employment of Boys.

2. It shall be illegal to employ any boy below the age of 16 years in mining or sorting ores underground at any mine where lead containing minerals are got, or to employ any such boy on the surface in any place where lead-ores, lead, or lead-compounds are handled, or to employ any boy below the age of 14 years.

Record of Cases of Leading.

3. The Manager of every mine shall record the name, age, branch of occupation, and length of time employed of every workman laid off on a medical certificate by leading, and also of every workman laid off on account of alleged leading—that is to say, where no medical certificate is produced—and shall transmit a copy of each month's record (distinguishing certified from uncertified cases) to the Minister not later than the seventh day of the next following month.

Supply of Drinking-water.

4. The owner shall provide an ample supply of sweet and wholesome drinking water, which shall be freely and easily available to all hands at all times at the mine; (b) It shall be stored with special care to prevent contamination with dust; (c) Whenever canvas bags are provided, they shall be made according to a pattern approved by the said Minister, and shall be so constructed as to be closed at the top by a solid (not a canvas) cover, and the water should be drawn from them through a metal or wooden tap (not a canvas pipe) suitably fixed to the bottom, or a suitable wooden barrel shall be used for sending drinking water to the men, and shall be stored in a cool place, and such barrel should be supplied with a metal tap for drawing off the water; (d) The dipper for drinking out of should hang in an enclosed place so as to be thoroughly protected from dust, or pure drinking water should be supplied by pipes to every plat in the following way, the source being either the public water-mains or well-protected reservoirs of condensed water at the surface:—The supply pipe should descend to the lowest plat, and should there enter a closed metal reservoir of about 100 gallons capacity or larger; the delivery pipe should return from the reservoir to the surface, and should be fitted with a tap at every plat for supply of water thus cooled to underground workmen; or miners may take into the mine, tea or water in cans covered by tight-fitting lids, which should not be removed in the mine except for the purpose of drinking therefrom.

Sprinkling Water and Water for Washing.

5. On feed-floors and tapping-floors, and at every other place where dust is raised, stand-pipes and hose or other suitable contrivances shall be so provided that dust may be conveniently laid by sprinkling the ore, &c.; sprinkling-water shall also be furnished in the main drive on all the different levels, so that it can be led to every working, and so that it may be easily distributed to allay dust. Proper provisions shall be made in all the levels to enable men to wash their hands before crib.

Bath-water, Bathing, and Changing-rooms.

6. At every mine, bath-houses and changing-rooms shall be provided as follows:—(a) The baths shall include both showers and plunge-tanks; (b) The changing-rooms shall be attached to, and in communication with, although separate from, the bath-house, and shall have boarded floors; (c) Both bath-houses and changing-rooms shall be available to the workmen, free of cost, at all reasonable hours, and so that they can be used by every shift; (d) Both shall be reasonably comfortable, sufficiently lighted after dark, and sufficiently warmed in cold weather; (e) Both plunge and shower baths shall be supplied with water, warm to such a degree as may be found desirable in cold weather—say, 75 degrees or 80 degrees F.; (f) A caretaker shall always be in charge of bath and changing-rooms, and it should be part of his duty to keep a day-book and to record therein the names of all persons who use the baths.

Change of Clothes.

7. Every underground workman shall change his ordinary clothes for working-clothes, in the changing-rooms to be provided for this purpose, before descending to his work, and change his working-clothes for his home-clothes again on finishing his work, and before leaving the mine. Surface workmen shall have liberty to make the same change of clothes, and should be encouraged to do it.

Flue-dust.

8. Emission of flue-dust from smelter stacks should be prevented as much as possible. If the Inspector considers any alterations or any additional appliances are necessary for that purpose, he may by written notice require the owner to make or supply the same; and in such notice a time shall be named within which the necessary alterations are to be made, and such time should not exceed twelve months. If any owner object, he may within the time named in the notice show cause in writing to the Minister, who may confirm, vary, or veto the notice of the Inspector.

Flue-dust—how dealt with.

9. (a) The ports by which flue-dust is removed from champion flues must not open into tapping-floors, but on the other side of the flues and into a space otherwise unoccupied; (b) The floors to which the dust falls when first hoed out when tipped on the feed-floor, &c., must be smooth and impermeable, and

and provided with a curb raised above the surrounding surface, so that the deposited dust or mud may not be stepped on and carried about, and must be perfectly clean, except when in actual use; (c) Workmen employed to cleanse flues and to gather and transport flue-dust shall be under the same obligation to change before going on shift as underground hands; (d) It shall be illegal for an owner to allow any man to be thus employed on the mine unless carrying a suitable respirator to cover nose and mouth, or to engage in his work and to stand about where it is being carried on by others, unless he put on his respirator; (e) The flue-dust shall be carefully wetted as soon as drawn from the flue; no accumulation of wet flue-dust shall be permitted on any mine unless within a securely closed receptacle, nor shall any accumulation of dry flue-dust be permitted outside the flues, but shall forthwith be charged back regularly.

Ventilation of Tapping-floors.

10. Tapping-floors shall be ventilated at the angle between the top of the champion flue and the feed-floor, to reduce draught on the tapping-floor and to afford fumes a way of escape; flues of large diameter may be carried up through the feed-floor without interfering with operations there, and they may expand below into oblong funnel-shaped openings.

Use Respirator.

11. It shall be illegal for any workman to engage in repairing a furnace in blast (as in replacing a faulty water-jacket panel), unless he wear a respirator as mentioned above in connection with removal of flue-dust.

Fumes from Molten Metal and Slag.

12. Furnaces should be surrounded with a hood which expands below so as to catch fumes from molten metal and slag, and which should terminate on one side in a chimney leading to the air on the open side of the tapping-floor.

Qualification of Inspectors.

13. Inspectors should be proficient in some simple process of estimating the proportion of carbon dioxide present in atmospheric air.

Ventilation of Mines.

14. It shall be the duty of an Inspector to see that the state of the air in the various workings is at all times satisfactory, to see that sufficient pure air circulates through the galleries, and to see that the air in all workings off through ventilated passages is sufficiently pure.

Purity of Air.

15. The criterion of "purity" should be the presence in the air of less than one part of carbon dioxide in every one thousand parts of air, as ascertained by an apparatus approved by the Minister.

Copy of Regulations to be supplied to Workmen.

16. A printed copy of these Regulations shall be presented by the manager to each workman on engaging him, and it shall be the duty of the Inspector to ascertain from time to time that this is duly done.

Enforcement of Regulation Penalties.

17. Any Inspector shall have power to enforce the foregoing Regulations; and if any person shall, after written notice served upon him by an Inspector, refuse or neglect to comply with any such Regulation, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £20, and to a further penalty not exceeding £5 for every day during which the offence is continued after receipt of the notice aforesaid (and any Inspector or other person may recover such penalties in any Court of summary jurisdiction).

Interpretation of Terms.

18. The following terms shall be the meanings hereunder assigned to them:—
 "Minister," The Minister for Mines.
 "Inspector," The Chief Inspector or an Inspector of Metalliferous Mines.
 "Leading," Lead-poisoning.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at Government House, Sydney, this twenty-fifth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four, and in the fifty-eighth year of Her Majesty's Reign.

By His Excellency's command,
 SYDNEY SMITH.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 6th September, 1895.

AMENDMENT OF REGULATION No. 2 OF THE REGULATIONS RELATING TO
 LEAD-POISONING.

HIS Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has approved of Regulation No. 2 of the Regulations relating to Lead-poisoning, made under the provisions of the Act 57 Victoria No. 18 ("An Act to amend the Mining Act of 1874"), and published in the *Government Gazette* of the 28th September last, being amended by the transposition of the words "lead containing minerals," and of such Regulation No. 2 now reading as follows:—

Employment of Boys.

2. It shall be illegal to employ any boy below the age of 16 years in mining or sorting ores underground at any mine where minerals containing lead are got, or to employ any such boy on the surface in any place where lead-ores, lead, or lead-compounds are handled, or to employ any boy below the age of 14 years.

SYDNEY SMITH.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINING.

(CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING JUNCTION MINE AT BROKEN HILL.)

Printed under No. 2 Report from Printing Committee, 6 May, 1897.

[Laid upon the Table of the House in answer to Question 3 of Tuesday, 4 May, 1897.]

Question.

- (3.) JUNCTION MINE AT BROKEN HILL.—Mr. FERGUSON asked the Secretary for Mines,—Has his attention been called to the collapse of the stopes in the Junction Mine at Broken Hill; and will he lay upon the Table of this House the Inspector of Mines' report as to the cause of such collapse?

Answer.

Mr. SYDNEY SMITH answered,—Yes; and I will presently lay copies of correspondence upon the Table of this House.

Telegram from The Chief Inspector of Mines, Sydney, to Inspector of Mines, Broken Hill.

17 April, 1897.

EXTENSIVE creep affecting Junction and Junction North Mines occurred yesterday. All the men were got out in safety. Two shafts are affected, but not seriously. Creep extends from above 670-ft. level to about 450-ft. level; as far as possible I will go through workings to-day and report.

Junction men were removed from stopes on Thursday, but owing to big pillars between mines it was not thought necessary to move Junction North men. They were driven out by the dust, and the shaft being affected, made their way through Junction Mine in safety.

JAMES HEBBARD,
Inspector of Mines,
Broken Hill.

Seen.—W. H. J. SLEE, 22/4/97.

The Inspector of Mines, Broken Hill, to The Chief Inspector of Mines, Sydney.

Sir,

Broken Hill, 17 April, 1897.

I have the honor to inform you that I have visited the Junction Mine regarding the creep, the subject matter of my wire of this date.

Apparently the settlement has commenced at the intermediate level, about 30 feet above the 670-ft. level, from there the course of the subsidence is about 100 feet south to a filled portion, and north to the Junction North boundary, where a pillar of ore has been left standing. In height the break extends to the 400-ft. plat where the shaft has been thrown out of position preventing the passing of the cages.

The pumps, however, appear to be in order and are now being started.

Apparently the greatest movement has been along the depleted ore body at the 470-ft. level and this has seriously affected the Junction North shaft, which, for about 50 feet, is badly affected. The men were withdrawn from the stopes of the Junction Mine at midnight on Thursday night, but it was not thought necessary to withdraw the Junction North men.

Examination this morning shows the Junction North stopes intact, though the men were driven out by the dust raised by the fall.

I am glad to say that beyond two or three men being knocked down by the rush of air, no injury has been received; and I was in conversation with some of the men this morning who were in the Junction North Mine stopes at the time of the fall.

No injury has resulted from the occurrence, except to the workings of the mines.
I will procure sketch plans of the mines and write further when I have had better opportunities
for an examination. I have, &c.,

JAMES HEBBARD,
Inspector of Mines.

May be acknowledged and put away for further reference if required.—W. H. J. SLEE, 27/4/97.
For the information of the Minister. Acknowledged.—J.M., 28/4/97.

Minute Paper.

Chief Inspector of Mines and Diamond Drills, Department of Mines and Agriculture.

Subject:—Requesting Mr. Inspector Hebbard to furnish full report *re* collapse of stopes in Junction and North Junction Mine, Broken Hill.

Sydney, 20 April, 1897.

REQUEST Mr. Inspector Hebbard by wire to furnish me as early as possible with a detailed report *re* the falling in of stopes in the upper levels of the Junction and North Junction Mines, Broken Hill.

W. H. J. SLEE,

Chief Inspector of Mines.

Requested.—J.M., 20/4/97.

Telegram from The Chief Inspector of Mines, Sydney, to The Inspector of Mines, Broken Hill.

20 April, 1897.

FURNISH me as early as possible with a detailed report *re* the "falling in" of the stopes in the upper levels of the North Junction Mine, Broken Hill.

W. H. J. SLEE,

Chief Inspector of Mines.

Telegram from The Inspector of Mines, Broken Hill, to The Chief Inspector of Mines, Sydney.

Broken Hill, 21 April, 1897.

I FORWARDED report on Junction creep on 17th instant. Will make further examination shortly. Creep in Junction North is continuation of that in Junction. It is advisable to allow the ground to thoroughly settle before interfering with it, and I have advised that the movement be watched but no work done.

I anticipate that you will receive my Saturday's report to-day. Accordingly I did not reply to your wire until now. I will make thorough inspection in few days when I am satisfied that the settlement is finished.

JAMES HEBBARD,

Inspector of Mines, Broken Hill.

Seen.—W. H. J. SLEE, 21/4/97.

Memorandum.

Chief Inspector of Mines' Office, 29 April, 1897.

INFORM Mr. Inspector Hebbard by wire that I am anxiously waiting for his further report as to the cause of the collapse in the Junction Mine.

W. H. J. SLEE,

29/4/97.

Informed.—J.M., 24/4/97.

Telegram from The Inspector of Mines, Broken Hill, to The Chief Inspector of Mines, Sydney.

Broken Hill, 29 April, 1897.

POSTED report and sketches referring to Junction creep to-day. Delay was owing to having to wait for sketches.

JAMES HEBBARD,

Inspector of Mines, Broken Hill.

Seen.—W. H. J. SLEE, 30/4/97.

The Inspector of Mines, Broken Hill, to The Chief Inspector of Mines, Sydney.

Sir,

Broken Hill, 29 April, 1897.

I have the honor to inform you that on 23rd instant I visited the Junction and Junction North Mines and inspected as far as possible the workings affected by the creep which occurred on the 16th instant. As stated in my report of 17th instant, the movement had evidently commenced at the intermediate level of the Junction Mine, about 640 feet from surface, and has extended in height to the 400-ft. level, and in length as shown in the sketches enclosed, which have been furnished at my request by Mr. Phillips, the General Manager of Junction and Junction North Mines.

I proceeded in MacIntyre's shaft by the cage as far as the 400-ft. level, and then took the ladders to 675 feet. The shaft for a little distance (say 40 feet) below 400-ft. level has been dragged out of plumb, but beyond this no damage has been done, and work is now in progress for refitting the shaft. Bearers are being put in position in solid ground above the break, and the timbers will be hung securely throughout the break until the firm ground of the foot-wall of the lode is reached. Owing to the comparatively large pillar of ore left standing around the shaft the movement has only been slight, and is indicated by cracks in the back and bottom of the 400-ft. plat.

At

At the 550-ft. level the creep is more apparent, as there is considerable crushing around the plat, and the stope immediately to the north has collapsed.

Proceeding to the 550-ft. level I found all about the shaft perfectly sound, but the workings beyond the main cross-cut were broken down, and no entry could be effected.

At the 675-ft. level the timbers are only slightly affected by the crush, and operations can be resumed as soon as the shaft is in good condition. I did not attempt to go up through the stopes, as no good object could be attained by so doing, and perhaps considerable risk would be run.

I then went into the Junction North Mine, and found that the north end of the stope was not affected.

The Junction North shaft has collapsed, however, between about 420-ft. and 580-ft. levels, and the line of the break extends some little distance north of the hanging wall.

The line of the break is apparently up to where the friable ore meets the hard, the top of it extending from about 400-ft. level. Junction Mine down to 470-ft. level. Junction North Mine and back to the small lode indicated in cross-cut driven from stope in Junction Mine, as shown in transverse section. Throughout the mine the garnet sandstone has continuously followed the friable ore and caused a lot of trouble. Evidently the true wall of the lode is behind the sandstone, and it is up to that point that the ground has broken away.

I am of opinion that most of the ore will be recovered, and if the true hanging wall is of a solid character I think the mines will be worked to much greater advantage than formerly. I am enclosing the sketches, so that you may judge of the creep. The pencil-lines are, of course, only approximate, but, from the examination I made, I judge them to be nearly correct as showing the extension of the creep. I am further of opinion that the creep in Junction caused the collapse of the Junction North shaft.

Everything possible is being done to equip the shaft speedily, and when these are in working order mining operations will be resumed, in my opinion owing to the creep, under safer conditions than obtained before the creep occurred.

I have, &c.,

JAMES HEBBARD,

Inspector of Mines,

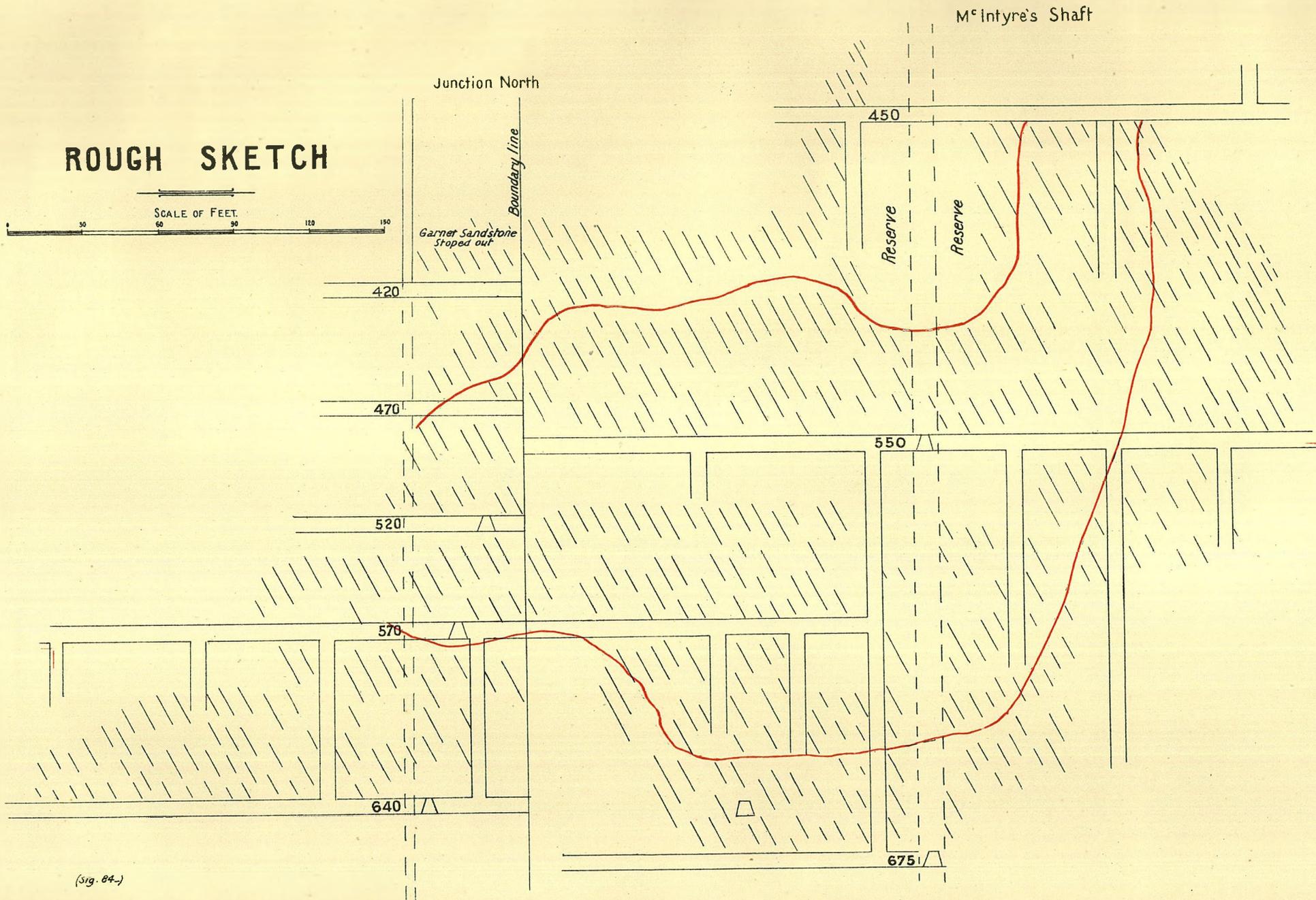
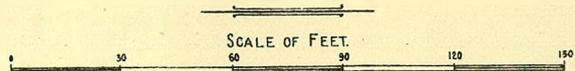
Broken Hill.

I endorse Mr. Inspector Hobbard's opinion that owing to the creep the mines can be worked on a safer principle than hitherto. Mr. Phillips, the General Manager of the Junction and Junction North Mine is without doubt one of the best Mining Managers in Australia, and is highly esteemed by the men working under him.—W. H. J. SLEE, 3/5/97. The Under Secretary. For the information of the Minister.

[Two plans.]

[1s.]

ROUGH SKETCH

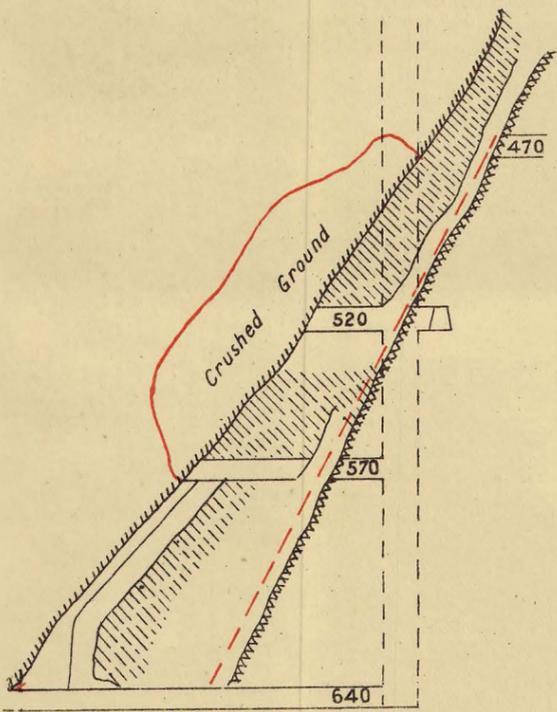


(Srg. 84.)

ROUGH SKETCH.

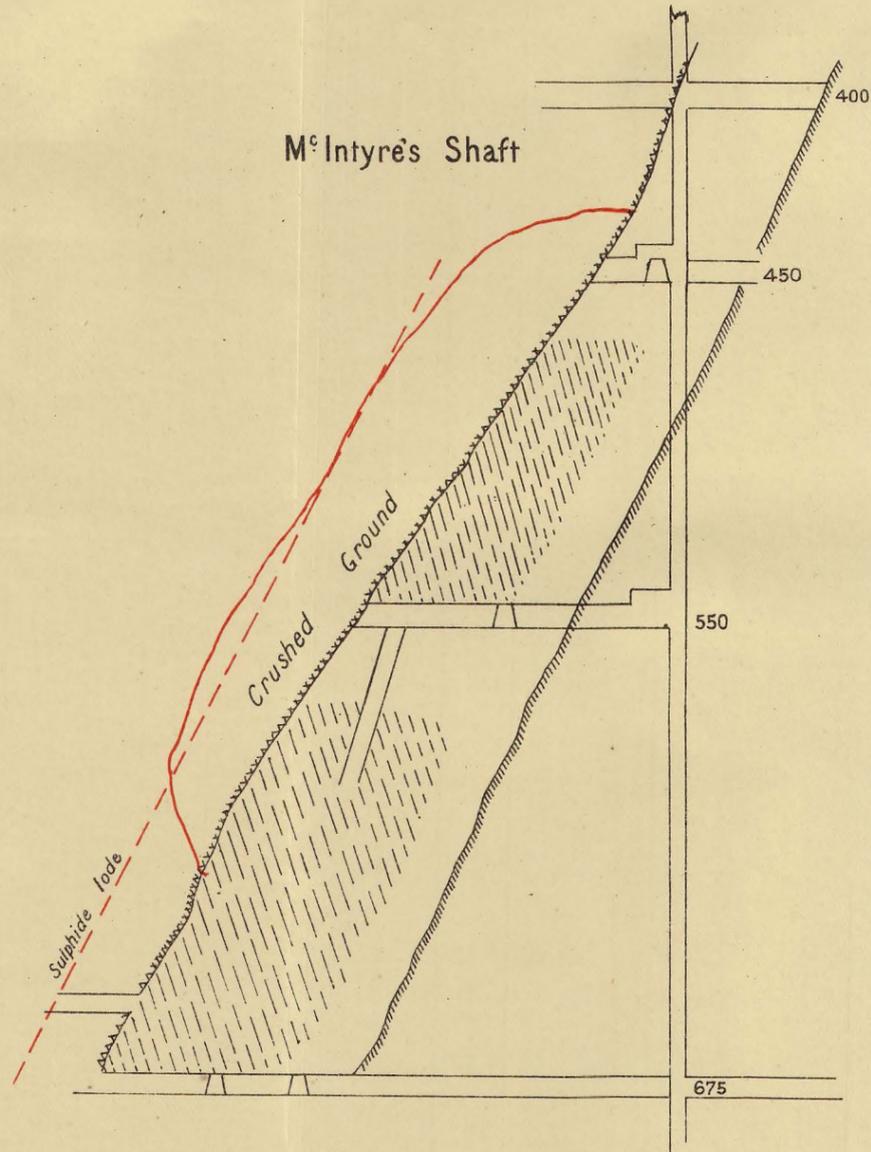


Junction North Shaft

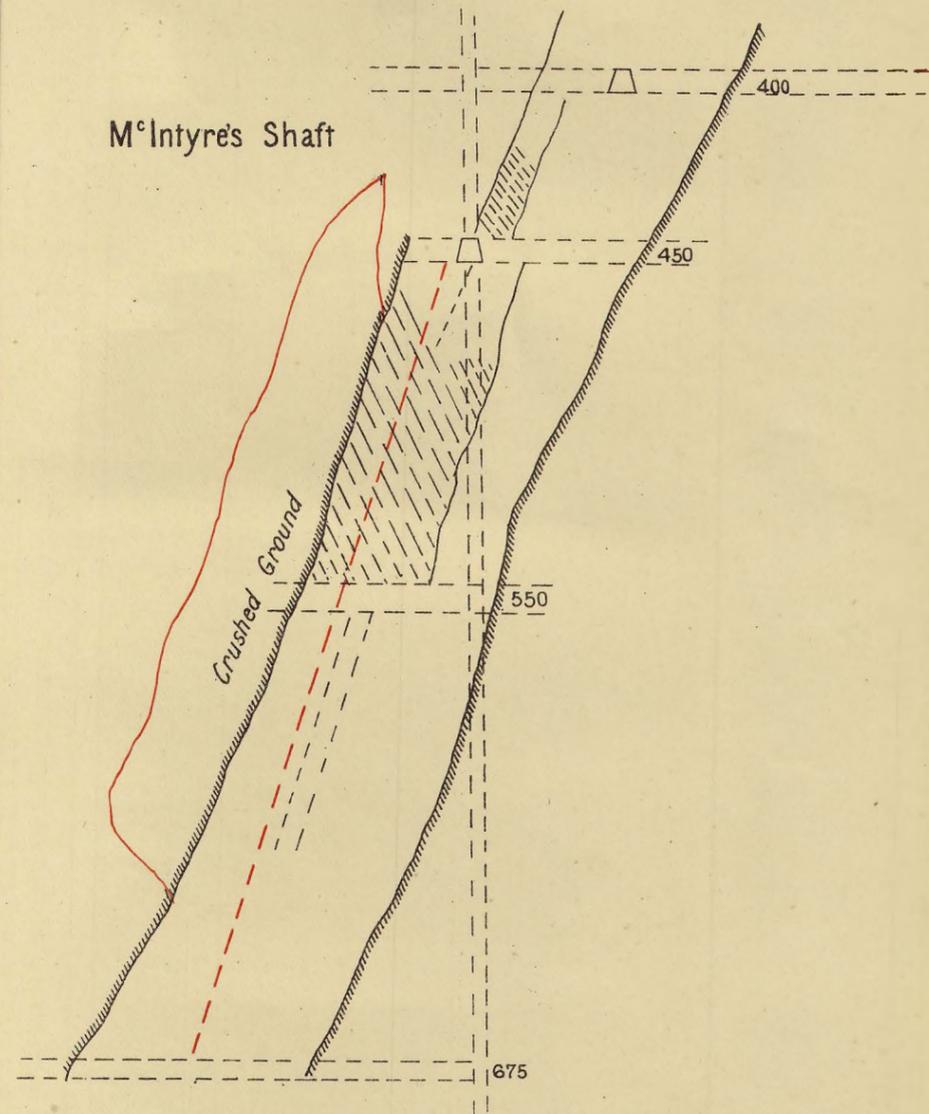


(Sig. 84.)

M^cIntyre's Shaft



M^cIntyre's Shaft



1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

APPLICATION FOR SUSPENSION OF LABOUR CONDITIONS BY WENTWORTH
PROPRIETARY GOLD-MINING COMPANY, LUCKNOW.

(RETURN RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 22 Report from Printing Committee, 18 November, 1897.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated the 27th October, 1897, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“Copies of all proceedings in the Warden’s Court, Orange, on Friday, 22nd October, in the matter of the application for suspension of labour conditions by the Wentworth Proprietary Gold-mining Company, together with copies of all letters and applications to the Minister on this subject, and copies of all minutes, correspondence, and other documents bearing on the matter of the above application.”

(Mr. Lyne.)

Messrs. Watterson, Collins, Eades, and others to The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Dear Sir,

Orange, 13 October, 1897.

We, the undersigned, desire to call your attention to the fact that the labour conditions, as required by the “Mining on Private Property Act,” are not being carried out by any of the following companies, viz., the “Wentworth Proprietary,” the “Aladdin’s Lamp,” the “Amana,” and the “D’Arcy Wentworth” Gold-mining Companies, and respectfully request that you will at once see that the law be complied with, as is the case with all other companies similarly situated; and, if not complied with, that the leases be cancelled in the usual way, and in keeping with the Act.

We are, &c.,

P. WATTERSON, miner, Orange.
C. COLLINS, miner, Orange.
FRANK EADES, miner, Orange.
FRED. HARRISON, miner, Guyong.
A. UNWIN, miner, Lucknow.
J. CONVOY, miner, Bloomfield.

[Here follow 269 other signatures.]

Seen by Minister. Acknowledge receipt, and attach copy of reply given to question in House this afternoon.—D.McL., 14/10/97. Ackd., 15/10/97.

R. Sleath, Esq., M.P., to The Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Sir,

11 October, 1897.

I beg to lodge a complaint against the Wentworth Gold-mining Company for non-compliance with the labour conditions on their property situated at Lucknow, and to ask that their leases be immediately cancelled for their failure to comply with the conditions as laid down in the Act.

I am, &c.,

RICHD. SLEATH.

Memo. by Registrar.

These leases were only executed on the 8th instant, and stamped and forwarded to the Company’s solicitor yesterday. It is not the practice of the Department to entertain a complaint of non-work when lodged prior to fourteen days after issue and delivery of the lease.—E.R., 13/10/97.

374--A

Telegram

[580 copies.—Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £9 14s. 6d.]

Telegram from Under Secretary for Mines to Warden King, Orange.

14 October, 1897.
HAS application for suspension of labour conditions been made to you by the Wentworth Companies? If so, date of application, and state what action has been taken by you in regard to it. Reply fully.

D. C. McLACHLAN.

Telegram from Warden King, Orange, to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, Sydney.

APPLICATIONS, dated 8th instant, received by me for suspension on Wentworth Proprietary Mines at Lucknow. Have appointed 22nd instant for hearing same, and have granted suspension of labour conditions pending such hearing.

JOHN L. KING,
Warden.

Conditional Suspension.

I, JOHN LETHBRIDGE KING, Warden for the Bathurst Mining District at Orange, hereby grant conditional suspension on the undermentioned Special Gold Leases, under the "Mining on Private Lands Act of 1894," pending further consideration of applications for six months' suspension, to be heard at Orange, at 10.30 a.m. on the 22nd October, 1897:—

P.G.L. 38, 954 acres, parish Huntley.

P.G.L. 37, 30 acres, parish Huntley.

P.G.L. 36, 36 acres 2 roods 6 perches, parish Huntley.

JOHN L. KING, Warden,
Orange.

9 October, 1897.

Memo. by the Under Secretary.

The following wire sent to Warden King (Orange):—

20 October, 1897.

WIRE me to-day full reasons (if any) given by Wentworth Company for suspension labour conditions. Important.

D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary, Mines.

Reply received, and handed to Minister.—D.C.McL., 20/10/97.

Telegram from Warden King, Orange, to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Cargo, 20 October, 1897.
BEING here on duty, have not got applications before me, but reasons given are generally as follows:— Mines unworkable owing to strike and intimidation used by pickets towards free labourers, and objection by those willing to work to be designated "scabs."

JOHN L. KING,
Warden, Orange.

Crown Solicitor's Opinion.

20 October, 1897.

THE rate of wages to be paid to miners or the conditions under which they are to work are not causes that make a mine unworkable, and therefore the application, if based upon that ground alone, should not be heard by or adjudicated upon by the Warden. Such causes do not appear to me to come within the term "unworkable from any cause." Wages and conditions must be relegated to the Minister to decide.

Application for Suspension of Labour by the Wentworth Proprietary Gold-mining Company.

SINCE receiving the intimation from the Warden that the Wentworth Proprietary Company have applied for suspension of labour conditions, I am in receipt of advice from him that the reasons given generally for the suspension are that the mines are unworkable owing to strike and intimidation used by the pickets towards free labourers, and objection by those willing to work to be designated "scabs." This opens up the question as to whether the case is one that can be properly heard by the Warden, seeing that the reasons which will be presented to him by the company will in the main be that the miners refuse to work at the rate of wages offered, and decline to accede to the conditions the management wish to impose.

The 34th section of the Mining on Private Lands Act, which deals with the question of suspension of labour, provides that if the mines shall become unworkable from any cause which would necessitate a suspension of mining operations, the Warden may grant such suspension. The question, therefore, arises as to whether the reasons named are such as can be construed as making the mine unworkable. If the application were based on the ground that the mine is flooded, that the shafts had fallen in, or that there is a failure of water, any of these would be a reason which would bring the hearing of the case within the jurisdiction of the Warden; but I doubt whether it can be held that the mine is unworkable when the reasons given are that the men regularly employed will not work unless paid a certain rate of wage, or that they demur to the conditions of employment imposed upon them. This, then, leads to the question as to whether the application is one which can, under the circumstances stated, be properly dealt with

with by the Warden. Upon this point I sent for the Crown Solicitor, and had a long consultation with him upon the whole of the facts surrounding the case; and after a most careful consideration of the Act and the regulations governing the matter, he arrived at the opinion that the rate of wages to be paid to the miners, or the conditions under which they are to work, are not causes that make a mine unworkable within the meaning of the Mining on Private Lands Act; and, therefore, the application, if based on those grounds alone, should not be heard or adjudicated upon by the Warden. Such causes, he states, do not appear to him to come within the terms "unworkable from any cause."

In view of this advising, I am of opinion that the application made by the Company should not be determined by the Warden without he has clearly placed before him the law bearing upon the case as interpreted by the Crown Solicitor. It is the first case of the kind brought under the Mining on Private Lands Act, and it is important that this aspect of the matter should be before the Court when the case is being dealt with. I therefore approve of a solicitor being engaged to place before the Warden the contention that the want of agreement between the management and the employees is not sufficient ground for the Warden to hold that the mine is unworkable within the meaning of the Mining on Private Lands Act.

The Crown Solicitor should be asked to arrange for this view of the case being placed before the Warden in open Court.

S. SMITH, 20/10/97.

Telegram directed by the Minister for Mines to be sent to Mr. Allman, Officer of Mines at Orange.

PLEASE instruct solicitor appearing to place and argue before the Warden the contention submitted in the Minister's minute with reference to application for suspension of labour conditions in connection with Wentworth Mine. Reply wire.

D. C. McLACHLAN,
Under Secretary for Mines.

Telegram from Warden King, Orange, to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, Sydney.

[Sent 9:50, 22nd October, 1897.]

Re Minister's minute, as published in newspapers, am I to consider it authentic? Very urgent.

JOHN L. KING,
Warden.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to Warden King, Orange.

YES; Ministers minute, as it appears in *Herald* of yesterday, is authentic, and Mr. Allman, of this office, has been instructed to have the matter placed before you for consideration.

D. C. McLACHLAN.

Telegram from Mr. Allman to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, Sydney.

22 October, 1897.

WARDEN decided to call evidence and hear Mr. Kearney afterwards. Mr. Lock put in witness-box. Mr. Sleath has called three witness; more to follow after lunch. Will report later.

R. G. ALLMAN.

Telegram from The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to Warden King, Orange.

27 October, 1897.

KINDLY send per first post all papers in connection with the application of the Wentworth Proprietary Company for suspension of labour conditions; also all evidence, &c., taken at the inquiry.

D. C. McLACHLAN.

Telegram from Warden King to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, Sydney.

Molong, 28 October, 1897.

ABSENT from Orange. Papers re Wentworth's suspension will be forwarded Friday, being earliest post, as I have to go to Cummoock before returning home. Would direct them to be sent to-day, but they are under lock and key.

J. L. KING.

Telegram from The Chief Clerk to Warden King, Orange.

29 October, 1897.

PLEASE forward to Department at once, without fail, all papers relating to the Lucknow leases, including evidence re suspension.

H. B. SULLIVAN.

Warden

Warden King to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, Sydney.

Sir,

Orange, 29 October, 1897.

In reply to your wire, which I received at Molong on 27th instant, and replied to same day, also your wire of even date, I have the honor to forward three applications for suspension of labour on the Wentworth Proprietary leases at Lucknow; also affidavit in support of same; copy of interim suspension and fixing date of hearing; copy of telegrams and replies; the depositions taken at the inquiry, and order made thereon.

I have, &c.,

JOHN L. KING,
Warden.

ORDER for Registration for Suspension of Work.

In the Warden's Court holden at Orange, this 22nd day of October, 1897.

WHEREAS application having been made to me for the suspension of work on the undermentioned leased lands, and evidence on oath having been given in open Court in support of such application, I hereby order the registration of the said undermentioned leased lands for partial suspension of work for a period of one month from this date, *i.e.*, on condition that not less than sixty men be employed on the three leases, *viz.* :—

On P.G.L. 37. None.
On P.G.L. 38. Fifty men.
On P.G.L. 36. Ten men.

Given under my hand at Orange, this 22nd day of October, 1897,—

JOHN L. KING,
Warden.

No. of Application.	No. of Portion.	Situation.	Lessees.
9	P.G.L. 37	} Lucknow	} Amana (Wentworth) G.-M. Co. (Ltd.) Wentworth G.F.P. Co. (Ltd.) Aladdin's Lamp G.-M. Co. (Ltd.)
10	P.G.L. 38		
11	P.G.L. 36		

JOHN KING,
Warden.

This order is irregular. The leases are not amalgamated; it should therefore be stated how many men are to be employed on each lease. There is at present no power to concentrate the labour.—E.H.R., 27/10/97.

The Warden for report.—D.McL., B.C., 27/10/97.

Warden King to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, Sydney.

Orange, 29 October, 1897.

I BEG to report that Mr. Lock, in his evidence at the inquiry, stated the leases were amalgamated. This must have been an error, but it was agreed that in regard to the suspension applications and objections thereto they should be considered together.

I have now amended my order as follows :—

On P.G.L. 37. Total suspension.

On P.G.L. 38. Fifty men on P.G.L. 36. Ten men are to be employed during partial suspension, ending 21st November, 1897.

JOHN L. KING,
Warden.

The Attorney of the Aladdin Lamp Gold-mining Company (Limited) to The Warden, Court-house, Orange.

Sir,

Sydney, 8 October, 1897.

As the duly constituted Attorney of the Aladdin's Lamp Gold-mining Company (Limited) I hereby apply, on behalf of the said company for a suspension of six months of the conditions to employ labour on P.G.L. 36 of 36 acres 2 roods 6 perches, parish Huntley, county Bathurst. This lease to the said company is dated the 4th September, 1897, and was duly executed by the lessee company on the 8th October, 1897. The labour conditions are for the employment of eight men.

This application for suspension is made under Section 34 of the Mining on Private Lands Act of 1894 and Regulation 33 thereunder.

The ground of such application is as follows :—That the lessee company, which has been continuously and efficiently mining the said property for a number of years, is prevented from putting on a number of men sufficient to comply with the conditions of the above lease owing to the action of the miners formerly in the employ of the said company going out on strike, and owing to the intimidation by the men on strike to miners able and willing to accept employment, and owing to the fear of molestation by the miners on strike in the minds of such miners able and willing to accept employment, and owing to the insufficiency of police protection in order to enable the requisite number of men being safely conducted to the mine.

In support of this application I forward herewith an affidavit of facts which is the same as that forwarded with respect to my application on behalf of the Wentworth Gold Fields Proprietary Company (Limited).

Yours, &c.,
W. TARLETON.

Declaration.

In the Warden's Court, }
holden at Orange,— }

ON this eighth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, I, WILLIAM TARLETON, of Sydney, in the Colony of New South Wales, being duly sworn, maketh oath and saith as follows:—

1. I am the duly constituted attorney of the Wentworth Gold-fields Proprietary Company (Limited), The Amana (Wentworth) Gold-mining Company (Limited), and The Aladdin's Lamp Gold-mining Company (Limited).

2. On the 4th day of September last a gold-mining lease, under the Mining on Private Lands Act of 1894, was duly granted by the Crown to The Wentworth Gold-fields Proprietary Company (Limited), over P.G.L. 38 of 954 acres, parish Huntley, county Bathurst. Such lease was accepted and signed by the said company on the 8th day of October instant, and contains a condition for the employment of 191 men.

3. On the 4th day of September last a gold-mining lease, under the Mining on Private Lands Act of 1894, was duly granted by the Crown to The Amana (Wentworth) Gold-mining Company (Limited), over P.G.L. 37 of 30 acres, parish Huntley, county Bathurst. Such lease was accepted and signed by the said company on the 8th day of October instant, and contains a condition for the employment of six men.

4. On the 4th day of September last a gold-mining lease, under the Mining on Private Lands Act of 1894, was duly granted by the Crown to The Aladdin's Lamp Gold-mining Company (Limited), over P.G.L. 36 of 36 acres 2 roods 6 perches, parish Huntley, county Bathurst. Such lease was accepted and signed by the said company on the 8th day of October instant, and contains a condition for the employment of eight men.

5. The said companies have been carrying on mining operations on their respective properties for a number of years, and have efficiently and continuously worked the same.

6. The miners in the employ of the said companies went out on strike some two or three months ago, and the majority are still on strike.

7. The said companies have endeavoured, pending the issue of the abovementioned leases, to employ a sufficient number of men to comply with the labour conditions contained in the said leases, but have been prevented from doing so, owing to the action of the miners on strike intimidating the miners able and willing to accept employment, and owing to the fear of molestation existing in the minds of such miners able and willing to accept employment, and owing to the insufficiency of police protection, in order to enable the requisite number of men being safely conducted to the said mines.

8. The said companies are anxious and willing to employ the requisite number of men for the purpose of fulfilling the labour conditions contained in the said leases, but are prevented from so doing for the above reasons.

Sworn by the deponent, the day and year first above }
mentioned, at Sydney, before me,— }

W. TARLETON.

W. A. WINDEYER,
Commissioner for Affidavits.

The Attorney of the Amana (Wentworth) Gold-mining Company (Limited) to The
Warden, Court-house, Orange.

Sir,

Sydney, 8 October, 1897.

As the duly constituted attorney of the Amana (Wentworth) Gold-mining Company (Limited) I hereby apply on behalf of the said company for a suspension for six months of the conditions to employ labour on P.G.L. 37 of 30 acres, parish Huntley, county Bathurst.

This lease to the said company is dated the 4th September, 1897, and was duly executed by the lessee company on the 8th October, 1897. The labour conditions are for the employment of six men.

This application for suspension is made under section 34 of the Mining on Private Lands Act of 1894, and Regulation 33 thereunder.

The ground for such application is as follows:—

That the lessee company, which has been continuously and efficiently mining the said property for a number of years, is prevented from putting on a number of men sufficient to comply with the conditions of the above lease, owing to the action of the miners formerly in the employ of the said company going out on strike, and owing to the intimidation by the men on strike to miners able and willing to accept employment, and owing to the fear of molestation by the miners on strike in the minds of such miners able and willing to accept employment, and owing to the insufficiency of police protection in order to enable the requisite number of men being safely conducted to the mine.

In support of this application, I forward herewith an affidavit of facts which is the same as that forwarded with respect to my application on behalf of the Wentworth Gold-fields Proprietary Company (Limited).

Yours truly,
W. TARLETON.

The Attorney of the Wentworth Gold-fields Proprietary Company (Limited) to the
Warden, Court-house, Orange.

Sir,

Sydney, 8 October, 1897.

As the duly constituted attorney of the Wentworth Gold-fields Proprietary Company (Limited) I hereby apply, on behalf of the said company, for a suspension for six months of the conditions to employ labour on P.G.L. 38 of 954 acres, parish Huntley, county Bathurst.

This lease to the said company is dated the 4th September, 1897, and was duly executed by the lessee company on the 8th October, 1897. The labour conditions are for the employment of 191 men.

This application for suspension is made under section 34 of the Mining on Private Lands Act of 1894 and regulation 33 thereunder.

The

The ground of such application is as follows:—

That the lessee company, which has been continuously and efficiently mining the said property for a number of years, is prevented from putting on a number of men sufficient to comply with the conditions of the above lease owing to the action of the miners formerly in the employ of the said company going out on strike, and owing to the intimidation by the men on strike to miners able and willing to accept employment, and owing to the fear of molestation by the miners on strike in the minds of such miners able and willing to accept employment, and owing to the insufficiency of police protection in order to enable the requisite number of men being safely conducted to the mine. In support of this application I forward herewith an affidavit of facts.

I have, &c.,

W. TARLETON,

The Attorney of the Wentworth Gold-fields Proprietary Company (Limited).

Messrs. E. Hancock, R. Hancock, and D. Morton to Warden King, Orange.

Sir,

Lucknow, 18 October, 1897.

We hereby notify you that we object to suspension of labour conditions being granted to the Wentworth Proprietary Gold-mining Company, in connection with their Private Gold Leases, Nos. 36, 37 and 38.

Your obedient Servants,

EDWARD HANCOCK.

RICHARD HANCOCK.

D. MORTON.

These names were called but no answer.—JOHN L. KING, Warden, 22/10/97.

Inquiry held on applications for suspension by William Tarleton, Attorney for the Amana (Wentworth) Gold-mining Company (Limited), P.G.L., 37. The Wentworth Gold-fields Proprietary Company (Limited), P.G.L., 38. The Aladdin's Lamp Gold-mining Company (Limited), P.G.L., 36. Before Warden King, at Orange, 22nd October, 1897.

Re Suspension on }
Lucknow Leases. }

Mr. BASSETT appears for the Companies, and consents to the three applications being heard together. Mr. Kearney asks to appear for the Minister for Mines, to lay before the Warden the interpretation of the law as per his Minute—as published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*—and submit same for my consideration. He desired to inspect documents which were produced to prove Mr. Lock as authorized to appear for the Company. I ruled that unless he appeared as an objector that he had no right to inspect these documents or to cross-examine the witnesses. Mr. Sleath, M.L.A., asked to appear as an objector. Leave granted.

JOHN L. KING,

Warden.

This deponent, *Charles George Warnford Lock*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I produce an authority from Mr. Tarleton to act in these matters; I produce the leases in question; and various powers of attorney to Mr. Tarleton; I also produce power of attorney to act in this matter, and miner's rights. Previous to July last events happened which caused me to close the mines, they re-opened subsequently; nearly the whole of the old employees being re-engaged, at fresh rates of wages, and under modified rules; some 340 of those employees accepted service under the new conditions, proceeded to work, remained at work for some 2½ weeks, having signed the Company's rule book, and then, in my absence, and without notice to me, of their own accord, left my employment; when I say "they left my employment" I don't wish to imply that the whole of the men left my employment in this manner; some 80 or thereabouts remained at work until threats and insults were received by them—proceeding from some of those who had quitted work of their own accord; the result of these threats was that these additional men finally left their employment also; previous to the 80 men going out a strike had been declared and a committee appointed, and information given to me of the fact; at the present time I am ready to start work at the mines at the established scale of prices; the strike is still in existence, as far as I am aware, pickets are placed near the mines; I know some of them are men from the strikers; work has been continuously carried on at the mines, and it has never ceased notwithstanding the strike; the pickets interfere with persons coming to and from the mines; acts of intimidation have taken place; threats to deal with men when they came out; the use of abusive language and calling of filthy names; I have heard men told that the time would come when they would not have police protection and blue metal might be handy; I have had threats uttered against myself; I have not witnessed any assault; at the present time if workmen want to go to the mines they have to be escorted under police protection; statements have been made to me by men concerning intimidation; on account of this intimidation I have difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of men; failing police protection—I have made efforts to obtain men to comply with the labour conditions but under the present conditions of affairs I have found it impossible to put on more men than are on; miners have told me they are able and willing to work provided they can freely do so; I have also received a large number of letters from miners; previous to the strike, in the month of July there were 500 men employed on the land in question; there are no men working on the Amana lease; the leases are amalgamated; in the month of June previous there were 590 men employed; for the year ending September, 1896, there were 505 men employed; for the year ending September, 1895, 400 men; 207 men is the number of men required to carry out the labor conditions; at the present time between 70 and 80 men are working; the yearly outlay in wages in 1897 was £37,000, in 1896, £43,000, in 1895, £27,000, and a great many other items charged to various heads really cover wages; the total workings at the combined mines exceeds six miles; and during the two full years of my management over one mile per annum has been added to them; the machinery and plant at the two companies is worth at least £42,500; our weekly pay-roll for some time past has been close on £1,000; the present state of the mine is bad; a very large portion of the workings, essentially that portion where work has chiefly to be done, is full of water; further, large portions of some of the drives have had considerable falls of roof, and in other places the ventilation has become so defective that it would not be safe to allow men to enter them; several of the boilers also are
needing

needing repair and cleaning, and neither pumping nor ventilation can be proceeded with until those boilers have first received attention; pending what I have just mentioned, the mine is not workable by the number of hands required by the leases; I therefore apply for a suspension of the labor conditions on each of the leases in question; three months would rectify everything; when the rectification shall be completed, I shall have occasion to employ far more than the compulsory number of men specified by the conditions to the leases; the disrepair in the mines has been occasioned by the cessation of operations; the portion of the mine now flooded is where we expect to obtain ore for crushing purposes.

By Mr. Sleath: The mines were partially closed down in July; several of the boilers were then about due for periodical cleaning; I did not clean them then; I could not obtain men to do the work; it is special work; I did not anticipate anything irregular occurring; I can't give the names of the men who gave the threats and insults to the men; I don't know their names; generally the threats were made in company; I have never stated that I would not employ any of the late employees; I have re-employed some of them; I had not the boilers cleaned as the man whose duty it was had gone on strike; the leases in question were not granted to me; I don't know when they were granted; since the 17th August last, the full complement of workmen has not been employed on the mine; I can't say if any suspension previous to this application was granted; I believe there was a previous application; I don't know that the boilers require cleaning, the Mining Regulations require that they must be cleaned at certain times; some of the boilers want repair; the machinery for pumping and ventilating the mines are in connection with the boilers that now require cleaning and repair.

Taken and sworn before me, at Orange, }
this 22nd October, 1897,— }

JOHN L. KING, Warden.

C. G. WARNFORD LOCK.

This deponent, *Frederick Harrison*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am a miner and reside at Lucknow; I have been employed on the Wentworth Gold-mining Co's. property for about six years; I ceased work there about three months ago; I had been receiving 7s. 6d. per shift of eight hours; I left as Mr. Lock reduced the wages to 7s. and 6s. 6d., and wanted to impose other conditions; one was that he could search my home at any time; I am ready and willing to resume work at the Wentworth Mine on the old conditions; I believe the whole of the miners are prepared to do the same; I know the Wentworth mining property well; it was in good workable condition last time I saw it; I knew nothing about the boilers; the air supplied to the mine is supplied through the shafts; in a few places it is compressed air; I never saw forced ventilation in a mine connected by drives and shafts like Lucknow; I never found the ventilation bad while there; forced air is used for ventilation in two places; I suppose twelve or eighteen men would work there; I have seen no intimidation at Lucknow; I have been there all the time.

Mr. Bassett: The compressed air that drives the drills mingles with the other air. I have not been down the mines since the strike; I signed the new regulations agreeing to them; the regulations produced are not the same as I signed; I stayed at work about a week and then went out on strike.

Mr. Sleath: Previous to my leaving work I was sacked as Mr. Lock closed down the mine.

F. HARRISON.

Taken and sworn before me, at Orange, }
this 22nd October, 1897,— }

JOHN L. KING, Warden.

This deponent, *Henry Wilson*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am an ironfounder and reside at Lucknow; I know the boilers at Lucknow; about every month it was the custom to clean every boiler out; I have cleaned them on some occasions; nothing would happen if they were left for three months without cleaning; a boiler would go for five or six months without cleaning if clean water were used and proper care taken; I believe one boiler was cleaned out about the Sunday before the strike commenced; I am capable of cleaning out the boilers; generally three or four men are employed to clean a boiler, and it would take them a shift or a shift and a half to clean one out properly; I would not go back to work for the Wentworth Company again; the boilers could be cleaned out one at a time and the work go on at the mine just the same; under the ordinary circumstances a boiler was generally cleaned out while the full number of men were employed.

By Mr. Bassett: It has made no difference so far where the boiler is situated; in some places there is only one boiler; the boilers were generally cleaned on a Saturday night when work was done. (Mr. Bassett asks witness if he was a witness in Green's case and Sommerville's case, and witness declines to answer.)

Taken and sworn before me, at Orange, }
this 22nd October, 1897,— }

JOHN L. KING, Warden.

H. WILSON.

This deponent, *Philip Watson*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am a miner, and reside at Bathurst-road; I was employed on the Wentworth Gold-mining Company's property as a miner; I acted as shift boss for two or three weeks; I had an opportunity of seeing the workings known as the new shaft; there are five shafts on the property—working shafts; there are other shafts that would act as ventilating shafts; the shafts are connected by drives as far as the 600-foot level; the New shaft and the Reform shaft are connected at the 600-foot level; all the others are connected at the 500-foot; I have been connected with the mine for the last twenty-five years; I have heard complaints about the ventilation at the 800-foot level, but down to the 700-foot the air is as good as in any mine I ever worked in; I never complained of the ventilation to my knowledge; in some of the ends there are machine drills at work, and compressed air is used for driving them, and it answers for ventilation at the same time; when the mine was in full swing nine men in each shift would work in the three dead ends; two ends only would be affected by the compressed air; if the machinery went out of repair there would be only four men in each shift affected; twelve men altogether; when last I saw the mine it was in splendid condition; the bulk of the men were employed between the 500 and 600-foot level; it would take two years for the water to rise to the 600-foot level; I was discharged from the Company's employ in the first instance; I had no reason given; I would go back to the mine at the old rate of wages if I was desirous of taking a job; I was never intimidated; I would not be afraid to go to work; I have been about Lucknow the last few

few months; I have never seen anyone intimidated; we have reasoned with the men against going in at the reduced rate of wages; I can't say I know much about boilers; the work has not been interfered with by the cleaning of the boilers.

By Mr. Bassett: I have worked all over the mine, but during the last two years in the new shaft, and the last fortnight in the "Aladdin"; I don't think the Shamrock shaft is filled up; I don't know that any have been filled up with mullock; I am one of the Strike Committee; I did not see Thackaray or any man pulled off a coach; I have not seen any stone-throwing; I believe gold has been stolen, but I don't remember telling Dr. Goode so.

By Mr. Sleath: As a practical miner, I should say the mine could be put in order in twenty-four hours so as to keep 207 men employed.

By Mr. Bassett: I have seen the mine after being out of work for over three months, but not under the present scale of working; the mine from the 600-foot or 700-foot would be in as good condition for working as regards ventilation and the ground after three years as it would be after three months.

Taken and sworn before me, at Orange, }
this 22nd October, 1897,—

P. WATSON.

JOHN L. KING, Warden.

This deponent, *Henry Stain*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am a miner and reside at Lucknow; I was employed by the Lucknow Proprietary Co. for about three years; I was discharged; no reason was given; there are four working shafts on the property; there are other old abandoned shafts used for air-shafts—three or four; they are not filled up; the working shafts are connected by drives; the ventilation is very good to the 500-ft. level; I know nothing of lower down; I know nothing about boilers; if the old wages and conditions were reverted to I would be prepared to go back to work; most of the miners in Lucknow would; I have not known of anyone being intimidated or threatened, or pulled off coaches; a number of men are on the property now; I have seen them off the property; I never saw anyone interfere with them, and they went back again; I have had five years' experience as a practical miner.

By Mr. Bassett: I am a member of the Strike Committee; I went back to work a few days after I was discharged under the new conditions; I signed my consent to work under them.

By Mr. Sleath: I had no special reason for going back.

Taken and sworn before me, at Orange, }
this 22nd October, 1897,—

HENRY STAIN.

JOHN L. KING, Warden.

This deponent, *Henry Gardiner*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am a miner and reside at Lucknow; I have been employed on the Wentworth Gold Mining Co.'s property as a miner for about five years; I was discharged in the first place; I went to work again as I considered it was a proof that Mr. Lock had nothing against my character; I did not intend to remain at work under the new conditions; I am prepared to go back to work if the old conditions and wages are reverted to; I know several who are prepared to do the same; there are three or four working shafts and two or three abandoned shafts on the property; from the 600-foot level up I believe the working shafts are connected by drives; the ventilation is good; there are air compressors to drive rock-drills and the exhaust supplies the ventilation; one end on the 700-foot and the 800-foot level are affected by the compressed air; about twelve to eighteen persons would be employed in those portions of the mine; the bulk of the working-faces are above the 600-foot level; if the pumps went wrong I should say it would take eighteen months or two years for the water to reach the 600-foot level in the new shaft; the ground is all rock in the levels and requires no timbering; I know nothing about boilers; I have never known the miners to be stopped while the boilers were being cleaned; I have not known anyone being intimidated or frightened to go to work; I would not be afraid to do so if I got the conditions asked for.

By Mr. Bassett: I am one of the strikers; I do picket work; I am on every twenty-four hours; I have never accosted anyone going to work; pickets are posted round the mine gate, and anyone coming is sometimes spoken to; pickets, at night, are all round the fence of the property; I have never heard of anyone being pulled off a coach; I have heard that the Inspector of Police was challenged one night and jumped out of his trap and drew a revolver; I heard that a man was followed one night, and that his horse was struck and afterwards died; I heard that Mr. Lock's groom was badly wounded coming from Spring Hill to Lucknow; I do not know any strikers who were there; I saw Mr. Lock's groom some time afterwards—some weeks; the pickets are still round the mine.

By Mr. Sleath: The first I heard of Mr. Ford was in the papers.

Taken and sworn before me, at Orange, }
this 22nd October, 1897,—

HENRY GARDINER.

JOHN L. KING, Warden.

This deponent, *Charles George Warnford Lock*, recalled on his former oath, saith as follows:—Ventilation mainly depends upon the shafts, and in this connection I would like to point out that the number of working shafts is four; that there is in addition one disused shaft which does ventilate a certain portion of the workings, and that the remaining shafts—some five or six in number—have been completely filled with mullock to prevent persons getting improper access to the mine, and whilst it is quite true that certain of these shafts are connected by levels, there are many other working-faces at the ends of drives which run away from any shaft, and in such ends ventilation is always a difficult matter, and the air must become stagnant and bad if work is suspended for any length of time; for this reason, even when the mine is in full working order, pipes carrying air from compressors into such faces have occasionally to be used for ventilating purposes alone; I am aware that only a few months ago a complaint was made with regard to the ventilation; the Mining Inspector came up to inspect the mine for that special purpose, about six months ago.

By Mr. Sleath: The Inspector of Mines gave me the information that a report had been made about the ventilation; he did not make any order that I should improve the ventilation; it is absolutely untrue that no timbering is necessary in the drives—some timbering is necessary; regulation 17 provides for the cleaning out of the boilers if a boiler was subjected to a hydraulic test without being cleaned

cleaned it might burst; the conditions as to ventilation, water in the mine, and the boilers wanting cleaning have been gradually increasing; I do not know precisely what height the water is; five winzes and the workings connected therewith are now under water, and that water has increased since the strike; the air in the parts affected is not fit for men to work in; I have made no test personally; I have not been through the affected parts for three or four weeks; it was not as bad then as it is now reported to be, but it was getting bad.

Taken and sworn before me, at Orange, }
 this 22nd October, 1897,— }
 JOHN L. KING, Warden. C. G. WARNFORD LOCK.

This deponent *Mark Edward Dyett Ford*, on his oath, saith as follows:—I am Inspector of Police, stationed at Orange; I have been out at Lucknow since the strike; strikers are picketed out there; I have at times observed disorder there; at one time I saw one of the officers of the mine rushed by a crowd of men, boo-hoed and assaulted; a number of complaints have been made to me about pickets sticking up people on the road; I was myself once stuck up by five pickets; Senior-constable Kenny is in charge of the police at Lucknow.

By Mr. Sleath: Mr. M'Cutcheon was the officer stuck up; I summoned the offender for riotous behaviour, and I believe he was fined; I knew the men were pickets who stuck me up; it was at where the roads meet, about a mile from Orange; I jumped out of my buggy and drew my revolver; they cleared; they said, "Pull up, what's your name, what are you going to do?" they endeavoured to stop the horse; I could not see who the men were; they were at the pickets' camp fire; I heard no threats made at Lucknow against anyone; I saw disturbances when two lots of free labourers came in; some came in a coach from Bathurst and drove into the mine property; no one assaulted them; I saw a great rush made towards them, they were boo-hoing; others drove from Orange into the mining property; I saw no one assault them; on both occasions seven or eight police were about; I think at the time the Bathurst lot came there were twelve police; if the strikers had broken the law it would have been my duty to protect the men.

Taken and sworn before me, at Orange, }
 this 22nd October, 1897,— }
 JOHN L. KING, Warden. MARK E. DYETT FORD.

This deponent, *Charles George Warnford Lock*, again recalled on his former oath, saith as follows:—I am able to employ the men now on the mine profitably.

Taken and sworn before me at Orange, }
 this 22nd October, 1897,— }
 JOHN L. KING, Warden. C. G. WARNFORD LOCK.

Partial suspension granted for one month from this date, *i.e.*, that not less than sixty men be employed on the three leases.
 JOHN L. KING, Warden.

Wentworth Proprietary Gold-mining Company, Aladdin's Lamp Gold-mining Company, and Wentworth Amana Gold-mining Company.—Application for Suspension of Labour Conditions.

IN accordance with instructions received I proceeded to Orange on the 21st instant for the purpose of instructing a solicitor to represent the Department of Mines at the hearing before the Warden's Court of the above applications. Before leaving I consulted the Crown Solicitor, and received instructions from him (which I took down in writing) to the effect that I was to engage a solicitor who was to ask permission to be present and represent the Minister for Mines, but was not to oppose or object to anything, and who was to watch the proceedings on behalf of the Minister. On arrival at Orange I found that the only available solicitor whom I considered it advisable to instruct was Mr. Kearney. Before seeing him I received a telegram from head office as under:—

"Please instruct solicitor appearing to place and argue before the Warden the contention submitted in the Minister's minute with reference to application for suspension of labour conditions in connection with Wentworth Mines.—Reply by wire."

I accordingly went into the matter very fully with Mr. Kearney, with the contention in view that the mine was not unworkable for the reasons given by the applicants within the meaning of the 34th section or any other section relating to suspensions. I further made clear to Mr. Kearney the position he was to take up, as representing the Mines Department only, not the Crown. I also agreed with him that his fee would be £3 3s. if the case lasted half a day, and £5 5s. for the whole day.

On the case being called on, Mr. Kearney stated his position to the Bench, and that he was prepared to argue the points submitted in the Minister's minute. Mr. Bassett appeared for applicants, and Mr. Sleath as an objector. The Warden decided to call evidence, and said he would hear Mr. Kearney afterward.

Mr. Lock was called by applicant's solicitor, and he gave evidence that the mine was unworkable, not only for the reasons set out in his notice, but for various other reasons, such as defective ventilation, water in the mine, &c. This evidence was objected to by Mr. Sleath, but the Warden decided to accept it. Mr. Sleath called five witnesses in support of his objections.

Mr. Kearney's position was accordingly somewhat altered, as he could not now argue that the mine was not unworkable for the reasons given in the Minister's minute. He contended, however, that the applications by the company did not show that the mine was unworkable for any reason contemplated by the Act. The Warden eventually decided to grant suspension for one month, sixty men to be employed in the meantime. The case commenced at 11 o'clock on the 22nd instant, and terminated at 5 o'clock same day.

To the Under Secretary for Mines. R. G. ALLMAN,
 23/10/97.

For Minister's information. Mr. Allman informs me that Mr. Kearney argued the case as put in the Minister's minute in an able manner, and placed all possible points before the Warden for his consideration.—D. C. McLACHLAN, 25/10/97. Seen.—S. SMITH.

Messrs. Kearney and Lane to The Under Secretary for Mines.

Dear Sir,

Lord's Place, Orange, 23 October, 1897.

Re Wentworth G.P. Company's (Limited) application for suspension of labour. Instructed by Mr. Allman from your Department, we attended the Warden's Court here yesterday to argue the question of law as submitted in the Minister's minute. In addition to the ground given by the company in the application they submitted another ground, that the mine was unfit for working by reason of water and foul air, and gave evidence on this ground. After argument, the Warden held that in the evidence he had jurisdiction; and granted a conditional suspension—the suspension to go for one month upon the Company employing sixty men. The Warden held, too, that section 36 of 57 Vic. No. 32 gave effect to section 32 and subsections 1, 2, 3, of 37 Vic. No. 13. Great interest was taken in the case, the Court being crowded. Messrs. Lee, Colquhoun, and Bassett appeared for the Company, and Mr. Sleath, M.L.A., in his own behalf.

Yours, &c.,

KEARNEY AND LANE.

For the Ministers information.—D.McL., 28/10/97.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

COAL MINES REGULATION ACT, 1896.

(MINUTES RESPECTING THE VENTILATION AND JOINT INSPECTION OF COLLIERIES IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT.)

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

Office Memorandum.

VENTILATION OF COLLIERIES.

DURING the debate in Parliament on Wednesday evening representations were made to the Minister that in but a few collieries in the North were the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, as to ventilation complied with, and that in some cases large quantities of air were flowing through the mine, but the air was impure.

The Minister wishes Mr. Inspector Dixon to say whether there is any ground for making such statement.—H.B.S., for U.S. Mr. Inspector Dixon, B.C., 21/5/97.

I am not aware of any colliery in the North where the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, as to ventilation, are not complied with. And I most emphatically deny that there is any ground for making the statement, that in some cases there are large quantities of impure air flowing through the mines. What I mean is, that all the intake air is pure from the surface in each mine, and is only rendered impure after having been used by men, boys, and horses in the several "splits" or districts. This impure air is then passed into the return air-ways to the bottom of the upcast, thence to the surface.—J. DIXON, 22/5/97. The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

For the information of the Minister.—H.B.S., for U.S., 25/5/97.

I should like Mr. Inspector Dixon to say whether the terms of General Rule No. 1 are thoroughly carried out as regards the supply of pure air to every man, boy, and horse working in the mine. I presume that where necessary the inspectors insist upon the supply being more than 100 cubic feet per minute, as provided for in Act.—S. SMITH, 26/5.

Inspector Dixon asked by wire No. 286, 26/5/97.

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

Merowether, 26 May, 1897.

So far as I am aware the terms of General Rule 1 are thoroughly carried out as regards the supply of pure air to every man, boy, and horse working in the mines, and where necessary the Inspectors insist upon the supply being more than 100 cubic feet per minute, as provided for in the Act.

With regard to the second part of this General Rule, which provides that districts or splits, of not more than seventy men in each, shall be formed, and each district be supplied with a separate current of fresh air, Mr. Inspector Dixon informed me that this had been done, and that each district is served with a separate and distinct current of fresh air, which air, after having been coursed through a district, passes into the return air-way to the upcast shaft, thence to the surface. He adds that it is a very rare thing to find the current of air at the bare minimum of 100 feet, generally the least being from 140 to 150 feet up to 400 feet per minute for every man, boy, and horse in the district.

Mr. Dixon, as well as Inspectors Bates and Humble, states that large sums of money have been expended by the proprietors of some of the collieries in carrying into effect the provisions of the new Act, regarding ventilation, refuge holes, &c.

H.W., 7/6/97.

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

22 May, 1897.

No application has been made by the miners for a joint inspection, and when application has been made in the past such application has never been refused. I can truly certify that during the past fifteen years (my term of office) every complaint made by the miners has been investigated at once. In the matter of a joint inspection at any of the collieries, I am of opinion that we should wait until the demand is made. And I am further of opinion that it would be better if the miners, through their lodge secretary, were to make complaint of any defect to the Inspectors direct (as they used to do) instead of to Members of Parliament. Then the matter complained of could be looked to at once, without unnecessary bickerings and heart-burnings.

J. DIXON.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

COAL-MINES REGULATION ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL,
(PETITION FROM CERTAIN PERSONS EMPLOYED AT THE NEWCASTLE COAL-MINING COMPANY'S COLLIERIES
IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 20 July, 1897.

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Residents of New South Wales, over the age of twenty-one,
and employed at the Newcastle Coal-mining Company's Collieries, Newcastle District,—

SHOWETH:—

That a Bill has been introduced in your Honorable House having for its object the limiting
of the working-hours in mines of coal and shale.

That in the opinion of your Petitioners this measure should be passed into law as speedily as
possible.

That eight hours' work in mines is quite long enough for the physical powers of men to be engaged.

That to so regulate the working-time would permit of a reasonable portion of each day being
available for purposes of recreation.

That such a regulation of eight hours would prevent undue competition and establish uniformity
of working-time conditions in all mines.

That the work of a coal and shale miner is surrounded with those conditions of unnatural light,
unwholesome air, dangers by faulty roof, &c., and so generally hazardous that these are all weighty
reasons why eight hours should be legalised.

That the production and output of coal would not be lessened by such a regulation, as such would
be productive of better discipline and lead to more regular and concerted action equally by the employees
and management alike.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Bill before your Honorable House for the above
object may be passed into law.

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

[Here follow 207 signatures.]

Similar Petitions were received,—

- On 20th July, 1897, from certain persons employed at the Caledonian Company's Colliery,
Waratah; 112 signatures.
- „ „ from certain persons employed at the Hetton Coal Company's Colliery,
Newcastle District; 155 signatures.
- „ „ from certain persons employed at the Seaham Colliery, West Wallsend;
132 signatures.
- „ „ from certain persons employed at the Wickham and Bullock Island Coal
Company's Colliery, Newcastle District; 173 signatures.
- On 21st July, 1897, from certain persons employed at the Newcastle-Wallsend Coal Company's
Colliery; 222 signatures.
- „ „ from certain persons employed at Brown's Collieries, Minmi; 162 signatures.
- On 22nd July, 1897, from certain persons employed at Stockton Colliery, Newcastle; 233
signatures.
- „ „ from certain persons employed at the Australian Agricultural Company's
Colliery, Newcastle; 256 signatures.
- „ „ from certain persons employed at Brown's Collieries, Minmi; 151 signatures.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

COAL-MINES REGULATION ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.
 (PETITION FROM CERTAIN PERSONS EMPLOYED AT GRETA COLLIERY, GRETA, IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 27 July, 1897.

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Residents of New South Wales, over the age of twenty-one,
 and employed at Greta Colliery, Greta,—

SHOWETH THAT:—

A Bill has been introduced into your Honorable House having for its object the limiting
 of the working-hours in mines of coal and shale.

That in the opinion of your Petitioners this measure should be passed into law as speedily as
 possible.

That eight hours' work in mines is quite long enough for the physical powers of men to be engaged.

That to so regulate the working-time would permit of a reasonable portion of each day being
 available for purposes of recreation.

That such a regulation of said eight hours would prevent undue competition and establish uniformity
 of working-time conditions in all mines.

That the work of a coal and shale miner is surrounded with those conditions of unnatural light,
 unwholesome air, dangers by faulty roof, &c., and so generally hazardous that these are all weighty
 reasons why eight hours should be legalised.

That the production and output of coal would not be lessened by such a regulation, as such would
 be productive of better discipline and lead to more regular and concerted action equally by the employees
 and management alike.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Bill before your Honorable House may be passed
 into law.

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

[Here follow 64 signatures.]

Similar Petitions were received,—

On 28th July, 1897, from certain persons employed at the Co-operative Colliery, Plattsburg; 148 signatures.

“ “ from certain persons employed at Maryland Colliery, Plattsburg; 22 signatures.

“ “ from certain persons employed at the Wallarah Colliery, Catherine Hill Bay; 33 signatures.

“ “ from certain persons employed at Elmore Vale Colliery, Wallsend; 16 signatures.

On 29th July, 1897, from certain persons employed in coal and shale mines of Western District; 188 signatures.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

COAL-MINES REGULATION ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT
BILL.

(PETITION FROM CERTAIN PERSONS EMPLOYED AT THE SCOTTISH AUSTRALIAN COMPANY'S
COLLIERY, BURWOOD, IN FAVOUR OF.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 4 August, 1897.

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Residents of New South Wales, over the age of twenty-one,
and employed at the Scottish Australian Company's Colliery, Burwood,—

SHOWETH:—

That a Bill has been introduced in your Honorable House having for its object the limiting of the working-hours in mines of coal and shale.

That in the opinion of your Petitioners this measure should be passed into law as speedily as possible.

That eight hours' work in mines is quite long enough for the physical powers of men to be engaged.

That to so regulate the working-time would permit of a reasonable portion of each day being available for purposes of recreation.

That such a regulation of said eight hours would prevent undue competition and establish uniformity of working-time conditions in all mines.

That the work of a coal and shale miner is surrounded with those conditions of unnatural light, unwholesome air, dangers by faulty roof, &c., and so generally hazardous that these are all weighty reasons why eight hours should be legalised.

That the production and output of coal would not be lessened by such a regulation, as such would be productive of better discipline and lead to more regular and concerted action equally by the employees and management alike.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Bill before your Honorable House for the above object may be passed into law.

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

[Here follow 125 signatures.]

A similar Petition was received

On 4 August, 1897—From certain Coal-miners of the Illawarra District; 844 signatures.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

COAL-MINES REGULATION ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.

(PETITION FROM CERTAIN COAL-OWNERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF COAL-OWNERS, AND OTHER PERSONS CONCERNED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COAL-MINES, AGAINST.)

Received by the Legislative Assembly, 4 August, 1897.

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Coal-owners, Representatives of Coal-owners, and other persons concerned in the management of Coal-mines,—

HUMBLY SHOWETH:—

1. That a Bill is now before your Honorable House, the object of which is to restrict the daily hours of labour of all persons engaged in coal-mines to eight hours.

2. That if this Bill becomes law its effect will be to diminish the output of collieries, and to increase the cost of producing coal.

3. That the present condition of the coal trade is not favourable to the imposition of any additional burdens or restrictions, some collieries being now worked at less than an adequate profit, and in some instances the investment of capital is wholly unremunerative.

4. That in the progress of recent legislation for the regulation of coal-mines the whole subject was fully inquired into, not only by Parliament, but by a Royal Commission, with the result that the present Coal-mines Regulation Act is undoubtedly a most liberal measure. Coal-owners have been at considerable expense to meet the requirements of the Act, believing it to be a final settlement of all questions requiring legislative interference for years to come.

5. That the British Royal Commission on labour, which reported to Her Majesty the Queen in 1894, in the course of their proceedings inquired exhaustively into the proposal to establish an eight-hours day, and came to the conclusion that in reference to the coal-mining industry the proposal could not be recommended.

6. That, as your Petitioners believe to be the case, the hours of labour in coal-mines in New South Wales are already fewer than those worked in the same industry in any part of the world, and your Petitioners are well assured that the legislation proposed in the Bill is not called for by hardships to those employed, or by any other sufficient reason.

Your Petitioners, therefore, pray that your Honorable House will not give effect to the proposed legislation.

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

[Here follow 30 signatures.]

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

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

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND

APPENDIX.

Printed under No. 26 Report from Printing Committee, 9 December, 1897.

SYDNEY: WILLIAM APPEGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1897.

1897.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VOTES No. 51. TUESDAY, 24 AUGUST, 1897.

9. CASE OF SYDNEY COOPER, AS TO MINING UNDER A ROAD, PARISH OF CLYDE,* COUNTY OF GOUGH:—
Mr. Cruickshank moved, pursuant to Notice,—
(1.) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon all the circumstances attending the case of Sydney Cooper, who was the holder of an authority to mine under a road separating portions Nos. 330 and 413, in the parish of Clyde,* county of Gough, such authority being obtained by him as the holder of a document purporting to be a mineral license, but which was held by the Appeal Court, holden at Inverell, not to be a mineral license, as the “butt” was not attached thereto.
(2.) That such Committee consist of Mr. Sydney Smith, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Cann, Mr. Gormly, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Moore, and the Mover.
Debate ensued.
Question put and passed.
-

VOTES No. 80. WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER, 1897.

8. CASE OF SYDNEY COOPER, AS TO MINING UNDER A ROAD, PARISH OF CLIVE, COUNTY OF GOUGH:—
Mr. Cruickshank, as Chairman, brought up the report from, and laid upon the Table the Minutes of Proceedings of, and evidence taken before, the Select Committee for whose consideration and report this subject was referred on 24th August, 1897; together with Appendix.
Referred by Sessional Order to the Printing Committee.
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* NOTE—Should be CLIVE.

1897.

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

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Assembly appointed on the 24th August, 1897,—“to inquire into and report upon all the circumstances attending the case of Sydney Cooper, who was the holder of an authority to mine under a road separating portions Nos. 330 and 413, in the parish of Clyde,* county of Gough, such authority being obtained by him as the holder of a document purporting to be a mineral license, but which was held by the Appeal Court, holden at Inverell, not to be a mineral license, as the ‘butt’ was not attached thereto;”—have agreed to the following report:—

Your Committee having examined the witnesses named in the list† (whose evidence will be found appended hereto) find as follows:—

†See list,
page 6.

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

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

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

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

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

* NOTE.—Should be CLIVE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GEO. A. CRUICKSHANK,
Chairman.

*No. 3 Committee Room,
Legislative Assembly,
8th December, 1897.*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Cruickshank,	|	Mr. Moore,
Mr. Macdonald.		

Mr. Cruickshank called to the Chair.

Entry from Votes and Proceedings appointing the Committee, read by the Clerk.

Ordered,—That the Under-Secretary for Mines be summoned to give evidence next meeting.

[Adjourned till Wednesday next at 2 o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 27 OCTOBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Cruickshank in the Chair.

Mr. Cann,	|	Mr. Gormly,
Mr. Moore,		Mr. Lonsdale.

Duncan McLachlan (Under-Secretary for Mines), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Committee deliberated.

Reassembling of the Committee to be arranged by the Chairman.

Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Cruickshank in the Chair.

Mr. Gormly,	|	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Moore.		

William Richard Collis (Clerk in the Mines Department), called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till To-morrow at 2 o'clock.]

THURSDAY, 25 NOVEMBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Cruickshank in the Chair.

Mr. Gormly,	|	Mr. Moore,
Mr. Lonsdale,		Mr. Macdonald.

Sydney Cooper called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness handed in plan illustrating the dispute between Cooper and Costello. [*Appendix A.*]

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next at 12 o'clock noon.]

TUESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT:—

Mr. Cruickshank in the Chair.

Mr. Moore,	|	Mr. Lonsdale,
Mr. Gormly,		Mr. Macdonald

Francis Augustus Wright (*a Member of the Legislative Assembly*) called in, sworn, and examined.

Witness withdrew.

Sydney Cooper recalled, and further examined.

Witness withdrew.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next at 2 o'clock.]

TUESDAY,

TUESDAY, 7 DECEMBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Cruickshank in the Chair.
Mr. Gormly, | Mr. Moore.
[Adjourned till 3:30 o'clock This Day.]

The Committee reassembled at the hour named.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Cruickshank in the Chair.
Mr. Cann, | Mr. Moore.
Committee deliberated.
[Adjourned till To-morrow at 3 o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER, 1897.

MEMBERS PRESENT :—

Mr. Cruickshank in the Chair.
Mr. Gormly, | Mr. Macdonald,
Mr. Cann, | Mr. Moore.
Chairman submitted Draft Report.
Same read, amended, and agreed to.
Chairman to report to the House.

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1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

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

WEDNESDAY, 27 OCTOBER, 1897.

Present:—

MR. CANN,
MR. GORMLY,

MR. LONSDALE,
MR. MOORE.

GEORGE ALEXR. CRUICKSHANK, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Duncan McLachlan, Under Secretary for Mines, sworn and examined:—

1. *Chairman.*] You are the Under Secretary for Mines? I am.
2. Do you know the case of Sydney Cooper? From the papers I have a knowledge of the case.
3. Will you make a short statement of the case to the Committee? Briefly, Mr. Cooper held an authority to mine on a roadway, that is, what they call a 28-section authority, and there was a man named Costello who held the adjoining land, and who was mining on that land. Cooper said he discovered that Costello had gone from his land and worked out on to the roadway, for which he had an authority, and removed about 500 loads of washdirt which, of course, properly belonged to Cooper if the allegation had been proved. Cooper brought an action against Costello in the Warden's Court for trespass on this authority of his, but the Warden dismissed the case with costs against Cooper. Then Cooper appealed to the Mining Appeal Court, and Costello, through his solicitor, took the point that Cooper was not the holder of a mineral license. The point was that Cooper held a mineral license, but that he did not hold the butt of it, and it was decided by the Court to be an invalid document. As soon as that verdict was given in June, 1896, Cooper threw up the case, and subsequently he made an application to the Department for compensation for giving him what he considered was practically an imperfect title. The Department objected to pay any compensation, for the reason that Cooper had not proved that he had lost anything, that he had not proved that Costello had removed washdirt to which he was entitled, and that, therefore, he had not shown that he had suffered any loss. Briefly, those are the only facts I know of in the case. I may mention that the Minister afterwards brought in a Bill to validate all mineral licenses issued with or without the butt.
4. *Mr. Moore.*] And miners' rights? Yes.
5. But still the Department did not admit that it was necessary to do that? It was done so that people would have some guarantee of security if there was any suspicion lurking in their minds as regards the validity of their titles, but the point was a very small one indeed. Judge Coffey, when he decided that the mineral license was an invalid document in the condition in which it was presented to him, offered to adjourn the case for a few days. I presume the offer was made in order to allow this party to get the other part of the document from the Warden's Clerk, but I do not think that he ever made any effort to do that; he threw the case up altogether, and I infer that he said to himself, "It is better for me to go for the Department than to go for the man." The point with the Department is that he has never proved that he has lost anything.
6. *Mr. Cann.*] Is the license which was issued to Cooper the same as the license which is usually issued in all cases in the Mines Department? It is exactly the same document as has been issued from the beginning.
7. *Mr. Gormly.*] And when the Department issued that license, they supposed that it was a good license? It was always held to be a good one, and it had never been challenged until this case.

D. McLachlan.

27 Oct., 1897.

- D. McLachlan. 8. Until the Court in this case decided otherwise? Quite so. Immediately afterwards we validated all licenses that had been issued.
- 27 Oct., 1897. 9. *Chairman.*] On that decision by Judge Coffey the Minister brought in a Bill to validate all these licenses? Yes; it really arose out of that case.
10. *Mr. Moore.*] What the Minister really did was to insert a validating clause in a Mining Bill? Yes, in 60 Vic. No. 7.
11. Who was the Warden? Mr. Acting-Warden Saunders.
12. Of Inverell? Yes.
13. Was he an experienced Warden;—had he had any experience in mining matters? He had not had a very large experience, but in all cases he adjudicated upon for us he gave us every satisfaction.
14. *Chairman.*] Did he ever sit in the Warden's Court in any other district besides the Inverell district? That I could not say, as it occurred before my connection with the Department. I do not think he had; I believe his experience as a Warden was confined to the Inverell district, although he had experience as a Warden's Clerk elsewhere.
15. Is it not a fact that this is the only Warden's case of any importance that he has adjudicated upon? I could not answer that question right off. I would have to get the records of his Court before I could answer the question.
16. *Mr. Moore.*] Was he a Warden's Clerk and Mining Registrar? I think he was a Warden's Clerk, and this would carry Mining Registrar's duties as well.
17. You cannot say of how many years' standing? No, but I could furnish that information to the Committee. I do not think he has had great experience as a Warden, but he has given us the utmost satisfaction in the cases he has dealt with.
18. Have you the evidence which was taken in the case? No; it is in the Court-house at Inverell.
19. *Mr. Cann.*] Did the Department survey this road out before they gave him the permit to mine under it? Yes.
20. And also the land on both sides of the road? Yes.
21. It was all surveyed? Yes.
22. Did you ever call for any reports as to whether any encroachment had been made on their lands by either side? No.
23. The Department had no reason to suppose that any encroachment was being made? Quite so. We considered that it was quite a matter between Costello and Cooper. We did not interfere at all. We considered that it was for them to take the matter to the Court and prove who was right.
24. *Mr. Gormly.*] The Department does not take any responsibility for these encroachments? None whatever.
25. The Department give a license to mine on certain defined ground, and when they do that their responsibility in regard to encroachments ceases? Quite so.
26. *Mr. Cann.*] Do you keep in the Department any plans of the underground workings of the different mines which are worked? No; we have not a plan of all.
27. You do in the case of coal-mines? Yes.
28. But you do not in the case of minerals other than coal and shale? No; but the holders of that land are supposed to keep a plan showing their workings, which we can call for at any moment.
29. Did you call for the plans in this instance? No; because we took no part whatever in the proceedings. It was regarded simply as a question between the two litigants.
30. Could you call for the plans if the Committee asked you to do so? We could.
31. *Mr. Gormly.*] Would you be likely to get them? I very much doubt whether we would get them.
32. They might not be procurable? They would, if in existence, probably be sketch plans. They would be drawn to no scale, and therefore they would be worthless.
33. *Chairman.*] Was Mr. Surveyor Folkard your officer? No.
34. At whose instance did he survey this ground? That I could not say. It was not at the instance of the Department.
35. *Mr. Moore.*] He does work for the Department? He may be employed occasionally, and get a fee for doing work in the ordinary way, as a licensed surveyor.
36. *Chairman.*] Were these surveys made at the instance of the Department;—was he an officer of the Department at the time they were made? I could not say.
37. *Mr. Gormly.*] Did he survey under an instruction from the Department? He did not survey the land under an instruction from the Department. The surveyor who did is named Sewell.
38. Then it was surveyed by the Department? Yes.
39. *Mr. Moore.*] There was no survey made of the underground workings? No; it was a survey for the authority.
40. *Chairman.*] It appears to me that there was an application made for an injunction after the dismissal or withdrawal of the appeal to the Department, which was refused in consequence of the Judge dissolving the injunction granted in the first instance by the Warden; can you tell me if that is the case? No; I have not a knowledge of that, because that application for the injunction would be made to the Warden; and, of course, the records of that are in the Court-house in Inverell.
41. You are not aware that the application was made for an injunction after the dismissal or withdrawal of this appeal, and refused by the Department? No.
42. *Mr. Gormly.*] The papers before you do not disclose that? They do not, although it may be possible that he applied to the Warden for an injunction to restrain the other man.
43. *Chairman.*] You are aware that the not granting or dissolving the injunction would allow the removal of any washdirt which might be on the ground which Cooper claimed? Quite so, if on the ground the authority covered.
44. Do you know where the butt of the mineral license was at the time the case was tried? It was in the Warden's Clerk's office.
45. At Inverell or at Tingha? I believe it was at Tingha he took out his license, and it would be there.
46. Have you had cases under the decision given by the Chief Justice in Equity in the Homeward Bound Gold-mining case on this point? No; this is the only case we have had.
47. The Government had not dealt with this particular point before under the decision given in the Homeward Bound Gold-mining case? No.

WEDNESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER, 1897.

Present:—

MR. GORMLY, | MR. LONSDALE,
MR. MOORE.

GEORGE ALEXR. CRUICKSHANK, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

William Richard Collis sworn and examined:—

48. *Chairman.*] What is your occupation? Clerk-in-charge, Lease Branch, Mines Department.
 49. Have you the evidence taken at the Warden's Court in the case Cooper against Costello? Yes, I produce it.
 50. Can you give me any information as to whether the judge made any award on the ground that Cooper's title was illegal? The evidence I produce is the evidence taken in the Warden's Court. Judge Coffey's decision is not on record, as far as I can ascertain, and he has his notes with him.
 51. Have you not the evidence taken at the Appeal Court? No.
 52. *Mr. Moore.*] Have you any papers with reference to the case at the Appeal Court? Yes; I have a report. We asked the Registrar of the District Court to forward the depositions taken in the Mining Appeal Court, and this is his reply:—

W. R. Collis,
24 Nov., 1897.

In reply to your letter of 16th inst., I have the honor to inform you that no depositions appear to have been taken in the appeal case Cooper v. Costello, with the exception of the Judge's notes, which he has in his possession.

53. Have you any other evidence bearing upon the case? No other evidence.
 54. *Mr. Gormly.*] Have you any other documents bearing on the case that you can place before the Committee? Not so far as I know, except a letter by Mr. Boyd, the solicitor for Cooper, and a Press report of the proceedings in the Mining Appeal Court. I have all the Departmental papers in the case, right from the application for the authority up to the present time.
 55. What other facts have you in connection with the case, outside the depositions, that may be of use to the Committee? I do not know of anything.
 56. Would you state as briefly as possible the facts of this case, and what your knowledge of it is, as disclosed by the papers? Sydney Cooper applied for a permission in July, 1892, to mine under the road separating portions 330 and 413, parish of Clive, county of Gough. The application was granted, and the authority was issued to Sydney Cooper on the 28th August, 1893, giving him permission to mine for tin upon and under that road, area 1 acre.
 57. *Mr. Moore.*] Was it a condition of that that he should be the holder of a mineral license? Yes, that he should be the holder of a mineral license in force, to be held annually, and to be produced on the 25th August in each year.
 58. *Mr. Lonsdale.*] You would not acknowledge that permit unless he had that mineral license? Certainly not.
 59. *Mr. Moore.*] Before the Department issued the permit to Cooper it satisfied itself that he was the holder of a mineral license? Certainly.
 60. Otherwise you would not have issued the permit? Certainly not, he would not have been qualified.
 61. In fact you have, either on his application, or on the permit itself, the date of his mineral license and the number? The Warden's clerk has instructions to fill in in the authority the date of the mineral license produced, and a renewal of the mineral license must be taken out on the expiry of that license.
 62. Have you that day there? The 25th August.
 63. What year? I presume the date this was issued, that is 1893.
 64. In his application for the authority, what date does he give for his mineral license? 6th August, 1892. Of course that mineral license held good till the 5th August, 1893. An applicant for authority must be qualified at the date of the application, and when the authority issues eventually he must show then that he is the holder of a mineral license.
 65. *Mr. Lonsdale.*] His mineral license was dated the 6th, and he gets it on the 25th;—he must show that the mineral license of the 6th August qualifies him? The mineral license on the 6th August qualified him to make that application. When the authority was granted he took out a license on the 25th August, but the authority was not granted till the 28th.
 66. *Mr. Moore.*] The only material part is that he was qualified to apply in the first place? Yes.
 67. By virtue of his mineral license? By virtue of his mineral license.
 68. And then the Department granted him the authority because he had that mineral license? Yes.
 69. That mineral license, I suppose, was issued in the form in which all mineral licenses have been issued by the Mines Department right from the beginning? Since 1874.
 70. Since mineral licenses were brought into existence? Yes.
 71. It was in that form? Yes.
 72. That is without the butt? Without the butt.
 73. I presume the Department has issued some thousands of mineral licenses? Yes, annually.
 74. And also miners' rights? And miners' rights.
 75. *Chairman.*] In other words, it has been the practice to consider a mineral license without the butt a complete mineral license? Yes, up to the date of Judge's Coffey's decision. The butt was retained by the Mining Registrar as his record.
 76. Are you aware that on Judge Coffey's decision in this case a Bill was introduced by the Minister for Mines amending the Act so as to validate the mineral licenses without the butt? Yes, that is so.
 77. Have you any information in the papers to show us the date upon which Cooper applied for an injunction against Costello for removing the tin;—the authority was granted in 1893, was it not? Yes.
 78. What was the next phase of the matter that came before the Department? The next, I think, was a complaint that the traffic on the road was interfered with. The proceedings in the Warden's Court were really between Cooper and Costello, apparently for encroachment.
 79. *Mr. Moore.*] So far as the Department is concerned, these papers will disclose what was the next phase of the question that came up? As to the dispute between Cooper and Costello we have nothing. That is apparently between themselves.

- W. R. Collie. 80. I inferred from what Mr. Cruickshank said that there was some application made to the Department for an injunction? I think Mr. Cruickshank means an application for suspension of labour between the time of the hearing of the case in the Warden's Court and the appeal. Cooper applied for permission from the Minister to suspend the labour conditions under his authority, pending the issue of the appeal.
- 24 Nov., 1897. 81. Was any application made by the Mines Department in Sydney for an injunction in connection with the case? I can find no record of any written application for such a thing. No application was made to the Mines Department for an injunction, so far as I know.
82. Is that authority which was granted to Cooper still in existence? Yes.
83. You still consider it good? We still consider it good.

THURSDAY, 25 NOVEMBER, 1897.

Present:—

MR. GORMLY, | MR. MOORE,
MR. LONSDALE, | MR. MACDONALD.

GEORGE ALEXR. CRUICKSHANK, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Sydney Cooper sworn and examined:—

8. Cooper. 84. *Chairman.*] You are a miner at Stannifer? Yes.
- 25 Nov., 1897. 85. You are plaintiff in the case of Cooper *versus* Costello? Yes.
86. This case came before the Warden's Court some time in March? Yes.
87. Can you give us the date? On the 12th March, 1896.
88. You make your living by mining? I do.
89. Do you know portion 1 of the land in question? I do.
90. Do you know the adjoining block, 413-330? Yes.
91. Were you holder of a mineral license for previous years at the time you applied for the right to mine under the roadway? Yes.
92. You received that license from the Government Officer as a true mining license? I did.
93. Did you produce the mineral license at the time you applied to be allowed to mine under this roadway? I did.
94. There was no exception taken to it at any time by the Department? No.
95. The authority to mine under the road was granted upon the license which you exhibited? Yes.
96. Do you recollect the number of your authority? No. 859.
97. Did you work continuously on this land afterwards? I did.
98. Can you tell me the dates that you were working there after you got this authority? I worked continuously up to 1896.
99. How long did you hold this ground? I have been on the ground since 1892.
100. Had any work been done under the roadway at the time you applied for the authority? None whatever.
101. You believe that work was done by other parties which affected your interest in this mine? I do.
102. Your trouble is, that it was owing to the defect of title given you by the Department that you were unable to prove your case? Yes.
103. Could you give us any idea of the amount of washdirt that was taken out of the ground encroached upon? From 300 to 400 loads.
104. What would you estimate the damage to the ground at? At £100.
105. Had you a proper survey of the workings at the time when you appeared at the Warden's Court at Tingha? No; I had not a complete survey underground.
106. Was the hearing of that case adjourned from Tingha? Yes; to Inverell.
107. What was the intermission between the time that it was heard at Tingha and the time it was heard at Inverell? One week.
108. Did you at any time take such steps as would have enabled you to have a proper underground survey made? I did.
109. Was this before or during the inquiry? It was before and during the inquiry. I tried before the inquiry, and during the inquiry, before we closed our case at the Warden's Court, and then again before the appeal.
110. You tried to get authority to enable you to test the connection between the adjoining land and your own, as to where there was an encroachment? Yes.
111. Were you prevented from ascertaining whether there was any encroachment? I was refused the order by the Warden.
112. When did you first apply for an order to make such survey as would have been necessary to prove the encroachment? When I first commenced proceedings, about the 5th March.
113. To whom did you apply? To Acting-Warden Sanders.
114. And he refused to give you such authority as would enable you to get this information? He did.
115. When the case came on at the Warden's Court, was this one of the reasons given why you were unable to prove your case? It was.
116. Was this the reason why the verdict was given against you? It was. I had shown no underground communication. I had not proved that there was a trespass, because I could not show the underground communication.
117. You maintain that you were prevented from showing this trespass by the fact that the Acting-Warden refused to grant you authority to test the ground to see if there was an encroachment? I do.
118. Then, when the case came on, a verdict was given against you in the Warden's Court, because you had not proved the encroachment? It was.
119. Did you then make application for an adjournment to test the ground to see where the encroachment came from? I did.
120. Was it granted? No; it was refused on the ground that Acting-Warden Sanders considered that it was late for us to ask for an adjournment.

S. Cooper.

26 Nov., 1897.

121. He refused it before, then refused it at the Court, because it was rather late? Yes.
122. That is after having refused it previously? Yes.
123. Whilst you were working there, I suppose you always kept within the four corners of your land? I did.
124. When the underground measurements were made, was it shown that more tin was taken out of the ground than had been brought to the surface by you? Yes; tin had been taken out independent of mine.
125. Could the surveyor give an estimate of how much? He could give an estimate of the quantity of dirt that was taken out.
126. And it was on that estimate that you estimate your loss at £100? The damage was caused by letting the ground down. My action was for trespass and damages, £100—damage that accrued through their letting the ground down.
127. That was the subsidence? Yes.
128. Did you include that in the estimate of damage done? No.
129. Did you consider the subsidence was a serious loss to you in the working of this ground? Yes; it was a serious obstacle to me in working it.
130. Would it have been costly to you to have repaired the damage done before going to work? It would have cost £100 to timber it up, quite independent of the tin that was taken out of the ground.
131. After the hearing of this case in the Warden's Court, you applied to have a proper survey of the underground working? I did.
132. Did you get authority then to work on the adjoining land? I got authority from the Warden instructing Surveyor Folkard to do the work.
133. Were those instructions given from the Government? They were given to me in writing from Acting-Warden Sanders.
134. Did you take the same course in the latter case as in the first, before the hearing in the Warden's Court? Application was made in the same way, and what had been at first refused was subsequently granted.
135. Do you produce a map here which is a plan of the underground working of the mine? Yes. [*See Appendix.*]
136. Could you tell me which of the shafts were put down by you, and which of the shafts were put down by the tributors of the adjoining holder, and which shaft was worked by someone who took the tin away? Yes.
137. Do you know shaft C? Yes.
138. Was that sunk by you? Yes.
139. I see a shaft on the ground marked J? Yes; that was sunk and worked by me. I bottomed wash-dirt in J shaft.
140. I see shaft "G" marked here? Yes; I worked shaft G too.
141. Was that connected with J? G and J were worked together; J was an air shaft.
142. What shaft was the one marked H? That was a working whip shaft.
143. What is shaft B? That was a tributor's shaft; it was sunk by trespassers.
144. The road was not measured at that time? No.
145. Can you tell me anything about shaft E? That was sunk by my tributors.
146. Are No. 1 and No. 2 shafts on Costello's ground? They are.
147. Where did the encroachment commence? From No. 1 and No. 2 ground; the encroachment commenced which worked into my line and took my tin.
148. You produced a map at the Mining Warden's Court, did you not? I did.
149. Was that a complete map? No.
150. Is this a complete map before us? It is a complete map, made by Surveyor Folkard.
151. I understood you to say that you applied for this order to test the encroachment before the hearing of the case in the Warden's Court? I did.
152. That was refused to you by the Warden? It was.
153. And the verdict was given against you because you had not tested the encroachment? Because I had shown no trespass.
154. After the hearing at the Warden's Court, and before the case came on at the Appeal Court, the same Warden gave an order to Surveyor Folkard to make a survey? Yes.
155. Then, after this was done you appealed against the decision of the Warden's Court? I did.
156. When your case came on at the Appeal Court, had you an opportunity of giving this evidence? No.
157. I understand that the verdict was given against you? It was given against me on a technical point.
158. On what ground was this verdict given against you? On the ground that my mineral license or title was insufficient.
159. *Mr. Moore.*] The point was taken that your mineral license was not a mineral license? Yes; because the butt was not attached. The Judge held that it was not a mineral license within the meaning of the Act.
160. *Chairman.*] Judge Coffee suggested that you should withdraw the appeal? No; I do not think he did.
161. *Mr. Moore.*] You could not proceed any further with the case? No.
162. Then you had to withdraw the case? Yes.
163. And the Judge then and there dissolved the injunction? Yes.
164. The injunction protected the tin that was in dispute? Yes; pending the result of the inquiry. The tin was not on my land.
165. *Chairman.*] After the injunction was dissolved by the Court, did you seek further advice with the view of continuing your case? I did.
166. What were you advised? I made application to the Warden for another injunction.
167. On advice you made application to the Warden for another injunction? Yes.
168. With a view of continuing your case? Yes.
169. *Mr. Gormly.*] What was the result? He refused it.
170. *Chairman.*] Then the tin was removed after the dissolving of the injunction? Yes.
171. When the Warden refused to grant the injunction, did you take other steps to get an injunction? Yes; I wired Mr. Wright to make application to the Mines Department for an injunction.
172. Were you advised through Mr. Wright that you should apply to the Warden for this injunction? No;

- S. Cooper. No; I was advised through my solicitor to make application to the Warden, which was refused. Then I made application through Mr. Wright to the Minister for Mines for an injunction.
- 25 Nov., 1897. 173. Did the Department wire to the Warden, asking why he had refused? They did.
174. The result was that you were not allowed to get this injunction? I did not get an injunction.
175. The consequence was that the tin was removed and you were unable to proceed with your case? Yes.
176. You thought that you had a good title? I did.
177. You applied in the ordinary course of things for an order to prove the encroachment? I did.
178. You produced all the plans that you could get at the Warden's Court? I did.
179. And you applied for an adjournment of the Warden's Court to enable you to make a further survey? I did.
180. So you did everything that it was in the power of a miner to do to prove your case? I did.
181. You felt that all your efforts to prove your case were frustrated through the decision of the Judge that you had no title? Yes.
182. Mr. Moore.] This £100 does not include the value of the dirt, does it? No; I valued the dirt at from £130 to £150.
183. Is £100 a fair thing to claim for the damage done by letting down the ground? Yes. I was working in an open cutting, the depth of which was 25 feet. Theirs was less than 18 feet, and when I brought my cutting opposite the broken ground I had to log the whole thing round.
184. You lost that washdirt? Yes, altogether.
185. And you consider that it contained between 4 and 5 tons of tin? Yes; it was valued at about £150.
186. What would the cost of washing be? About £30.
187. So that there was over £100 net? Yes.
188. Chairman.] Could you give the Committee any idea of what your loss was altogether? I lost about £300.
189. How do you make it up? It includes the value of the tin, my legal expenses, and all the expense attached to opening up the ground and other incidental expenses.
190. Will you tell me what the plan is that you produce? It is a map of the underground workings in the mine concerned in the case of Cooper v. Costello.
191. Mr. Moore.] Did you accompany Surveyor Folkard when he surveyed your workings? I did.
192. You inspected the workings where the trespass took place? Yes.
193. Was the ground timbered? It was.
194. What state was the timber in? It was in a perfectly good state—as green as when it was put there.
195. How long had it been in? It could not have been more than six months; it was as green as on the day it was cut down.
196. So you are quite positive, from the state of preservation in which the timber was, that the ground had been worked at a very recent date? Yes.
197. You found that this ground had been worked from Costello's shaft? Yes.
198. Was it connected with any other workings? Not at all.
199. Was it connected with your workings? No.
200. It must have been worked from Costello's land? Yes; and it was impossible to get the dirt up any other shaft than No 2.
201. You swear that you never worked it? I swear that I never did.
202. And it was never worked by anybody with your authority? No.
203. Your legal expenses in this case came to about £131? Yes.
204. You produce the account? Yes.
205. Is it correct? It is quite correct.
206. Roughly speaking, what were your costs in connection with your appeal? £80 or £90.
207. Mr. Lonsdale.] These are the costs in the Warden's Court and the Appeal Court? Yes.
208. Which were the larger? The costs in the Appeal Court? The costs in the Warden's Court might have been about £40.
209. Chairman.] The expense of your working and the loss of the tin you estimate at £169? Yes; making in all £300 Gs. 6d.

THURSDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 1897.

Present:—

Mr. GORMLY,
Mr. LONSDALE,

Mr. MACDONALD,
Mr. MOORE.

GEORGE ALEXR. CRUICKSHANK, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Francis Augustus Wright, Esq., M.P., sworn and examined:—

F. A. Wright, Esq., M.P. 210. Chairman.] It appears that Mr. Cooper has been refused by the Warden an injunction to protect the tin on certain land, and that an application was made through you to the Department of Lands;—will you kindly give us the benefit of your knowledge in connection with the case? Yes. Some considerable time ago—I cannot fix the date—I received a communication from Mr. John Boyd, solicitor, of Inverell, pointing out that in the case of Cooper versus Costello the Judge had ruled that the mineral license held by Mr. Cooper was not a mineral license within the meaning of the Act—that he should have had in his possession the butt of that license (which he had not), instead of only the counterpart. Mr. Boyd's letter went on to ask me to interview the Department and see if the Minister would grant an injunction for the time being, until the case could be reheard. My memory is not quite clear as to whether I did or did not see the Minister; but at all events I saw the Under Secretary, and he promised me that he would communicate with the Warden. I saw the Under Secretary on one or two occasions, and I communicated to Mr. Boyd the result of my interviews. In the first place, if my memory serves me rightly, the Under Secretary told me that he could see no objection to the granting of the injunction to restrain Costello from removing a quantity of washdirt which he had taken from ground which Cooper alleged belonged to him; but subsequently the Minister declined to grant this injunction, and I again saw the Under Secretary. I received an intimation from the Under Secretary that the Minister declined to grant the injunction, and said that the matter was entirely in the hands of the Warden, and he did not feel justified in interfering in

30 Nov., 1897.

in the matter. Two or three letters, I think, passed between Mr. Boyd and myself on the subject. I thought at the time that Cooper was subjected to considerable injustice, and I did my best to get what I thought he was entitled to—justice at the hands of the Department; but I failed to get any satisfaction from the Department.

I F. A. Wright,
Esq., M.P.
30 Nov., 1897.

211. Can you give the Committee any idea as to the date of this application of yours? It was some time towards the end of June, 1896, when I first made an application; and, as I have told the Committee, having pretty full information from Mr. Boyd, I laid it before the Under Secretary, and he at once took the view that the Minister might very well restrain Costello from doing anything with the washdirt until the matter could be reheard; but subsequently the Under Secretary told me that the Minister declined to do that.

212. Were you informed by the Department that the proper course for Cooper to take was to apply for an injunction? Yes; and I also informed the Department, I think, that Cooper had applied for an injunction, and that it had been refused by the Warden. I think it was in reply to one of my letters to Mr. Boyd that I got information that Cooper had applied for and had been refused an injunction by the Warden. The ground that the Department took up was that they could not interfere—that the matter must be dealt with through the Warden.

213. That Cooper's proper course was to apply for an injunction? Yes. I applied in the first place, of course, for the Minister to overrule what had been done previously, and to grant an interim injunction, which he declined to do.

Sydney Cooper recalled and further examined:—

214. *Chairman.*] I understand that there is a further statement you would like to make? There is a slight alteration I wish to make in my evidence.

S. Cooper.

215. Will you state to the Committee what it is? It is in reference to the order I first applied to the Warden for—to have this ground opened up and an underground survey made. I wish the Committee to clearly understand that the first part of this order was refused and the latter part was granted—that is, the Warden simply granted us permission to make an underground survey of what workings we could see, without tracing any connection with or making any communication from Costello's ground to mine. From the way the evidence now reads it might be taken to mean that the Warden refused to grant the lot, whereas he simply refused to grant the first part of the order—that is, to have the ground opened up; but he granted us an order to make an underground survey. The reason why we were able to put in at the Warden's Court only an incomplete map was because we could make only a survey of what workings we saw exposed.

30 Nov., 1897.

216. *Mr. Lonsdale.*] But did not that order give you a right to go down into their workings? Yes; but not to remove anything—simply to make a survey of the workings as they stood.

217. *Mr. Moore.*] I think you stated in your previous evidence that after this washdirt had been removed the ground had fallen in? Yes.

218. Therefore, in order to establish a connection between this ground that was encroached upon and Costello's workings, it was necessary for you to open up the ground? Yes.

219. And the Warden declined to give you an order to open up the ground? Yes.

220. So that his order authorising you to make an underground survey was not complete? It was not complete.

221. That is, it did not enable you to establish a connection between Costello's workings and this ground that had been encroached upon? Yes, that is it.

222. *Mr. Lonsdale.*] But was not that ground which had fallen in your own—that is, did you not have a right to deal with that ground which had fallen in? Certainly; but I had to cross Costello's land from that to show the connections with his shafts.

223. *Mr. Moore.*] Did the Warden assign any reason for declining to grant you that order? He simply said that he did not think he had the power to grant such an order.

224. *Mr. Lonsdale.*] Did he give any reason why he granted it on the second occasion? No; he gave no reason. He refused it on the second occasion, in the first instance, and we told him that we must have it—that if he did not grant it we would apply to the Minister, because it was a very material matter to us—and then he granted it.

[One Plan.]

APPENDIX.

[To Evidence of Mr. Sydney Cooper.]

PLAN

Illustrating dispute between Cooper and Costello,
Ph. Clive, Co. Gough.

Handed in before the Select Committee on
"Case of Sydney Cooper, &c., &c."

W. S. M.,
25/11/97.

I
approximate
position

Road held
Open Paddock

Worked by S. approximate
position Cooper

Castello

Costello's

approximate edge of workings
ground too dangerous to enter

Large tree

small opening
broken through

fallen in from

the surface

Cooper

between

N°1
Main Drive

this part falls in

Working Drive

entrance closed by mallee

Blocked by fall of mallee after my first visit

N°2
Chamber

ground

unworked

ground worked several years ago now fallen in

Shaft

Drive

Shaft

shaft sunk by me to obtain access to workings

ground worked from F Shaft at a different level to present workings

Boundary

Selection

Scale 10 feet to 1 inch

under

Permit

W. S. M.
18 November 1897

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND AGRICULTURE.

(ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STOCK AND BRANDS BRANCH FOR THE YEAR 1896.)

Printed under No. 12 Report from Printing Committee, 22 July, 1897.

The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture to The Minister for Mines and Agriculture.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the report of the Chief Inspector of Stock for the year 1896, and it is satisfactory to know that the returns show an increase in both horses, cattle, and sheep.

Inspectors' Work.

The inspections made by the staff number over 45,000, exclusive of the inspections of Queensland cattle on the Border—rather more than usual—which include horses, cattle, sheep, dogs, pigs, and inspections of pounds, commons, &c., and in this work Inspectors travelled an average of some 4,000 miles each. Nearly 400 prosecutions took place under the different Acts, and 341 convictions were obtained.

Horses.

The number of horses in the Colony at 31st December last, was 484,028, being an increase of 1,569 on the previous year.

No serious outbreaks of disease have taken place. Blindness in horses, which was troublesome in previous years, has disappeared, probably owing to the dry season, which is unfavourable to the development of parasites.

String-halt appeared in a few districts in a rather lingering form.

Cattle.

The cattle increased during the year to the extent of 19,939, and now stand at 2,043,707. The increase is largely due to introduction from other Colonies, especially Queensland, large numbers being sent from that colony through the fear that the Border would be closed on account of the tick plague.

Several districts report pleuro-pneumonia, and cases of tuberculosis have been met with in almost every district, and the cattle have been destroyed.

Tick Plague.

The steps taken by this Colony, and which it is believed will prove effective for guarding against the introduction of the pest, will be found in the Report. A statement is also given of the measures adopted by Queensland, which it is believed have effectually prevented the spread of the disease, and protected a large portion of their own as well as this Colony.

Sheep.

Notwithstanding the number of sheep exported and boiled down, the returns show an increase of 701,103 over the previous year. About 1,000,000, however, were introduced from other Colonies.

A careful classification made of the different breeds shows the total number of merino to be 44,260,503, comprising 33,083,096 combing, and 11,177,407 clothing; long-woolled sheep number 1,279,178; while the total of English sheep and cross-breeds is put down at 1,279,178.

Of all descriptions, the grand total at 31st December last, was 48,318,790.

During the year 65 stud rams and ewes were imported from England, America, France, and Germany, and passed the prescribed quarantine.

It will be seen that nearly the whole of the sheep are now paddocked, and that their condition is generally reported as improving.

The Lambing.

The lambing for the whole Colony is estimated at 59½ per cent. The spring lambing gave 65½ per cent., and the autumn and winter 59½ and 54½ respectively.

The Clip.

5,857,382 lambs were shorn in the grease, and 535,101 washed; while 37,409,296 sheep were shorn in the grease, 2,793 creek-washed, and 2,193,011 second.

The average weights of the clip are estimated as follows:—

							Lambs.	Sheep.
							lb. oz.	lb. oz.
Grease	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 4	6 4
Washed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 5½	3 0
Second	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	3 4½

The total clip for the Colony is estimated at 254,876,182 lb.; being an increase of 16,906,489 lb. on the year 1895.

Of the total mentioned, 205,032,653 lb. are estimated to have been sent to Sydney, 38,581,846 lb. to Melbourne, 11,122,028 lb. to Adelaide, and 139,655 lb. to Brisbane.

The sheep were comparatively very free from disease during the year. Outbreaks of anthrax still occur in several districts, but owners are inoculating with decided success, and the deaths from this deadly disease are decreasing.

It is very satisfactory to report that the whole of the Colonies, including Tasmania and New Zealand, are now free from scab in sheep, Western Australia being the last to be free from that pest.

Dr. Cobb is prosecuting his investigation in regard to parasitic diseases, more especially fluke worms, and it is expected that the result of his labours will shortly be given to the public.

Pigs.

The number of pigs in the Colony is 214,581, a number very far short of what there ought to be in the Colony.

Dogs.

Seventy dogs were quarantined during the year, but of these fifty-eight were "ships' dogs," and only remained in quarantine until the ships to which they belonged left the port.

Travelling Stock Reserves.

Owing to the dry season many of these reserves were quite bare of grass, and as the drought assumed serious proportions, travelling in many cases became impossible, and the sheep have perished.

The advisability of withdrawing the principal travelling stock reserves from lease is every day more apparent, and is a subject demanding early and serious consideration.

The proposal, brought under notice in Appendix J, for getting the store stock in certain portions of the Colony on to the railway, is well worthy of consideration.

Registration of Horse and Cattle Brands.

About the average number of brands were registered during the year, and the total number registered since the Act came into force up to 31st December last, was 76,683, and the number of sheep brands were as follows:—Fire-brands, 5,370; tar-brands, 20,048; and ear-marks, 12,480.

Public Pounds.

There are 260 pounds now open, and these are periodically inspected.

Noxious

Noxious Animals.

The receipts under the Pastures and Stock Protection Acts during 1896 reached £38,252 2s. 8d., while the amounts expended by the different Boards in the Colony for scalps of animals destroyed, and other expenses, amounted to £35,933 18s. 8d.

In only six districts were the full rates of assessment levied.

The number of the different animals destroyed, and paid for, is shown in Appendix L to this Report.

The Boards are still urging amendments in the Sheep, the Pastures and Stock Protection, and other Acts.

There has been no revival of the Live Stock Export Trade, but there has been a very large increase in the Frozen-meat Trade, the different phases of which are fully discussed in the body of the Report and Appendices.

Among the Appendices will also be found papers on Cross-breeding; on the Preparation of Edible Fat and Extract from Mutton; a communication from the Chairman of the Wool Brokers and Buyers on the subject "Tar and Paint Brands"; and a paper on the Carriage of Store Stock by Rail.

Papers are also submitted dealing at length with the Frozen-meat Trade as now conducted, and offering valuable suggestions for its improvement.

A large, elegant handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "W. C. Lachlan". The signature is written in black ink and features a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the signature.

Under Secretary, Department of Mines and Agriculture.

The Chief Inspector of Stock to The Under Secretary for Mines and Agriculture.

Sir, Department of Mines and Agriculture, Stock and Brands, Sydney, 1st June, 1897.

On the 2nd February last I submitted a Progress Report for the year ending 31st December, 1896, giving the approximate number of the horses, cattle, and sheep then in the Colony; and I have now the honor to submit for your consideration my complete Report for that year on the working of this Branch, which is, as usual, based very much upon Inspectors' estimates, owners still showing very little inclination to furnish data. It will be seen that the actual number of horses, cattle, and sheep in this Report exceed those in the Progress Report.

I have, &c.,

ALEX. BRUCE,

Chief Inspector of Stock.

INSPECTION OF OFFICES.

During the year the Offices of the Inspector of Stock at Hay and Narrandera were visited, and the books, &c., inspected.

Four inspections along the Queensland Border were also made from the head office.

INSPECTORS' WORK.

The Colony is now divided into sixty-five Sheep Districts, and there are fifty-two Staff Inspectors employed, who have made the following inspections during the year 1896:—

Stock, including horses, cattle, and sheep	...	...	...	27,686	inspections.
Reserves	...	...	...	5,620	"
Public Pounds	...	...	...	590	"
Commons	...	...	...	724	"
Dogs	...	...	...	1,784	"
Pigs	...	...	...	2,231	"
Under Pastures and Stock Protection Act	...	...	...	4,750	"
Under Public Watering-places Act	...	...	...	1,696	"
Under Diseased Animals and Meat Act	...	...	...	811	"
Total	...	...	...	45,892	

being an average of 882 inspections by each Inspector.

The total number of stock inspected was,—124,958 horses, 1,009,524 cattle, and 24,136,837 sheep. This shows an increase of 216,979 cattle, and a decrease of 20,474 horses and 1,226,100 sheep inspected during 1896, as compared with the previous year. This is exclusive of the inspections made by the Inspectors stationed along the Queensland Border.

Homebush Sale-yards.

As usual, the whole of the stock arriving at these yards were carefully inspected on each sale-day by an Inspector of Stock and the Government Veterinarian, and a considerable number were condemned as unfit for human consumption. The numbers of stock submitted to auction were as follows:—

Cattle, 111,147 head.

Sheep, 2,688,336 head,—

a weekly average of 2,137 cattle and 51,699 sheep. Compared with 1895, this is a decrease of 301 cattle and of 5,092 sheep per week. These inspections occasionally lead to the detection of stolen stock, as the Inspector's duty requires him to compare the brands and marks on the stock with those in the permits and travelling-statements accompanying them, which are filed in this office for reference by persons inquiring about stock supposed to have been stolen, and the identification of the owners of animals condemned at the abattoirs. Some of the permits and more of the travelling statements collected by the Inspector at Flemington are imperfect, especially as regards the brands and marks, and are useless in tracing stock or for production in a court of law. If, therefore, this continues, the Inspector will have to be instructed not to accept these imperfect documents, and to prosecute for non-compliance with the Act and Regulations.

Inspectors' Mileage.

During the past year the staff travelled over a distance of 212,593 miles while on duty, an average of 4,088 each per annum.

Prosecutions and Convictions obtained.

Under what Act.	No. of Prosecutions.	No. of Convictions.
Diseases in Sheep Acts	109	96
Imported Stock Acts...	7	6
Registration of Brands Acts	9	7
Pastures and Stock Protection Acts	199	175
Public Watering-places Act...	42	38
Impounding Acts	10	9
Diseased Animals and Meat Act	11	10
Total	387	341

The cases under the Pastures and Stock Protection Acts were principally against owners who had failed to make returns of their stock at the proper time, and there has not, during the past year, nor in any year since the Pastures and Stock Protection Act was passed in 1880, been a single prosecution for failure on the part of an owner to destroy the noxious animals other than rabbits on his land, although thousands of owners have every year since 1880 rendered themselves liable for neglect in this respect. The compulsory provisions of the law under which a Board can either prosecute a defaulter or put men on his land to destroy the noxious animals of which he takes no notice, although they are swarming on to his neighbour's holding and eating his grass and crops, have been a complete dead letter. The result has, in many cases, been, that while one man was doing his best to clear his land, his immediate neighbour was doing nothing, and not only was this injustice perpetrated, but noxious animals have, in numerous instances, increased and tens of thousands of pounds every year been wasted; for, without simultaneous action, no progress to speak of can be made in reducing the number of noxious animals, and it is absurd to suppose that simultaneous action can be obtained without compulsion. No doubt the number of kangaroos has been very much reduced; but that has been brought about, not by the enforcement of the law, but by the value of the skin, and it is altogether different in the case of animals whose skins are of little or no value.

Attention is called to this matter, because it is believed that if compulsion after caution was brought to bear on defaulters to a moderate extent by the Boards—and moderate compulsion can hurt no one seriously—simultaneous action would be brought about, and something like value for the money now expended would then be obtained, while the pest would, year by year, be reduced.

HORSES.

The number of horses in the Colony during the thirty-six years previous to and including 1896 was as follows:—

Year.	No.	Year.	No.	Year.	No.
1861	251,497	1873	328,408	1885	344,697
1862	233,220	1874	334,462	1886	361,663
1863	273,389	1875	357,697	1887	390,609
1864	262,554	1876	366,703	1888	411,368
1865	284,567	1877	328,150	1889	430,777
1866	282,587	1878	336,468	1890	444,163
1867	278,437	1879	360,038	1891	459,755
1868	280,201	1880	395,984	1892	481,416
1869	280,818	1881	398,577	1893	481,399
1870	280,304	1882	328,026	1894	500,068
1871	337,597	1883	326,964	1895	482,459
1872	304,100	1884	337,172	1896	484,028

being an increase of 1,569 horses on the number returned for the previous year, which is accounted for by increased settlement, more breeding, and fewer sales owing to low prices.

The number of horses as returned in each Sheep District of the Colony will be found in Appendix A hereto, as also the number of cattle, sheep, and pigs.

Breed of Horses.

Under this head the Inspectors' returns give the different breeds of horses as follows:—

	Ordinary.	Thoroughbred.	Total.
Draught	130,555	19,543	150,098
Light harness	112,696	14,240	126,936
Saddle	177,800	29,194	206,994
Grand Total			484,028

Australian and Foreign Horses Introduced and Imported.

Australian Horses—From other Australian Colonies.—By sea: 332 horses and mares. Overland: 16 stud horses and 6,550 ordinary horses and mares; total, 6,566.

Foreign Horses—From Foreign Countries (including Great Britain and Ireland).—During the year 20 horses were imported into the Colony from England and other countries, and were subjected to the prescribed quarantine of fourteen days in Sydney (except in the case of two lots which arrived without the necessary certificates, when an additional term of fourteen days was imposed, in accordance with Sub-Clause 3 of Regulation No. 33 under Imported Stock Acts) before being allowed to go inland. Particulars as to number and breed of these horses are as follows:—

Name of Importer.	Address.	Where Imported from.	Breeds.				Total.
			Thoroughbred.		Arabs.		
			Horses.	Mares.	Horses.	Mares.	
J. Brown	Bowenfels	England	1	...	...	...	1
S. Hordern	Haymarket, Sydney	"	3	2	...	...	5
H. C. White	Havilah, Mudgee	"	1	...	...	...	1
James Tulloch	Botany	India	...	...	2	...	2
G. W. Cotgrave	St. Mary's near Penrith	"	...	...	2	...	2
V. Dowling	Laue, Mudgee	"	...	...	2	...	2
E. Johns	Wollongough	"	...	1	2	...	3
F. Flynn	Surry Hills, Sydney	Noumea	1	...	...	...	1
T. Payten	Randwick	San Francisco	1	...	...	...	1
L. Broyman	Sydney	Germany	2	...	...	...	2
		Total	9	2	7	2	20

Horses fit for Sale, and number Exported, Improvement, &c.

In the several districts of the Colony, Inspectors' reports show that there are 22,254 draught, 23,934 light harness, and 38,769 saddle horses fit for market, while of this number 20,091 are considered suitable for requirements of India and China.

During the year 8,212 horses were exported, principally to India, Western Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Victoria, and the Straits Settlements. Reports from thirty-eight districts say that the horses are improving in quality.

In twenty districts there is no improvement in the quality of the horses, while in seven districts they are reported as deteriorating.

Tax on Stallions.

A tax on stallions is still asked for by owners, and in the interest of horse-breeding generally I think this is highly desirable. Owners also recommend establishment of stud farms by the Government, and leasing stallions to small farmers. Stallions should be registered and owners compelled to report deaths from unknown causes to Inspectors.

Blindness in Horses.

No outbreak of this disease has occurred during the year, even in those districts in which it was at one time very prevalent. This is accounted for by the dryness of the season.

Mr. Veterinary-Surgeon Robinson, after investigating this ailment, came to the conclusion that it was caused by parasites, and prescribed accordingly. His prescriptions, when properly administered, proved successful, and as there may be a recurrence of the disease with wet seasons his prescriptions are here given.

Vermifuge.

Arsenic—5 grains, carefully mixed in (say) 3lb. bran, and give three doses to each horse at intervals of one week between each dose—each horse to receive 5 grains in each dose; or

Turps and Linsced Oil { 3 draughts for each horse at intervals of one week between } 1 pint linseed oil.
 each draught. } 2 oz. turps.

Tonic.

To follow the vermifuge if the disease has been allowed to make considerable progress:—

Black antimony	2 drams	} 1 dose.
Tart emetic	...	...	...	...	...	1 dram
Sulphate of iron	...	...	...	...	...	3 drams
Common salt	...	...	...	...	...	½ oz.
Powdered sulphur	...	...	...	...	...	½ "

Dose to each horse at intervals of three days for three weeks, to be given in chaff or bran damped.

In the localities in which the horses are attacked, licks of salt and sulphur should be provided for them in troughs in the paddocks, and the horses could be enticed to the licks by a little bran and chaff.

Australian String-halt in Horses.

The horses in nine districts are reported as having been affected with this ailment during the year, more particularly those in the districts of Braidwood and Goulburn.

Mr. Inspector Mater of Braidwood, states that about 5 per cent. of the horses in his district were affected in the early part of the year, and that various remedies were tried but with very little good effect. The majority of the horses, however, recovered when the spring set in.

Mr. Chief Veterinary-Inspector Stanley considers this a parasitical disease and is of opinion that the curative treatment is to expel the parasites by the administration of anthelmintics, and dose after dose may be required for this purpose. It is necessary to remember that brood after brood have to be poisoned; and that when they are ensconced in a living being, whose tissues are also liable to suffer from the introduction of drastic drugs, it is impossible to effect our object without perseverance; and to prevent re-infection it is advisable to move the patients to a sound paddock or, better still, into a yard or stable, to feed liberally, and also constantly supply salt with their food.

Prevention.

Preventive measures, I consider, are very important. With this object, avoid putting an affected animal into a paddock at all favourable for the development of worms. Infected paddocks should not be used by horses, even temporarily; half an hour's grazing may effect them, especially during the spring and autumn. The first grass after summer will scour animals, and has been known to cure them, because at that season the parasites are prepared for exit. Microscopical examination shows one affected animal introduced, though he may be eventually cured, means later on (all circumstances being favourable) a hot-bed of infection for future tenants of the paddock.

Mr. Veterinary-Surgeon Robinson is of the same opinion as to the nature of the disease, and prescribes as an anthelmintic and tonic the following mixture viz:—

Common salt	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 lb.
Powdered sulphur	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 "
Black antimony	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 "
Tartar emetic	...	...	...	...	...	...	½ "
Sulphate of iron	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 "

Doses, divided into ounce-doses and given in the feed, which may be varied by the administration of a draught every alternate day, composed of linseed oil (raw) 1 pint and spirits of turpentine 2 oz.

The skin disease (*prurigo*) is reported from four districts, anthrax or poison from one district, and influenza from one district. With the exception of the above ailments the horses throughout the Colony have been exceptionally free from disease during the year. Owners are cautioned, where their stock are not removed from the paddocks, that they should see that the pollard pellets poisoned for rabbits are small, as both horses and sheep are liable to pick up these pellets when laid large or in lumps. For treatment for influenza, see Appendix B.

The estimated losses in horses during the year from various causes, principally drought, amount to 15,591.

CATTLE.

CATTLE.

The returns of cattle in the Colony during the thirty-six years ending 31st December, 1896, stand as follows:—

Year.	No.	Year.	No.	Year.	No.
1861	2,271,923	1873	3,794,327	1885	1,317,315
1862	2,620,383	1874	2,856,699	1886	1,367,844
1863	2,032,522	1875	3,134,086	1887	1,575,487
1864	1,924,119	1876	3,131,013	1888	1,622,907
1865	1,961,905	1877	2,746,385	1889	1,741,592
1866	1,771,809	1878	2,771,583	1890	1,909,009
1867	1,728,427	1879	2,914,210	1891	2,046,347
1868	1,761,411	1880	2,580,040	1892	2,147,074
1869	1,795,904	1881	2,597,348	1893	2,155,500
1870	2,195,096	1882	1,859,985	1894	2,290,112
1871	2,014,888	1883	1,640,753	1895	2,023,768
1872	2,287,660	1884	1,425,130	1896	2,043,707

From the above it will be seen there was an increase of 19,939 cattle during the year 1896, and an increase of 675,863, as against the decennial year 1886.

The number of cattle in each of the Sheep Districts of the Colony will be found in Appendix A.

268,423 cattle were introduced from other Colonies during the year, and 45,720 exported, being an increase in the number introduced over the number exported of 222,703.

The cause of the large influx of cattle is attributed to the scare owing to the stock quarantine on the Queensland Border.

Breeds of Cattle.

	Pure and Stud.	Ordinary.	Total.
Shorthorns	60,596	653,966	714,562
Hereford	28,633	213,049	241,682
Devon	11,783	64,922	76,705
Black-poll'd	954	3,898	4,852
Red-poll'd	53	1	54
Ayrshire	4,878	26,207	31,085
Alderneys	1,449	4,744	6,193
Holstein	100	200	300
Jersey	1,875	6,643	8,518
Crosses (first crosses) ... ..	.....	959,756	959,756
Grand Total ... ..	.....	.....	2,043,707

The crosses are estimated as follows:—

Shorthorn and Hereford	304,759
Shorthorn and Devon	133,788
Hereford and Devon	59,598
Shorthorn and Black-poll'd	14,716
Ayrshire and Shorthorn	54,946
Alderney and Shorthorn	116
Jersey and Shorthorn	83
Shorthorn and Holstein	300
Unrecognisable	391,450
Total	959,756

Australian and Foreign Cattle Introduced and Imported.

AUSTRALIAN CATTLE.—Overland—21 stud bulls, 6 stud cows, 268,350 ordinary cattle; total, 268,377.

By Sea—51 stud bulls and cows

FOREIGN CATTLE.—During the year, nine cattle were imported from England, and passed through the prescribed quarantine of sixty days in Sydney, before being removed inland. Particulars as to number and breed, &c., are as follows:—

Names and Addresses of Importers.	Where Imported From.	Breeds.								Total.	
		Hereford.		Shorthorn.		Jersey.		Ayrshire.		Males.	Females.
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
F. Reynolds, Tocol, N.S.W.	England ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	..
J James, Sydney, N.S.W. ....	" ...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
S Hordern, Sydney, N.S.W. ....	" ...	...	...	..	...	...	2	...	2	...	4
Messrs. White Bros., Saumarez, Armidale.	" ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Total ...	...	2	...	2	...	1	2	...	2	5	4

Increase and Decrease of Cattle in the several Districts.

On reference to the number of cattle returned for each district as given in Appendix A hereto, it will be seen that there is an increase in thirty-two districts, which is attributed to the continued increase in dairying, additional settlement, breeding, number of owners stocking with cattle, large numbers introduced from Queensland, and effects of the Victorian Border duties.

In the remaining thirty-three districts they have decreased, some to a very slight extent and others very considerably, owing to owners selling out on account of the dry season, replacing with sheep, fewer cattle from Queensland, and less breeding.

The "Cast" of Fat and Store Cattle.

The estimated "cast" of fat cattle to be sent to market during the coming year is 297,579, and store cattle, 299,116. From fourteen districts the fat cattle are principally sent to Victoria; from three districts they are principally sent to South Australia and Tasmania; and the remaining districts supply the markets of Sydney, Maitland, Mudgee, Bathurst, Orange, Goulburn, Tamworth, Albury, Western Australia, and New Caledonia. The principal markets for store cattle are Muswellbrook, Maitland, Goulburn, and Wagga Wagga.

How kept.

The number of cattle kept wholly in paddocks is returned as 1,682,497; on open runs, 227,861; and the balance, 133,319, are depastured both ways.

Improvement and Deterioration.

In thirty-nine districts the cattle are said to be improving; in twenty-two districts they are stationary; and in four districts deteriorating. The principal reasons given for the improvement are—introduction of good stud stock; more attention and care in selection and breeding of stock, more particularly those for dairying purposes; also in culling and keeping in paddocks. The reason given for deterioration is inattention to breeding, some owners breeding from all sorts without respect to breed or quality, and using the same blood for years.

Their Diseases and Ailments.

Pleuro-pneumonia—Inspectors' reports show that this disease existed in twenty-eight districts and that the cattle on 162 runs were affected; while the other districts are reported to be free from the disease.

This disease, which was believed to be stamped out in the United Kingdom, has been detected in a London dairy, and the outbreak is attributed to a case of very long standing, where a cow had been affected and recovered, but with an encysted lung, which led to her being a medium of infection and spreading the disease. The whole herd, both affected and sound, has been destroyed.

Cumberland Disease.—From seven districts the number of cattle reported to have died from this form of anthrax is 591.

Symptomatic Anthrax or Blackleg is reported to have carried off 255 head in six districts.

Cancer and Actinomycosis.—1,247 cattle are reported to have died in thirty-six districts from these diseases.

Tuberculosis.—Cattle to the number of 5,180, suffering from this disease, are reported from thirty-nine districts as having died or were killed and boiled down.

Red Water.—From one district fifteen deaths are recorded. The disease is prevalent in certain localities in the coast country at particular seasons, more so in spring.

Ophthalmia occasionally assumes an epidemic form, and the number of cattle attacked is in some cases considerable, causing much temporary inconvenience to stock from blindness. Outbreaks have been reported from ten districts, and the deaths numbered 283.

Poisonous Plants.—From five districts deaths to the number of 432 are reported through eating supposed poisonous plants, but they were, it is believed, due in most cases to hoven, arising from starving cattle gorging themselves with indigestible vegetation.

Foot and Mouth Disease.—From latest accounts received, Great Britain and Ireland have been free from this scourge for the past year, and probably will remain so, as importation is prohibited from all countries in which foot and mouth disease exists. It has never obtained a footing in this Colony.

Tick-fever.—A statement will be found hereto as Appendix E, showing the measures adopted by this Colony to prevent the introduction of this plague, as also the measures taken by the Queensland Government to prevent its spread in that Colony.

Diseased Animals and Meat Act.

The number of cattle condemned under this Act, and the diseases for which they were so, are given in Appendix F.

SHEEP.

SHEEP

The number of sheep in the Colony during the thirty-six years ending 31st December, 1896, stands as follows:—

Year.	No.	Year.	No.	Year.	No.
1861	6,119,169	1873	18,990,595	1885	37,820,906
1862	6,558,896	1874	22,797,416	1886	39,169,804
1863	7,169,126	1875	25,353,924	1887	46,965,152
1864	9,082,463	1876	25,269,755	1888	46,503,469
1865	9,650,106	1877	21,521,662	1889	50,106,768
1866	11,644,593	1878	25,479,484	1890	55,986,431
1867	15,066,377	1879	30,062,910	1891	61,831,416
1868	16,000,090	1880	35,398,121	1892	58,080,114
1869	16,848,217	1881	36,591,946	1893	56,980,688
1870	16,218,825	1882	36,114,814	1894	56,977,270
1871	16,766,012	1883	37,915,510	1895	47,617,687
1872	17,873,696	1884	31,660,321	1896	48,318,790

For number of sheep in the several Sheep Districts, *see* Appendix A.

Increase and Decrease.

This shows an increase for the whole Colony of 701,103.

The number of sheep imported during the year was 1,010,176, and the number exported 744,578, an increase in the imports over the exports of 265,598 sheep.

In Appendix C there is a statement kindly furnished by the Government Statistician, which accounts for this increase.

*The different Breeds.**Merino.*

Combing.

	Rams.	Ewes.	Wethers.	Lambs.	Total.
Pure and stud—Superfine ...	64,185	804,317	308,308	407,661	1,584,471
Ordinary	73,858	2,238,997	1,823,030	921,466	5,057,351
					<u>6,641,822</u>
Pure and stud—Medium ...	51,807	1,274,376	586,805	563,353	2,476,341
Ordinary	122,407	6,214,828	4,326,254	2,036,437	12,699,926
					<u>15,176,267</u>
Pure and stud—Strong ...	50,606	1,417,189	667,476	564,807	2,700,078
Ordinary	83,138	3,907,125	3,262,525	1,312,141	8,564,929
					<u>11,265,007</u>
Total, Combing					<u>33,083,096</u>

Clothing.

Pure and stud—Superfine ...	12,263	194,079	172,832	81,894	461,068
Ordinary	17,513	409,830	342,621	156,450	926,414
					<u>1,387,482</u>
Pure and stud—Medium ...	17,092	383,931	203,799	120,885	725,707
Ordinary	48,762	2,987,204	1,540,945	916,357	5,493,268
					<u>6,218,975</u>
Pure and stud—Strong ...	10,708	467,379	334,210	155,597	967,894
Ordinary	24,464	1,227,227	898,675	452,600	2,603,056
					<u>3,570,950</u>
Total, Clothing					<u>11,177,407</u>
Total number of Merino Sheep ...					<u>44,260,503</u>

Long-woolled Sheep.

	Rams.	Ewes.	Wethers.	Lambs.	Total.
Pure and stud—Lincoln ...	21,044	87,009	75,587	51,799	235,439
Ordinary	23,336	146,492	157,818	97,701	425,342
		Total, Lincoln			660,781
Pure and stud—Leicester ...	6,640	78,061	103,508	50,869	239,078
Ordinary	8,210	115,461	134,951	77,888	336,510
		Total, Leicester			575,588
Pure and stud—Southdowns	439	2,405	481	1,491	4,816
Ordinary	393	4,835	2,553	1,213	8,994
		Total, Southdowns			13,810
Pure and stud—Shropshire Downs	364	3,288	1,432	1,786	6,870
Ordinary	376	5,030	3,112	2,869	11,387
		Total, Shropshire			18,257
Pure and stud—Hampshire Downs	10	20	.....	10	40
		Total, Hampshire Downs...			40
Pure and stud—Romney Marsh	2,702	3,004	600	1,905	8,211
Ordinary	402	1,000	500	585	2,487
		Total, Romney Marsh			10,698
Pure and stud—Cotswold ...	4	.....	.....	.....	4
Pure and stud—Cheviot ...	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Pure and stud—Dorset Horn	1	.....	.....	.....	1
		Total number, Long-woolled Sheep			1,279,180

Cross-bred Sheep.

Crosses of the above breeds (Long-woolled) with Merino principally.	18,527	1,060,589	934,877	765,114	2,779,109
		Total, Crosses			2,779,109

The increase of English and cross-bred sheep for the year is 386,951.

Grand total 48,318,790

Sexes and Classes.

Rams	659,252
Ewes	23,033,676
Wethers	15,882,894
Lambs	8,742,968
Total	48,318,790

Australian and Foreign Sheep Introduced and Imported.

Australian Sheep Overland from other Colonies.—Stud sheep, 5,478; ordinary, 1,000,452; total, 1,005,930.

By Sea from other Colonies.—4,246 stud sheep were introduced from the other Australian Colonies by sea; particulars of those sold at the annual stud sales are given in Appendix D.

The prohibition against the introduction of stock from Western Australia is now in force only so far as relates to sheep, and it is so on account of the existence of scab, as that Colony has not yet officially been declared clean.

Foreign Sheep.

During the year, sixty-five stud rams and ewes were imported from England, America, France, and Germany, and passed through the prescribed quarantine of sixty days in Sydney, before being allowed to be removed inland.

Particulars

Particulars as to number and breed, &c., are as follows:—

Names and Addresses of Importers.	Imported from—	Breeds.							
		Shropshire.		Merino.		Vermont Merino.		Total.	
		Ram.	Ewes.	Ram.	Ewes.	Ram.	Ewes.	Ram.	Ewes.
Albert Austin, Esquire, Wanganella, N.S.W.....	London .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Honorable T. Brunton, Melbourne	„	1	10	...	...	...	...	*1	10
Henry Austin, Esq., Bligh-street, Sydney	Germany .....	...	...	16	3	...	...	16	3
Messrs. R. B. Ronald & Sons, Nap Nap, N.S.W. ...	France .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Messrs. E. Morrison & Co., care of Hill, Clark, & Co., O'Connell-street, Sydney.	America .....	...	...	...	...	33	...	33	...
	Total	1	10	18	3	33	...	52	13

* Went to Melbourne after doing quarantine here.

The "Cast" of Fat and Store Sheep.

The annual "cast" of fat sheep for the ensuing season is estimated at 5,490,261, and store sheep, 5,517,480.

How Sheep are kept.

Paddocked ...	47,607,441
Shepherded ...	258,382
Both ways ...	452,967
	48,318,790

Condition of the Flocks.

In forty-seven districts the sheep are said to be improving, the principal reasons given being more attention to breeding, paddocking, introduction of high-class rams and ewes, more careful classing and culling.

In fourteen districts they are said to be stationary, and in four districts they are deteriorating.

Lambing.

From a return of the autumn, winter, and spring lambings obtained from the Inspector for each Sheep District, the average percentage of lambing for the whole Colony is estimated at 59½ per cent., *i.e.*, calculating the number of lambs marked on the number of ewes put to the rams. The spring lambing was the highest, averaging 65½ per cent., while the autumn and winter lambings averaged 59½ and 54½ per cent. respectively. The estimated number of ewes put to the ram during the year was 16,658,958, and the number of lambs returned as marked during the autumn, winter, and spring lambings was 9,879,677. The total number of lambs returned on 31st December was 8,742,968, giving an actual percentage of 52½, or a decrease of about 6½ per cent. on the number returned for the different lambings, which is accounted for by continued losses from the drought after the marking was completed.

The Clip.

Average per Sheep.

Lambs.—The number of lambs shorn in the grease was 5,857,382; the number washed, 535,101; total lambs shorn, 6,392,483.

Sheep.—The number of sheep shorn in the grease was 37,409,296; creek-washed, 2,793; and scoured, 2,193,011; total sheep shorn, 39,605,100.

The average weights of the clip are estimated as follows:—

	<i>Lambs.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>
	lb. oz.	lb. oz.
Grease ...	2 4	6 4
Creek-washed ...	1 5½	3 0
Scoured ...	.....	3 4½

Total Clip.

Total clip in the Colony for the year 1896, according to the number of sheep, would be:—

37,409,296 sheep shorn in the grease; average clip, 6 lb. 4 oz. per sheep =	233,808,100 lb.
2,793 „ creek-washed „ 3 „ 0 „ „ =	8,879 „
2,193,011 „ scoured „ 3 „ 4½ „ „ =	7,161,552 „
5,857,382 lambs shorn in the grease „ 2 „ 4 „ per lamb =	13,179,109 „
535,101 „ washed „ 1 „ 5½ „ „ =	719,042 „
	254,876,182 lb.

The estimated total weight of the clip as shown above is above that of the previous year by 16,906,439 lb., owing principally to the large decrease in the number of sheep and lambs shorn. The average clip per fleece in grease for sheep and lambs is higher, owing to the season all over the Colony being fairly good.

Condition of Clip.

In eight districts the clip is reported as entirely sound; in eighteen districts, from 90 to 98 per cent. is sound; in twenty-three districts, from 75 to 90 per cent. is sound; and in remaining districts weak. In a few districts only is the yolk reported to be well up. On the whole the clip was very clean. The value of the wool in a few districts was affected by grass-seed and burrs.

Exportation

Exportation of Clip.

The clip grown in the Colony of New South Wales is shipped principally to England, America, France, and Germany, and considerable portions of it is so from the ports of the three neighbouring Colonies, as well as from Sydney and Newcastle. The portions of our clip thus shipped from the other Colonies is often mistaken as the produce of those Colonies, more particularly for that of Victoria and South Australia.

The following is an estimate of the clip sent to Sydney, and also the proportion sent across the Borders and to Melbourne, Adelaide, and Brisbane for the years 1895 and 1896 :—

Port of Shipment.	1895.			1896.		
	Greasy.	Washed.	Total.	Greasy.	Washed.	Total.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Sydney	182,052,232	2,541,427	184,593,659	199,346,896	5,685,757	205,032,653
Melbourne	40,860,575	624,215	41,484,790	38,280,139	301,707	38,581,846
Adelaide	8,451,158	3,252,328	11,703,486	9,220,519	1,901,509	11,122,028
Brisbane	187,705	103	187,808	139,655	.....	139,655
	231,551,670	6,418,073	237,969,743	246,987,209	7,888,973	254,876,182

This shows an increase in the quantity of wool shipped during the year from the Ports of Sydney and Newcastle of 16,906,439 lb., as compared with that shipped in 1895.

Classing of Clip.

In thirty-eight districts the clip is reported as having been well classed. In the other districts it is not considered to have been so generally, the reasons given being, owners consider it does not pay, that prices obtained are no better, also want of convenience, sheds not large enough to warrant expense, and the difficulty of obtaining competent wool-sorters.

Wool-presses.

A great number of different kinds of presses are used; those most in favour are Ferrier's Patent and Williams' and Robinson's; rack screw and pinion presses are used. There is still room for improvement in the mode of pressing, especially by the owners of small clips.

Woolpacks.

The woolpacks used are mostly Calcutta and Dundee, of various sizes, from 4 ft. 6 in. x 2 ft. 2 in. to 5 ft. 3 in., and the weight from 10 to 12 lb.

On forty-two holdings the wool is dumped before leaving.

Sheep-brands and Marks.

During the year 1896 the number of Sheep Brands and Ear-marks recorded, transferred, and cancelled were as follows :—

Recorded.		Transferred.		Cancelled.		Total Registered.
Fire Brands ...	251	Fire Brands ...	66	Fire Brands ...	84	5,370
Tar do ...	1,152	Tar do ...	189	Tar do ...	247	20,048
Ear-marks ...	918	Ear-marks ...	161	Ear-marks ...	197	12,430
Total ...	2,321	Total ...	416	Total ...	528	Total 37,848

Ear-marking and Tattoo-marking.

In all districts the system of ear-marking sheep is now generally carried out, and the system of tattoo-marking is mostly used by owners of stud-sheep, not as yet to any great extent in the case of ordinary flock sheep, but where tried it has been found to be a good preventive of sheep-stealing.

Destruction of Wool by Tar and Paint Brands.

Buyers still complain of the destruction to wool by the use of the above materials for branding purposes; but it will be seen from the Report of the Chairman of the Wool-selling Brokers' Association, which will be found as Appendix G to this Report, that both they and the representatives of the wool-buyers in Sydney are still of the same opinion with respect to the impossibility of finding any pigment or other material for branding sheep which will be sufficiently legible and lasting and will not damage the wool. The result of this second inquiry only bears out the conclusions arrived at by reports received on this subject from the wool-brokers and manufacturers in 1894.

DISEASES IN SHEEP.

Scab.—The flocks in this Colony and in the Colonies of Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania are free from scab; and Western Australia may now also be considered clean, as no case of scab has been met with in that Colony since May, 1895. It may therefore be said with confidence that there is not a single scabby sheep in either Australia, Tasmania, or New Zealand, in which, according to the last published returns, there were. The importation of sheep from Western Australia into this Colony is still prohibited, and will be so until the Government of that Colony declare it free from scab.

Anthrax.—This disease appeared in several districts during the year, and owners are now availing themselves of the facilities offered for vaccinating their sheep, which has been the means of lessening the great mortality previously suffered by them. A statement (Appendix II) is attached showing the vaccinations made.

Foot-rot.—

Foot-rot.—Nineteen districts report foot-rot among the sheep, but only to a slight extent, the past season not being favourable to its spread. Remedies for foot-rot will be found as Appendix I.

Fluke.—Owing to the dry season this disease also was not so troublesome as in previous years, and is only reported from twenty-two districts, without any serious losses.

To prevent its spread, owners are again urged to free their land from surface water by running plough furrows where practicable and helping them with the spade. The preventives used by owners were salt, tar, and turps, sulphate of iron and Liverpool salt, and salt and sulphur.

Parasitic Worms.—Sixteen districts report the sheep as having been infested with worms last year to the extent of about 5½ per cent.; in seven districts the sheep were infested with stomach, lung, and tape worms; five districts with stomach and tape worms; and in three districts with stomach-worms.

The following results have been gathered regarding the efficacy of the various drenches and licks used for sheep for worms:—

Drenches.

Arsenic.—For the stomach and tape worms the arsenic and soda drench is still reported as the most effective, and has been by far the most generally used. It has, however, been recommended that potash, as being less severe on the lining of the stomach, should be substituted for soda in its preparation. The arsenic and soda drench is reported by several of the Inspectors as having been also efficacious for lung-worms. No authenticated information has been received of this drench affecting the health of the sheep or injuring the wool.

Turpentine.—Turpentine, with various mediums, has been very generally given for stomach, tape, and lung worms, with good results, when repeated.

Hayward's Specific is reported as having given satisfactory results where used.

Pottic's, Weaver's, and Walsh Bros.' Drenches are reported to have been used in a few districts with fairly satisfactory results.

H. C. Suttor's Drench is said to be, by persons using it, very good.

While it can be said that a decided improvement follows the administration of most of the drenches generally used, it is a fact that even in the case of the most effective the *post-mortem* examinations disclose that generally where the sheep are at all badly infested some worms are still alive; and this again, it is believed, arises from the owners delaying too long in drenching, and allowing the worms to have too great a hold on the sheep before they are drenched. The consequence is that some worms are left, which keep the sheep from thriving, and, with the introduction of fresh eggs from the water and pasture—if the weather is at all favourable for the development of the worms—in the course of a few months make the sheep as bad as they were before they were drenched. To make the cure effective, therefore, sheep which have been badly infested should, on receiving one drench, be kept as near the drenching yards as possible, and receive a second drench in the course of twelve or fourteen days after the first.

But, while licks and drenches should be provided and given at as early a date and as often as required, owners should give their earnest attention to the removal of what may be termed the contributing causes of the pest by avoiding overstocking, attending to the proper nourishment of the lambs and weaners, burning off old pasture, and getting rid by draining of surface and stagnant water, as suggested in Vol. II, part 2, of the *Agricultural Gazette*.

Licks.

It is reported that the following licks have been used with good results:—

Salt and sulphur.	Salt, sulphate of iron, and Hayward's Specific.
Salt and sulphate of iron.	Salt, tar, and turpentine.
Salt and turpentine.	Pottic's Preventive Lick.
Salt, sulphate of iron, and turpentine.	Salt and lime.
Salt, sulphur, and sulphate of iron.	

It is scarcely necessary to point out that a lick, if it is efficacious in warding off an attack of worms, is far preferable to a drench; and as owners in all but the true saltbush country are now aware that it pays them well to give their sheep a liberal supply of salt, it would add very little to the trouble or expense to give once a month with the salt some of the other ingredients here mentioned which they found from experience was to any extent effective in protecting their sheep from the worm-pest.

The following further progress report of his investigations in regard to fluke and worms in sheep has been received from Dr. Cobb:—

Department of Mines and Agriculture, Sydney, 27 May, 1897.

In accordance with the plan of previous years, work on the parasites of stock has been continued at Bong Bong, Sydney, Wagga, and Bathurst. My duties in connection with the Department of Agriculture have been such that it has not been possible to give to the subject of parasitic diseases of stock as much attention as I would have liked. Nevertheless, I am glad to say that very substantial progress has been made in several directions, notably in the preparation of the report of the work done during previous years. The additional illustrations prepared during the last few months number several score. These have been prepared with the same scrupulous care as in the cases already placed under your notice. The preparation of these illustrations entails a good deal of work—both artistic work and research work.

A recent improvement in the laboratory arrangements will soon enable me to prosecute this branch of my work more actively. I refer to the junction of the Bong Bong and Bathurst laboratories. The dismantling of Bong Bong is now practically complete, and the transfer to Bathurst will enable me to effect a very substantial saving of time.

The work already undertaken at Bathurst has yielded results that would not have been easily obtained before.

The collection of parasites now in the possession of the Department is a very extensive one. I beg to invite your attention to this matter in view of the possibility of placing it in a condition for public exhibition. Displayed in proper specimen bottles, this collection would make an imposing exhibition.

I should further mention that a considerable portion of the comparatively small amount of time I have been able to give to stock during the last twelve months has been taken up in replying to correspondents, attending conferences, and making examinations with the object of giving immediate advice in special cases of disease. In some of these latter cases stock-owners have expressed great satisfaction.

In conclusion, I beg to state that all the work under my direction has been conducted at a comparatively trifling expense.

I have, &c.,

N. A. COBB.

Sheath

Sheath Disease in Wethers.

No fresh outbreaks of this disease have been reported during the year.

Full particulars as to the nature of the disease, its treatment, and prevention, as furnished by Mr. Veterinary-Surgeon W. Scott, will be found in my Annual Report for 1895, as Appendix H.

PIGS.

On 31st December, 1896, the number of pigs in the Colony stood at 214,581, being a decrease of 7,016 on the returns for the previous year.

Seven thousand two hundred and ninety-one pigs were introduced by sea and land from the other Australian Colonies.

The prohibition which has been in force against the introduction of pigs from New Zealand in consequence of an outbreak of swine fever in that Colony has been withdrawn.

Nineteen hundred and ninety-seven pigs were exported from Sydney during the year.

Sixty-one ships' pigs were killed on board, as the owners would not quarantine them.

The latest reports with respect to swine fever shows that there has been a marked decrease in the number of outbreaks in Great Britain and Ireland during the year 1896 as compared with previous years.

DOGS.

Twelve dogs which arrived from England and other places outside the Australian Colonies passed through quarantine during the year.

Fifty-eight "ships' dogs" were quarantined during the stay of vessels in port, and three "ships' dogs" were destroyed.

All "ships' dogs" and other stock on board foreign vessels for the use of the passengers and crew are now quarantined during the stay of the vessel to which they belong in port, whether in Sydney or at Newcastle.

Four hundred and four Colonial dogs were introduced at the Port of Sydney from the other Colonies, and 335 dogs were inspected prior to exportation.

Diseases in Dogs.

Although rabies is reported as having decreased in the United Kingdom during the past year, yet the returns for that period are considered as anything but satisfactory.

TRAVELLING STOCK (*Reserves, Roads, Tanks, Wells, &c.*)*Trespass on Reserves.*

In thirty-five districts the travelling stock and camping reserves are reported as having been trespassed upon, generally only to a slight extent, and in thirty districts they are reported as being free from trespass.

From fifteen districts it is reported that 1,152,325 sheep have travelled through during the year in search of grass and water. From six districts the number of loading sheep is given at 152,502.

In the report for 1895 it was stated that constant complaints were being received of the want of grass on the travelling stock reserves, more especially in the Central and Eastern Divisions of the Colony. There they are in most cases under lease, and are fenced off from the adjoining alienated land, or are enclosed in paddocks containing very little else but the reserved land; and the tenant as a rule either "skins" the reserves or sublets them to others who do so. The result is that legitimate travelling stock suffer severely by the way for want of grass, and if they are prime fat when they start, and travelling on foot to market for even a moderate distance, by the time they reach their destination they are second, or it may be, if the weather is at all unfavourable, only third rate mutton.

If, again, they are stores, which they more frequently are, they would, although in first-class store condition when they started, be little else than "bags of bones" by the time they reach the run for which they were purchased, and, besides losing a considerable percentage by the way, will take quite twice the time to fatten they would have done if they had had a fair share of feed by the way. The wool also suffers, and frequently in such cases shows a decided break in the fibre, caused by the starvation.

This, so far as stock-owners are concerned, is a very serious state of things; but since the close of last year they have become very much worse, and with the continued drought a great many of the roads are now, through want of grass, completely impassable, for stock and sheep which would otherwise have travelled to where they could obtain feed have had to stop and perish. The extent to which reserves have been leased and sold has to account to a considerable extent for the losses of stock which have taken and are taking place in the drought from which the Colony is suffering, and that, too, while the greater portion of the stock which have been lost belong to tenants of the Crown. It cannot be otherwise, for as the feed on the reserves to which travelling stock have access is not sufficient in ordinary times, it can easily be conceived what the result will be when drought prevails, and two or three times as many stock as usual are sent on the road as the only chance of saving their lives.

The remedy would be to withdraw sufficient land from the reserves in the Central and Eastern Divisions from lease to meet the requirements of travelling stock in all seasons; but the mere withdrawal of reserves from lease, without providing the means for protecting them from trespass, would not bring about all the improvement that is desired. If, however, they were withdrawn, and no rent required to be paid to the Lands Department, a small charge, such as the owners would not feel, could be levied on travelling stock, which would not only enable the Department to employ a sufficient staff to protect the reserves, but would also provide the necessary funds for clearing the reserves of burrs and other noxious weeds—a matter which is urgently required.

There

There is still another direction in which I think we are entitled to look for help in this matter. I allude to the carriage of store stock by rail in the level portions of the Colony, where the cost of haulage is light, and the establishment of a system of differential railway rates in that class of country—say from Junce to Hay and Jerilderie, from Dubbo to Bourke, and Willow-tree to Moree. See Appendix J.

Marking of Travelling Stock and Camping Reserves.

Fair progress has been made with regard to the marking of travelling-stock and camping reserves, the system of which is shown as Appendix K, there being at present about 1,300 miles surveyed and about 180 miles in course of survey. The routes marked are:—

1. From Boggabilla, *via* Yetman, Warialda, and Cobbadah, to Broeza.
2. From Moree, *via* Millie, Narrabri, Boggabri, Breeza, and the Liverpool Range, to the Bulga Mountains.
3. From Walgett, *via* Coonamble and Mendooran, to Uarbry.
4. From Coolah, *via* Uarbry, to Rylstone.
5. That portion passing through Terry-hie-hie Holding.
6. From Boggabri, *via* Turrabeile or Cox's Creek, to Coolah.
7. Mungundi to Moree.
8. Along the Mara Creek from the Barwon River upwards.
9. Along the Bogan to travelling stock reserve on the Murda Creek.
10. From Breelong to Dubbo.

In course of marking:—

That from Jennings to Tamworth.

With a view of making these surveys of practical benefit to drovers, stock-owners, and others, lithographs are being prepared showing sections of the roads in lengths of between 20 and 30 miles.

Lithographs of the roads, Boggabilla to Cobbadah, in six (6) sections; Moree to Cobbadah, *via* Gurley Holding, in one (1) section; Walgett to the Uarbry, in five (5) sections; and Liverpool Range to Putty, in five (5) sections, are now on sale at the Head Office, and also at the local Stock Offices, at 2s. per section.

New Stock Roads required.

In nine districts new roads are required for travelling stock, and to obtain these action has been already taken in five districts.

New Stock Reserves required.

In eleven districts new reserves and alterations of existing ones for travelling stock are required. In fifty-four districts there are sufficient reserves; but in a great many cases the reserves are leased under annual lease, and are, therefore, kept very bare of feed.

New Wells, Tanks, or Dams.

In twenty-two districts the inspectors report that new wells, tanks, or dams should be constructed by the Government at places which they indicate.

REGISTRATION OF HORSE AND CATTLE BRANDS.

Brands registered.

The number of horse and cattle brands registered up to 31st December, 1896, was 76,683. The number of brands registered during the year 1896 was—Horse brands (alone), 255; cattle brands (alone), 358; and horse and cattle brands, 973; making a total of 1,586.

This shows an increase of 83 in the total number of brands registered during the year as compared with 1895. There is also an increase in the number of brands transferred and cancelled.

Brands transferred.

The brands recorded during the year 1896 as transferred were—Horse brands, 16; cattle brands, 23; horse and cattle brands, 104; total, 143—being an increase of 3 on previous year.

Brands cancelled.

The brands cancelled (horse and cattle) in 1896 were 178.

Addresses changed.

The number of addresses of owners changed in 1896 was 61.

Compliance with the Act.

In all the districts the provisions relating to registration and the other requirements of the Act are reported as being fairly carried out.

Benefits of the Act.

The inspectors, in alluding to the benefits of the Act, report that it prevents duffing, stock-stealing, facilitates identification, assists in recovering lost stock, and otherwise is a great convenience and protection to stock-owners.

There

There is a great necessity for an amendment of the existing Registration of Brands Act, and there is a prospect of this being obtained. It was decided at the Intercolonial Stock Conference in August last that a Brands Bill should be framed in this Colony, which, while it provided for a different form of brands in each of the Colonies to prevent the clashing of systems, would contain provisions of a similar nature for preventing the theft of stock; and the materials for the measure are now in the hands of the Parliamentary Draftsman.

POUNDS.

Number and Inspection.

At the end of the year there were 260 pounds in operation in the Colony, 37 have been closed for want of poundkeepers, and there are sites set aside for the establishment of 173 more as occasion requires. The whole of the pounds are inspected periodically by the various Stock Inspectors.

State of Yards.

Forty-three of the pound-yards are reported to be old; some require renewing, being unfit for the safe custody of stock; while others need repairs. The remainder are said to be in a fair and good condition.

Keeping and Depasturing Pound Stock.

The provision made for the proper sustenance of impounded stock, according to the reports received, is satisfactory. As a rule, poundkeepers have now paddocks for the stock.

Management of Pounds.

The poundkeepers are reported to be performing their duties, upon the whole, in a satisfactory manner, and the appointment of inspectors of stock as inspectors of pounds has had a very beneficial effect.

NOXIOUS ANIMALS.

The Districts in which the Pastures and Stock Protection Act is in force.

The Act has been brought into operation in all the districts, and during the year work has been done to the extent shown in Appendices L and M.

Receipts and Expenditure under the Act.

The amount of assessment paid by stock-owners in 1896 was £38,252 2s. 8d.; and the amount expended £35,933 18s. 8d. Five districts are reported to be in debt to the amount of £369 0s. 11d.

In six districts full rates were levied, in fifty-four districts less than full rates, while in five districts no rates whatever were levied.

During the year the bonuses paid by the Boards for scalps ranged as follows:—For kangaroos, from 1½d. to 6d.; kangaroo rats, 1d. to 3d.; wallaroo, 2d.; wallaby, from 1d. to 4d.; paddymelon, from ½d. to 3d.; bandicoot, ½d. to 3d.; hares, from 1d. to 4d.; native dogs, from 10s. to 40s.; pups, 2s. 6d. to 7s. 6d.; opossums, ¼d. and ½d.; wild pigs, 3d.; eagle-hawks, 3d. to 2s. 6d.; emus, 6d.; crows, 2d. to 1s.; foxes, 10s. and 20s.; and flying-foxes, 1d. and 1½d.

Increase and Decrease.

Kangaroos are reported to be increasing in fourteen districts, wallabies in nineteen districts, native dogs in seventeen districts, hares in seventeen districts, and wild pigs in five districts. In twenty-six districts kangaroos are reported to be decreasing, wallabies in eighteen districts, native dogs in eighteen districts, hares in thirteen districts, and wild pigs in three districts.

Number destroyed.

The number of kangaroos destroyed during the past year was 80,639; of kangaroo rats, 160,808; of wallabies, 655,309; of wombats, 112; of bandicoots, 1,879; of paddymelons, 21,791; of wild pigs, 23,300; of hares, 551,548; of foxes, 66; of native dogs, 13,138; of opossums, 7,142; of eagle-hawks, 8,810; of crows, 48,308; of emus, 4,050; and of flying foxes, 3,591.

Steps taken for their destruction.

In the majority of the districts, hunting with dogs, drives, shooting, trapping, and poison have been adopted with satisfactory results. In forty-seven districts poison has been used, mostly for dogs, with fair to best results, and from four districts it is reported that the results have not been satisfactory, the dogs being too cunning to take baits.

AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED IN THE ACT BY THE BOARDS.

The agitation for the passing of the Stock and Pastures Bill still continues, and among other amendments in the law asked for it is suggested that uniform rates of assessment and bonuses should be fixed; that bonus be paid for rabbit scalps; that assessments should be paid at the time of making returns; assessments in certain Divisions; that farmers and fruitgrowers should contribute to the funds raised under the Act; that all assessment be paid into a general fund; that the Government should contribute a higher rate of subsidy to the funds of the Boards; that Section 6 of the Pastures and Stock Protection Act Amendment Act of 1881 be amended; that Superintendents should have equal voting power with owners; that the suspension of the provisions of the Act in any district should be allowed on petition; that rabbits be declared noxious animals; that the Boards should have the administration of the Rabbit Act; and that a measure should be passed dealing with noxious weeds and plants.

LOSSES

LOSSES FROM NATIVE AND TAME DOGS.

The losses through native dogs for the year are estimated at 195,455 sheep, valued at £35,670 ; and from tame dogs 62,135 sheep, valued at £12,916 ; making a total loss of £48,586. A stricter enforcement of the law with respect to stray dogs, and the registration of dogs, is urgently required.

COMMONS.

There are now 344 Commons in the Colony, the average acreage of which is about 4,000 each.

Number of Commoners, Stock, &c.

The average number of Commoners to each Common is estimated at ninety, and the average number of stock kept on each Common at 150.

Many of the Commons are unfenced, consequently are trespassed upon by travelling stock.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Cultivated Grasses.

In thirty-one districts cultivated grasses have been sown for pasture during the year, the most successful being lucerne, prairie, and rye.

Number and Division of Runs.

The number of open or unenclosed runs in the Colony is 4,216 ; the number enclosed is 40,076 ; the number partially sub-divided is 13,992 ; and the number properly sub-divided is 22,694.

Improvements, Fencing, Dams, Tanks, and Wells.

The number of miles of fencing throughout the Colony is estimated as follows :—770,536 miles without wire netting, at an average cost of (say) £38 10s. per mile, amounting to £29,657,540, and 43,095 miles with wire netting, average cost at (say) £67 5s. per mile, amounting to (say) £2,898,997.

The number of dams used for stock purposes is estimated at 62,065, at an average cost of (say) £55 4s. ; number of tanks, 51,968, at an average cost of £140 each ; and the number of wells used is estimated at 8,405, at an average cost of £106 each.

Cost of fencing, £32,556,537 ; cost of dams, £3,426,399 ; cost of tanks, £7,274,702 ; cost of wells, £891,361 ; making a total of £44,148,999, as representing the amount expended by way of improvements, &c.

Plants and Weeds.

Prevalence.

In seventeen districts *trefoil burr* grows to a very large extent ; in five districts, to a considerable extent ; in twenty districts, to a slight extent ; and in nineteen districts there is none reported.

In thirty-two districts *variegated thistle* is reported to a slight extent ; in nine, to a considerable extent ; in eight, to a very large extent ; and sixteen districts are reported as free from it.

In twenty-nine districts *black thistle* is reported to a slight extent ; in seven, to a considerable extent ; in fourteen districts, to a very large extent ; and fifteen districts are reported to be free from it.

In eight districts the land is reported as being infested to a very large extent with *Bathurst burr* ; in sixteen districts, to a considerable extent ; in thirty-two districts, to a slight extent ; and in nine districts the land is not infested.

In twenty-five districts other noxious weeds grow to a slight extent ; in seven districts to a considerable extent ; in twenty-one districts, to a very large extent ; and in twelve districts there is none reported.

Legislation for Noxious Weeds.

Legislation is urgently required for dealing with noxious weeds and plants, more especially the *Bathurst burr*, the prevalence of which is inflicting very serious loss on travelling stock.

Cost of clearing Commons, Reserves, &c., of Weeds.

The cost of clearing the Commons of noxious weeds throughout the Colony is estimated by inspectors at £37,743 ; the police paddocks, £2,042 ; the travelling stock reserves and droving roads at £145,505 ; amounting in all to (say) £185,290.

PREVENTION OF SCAB IN SHEEP ACCOUNT.

A detailed statement of receipts and expenditure by the Department in connection with the above Fund for year 1896 will be found in Appendix N hereto, and will be published annually in the same form.

THE following is a Statement of the Boiling-down, Chilling, Freezing, and Preserving Works in the Colony and of their Capacity, and the Work done during 1896.

Name of Establishment	Boiling.		Chilling.		Freezing.		Preserving.		Sundries.	Remarks								
	Capacity per diem.	Number treated.																
	Cattle or Sheep.	Cattle or Sheep.																
Aberdeen—Australian Chilling and Freezing Co. (Limited)	200	3,000	290	18,230	200	2,500	4,465	2,851	100	1,000	1,164	203,542	100	1,500	1,887	93,391		
Albury—Meat Works (Dundas & Co.)	50	1,500	66	67,219									50	100		26,731		
Barham—Boiling-down	50	1,000		20,000														
Bathurst—Hereford Estate Boiling-down (Cobb & Co.)	50	500																50 pigs cured
Do Alloway Bank do (J. J. Sullivan)	25	300																
Bourke—Meat Preserving Co. (Limited)	150	2,500	2,537	28,258	150	1,500	1,500	21,279					150	2,500	280			
Carrathool—Stock Owners Company of N.S. Wales (Limited)		2,500		6,485		1,350		59,937										
Cooma—Bunyan Boiling-down Works		2,000																
Do Middle Flat do do		600																
Corowa Boiling-down Works (Limited)		1,000		25,322														Not in operation this year.
Darling Harbour—Geddes, Birt, & Company									160	2,000		214,000						Has storage capacity for 40,000 sheep; now being considerably enlarged.
Deniliquin—Riverina Frozen Meat Company	125	2,500		45,500							145	107,752						
Do Oddy & Sons' Boiling-down Works				125,786														
Do H. Ricketson's do do				13,423														
Do J. M. Carew's do do				22,000														
Dubbo—Refrigerating and Boiling-down Co. (Limited)	100	1,500		9,331	80	900	107	11,543										
Easton Station Boiling-down Works		300																Private establishment. None treated, as they were not prime enough.
Forbes—Stock Owners Company of N.S. Wales (Limited)		2,500				1,350												In course of erection.
Gunnedah—Pastoral Finance Company, Sydney	100	1,500	11	5,694	30	1,200	161	46,375										32 turkeys
Hay—Boiling-down Works		2,600		70,000														
Menangle Boiling-down Freezing and Meat Preserving Company (Limited), 6-Mile Point	300	3,500		8,703	60	600							100	2,000	30	10,327		Work only nominal during 1896, owing to scarcity of fat stock.
Meanna—G. G. Cloughton's Boiling-down Works				11,744														
Do John Stokes do do				22,945														
Molong—Beri Boiling-down Works	40	600																
Do Burrawang Boiling-down Works	20	300																
Do Buckenham do do	13	200																
Narrandera—Riverina Chilled Meat Works	30	2,000		1,667	30	800		15,120										Not working during year.
Narrabri—Namoi Refrigerating, Preserving, and Boiling-down Company's Works	89	2,000	195	32,085	50	500	253	3,782	40	400	19	11,725						12,000 doz. sheep tongues.
North Sydney—Pastoral Finance Co.									160	3,000	258,690							
Nyngan—Stock Owners Company of N.S. Wales (Limited)	150	2,000	247	10,323	75	900	97	4,351										
Rainworth—Australian Meat Works	100		175										150		10,066			*Also parts of 18,391 cattle
Sydney—Meat Preserving Company													875	7,500	7,603	511,311		
Do Fresh Food and Ice Company					50	1,500			250	3,500	2,267	640,648						
Tenterfield—Girdles, Birt, & Co.	50	1,000			50	500	1,422	8,321										53 pigs
Towrang—W. H. Wheatley's Boiling-down Works	53	1,000		8,700														
Wagga Wagga—Lake Albert do do		1,000		21,060														
Wentworth—Lake Victoria do do		400																Only culls treated. Large numbers purchased to be boiled at Albury.
Werris Creek—Stock Owners Company of N.S. Wales (Ltd.)	150	2,500	9	6,267	100	1,350	233	75,788										Merely station plant. Not used this year.
Wilcannia—Menangle Boiling-down, Freezing, and Meat Preserving Company's Branch.		2,500													600			3,000 rabbits preserved.
Young and District—Chilled Meat and Produce Storage and Export Co. (Ltd.)	200	2,000	15,515	30	400	20	1,158											Owing to dry season works not able to get into regular work.
Young—Pastoral Finance Co., North Sydney				771				9,101										
	2,033	40,700	19,045	589,811	1,255	14,970	9,402	258,500	700	9,900	263,283	1,077,567	925	13,600	20,350	875,760		

Total Capacity of the Works in the Colony.

Capacity for Boiling per diem—2,033 cattle or 40,700 sheep.	Capacity for Boiling per annum—609,900 cattle or 14,010,000 sheep.
Do Chilling do 1,255 do 14,970 do	Do Chilling do 376,500 do 4,492,800 do
Do Freezing do 700 do 9,900 do	Do Freezing do 219,000 do 2,970,000 do
Do Preserving do 925 do 13,600 do	Do Preserving do 277,500 do 4,080,000 do

The Live Stock Export Trade.

There appears no prospect of a revival of the live stock trade at the present prices at Home, the heavy expense of freight and forage, and the risk of loss on the voyage.

Export of Chilled Meat to London.

Some further attempts have been made during the year to send meat in a chilled state to England, but I regret to say that none of them have been attended with success.

Defrosting of Meat.

The following information under the above head is the latest procurable on this subject. It has been kindly supplied by Mr. M. Thompson, one of the directors and the Australian representative of the Colonial Consignment and Distributing Company, London.

The defrosting of meat is now an established addition to the handling of frozen meat in London. The patent, invented by Mr. E. M. Nelson, is to be seen in operation at the stores of the Colonial Consignment and Distributing Company, Lambeth, where there are eighteen defrosting chambers capable of treating 5,000 sheep, or their equivalent in cattle, and it is kept fully employed.

The process of defrosting is simply undoing the process of freezing. The operation takes as long, or nearly so, as freezing, and the cost is $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. The producer can well afford to pay this upon really good stock, as the value is increased from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.

It is obvious that to defrost all the meat under the process sent from Australia it would be necessary to have defrosting chambers equal in capacity to all the freezing establishments in New Zealand and Australia put together, and would entail the employment of an enormous amount of capital far in excess of any one firm's operations.

The expansion, however, of this part of the meat trade is the next and last thing necessary to its complete success.

Here again the necessity for exporting of only prime meat comes out in strong relief. Mr. M. Thompson repeats the statement which has often previously been made, that only real good meat will pay to defrost; and common sense tells us that this assertion will apply with double force to the appearance of second-rate and inferior mutton, thawed in the ordinary way by the atmosphere. Unless it is prime it looks anything but inviting when thawed in that way, especially if the sheep are merino.

THE EXPORT TRADE IN AUSTRALIAN FROZEN MUTTON.

Our export trade in frozen meat for 1896 (which may be said to consist almost entirely of frozen mutton) has been anything but a profitable one, and it will be well to notice the circumstances which it is believed brought about this disappointing result, and entailed the heavy losses which have been sustained by both sheepowners and shippers through the low prices realised for our mutton.

Among other causes for this unfortunate state of things, the following may be mentioned:—

1. THE LARGE INCREASE IN THE SUPPLY OF MUTTON RECEIVED INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

(1.) *The Supply of Mutton (including Sheep and Lambs) and Increase.*

The following frozen mutton was imported into the United Kingdom for 1896:—

		At London.					
From Australia	(carcases)	...	...	...	...	...	1,613,523
„ New Zealand	„	...	...	...	...	...	2,211,895
„ River Plate	„	...	...	...	...	...	245,573
„ Falkland Islands	„	...	...	...	...	...	24,074
							4,095,065
		At Liverpool, Manchester, and other ports.					
From Australia	(carcases)	...	...	...	...	...	77,883
„ New Zealand	„	...	...	...	...	...	.....
„ River Plate	„	...	...	...	...	...	1,544,989
							1,622,872
Aggregate of carcasses in 1896		...	...	...	...	...	5,717,937
„ „ 1895		...	...	...	...	...	5,053,067
							664,870

This abnormal increase had, of course, a depressing effect on the trade all the year through; but this was especially the case in the beginning of the year, when the shipments from Australia and the River Plate were very heavy.

By the end of June the increase of frozen mutton from these two sources (which may be held to be of the same description) was equal to 100 per cent. on the previous year's supply, and at the end of the year the number of Australian carcasses in 1896 was 1,691,523 against 1,005,503 in 1895, showing an increase in Australian mutton of 685,000 carcasses, or 65 per cent. more than in 1895—the average weekly supply of Australian mutton springing up in one year from 18,000 to 30,000 carcasses.

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This enormous increase was sufficient of itself to depress the market and bring about a heavy reduction of price; but when in addition to that there was a large increase in the supply of River Plate mutton to the extent of 174,000 carcasses, and what was worse—so far as our mutton was concerned—a great deal of it was only second-rate and some even third, the effect of all these circumstances can be readily conceived and the low prices realised easily accounted for—indeed, the wonder is that prices were not lower than they were; and these facts, disappointing though they be, give us good grounds for believing that if we can, as we hope to do, improve the quality of our mutton, regulate supplies, and arrange for a better mode of distribution, a much larger supply of our mutton than was sent last year can be absorbed in the United Kingdom at improved prices, the River Plate competition notwithstanding.

2. *The Mutton was of an Inferior Description.*

This might be said of it on either of two grounds:—

- (a) On the ground that it was merino and not crossbred.
- (b) The objection might be that the mutton, whether crossbred or merino, was of an inferior description.

The first of these sub-causes had a considerable share in bringing about the poor price our mutton brought, as the sheep imported were nearly wholly merinos; and in a full market merinos, unless they are prime, bring very poor prices, and are far from meeting a ready sale, except at ruinous prices. No doubt they are often in demand, as there are all classes of customers in the United Kingdom, but at figures that leave the breeder considerably less than boiling prices.

As regards the second sub-cause, there is no question but that, through the unfavourable seasons which we have lately had, a great deal of the mutton was anything but prime—much of it, in fact, barely second-rate; and mutton of any breed of that description brings a poor price even where the supply is normal; and as the merino sheep are, even when in prime condition, comparatively thin in the flank, sharp in the shoulder, narrow across the loins, and long in the legs, inferior mutton of that description suffers more in appearance than any other, and as a consequence suffers most in price.

3. *The Neglect of Grading the Mutton.*

The necessity for grading the produce for export is now so generally recognised that nothing need be said by way of advocating its adoption in the export of our frozen meat; but while that is the case there is considerable difference of opinion how grading should be carried out. There are three systems with which it can be so.

- (a) The shipper of the mutton could grade it.

This system is very ineffective, as it allows produce which may not be good enough for second-class to be put on the London market as first-class. Our produce in this way gets a bad name, confidence in our grading is lost, and even those who grade carefully and honestly suffer, and we can never under such a system expect to obtain top prices for our produce.

- (b) The Government could appoint a Board of Examiners consisting of (say) five gentlemen, having among them men with a thorough knowledge of the meat export trade in all its branches, who would examine applicants for the position of graders of meat, and grant those whom the Board considered qualified the necessary certificate; and the shippers of meat could employ any grader who held the certificate of the Board.

This is the same system as has been followed in the United States for twenty years, and in Canada for more than ten years, except that there the Boards of Trade in the States and Canada appoint the examiners; and although the system is optional in principle it becomes compulsory in practice, as the shipper who has a good article to export takes care to have it graded and is careful to send the certificate of inspection and grading with the produce; because in the case of dairy produce from the States or Canada, the want of the certificate now makes a difference of from 1d. to 2d. per lb. in the price in the United States and British markets.

This system may take a little time to come generally into operation; but it is both workable and effective—so much so that the purchasers of graded produce in the United States and Canada, if not in England, do not inspect the article they want but buy by the number of the grade.

- (c) The Government may appoint the grader.

This is the system followed in New Zealand and Victoria with respect to dairy produce. Under this system the effect of the grading would be soonest felt, and the work would no doubt be efficiently carried out; but it is questionable if those connected with the trade, either in meat or dairy produce, would not prefer the second system, as they seem to think such a system would leave the management of the trade more in the hands of those engaged in it.

4. *The want of co-operation among the Meat Companies and Shippers.*

The necessity for co-operation among our meat companies and shippers was strongly emphasised in the report which I submitted in the end of 1894 on the Meat Trade in the Colonies and Great Britain; and I there described at length the different classes of meat companies and the likelihood of their successfully combining for the general good, and especially for that of our stockowners. In doing so I divided them into three classes:—1. Graziers or stockowners' companies—companies whose shareholders are stockowners or those connected with them, and formed in their interest; 2. Agency companies, also largely formed by stockowners for the purpose of killing and freezing stock, and also in some cases shipping and selling the meat for stockowners and others in London on commission; and, 3. Trading companies which purchase stock in the colonies, which they prepare themselves or get some of the agency companies to prepare and freeze for shipment, but which also purchase frozen meat largely in the London market and dispose of it in the United Kingdom, having for that purpose a large staff of travellers and agents, and extensive cold storage accommodation.

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The suggestions I then offered with regard to co-operation among the meat companies met with general approval, and several attempts have since been made to carry them into effect, but so far without success; because, instead of confining their efforts, in the first instance, to inducing the graziers and the agency companies which were working principally for stockowners to combine, it was attempted to obtain the co-operation of the whole of the meat companies, without regard as to whether they were graziers, agency, or trading companies. The attempt failed, and no other result was to be expected, for the interests of these different classes of companies, if they do not actually conflict, are far from identical. This will, I think, be seen from the description which I have given here of these companies, and at greater length in report referred to; and there is no doubt but even if these companies had agreed to co-operate, the agreement would not have lasted any more than the partial agreement which was made by the representatives of the meat companies in London, and which was broken through in less than two months.

As I saw, this was only what was to be expected; for while it is the interest of the graziers' companies that good prices should be obtained for the meat in the United Kingdom, it is clearly the interest of these trading companies when they purchase, as they frequently do, in the London market, that they should do so at as low a price as possible; and that if they got it cheap, which unfortunately for our stockowners they have been doing, they can make a much better profit on what they purchase in London than on the meat they import from the colonies. It is plain, therefore, that the lower the wholesale price of frozen meat is in the London market, the better it may suit the trading meat companies, and that the interests of the graziers' companies and the trading meat companies are anything but identical.

It may perhaps be said that the graziers' companies are not numerous nor strong enough to have sufficient say as to how the meat trade should be conducted at Home; but if these companies would stick together as they ought, and combine not only in each colony but in all the colonies, they would be able, with the meat going from their own works and that shipped by their fellow-owners from the agency companies, to have a very large output; and then, when such an arrangement as that is brought about, and the parties to it worked harmoniously together and faithfully supported each other, there would be a good prospect of some arrangement being made with the trading companies for regulating supplies and prices; for if the combined graziers' companies were not powerful enough to dictate terms to the trading companies, they would at least be able to secure a reasonable working arrangement and to enforce its maintenance if they stick together. It is, therefore, as I have always urged, for the graziers' companies in each colony to combine and to form a small intercolonial council, to be chosen by the directors of the combined companies, who should have the general control and conduct of the trade of these companies both in the colonies and in the United Kingdom. If such a combination as that were formed and conducted with ordinary prudence and ability, it ought not to be long before there was a considerable decrease in the number of trading companies and an increase in graziers' companies.

5. The want of direct shipments and centres of distribution.

The distribution of Australian meat in the United Kingdom, as now carried out, is defective in two respects—(1) There are too few ports to which direct shipments are made; and (2), there are too few towns at which proper cold storage is provided.

(1) Direct shipments to new ports in the United Kingdom.

Although a few direct shipments have been made to Cardiff and Manchester, it may be said that actually there are only two ports—London and Liverpool—to which direct shipments are sent, the shipments to London last year amounting to 4,095,065 carcasses; to Liverpool, 1,544,989; and to Manchester, the only other port to which a direct shipment was made, only 77,883 carcasses.

There is now ample storage at both Cardiff and Manchester for frozen meat, and no doubt considerable direct shipments will before long find their way there. Provision is also in the course of being provided at Glasgow, and when it is, at certain seasons of the year direct shipments will also be made there. Hull, again, on the east coast, which is a city with over 200,000 inhabitants, and in close communication with a good many of the large inland manufacturing towns, would, if cold storage were provided, be another excellent centre of distribution. Newcastle also, especially as it is at a considerable distance from London and also from Liverpool, would likewise, when the necessary cold storage is provided, be another port to which direct shipments might be sent. It might also, perhaps, by-and-by, be found practicable, if the necessary storage were provided, to ship direct to Leith, as both Edinburgh and Dundee could be supplied from that port.

(2) The provision for cold storage in the United Kingdom is insufficient.

There is cold storage accommodation at several of the inland cities in the United Kingdom, and some is in the course of being constructed, but a good deal more will have to be provided if the requirements of our trade in perishable produce are to be fully met.

Before such a trade can be established in any of the great centres of population there, it will be necessary to assure those who are inclined to take up the sale and distribution of our produce that they can thoroughly depend upon obtaining a steady supply of really good produce; and this guarantee cannot possibly be given without ample cold storage as well as regular supplies from the colonies of first-class meat, butter, fruit, &c.

In addition to the towns to which direct shipments are suggested, I believe that it would pay to erect cold stores at the following towns, each of which have more than 200,000 inhabitants:—Birmingham, Bradford, Leeds, Nottingham, Salford, and Sheffield.

Wherever provision such as I have described is made for the trade, and a full supply of really good Australian meat is always on hand at a reasonable price, there is no question but an extensive wholesale paying trade would be established, for there are plenty of people ready to go into the retail trade so soon as they are satisfied that they can obtain a constant supply of good meat; and this, the erection of cold stores in the large centres of population, would go a very long way to guarantee, if the graziers' companies would work together as here suggested, nor would there then be any occasion for our entering on the very risky, and what it is feared very unprofitable, undertaking of opening, as some propose, shops, and retailing our meat in England and Scotland.

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These suggestions in regard to direct shipments and additional cool storage are made on the understanding that the shipments would not be confined to frozen meat, but that butter, cheese, fruit, game, and other perishable produce would also reap the benefits of these improvements.

6. *Advance Contracts for Freight.*

These contracts, which had in several instances been made for long periods in advance, where space was comparatively scarce, had an injurious effect on the Home market; for where cargo became scarce through those in the trade ceasing to ship on account of the low prices at Home, and the difficulty of obtaining prime sheep through the unfavourable season, the companies which had made these contracts had to go into the market and purchase, and as the drought continued they were frequently unable to obtain good sheep, and had to take second-rate sheep to fill the space they had engaged, thereby adding to the glut of second-class mutton, and intensifying the depression.

Freights are now much lower (they can be got at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.), and it is expected that they will be even lower at times, as considerable additions are being made to the vessels in the frozen meat trade, which will prove a most important boon to our stockowners.

THE EDIBLE FAT AND MEAT EXTRACT COMPANY (LIMITED).

Since last report a company, styling itself the Edible Fat and Meat Extract Company (Limited), has erected works at Belmore, about 10 miles out of Sydney, for the manufacture of meat extract by a new process. It commenced operations in November last, and has purchased to date, at Homebush, upwards of 130,000 sheep, and at present operates upon about 7,000 weekly. In addition to the whole of the fat contained in the carcasses (as much, if not more, fat is got by this process than by boiling), about 10½ oz. of extract per head has been obtained from the sheep treated, and these results being considered satisfactory it is proposed to extend the works.

The process is simple, speedy, and effective, and is briefly as follows:—The carcasses are boned and the meat is reduced to a mince, which is subjected to just sufficient heat to liberate the meat essence. The mince is then put into canvass wrappers, which are placed in powerful hydraulic presses, and the liquid expressed is allowed to settle. The meat essence is then drawn off, and the excess of water evaporated from it. The fatty liquid passes into refiners to be further clarified. The products are said to be of superior quality to those manufactured in any other way, and the cost of treatment is very little more than for boiling down.

The Meat Extract Patents Proprietary Company (Limited), O'Connell-street, Sydney, have secured the patent rights throughout the world, and have already arranged with several Queensland companies to erect works.

CROSSBREDS ON THE BATHURST EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

I have in previous Reports strongly urged those owners in the more temperate and cooler portions of the Colony, whose holdings are adapted for crossbreds, to put British rams to a portion of their merino ewes, and grow cultivated food, especially lucerne, to make the sheep prime at an early age; and those owners are now referred to Appendix O to this Report, in which they will find an interesting object lesson in the shape of a statement, giving the result of the experiments in cross-breeding, so far as they have gone, on the Bathurst Experimental Farm, at the instance of the Honorable the Minister, Mr. Sydney Smith.

The result is thus referred to by the *Stock and Station Journal* of 21st May last:—

In our issue of the 27th ult. we gave an account of the crossbred fat sheep from the Bathurst Experimental Farm, exhibited as non-competitive at the recent Metropolitan Show, which had been bred in the course of the experiments which are being carried out at the instance of the Minister for Mines and Agriculture, the Hon. Sydney Smith, for the purpose of settling which of the English breeds of sheep should be mated for crossing purposes with our merino ewes. We gave a full description of the sheep and the weights of the different crosses. Since then their skins have been felled and prepared by Messrs. Wright and Abbott, of the Lakeside Wool Scouring Works, Botany, and a joint report—in which the scourers were complimented for the manner in which the samples were treated—was kindly furnished by Mr. H. G. Holt, of Messrs. Hinchcliffe, Holt, & Co., and Mr. S. Nettleton, of Messrs. Laycock, Nettleton and Co., wool experts of this city, on the relative value in this market of the wool of the different crosses. Taking the particulars contained in their report, and those contained in our previous account of these sheep, we now present our readers with the following tabulated statement, based, of course, on estimates which it is considered are rather under than over stated, which show that these sheep, which were not more than seventeen months old, weighed very nearly 60 lb. each prime mutton, and would likely give a clear net average return, after deducting cost of slaughtering, shipping, freight, and all charges here and in London, of 13s. 11½d. each, and the lambs only a trifle less—prices which speak for themselves, and which, if realised, should lead our owners to freeze and ship only crossbreds, and crossbreds that are really prime.

APPENDIX A.
RETURN of Stock in the several Sheep Districts.

Districts.	Year 1895.					Year 1896.				
	Acrcage.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Acrcage.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Albury	887,296	7,086	17,106	767,797	.....	888,100	7,089	17,377	722,239	.....
Armidale	3,177,687	12,478	92,206	1,131,017	.....	3,295,908	13,049	101,788	1,361,337	.....
Batramald	3,696,576	2,357	3,845	589,682	.....	3,852,652	2,051	3,041	512,651	.....
Bathurst	1,447,867	14,818	43,351	527,112	.....	1,162,485	14,594	41,205	679,833	.....
Berrima	266,841	3,870	27,061	43,313	.....	252,278	4,011	28,174	46,729	.....
Bombala	557,058	3,357	19,014	387,861	.....	610,247	2,824	16,475	349,133	.....
Bourke	8,167,120	7,480	12,544	1,508,639	.....	8,445,026	7,728	15,139	1,965,735	.....
Braidwood	390,304	5,113	38,570	56,379	.....	415,115	4,804	36,753	63,094	.....
Brewarrina	3,715,447	4,924	11,177	1,155,968	.....	3,490,660	4,983	9,265	1,003,892	.....
Broulee	266,890	3,183	28,424	1,322	.....	306,271	3,189	29,584	928	.....
Cannonbar	3,522,332	6,619	22,454	1,157,629	.....	3,529,632	5,878	19,119	1,335,594	.....
Carcoar	1,058,182	7,970	22,885	678,635	.....	1,056,173	7,795	21,521	781,930	.....
Casino	1,308,360	9,426	135,289	933	.....	1,537,545	9,555	142,520	721	.....
Cobar	6,537,654	2,705	5,353	1,001,888	.....	6,691,328	3,043	7,646	1,007,253	.....
Condobolin	4,992,517	5,105	9,841	1,346,368	.....	4,765,511	4,777	8,947	1,278,802	.....
Cooma	1,634,061	9,234	48,161	724,341	.....	1,700,325	8,697	47,495	885,552	.....
Coonabarabran	3,487,595	5,816	14,156	986,128	.....	3,400,577	6,139	16,084	1,012,088	.....
Coonambie	2,783,279	7,131	19,484	1,675,505	.....	2,800,676	7,574	21,232	1,769,035	.....
Corowa	706,820	3,907	6,606	707,210	.....	793,783	4,653	6,613	651,843	.....
Deniliquin	2,218,100	6,091	13,301	1,309,882	.....	2,214,570	6,261	11,742	1,138,859	.....
Denman	303,355	4,022	27,354	32,451	.....	318,282	4,356	31,548	32,642	.....
Dubbo	3,456,206	14,333	30,249	1,956,102	.....	3,188,635	13,516	27,012	1,862,524	.....
Eden	455,395	4,069	47,891	2,093	.....	476,834	4,111	48,839	2,068	.....
Forbes	2,756,989	11,108	27,948	1,739,497	.....	2,732,596	11,022	27,460	1,604,086	.....
Glen Innes	2,086,654	13,307	90,703	520,745	.....	2,133,686	13,286	87,195	742,972	.....
Goulburn	940,668	9,123	53,900	225,617	.....	977,254	9,378	43,531	286,665	.....
Grafton	883,494	16,903	70,769	1,832	.....	853,782	15,566	72,171	1,756	.....
Gundagai	1,287,909	10,220	45,593	968,640	.....	1,102,823	9,245	43,926	927,769	.....
Hay	3,947,857	6,734	7,519	1,608,722	.....	4,378,739	6,462	7,854	1,491,889	.....
Hillston	3,797,071	3,141	4,602	750,553	.....	3,687,217	2,874	3,820	734,516	.....
Hume	1,167,165	5,650	28,923	600,518	.....	1,197,394	5,882	29,599	662,914	.....
Ivanhoe	5,470,931	1,910	2,272	740,703	.....	5,405,346	1,832	2,211	791,231	.....
Jerilderie	1,279,226	4,300	5,500	860,331	.....	1,244,287	4,750	5,150	806,100	.....
Kiama	296,469	7,242	57,449	1,704	.....	270,416	5,960	58,013	1,962	.....
Maitland	609,160	14,901	64,583	2,038	.....	679,553	16,994	77,764	3,870	.....
Menindie	9,623,806	3,903	6,466	928,836	.....	9,390,714	3,760	7,921	837,852	.....
Merriva	695,658	5,099	15,589	450,327	.....	684,294	5,097	14,141	418,235	.....
Milparinka	5,947,369	2,843	6,540	735,812	.....	6,369,750	2,747	6,786	585,276	.....
Molong	1,769,937	10,568	19,804	1,083,811	.....	1,692,140	10,453	17,496	1,067,675	.....
Moorce	2,981,351	9,378	61,268	1,086,310	.....	2,070,792	8,839	53,013	1,246,441	.....
Moulmein	1,572,993	1,566	4,924	682,409	.....	1,588,521	1,483	5,360	655,236	.....
Mudgee	1,518,996	10,987	42,269	630,808	.....	1,538,526	11,081	46,488	693,859	.....
Murrurundi	821,549	7,803	31,445	470,331	.....	832,365	8,032	36,514	503,044	.....
Narrandera	2,855,156	5,115	13,692	1,317,825	.....	2,816,307	5,438	14,678	1,284,235	.....
Narrabri	1,472,228	5,421	18,463	647,400	.....	1,276,441	5,487	17,960	667,657	.....
Pieton	215,967	3,916	24,807	2,383	.....	232,494	3,799	24,775	2,643	.....
Pilliga	1,379,070	2,732	14,532	523,709	.....	1,512,312	3,133	15,040	569,128	.....
Port Macquarie	487,825	8,842	45,632	798	.....	507,757	9,227	46,291	568	.....
Port Stephens	942,368	7,052	46,341	991	.....	599,163	7,402	48,317	1,166	.....
Queanbeyan	483,706	4,442	26,589	469,741	.....	919,568	4,427	24,393	485,554	.....
Singleton	429,428	5,701	44,751	27,396	.....	408,615	5,939	47,806	27,346	.....
Sydney	212,105	22,263	20,890	7,350	.....	212,530	21,000	19,950	6,500	.....
Tamworth	3,948,738	25,139	87,728	2,196,313	.....	4,032,620	25,861	95,393	2,602,060	.....
Tenterfield	1,608,465	7,733	61,590	143,701	.....	1,539,090	8,003	81,896	158,996	.....
Tweed-Lismore	237,266	7,293	33,142	230	.....	293,142	7,987	41,535	329	.....
Urana	972,760	2,849	5,681	811,601	.....	961,834	2,935	3,823	780,904	.....
Wagga Wagga	2,694,374	12,948	34,958	1,801,008	.....	2,701,063	13,322	34,880	1,601,998	.....
Walgett	4,916,880	8,406	18,664	2,147,483	.....	4,143,752	8,418	13,244	1,978,088	.....
Wanaaring	5,757,568	1,824	3,115	608,250	.....	5,743,275	1,982	4,008	753,393	.....
Warrialda	3,210,562	12,187	67,100	1,064,411	.....	3,250,105	12,848	69,360	1,267,468	.....
Wentworth	6,761,058	1,892	3,223	575,832	.....	6,023,878	1,795	3,198	485,604	.....
Wilcannia	10,000,135	4,653	7,803	1,228,674	.....	10,026,057	4,642	8,195	1,063,077	.....
Windsor	157,789	7,211	15,769	509	.....	196,737	7,576	16,693	866	.....
Yass	806,865	5,003	21,528	464,442	.....	754,099	4,609	17,501	507,512	.....
Young	2,210,790	12,007	42,302	1,735,791	.....	2,155,995	12,035	38,237	1,763,038	.....
Total	156,424,097	492,459	2,023,763	47,617,687	221,597	155,037,642	484,028	2,043,707	48,318,790	214,581

APPENDIX B.

INFLUENZA IN HORSES.

(By E. Stanley, F.L.C.F.S., Government Veterinarian.)

Character.

It is a contagious equine fever, due to germinal matter invading the system, producing disastrous changes in the blood, which interfere with nutrition, excite congestion, and occasionally inflammation of important organs or tissues.

The germs of this disease are always lurking about, and epidemics are due to exceptional climatic changes that have a lowering effect on the health of horses, and at the same time favour the vitality of the disease germs.

The worst cases are amongst hard-working horses in overcrowded sheds, with bad sanitary surroundings; next come fat horses; and the least susceptible are horses that are in good working condition, cleanly kept, and well-cared for. If such have the disease at all, it is in a mild form, and they speedily recover.

Symptoms:

Symptoms.

In the onset, loss of appetite, drowsy headache, pain in the limbs, general weakness; in many cases the eyelids are swollen, tears trickle down the face; there may be discharge from the nostrils, and occasionally coughing; the eye will be found scarlet and orange colour, the tongue furred, breath offensive, the heart beats feebly but quick, the pulse is small and weak, the dung is soft, and the urine high-coloured; there is a general rise of the bodily temperature.

As the disease progresses the symptoms will depend on its course, which is very variable, as the numerous names given to the disease indicate. The vital forces in many cases overcome the toxic effects and excrete the poison from the system. It is to assist this process that we have recourse to treatment.

The Treatment.

This should consist of rest, pure air, shelter from sun, rain, or wind, bran mashes, and cut green food with drachm doses of chlorate of potash, carbonate of ammonia, or nitrate of potash given in the drinking water. If the case has been taken early enough, and the surroundings are good, the fever will abate, and recovery be complete in a very few days.

Unfortunately many horses are worked at the commencement of the illness; then they are completely knocked up, and they present a variety of bad symptoms, owing to the mischief being located in individual organs, such as those of respiration, or the bowels, liver, spleen, lymphatic glands, or cerebro-spinal system. The location can only be diagnosed by the educated veterinarian, and every case should be treated to suit the nature and stage of the illness. Dropsical swellings are a favourable indication, but time and patience must be allowed for recovery. No case is cured until the horse is playful at exercise.

APPENDIX C.

(By the Government Statistician.)

INCREASE and Decrease of Sheep, year ended 31st December, 1896.

Number of sheep, on 31st December, 1895	...	...	...	...	47,617,687
Lambs marked during 1896	...	...	...	...	10,609,209
Number of sheep imported during 1896	...	...	...	...	1,010,176
					59,237,072
Slaughtered for food for local consumption (including sheep killed on stations)	...	...	...	...	2,987,944
Do for meat preserving	...	...	...	...	940,676
Do for freezing for export	...	...	...	...	1,372,373
Do for boiling-down in boiling-down works	...	...	...	...	523,279
Do do do on stations	...	...	...	...	133,819
Lambs slaughtered for food for local consumption	...	...	...	...	119,329
Total slaughtered	...	...	...	...	6,077,420
Exported during 1896	...	...	...	...	774,578
Killed by dogs	...	...	...	...	257,590
Loss by drought, ordinary mortality, and missing sheep	...	...	...	...	3,838,694
Total deduction	...	...	...	...	10,918,282
Number of sheep on 31st December, 1896	...	...	...	...	48,318,790
Increase on previous year	...	...	...	...	701,103

APPENDIX D.

AUSTRALIAN Stud Sheep offered for Sale by Auction in Sydney during the Year 1896.

Australian Stud Sheep.

	Number of Rams.	Number of Ewes.	Total.	
			Rams.	Ewes.
By Messrs. Goldsbrough, Mort, & Co. (Ltd.), on account various New South Wales breeders	21	15	.....	.....
Messrs. Goldsbrough, Mort, & Co. (Ltd.), on account of various Tasmanian breeders	1,777	34	.....	.....
Messrs. Goldsbrough, Mort, & Co. (Ltd.), on account various Queensland breeders	22	.....	1,820	49
Miss R. S. Weaver and Perry, on account various New South Wales breeders	224	22	.....	.....
Messrs. Weaver and Perry, on account of Otto Steiger, Esq., Saxony	16	3	240	25
Messrs. Pitt, Son, and Badgery (Ltd.), on account various New South Wales breeders	322	.....	.....	.....
Messrs. Pitt, Son, & Badgery (Ltd.), on account various New Zealand breeders	5	.....	327	.....
Messrs. Hill, Clarke, & Co., on account various New South Wales breeders	146	13	.....	.....
Messrs. Hill, Clarke, & Co., on account various Victorian breeders	87	23	.....	.....
Messrs. Hill, Clarke, & Co., on account various Tasmanian breeders	348	85	.....	.....
Messrs. Hill, Clarke, & Co., on account various New Zealand breeders	223	78	809	199
The New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Co. (Ltd.), in conjunction with Warden Harry Graves, Esq., on account various New Zealand breeders	204	.....	204	.....
Total	.....	.....	3,400	273

APPENDIX E.

TICK PLAGUE.

Proclamations and Crossings.

On the 25th August, 1896, a proclamation was issued under the Imported Stock Acts, prohibiting the introduction of horses and cattle from that part of Queensland north of a line following the 24th parallel as far as the 144th meridian, and thence in a north-westerly direction to the South Australian border, at a point about midway between the 20th and 21st parallels, and only allowing the introduction of them from south of that line on inspection at the crossing-places at Tullabudgera, Mount Lindsay, White's Swamp, Acacia Creek, Wallangarra, Texas, Bogabilla, Mungindi, Hebel, Brenda, Barrington, Paragundy, Hungerford, Adelaide Gate, Wompah.

Inspectors and Inspections.

Each of these crossing-places are under the charge of an acting-inspector, who again is under the supervision of the staff inspectors for the districts in which the crossings are situated, except in the case of Wanaaring and Milpariuka, when the inspectors do both district and crossing work.

Thus there are eighteen inspectors now employed on the border in seeing that the Regulations are enforced, and in addition the Customs officers and the police give every assistance on the Queensland border in maintaining the quarantine.

The crossing-places are also inspected periodically by officers from the head office. They were first inspected by Mr. Inspectors Vyner and Mater, two officials specially selected for the purpose, and later by Mr. Metropolitan Inspector Jones and myself.

At the suggestion of a deputation which recently waited on the Minister, three inspectors, two of whom are stationed on the border between Wallangarra and Tweed Heads, and Mr. Inspector Vyner, M.R.C.V.S., Armidale, have been sent to the tick-infested country in Queensland that they may get a practical knowledge of the pest.

Before any cattle or horses are allowed to cross, they must give seven days' notice to the inspector at the crossing-place, and produce a declaration by the owner and a certificate by an inspector in Queensland that such cattle are not infected.

Erection of Yards.

Yards and forcing-yards and crushes, with the exception of one or two crossings (where they are now being put up), are in use at all crossing-places, and every beast has to be put through the crush and carefully examined on both sides. If any doubt exists the hand is passed over the suspected part; and if there be still a doubt, a small-tooth comb and magnifying glass is used before the stock are admitted!

Regulations, &c.—Hides.

Regulations are in force prohibiting the introduction of hides or skins unless they have been thoroughly salted, and are accompanied by a declaration by the owner, and a certificate from an inspector in Queensland to that effect.

Present state of Disease in Queensland, and steps taken to stay its spread.

Although the deaths of cattle from tick fever in Queensland are now comparatively few, and some are of opinion that the pest will die out, the Government of that Colony are not acting on that idea, but are taking well-considered and energetic steps at all the points at which the disease has shown itself to stay its spread into the clean country in that Colony, and especially that no cattle on the northern side of the quarantine line settled at the late Stock Conference cross to the south.

Of all the points of which there is any danger of the disease breaking through this line, the neighbourhood of Rockhampton is by far the greatest, not only on account of the strong footing the disease has evidently been allowed to get among the stock, and its virulent character there, but because it is coast country, which everyone knows is best adapted for the tick, and where experience goes to show that it is very much more likely to spread than in the dry interior.

The other point of danger is the doubtful country to the north of Longreach and Barcardine, and around Winton, but where, from the latest reports from the inspectors, it would seem there are now no ticks to be seen, nor have there been for two or three months.

At both these and other points active measures have been adopted which entail heavy expense to prevent the infection spreading or coming further south.

There are three inspectors in the neighbourhood of Rockhampton engaged inspecting and dipping cattle, three in the Winton, Longreach, and Barcardine districts, and twenty-five other inspectors in different parts of the Colony.

In addition to this, the Government have constructed fourteen public dips (there are besides fifty-two private dips), and have distributed large quantities of oil.

Several requests have been made for a relaxation of the quarantine regulations in regard to districts which have for some time been and are said to be free from ticks, but it has not been considered safe, in the interests of all the Colonies, to make any concessions at present, and this view has been confirmed by the resolution of the recent Conference.

A suggestion made by the Honorable the Minister for Mines and Agriculture to the other Colonies, that Dr. Koch should be invited to visit Queensland with a view of suggesting some means of prevention or effective treatment was also considered by the Conference, and it was decided to ascertain on what terms he would visit Queensland.

APPENDIX F.

TABLE 1.

SHOWING the number and proportion of Cattle condemned out of all those slaughtered at the Abattoir, Sydney, 1896.

Description of animals.	Number slaughtered.	Condemned diseased.		Condemned or bruised or unfit for food.	
		Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.
Bulls	24	5	20.83	Nil.	...
Bullocks	60,624	569	.93	7	.011
Calves	9,528	2	.0209	1,668	17.506
Cows	11,798	321	2.71	15	.12
Pigs	64,690	2,488	3.84	18	.027
Sheep	1,159,954	120	.0103	369	.031
	1,306,618	3,505	.....	2,077	.....

Quarters condemned as bruised or unfit for food, 13.

"Cattle" means all kinds of animals killed for food.

TABLE 2.

SHOWING the total number of Cattle condemned under the Diseased Animals and Meat Act, and the Noxious Trades and Cattle Slaughtering Act, at various Slaughter-yards, and for the Colony of New South Wales generally, 1896.

Abattoir	5,582
Flemington	288
Other Sale-yards	177
	6,047
Dairies, Country Meatworks, &c.	7,508
Total	13,555

"Cattle" means all kinds of animals killed for food.

TABLE 3.

SHOWING the kind of diseases for which Cattle were condemned, the number condemned for each disease, and the proportion condemned for each disease to the whole number of animals condemned, New South Wales, 1896.

Diseases.	Number condemned.	Percentage on number condemned.	Diseases.	Number condemned.	Percentage on number condemned.
Tuberculosis	630	4.7	Abscesses	3	.02
Actinomycosis	109	.8	Hydatids	1	.007
Anthrax	3	.02	Tumours	13	.09
Cancer	81	.6	Quincy	2	.01
Maminitis	1	.007	Dropsy	1	.007
Fungoid growth	1	.007	Want of condition	6,406	47.3
Pneumonia	63	.4	Not specified	6,163	45.6
Immature	59	.4			
			Total	13,555	.....

"Cattle" means all kinds of animals killed for food.

APPENDIX G.

TAR AND PAINT BRANDS ON WOOL.

Sydney Wool Selling Brokers' Association Offices, Wool Exchange, Macquarie Place.

Sir,

"Tar Brands on Wool."

Referring to the interview between yourself and the representative of the wool selling brokers and buyers of this city, I have the honor to report that the subject matter of that interview has since it was held received considerable attention, and a large amount of information has been collected on the subject from leading pastoralists. It is at once conceded that the contention of those who have represented the matter of the loss resulting from the "tar" branding of wool is correct. Although tar is rarely used in this Colony for the purpose of sheep-branding, it is found that any pigment which will remain visible on the sheep's back for twelve months is equally injurious, and a non-injurious substitute for tar cannot therefore be suggested. The practice of so-called tar-branding is not carried on to the same extent as it has been in the past, and will probably be further gradually discontinued; but as the whole question depends so largely upon the necessities and convenience of flock-owners, there appears little more to be done than to take such steps as will give publicity to the damage caused by tar-branding, and leave owners to decide whether this is likely to be greater or less than that incurred by discontinuing the practice. It appears that as the Travelling Stock Act requires that a T (tar-brand) shall be placed on all travelling stock, a regulation specifying that this or some other distinguishing and recognised travelling brand should be placed on the head instead of the back as heretofore would to a certain extent reduce the damage to the fleece.

I have, &c.,

HERBERT CUNNINGHAM,

Chairman.

The Chief Inspector of Stock, Sydney.

APPENDIX H.

APPENDIX H.

STATEMENT showing the result of Vaccinations for Anthrax as performed by Messrs. McGarvie Smith and Gunn with their own Vaccine, and by Mr. A. A. Devlin with Pasteur's Vaccine.

Lots Vaccinated	Number of Sheep Vaccinated.	Where any Sheep dying when they were vaccinated.	Number of vaccinations, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.	Number of deaths after 1st vaccination.	Number of deaths after 2nd vaccination.	Number of deaths after 3rd vaccination.	State of Weather during Vaccination.	Remarks.
<i>Vaccinated by Messrs. M^cGarvie Smith and Gunn.</i>								
1	10,241	No	1st & 2nd	Nil	Nil	Nil	Hot and dry	
2	25,000	Very few	"	"	"	"	Warm	11,000 vaccinated in January, 1896. In 1895 1,500 died of anthrax.
3	2,100	Yes	"	30	30	"	Hot	Had fluke as well.
4	33,435	"	"	15	Nil	"	Moderate	2,000 vaccinated in 1894.
5	18,466	"	"	12	"	"	Warm	5,000 " 1895.
6	23,399	No	"	Nil	"	"	Hot	12,000 " "
7	25,694	Yes	"	8	5	"	Warm	
8	1,129	"	"	Nil	Nil	"	Cool	
9	6,193	No	"	"	"	"	Warm	3,840 vaccinated in 1895.
10	3,882	Yes	"	"	"	"	"	
11	2,264	No	"	"	"	"	Cool	
12	13,257	Yes	"	"	"	"	Warm	6,000 vaccinated in 1895.
13	9,328	"	"	"	"	"	"	4,700 " "
14	1,820	No	"	"	"	"	"	1,500 " "
15	11,692	Yes	"	"	5	"	Heavy rain	4,000 " 1894.
16	3,278	No	"	"	Nil	"	Warm	2,100 " 1895.
17	1,944	"	"	"	"	"	"	1,800 " "
18	917	Yes	"	10	"	"	"	
19	39,352	"	"	18	"	"	Hot	6,100 vaccinated in 1894.
20	4,220	"	"	Nil	"	"	"	1,900 " 1895.
21	3,120	"	"	"	"	"	"	
22	1,220	"	"	"	"	"	"	
23	8,827	No	"	"	"	"	Cool	
24	38,793	"	"	"	"	"	"	28,000 vaccinated in 1895.
25	30,000	"	"	"	"	"	Hot	
26	6,668	"	"	"	"	"	Warm	
27	570	"	"	"	"	"	"	
28	950	"	"	"	"	"	"	
29	10,200	Yes	"	3	"	"	Very hot 106°	
30	7,600	No	"	35	"	"	"	150 vaccinated in 1895.
31	3,900	"	"	Nil	"	"	Cool	
32	500	Yes	"	5	"	"	Hot	
33	23,006	"	"	Nil	"	"	"	
34	5,700	"	"	"	"	"	"	
35	11,700	"	"	5	"	"	"	
36	20,700	"	"	Nil	"	"	Very warm	
37	12,200	"	"	15	"	"	Very hot	4,800 vaccinated in 1894.
38	2,700	"	"	Nil	"	"	Very warm	
39	830	"	"	50	"	"	Hot	
40	1,085	"	"	5	2	"	Very hot	
41	1,700	"	"	Nil	Nil	"	Warm	
42	4,170	"	"	"	"	"	Hot	
43	2,140	No	"	"	"	"	Very warm	
44	291	Yes	"	2	5	"	Warm	
45	1,836	No	"	Nil	Nil	"	Dry & warm	
46	800	"	"	"	"	"	Cool	500 vaccinated in 1895.
47	11,000	"	"	30	220	"	"	3,000 " "
48	14,000	Yes	"	Nil	Nil	"	"	6,000 " "
49	14,000	No	"	"	"	"	"	
50	6,000	Yes	"	30	"	"	"	
51	3,600	"	"	100	"	"	"	
52	5,700	No	"	108	"	"	Hot	3,000 vaccinated in 1895.
53	2,100	Yes	"	Nil	"	"	"	1,260 " "
Cattle 54	1,020	"	"	4	"	"	"	500 " "
100 55	"	No	"	Nil	"	"	"	49 " "
17 56	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	
41 57	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	
125 58	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	
283								
59	12,000	"	"	"	"	"	Hot and dry	
60	4,776	"	"	"	"	"	Fine	
61	22,282	"	"	"	"	"	"	12,000 vaccinated in 1895.
62	11,164	"	"	"	"	"	"	5,000 " "
63	10,018	"	"	"	"	"	"	
64	2,149	"	"	"	"	"	"	
65	4,914	"	"	"	"	"	"	
66	11,995	"	"	"	"	"	"	11,995 vaccinated in 1895.
67	3,574	"	"	"	"	"	"	
68	6,657	"	"	"	"	"	"	
69	2,397	"	"	"	"	"	"	
70	12,374	"	"	"	"	"	"	12,374 vaccinated in 1895.
71	7,200	"	"	"	"	"	"	
72	7,281	"	"	"	"	"	"	
73	180	"	"	"	"	"	"	
74	28,614	"	"	"	"	"	"	10,000 vaccinated in 1895.
<i>Vaccinated by Mr. A. A. Devlin.</i>								
75	3,000	No	1st & 2nd	Nil	Nil	Nil	Cool	
76	3,000	"	"	"	140	"	Fine	
77	1,320	"	"	"	*	"	"	*Losses very large.
	651,056							

APPENDIX I.

FOOT-ROT.

DRESSINGS recommended by Mr. E. Stanley, Government Veterinarian. (For further details see *Agricultural Gazette*, July, 1891):—

Arsenic Dressing.

Arsenic, from 1 to 2 oz.

Potash, „ 2 to 4 „

Water, 1 gallon.

To be used in troughs for the sheep to walk through. The mixture to be boiled slowly for half-an-hour at least, till the arsenic is thoroughly dissolved.

Sulphate of Copper (Bluestone) Dressing.

Sulphate of copper, from $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to 1 lb., dissolved in a gallon of water, may be used instead of arsenic. The following healing dressings may be used by hand after the above caustic applications:—

Tar Dressings.

Stockholm tar, 20 parts; carbolic acid, 1 part; or,

Stockholm tar, 8 parts; bluestone in powder, 1 part; or,

Oil of tar, 10 parts; carbolic acid, 1 part; olive oil, 1 part.

Lime Dressing.

Quick-lime, sprinkled on a dry surface, and the sheep walked through it frequently, will be found very beneficial. Before any dressings are used, the whole of the loose horn should be pared carefully from the diseased feet. It is of the greatest importance that the sheep's feet should, on the dressing being applied, be kept thoroughly clean and dry for at least three hours afterwards. They should, therefore, on leaving the troughs, or being dressed, be passed directly on to a battened or wooden floor, if it can be got; and where neither of these is obtainable, they should be passed into a dry yard, in which there is a good coating of straw, cut grass, or dry bark taken from trees which have been rung, or, in fact, any other thing which will keep their feet clean and dry.

The following are the remedies reported by the Inspectors to have been used and the results:—

Application.	Result.	Application.	Result.
Arsenic in troughs	Good.	Carbolic sublimate and bluestone	Good.
„ bluestone and carbolic acid	Not given.	Carbolic acid	Good.
„ and bluestone.....	Good.	„ and oil and butyr of antimony	Good.
„ and lime	Fair.	„ acid, bluestone, and arsenic ...	Not given.
„ and saltpetre	Not given.	Kerosene.....	Good.
Bluestone and corrosive sublimate	Satisfactory.	„ and bluestone.....	Good.
„ and arsenic	Good.	Lime and tar	Not given.
„ and kerosene	Good.	„ and arsenic	Not given.
„ and lime	Good.	Sulphur and bluestone	Good.
„ and sulphur	Good.	Saltpetre and arsenic.....	Not given.
„ arsenic and carbolic acid	Good.	Tar and turpentine	Not given.
Butyr of antimony	Good.	„ and quick-lime	Good.
„ „ carbolic acid and oil... ..	Satisfactory.	„ and bluestone.....	Good.
Corrosive sublimate	Not given.		

Specifics.

Cooper's Dip	Satisfactory.	Pottie's Specific	Not stated.
Hayward's Dip.....	In some cases.	Quibell's Foot-rot Cure	Good.
Little's Dip	Satisfactory.	Graham's Foot-rot Powder	Not very satisfactory.

APPENDIX J.

REDUCED RAILWAY RATES ON STORE AND BREEDING STOCK WHILE BEING CARRIED IN THE LEVEL OUTLYING DRY PORTIONS OF THE COLONY.

IT would be an incalculable boon to our stockowners in the western, north-western, and northern portions of the Colony, who have so frequently to struggle with dry seasons, and at times severe droughts, if the Railway Commissioners could see their way to lower the charge for the carriage of store and breeding stock in the level portions of the Colony (say from Dubbo to Bourke, Junee to Hay and Jerilderie, and from Willow Tree to Moree), proportionately to the cost of haulage on those portions of the line mentioned, but not, of course, below a rate which would pay to carry on these portions.

I make these suggestions because I understand that on the level country an engine can take at least twice the load that it can from Junee, Dubbo, or Willow Tree to Sydney, and because I believe such a course would tend before long to greatly increase the railway traffic, by leading owners in those portions of the Colony to send their store and breeding stock by rail where they were able to reach the train, as it would then be greatly to their advantage to adopt that course, except in unusually favourable seasons.

In order the better to show what my suggestion is, I will suppose that 5,000 store sheep, purchased in the country to the west or north of Hay, have to be taken to the Young district to be fattened, and that they are trucked from Hay to Junee, from which, unless they are to go by rail at ordinary rates, the sheep would proceed to their destination by foot. In that case, if the rate charged by the Railway Commissioners were such as would induce the owner of the sheep to truck instead of travel, the following advantages would accrue to him :—

- (1) There would be a great saving of time in getting the sheep to their destination ; for, while the journey on foot, extending to 167 miles, would, travelling at the regulation rate of 6 miles a day, take twenty-eight days, that by train, including time for trucking and unloading, would not occupy more than one and a half days, and this is a very important advantage.
- (2) The risk of actual loss of sheep on the journey would be much less by train than by the road. This would especially be the case in times of drought; for with low rates of freight owners would not put off sending their sheep to the mountains, as they now frequently do, till they are actually starving, when they can get them carried at starving rates, but when a good many frequently die by the way.
- (3) But the principal benefit, so far as the owner is concerned, in trucking instead of travelling the sheep on foot would arise from the saving of condition and preventing deterioration of the fleece.

Now that the travelling stock reserves are almost all under lease (*i.e.*, out of a total of some 8,000,000 acres contained in these reserves, there are only about 500,000 acres reserved from lease, and 7,500,000 acres under lease), the waste and deterioration going on when stock are travelled is exceedingly heavy ; indeed, so serious is it that I believe it would often, even in ordinary seasons, pay owners better (if they could only see it) to truck their stock where they can do so without going far out of their way than to travel by road ; for sheep travelled for twenty-eight or thirty days by a road on which there is little or no feed, would, if they were in no more than fair store condition when they started be "dog" poor when they reached their destination, and would take perhaps three months after they did so to get into as good condition as they were in when they started, thereby losing all that time, and perhaps missing the best time of the year for fattening. It is one thing to get the sheep home in poor condition and quite another for them to arrive in good condition ; and when, in addition to this, the deterioration of the fleece through starvation and dust, and by burrs and other noxious weeds picked up by the way, is taken into account, it will be seen that it would, as I have said frequently, pay the owner better to truck, I had almost said at even ordinary rates, than to travel his sheep by road. [*See statement appended, contrasting traffic by road and rail.*]

While this is the case, as there was at one time sufficient pasture by the way, travelling stock did not suffer as they now do ; and as their owners have been accustomed to take their store and breeding stock by road, they would not at first be inclined to send them by rail, and pay cash for what they do not see an immediate return. They would, therefore, look upon the freight as an extra expense ; and it is necessary that some inducement, such as I have suggested, should be held out to lead them to truck instead of travelling their sheep on foot to their destination.

I need scarcely point out that if this suggestion, or any modification of it, were considered practicable and acted on, it would bring a very large addition to the railway traffic, and would greatly assist in extending the railway as well as promoting closer settlement in the outlying portions of the Colony, as the stock traffic is both an important and constant one, and the extension of the railways into the dry country would be the means of saving a large portion of the stock which now perish in times of severe drought like the present. How much the additional traffic under such a system would be is hard to say ; but to give some criterion of the increase which the trucking of store and breeding stock would make to this branch of the traffic, I submit the following statement of the stock traffic in 1895, as reported by the Inspectors of Stock, and make an attempt at an estimate (which no doubt is a very uncertain one) of the additional stock which would, under such a system, be likely to be trucked instead of travelled.

Tentative Estimate of Increase to Railway Sheep Traffic if suggestion were acted on.

Stock traffic for the whole Colony, as reported by the inspectors of stock,	
for 1895	24,000,000
<i>Less—</i>	
Say one-half for same lot of sheep having been reported by more than one inspector	12,000,000
Sheep which cannot reach the train	3,000,000
Sheep which leave Colony on foot	1,000,000
Sheep which are now carried by rail	4,000,000
	20,000,000
	4,000,000

According, therefore, to this tentative estimate, there are 4,000,000 sheep in the Colony not now put on the train to be moved from one place to another, which might, if owners chose, be conveyed in that way to their destination; and if this estimate is at all near the mark the portion of that number which would be in the country to which it is suggested the reduction of freight should apply (that to the western, north-western, and northern portions of the Colony) might, it is thought, be put at one-half—say, 2,000,000, plus the Queensland traffic, 1,000,000.

The inspectors' reports show that during 1895 the large stock (cattle) traffic amounted to (say) 1,300,000; and estimating one head of large stock as equal to ten sheep, that would make the large stock equal to 13,000,000 sheep; and that, again taken in the same proportion as estimated above, would make 1,275,000 sheep to be added to the 3,000,000 there shown, making the total traffic equal to 4,275,000 sheep in the dry part of the Colony which might use the railway in addition to those now carried by train.

STOCK TRAFFIC BY ROAD AND RAIL CONTRASTED.

By Road.

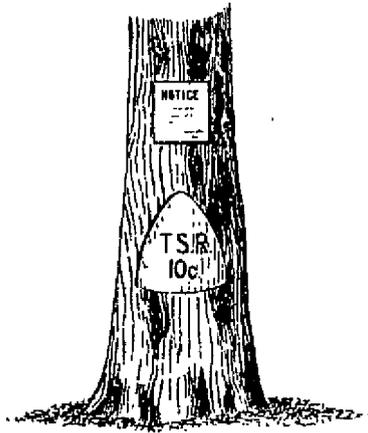
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Driving 5,000 sheep from Hay to Junec, 167 miles, at 6 miles per day = 28 days at £3 per week per 1,000	60	0	0			
Losses and deaths by the way, say, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. = 25 at 5s. ...	6	5	0			
Waste of condition at the rate of, say, 2 oz. each per day, $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per sheep on 5,000 = 17,500 lb., at $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.	54	13	9			
Deterioration of the fleece by dust and noxious weeds, and starvation of sheep—taking the fleece at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. for six months on 5,000 sheep = 13,750 lb., at $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb....	42	19	4			
	<hr/>			163	18	1

By Rail.

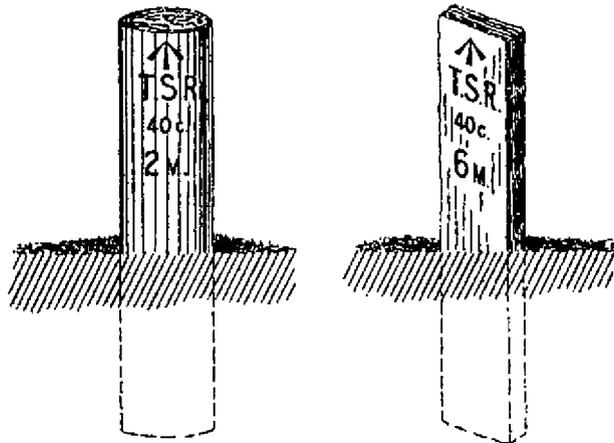
Yarding and loading 5,000 sheep at Hay on railway at 2s. per truck—say, 50 trucks =	5	0	0			
Railway freight on 5,000 sheep from Hay to Junec, 167 miles at ordinary rate, £4 7s 9d. per truck—50 trucks	219	7	6			
Unloading above 50 trucks at 1s.	2	10	0			
	<hr/>			226	17	6
<i>Deduct—</i>						
Reduction, as suggested, one-third on railway freight	73	2	6			
	<hr/>			153	15	0
Balance in favour of rail of	£10	3	1			

APPENDIX. K.

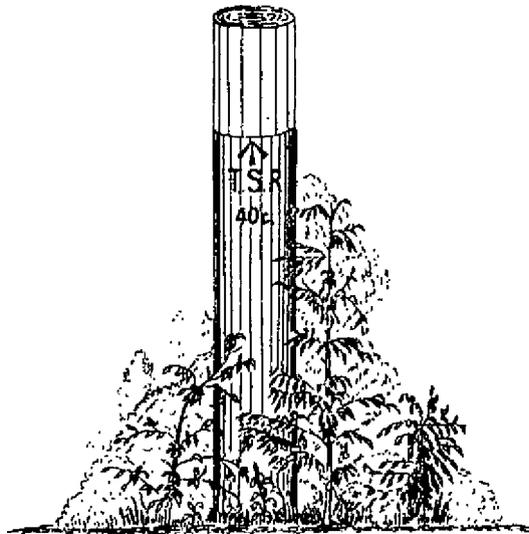
MARKING OF TRAVELLING STOCK RESERVES



*Re-marking of existing Travelling Stock Reserves.
Tree in conspicuous position as a guide post with printed notice
Position not determined relatively to traverse*



*On Plains.
Reference posts to be erected and marked*



On Plains covered with low scrub.

APPENDIX O.
 TABULATED STATEMENT REFERRED TO.
 Cross-breds from Bathurst Experimental Farm.

No.	Description of Cross.	No. of Skins	Scoured Weight.		Standard of quality suitable for making quality tops.	Wool Value, per lb.	Amount.	Pelts. Value at 4d. each.	Total value Wool and Pelts.	Value per Skin.	Deduct actual cost of scouring.	Net Value of Fleeces.	Weight of Fat per Sheep.	Value at 4d. per lb.	Average Weight of Sheep.	Value per lb. Gross net.	Value of Sheep.	Net Return per Sheep.
			Per Sheep.	Per Lot.														
1	Dorset Horn and Merino	16	1st— 33 2nd— 2 9	2nd, 56's	1 2 0 9	1 18 6 0 0 0	6 0	2 10 6	3 14	5	2 3 3	9	10 3	63	3 1	2 10 6	14 1	
2	Cheviot and Merino	9	1st— 28 2nd— 1 8	4th, 44's	1 11 0 7 1/2	1 13 10 0 8 9	3 4 1/2	1 10 11 1/2	3 6 1/2	5 1/2	2 11 1/2	8 1/2	9 1/2	53	3 1/2	9 11 1/2	13 8 1/2	
3	Lincoln and Merino	10	1st— 30 2nd— 3 12 1/2	5th, 36's to 40's	1 0 0 8	1 10 0 0 5 4	8 9	1 19 1	3 10 1/2	5 1/2	3 4 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	53	3 1/2	2 8 10	12 10 1/2	
4	Shropshire and Merino	8	1st— 20 2nd— 3 4	3rd, 54's	1 13 0 9	1 2 6 0 4 6	3 0	1 10 0	3 9	5 1/2	3 3 1/2	8 1/2	9 1/2	60	3 1/2	11 3	15 4 1/2	
5	Southdown and Merino	14	1st— 24 2nd— 2 2	1st, 60's	1 1 0 8 1/2	1 6 0 0 4 2	5 3	1 15 6	2 6 1/2	5	2 1 1/2	8	9	59	3 1/2	11 0 1/2	13 11 1/2	
6	Lambs (Shropshire and Southdown).	10	1st— 16 2nd— 2 4 1/2	...	1 2 0 9	1 0 6 1/2 0 4 6	3 9	1 8 0 1/2	2 10 1/2	6	2 5 1/2	6 1/2	7 1/2	38	4 1/2	10 8	13 8 1/2	

RINDERPEST.

IN the early part of this year rinderpest, the most deadly of all the bovine scourges, raged in a most severe form in South Africa, decimating the cattle and carrying off 80 and even 90 per cent. of them. Quarantine lines were proclaimed, a large number of patrols were specially appointed, and a great many sound cattle were destroyed to prevent the spread of the disease which prevailed over a wide extent of country, and spreading as much as 30 miles per day.

The Cape Government authorised the destruction of all cattle infected, and also all those within a radius likely to become so, compensating the owners of those not already actually affected, in sums of from £3 to £5 per head.

They also assisted owners who had become embarrassed by reason of this dreadful scourge, and authorised the expenditure of fifty or more thousands of pounds with that object.

The number of cattle dying from the disease, and slaughtered to prevent its spread, is very large indeed.

As there is no known cure for the disease, the alternative is to stamp it out, and as much as possible prevent its spread.

It was reported that Dr. Koch, the eminent scientist, who had been brought from Germany to devise some means of checking the disease, had discovered a specific for the disease, but intimation has since been received by cable that his treatment had proved unsuccessful.

On receiving intimation of the prevalence of rinderpest in South Africa, steps were at once taken to protect this Colony from any risk of introducing the disease. Not only was the introduction of all stock, fodder, and fittings from South Africa prohibited, but the introduction of stock from Great Britain or any other country or colony by vessels calling at a port in South Africa was also prohibited, and a strict watch is maintained at Sydney and Newcastle that the prohibition is duly maintained.

The other colonies have since issued similar proclamations.

[Diagram]

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

RECEIPTS UNDER THE DISEASES IN SHEEP ACT.
(RETURN RESPECTING.)

Printed under No. 9 Report from Printing Committee, 1 July, 1897.

RETURN to an *Order* made by the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 9th June, 1897, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“ A Return showing the amount of money received each year, during the “ last ten years, under the Diseases in Sheep Act.”

(*Mr. Hayes.*)

AMOUNT of Money received under the Diseases in Sheep Act.

	£	s.	d.
In 1887	16,514	9	2
„ 1888	19,368	19	4
„ 1889	19,969	18	3
„ 1890	21,723	13	3
„ 1891	24,379	5	9
„ 1892	20,663	15	1
„ 1893	16,360	14	9
„ 1894	18,912	17	11
„ 1895	21,676	17	0
„ 1896	18,644	14	7
Total	£198,215	5	1

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

STOCK.

(REPORT ON LOSS OF, FOR THE YEARS 1896-7.)

Printed under No. 18 Report from Printing Committee, 7 October, 1897

[Laid upon the Table in answer to Question No. 1, Votes No. 34, 14 July, 1897.]

RETURN of estimated losses in Horses, Cattle, Sheep, and Lambs since 1st January, 1897.—

Horses	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,506
Cattle	...	...	...	...	...	...	72,939
Sheep	...	...	...	...	4,926,711	}	8,585,123
Lambs	...	...	...	...	3,658,412		

			Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Lambs.
1	Albury	G. E. Mackay	142	519	20,024	25,451
2	Armidale	C. J. Vyner	100	400	5,000	.....
3	Balranald	Walter Dargin	200	400	55,000	10,000
4	Bathurst	G. S. Smith	120	750	20,000	5,200
5	Bombala and Eden	R. W. Dawson, Bombala	...	...	.....	.....
6	Bourke	D. W. F. Hatten	785	315	300,000	122,000
7	Braidwood and Broulee	H. L. Mater, Braidwood	100	800	1,000	.....
8	Brewarrina	Blakeney Broughton	500	1,000	50,000	150,000
9	Carcoar	C. B. King	200	300	5,000	.....
10	Cobar	J. Cotton	100	250	17,000	25,000
11	Condobolin	A. James	480	2,238	319,725	53,227
12	Cooma	C. Hudson	100	300	4,000	1,000
13	Coonabarabran	E. May-Steers	400	1,000	70,000	30,000
14	Coonamble	T. W. Medley	379	2,125	353,839	46,343
15	Corowa	Theodore Watson	350	800	110,000	100,000
16	Deniliquin	Joseph Weir	350	500	70,000	120,000
17	Dubbo and Cannonbar	R. G. Dulhunty, Dubbo	1,860	8,300	900,000	563,570
18	Forbes	W. G. Dowling	550	2,746	194,557	232,101
19	Glen Innes and Tenterfield	M. J. St. Clair, Glen Innes	264	5,226	50,576	11,070
20	Goulburn	J. L. Henderson	50	2,000	10,000	.....
21	Grafton, Casino, and Tweed- Lismore.	T. Bawden, Grafton	...	...	.....	.....
22	Gundagai	D. L. M'Kenzie	12	50	2,000	50,000
23	Hay	J. F. Kieghran	130	200	150,100	336,000
24	Hillston	T. Cadell	100	150	120,000	65,000
25	Hume	W. A. Mackie, Germanton	100	1,000	42,000	3,000
26	Ivanhoe	E. W. Proctor, Mossgiel	183	110	80,000	100,000
27	Jerilderie	J. A. T. Rochfort	200	360	40,000	50,000
28	Maitland and Port Stephens	H. J. Sealy, West Maitland	975	6,295	498	.....
29	Menindie	Joseph Wilks, Broken Hill	500	100	180,000	200,000
30	Merriwa	W. Rylie	100	300	20,000	15,000
31	Moree	E. V. Ffrench	...	...	.....	.....
32	Moulamein	J. W. Chanter	225	1,360	167,000	.....
33	Molong	E. G. Finch	525	1,225	171,192	16,200
34	Mudgee	C. J. Crocker	120	1,900	62,000	6,000

			Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Lambs.
35	Murrurundi	J. W. Brodie	200	1,500	10,000	2,000
36	Narrandera	W. J. Elworthy	100	200	100,000	80,000
37	Narrabri and Pilliga	A. H. Farrand, Narrabri	400	3,800	220,000	135,000
38	Picton, Berrima, and Kiama	J. Yeo, Moss Vale	100	1,500	1,000	.....
39	Port Macquarie	H. E. Palmer, Kempsey ... ..	...	...	.....	.....
40	Singleton and Denman	E. Alford	100	1,500	2,000	1,750
41	Sydney	R. D. Jones	250	200	.....	.....
42	Tamworth	W. D. Dowe	700	6,000	100,000	180,000
43	Urana	P. R. Brett	60	100	50,000	40,000
44	Wagga Wagga	C. Lyne	1,330	3,400	160,200	180,000
45	Walgett	H. A. Gethings	400	1,300	100,000	150,000
46	Wanaaring	T. T. W. Mackay ... ..	...	...	.....	.....
47	Milparinka	A. Gittings	40	60	30,000	50,000
48	Warialda	R. Kirkpatrick	96	150	12,000	2,500
49	Wentworth	D. A. Morgan	100	150	100,000	150,000
50	Wilcannia	M. J. C. Tully	240	250	180,000	300,000
51	Windsor	C. W. Dargin, Penrith	150	420	.....	.....
52	Yass and Queanbeyan	J. F. Turner, Yass	40	900	16,000	1,000
53	Young	R. Meadows... ..	1,000	8,400	255,000	45,000
		Total	15,566	72,939	4,926,711	3,658,412

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

(REPORT FOR 1896.)

Printed under No. 2 Report from Printing Committee, 6 May, 1897.

The Inspector-General of Police to The Principal Under Secretary.

Sir,

Police Department, Inspector-General's Office, Sydney, 7 January, 1897.

In compliance with instructions, and as required by the Police Regulations, I have the honor to submit, for the Chief Secretary's information, the following Report of the operations of the Department under my control for the past year, together with the particulars usually laid before Parliament of the strength and distribution of the Establishment.

During the year new stations have been established at the under-mentioned places:—

Bimbi	...	...	...	...	...	...	Western District.
Coramba	...	...	...	...	...	...	Northern District.
Daviesville	...	...	...	...	...	...	Western District.
Dural	...	...	...	...	...	...	Eastern District.
Geurie	...	...	...	...	...	...	Western District.
Girilambone	...	...	...	...	...	...	Bourke District.
Marshall M'Mahon's Reef	...	...	...	...	...	...	Southern District.
Naremburn	...	...	...	...	...	...	Metropolitan District.
Nowendoc	...	...	...	...	...	...	Northern District.
Rugby	...	...	...	...	...	...	Southern District.
Tooma	...	...	...	...	...	...	Murray District.
Wiseman's Ferry	...	...	...	...	...	...	Eastern District.
Yalgogrin	...	...	...	...	...	...	Southern District.

Police camps have been formed on the Parkes-Condobolin Railway Works, and at Locksley, Dargan's Creek, and Lawson during the progress of deviation works in connection with the Western Railway Line in those localities; a constable has also been forwarded to Finlay, in the South-western District, for duty during harvesting.

The strength of the Force in the Metropolitan District has been slightly increased, and additional police have been forwarded to Bullina in the Northern District, Marsden and Bega in the Southern District, Parramatta and Liverpool in the Eastern District, and Garah and Bingara in the North-western District, Nyngan in the Bourke District, and Jerilderie and Berrigan in the South-western District.

The stations at Garangula in the Southern District and Welaregang in the Murray District have been broken up, that formed at Tooma being in lieu of the last named, the two places being 8 miles distant.

122 appointments were made during the year to provide for the increases shown, and to fill up vacancies occasioned as under:—

Resignations	52
Discharges	13
Dismissals	5
Superannuations	24
Deaths	8

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*15—A

[550 copies.— Approximate Cost of Printing (labour and material), £13 17s. 6d.]

The area of country under the control of the Superintendent of Police in charge of the Southern District has been slightly increased by transferring thereto the Police Stations at Wollongough, Marsden, and Yalgogrin, previously within the boundaries of the Western District. The station at Mungindi has also been transferred from the Bourke to the North-western District. Otherwise there has been no alteration in the ten Departmental Police Districts into which the Colony is divided.

Thirteen Police pensioners died in 1896 who had been in receipt of pensions amounting in the aggregate to £1,625 10s. per annum. One widow of a member of the Force died who had been in receipt of a pension of £36 10s. per annum.

Twenty-four members of the Force were superannuated during the year, 18 receiving pensions at rates varying from £63 17s. 6d. to £470 per annum, amounting in all to £3,129 per annum, and 6 being granted gratuities upon their discharge, which entailed a further charge of £815 5s. upon the Fund.

Eight widows of members of the Force were awarded gratuities from the Police Reward Fund, amounting in all to £1,474 10s.

The pension of £245 per annum awarded Sub-inspector Cornett in 1895, with the understanding that the case would be reconsidered at the end of twelve months, ceased on the 5th April last, when it was decided that the Sub-inspector should resume duty.

With regard to the Police Reward and Superannuation Funds, I regret to state that it has been found necessary to dispose of all the invested stock, which was a considerable source of income, to provide funds for the payment of police pensions and gratuities to date. The condition of these funds being the subject of special reports to the Chief Secretary, under whose consideration the matter now is, it is unnecessary to refer to it further in this communication.

The following figures taken from the station watch-house records in the Metropolitan District show an increase of 229 in the total number of apprehensions within that district during 1896 as compared with the previous year:—

Total number of arrests during 1895	...	...	...	...	...	22,337
Do do 1896	...	...	...	...	...	22,566

There were 317 more apprehensions for drunkenness, simple or accompanied by disorderly conduct, than during the previous year.

As regards crime in the Colony generally, the numbers of cases of attempted murder and of manslaughter were considerably below the average, there having been only 8 of the first-named offence as compared with 29 the previous year, and 10 of manslaughter as against 24. Other serious offences reported all maintain the usual average.

Burglaries and house robberies were less by 48 than during 1895. Many of these thefts resulted from householders leaving their premises and property unprotected. The value of goods stolen is almost invariably very considerably over-estimated, which is proved in many instances when the whole of the stolen goods are recovered.

The District Licensing Inspector for the Metropolitan District, in his report regarding licensing business transacted within that district during the year, states as follows:—

“In 1882, when the present Licensing Act first came into operation, the population of the Metropolitan District was 243,231, and there were then in that area 843 public-houses, or one to every 293 inhabitants.

“The ratio of population to each public-house in the district steadily increased year by year until in 1894, when the total population was 421,030, and the number of hotels 797, or one to every 528 inhabitants. Since then a slight decrease has taken place, and on the 31st December last, when the estimated total population of the district was 410,000, the number of hotels was 789, or one to every 519 inhabitants.”

There were 1,163 inquests held during the year on the bodies of deceased persons, or 13 more than during 1895. In 80 cases death was attributable either directly or indirectly to intemperance.

134 inquests were held on fires, or 27 less than during the previous year. 54 were returned as “wilful,” 38 as “accidental,” and 42 not specified.

512 missing friends inquiries have been instituted during the year, 242 successfully. These inquiries, which include 80 cases reported from Great Britain and elsewhere beyond Australasia, involved considerable correspondence and research.

Proceedings have been taken by the Police on behalf of the Public Instruction Department, under the compulsory clauses of the Education Act, for neglect to send children to school, and recovery of fees, &c., in 1,598 cases, and cautions issued by them in 209 cases.

Inquiries have also been conducted in 1,034 cases for the Master-in-Lunacy, 712 for the State Children's Relief Department and Government Asylums, and 167 cases on behalf of the Superintendent of the N.S.S. “Sobraon” 816 notices were also served on behalf of the Land Board.

Complaints constantly reach me, not only from the Superintendents of Police, but from Magistrates and other country residents, of the interference with the performance of ordinary police duties occasioned by members of the Force holding so many offices outside their proper functions. I have already, in a former report—that for the year 1894—enumerated some of these offices, which have been increased of late by the retrenchment of Clerks of Petty Sessions at important places, such as Murrumburrah, Crookwell, Nundlo, Nymagee, Richmond, Berrima, Moama, Camden, &c. The duty devolving on the Police, the most efficient men are thereby confined to their offices for a great part of their time instead of working about their districts and thief-taking. I venture to think that these arrangements will not prove economical in the end, and the results may be serious. However, this matter is to form the subject of special inquiry and report.

The

The under-mentioned works in connection with buildings have been completed during the year on behalf of the Department:—

Cooloon	...	...	...	Erection of police station.
Daviesville	..	...	...	" "
Drake	...	...	...	Erection of court-house and lockup.
Fernmount	...	...	...	Erection of court-house and police quarters.
Gloucester	...	...	...	Erection of police station.
Guy Fawkes	...	...	...	" "
Jindera...	...	...	...	Erection of police station.
Junee	...	...	...	Erection of lock-up.
Maclean	...	...	...	" "
Marsden	...	...	...	Erection of court-house and lock-up.
Nowendoc	...	...	...	Erection of police station.
Singleton	...	...	...	Erection of lock-up.
Sydney...	...	...	...	Watch-house, Bourke-street.
"	...	...	...	Police Officers' quarters, Darlinghurst.
Tareutta	...	...	...	Erection of police station.

It is very desirable that more commodious and suitable premises should be provided on the site purchased for the purpose for Head Offices and the Detective Branch. When the buildings already designed have been erected, for which provision has been voted, I shall be in a position to introduce a more useful and comprehensive system of criminal record, also to provide suitable accommodation for the plain-clothes Police, for photographic purposes, and the safe custody of exhibits and valuable property; and further, to have sufficient office accommodation, which is now sadly deficient. When such premises are built I propose to make them a Police Central Head Office, where work can be carried on by day and night.

During the year a trial has been made of providing some of the Police and stations with bicycles. In some respects they have been found extremely useful in enabling the Police to cover a long route in the suburbs and country towns, for rapidity in the pursuit of offenders, and for non-commissioned officers inspecting beats. I am not able at present to pronounce a very decided opinion. Under no circumstances, however, can bicycles replace horses to any considerable extent in the performance of police duties in the country.

During the year I have found it impracticable to inspect other than the following districts:—

Western (Bathurst and Dubbo),
 Bourke,
 North-Western (Tamworth, Murrurundi, and Narrabri),
 North-Eastern (Maitland),

and then only to make flying visits, but I found the books, records, buildings, and equipments in a thoroughly satisfactory condition.

The horses of the Mounted Force especially were of an excellent class, notwithstanding the great reduction in the price paid of late for remounts.

The conduct of the Police generally has been good, only five men having been dismissed from the Service during the year.

I have, &c.,

EDMUND FOSBERY,

Inspector-General of Police.

RETURN of the Strength and Distribution of the Police Force on the 31st December, 1896.

DISTRICT.	STATION.	MOUNTED.						FOOT.				
		Super-intendents.	Inspectors.	Sub-inspectors.	Senior-sergeants.	Ser-geants.	Senior-con-stables.	Con-stables	Senior-ser-geants.	Ser-geants.	Senior-con-stables.	Con-stables.
Metropolitan.	No. 1 Head Station	1	2	2	...	...	...	...	2	7	15	58
	Central Station	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	4
	Pyrmont	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	3
	General Post Office	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Mnt	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3
	Glebe Island	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	No. 2 Head Station	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	5	10	57
	Glebe	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	10
	Redfern and Darling-ton	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	22
	Waterloo and Alex-andria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	10
	Beaconsfield Estate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Mitchell Road	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Irish Town	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	No. 3 Head Station	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	4	4	6	62
	Watson's Bay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Waverley and Bondi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	13
	Paddington and Woollahra	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	14
	Botany	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
	Double Bay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Rose Bay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Rushcutters' Bay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Randwick & Coogee	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	7
	No. 4 Head Station	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	5	6	29
	Chief Secretary's Office	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	Lands Office	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Treasury	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Balmain	...	...	*1	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	11
	Manly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	4
	Government House	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	No. 5 Head Station	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	5	5	24
	Cook's River	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Concord	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Petersham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	11
	Leichhardt	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	8
	Camperdown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
	Ashfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	7
	Enfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Canterbury	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Marrickville	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	12
	Burwood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	5
	Erskineville	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	Kogarah	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
	Five Dock	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Stammore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Summer Hill	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	Homebush	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Strathfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Hurstville	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Belmore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Croydon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mortlake	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Anandale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	
Drummoyne	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
St. Peter's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	
Helsarmel	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Rockdale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Peakhurst	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Arncliffe	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Dulwich Hill	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Rosedale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
North Sydney	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	20	
Willoughby	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	
Neutral Bay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	
Lane Cove	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	
Mossman	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	
Greenwich	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Narreburn	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Water Police	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	9	16	
Northern	Armidale	1	...	...	1	...	...	4	1	...	6	
	Do West	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
	Uralla	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	
	Walcha Road	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	
	Walcha	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	1	
	Bendemeer	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Nowendoc	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Guyra	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Glen Innes	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	3	
	Kookabookra	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Deepwater	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Emmaville	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	
Tenterfield	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2		

* Acting Sub-inspector.

DISTRICT.	STATION.	MOUNTED.						FOOT.				
		Super-intendents.	Inspectors.	Sub-inspectors.	Senior-sergeants.	Ser-geants.	Senior-con-stables.	Con-stables.	Senior-ser-geants.	Ser-geants.	Senior-con-stables.	Con-stables.
Northern— <i>continued.</i>	Wilson's Downfall .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Bundarra .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Tingha .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Inverell .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	3
	Ashford .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
	Hillgrove .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Metz.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Guy Fawkes .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Grafton .....	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	5
	Do South.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
	Woolgoolga .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Ulmarras .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Brushgrove.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
	Lawrence .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Maclean .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	Harwood Island .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Chatsworth .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Palmer's Island .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Yamba.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Copmanhurst .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	Dalmorton .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	Nymboida .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
	Lismore .....	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	4
	Casino .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Coraki .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Woodburn .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Broadwater.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Wardell .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Rous .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Ballina.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
	Woodenbong .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
	Drake .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...
	Brunswick .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
	Murwillumbah .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Tumbulgum .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Cudgen .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	
Cooloon .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	
Byron Bay .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Coramba .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Southern	Goulburn	1	...	1	...	...	2	3	1	1	3	9
	Collector .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Bungonia.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Marulan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Crookwell .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...
	Taralga .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Yass.....	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	3
	Gunning .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Dalton .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Gundaroo .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Ginninderra .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1
	Burrowa .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	1
	Binalong .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1
	Frogmore .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
	Reid's Flat .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
	Padman Creek .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
	Wee Jasper .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
	Rugby.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1
	Bowling .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	3
	Young .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...
	Cootamundra.....	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	4
	Temora .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	2
	Murrumburrah .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1
	Marengo .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
	Wombat .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
	Wallendbeen .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
	Morangarell .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
	Barnednan .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...
	Bethungra .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...
	Stockinbingal.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	3
	Wyalong.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	...	3
	Recfton .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
	Marsden .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...
	Wollongough .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1
Harden .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Yalgogrin .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	
Braidwood .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	3	
Queanbeyan .....	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	1	
Moruya .....	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	1	
Araluen .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	1	
Bungendore .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...
Tarago .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...
Bateman's Bay .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...
Nelligen .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Narooma.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Nerrigundah .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Cobargo .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...

District.	Station.	MOUNTED.						FOOT.				
		Super-intendents.	Inspectors.	Sub-inspectors.	Senior-sergeants.	Sergeants.	Senior-constables.	Constables.	Senior-sergeants.	Sergeants.	Senior-constables.	Constables.
Southern— <i>continued.</i>	Bermagui .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Mongarlowe .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Emu Flat .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Captain's Flat .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	McMahon's Reef .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Animbo .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Cooma .....	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	3
	Bega .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	4
	Bombala .....	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2
	Panbula .....	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Eden .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Candelo .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Buckley's Crossing .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Michulago .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Adaminaby .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Kiandra .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Delegate .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Nimitybelle .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Jindabyne .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Wolumla .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Wynham .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Colombo .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Towamba .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Berridale .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Bibbenluke .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Merimbula .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Major's Creek .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Eastern	Depôt	1	1
Parramatta .....		...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	3	...	16
Granville .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Auburn .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rookwood .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Prospect .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dundas .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Castle Hill .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ryde .....		...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
Hornsby .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hunter's Hill .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gladesville .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Peat's Ferry .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Woolwich .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Penrith .....		...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2
Mulgoa .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
St. Mary's .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rooty Hill .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Emu Plains .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Springwood .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Katoomba .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Windsor .....		...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
Wilberforce .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
St. Alban's .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Richmond .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Richmond, North .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Rouse Hill .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Riverstone .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wiseman's Ferry .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Liverpool .....		...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
Smithfield .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Baukstown .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sutherland .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Campbelltown .....		...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
Appin .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Camden .....		...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
Picton .....		...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
Berrima .....		...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Moss Vale .....		...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
Robertson .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Bowral .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Mittagong .....		...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Burrawang .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Wollongong .....		...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Dapto .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Fig-tree .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Bulli .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Clifton .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Helensburgh .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Kiama .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Shellharbour .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Jamberoo .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Albion Park .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Gerringong .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Nowra .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Berry .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Milton .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Kangaroo Valley .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Ulladulla .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Yalwal .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...

DISTRICT.	STATION.	MOUNTED.						FOOT.				
		Super-intendents.	Inspectors.	Sub-inspectors.	Senior-sergeants.	Ser-geants.	Senior-constables.	Constables.	Senior-sergeants.	Ser-geants.	Senior-constables.	Constables.
Western	Bathurst	1				1		3	2		3	10
	Kelso											1
	Mill Town											1
	Oberon						1	1				
	Sunny Corner					1		1				1
	Rydal							1				
	Wallerawang					1						1
	Lithgow					1		1				2
	Hartley Vale							1				
	Mount Victoria							1				
	Hill End							1				1
	Sofala							1				
	Wyagdon								1			
	Rockley						1		1			
	Burruga							1	1			
	Newbridge								1			
	O'Connell								1			
	Blackheath									1		
	Orange			1				1	2	1		6
	East Orange											2
	Lucknow								1			
	Millthorpe								1			
	Blayney					1						1
	Trunkay							1				
	Tuena							1				
	Carcoar							1	1			
	Mendurama								1			
	Mount McDonald								1			
	Cowra					1			1			2
	Cargo								1			
	Cudal								1			
	Molong						1		1			1
	Mauldra								1			
	Woodstock								1			
	Dubbo			1					3		1	6
	Wellington					1			1			2
	Coonamble					1			1			3
	Obley								1			
	Warren						1		1			2
	Dandaloo							1	1			
	Nevertire								1			
	Narramine								1			
	Collic								1			
	Gilgandra								1			
	Quambone								1			
	Stuart Town								1			
	Cummock								1			
	Peak Hill						1					2
	Trangie								1			
	Gulgong							1				
	Daviesville								1			
	Mudgee			1			1		2			5
Wollar								2				
Gulgong						1		1			1	
Cobbora								1				
Mundooran								1				
Leadville								1				
Ilford								1				
Ryistone					1			1			1	
Coolah								2				
Forbes				1		1		2			4	
Condobolin								1			2	
Grenfell						1		1			2	
Goolagong								1				
Eugowra								1				
Parkes								1			3	
Alectown								1				
Trundle								1				
Warroo								2				
Efield								1				
Bimbi								1				
Canowindra								1				
Hargraves								1				
Windeyer								1				
Locksley, Railway Works.								1				
Dargan's Creek, Railway Works.								1		1	2	
Bourke	Bourke	1			2			3			1	5
	Do North							1				
	Brewarrina					1		1				1
	Byrock							1				
	Cobar					1		3				3
	Gongolgan							1				
	Louth							1				
	Tilpa							1				
Enngonia							1					

DISTRICT.	STATION.	MOUNTED.						FOOT.				
		Super-intendents	Inspectors.	Sub-inspectors.	Senior-sergeants.	Ser-geants.	Senior-con-stables.	Con-stables.	Senior-ser-geants.	Ser-geants.	Senior-con-stables.	Con-stables.
Bourke— <i>continued.</i>	Nymagee.....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Nyngan.....	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	3
	Cannonbar.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Coolabah.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Yantabuilla.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
	Barrington.....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Wanaaring.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
	Mount Drysdale.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Walgett.....	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	3
	Collarendabri.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Mogil Mogil.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Angledool.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Goodooga.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...
	Grawin.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Tatalla.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Carinda.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Pilliga.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...
Girilambone.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
North-eastern	West Maitland.....	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	2	2	11
	East Maitland.....	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	3
	Largs.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
	Paterson.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Gresford.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Lochnivar.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Greta.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	Branxton.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Cessnock.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Ellalong.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Wollombi.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Morpeth.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
	Hinton.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Raymond Terrace.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Clarence Town.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Mulbring.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Cooranbong.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Wyang.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Gosford.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Howe's Valley.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Dungog.....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Stroud.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Gloucester.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Copeland.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Bullahdelah.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Tea Gardens.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Bungwall Flat.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Forster.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Newcastle.....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	3	28
	Point Road.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Lake Road.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Wickham.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Islington.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Tighe's Hill.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Lambton.....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
	New Lambton.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Mimmi.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Wallsend.....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
	West Wallsend.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Charlestown.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Dudley.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Teralba.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Swansea.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Catherine Hill Bay.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Stockton.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Hamilton.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Adamstown.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Waratah.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Carrington.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	
The Glebe.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	
Singleton.....	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	3	
Jerry's Plains.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Broke.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Muswellbrook.....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Denman.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Aberdeen.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Scone.....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Stewart's Brook.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Merrivale.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Kerrabee.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Cassilis.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Tinonee.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Taree.....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Wingham.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Cundletown.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Coopersnook.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Camden Haven.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Port Macquarie.....	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Wauchope.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...

DISTRICT.	STATION.	MOUNTED.							FOOT.			
		Super-intendents.	Inspectors.	Sub-inspectors	Senior-sergeants.	Ser-geants.	Senior-con-stables.	Con-stables.	Senior-ser-geants.	Ser-geants.	Senior-con-stables.	Con-stables.
North-eastern] <i>continued.</i>	Bellbrook							1				
	Kempsey			1		1		1				2
	Frederickton							1				1
	Smithtown											
	Gladstone							1				
	Arakoon								1			
	Macksville								1			
	Nambucca Heads											1
	Bowraville								1			
	Fernmount								1			
Bellingon								1				
North-western	Tamworth	1				1			3	1		6
	Do West										1	1
	Murrurundi					1			1			1
	Blackville							1				
	Gunnedah				1				1			2
	Barraba							1	1			
	Manilla							1	1			
	Nundle							1	1			
	Quirindi					1			1			2
	Somerton								1			
	Moonbi								1			
	Carroll									1		
	Werris Creek								1			
	Boggabri								1	1		
	Tambar Springs								1			
	Barradine								1			
	Coonabarabran						1		1			1
	Swamp Oak								1			
	Narrabri					1				2		5
	Do West											1
	Wee Waa								1	1		
	Keramingby								1	1		
	Meroe								1	1		
	Moree					1			1			4
	Bingera						1		1			2
	Eulowrie								1	1		
	Warialda						1		1			1
	Yetman								1	1		
	Boggabilla								1	1		
	Pallamallawa								1			
	Garah								1	1		
	Burren								1	1		
	Mungindi								1	1		
South-western	Balranald							1	1			1
	Berrigan							1	1			
	Booligal							1	1			
	Broken Hill			1					2	1	2	10
	Do North											1
	Do South										1	1
	Do (Rail-way Town)											1
	Carathool								1	1		
	Clare									1		
	Darlington Point									1		
	Deniliquin	1					1			3	1	6
	Euabalong								1	1		
	Euston								1			
	Gilgannia								1	2		
	Hay			1					1	2		4
	Hillston							1		1		1
	Ivanhoe									1		
	Jerilderie								1	1		1
	Lake Cudjellico								1			
	Mathoura								1			
	Maude									1		
	Menindie						1			1		
	Milparinka								1	1		
	Moama								1	1		1
	Mossgiel								1	1		
	Moulamein									2		
	Mount Hope								1	1		
	Oxley								1			
	Pooncarie								1	1		
	Round Hill									1		
	Silverton						1			1		
	Tareena (Cal Lal)									1		
	Thackaringa									1		
	Tibooburra								1	1		
	Tocumwal								1	1		
	Torrawangee								1	1		
Wentworth							1		1		2	
Whitton									1		1	
Wilcannia				1		1			1		2	
White Cliffs									2			

DISTRICT.	STATION.	MOUNTED.						FOOT.					
		Super-intendents.	Inspectors.	Sub-inspectors.	Senior-sergeants.	Ser-geants.	Senior-con-stables.	Con-stables.	Senior-ser-geants.	Ser-geants.	Senior-con-stables.	Con-stables.	
Murray	Albury	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	2	9
	Bowna	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Germanton	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Walbundrie	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
	Corowa	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
	Daysdale	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Howlong	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Mulwala	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Tumberumba	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
	Tooma	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
	Gerogery	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Jindera	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Culcairn	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Gundagai	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	2
	Tumut	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Adelong	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Shepherdstown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Batlow	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Jugiong	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Coolac	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Wagga Wagga	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	1	8
Junee	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	
Urana	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	
Narrandera	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	3	
Tarcutta	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Humula	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Yerong Creek	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
The Rock	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Coolamon	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Grong Grong	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
BELMORE BARRACKS.													
Constables in course of instructions, under orders for transfer, &c. 21 14													
Orderlies to His Excellency the Governor 1													
Police Storekeeper 1													
Armourer 1													
Drill Instructors, Van Driver, &c. 1 1 1 1 5 1 ... 3 1													
DETECTIVES.													
Superintendent in charge 1													
Sub-Inspectors 2													
First-class Detectives 7													
Second-class do 5													
Third-class do 4													
		16	11	10	31	29	61	140	419	35	52	144	926

Total of all ranks..... 1,874.

Police Department,
Inspector-General's Office,
7th January, 1897.

1897.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

PRISONS.
(REPORT ON, FOR THE YEAR 1896.)

Printed under No. 6 Report from Printing Committee, 3 June, 1897.

The Comptroller-General of Prisons to The Minister of Justice.

Sir, Comptroller-General's Office, Sydney, 27 April, 1897.

I have the honor to submit, for your consideration, my Annual Report upon the Prisons Department of New South Wales for 1896.

2. As a consequence of the reorganisation of the Government Departments by the Public Service Board, my predecessor, Mr. Miller, was appointed Under Secretary of Justice in June last, when I succeeded him as Comptroller-General of Prisons. Mr. Miller occupied the latter position for six and a half years, and during that period introduced many reforms which ameliorated the condition of the prisoners, and contributed towards the improvement of the penal administration. I trust that I may be enabled, in some measure, to continue the work of progress carried on for so long a time by my predecessor.

3. The statistical tables have been arranged differently to those of former years, and have been largely added to. They have been to a great extent modelled upon the returns contained in the Annual Reports issued by the Directors of the English prisons, and it is hoped that the varied and comprehensive information afforded by them will enable some understanding to be arrived at as to the nature and magnitude of the work performed by the Department. The Appendices are four in number. Appendix I contains reports from the various officers in charge of gaols, and their matured observations should be of value. Appendix II deals with medical and lunacy matters. Appendix III is divided into two Parts—A containing various statistics respecting prisoners, and Part B dealing with the distribution of officers and with matters of expenditure. Appendix IV refers to various points of prison management and subjects akin thereto, and also offers suggestions for the future. This Appendix is included in the Report with your sanction.

4. The number of prisoners of all kinds in confinement on the 31st December last was 2,357, as compared with 2,460 on the corresponding date of the preceding year. This showed a decrease of 103, while the estimated population of the Colony increased from 1,277,870 in 1895 to 1,297,640 in 1896. Of the prisoners, 217 were women, a decrease of 22 on the preceding year. The ages of those confined at the close of the year showed that 326 were under 25; 616 were between that age and 30; 746 were between 30 and 40; 374 were between 40 and 50; and the remaining 295 were over 50. From this it would appear that the fifteen years' period between 25 and 40

129—A

furnishes

furnishes the greatest number of prisoners. Leaving out those prisoners sentenced to imprisonment only (237), those on remand (42), and those awaiting trial (98), the remainder were serving sentences as follows:—Over 2 years, 813; and not exceeding that period, 1,167. Of the 813 serving over 2 years, the average sentence amounted to 5·8 years, counting life sentences as 20 years; those serving 12 months and not exceeding 2 years numbered 380, the average sentence being slightly over 1·5 years; of the 356 persons with sentences of 6 months and under 12, the average was 6·6 months; the average sentence for the 317 serving over 1 month and under 6 was nearly 3 months; while the 114 serving 4 weeks and under had an average of just over 3 weeks each. In the higher Courts sentences have shown a marked tendency to decrease in length during the past seven years. In 1890, out of 626 prisoners sentenced to penal servitude or hard labour, 38 per cent. received sentences of 3 years and upwards. During 1896, out of 714 convictions of this class, only 25 per cent. received such terms. This may in some measure account for the gaol population not increasing in numbers. As a matter of fact, there were 66 prisoners more on the 31st December, 1890, than on the corresponding date of 1896. But while shorter sentences have some effect in keeping down the prison numbers, there are undoubtedly other influences, such as education, improved social conditions, the increased interest of the individual in public affairs, and so forth, which all have a share in decreasing crime. It is a matter for congratulation that while the general population showed an increase of 15·6 per cent. during the past septennium, the gaol population dropped during that period nearly 3 per cent.

5. During the year 1896 the entries and discharges to the different prisons were 18,838 (3,538 females) and 18,941 (3,560 females) respectively, as compared with 18,552 and 18,696 in 1895. Included amongst these are many of the vagrant and habitual misdemeanant class who have been more than once committed during the twelve months, and who are consequently counted more than once in the above figures. It is difficult in a widely-scattered country such as this, with a large travelling population, to accurately ascertain the number of distinct individuals sent to the different prisons. No return on that head is therefore given on the present occasion.

6. Reconvictions at the Circuit Courts and Courts of Quarter Sessions were:—Of prisoners serving sentences of 5 years and upwards, 4 were undergoing a second conviction, 14 a third, and 49 a fourth or over that number. During the previous year the figures were 10, 5, and 35 respectively. Of prisoners serving sentences of less than five years, there were 101 under second, 50 under third, and 163 under fourth or more convictions, as compared with 91, 54, and 157. Of prisoners under sentences of imprisonment only, without hard labour, 3 were serving a second conviction, none a third, and 2 a fourth or more, as against 3, 1, and 2 in the preceding year. The total reconvictions at the higher Courts were 286, as compared with 358 for the preceding year—an increase of 28. The reconvictions of drunkards and petty offenders sentenced at the Police Courts cannot be accurately defined; but, so far as the methods of identification will permit, the numbers reconvicted twice or more during 1896 only were 1,016 a second time, 329 a third time, and 402 a fourth time or more. The figures for the preceding year were 1,040, 298, and 328 respectively. The total reconvictions of this class were 1,747, as against 1,666 for 1895, showing an increase of 81 for 1896.

7. The punishment returns show that 96 per cent. of the prisoners were not punished. Only 2 cases of corporal punishment took place. The great bulk of the prisoners conformed to the rules, and punishment was confined to the incorrigibly idle or vicious. There were 12 cases of violence to officers, and the escapes or attempted escapes numbered 13 (all recaptured), a large proportion of which took place from the Trial Bay Intermediate Prison.

8. The health of the prisoners has been good, and the deaths amounted to 29, exclusive of 1 suicide and 1 execution. The daily average number of prisoners was 2,442, and the percentage of deaths only 1·2; and it must be borne in mind that very many persons were admitted to gaol in a neglected condition of disease, and that some of those who died came to prison hopelessly ill, and died within a few days after arrival. In addition, 11 males and 1 female were discharged on medical grounds—9 of them on account of diseases contracted before admission. In Table E of the medical statistics will be found particulars of each case of insanity occurring in the prisons. They number

177 persons, of whom 121 showed symptoms of insanity on reception, and 33 within one month after admission. In addition to these there were sent to gaol 368 persons charged with being of unsound mind, or for protection, besides others in a more or less demented state through alcoholism.

9. The number of prisons remains unaltered, viz., 23 established and 36 police gaols. They contain 2,086 cells of all kinds—a number still insufficient to carry out the very desirable plan of allotting one cell to each prisoner. More accommodation is, however, being provided at Parramatta and Young.

10. The reports of the Governors of the various gaols, and the two summaries attached, show the nature of the work at which the prisoners have been employed. The returns have been arranged so as to show the actual labour performed by the prisoners; the value of the work, computed on a fair basis; and the number of prisoners who, for various reasons, have not been employed. Nearly £50,000 represent the value of labour only, of which about a fifth has been earned in manufacturing for other Government Departments. To this should be added the value of the work done at the Intermediate Prison, Trial Bay, in constructing the breakwater. Every effort is being made to obtain work from the various Public Departments, and of late a considerable increase has taken place in the orders for manufactured goods for the use of the various State establishments, the officers in charge of which are assisting us in every possible way. This, of course, is perfectly legitimate work for the prisoners, and no possible exception can be taken to it on the grounds of its competing with free workers. The labour schedules have been revised, and the industrial branches of the principal prisons have been reorganised, so that, as far as is possible, the trades and labour department will be carried on on business principles. There would seem to be plenty of work for us to do in the directions pointed out without materially coming in contact with outside labour.

11. A new departure was made during the latter part of the year in putting under cultivation such of the spare grounds as were attached to the gaol establishments. So far this has met with much success. The work is not only healthy and active for the prisoners, but is likely to effect some saving in the cost of provisions, as many gaols can now grow all their own vegetables. The Agricultural Department very kindly assists us with the necessary advice as to planting, manuring, &c., and it selects seeds, and supplies every gaol with a copy of the monthly *Agricultural Gazette*. The officers in charge of the prisons report most favourably on the nature of the work and the effect on the men. This work, being performed outside the walls, offers opportunities for escapes, but up to the date of writing none has occurred on this account.

12. Considerable alterations have been made in connection with the employment of prisoners. Oft-convicted men, especially of the petty-offender class, are no longer allowed to occupy "billets" on their return to gaol. The weekly tasks have been increased for all men in the workshops. A graduated scale of gratuity for labour has been established, distinguishing between first, second, and third-convicted men, while fourth-convicted persons receive no gratuity. All classes, however, are allowed, after completing their task, to work overtime, for which a fair scale of remuneration is allowed. This proves sufficient incentive to industry, keeps the men employed, causes them by their earnings to defray a portion of the expense they cost the country, and tends to discourage a return to prison life. Sweepers, cleaners, and others employed in the various domestic offices, are sent away to the works after completing their sweeping, &c., so as to prevent idling as much as possible. These alterations put a stop to much loafing, and perhaps naturally caused some dissatisfaction; but matters soon went along smoothly, and the increase of work is beneficial all round. Some abuses, too, were found to prevail in connection with the issue of "indulgences." Prisoners received them who were not entitled thereto, and this improper issue nullified to some extent the effect that the awarding of indulgences was intended to have. An alteration has been made in regard to this matter.

13. Just prior to my predecessor leaving office he introduced some concessions to the prisoners in regard to enjoying the modified servitude at Trial Bay, and of more frequently writing and receiving letters—privileges which were much appreciated. In addition,

addition, other improvements have been carried out with respect to the supply and cooking of food, the bathing and sanitary arrangements, and in other minor matters which have tended to the health and impartial treatment of all classes of prisoners alike. It has sometimes been stated that prisoners have no opportunities to represent their cases to the authorities. I would point out that during the six months ended 31st December last, 255 prisoners were personally interviewed in response to their requests, in addition to 595 written applications upon all sorts of matters connected with their cases.

14. Towards the close of the year, with your approval, a system of physical drill was introduced at Darlinghurst Gaol for the treatment of the young men forming the 7th class. Most of these were in prison for "larrikinism," and it was considered that by improving their bodies, a corresponding moral improvement might also take place. Besides this, it was possible for the new drill to be made an efficient substitute for that hard work which the nature of the 7th-class treatment prevented those subjected to it from obtaining. Up to the present the experiment has proved satisfactory, and it is highly spoken of by the medical and gaol authorities. The matter of extending the system in Darlinghurst and other places is under your consideration.

15. In connection with the internal discipline of the gaols, some alterations of considerable importance were carried into effect. A new plan of night-watch was brought into operation, and vigilance was insured by the introduction of mechanical detector clocks. Drill was enforced amongst the warders, who are all supposed to be used to arms, and a hand-book of drill was compiled so as to bring about uniformity of practice; and in other directions a general straightening-up took place. On the other hand, working hours were rearranged so as to avoid long periods of continuous duty; refreshments were allowed to the men on night-watch; warders on tower duty were relieved at noon; annual leave was made general throughout the service; Sunday leave was allowed in turn to third-class warders; a number of warders who had been in the country districts for a long time were given transfers nearer Sydney or other centres of population; and 42 promotions were shared out amongst the most deserving. These included a fair proportion of country as well as metropolitan officers. The changes amongst the staff during the year amounted to 67 retirements, 21 resignations, and 11 dismissals. In addition, for various other reasons, there were 102 transfers, 5 exchanges, and 42 promotions, while 25 officers were fined, 49 reprimanded, and 1 reduced in rank. Thirty-two officers' situations, on becoming vacant, were not filled, it being found on investigation that the posts were not required. This represents a future saving of £4,034 per annum.

16. The retrenchment effected by the Public Service Board, as well as by the operations of departmental reorganisation in the established gaols, has led to a decreased expenditure in 1896, as compared with that of the preceding year, of £2 9s. 5d. per head, calculated on the daily average number of prisoners confined, viz., 2,294, notwithstanding that the average number was less than in 1895. The total expenditure for the year amounted to £108,890 18s. 4d., from which might fairly be deducted the earnings of prisoners in manufactures, and work for other Government Departments, to the value of £9,881 7s. 11d. In the expenditure was included an unforeseen expense in consequence of the Police Department declining to take over four gaols which had been reduced by the Public Service Board, and for whose establishment no provision had been made on the Estimates. This formed a serious addition to the cost of the Prisons' administration.

17. Although a saving was effected in the year under review, it must be recollected that the general retrenchment and reorganisation were not commenced until the middle of the year, and that the operations were not completed at the close of 1896.* Before the staffs of the different prisons could be reduced, it was necessary for me to personally visit each place, and ascertain if any officers could be spared. This was a work entailing serious responsibility, and it needed very careful handling, and up to the present the work has not been finished. The larger prisons have now been carefully
inquired

* The Estimates for the financial year, which ends on the 30th June next, provided for a reduced expenditure of over £17,000 on the preceding year. It is expected that a saving of at least £2,000 on the reduced estimate will be effected by the various measures of reorganisation which have been brought into operation.

inquired into, and a rearrangement of the staffs and their duties has taken place. This is bringing about a saving in salaries to a substantial amount, as may be gathered from the pay-sheets for the months of March, 1896 and 1897 respectively. For the former, £7,091 7s. 11d. was the sum paid in salaries as compared with £5,775 1s. for the latter, showing a saving upon the same month of the previous year of £1,316 6s. 11d.

18. Generally speaking, the various staffs have done good work. The changes in routine, such as the new night-watch system, and other disciplinary duties were strange to the officers and led to some friction. Some of the officers were found to be wanting in vigilance and in fitness for their positions, while others had got somewhat careless and lax in the performance of their duties. These faults were not, I regret to say, confined to the lower grades. All these matters are, however, in fair process of adjustment. The office staff has done excellent work, and deserves commendation all round. The new position of Inspector of Prisons was filled by the appointment of Mr. McCauley, many years Accountant and Examiner to the Department. Mr. McCauley's intimate knowledge of prison routine and discipline, together with a strong liking for the work, enabled him to discharge his duties in a manner which commanded my highest appreciation. The statistics now presented were compiled by him or under his supervision.

19. The papers on prison matters contained in Appendix IV were written by me after great consideration ; and were included in this Report by your permission. There are certain drawbacks in connection with prison administration which offer obstacles to success. It has been thought well to look these things straight in the face, and, as it is of no use pointing out defects without proposing remedies, suggestions have been made with a view of effecting improvements in the future. In making these proposals, there is no intention, as there is no occasion, to in any way disparage past work. Great progress has been made in the face of many difficulties, but there is still plenty of room for improvements. The suggestions now respectfully laid before you may perhaps contribute to a further stage of progress being attained.

I have, &c.,

FREDK. W. NEITENSTEIN,
Comptroller-General.

APPENDIX I.

REPORTS from Governors and Labour Returns, with Summaries I and II.

1. Darlinghurst Gaol.	13. Forbes Gaol.
2. Parramatta Gaol.	14. Grafton Gaol.
3. Bathurst Gaol.	15. Hay Gaol.
4. Goulburn Gaol.	16. Mudgee Gaol.
5. Berrima Gaol.	17. Tamworth Gaol.
6. Biloela Gaol.	18. Wagga Wagga Gaol.
7. Maitland Gaol.	19. Wilcannia Gaol.
8. Albury Gaol.	20. Wollongong Gaol.
9. Armidale Gaol.	21. Yass Gaol.
10. Broken Hill Gaol.	22. Young Gaol.
11. Deniliquin Gaol.	23. Trial Bay Prison.
12. Dubbo Gaol.	

The small Police Gaols (36 in number) have been omitted.

1.—DARLINGHURST GAOL.

Extract from the Governor's Report.

DURING 1896 the staff was reduced from 97, on the 31st December, 1895, to 87 on the 31st December, 1896; total reduction, 10.

The general discipline and economical management of the prison has been most materially assisted by the introduction of a revised system of night duty, which came into force on the 24th August, and consists of eight-hour watches. In connection with this improved system of duty, a watchman tell-tale clock is used. This ensures that the Senior Warder in charge of the watch keeps moving, and on the alert. The Comptroller-General, recognizing the increased vigilance required under this improved system of duty, recommended, and the Minister of Justice approved, of light refreshments being granted for use during the first watch. In addition to this concession, since the 27th December, the 2nd and 3rd class warders, not forming a part of the night-watch, are granted leave each third Sunday.

The interest in the good management and discipline of the prison evinced by the Comptroller-General, leading to frequent visits of inspection, has been of very great benefit in more ways than one.

Prisoners.—5,428 males, 1,655 females, total 7,083,—have been received; and 5,416 males, 1,636 females discharged during the past year.

The conduct of the prisoners has been very good.

Only one attempt to escape took place.

The general health of the prisoners has been remarkably good.

Forty-six (46) is the daily average number of prisoners during the past year under the 7th-class treatment, and for some time prior to the close of the year, twenty-four of the prisoners in this class have been instructed in physical drill, twice daily, with excellent results. Much attention has also recently been given to providing suitable employment for the 7th-class prisoners. They also attend school four times each week, and are frequently visited by the prison officers. I should be pleased to be able to add that they are also frequently visited by the chaplains of the denominations to which they belong.

The prisoners in general have been employed on the following kinds of work:—Matmaking, shoemaking, tailoring, mattress-making, tinsmithing, blacksmithing, bookbinding, carpentry, masonry, bricklaying, painting, glazing, and also several less important descriptions of labour. The female prisoners have been employed at needlework, cleaning and sweeping, and other light labour.

Generally the buildings are in good condition, but the mess-sheds almost all require re-roofing, &c.

The following alterations have been carried out:—New office for the Superintendent of the female division, court-room fitted to serve as an office for the transaction of general gaol business.

The electric light plant is in good order and working well, and steps are being taken to supply a second relief boiler.

With the exception of the supply of meat, the various contracts for the supply of goods have been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

To the best of my belief the Rules and Regulations provided for the management of the prison have been faithfully carried out.

RETURN of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment	Daily average number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Manufactures—				£ s. d.
Mat-makers	57·90	.....	57·90	1,077 0 9
Bootmakers	17·76	.....	17·76	606 8 9
Brushmakers	9·62	.....	9·62	657 3 11
Tailors	19·87	.....	19·87	465 6 4
Needlewomen .....	.....	30·50	30·50	338 19 3
Tinsmiths	6·62	.....	6·62	624 9 11
Blacksmiths	1·36	.....	1·36	63 16 3
Bookbinders	8·88	.....	8·88	218 1 10
Turners	3·51	.....	3·51	99 14 3
Oakum picking, 7th-class	46·00	.....	46·00	24 1 4
Total	171·52	30·50	202·02	4,175 2 7
In Buildings, &c.				
Carpenters	4·61	.....	4·61	234 10 1
Painters	4·57	.....	4·57	316 8 7
Masons	1·25	.....	1·25	263 5 9
Total	10·43	.....	10·43	814 4 5

Description of Employment	Daily average number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.	£	s. d.
Prison Service—					
Cooks	17-00	.....	17-00	476	17 0
Cleaners and sweepers	66-00	9-00	75-00	2,103	15 0
Washing and gardeners	18-43	6-65	25-08	703	9 11
Hospital attendants	10-60	5-00	15-60	437	11 7
School and store	7-60	.....	7-60	213	3 7
Messengers and servants	10-50	6-00	16-50	462	16 6
Bootmakers' repairs	30	.....	30	8	12 3
Tailors' repairs	1-00	.....	1-00	65	9 2
Needlewomen's repairs .....	.....	2-00	2-00	39	18 0
Tinsmiths' repairs	1-00	.....	1-00	96	0 0
Blacksmiths' repairs	6-70	.....	6-70	445	18 3
Carpenters' repairs	1-00	.....	1-00	46	0 0
Painters painting gaol	30	.....	30	20	4 8
Total.....	140-43	28-65	169-08	5,119	15 11
Non-effectives—					
Sick and observation.....	30-20	7-00	37-20	.....	.....
Under punishment	1-50	00-01	1-51	.....	.....
Unemployed; too late for work	58-22	11-90	70-12	.....	.....
Incapables, and sentences under seven days ..	49-06	5-50	54-56	.....	.....
Awaiting trial, and remand.....	3-72	.....	3-72	.....	.....
Total.....	142-70	24-41	167-11	.....	.....
Grand Totals	465-08	83-56	548-64	10,109	2 11

2.—PARRAMATTA GAOL.

Extract from the Governor's Report.

The conduct of the officers has been generally good

The conduct of the prisoners has been good.

The labour for the active employment of the prisoners has been sufficient, and includes—Stone-cutting and setting, blacksmithing, and carpentry, shoemaking, tailoring, bookbinding, cabbage-trec plaiting and hatmaking, cooking, washing, sweeping and cleaning, and other usual work in the ordinary service of the prison.

Many alterations and improvements have been made, and are still being proceeded with to the buildings of the gaol. The new wing, No. 6, in course of progress is approaching completion, the last range of cells on top landing now being in course of construction. Sixteen double cells in No. 1 wing have been divided and completed. Three new stone closets have been erected. No. 8 tower, being an obstruction for proper supervision, was removed. The new stone-cutters' shed and carpenters' shop were completed. A balcony has been added to the Governor's quarters and a door-way cut through the stonework to it. The carpenters' shed in front of the workshops has been pulled down. A new blacksmiths' store erected and fitted. A new school-room is being fitted up, and when completed the present one will be occupied by the tailors and hat-makers.

The quantity of bedding and clothing in store is sufficient for all requirements.

The rations and supplies have been good, with a few exceptions, and punctually delivered.

During the late portion of the year new duty has been introduced for the officers by which a saving of six warders in the staff has been effected. The new duty, and introduction of the peg clock, has caused a marked improvement in the discipline and efficiency of the staff, irrespective of the saving to the Department.

The Regulations and General Orders have been strictly complied with.

RETURN of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.	£	s. d.
Manufactures—					
Shoemakers	35-802	.....	35-802	605	15 5½
Bookbinders	2-898	.....	2-898	113	12 11½
Tailors	21-332	.....	21-332	401	2 6
Hatmakers	36-953	.....	36-953	65	16 0
Tinsmiths	2-757	.....	2-757	159	11 0
Total.....	99-832	.....	99-832	1,345	17 10½
In Buildings—					
Masons	18-242	.....	18-242	1,213	8 7
Labourers	52-970	.....	52-970	2,026	2 6
Outside men	6-333	.....	6-333	209	19 0
Carpenters	8-268	.....	8-268	419	8 0½
Blacksmiths	5-879	.....	5-879	325	17 2
Painters	2-390	.....	2-390	133	13 10
Total.....	94-082	.....	94-082	4,328	9 1½

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Employment in the ordinary service of the Prison—				£ s. d.
Writers	7·000	.....	7·000	196 7 0
Bathmen	2·000	.....	2·000	56 2 0
Gardeners	3·000	.....	3·000	84 3 0
Cooking	16·000	.....	16·000	448 16 0
Barbers	2·650	.....	2·650	74 6 8
Lunatic-keepers	3·150	.....	3·150	88 7 2
Washing	9·807	.....	9·807	275 1 9
Hospital attendants	4·000	.....	4·000	112 4 0
Store assistants	2·000	.....	2·000	56 2 0
School and library	2·000	.....	2·000	56 2 0
Messenger and lamp-lighter	1·000	.....	1·000	28 1 0
Servants	2·944	.....	2·944	82 11 7
Sweepers and cleaners	42·519	.....	42·519	1,192 13 2
Total	98·070	.....	98·070	2,750 17 4
Non-effectives—				
Sick	17·885	.....	17·885	.....
Under punishment	2·192	.....	2·192	.....
Unemployed	6·000	.....	6·000	.....
Others omitted from above	70·163	.....	70·163	.....
Awaiting trial and remands	4·009	.....	4·009	.....
Total	100·249	.....	100·249	.....
Grand Totals	392·233	.....	392·233	8,425 4 4

3.—BATHURST GAOL.

Extract from the Governor's Report.

THE conduct of the subordinate officers has been good, with a few exceptions.

The conduct of prisoners fairly good.

The prisoners have been engaged at the following trades and works:—Carpentry, painting, blacksmithing and tinsmithing work, bricklaying, stonecutting, hatmaking, shoemaking, tailoring, bookbinding, clerical work, sweeping and cleaning, cooking, general labouring, trenching ground, gardening, assisting schoolmaster, attending on sick and lunatic, servants, needlework, barbering, washing, marble work (sawing, cutting, and polishing), laying patent asphalt and tar paving.

The condition of the buildings is good, except the gutters that were injured by the snowstorm of June, 1896.

The only repair of any magnitude was to the apparatus for pumping water up to the elevated tank. This had to be done by free labour, as the work needed much skill and care, and a man had to work at a depth of 100 feet below ground.

About 1½ acres of land are under cultivation, which is estimated to yield between 5 and 6 tons of potatoes and other vegetables. The area of land to be cultivated is about 16 acres.

The quantity of clothing and bedding in store has always been sufficient to meet requirements.

The contractors' supplies have been good and punctually delivered.

The Regulations and Orders have been complied with.

RETURN of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Manufactures—				£ s. d.
Tailors	8·90	.....	8·90	280 7 4½
Do. (separate treatment)	5·58	.....	5·58	47 3 4
Shoemakers	6·52	.....	6·52	152 16 3½
Do. (separate treatment)	10·03	.....	10·03	28 8 0
Hatmakers	3·90	.....	3·90	44 2 11
Do. (separate treatment)	15·48	.....	15·48	21 3 7
Knitters (separate treatment)	28·49	.....	28·49	4 8 0
Needlework (females) .....	.....	4·96	4·96	22 1 6½
Bookbinders	3·66	.....	3·66	169 6 5½
Tinsmiths	1·00	.....	1·00	66 4 10
Marble Masons	8·70	.....	8·70	184 16 9½
Labourers sawing marble	16·51	.....	16·51	40 14 7
Total	108·77	4·96	113·73	1,061 13 9
In Buildings—				
Bricklayers and plasterers	2·12	.....	2·12	135 2 6
Stone-cutters and masons	5·18	.....	5·18	271 4 5½
Do. do. assistants	1·19	.....	1·19	20 18 0
Carpenters	3·75	.....	3·75	225 11 0½
Do assistants	·47	.....	·47	15 14 3
Blacksmiths	3·89	.....	3·89	224 12 10
Do. assistants	2·99	.....	2·99	140 9 2
Plumbers	1·10	.....	1·10	65 8 5½
Asphalters and tar pavers	·87	.....	·87	44 3 7
Labourers assisting	1·77	.....	1·77	40 17 11
Painters	2·85	.....	2·85	160 13 0½
Labourers, blacksmiths, &c.	3·00	.....	3·00	84 3 0
Total	29·18	.....	29·18	1,428 18 3

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Employment in ordinary service—				
Cooks and assistants	10·17	.....	10·17	285 5 4
Sweepers and cleaners	19·55	8·69	28·24	792 2 7
Hospital attendants	2·00	.....	2·00	56 2 0
Washing	6·86	·48	7·34	205 17 0
Gardeners	2·00	.....	2·00	56 2 0
Fireman for furnaces.....	1·00	.....	1·00	28 1 0
Grooms	2·00	.....	2·00	56 2 0
Lunatic keepers	1·00	.....	1·00	28 1 0
Barbers	1·00	.....	1·00	28 1 0
Messengers	1·01	.....	1·01	28 6 7
Writers	3·34	.....	3·34	93 13 8
Assistant schoolmaster	·86	.....	·86	24 2 6
Yard labourers	10·12	.....	10·12	283 17 3
Outside parties labouring	12·78	.....	12·78	358 9 7
Closet and drain cleaners	3·93	.....	3·93	110 4 8
Bathman	1·00	.....	1·00	28 1 0
Coalman	1·00	.....	1·00	28 1 0
Storeman	1·00	.....	1·00	28 1 0
Sawing wood	2·00	.....	2·00	56 2 0
Pumping	6·00	.....	6·00	163 6 0
Cleaning and jobbing	13·27	.....	13·27	372 4 5
Shoemaking repairs	2·78	.....	2·78	65 0 4
Tailoring repairs.....	1·99	.....	1·99	62 8 9
Repairing prison utensils	1·00	.....	1·00	52 11 6
Light labour	·38	.....	·38	10 13 2
Total	108·04	9·17	117·21	3,305 18 1
Non-effectives—				
Sick	4 94	1 16	6 10	.....
Under punishment.....	2 29	·30	2 59	.....
Awaiting trial and remands.....	3 53	·07	3 60	.....
Exempt	3 00	·09	3 09	.....
Under observation	·23	·01	·24	.....
Certified lunatics	·22	·02	·24	.....
Received too late	1 19	·16	1 35	.....
On transit	·43	.....	·43	.....
Total	15 83	1 81	17 64	.....
Grand Totals	261 82	15 94	277 76	5,796 10 2½

4.—GOULBURN GAOL.

Extract from the Governor's Report.

THE conduct of the subordinate officers, with a few exceptions, has been satisfactory.

The conduct of the prisoners generally has been good.

There were two attempts to escape during the year.

Prisoners have been employed at the following work :—Tailoring, bookbinding, shoemaking, tinsmithing, carpentry, painting, bricklaying, plumbing, printing, blacksmithing, in addition to other work required in connection with the prison.

The buildings are now in a very good condition. Necessary repairs in different parts of the buildings have been effected, additions have been made to the workshops, new cooking stove placed in Governor's quarters, and verandah at the rear of house. New shelving has been placed in the hospital. Alterations to the gas-fittings in D wing have been made, and the yards and footpaths have been put in good order.

The clothing and bedding in store is sufficient to meet all requirements.

The contractors for supplies have given every satisfaction.

On the 13th October a commencement was made with the agricultural work. About 1½ acres of land have been trenched, and 1½ acres planted with potatoes. I think this kind of work very suitable for prisoners. They acquire a knowledge of gardening, which will, I have no doubt, be of great assistance to them in obtaining employment on their release. They take great interest in the work, probably from the fact that the produce is for their own consumption.

All Rules laid down by Regulation and General Orders for the government of the Prison have been, to the best of my knowledge and belief, complied with.

RETURN of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Manufactures—				
Shoemakers.....	29·531	.....	29·531	£ s. d. 376 17 10
Tailors	33·254	.....	33·254	521 10 0
Hatmakers	31·843	.....	31·843	54 4 0
Bookbinders	1·941	.....	1·941	119 16 7
Printers	1·000	.....	1·000	66 6 0
Carpenters	2·875	.....	2·875	135 4 1
Tinsmiths.....	2·343	.....	2·343	113 15 8
Blacksmiths	1·267	.....	1·267	65 18 2
Knitting and needlework	9·000	2·526	11·526	24 11 4
Total.....	113·054	2·526	115·580	1,478 3 8

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
In Buildings—				£ s. d.
Bricklayers	1·477	.....	1·477	97 5 0
Painters	2·771	.....	2·771	196 18 2
Carpenters	3·562	.....	3·562	231 10 10
Blacksmiths.....	·107	.....	·107	6 15 8
Tinsmiths (plumbing, gas-fitting)	1·071	.....	1·071	84 12 1
Labourers.....	3·000	.....	3·000	84 3 0
Total.....	11·988	.....	11·988	701 4 9
Employment in the ordinary service of prison—				
Cooking	12·088	.....	12·088	339 1 4
Sweeping and cleaning	62·800	1·856	64·656	1,813 12 0
Washing	6·000	1·045	7·045	197 12 3
Gardeners.....	6·839	.....	6·839	191 16 8
Hospital attendants	3·000	.....	3·000	84 3 0
Barbers.....	2·000	.....	2·000	56 2 0
Messengers	2·000	.....	2·000	56 2 0
Groom	1·000	.....	1·000	28 1 0
Storeman (Gaal store)	1·000	.....	1·000	28 1 0
Writers and school assistants.....	5·000	.....	5·000	140 5 0
Labourers.....	32·866	.....	32·866	921 17 10
Servants .....	.....	3·000	3·000	84 3 0
Total	134·593	5·901	140·494	3,940 17 1
Men working for Police Department—				
Labourers.....	4·006	.....	4·006	112 7 4
Painters	·013	.....	·013	0 9 4
Total	4·019	.....	4·019	112 16 8
Non-effectives—				
Sick	6·472	.....	6·472	.....
Under punishment.....	·947	.....	·947	.....
Trial and examination	4·304	·372	4·676	.....
Debtors.....	·013	.....	·013	.....
Total.....	11·736	·372	12·108	.....
Grand Total.....	275·390	8·799	284·189	6,233 2 2

5.—BERRIMA GAOL.

Extract from the Governor's Report.

THE conduct of the subordinate officers of the establishment has, on the whole, been good. They have performed their duties efficiently, and, as a body, are suited for the work they are called upon to perform.

The conduct of the prisoners in separate treatment, on the whole, has been good. They have been steadily employed knitting, tailoring, and shoemaking.

A working party of four prisoners has been employed since October last trenching the ground to an uniform depth of 2 feet. With a little perseverance, any obstacles or difficulties which at first appeared will pass away, and the initiation of agricultural training, though on a small scale, may be said to have already commenced, and which, under proper supervision, may become a beneficial and productive industry in the near future.

A new store-room (weatherboard) 60 ft. x 14 ft. has been erected by prison labour in a most satisfactory manner. The Governor's quarters have been painted and renovated; decayed door and window sashes have been replaced by new ones. A doorway has been made to communicate between the cooking-room and electric light plant.

The whole of the exterior wood and ironwork of the prison has been painted, and necessary minor repairs inside the prison have been attended to.

The Regulations and General Orders have been complied with to the best of my ability.

RETURN of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Manufactures—				£ s. d.
Tailors	11·8655	.....	11·8655	95 17 1
Knitters	27·3442	.....	27·3442	20 17 2
Shoemakers.....	1·4491	.....	1·4491	28 7 0
Total.....	40·6588	.....	40·6588	145 1 3
In Buildings—				
Carpenters	1·4163	.....	1·4163	93 12 0
Painters	·9573	.....	·9573	63 5 4
Painters (assistants)	·5934	.....	·5934	19 12 2
Bricklayers	·7737	.....	·7737	1 6 0
Blacksmiths and tinsmiths	·7737	.....	·7737	51 2 8
Total.....	4·5144	.....	4·5144	228 18 2

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males	Females.	Total.	
Employed in the ordinary service of the Prison—				£ s d.
Cooking	3·9901	.....	3·9901	111 18 5
Sweepers and cleaners	6·0655	.....	6·0655	170 2 9
Barber	·1704	.....	·1704	4 15 7
Writer	1·0000	.....	1·0000	28 1 0
Washing	1·6721	.....	1·6721	46 18 0
Outside gang	2·1049	.....	2·1049	59 0 10
Wood gang	2·0557	.....	2·0557	57 13 2
Hospital attendant.....	·0721	.....	·0721	2 0 5
Messenger and lamp-cleaner	1·0000	.....	1·0000	28 1 0
Miscellaneous	5·0524	.....	5·0524	141 14 4
Total	23·1832	.....	23·1832	650 5 6
Non-effectives—				
Sick	·5049	.....	·5049	.....
Under punishment.....	1·5278	.....	1·5278	.....
Unemployed	4·4553	.....	4·4553	.....
Debtors.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Awaiting trial.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	6·4880	.....	6·4880	.....
Grand Totals	74·11	.....	74·11	1,024 4 11

6.—BILOELA GAOL.

Extract from the Governor's Report.

THE conduct of the subordinate officers has been good. There has been a reduction in the staff by two officers. Notwithstanding this, the duties have been effectively performed. This is due to a considerable extent to the alteration in the hours of duty, which has been found to work most satisfactorily.

The prisoners' conduct has been good.

The principal employment for the prisoners during the year was:—Quarrying stone for the erection of additional buildings, shrinking cloth, and needlework for the Government Stores Department.

Several repairs and additions have been made to the buildings. A new sulphur-house has been erected for fumigating the clothing of prisoners.

The old kitchen has been replaced by the erection of a new one.

Consulting-rooms for the Visiting Surgeon and isolated cells for the female wing are in course of erection.

There is no land available for agricultural work at this prison, although I consider it most suitable employment for prisoners.

The clothing and bedding have been found sufficient.

The contractor's supplies good, and punctually delivered.

The Regulations and General Orders have been complied with.

RETURN of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Manufactures—				£ s d.
Needlework .....	.....	27·27	27·27	155 6 1
Picking oakum	29·96	12·62	42·58	7 3 1
Shrinking Cloth for Government Stores Department	·97	.....	·97	69 4 0
Total	30·93	39·89	70·82	231 13 2
In Buildings—				
Carpenters	1·69	.....	1·69	120 13 3
Painters	1·20	.....	1·20	85 13 7
Blacksmiths.....	1·01	.....	1·01	72 2 3
Masons and Stone-cutters	2·05	.....	2·05	146 7 4
Quarrymen	22·23	.....	22·23	623 11 0
Total	38·18	.....	38·18	1,048 7 5
Employment in the ordinary service of the Prison—				
Cooking	7·03	.....	7·03	197 3 9
Sweepers and cleaners	22·13	9·13	31·26	876 16 10
Washing for resident officers .....	.....	10·05	10·05	281 18 0
Washing blankets	1·89	2·01	3·90	109 7 10
Gardening	1·22	.....	1·22	34 4 5
Hospital attendants	1·00	1·11	2·11	59 3 8
Messengers	1·00	.....	1·00	28 1 0
Barbers.....	1·00	.....	1·00	28 1 0
Servants .....	.....	4·40	4·40	123 8 4
Shoemakers	·29	.....	·29	14 13 3
Tinsmiths	·10	.....	·10	7 2 9
Total	35·66	26·70	62·36	1,760 0 10

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Non-effectives—				£ s. d.
Sick	1·77	2·69	4·46	.....
Under punishment.....	·52	·07	·59	.....
Incapables	8·62	2·37	10·99	.....
Received too late to be set to work	3·60	3·96	7·65	.....
Unemployed	3·63	·32	3·95	.....
Total	18·23	9·41	27·64	.....
Grand Totals	123·0	76·0	199·0	3,040 1 5

7.—MAYTLAND GAOL.

Extract from the Governor's Report.

THE conduct of the subordinate officers has been good, and they have discharged their duties efficiently.

The conduct of the prisoners has been good.

Employment has been found for the prisoners at the following trades :—Bootmaking, tailoring, tinsmithing, bookbinding, lithography, blacksmithing, painting, stonecutting, carpentry, asphaltum, washing, in addition to the usual work in the ordinary service of the gaol.

The condition of the buildings is good.

The gaol kitchen has been enlarged. A new shelter shed in No. 1 yard is much needed, and repairs are required to one of the towers.

The quantity of clothing and bedding has been found sufficient to meet all requirements.

The contractors supplies have been good and punctually delivered, and not a single complaint been made.

Fair progress has been made in trenching land for cultivation purposes. I am of opinion that when there is suitable land the employment of prisoners at this kind of work would be both useful to them and remunerative to the Government.

The Regulations and General Orders have been complied with.

The only change made in duty was the appointment of a foreman under new conditions, and it is a good improvement on the old system.

RETURN of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Manufactures—				£ s. d.
Shoemakers	3·483	.....	3·483	107 8 5
Bookbinders	3·758	.....	3·758	185 2 7
Tailors	1·839	.....	1·839	54 5 7
Needlewomen .....	.....	3·438	3·438	19 2 6
Lithographers	1·428	.....	1·428	51 14 1
Hatmakers	13·160	.....	13·160	42 3 2
Total	23·668	3·438	27·106	459 16 4
In Buildings—				
Masons	2·915	.....	2·915	189 19 9
Stonecutters	7·826	.....	7·826	490 8 2
Labourers	11·483	.....	11·483	373 1 4
Carpenters	2·911	.....	2·911	134 4 10
Painters	1·261	.....	1·261	55 17 10
Blacksmiths	1·872	.....	1·872	70 7 11
Tinsmiths	1·663	.....	1·663	69 7 2
Total	29·931	.....	29·931	1,383 7 0
Employed in Ordinary Prison Service—				
Cooking	3·000	.....	3·000	84 3 0
Sweepers and cleaners	39·130	·964	40·094	1,124 12 9
Washing	2·183	2·931	5·114	143 8 11
Hospital attendants, &c.	7·836	2·013	9·849	276 5 3
Occasionally employed	2·852	.....	2·852	80 0 0
Working outside	7·751	.....	7·751	217 8 4
Total	62·752	5·908	68·660	1,925 18 3
Non-effectives—				
Sick	·649	·158	·807	.....
Punishment	·607	·049	·656	.....
Awaiting trial	4·692	·376	5·068	.....
Unemployed	3·179	·144	3·323	.....
Total	9·127	·727	9·854	.....
Grand Totals	125·478	10·073	135·551	3,769 1 7

8.—ALBURY GAOL.

Extract from the Gaoler's Report.

THE conduct of the officers has been good.

The warders on tower duty are relieved daily at 12.30 p.m.

Conduct of prisoners good.

The labour at which the prisoners were engaged upon during the year was as follows:—Book-binding, carpentry, cutting firewood for police and gaol, and keeping the prison clean.

The condition of the buildings is good. Alterations have been made in the cook-house and in the hospital.

The quantity of clothing and bedding in the gaol has been sufficient to meet all requirements.

The contractor's supplies have been good, and regularly delivered.

Prisoners have been employed trenching and preparing the land for vegetables. The area to be cultivated is 2 roods 3 perches. Without doubt it is an excellent method of employing prison labour.

The Rules and General Orders as laid down have been strictly carried out.

RETURN of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Manufactures—				
Shoemakers	1.000	.....	1.000	£ s. d. 5 12 3
Bookbinders	1.100	.....	1.100	50 13 6½
Tailors and needlework	1.000	.020	1.020	36 9 4½
Hatmakers	4.200	.....	4.200	2 0 9
Total	7.300	.020	7.320	94 15 11
Buildings—				
Carpenters .....	.052	.....	.052	19 13 0½
Blacksmiths .....	.016	.....	.016	7 19 10½
Painters .....	.031	.....	.031	12 2 11
Bricklayers .....	.004	.....	.004	1 7 10
Labourers	4.310	.....	4.310	142 9 2
Total	4.413	.....	4.413	183 12 10
Ordinary Prison Service—				
Cooks	2.000	.....	2.000	56 2 0
Sweepers, &c.	5.000	.....	5.000	140 5 0
Hospital attendants	1.000	.....	1.000	28 1 0
Wood-cutters, &c.	5.820	1.310	7.130	200 4 0
Total	13.820	1.310	15.130	424 12 0
Non-effectives—				
Sick .....	.020	.....	.020	.....
No work .....	.040	.....	.040	.....
Too late for work .....	.030	.001	.031	.....
Awaiting trial.....	3.080	.004	3.084	.....
Total	3.170	.005	3.175	.....
Grand Totals	28.703	1.335	30.038	703 0 9

9.—ARMIDALE GAOL.

Extract from the Gaoler's Report.

THE officers have performed their duties efficiently.

With two exceptions (females) the prisoners were generally well conducted.

There was one death in the gaol. The prisoner on admission required medical treatment, and he continued under such treatment until his death.

The labour of the prisoners has been:—Bootmaking, bookbinding, tailoring, cutting firewood for the police, asphaltting the yard, and sundry matters about the gaol.

The buildings are in a fair state of repair.

The quantity of bedding and clothing in stock is quite sufficient for all requirements.

The contractor for supplies to the gaol is very punctual in delivery, and has given general satisfaction.

About 1 acre of land has been prepared for growing vegetables, and seed is now being planted. This kind of work is not merely economic, but is most moral and reformatory in its tendency. I am of opinion that many prisoners on their discharge will feel disposed to follow up this kind of work. Not once has an officer had to complain of the conduct of a prisoner employed at this labour.

The Rules laid down by Regulations and General Orders for the government of the prisons have been complied with.

RETURN of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Manufactures—				
Carpenters .....	.260	.....	.260	£ s. d. 17 8 2
Tinsmiths .....	.130	.....	.130	8 16 8
Blacksmiths .....	.080	.....	.080	4 19 4
Shoemakers .....	.084	.....	.084	3 2 0
Bookbinders	2.740	.....	2.740	129 16 5
Total	3.294	.....	3.294	164 2 7

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
In Buildings— Painters	440	.....	440	£ s. d. 26 11 8
Total	440	.....	440	26 11 8
Employment in the ordinary service of the Prison— Miscellaneous work	130	.....	130	3 12 11
Outside work	1 990	.....	1 990	55 16 5
Labourers.....	2 400	.....	2 400	67 6 5
Cooks and servants	2 570	480	3 050	35 11 0
Barbers, lunatic-keepers, and hospital attendants.....	1 170	100	1 270	35 12 6
Sweepers and cleaners	1 000	810	1 810	50 15 5
Wood-cutters	1 320	.....	1 320	37 0 6
Closef cleaners	2 000	.....	2 000	56 2 0
Repairing prison clothing.....	930	.....	930	32 0 3
Repairing prison shoes	160	.....	160	6 4 10
Total	13 670	1 390	15 060	430 2 3
Work for Police— Outside work	1 990	.....	1 990	55 16 5
Wood-cutting	1 320	.....	1 320	37 0 6
Total	3 310	.....	3 310	92 16 11
Non-effectives— Sick	065	.....	065	.....
Under punishment	038	013	051	.....
Unemployed	3 720	330	4 050	.....
Awaiting trial.....	1 600	.....	1 600	.....
Others omitted	038	010	057	.....
Total	5 461	362	5 823	.....
Grand Totals	26 175	1 752	27,927	713 13 5

10.—BROKEN HILL GAOL.

Extract from Report of Officer-in-charge.

THE conduct of the officers has been generally good.

The conduct of the prisoners has, with two exceptions, been good.

There have been no escapes, nor attempts to escape.

The prisoners have been confined to work necessary for maintaining the gaol and premises in good order.

The buildings are in good condition.

The supplies of clothing, bedding, and other stores are sufficient, and in good order.

The contracts have been fairly carried out.

The General Rules of the Prison Service have been complied with.

RETURN of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
In Buildings— Carpenters	05	.....	05	£ s. d. 3 14 8
Total.....	05	.....	05	3 14 8
Ordinary Service of Prison— Shoemaking repairs	05	.....	05	1 8 0
Outside workers	3 40	.....	3 40	95 7 4
Sweepers and cleaners	4 53	70	5 23	146 14 0
Cooks and assistants	2 00	.....	2 00	56 2 0
Wood and water gang	3 32	.....	3 32	93 2 6
Servants .....	.....	85	85	23 16 10
Barbers.....	17	.....	17	4 15 4
Yardsmen	1 00	.....	1 00	28 1 0
Lamp-trimmer	1 00	.....	1 00	28 1 0
Lunatic keepers	80	06	86	24 2 5
Total.....	16 27	1 61	17 88	501 10 5
For work at the Institutions— Police and Court-house	28	.....	28	7 17 0
Total.....	28	.....	28	7 17 0
Non-effectives— Remand	6 14	1 40	7 54	.....
Trial	2 80	.....	2 80	.....
No work available	9 30	.....	9 30	.....
Total.....	18 24	1 40	19 64	.....
Grand Totals	34 84	3 01	37 85	513 2 1

11.—DENILQUIN GAOL.

Extract from the Gaoler's Report.

THE conduct of the subordinate officers has been good, with the exception of one warder, whose services were dispensed with.

The general conduct of the prisoners has been good.

The labour at which the prisoners were employed consisted of carpentry, painting, wood-cutting, and trenching ground, in addition to attending to the land attached to the court-house, hospital, and police barracks.

The buildings are in a fair state of repair.

The repairs and alterations carried out are:—Entrance to gateway (roofed in), gaol office (extended), tower platform (roofed in), lavatories erected in male and female yards; an iron fence, 10 feet high, erected between labour and female yards; two new cells added to female wing.

There is sufficient bedding in store to meet requirements.

The contractor's supplies have been good and sufficient.

As far as I can ascertain, the rules laid down by Regulations and General Orders, with a few minor exceptions, have been complied with.

RETURN of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average No. of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
In Buildings—				£ s. d.
Bricklayers	·15	.....	·15	10 19 4
Carpenters	·73	.....	·73	52 10 0
Painters	·31	.....	·31	15 15 0
Total.....	1·19	.....	1·19	79 4 4
Employment in the ordinary service of the prison—				
Cook and delegate	2·00	.....	2·00	56 2 0
Sweepers and cleaners	2·00	·87	2·87	80 13 4
Hospital attendants	·02	.....	·02	0 14 8
Labourers.....	2·12	.....	2·12	59 13 6
Repairing prison clothing.....	·84	.....	·84	23 13 0
Repairing prison shoes.....	·2	.....	·20	5 13 8
Barber	·12	.....	·12	3 11 6
Wood-cutters	3·00	.....	3·00	84 8 6
Servants .....	.....	·54	·54	15 4 3
Total.....	10·3	1·41	11·71	329 14 5
Employment at other Institutions—				
Police barracks	1·43	.....	1·43	40 6 8
Court-house.....	2·09	.....	2·09	58 13 4
Denilquin Hospital	·36	.....	·36	10 7 2
Total.....	3·88	.....	3·88	109 7 2
Non-effectives—				
Sick	·80	·29	1·09	.....
Under punishment and awaiting Visiting Justice.....	·24	.....	·24	.....
Unemployed	1·28	.....	1·28	.....
Awaiting trial.....	·89	·14	1·03	.....
Remand	1·05	·16	1·21	.....
Exempt.....	·06	·24	·30	.....
Seventh Class	·56	.....	·56	.....
Separate treatment	·22	.....	·22	.....
Others omitted from above	·26	.....	·26	.....
Total.....	5·36	·83	6·19	.....
Grand Total	20·73	2·24	22·97	518 5 11

12.—DUBBO GAOL.

Extract from the Gaoler's Report.

CONDUCT of officers good.

Conduct of prisoners, quiet and fairly industrious as a whole. The exceptions were old offenders of previous bad prison character.

The buildings are in good repair.

The large labour yard has been divided into three yards. A new trial yard has been erected within the old Court-house premises. The whole of the gaol premises has been overhauled and repainted.

The clothing and bedding have been sufficient to meet all requirements.

The contractor's supplies have been good, and punctually delivered.

The rules laid down by Regulation and General Orders have been complied with to the best of my knowledge.

RETURN

Return of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Manufactures—				£ s. d.
Bookbinders	1·65	.....	1·65	69 11 7
Shoemakers	·12	.....	·12	1 18 0
Tailors	·21	.....	·21	6 14 0
Carpenters	·19	.....	·19	7 5 3
Wood-cutters	·33	.....	·33	9 6 0
Total.....	2·50	.....	2·50	94 14 10
In Buildings—				
Labourers	·94	.....	·94	15 0 0
Painters	·44	.....	·44	20 0 0
Tinsmiths	·42	.....	·42	1 14 8
Total.....	1·80	.....	1·80	36 14 8
Employment in Ordinary Service of Prison—				
Washerman	·07	.....	·07	1 19 11
Labourers	4·62	.....	4·62	129 11 9
Writers	1·00	.....	1·00	28 1 0
Wood-cutters	3·75	.....	3·75	105 3 9
Messengers	1 00	.....	1 00	28 1 0
Nightmen	2·00	.....	2·00	56 2 0
Water-gang	1·24	.....	1·24	34 15 7
Sweepers	3·98	1·00	4·98	139 13 9
Cooks	2 00	.....	2 00	56 2 0
Hospital attendants	·99	.....	·99	27 15 4
Barbers	·88	.....	·88	24 13 8
Lunatic-keepers	·97	·93	1·90	53 5 10
Gardeners	·60	.....	·60	16 16 7
Servants .....	.....	1·00	1·00	28 1 0
Outside.....	·01	.....	·01	0 5 7
Total.....	23·11	2·93	26·04	730 8 9
Non-effectives—				
Sick	·98	·05	1·03	.....
Under punishment.....	·66	·04	·70	.....
Unemployed	7·60	1·99	9·59	.....
Trial and remand	3·66	·08	3·74	.....
Omitted from above	·15	·02	·17	.....
Total.....	13·05	2 18	15·23	.....
Grand Totals.....	40·46	5·11	45·57	861 18 3

13.—FORBES GAOL.

Extract from the Gaoler's Report.

Conduct of officers good.

Conduct of prisoners, with one exception, good.

Prisoners have been employed cutting firewood, and in the ordinary service of the gaol, besides necessary out-door labour.

The condition of the buildings is good.

The gaol reserve has been fenced in.

The quantity of clothing and bedding in store is quite sufficient to meet all requirements.

The contractor's supplies have been good and punctually delivered.

Rules laid down for the government of the gaol have been complied with, except such cases as have been reported.

RETURN of the value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Manufactures—				£ s. d.
Nil.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
In Buildings—				
Carpenters	·062	.....	·062	3 16 0
Tinsmiths.....	·062	.....	·062	3 16 0
Total.....	·124	.....	·124	7 12 0
Employed in the ordinary service of the Gaol—				
Outside work	1·140	.....	1·140	31 19 6
Cooks	1·016	.....	1·016	28 9 11
Barber	·029	.....	·029	0 16 3
Servants .....	.....	·156	·156	4 7 6
Sweepers and cleaners	2·480	.....	2·480	69 11 3
Wood-cutters	2·500	.....	2·500	70 2 6
Total.....	7·165	·156	7·321	205 6 11

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour. £ s. d.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Non-effectives—				
Sick	·013	.....	·013	.....
Under punishment	·029	.....	·029	.....
Unemployed .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Awaiting trial.....	·075	.....	·075	.....
Debtors.....	·003	.....	·003	.....
Others omitted .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	·120	.....	·120	.....
Grand Totals	7·409	·156	7·565	212 18 11

14.—GRAFTON GAOL.

Extract from the Gaoler's Report.

THE subordinate officers are a steady lot of men, and have performed their duties satisfactorily.

The conduct of the prisoners has been generally good, with the exception of a few transferred from Darlinghurst, and who had to be punished.

No industries were carried on until November, and the prisoners were employed mainly in cutting firewood for the gaol and police, and improving the gaol grounds. Since November they have been employed cutting firewood, making cabbage-tree hats and Scotch twill shirts, and the cultivation of 4 acres of vacant gaol lands.

The buildings are in a good state of preservation. The repairs and alterations have been numerous, but unimportant.

The clothing and bedding was found sufficient.

In reference to the employment of prisoners at agricultural work, I may say that in my opinion there can be no more direct way of benefiting or reclaiming prisoners than by training them to a knowledge of the right methods of tilling the soil. I unhesitatingly say that the work is health-giving, and to an eminent degree suitable for prisoners. My own experience of the feelings with which they themselves regard this class of employment, though short, has shown me that they readily, and with the utmost diligence, enter on the tasks set them to do.

All rules laid down by Regulation and General Orders for the government of the prison have been, to the best of my knowledge and belief, complied with.

RETURN of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour. £ s. d.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Manufactures—				
Hatmaking	·25	.....	·25	1 0 0
Shirtmaking	·11	.....	·11	0 13 4
Picking hair and grinding axes	·03	.....	·03	0 6 4
Wood-cutters for police	1·20	.....	1·20	33 13 2
Total.....	1·59	.....	1·59	35 12 10
In Buildings, &c.—				
Bricklayer	·43	.....	·43	66 0 0
Carpenters	·99	.....	·99	60 12 0
Painters	·77	.....	·77	94 8 0
Total	2·19	.....	2·19	221 0 0
Employment in the ordinary service of Prison—				
Cooking for the prisoners.....	1·00	.....	1·00	28 1 0
Cleaning and jobbing work in and about the Gaol and Gaol yards and buildings (exclusive of building work)	9·85	.....	9·85	276 5 11
Total.....	10·85	.....	10·85	304 6 11
Non-effectives—				
Sick	·15	.....	·15	.....
Unemployed	14·83	.....	14·83	.....
Under punishment	·18	.....	·18	.....
Awaiting trial.....	·52	.....	·52	.....
Debtors .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Others omitted from above	·46	·8	·54	.....
Total.....	16·14	8	16·22	.....
Grand Totals	30·77	8	30·85	560 19 9

15.—HAY GAOL.

Extract from the Gaoler's Report.

THE conduct of the officers has been good.

The conduct of the prisoners has been good.

The prisoners have been employed at the following work:—Painting, carpentering, tailoring, repairing tinware, boots and shoes, sweeping and cleaning, &c., &c.

No new buildings have been erected during the past year.

The condition of the buildings is in good order.

All repairs have been carried out by prison labour.

The quantity of clothing and bedding in store has been sufficient to meet all requirements.

The articles supplied by the contractor have been good and punctually delivered.

The rules laid down by Regulations and General Orders have been strictly carried out

Return of the Value of Prisoners Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
In Buildings—				£ s. d.
Bricklayers	·228	.....	·228	14 0 0
Carpenters	·179	.....	·179	11 0 0
Painters	·977	.....	·977	47 15 0
Total	1·384	.....	1·384	72 15 0
Employment in the Ordinary Service of the Prison—				
Cooking	1·260	.....	1·260	35 6 10
Sweeping and cleaning	4·130	.....	4·130	115 16 11
Wood-cutting	2·900	.....	2·900	81 6 10
Servants	·306	·028	·424	11 17 10
Working outside gaol in cutting firewood and digging in garden	3·260	.....	3·260	91 8 10
Repairing boots and shoes	·026	.....	·026	0 14 7
Do utensils	·026	.....	·026	0 14 7
Do prison clothes	·029	.....	·029	0 16 3
Total	12·027	·028	12·055	338 2 8
Non-effectives—				
Sick	·120	.....	·120	.....
Under punishment	·124	.....	·124	.....
Unemployed	1·055	.....	1·055	.....
Awaiting trial	·029	·003	·032	.....
Debtors .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Others omitted from above	1·781	·065	1·846	.....
Total	3·109	·068	3·177	.....
Grand Totals	16·520	·006	16·616	410 17 8

16.—MUDGE GAOL.

Extract from the Gaoler's Report.

THE conduct of the subordinate officers has been good.

The conduct of the prisoners has been good, with three exceptions.

The labour at which the prisoners were engaged upon during the year was:—Jobbing at carpentering, tailoring, painting, shoemaking for the prison, and making a dam for the Police Department; wood-cutting for the gaol, Court-house, Telegraph Department, and police barracks.

The buildings are in good condition.

The alterations and repairs carried out are as follows:—New-entrance with iron gates; old offices, surgery, and warders' room taken down and new ones erected. The outer wall of the gaol has been raised 2½ feet. Other necessary improvements have also been effected.

The quantity of clothing and bedding in store is sufficient to meet requirements.

The contractor's supplies have been good and punctually delivered.

I have made a commencement with the trenching of land at the gaol, and expect having a quarter of an acre under cultivation. I am of opinion that it would be a very good industry for prisoners to learn, as well as being beneficial to the Department. With anything like a favourable season sufficient vegetables can be grown to supply the prisoners all the year round.

The rules laid down in Regulations and General Orders for the government of the gaol have been complied with.

RETURN of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
In Buildings—				£ s. d.
Carpenters	·260	.....	·260	18 18 0
Painters	·110	.....	·110	7 18 8
Smiths	·290	.....	·290	21 4 0
Plasterers	·020	.....	·020	1 17 4
Total	·680	.....	·680	49 18 0
Employment at Other Institutions—				
Working for Police and other Departments...	·160	.....	·160	4 9 9
Wood-chopping for Police and other Departments	·390	.....	·390	10 18 9
Total	·550	.....	·550	15 8 6

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Male.	Females.	Total	
Employment in the Ordinary Service of the Prison—				£ s. d.
Wood-chopping	3·000	.....	3·000	84 3 0
Cooking for the prisoners.....	1·000	.....	1·000	28 1 0
Cleaning and jobbing work in and about the prison (exclusive of building work of any kind), yards and buildings	7·000	1·000	8·000	224 8 0
Gardening	·098	.....	·098	2 15 0
Nursing and attending sick prisoners	1·000	1·000	2·000	56 2 0
Washing .....	.....	1·000	1·000	28 1 0
Repairing all kind of prison clothing	1·000	.....	1·000	28 1 0
Do prison shoes.....	·090	.....	·090	2 15 0
Do prison utensils.....	·710	.....	·710	20 3 4
Do prison books.....	·090	.....	·090	2 15 0
Total.....	13·988	3·000	16·988	477 4 4
Non-effective—				
Sick	·040	·008	·048	.....
Under punishment.....	·010	·002	·012	.....
Unemployed .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Awaiting trial.....	2·030	·070	2·100	.....
Debtors.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Others not told off.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	2·080	·080	2·160	.....
Grand Totals	17·298	3·080	20·378	542 10 10

17.—TAMWORTH GAOL.

Extract from the Gaoler's Report.

THE discipline of the gaol has been good, and the prisoners well conducted.

No escapes or attempts to escape.

Prisoners have been employed drawing firewood from outside the prison and cutting it up, painting the buildings, repairing shoes, and other miscellaneous work in connection with the prison.

The quantity of clothing, bedding, &c. in the store has been found sufficient to meet all requirements.

The prison library is much appreciated by the prisoners.

All contracts for supplies have been satisfactorily carried out.

The grounds attached to the gaol are now being trenched for agricultural purposes.

The Regulations and General Orders have been duly observed.

RETURN of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour
	Males.	Females.	Total	
Manufactures—				£ s. d.
Knitters	1	.....	1	3 2 0
Total.....	1	.....	1	3 2 0
In Buildings—				
Painters	1	.....	1	2 15 4
Total.....	1	.....	1	2 15 4
For Police	1	.....	1	28 1 0
Total.....	1	.....	1	28 1 0
Employed in the Ordinary Service of the Prison—				
Cooks and Messengers	3	.....	3	84 3 0
Wood-carters and cutters.....	10	.....	10	280 10 0
Sweepers and cleaners	6	1	7	196 7 0
Barber	1	.....	1	28 1 0
School assistant	1	.....	1	28 1 0
Repairing prison shoes	1	.....	1	1 8 4
Hospital attendant	1	.....	1	28 1 0
Delegate and servants	2	.....	2	56 2 0
Washing .....	.....	1	1	28 1 0
Total	25	2	27	730 14 4
Non-effectives—				
Sick	1	.....	1	.....
Unemployed .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Awaiting trial.....	3	.....	3	.....
Total.....	4	.....	4	.....
Grand Totals	32	2	34	764 12 8

18—WAGGA WAGGA GAOL.

Extract from the Gaoler's Report.

THE conduct of the officers has been very good.

The conduct of the prisoners, with one exception, has been good.

The prisoners have been employed at the following work :—Woodcutting, washing, painting, sweeping, and cleaning in the gaol.

The buildings are in a fair condition.

Clothing and bedding has been sufficient to meet requirements.

Contractor's supplies good, and punctually delivered.

Rules and Regulations have been complied with.

RETURN of the Value of Prisoner's Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoner's Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
In Buildings—				£ s. d.
Painter	·0228	.....	·0228	1 8 0
Total	·0228	.....	·0228	1 8 0
Employed in the Ordinary Service of the Prison—				
Sweepers and cleaners	3·1437	.....	3·1437	88 3 7
Cooking	2·0000	.....	2·0000	56 2 0
Servant .....	.....	·3431	·3431	9 12 6
Barbering	·3954	.....	·3954	11 1 10
Wood-cutters	2·3692	.....	2·3692	66 9 1
Washing	·7941	.....	·7941	22 5 6
Otherwise employed	·5424	.....	·5424	15 4 3
Outside work	1·2026	.....	1·2026	33 14 8
Total	10·4474	·3431	10·7905	302 13 5
Non-effectives—				
Sick (cannot find any record) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Under punishment	·0065	.....	·0065	.....
Awaiting trial	·8758	·1372	1·0130	.....
Total	·8823	·1372	1·0195	.....
Grand Totals	11·3525	·4803	11·8328	304 1 5

19.—WILCANNIA GAOL.

Extract from the Gaoler's Report.

THE conduct of the subordinate officers has been very good.

The prisoners have behaved well, the punishments for the year being very light.

The prisoners have been employed at the following work :—Wood-cutting, painting quarters, sheds, wings, &c., carpentering, repairing boots and shoes, and the usual routine work of the prison.

The repairs to the gaol consist of putting the walls in good order, repairing floors, cleaning and colouring wings, quarters, sheds, and various parts of the gaol. When the present additions are completed the gaol will be in a fair condition.

The clothing and bedding has been sufficient.

The contractor has delivered supplies punctually.

All Regulations and General Orders have been complied with.

Return of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
In Buildings—				£ s. d.
Carpenters	·101	.....	·101	6 14 4
Painters	·183	.....	·183	35 0 0
Total	·284	.....	·284	41 14 4
Employed in the Ordinary Service of the Prison—				
Repairs to prisoners shoes	·049	.....	·049	3 5 0
Washing	1·000	.....	1·000	28 1 0
Cooking for prisoners	1·000	.....	1·000	28 1 0
Sweepers and cleaners	3·000	.....	3·000	84 3 0
Gardening	1·740	.....	1·740	48 16 2
Wood-cutters	5·910	.....	5·910	165 15 6
Total	12·699	.....	12·699	358 1 8
Non-effectives—				
Sick	·290	.....	·290	.....
Under punishment	·059	.....	·059	.....
Awaiting trial	2·360	.....	2·360	.....
Unemployed	2·577	.....	2·577	.....
Others omitted from above	·652	.....	·652	.....
Total	5·938	.....	5·938	.....
Grand Totals	18·921	.....	18·921	399 16 0

20.—WOLLONGONG GAOL.

Extract from the Gaoler's Report.

The conduct of the subordinate officers has been good, and their duties efficiently discharged.

The conduct of the prisoners has been satisfactory.

The labour at which the prisoners have been engaged is as follows:—Cutting wood for gaol requirements, painting, and keeping the place clean.

The buildings are in a good condition.

A new door has been made in the cook-house. The closet in trial yard has been converted into a shelter shed. The boiler in labour yard has been renewed and re-erected.

The quantity of clothing is ample.

The contractor's supplies have been good, and punctually delivered.

The rules laid down by Regulations and General Orders have been strictly complied with.

Return of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
In Buildings—				£ s. d.
Carpenters	310	.....	310	22 3 4
Painters	441	.....	441	31 10 0
Whitewashers.....	245	.....	245	6 17 6
Total.....	996	.....	996	60 10 10
Employed in the ordinary service of the prison—				
Cooking	1 000	.....	1 000	28 1 0
Sweepers and cleaners	4 000	.....	4 000	112 4 0
Washing	340	.....	340	9 10 8
Wood-cutters (firewood)	124	.....	124	3 9 7
Needlewomen .....	.....	987	987	27 13 8
Gardening	820	.....	820	23 0 0
Working outside.....	1 555	.....	1 555	43 12 4
Total.....	7 839	987	8 826	247 11 3
Non-effectives—				
Sick	016	.....	016	.....
Under punishment.....	006	.....	006	.....
Unemployed	9 824	.....	9 824	.....
Awaiting trial.....	2 421	.....	2 421	.....
Debtors.....	020	.....	020	.....
Total.....	12 287	.....	12 287	.....
Grand Totals	21 122	987	22 109	308 2 1

21.—YASS GAOL.

Extract from the Gaoler's Report.

The conduct of the officers has been good.

The conduct of the prisoners has also been good. There have been only three punishments during the year.

The prisoners have been employed effecting small repairs and keeping the gaol clean.

The buildings are in good repair.

The quantity of clothing and bedding in store is sufficient to meet all requirements.

The contractor's supplies have been satisfactory.

I think very highly of the introduction of agricultural work for prisoners. I feel certain that when the system is adopted that it will prove beneficial to the prisoners, both from a moral and educational point of view, and to the Department, by being reproductive. I will be able to grow sufficient vegetables to supply this gaol for half the year.

The Rules and Regulations have been carried out, to the best of my belief.

Return of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Employed in the Ordinary Service of the Prison—				£ s. d.
Sweepers	2 670	110	2 780	77 19 6
Cooks	1 190	.....	1 190	33 7 7
Barbers.....	390	.....	390	10 18 9
Wood-cutters	1 039	.....	1 039	29 2 10
Gardeners	340	.....	340	9 10 10
Repairing shoes	016	.....	016	0 9 0
Total.....	5 645	110	5 755	161 8 6
Non-effectives —				
Under punishment.....	032	.....	032	.....
Unemployed	1 590	.....	1 590	.....
Awaiting trial	280	.....	280	.....
On remand	590	019	609	.....
Excused	052	.....	052	.....
Total.....	2 544	019	2 563	.....
Grand Totals	8 189	129	8 318	161 8 6

22.—YOUNG GAOL.

Extract from the Gaoler's Report.

The conduct of the officers has been good.

The conduct of the prisoners has been good, with the exception of five, who had to be punished.

The prisoners were principally employed building twenty additional cells. Special precautions were necessary to secure the safe custody of the men by day and night. The saving effected in the work already done amounts to £522 12s. 9d. I anticipate the completion of the cells in five months time; then each prisoner will be placed in a single cell, and if necessary, they can receive their food in their cells, except when at exercise or at work. No doubt substantial changes in the duty can then be made.

The general state of the buildings is satisfactory, but the interior ground space of the gaol is too limited, and the workshops are hardly large enough.

The stock of clothing and bedding is sufficient.

The provisions have been good, and regularly supplied.

The regulations and general orders have been complied with to the best of my ability.

RETURN of the Value of Prisoners' Labour, 1896.

Description of Employment.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Value of Prisoners' Labour.
	Males.	Females.	Total	
Manufacturers—				£ s. d.
Braces		} 500	} 500	0 10 4
Drawers (flannel)				0 2 0
Socks (worsted)				0 14 8
Towels				0 4 0
Boot repairing.....	300		300	5 1 6
Cabbage-tree hats	600		600	5 0 0
Hair-pickers	550		550	2 2 5
Total	1 450	500	1 950	13 14 11
In building portion of twenty additional cells by prison labour—				
Bricklayers	232		232	} 504 17 0
Bricklayers' learners	1 526		1 526	
Carpenters	624		624	
Concrete layers and mixers	620		620	
Ironworkers	376		376	
Labourers and scaffolding erectors	2 859		2 859	
Mortar mixers	1 248		1 248	
Plumbers	362		362	
Plasterers	405		405	
Total	8 252		8 252	504 17 0
In buildings, Gaol generally—				
Painters	385		385	8 0 0
Total	385		385	8 0 0
Employments in the ordinary service of the Gaol—				
Bath and barber prisoners	1 231		1 231	34 10 7
Cooking for the prisoners	2 000		2 000	56 2 0
Nursing and attending sick prisoners	924		924	25 18 4
Labourers.....	2 075		2 075	58 4 1
Sweepers and cleaners	3 000	1 500	4 500	126 4 0
Working outside for Gaol	1 692		1 692	47 9 2
Wood cutters	1 676		1 676	47 0 3
Pumping water	2 000		2 000	56 2 0
Total	14 598	1 500	16 098	451 10 11
Services rendered to Police Department—				
Working outside for police	477		477	13 7 7
Total	477		477	13 7 7
Non-effectives—				
Sick	1 774		1 774	
Under punishment.....	284		284	
Unemployed	241		241	
Awaiting trial.....	2 062		2 062	
Debtors	399		399	
Others omitted from above	1 438		1 438	
Total	5 838		5 838	
Grand totals	31 000	2 000	33 000	991 10 5

23.—TRIAL BAY PRISON.

Extract from Report of Superintendent.

The conduct of the officers, with one exception, has been very good. Four officers of the Harbours and Rivers Department have been transferred to the strength of this prison.

The conduct of the prisoners generally has been very good, and no severe accidents have occurred.

There were five escapes during the year, all of whom were recaptured.

In addition to the work performed by the prisoners on the breakwater, two magazines have been completed, and gunpowder and dynamite stored therein. Miscellaneous repairs have been effected in connection with the prison. The lighting of the prison is defective, caused by the inferior quality of the gasoline supplied.

The Engineer-in-Chief visited the prison in September last, and inspected the floor in the hall and wings; also the roofs of the buildings. These necessary repairs, I understand, will shortly be taken in hand.

Return

Return of Receipts, Discharges, Work Performed, and Cost of Prison.

Number of modified servitude prisoners at Trial Bay, on 1st January, 1896 ...	88
Number received during the year	106
Number discharged.....	89
In Gaol on 31st December, 1896	105
Daily average number confined during the year	103
Quantity of stone put in breakwater from 1st January to 31st December, 1896	13,299 tons 9 cwt. 9,912 tons 2 cwt. to spoil tip.
Daily average number of prisoners employed at the above-mentioned work.	66.12 5.76 other works in connection.
Daily average number of prisoners employed in Prison service (exclusive of above named)	27.45
Amount paid to prisoners on discharge as gratuities earned while at other gaols	£220 16s.
Amount paid as rewards to prisoners released from prison during the past year	£1,037 13s. 5½d.
Number of officers on the strength (excluding those not in receipt of salaries)..	30
Amount of salaries paid to officers during 1896	£4,415 15s. 1d.
Amount paid as contingencies (embracing all other expenses during the year 1896)	£2,740 13s. 6d.
Cost per head per prisoner per annum	£77 12s. 1d.
Number of prisoners to officers	3.4

SUMMARY No. 1.—Summary of the Value of Work performed by Prisoners at the different Gaols in the Colony during the year 1896.

Gaol.	Value of Prison Labour employed in Manufactures.		In Buildings		For Police and other Government Departments.		Employment in the ordinary Prison Service.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Darlinghurst	4,175	2 7	814	4 5	.....	.....	5,119	15 11	10,109	2 11
Parramatta	1,345	17 10	4,328	9 1	.....	.....	2,750	17 4	8,425	4 3
Bathurst	1,061	13 9	1,428	18 3	.....	.....	3,305	18 1	5,796	10 1
Goulburn	1,478	3 8	701	4 9	112	16 8	3,940	17 1	6,233	2 2
Maitland	459	16 4	1,383	7 0	.....	.....	1,925	18 3	3,760	1 7
Berrima	145	1 3	228	18 0	.....	.....	650	5 6	1,024	4 9
Biloela	231	13 2	1,048	7 5	.....	.....	1,760	0 10	3,040	1 5
Albury	94	15 11	183	12 10	.....	.....	424	12 0	703	0 9
Armidale	164	2 7	26	11 8	92	16 11	430	2 3	713	13 5
Broken Hill .....	.....	.....	3	14 8	7	17 0	501	10 5	513	2 1
Deniliquin .....	.....	.....	79	4 4	109	7 2	329	14 5	518	5 11
Dubbo	94	14 10	36	14 8	.....	.....	730	8 9	861	18 3
Forbes .....	.....	.....	7	12 0	.....	.....	205	6 11	212	18 11
Grafton	35	12 10	221	0 0	.....	.....	304	6 11	560	19 9
Hay .....	.....	.....	72	15 0	.....	.....	338	2 8	410	17 8
Mudgee .....	.....	.....	49	18 0	15	8 6	477	4 4	542	10 10
Tamworth	3	2 0	2	18 4	28	1 0	730	14 4	764	12 8
Wagga Wagga .....	.....	.....	1	8 0	.....	.....	302	13 5	304	1 5
Wilcannia .....	.....	.....	41	14 4	.....	.....	358	1 8	399	16 0
Wollongong .....	.....	.....	60	10 10	.....	.....	247	11 3	308	2 1
Yass .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	161	8 6	161	8 6
Young	13	14 10	512	17 0	13	7 7	451	10 11	991	10 4
Balranald .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	55	18 4	55	18 4
Bega .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	58	17 0	58	17 0
Bingera .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	55	10 8	55	10 8
Bombala .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	3 6	21	3 6
Bourke .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	17 0	216	16 2	247	13 2
Braidwood .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35	16 10	35	16 10
Burrowa .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	13 10	6	13 10
Campbelltown .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16	15 6	16	15 6
Casino .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	5 1	67	6 3	76	11 4
Cobar .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	106	0 4	106	0 4
Cooma .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	7 10	42	3 4	56	11 2
Coonabarabran .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	62	5 3	62	5 3
Coonamble .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	68	18 8	68	18 8
Cootamundra .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	9 9	137	13 7	142	3 4
Cowra .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	122	18 1	122	18 1
Glen Innes .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17	4 8	59	4 4	76	9 0
Grenfell .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23	18 6	23	18 6
Gundagai .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	64	15 10	64	15 10
Gunnedah .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	68	5 10	97	14 4	166	0 2
Hillston .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43	18 2	43	18 2
Inverell .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	9 9	88	7 1	92	16 10
West Kempsey .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23	11 2	27	17 4	51	8 6
Morice .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	11 8	185	10 1	200	1 9
Murrumbidgee .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	6 2	14	6 2
Murrumbidgee .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	266	16 1	266	16 1
Narrabri .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40	2 2	40	2 2
Newcastle .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	188	14 9	188	14 9
Orange .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	16 9	13	16 9
Port Macquarie .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	14 4	9	14 4
Queanbeyan .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	8 0	4	8 0
Singleton .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	13 11	15	13 11
Taree .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	4 6	12	4 6
Tenterfield .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	18 9	102	1 11	113	0 8
Walgett .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	83	6 8	83	6 8
Wellington .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	72	12 11	72	12 11
Wentworth .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	47	8 0	47	8 0
Windsor .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	£ 9,303	11 7	11,233	17 7	577	16 4	27,884	10 11	49,099	16 5

The value of prison labour is estimated at 1s. 10d. per diem, with exception of the prison trades, which are fixed by Schedule Rates,

SUMMARY

SUMMARY (No. 2) of Earnings of the various Trades at the Established Gaol, 1896.*

PRISON SERVICE.		Amount.	
Employment.	£	s.	d.
Bootmakers	110	4	3
Barbers	309	15	2
Blacksmiths	445	18	3
Carpenters	46	0	0
Cooks	2,658	19	11
Hospital attendants	1,229	14	9
Lunatic keepers	193	16	5
Messengers and servants	1,126	14	11
Miscellaneous work	4,721	14	5
Needlework	67	11	8
Outside work	1,058	11	1
Painters	20	4	8
School and store assistants	573	18	1
Sweepers and cleaners	9,502	6	4
Tailors	212	7	8
Tinsmiths	190	0	4
Writers	346	2	8
Washing and gardening	2,633	1	2
Total	£25,447	1	9

PRISON MANUFACTORY.			
Bootmakers	1,921	15	5
Brushmakers	657	3	11
Blacksmiths	134	13	9
Bookbinders	1,056	1	11
Carpenters	159	17	6
Hatmaking	235	10	5
Knitters	52	18	6
Matmakers	1,077	0	9
Marbleworkers	225	11	4
Needleworkers	535	9	5
Oakum pickers	33	13	2
Printers and Lithographers	118	0	1
Shrinking cloth	69	4	0
Tailors	1,910	19	11
Tinsmiths	972	18	1
Turners	99	14	3
Woodcutters	42	19	2
Total	£9,303	11	7

PRISON BUILDINGS.			
Asphalters	85	1	6
Blacksmiths	1,004	14	7
Bricklayers and Plasterers	843	8	6
Carpenters	1,674	5	7
Labourers	2,766	12	0
Masons	3,219	3	0
Painters	1,335	7	1
Plumbers	234	3	6
Tinsmiths	71	1	10
Total	£11,233	17	7

* Exclusive of the value of work done for police gaols.

APPENDIX II.

Medical Statistics.

- A. General medical statistics of prisons in New South Wales for the year ending 31 December, 1896.
- B. Particulars of prisoners released on medical grounds from the prisons of New South Wales during the year ending 31 December, 1896.
- C. Particulars of the death of each prisoner who died in the prisons of New South Wales during the year ending 31 December, 1896.
- D. Table showing the daily average prison population, with the number of deaths from natural causes and from alcoholism during each of the past ten years.
- E. Particulars of each case of insanity occurring in the prisons of New South Wales during the year ended 31 December, 1896.

TABLE A.
GENERAL Medical Statistics of Prisons in New South Wales for the year ending 31st December, 1896.

Prison	Daily Average number of Prisoners during the Year.	Total number of Cases of sickness treated in Hospital	Deaths from—											Number of Prisoners released on Medical Grounds.			
			Phthisis and Hemoptysis	Heart Disease.	Enteric Fever.	Other continued Fevers	Erysipelas.	Small-pox.	Other eruptive Fevers.	Diarrhoea.	Other natural causes.	Alcoholism.	Suicide.		Execution.	Other natural causes.	
Darlinghurst	549	580	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	4
Parramatta	328	291	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	2
Bathurst	268	52	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Berrima	74	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Biloela	190	96	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Goulburn	284	125	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	1	...	...	...
Maitland	138	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...
Trial Bay	103	143	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Albury	31	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Armidale	25	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Broken Hill	37	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Deniliquin	23	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Dubbo	40	30	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Forbes	13	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Grafton	31	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hay	17	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mudgee	19	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tamworth	34	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wagga Wagga	14	27	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wilcannia	16	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wollongong	19	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yass	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Young	33	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Balranald	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bega	2-4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bingera	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bombala	2-1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bourke	14-2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Braidwood	1-5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Burrowa	2	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Campbelltown	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Casino	4-5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cobar	7-2	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cooma	2-1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Coonabarabran	2-3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Coonamble	3-1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cootamundra	10-5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cowra	5-6	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Glen Innes	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grenfell	1-6	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gundagai	3-1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gunnedah	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hillston	3-8	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inverell	3-2	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kempsey	2-7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Moree	11-5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Murrurundi	6	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Narrabri	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Newcastle	3-2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orange	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Port Macquarie	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Queanbeyan	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Singleton	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Taree	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tenterfield	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Walgett	5-1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wellington	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wentworth	4-8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Windsor	2-3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grand Totals	Males ... 2,212-37 Females ... 230-43 Total ... 2,442-8	1,543	4	1	2	...	...	...	...	3	13	2	1	1	2	11	1
			4	1	2	...	...	...	...	3	15	2	1	1	...	12	...

Name of Prison.	Sex.	Register Number and Name of Prisoner.	Age at Death.	Date of Reception into Prison.	Sentence.]	Date of Conviction.	Date of Death.	Cause of Death (as returned by Visiting Surgeon).	Whether Disease originated before or after Reception into Prison	General Health on Reception into Prison.	Number of former Convictions	Previous Occupation.
Burrows	Male	1 H. B.	51	8/1/96	Remanded	8/1,96	20, 1,90	Enteric fever	Before	Suffering from enteric fever.	Nil.	Labourer.
Braidwood												
Campbelltown												
Casino												
Cobar												
Cooma												
Coonabarabran												
Coonamble												
Cootamundra												
Cowra												
Glen Innes												
Grenfell												
Gundagai												
Gunnedah												
Hillston												
Inverell												
West Kempsey												
Moree												
Murrumbidgee												
Narrabri												
Newcastle												
Orange												
Port Macquarie												
Queanbeyan												
Singleton												
Taree												
Tenterfield												
Walgett												
Wellington												
Wentworth												
Windsor												

TABLE D.

TABLE showing the Daily Average Prison Population, with the number of Deaths from Natural Causes and from Alcoholism, during each of the past ten years.

Year.	In Prison.		
	Daily Average Number of Prisoners of both Sexes.	Number of Deaths from Natural Causes and from Alcoholism.	Number of Deaths from Natural Causes and from Alcoholism, per 1,000 per annum.
Year ending 31st December—			
1887	2,374·56	34* 4 executions, 1 suicide.	14·31
1888	2,299·83	29* 2 executions, 2 suicides.	12·6
1889	2,227·77	33* 3 executions.	14·81
1890	2,261·18	28* 1 execution.	12·38
1891	2,458·74	37* 3 executions.	15·04
1892	2,550·69	39* 1 execution.	15·28
1893	2,540·47	30* 5 executions, 1 suicide.	11·8
1894	2,443·8	21* 5 executions.	8·59
1895	2,492·3	22* 1 execution.	8·82
1896	2,442·8	29* 1 execution, 1 suicide.	11·86

* Exclusive of executions and suicides.

TABLE E.

Particulars of each case of Insanity occurring in the Prisons of New South Wales during the year ended 31st December, 1896.

Name of Prison.	Sex.	Register Number.	Age on Reception.	Degree of Education.	Occupation prior to Reception.	Offence or Charge.	Date of Conviction (if convicted).	Sentence (if convicted).	Date of Reception into Prison.	Mental Condition on Reception into Prison.	Whether Remanded for Observation.	Whether known to have been Previously Insane.	Length of Imprisonment in the Prison previous to first symptoms of Insanity (in cases originating there).	Form of Insanity.	Supposed Cause of Insanity.	Recovered in Prison.	Certified and Removed to an Asylum, with date of each.	Discharged to Police Courts, with date.	Died in Prison, with date.	Certified as Insane, with date, but remaining in Prison at the end of the year.	Remaining in the Prison; not certified as Insane at the end of the year.	
Darlinghurst	Male	34	27	Read and write.	Labourer	Breaking and entering	27/6/95	2 years' hard labour.	2/1/96	Apparently sane.	No	Not known	On reception	Supposed malingering.	Not known	Yes						
	"	35	36	"	Clerk	Threatening language		Remanded	3/1/96	Suffering from drink.	Yes	"	"	Delirium tremens	Drink	"						
	"	5,851	25	"	"	Wounding	5/10/93	Governor's pleasure	5/10/93	Insane	"	Yes	"	Acute melancholia.	Hereditary	"	27/3/96, 10/4/96.					
	"	54	40	"	Labourer	Vagrancy		Remanded	4/1/96	Delusions	"	Not known	"	Acute dementia	Not known	Yes						
	"	128	35	Nil	Station-hand	In possession of stolen property.	12/11/95	6 months' hard labour	7/1/96	Apparently sane	No	"	"	Supposed sane	"	"						
	"	120	50	Read and write.	"	Attempted suicide		Remanded	8/1/96	Suicidal	Yes	"	"	"	"	"			15/1/96			
	"	119	40	"	Labourer	Assault	7/1/96	6 months' hard labour	7/1/96	Violent	"	"	"	Delirium tremens	Drink	"						
	"	5,914	31	"	"	Resisting police	1/11/95	"	13/11/95	Eccentric	"	Yes	"	Supposed sane	Not known	"						
	"	42	26	"	"	Assaulting police	3/1/96	21 days'	3/1/96	Sane	No	Not known	16 days	"	"	"						
	Female	366	20	"	Servant	Vagrancy	20/1/96	4 months'	20/1/96	Eccentric	"	"	On reception	"	"	"						
	"	378	24	"	Married woman	Indecent language	21/1/96	14 days' confinement	20/1/96	Suicidal	Yes	"	"	"	"	"						
	Male	379	32	"	Commercial traveller.	Attempted suicide		Remanded	21/1/96	"	"	"	"	"	"	"						
	"	486	59	"	Draper	Threatening language		"	24/1/96	Suffering from drink.	"	"	"	"	Delirium tremens	Drink	"			25/1/96		
	"	525	59	"	Miller	Vagrancy	18/1/96	3 months' hard labour	27/1/96	Weak intellect	"	"	"	"	Dementia	Not known	"	11/2/96, 21/2/96.				
	Female	803	25	"	Married woman	Riotous behaviour		Remanded	8/2/96	Suffering from drink.	Yes	"	"	"	Delirium tremens	Drink	"			13/2/96		
	Male	824	36	"	Bookmaker	Attempted suicide	10/2/96	3 months' hard labour	10/2/96	"	Yes	"	"	"	"	"	"					
	"	841	33	"	Fireman	Disobeying orders		Remanded	10/2/96	Sane	Yes	Not known	"	"	Supposed sane	Not known	"			11/2/96		
	"	842	30	"	"	"	"	"	10/2/96	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"			11/2/96		
	"	889	46	"	Labourer	Stealing from dwelling	1/2/93	7 years' penal servitude	13/2/96	Eccentric	No	"	"	"	"	"	"					Yes.
	"	893	61	"	Seaman	Vagrancy		Remanded	14/2/96	"	Yes	"	"	"	Dementia	"	Yes			21/2/96		
	"	894	22	"	Gardener	Attempted suicide	25/2/96	1 week's imprisonment, and find sureties.	14/2/96	Suicidal	No	"	"	"	Supposed sane	"	"					
	"	456	29	"	School-teacher	Assault on police	24/1/96	2 months' hard labour	24/1/96	Effects of drink	"	"	"	1 month	Acute " melancholia.	Not known	No			Sentence expired	31/3/96.	
	"	1,225	20	"	Seaman	Damage property	1/2/95	"	23/2/96	Weak intellect	"	"	"	On reception	"	"	"					
"	829	43	"	Publican	Assault and robbery		Trial, Quarter Sessions	10/2/96	Eccentric	Yes	"	"	23 days	Supposed sane	"	Yes						
Female	1,303	39	"	Married woman	Attempted suicide		Remanded	5/3/96	Effects of drink	"	"	"	On reception	Delirium tremens	Drink	"			11/3/96			
Male	1,325	32	"	Labourer	Indecent exposure		"	7/3/96	Delusions	"	"	"	"	Delirium melancholia.	Not known	"			13/3/96			
Female	1,661	35	"	Servant	Larceny		"	24/3/96	Effects of chlorodyne.	"	"	"	"	Supposed sane	"	"			1/4/96			
Male	1,685	42	"	Draper	Unlawfully on premises.		"	25/3/96	Eccentric	"	"	"	"	Delirium melancholia.	Not known	"			1/4/96			
"	1,727	26	"	Storekeeper	Stealing	30/3/96	2 months' hard labour	30/3/96	"	No	"	"	"	Supposed sane	"	"						
Female	1,741	25	"	Servant	Attempted suicide		Remanded	28/3/96	Suicidal	Yes	"	"	"	Melancholia	Domestic troubles.	"			1/4/96			
Male	542	32	"	Canvasser	"		"	28/1/96	"	"	"	"	"	Supposed sane	Not known	"			1/2/96			
"	1,956	44	"	Traveller	"		"	7/4/96	Mentally depressed.	"	"	"	"	"	Financial troubles.	"			21/4/96			
"	2,095	22	Nil	Labourer	Injure a horse; stealing.	17/3/96	2 months' hard labour; 14 days' hard labour; concurrent.	9/4/96	Stupid and foolish.	No	"	"	"	"	"	"						
"	2,084	39	"	News-vendor	Attempted arson		Remanded	13/4/96	Weak intellect	Yes	"	"	"	Imbecility	Not known	"			20/4/96			
"	2,112	57	Read and write.	Tin-smelter	Assault		"	14/4/96	Effects of drink	"	"	"	"	Delirium tremens	Drink	"			23/4/96			
"	2,106	67	Nil	Fisherman	Vagrancy		"	14/4/96	Senility	"	"	"	"	Dementia	Old age	"			16/4/96			
Female	2,145	51	Read and write.	Married woman	Assault		"	17/4/96	Effects of drink	"	"	"	"	Delirium tremens	Drink	"			24/4/96			

Name of Prison.	Sex.	Register Number.	Age on Reception.	Degree of Education.	Occupation Prior to Reception.	Offence or Charge.	Date of Conviction (if convicted).	Sentence (if convicted).	Date of Reception into Prison.	Mental Condition on Reception into Prison.	Whether Remanded for Observation.	Whether known to have been previously Insane.	Length of Imprisonment in the Prison previous to first symptoms of Insanity (in cases originating there).	Form of Insanity.	Supposed Cause of Insanity.	Recovered in Prison.	Certified and Removed to an Asylum, with date of each.	Discharged to Police Courts, with date.	Died in Prison, with date.	Certified as Insane, with date, but remaining in Prison at the end of the year.	Remaining in the Prison: not certified as Insane at the end of the year.	
Darlinghurst	Male	2,103	30	Read and write.	Grazier	Murder	9/4/96	Governor's pleasure	18/4/96	Insane	No	Not known	On reception	Insanity	Not known		2/7/96, 23/7/96					
	"	2,143	28	"	Labourer	Stealing	21/4/96	3 months' hard labour	16/4/96	Apparently sane	"	Yes	0 days	Supposed sane		Yes						
	Female	2,826	49	"	Married woman	Attempted suicide		Remanded	27/4/96	Suicidal	Yes	Not known	On reception	"								
	Male	2,841	32	"	Agent	Vagrancy	Exposing person (two charges), indecent language.	17/4/96	6 months' hard labour, 6 months' hard labour (cumulative), 3 months' confinement (concurrent).	27/4/96	Eccentric	"	"	"	Supposed sane		"					
		2,372	54	"						28/4/96	Weak intellect	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
	"	2,427	30	"	Commercial traveller.	Receiving			6 years' penal servitude	2/5/96	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
	"	2,437	28	"	Labourer	Attempted suicide			14 days' confinement	4/5/96		Yes	"	"		"	"					
	"	2,509	31	"	Steward	Insulting language			Remanded	7/5/96	Effects of drink	"	"	"	Delirium tremens	Drink	"					
	"	6,345	40	"	Labourer	Maliciously wounding			2 years' and 9 months' hard labour.	2/11/94	Sane	No	Yes	"	Sane							
	"	2,477	36	"	Canvasser	Assault			21 days' confinement	5/5/96	Effects of drink	"	Not known	"	Delirium tremens	Not known	No	Fine paid, 11/5/96				
	"	2,522	25	"	Labourer	Indecent language			5 months'	8/5/96	Weak intellect	"	"	"	Subject to acute mania.	"	Yes					
	"	2,623	27	"	Brickmaker	Robbery with violence			14 years' penal servitude	8/5/96	Excitable	"	"	"	Sane							
	"	2,758	50	"	Seaman	Vagrancy			8 months' hard labour	21/5/96	Melancholia	"	"	"	Dementia	Not known	No	Sentence expired, 10/7/96				
	"	2,888	24	"	Dealer	Attempted suicide			Remanded	27/5/96	Delusions	Yes	"	"	Delirium tremens	Drink	Yes	10/6/96				
	"	2,886	26	"	Railway porter	Stealing a letter			"	27/5/96	Sane	"	"	"	Sane							
	Female	2,918	28	"	Tailoress	Stealing from a ship			"	28/5/96	"	"	"	"	"							
	Male	3,028	37	"	Labourer	Vagrancy			3 months' hard labour	5/6/96	Mentally depressed.	No	"	"	Melancholy	Not known	No	Sentence expired, 20/8/96				
	"	3,027	32	"	Widow	Threatening language	Murder	10/4/96	Remanded	5/6/96	Excitable	Yes	"	"	Sane		Yes					
	Female	3,131	43	"						Life	Insane	No	"	"	"	"	"	"	Epileptic insanity	Not known	No	13/11/96, 23/11/96
	Male	3,128	66	"	Cook	Attempted suicide			Remanded	10/6/96	Suicidal	Yes	"	"	Sane							
	"	3,153	67	"	Draper	Threatening language			Remanded	12/6/96	Sane	"	"	"	Sane		Yes					
	"	3,180	75	"	Shipwright	Vagrancy			6 months' hard labour	13/6/96	Weak intellect.	No	Yes	"	Dementia	Old age	No	Sentence expired, 22/10/96				
	"	3,235	25	"	Labourer	Expose person			Remanded	16/6/96	Morose	Yes	Not known	"	Sane	Not known	Yes	17/6/96				
	"	3,279	67	"	"	Attempted suicide			"	17/6/96	Effects of drink	"	"	"	Delirium tremens	Drink	"					
	"	3,425	23	"	"	Vagrancy			6 months' hard labour	26/6/96	Weak intellect	No	"	"	Epileptic	Epilepsy	No	Sentence expired, 19/9/96				
	Female	3,606	23	"	Barmaid	Offensive language			Remanded	4/7/96	Effects of drink	Yes	"	"	Alcoholic	Drink	"					
	"	3,693	42	"	Married woman	Offensive language			1 month hard labour	8/7/96	"	No	"	"	Sane		Yes					
	"	3,890	26	"	Servant	Attempted suicide			Remanded	10/7/96	Suicidal	Yes	"	"	Sane							
	"	3,869	30	"	"	"			"	15/7/96	Metancholy	"	"	"	Delirium melancholia.	Not known						
	Male	3,859	58	Read	Stonemason	Indecent language			35 days' confinement	14/7/96	Effects of drink	No	Yes	3 days	Sane		Yes	Sentence expired, 27/3/96				
"	3,850	70	"	Labourer	Vagrancy			1 month hard labour	21/7/96	Metancholy	No	Not known	1 day	Delirium melancholia.	Not known	No	Sentence expired, 21/8/96					
Female	4,012	16	Nil.	Servant	Arson			Governor's pleasure	22/7/96	Insane	"	"	On reception	Sane								
"	3,424	26	Read and write.	"	Vagrancy			3 months' hard labour	26/6/96	Weak intellect	"	"	"	Dementia	Not known	Yes	To her liberty, 12/10/96					
Male	4,086	30	"	Gardener	Indecent behaviour			21 days' confinement	25/7/96	Effects of drink	"	"	10 days	Alcoholic	Drink	"	Sentence expired, 14/8/96					
"	3,745	44	"	Labourer	Larceny			5 years' penal servitude	9/7/96	Doubtful	Yes	"	On conviction	Doubtful.	Not known	"					Yes.	
"	3,046	52	"	Painter	False pretences			18 months' hard labour	6/6/96	Eccentric	Not known	"	"	Eccentric	Stroke.	"						
Female	4,431	37	"	Servant	Attempted suicide			Remanded	10/8/96	Effects of drink	Yes	"	On reception	Alcoholic	Drink	"						
"	4,433	49	"	Married woman	Injuring property			21 days' confinement	10/8/96	Sane	No	"	"	Epileptic	Epilepsy	No	Fine paid, 13/8/96					
Male	4,654	60	"	Shoemaker	Attempted suicide			Remanded	16/8/96	Depressed spirits	Yes	"	"	Sane		Yes	21/8/96					
"	4,696	51	"	Farmer	Wife desertion			"	18/8/96	Effects of drink	"	"	"	Alcoholic	Drink	"						
"	4,630	56	"	Chemist	Assault with intent to carnally know			"	19/8/96	"	Yes	"	"	"								
"	4,687	60	Nil.	Labourer	Indecent language			"	24/8/96	Weak intellect	"	"	"	Chronic mania	Not known							
Female	3,575	49	Read and write.	Servant	Vagrancy			6 months' hard labour	10/7/96	"	No	Yes	1 month and 21 days	Not insane.		Yes						
Male	4,825	31	"	Miner	Assault			Remanded	31/8/96	Delusions	Yes	Not known	On reception	Eccentric	Not known	No					Yes.	
"	4,880	33	"	Salesman	"			"	1/9/96	Effects of drink	"	"	"	Alcoholic	Drink	"						
"	4,943	40	Nil.	Hawker	Vagrancy			"	9/9/96	Sane	"	"	"	Not insane								
"	4,940	45	Read and write.	Quarryman	Riotous behaviour			"	7/9/96	Eccentric	"	"	"	"								

Name of Prison.	Sex.	Register Number.	Age on Reception.	Degree of Education.	Occupation prior to Reception.	Offence or Charge.	Date of Conviction (if convicted).	Sentence (if convicted).	Date of Reception into Prison.	Mental Condition on Reception into Prison.	Whether Remained for Observation.	Whether known to have been Previously Insane.	Length of Imprisonment in the Prison previous to first symptoms of Insanity (in cases originating there).	Form of Insanity.	Supposed Cause of Insanity.	Recovered in Prison.	Certified and Removed to an Asylum, with date of each.	Discharged to Police Courts, with date.	Died in Prison, with date.	Certified as Insane, with date, but remaining in Prison at the end of the year. Remaining in the Prison, not certified as insane at the end of the year.		
Darlinghurst	Male	5,015	44	Read and write.	Lamp-maker	Riotous behaviour		Remanded	11/9/96	Weak intellect	Yes	Not known	On reception	Not insane			14/9/96					
	Female	5,081	27	"	Servant	Vagrancy	31/8/96	1 month hard labour	14/9/96	"	No	"	"	Dementia	Not known	No	Sentence expired,	30/9/96		Yes.		
	Male	5,130	30	"	Cook	Attempted suicide	28/7/96	6 months' confinement	17/9/96	"	Yes	"	"	Alcoholic	Drink	"	30/9/96					
		5,243	75	"	Baker	Attempted suicide	23/9/96	Remanded	23/9/96	Effects of drink	"	"	"	Alcoholic	Drink	"						
	Female	5,244	37	"	Married woman	Attempted suicide	23/9/96	2 days' confinement	23/9/96	Nerve prostr'n.	No	"	"	Debility	Not known	Yes	Sentence expired,	25/9/96		Yes.		
	Male	5,277	35	"	Labourer	Inflict grievous bodily harm.	28/7/96	Governor's pleasure	24/9/96	Insane	"	"	"	"	"	"						
		5,417	40	"	Piano tuner	Assault		Remanded	2/10/96	Effects of drink	Yes	"	"	"	Alcohol	Drink	"	6/10/96				
		5,527	47	"	Farmer	Assault			8/10/96	"	"	"	"	"	"	"		15/10/96				
		5,488	35	"	Carpenter	Threatening language			9/10/96	"	"	"	"	"	"	"		16/10/96				
	Female	5,560	34	"	Servant	Attempted suicide			10/10/96	"	Yes	"	"	"	"	"		17/10/96				
	Male	5,625	25	"	Farmer	Wife desertion	22/8/96	12 months' confinement	15/10/96	Moody	No	Not known	"	"	Sane	"	Yes					
	Female	5,644	30	"	Servant	Vagrancy		Remanded	16/10/96	Weak intellect	Yes	"	"	"	Mental debility	Not known	"	23/10/96				
	Male	5,690	32	Nil.	Seaman	Disobey orders			17/10/96	Sane	"	"	"	"	Sane	"	"	21/10/96				
		5,697	48	Read and write.	Dealer	Injure property			19/10/96	Effects of drink	"	Yes	"	"	Alcohol	Drink	"	20/10/96				
		5,668	19	"		Stealing		21/10/96	6 months' hard labour	17/10/96	Sane	No	Not known	"	Malignerer	"	To Parramatta, cured,	27/10/96				
		5,928	39	"	Painter	Attempted suicide		20/10/96	7 days' confinement	20/10/96	"	"	"	"	Sane	"	Yes	Sentence expired,	5/11/96			
		5,411	28	"	Labourer	Breaking, entering, and stealing			3/10/96	Insane	"	Yes	"	28 days	Not known	"	18/11/96					
		6,001	52	"	Painter	Assault			5/11/96	Sane	Yes	Not known	On reception	Sane	"	"	23/11/96					
		5,586	22	"	Engineer	Stealing	28/10/96	6 months' hard labour	13/10/96	"	No	"	25 days	"	"	"		12/11/96			Yes.	
	Female	6,029	40	"	Servant	Drunk and disorderly, indecent language.	17/10/96	7 days' and 3 months' confinement.	6/10/96	Effects of drink	"	Yes	"	On reception	Subject to acute mania.	Drink	"	11/12/96				
	Male	6,048	19	Nil	Labourer	Vagrancy		Remanded	7/11/96	Sane	Yes	Not known	"	"	Sane	"	"	19/12/96				
		6,033	19	Read and write.	"	False pretences		21/2/96	12 months' hard labour	10/10/96	Delusions	No	"	"	"	"	"	18/11/96			Yes.	
		6,050	78	"		Attempted suicide		Remanded	10/11/96	Effects of drink	Yes	"	"	"	Alcohol	Drink	"	23/11/96				
		6,107	33	"	Clergyman	Riotous behaviour	10/11/96	11 days' confinement	10/11/96	Excitable	No	"	"	"	Sane	"	"	Fine paid,	12/11/96			
		6,130	33	"	Engineer	Stealing	21/10/96	3 months' hard labour	12/11/96	Insane	"	"	"	"	General paralysis of insane.	Not known	"				Yes	
		5,550	21	Nil	Drover			13/11/96	9	27/10/96	Epileptic	"	"	On conviction	Peat. mal.	Epilepsy	Yes					
		6,170	62	Read and write	Miner	Vagrancy			Remanded	16/11/96	Weak intellect	Yes	"	On reception	Sane	"	"	23/11/96				
		5,944	16	"	Bootmaker	Breaking, entering, and stealing.				31/10/96	Sane	No	"	10 days	Malignerer	"	Yes					
		6,225	60	"	Labourer	Attempt to inflict grievous bodily harm.				18/11/96	Excited	"	"	3	Sane	"	"	25/11/96				
		5,800	21	"	Butcher	Stealing	13/11/96	12 months' hard labour	21/10/96	Effects of drink	"	"	"	1 month	"	"	"				Yes.	
	6,257	44	"		Drunk and disorderly			Remanded	23/11/96	"	Yes	"	On reception	Alcohol	Drink	"	27/11/96					
	6,348	37	"	Machinist	Attempted suicide				25/11/96	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	9/12/96					
Female	6,349	26	"	Music teacher	Vagrancy				25/11/96	Weak intellect	"	"	"	Sane	"	"	27/11/96					
Male	6,485	17	"	Labourer	Illegally on premises				2/12/96	Sane	"	"	"	Epileptic	Epilepsy	"	9/12/96					
Female	6,567	24	"	Servant	Vagrancy				2/12/96	Effects of drink	"	"	"	Alcohol	Drink	"	28/12/96					
Male	6,674	41	"	Barron	Attempted suicide				12/12/96	"	"	"	"	"	"	Yes						
	6,709	50	"	Traveller	Forgery				14/12/96	Sane	"	"	"	Sane	"	"				Yes.		
	6,679	60	"	Labourer	Vagrancy	15/12/96	1 month hard labour	12/12/96	Eccentric.	"	"	"	6 days	"	"	"						
	6,897	30	"	Stouckeeper	Attempted suicide				23/12/96	Effects of drink	"	"	On reception	Alcohol	Drink	"	30/12/96					
	6,960	68	"	Labourer	Vagrancy	2/12/96	3 months' hard labour	23/12/96	Insane	No	"	"	"	Dementia	Not known	"				Yes.		
	6,949	28	"	"	Attempted suicide				28/12/96	"	Yes	"	"	Suicidal mania	"	"						
	7,095	30	"	"	Larceny				30/12/96	Nervous	No	"	"	Epilepsy	"	"						
	7,008	54	"	"	Stealing				13/12/96	Effects of drink	"	"	18 days	Alcohol	"	"						
Parramatta		407	30	Read.	Miner	Mischievously wounding	10/4/95	3 years' hard labour.	22/4/95	No record	"	"	250	No record	No record	Yes						
		408	34	Read and write.	Labourer	Robbery with violence	28/2/95	4	6/3/95	"	"	"	307	"	"	"	"					
		409	22	"		Horse stealing	10/6/94	2	16/6/94	"	"	Known	218	"	"	"						
		411	27	"	Groom	Stealing	18/10/95	9 months' hard labour	31/12/95	"	"	Not known	32	"	"	"	"					
		413	38	"	Butcher	Assault	1/11/95	13	24/12/95	"	"	"	35	"	"	"	"					
		415	30	"	Taylor	Attempted suicide	10/2/96	6	11/2/96	"	"	"	"	On reception	"	"	"					
		417	51	"	Labourer	Exposing person	7/8/94	2 years' hard labour.	8/3/94	"	"	"	"	587 days	"	"	"					
		419	22	"	Dealer	In possession of stolen property.	6/4/96	21 days' confinement	7/4/96	"	"	Known	"	On reception	"	"	Yes.	15/5/96				

Name of Prison.	Sex.	Register Number.	Age on Reception.	Degree of Education	Occupation prior to Reception.	Offence or Charge.	Date of Conviction (if convicted)	Sentence (if convicted).	Date of Reception into prison	Mental Condition on Reception into Prison.	Whether Remanded for Observation.	Whether known to have been Previously Insane.	Length of Imprisonment in the Prison previous to first symptoms of Insanity (in cases originating there).	Form of Insanity.	Supposed Cause of Insanity.	Recovered in Prison.	Certified and removed to an Asylum, with date of such.	Discharged to Police Courts, with date.	Died in Prison, with date.	Certified as Insane, with date, but remaining in Prison at the end of the year.	Remaining in the Prison not certified as Insane at the end of the year.	
Parramatta	Male	420	30	Nil	Labourer	Vagrancy	1/4/96	3 months' confinement	2/4/96	No record		Not known	12 days	No record	No record	Yes						
	"	421	33	Read and write	"	Drunk and obscene language	12/3/96	"	14/4/96	"	"	"	On reception	"	"	"	"					
	"	422	27	"	Cook	Breaking, entering, and stealing.	17/9/95	4 years' penal servitude	18/10/95	"	"	"	185 days	"	"	"	"					
	"	423	41	"	Labourer	Idle and disorderly	20/4/96	1 month's hard labour	21/1/96	"	"	"	2 "	"	"	"	"					
	"	426	26	"	"	Assault	18/5/96	"	14/5/96	"	"	"	On reception	"	"	"	"					
	"	428	60	"	"	Murder	4/10/92	Life	20/11/92	"	"	Known	1,286 days	"	"	"	"					Yes.
	"	430	27	"	"	Larceny	17/9/95	12 months' hard labour	24/12/95	"	"	Not known	173 "	"	"	"	Yes					
	"	431	49	"	Groom	Stealing	22/6/96	1 "	23/6/96	"	"	"	2 "	"	"	"	"					
	"	436	41	"	Waiter	Attempt to break and enter with intent to steal.	10/4/90	2 years'	2/6/96	Same	"	Known	30 "	Delirium mania.	Not known	"	"					Yes.
	"	444	28	Nil	Labourer	Murder	11/4/94	Life	25/5/95	"	"	Not known	475 "	Melancholia	"	Yes						
	"	446	38	Read and write	Chemist	False pretences	4/12/95	3 years' penal servitude	9/12/95	"	"	"	200 "	General paralysis	Not known	"	"					Yes.
	"	448	22	"	Labourer	Vagrancy	19/9/96	4 months' hard labour	25/8/96	"	"	"	38 "	Acute mania	Masturbation.	Yes						
	"	449	40	"	"	"	"	1/10/96	8 "	1/10/96	Doubtful	"	Known	3 "	Melancholia	"	"					
	"	452	64	"	"	"	"	29/5/96	6 "	29/6/96	Same	Not known	109 "	Delirious mania.	Not known	"	"					
	"	455	33	"	Clerk	"	22/10/96	14 days'	22/10/96	Doubtful	"	"	1 day	"	"	"	"					
	"	458	26	"	Labourer	Stealing	21/10/96	6 months'	27/10/96	"	"	"	1 "	Melancholia	Masturbation.	"	"					Yes
	"	459	31	"	"	Assault	28/10/96	21 days'	29/10/96	Insane	"	"	1 "	Delirium tremens	Alcohol	Yes						
	"	460	44	"	"	Threatening language	27/10/96	3 months'	2/11/96	"	"	"	43 days	Melancholia	Epilepsy	"	"					
	"	461	57	"	"	Assault	21/9/96	2 " confinement	22/9/96	Epilepsy	"	"	23 "	Eccentric	Not known	"	"					
	"	463	59	"	"	Injuring property	18/10/96	2 "	14/10/96	Same	"	"	4 "	Delirium tremens	Alcohol	"	"					
"	465	38	"	Tinsmith	Drunk	12/11/96	7 days'	12/11/96	Insane	"	"	On reception	Delirious melancholia.	Not known	"	"						
"	468	29	"	Cook	Wounding with intent	18/6/95	10 years' penal servitude	24/11/96	Doubtful	"	"	"	"	"	"	"						
"	469	38	"	Baker	Fraud	21/3/96	7 "	24/11/96	"	"	"	49 days	Suicidal mania	"	"	"					Yes.	
"	470	35	"	Labourer	Assault	14/10/96	6 months' hard labour	16/10/96	"	"	"	17 "	Epilepsy	"	"	"					Yes.	
"	477	18	"	Mailboy	Indecent language	2/12/96	21 days'	4/12/96	Same	"	"	"	Melancholia	Masturbation.	"	"	22/12/96					
"	479	21	"	Labourer	Stealing	10/12/96	6 months'	15/12/96	"	"	"	12 "	"	Not known	"	"					Yes.	
"	480	24	"	Bookmaker	Breaking, entering, and stealing (4 charges)	24/8/96	6 years' penal servitude	25/8/96	"	"	"	126 "	"	"	"	"	"					Yes.
"	481	40	"	Drover	Larceny as a bailee	4/8/96	6 months' hard labour	5/8/96	"	"	"	142 "	"	"	"	Yes						
"	482	20	"	Labourer	Stealing	16/12/96	"	22/12/96	"	"	"	9 "	Suicidal mania	Masturbation.	"	"						Yes.
Bathurst	"	17	57	Nil	Nil	Stealing	13/1/96	3 "	13/1/96	Dementia	"	"	7 days	Dementia	Not known	"	23/1/96, 5/2/96					
	"	156	27	Read	Cook	Vagrancy	18/4/96	Remanded	18/4/96	Suspected insane.	Yes	"	Suspected insane.	Suspected of being insane.	"	"	25/4/96					
	"	232	23	Read and write.	Labourer	Unlawfully and feloniously assault and rob.	9/6/96	Trial Quarter Sessions	11/6/96	No symptoms observed.	"	"	47 days	Religious mania	Not known	"	1/8/96, 17/8/96					
	"	448	35	"	Sailor	Stealing	4/11/96	1 month hard labour.	4/11/96	Delirium tremens.	"	"	1 day	Delirium tremens.	Alcohol	Yes						
Berrima	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Biloela	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	
Goulburn	Male	358	62	Read and write.	Labourer	Breaking and entering and stealing, and maliciously wounding	27/2/96	6 years' penal servitude.	24/10/96	Quiet	"	Not known	17 days	No record	Not known	Yes						
	"	52	52	"	Tailor	Sodomy	22/2/94	10 years' penal servitude.	25/2/94	Unsound	"	"	2 years and 24 days	"	"	"	"					
	"	275	50	"	Wheelwright	Suspected person	"	Under remand	30/7/96	Rambling	Yes	"	On reception	"	"	"	"	6/8/96				

Name of Prison.	Sex.	Register Number.	Age on Reception.	Degree of Education.	Occupation prior to Reception.	Offence or Charge.	Date of Conviction (if convicted).	Sentence (if convicted).	Date of Reception into Prison.	Mental Condition on Reception into Prison.	Whether Remanded for Observation.	Whether known to have been Previously Insane.	Length of Imprisonment in the Prison previous to first symptoms of Insanity (in cases originating there).	Form of Insanity.	Supposed Cause of Insanity.	Recovered in Prison.	Certified and Removed to an Asylum, with date of each.	Discharged to Police Courts, with date.	Died in Prison, with date.	Certified as Insane, with date, but remaining in Prison at the end of the year.	Remaining in the Prison, not certified as insane at the end of the year.
Maitland	Male	420	38	Read and write.	Minor	Vagrancy	11/5/96	3 months' labour	11/5/96	Weak		Yes	2 months	Mania	Sclerosis	Yes					
	"	774	49	Nil.	Seaman	Expose person Indecent language	1/9/96	1 month's confinement 3 months' confinement (cumulative).	1/9/96	"		"	7 days	"	Injury to head.		0/9/96 19/9/96				
	Female	854	51	Read and write.	Married	Vagrancy	13/10/96	3 months' hard labour	13/10/96	"		"	1 month 25 days.	"	Alcoholism		12/12/96 21/12/96				
Trat Bay																					
Albury																					
Ardakote																					
Broken Hill																					
Deniliquin																					
Dubbo																					
Forbes																					
Grafton																					
Hay																					
Mudgee	Male	76	58	Read and write.	Labourer	Drunk and obscene language.	14/7/96	14 days' hard labour.	16/7/96	Normal, quiet.		Not known	4 days	Dementia	Not known		30/7/96 1/8/96				
	Female	93	56	Read	Married	Threatening language	4/8/96	7 days' confinement	4/8/96	Quiet		Yes	1 day	"	"		10/8/96 12/8/96				
Tamworth																					
Wagga Wagga																					
Wilcannia																					
Wollongong																					
Yass																					
Young																					
Balmoral																					
Bega																					
Bingera																					
Bombala																					
Bourke																					
Braidwood																					
Burrowa																					
Campbelltown																					
Casino																					
Cobar																					
Coonua																					
Coonabarabran																					
Coonamble																					
Coomamundra																					
Cown	Male	116	27	Read and write.	Horsebreaker	Vagrancy	17/11/90	21 days' hard labour.	17/11/90	Insane		Not known	On reception	Mania	Fracture of skull.		29/11/90 27/11/90				
Glen Innes																					
Grenfell																					
Gundagai																					
Gunnedah																					
Hillston																					
Inverell																					
West Kempsey																					
Moree																					
Murrumbidgee																					
Narrabri																					
Newcastle																					
Orange																					
Port Macquarie																					
Queanbeyan																					
Singleton																					
Taree																					
Tenterfield																					
Walgett																					
Wellington																					
Wentworth																					
Windsor																					

Total, 177. Of this number, 121 showed symptoms of insanity on reception, and 33 within one month after admission.
 Exclusive of this number, 368 persons were remanded into the various Gaols charged with being of unsound mind or for protection, and 41 others were received suffering from the effects of drink.

APPENDIX III.

PART A.

Returns Concerning Prisoners.

1. Return of prisoners received into the prisons of New South Wales, and of those disposed of, during the year ended 31st December, 1896.
2. Return of the daily average, the greatest and the least number of prisoners in custody in each of the prisons of New South Wales, during the year ended 31st December, 1896.
3. Return showing the number and sentences of prisoners under each period of sentence of penal servitude, hard labour, or imprisonment in all prisons on the 31st December, 1896.
4. Return showing the population of New South Wales, with the number of prisoners sentenced to death, to penal servitude for life, to imprisonment on indictment, and on summary conviction or want of sureties in each year from 1890.
5. Statement of the restraints, punishments, and offences during the year ended 31st December, 1896, in each of the prisons of New South Wales.
6. Statement of accommodation for prisoners in the prisons of New South Wales during the year ended 31st December, 1896, and of the daily average and the greatest number of prisoners.
7. Return of prisoners within each of the following period of age remaining in each of the prisons of New South Wales on the 31st December, 1896.

No. 1.

RETURN of Prisoners received into the Prisons of New South Wales, and of those disposed of, during the year ended 31st December, 1896.

	Received—			Disposed of—	Remaining in custody at the end of the year.....		
	Male.	Female.	Total.		Male.	Female.	Total.
Number of prisoners in gaol on 1 January, 1896	2,221	239	2,460	Discharged on expiration of sentence or commitment	12,062	3,242	15,304
Received—				Discharged (fines paid)	880	148	1,028
Under commitment, not having been in custody in other gaols, viz. :—				Discharged on license	23	23	46
Remanded and discharged	2,306	386	2,692	Discharged on pardon, remission, or commutation of sentence	491	13	504
Remaining on remand at end of year	36	6	42	Removed to industrial schools and reformatories	41	22	63
For trial at Assizes and Quarter Sessions, and the result :—				Removed to lunatic asylums	151	51	202
Tried and convicted	Male. 462	Female. 30	Total. 492	Committed suicide	1	1	2
Tried and acquitted	199	22	221	Died	27	2	29
Remaining untried at the end of year.	95	3	98	Executed	1	1	2
Otherwise disposed of	96	7	103	Escaped and recaptured	10	..	10
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions (not previously in prison).	852	62	914	Remaining in custody at the end of the year.....	2,140	217	2,357
Convicted summarily	313	10	323				
Want of sureties	9,888	2,978	12,866				
Debtors and civil process	58	6	64				
Naval and military offenders	66	2	68				
	87	..	87				
Total	15,777	3,695	19,472	Total	15,777	3,695	19,472

Transfers—Males, 1,744; Females, 82.

Number of prisoners actually committed to gaol during 1896, 17,012; number discharged, 17,115

No. 2.

RETURN of the Daily Average, the Greatest and the Least Number of Prisoners in Custody in each of the Prisons of New South Wales during the Year ended 31st December, 1896.

Name of Prison.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners in the Year.			Greatest Number of Prisoners in Custody at one time and date.				Least Number of Prisoners in Custody at one time and date.			
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Date.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Date.
Darlinghurst	465	84	549	524	86	612	4/2/96	410	66	476	5/1/96
Parramatta	323	..	323	334	..	384	17/3/96	290	..	290	1/12/96
Bathurst	252	16	268	277	18	295	23/11/96	227	13	240	15/9/96
Berrima	74	..	74	84	..	84	7/11/96	66	..	66	21/2/96
Biloela	114	76	190	138	104	242	11/4/96	90	54	144	10/8/96
Goulburn	275	9	284	300	7	307	5/6/96	245	0	245	8/10/96
Maitland	127	11	138	161	0	170	23/5/96	102	7	109	19/10/96
Trial Bay	103	..	103	122	..	122	17/6/96	83	..	83	13/1/96
Albury	30	1	31	41	3	44	17/1/96	20	1	21	30/5/96
Armidale	23	2	25	28	3	31	22/11/96	15	..	15	14/6/96
Broken Hill	34	3	37	44	4	48	14/12/96	25	2	27	10/5/96
Deniliquin	20	3	23	29	4	33	14/5/96	12	1	13	3/3/96
Dubbo	36	4	40	55	5	60	11/1/96	26	3	29	23/11/96
Forbes	12	1	13	21	3	24	9/7/96	7	..	7	9/10/96
Grafton	30	1	31	41	..	41	1/8/96	21	1	22	22/11/96
Hay	16	1	17	26	1	27	8/2/96	9	..	9	15/10/96
Mudgee	17	2	19	27	4	31	26/1/96	12	2	14	4/7/96

Name of Prison.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners in the Year.			Greatest Number of Prisoners in Custody at one time and date.			Least Number of Prisoners in Custody at one time and date.				
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Date.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Date.
Tamworth.....	22	2	34	42	2	44	23/12/06	22	2	24	30/9/06
Wagga Wagga.....	13	1	14	29	3	32	12/1/06	8	.....	8	21/0/06
Wilcannia.....	16	.....	16	22	.....	22	10/4/06	11	.....	11	27/8/06
Wollongong.....	18	1	19	36	3	39	10/2/06	0	.....	9	27/4/06
Yass.....	7	1	8	18	.....	18	22/3/06	2	.....	2	2/8/06
Young.....	31	2	33	41	2	43	27/9/06	23	2	25	1/1/00
Balranald.....	15	50	2	8	1	9	8/4/00	.....	Nil.	.....	14 to 23/11/06
Bega.....	23	1	24	6	.....	5	5/2/06	1	.....	1	21/7/06
Bingera.....	3	.....	3	9	1	10	17/12/06	1	.....	1	7/8/06
Bombala.....	2	1	21	6	.....	6	26/10/06	1	.....	1	From 1 to 29/1/06
Bourke.....	122	2	142	22	5	27	23/8/06	5	.....	5	22/12/06
Braidwood.....	15	.....	15	4	.....	4	8/6/06	.....	Nil	.....	1/11/00
Burrowa.....	2	.....	2	5	.....	5	17 to 21/1/06	.....	Nil	.....	23/3 to 4/8/06
Campbelltown.....	3	.....	3	4	.....	4	25/4/06	.....	Nil	.....	1/1/06
Casino.....	43	2	45	10	.....	10	4/1/06	.....	Nil	.....	28/8/06
Cobar.....	7	2	72	16	.....	16	15/10/06	2	.....	2	3/5/06
Cooma.....	2	1	21	6	.....	6	23/11/00	1	.....	1	1/1/06
Coonambarran.....	21	2	23	7	.....	7	13/6/06	1	.....	1	1/1/06
Coonamble.....	8	1	31	11	.....	11	17/12/06	.....	Nil	.....	16/3/06
Cootamundra.....	91	14	105	23	5	28	2/1/06	2	.....	2	26/8/06
Cowra.....	52	4	50	11	.....	11	20/12/06	1	1	2	22/10/06
Glen Innes.....	26	4	3	0	1	7	30/3/00	.....	Nil	.....	21 to 30/5/06
Grenfell.....	16	.....	16	4	.....	4	7 to 9/1/06	.....	Nil	.....	1 to 18/6/06
Gundagai.....	31	.....	31	9	.....	9	11/7/06	1	.....	1	31/8/06
Gunnedah.....	7	1	8	13	2	15	6/3/06	3	.....	3	8/6/06
Hillston.....	38	.....	38	9	.....	9	1/1/06	1	.....	1	4/10 to 5/11/06
Inverell.....	22	1	32	7	2	9	2/4/06	.....	Nil	.....	13/11/06
Kempsey.....	27	.....	27	7	.....	7	22/6/06	1	.....	1	5 to 13/4/06
Moree.....	114	1	115	21	.....	21	10/10/06	6	.....	6	1/8/00
Murrumbidgee.....	5	1	6	4	.....	4	29/2/06	.....	Nil	.....	7/2/06
Narrabri.....	149	1	15	26	1	27	24/10/06	8	.....	8	18/7/06
Newcastle.....	3	2	32	10	3	13	1/12/06	.....	Nil	.....	8/10/06
Orange.....	11	1	12	16	7	23	8/1/06	3	.....	3	23/8/00
Port Macquarie.....	5	.....	5	3	.....	3	17/3/06	.....	Nil	.....	31/12/06
Queanbeyan.....	3	1	9	7	.....	7	7/1/06	1	.....	1	14/6/06
Singleton.....	2	.....	2	6	.....	6	26/3/06	.....	Nil	.....	31/12/06
Taree.....	5	.....	5	4	.....	4	25/5/06	1	.....	1	23/11/06
Tenterfield.....	3	.....	3	3	.....	3	20/1/06	.....	Nil	.....	5/3/06
Walgett.....	6	1	51	13	2	15	28/2/06	1	.....	1	12/2/06
Wellington.....	5	.....	5	12	.....	12	28/2/06	1	.....	1	26/3/06
Wentworth.....	48	.....	48	9	.....	9	20/3/06	1	.....	1	3/1/06
Windsor.....	227	03	23	6	.....	6	31/06	.....	Nil	.....	10/9/00
Total in Gaols ..	221237	23043	24423	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

No. 3.

RETURN showing the Number and Sentences of Prisoners under each period of Sentence of Penal Servitude, Hard Labour, or Imprisonment in all Prisons on the 31st December, 1896.

Period of Sentence.	Number of Prisoners on the 31st December, 1896.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Sentenced to Imprisonment only.		
				Males.	Females.	Total.
Penal Servitude and Hard Labour .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Life	31	1	32	3	.....	3
29 years .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
25 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
24 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
23 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
22 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
21 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
20	2	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
19 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
18 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
17 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
16 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
15	11	.....	11	1	.....	1
14	21	.....	21	.....	.....	.....
13 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
12	6	.....	6	.....	.....	.....
11 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
10	48	.....	48	.....	.....	.....
9	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
8	16	.....	16	.....	.....	.....
7	89	.....	89	.....	.....	.....
7½	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
6½ .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
6	45	.....	45	.....	.....	.....
5	144	.....	144	.....	.....	.....
4½	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
4	9	.....	9	.....	.....	.....

Period of Sentence	Number of Prisoners on the 31st December, 1896.					
	Males. Com- mitted by Ordinary Courts.	Females.	Total.	Sentenced to Imprisonment only.		
				Males.	Females.	Total.
4 years.....	122	2	124	.....	.....	.....
3 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".....	2	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".....	6	.....	6	1	.....	1
3 $\frac{1}{4}$ ".....	41	.....	41	.....	.....	.....
3 ".....	170	3	173	.....	.....	.....
Over two years.....	41	.....	41	.....	.....	.....
24 months and over 23 months.....	142	3	145	.....	.....	.....
23 ".....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
22 ".....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
21 ".....	5	.....	5	.....	.....	.....
20 ".....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
19 ".....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
18 ".....	80	3	83	.....	4	4
17 ".....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
16 ".....	2	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
15 ".....	21	1	22	.....	.....	.....
14 ".....	1	1	2	.....	.....	.....
13 ".....	4	.....	4	.....	.....	.....
12 ".....	109	6	115	9	5	14
11 ".....	3	.....	3	.....	.....	.....
10 ".....	8	.....	8	.....	.....	.....
9 ".....	58	1	59	.....	.....	.....
8 ".....	2	.....	2	1	.....	1
7 ".....	7	.....	7	.....	.....	.....
6 ".....	223	54	277	5	2	7
5 ".....	9	2	11	.....	.....	.....
4 ".....	29	5	34	8	2	10
3 ".....	156	45	201	14	9	23
2 ".....	59	12	71	36	7	43
4 weeks and over 3 weeks.....	57	6	63	18	10	28
3 ".....	10	.....	10	30	2	32
2 ".....	30	3	33	8	3	11
7 days.....	6	.....	6	22	12	34
6 ".....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
5 ".....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
4 ".....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
3 ".....	1	.....	1	2	1	3
2 ".....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2
1 day.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
No term specified.....	.....	1	1	19	.....	19
Total.....	1,831	149	1,980	178	59	237

No. 4.

RETURN showing the Population of New South Wales, with the Number of Prisoners sentenced to Death, to Penal Servitude for life, to Penal Servitude or Hard Labour for a term of years, to Imprisonment on Indictment, and on Summary Conviction or want of Sureties in each Year from 1890.

Year.	Population of New South Wales.	Number of Prisoners Sentenced to					
		Death, and Death Recorded.	Penal Servitude for Life.	Penal Servitude or Hard Labour.		Imprison- ment only on Indictment. By Quarter Sessions or Criminal Courts.	Imprison- ment on Summary Conviction or Want of Sureties.
				By Quarter Sessions or Criminal Courts. Three years and upwards.	By Quarter Sessions or Criminal Courts. Under Three years.		
1890.....	1,121,860	7	.....	240	386	121	10,921
1891.....	1,165,300	7	2	254	439	109	12,309
1892.....	1,197,650	5	4	207	427	78	12,474
1893.....	1,223,370	10	.....	244	477	84	12,764
1894.....	1,251,450	10	.....	211	556	79	12,360
1895.....	1,277,870	7	.....	195	524	73	12,682
1896.....	1,297,640	4	.....	179	535	103	12,880

STATEMENT of the Restraints, Punishments, and Offences during the year ended 31st December, 1896, in each of the Prisons in New South Wales.

Prison.	Re-straints.		Prison punishments for misconduct in Prison.			Total Number of Prisoners Punished	Number of Prisoners not Punished.	Total Number of Prisoners during the Year.	Prison Offences.				
	Irons or Hand-cuffs.	Corporal Punishment.	Punishment, Cells.	Dietary Punishment	Violence to Officers.				Escapes and attempts to escape.	Idleness.	Other Breaches of Regulations.	Total Offences.	
Darlinghurst	1	1	164	..	160	7,440	7,600	1	...	26	195	222	
Bathurst.....	..	1	82	39	84	706	790	2	...	2	201	205	
Berrima.....	24	5	29	150	179	3	...	4	71	78	
Biloca.....	71	..	82	2,679	2,761	1	..	11	70	82	
Goulburn.....	91	..	65	675	740	..	1	..	102	103	
Maitland.....	37	..	37	1,146	1,183	..	..	1	72	73	
Parramatta.....	255	..	147	1,051	1,198	..	..	5	250	255	
Trial Bay.....	14	6	24	170	194	..	..	13	19	32	
Albury.....	8	8	8	244	252	..	..	..	8	8	
Armidale.....	19	21	23	130	153	..	..	6	34	40	
Broken Hill.....	5	..	8	516	524	..	..	..	10	10	
Deniliquin.....	10	..	6	308	314	..	..	..	18	18	
Dubbo.....	48	..	24	375	399	..	..	6	42	48	
Forbes.....	5	..	9	197	206	..	..	..	11	11	
Grafton.....	16	..	13	126	139	..	..	1	17	18	
Hay.....	6	..	15	99	114	..	..	..	15	15	
Mudgee.....	7	..	7	131	138	2	..	1	13	16	
Tamworth.....	1	..	1	303	304	..	..	..	1	1	
Wagga Wagga.....	1	..	1	212	213	..	..	..	1	1	
Wilcannia.....	2	..	2	128	130	..	..	2	3	5	
Wollongong.....	1	..	1	223	224	..	..	..	1	1	
Yass.....	3	5	2	85	87	..	..	..	7	7	
Young.....	25	..	21	133	154	1	..	1	28	30	
Batmanald.....	1	..	1	48	49	..	..	..	1	1	
Bega.....	28	28	..	..	..	..	..
Bingera.....	52	52	..	..	..	..	..
Bombala.....	28	28	..	..	..	..	..
Bourke.....	27	..	12	179	191	..	..	2	25	27	
Braidwood.....	1	27	28	..	..	..	1	1	
Barrowa.....	15	15	..	..	..	..	..
Campbelltown.....	22	22	..	..	..	..	..
Casino.....	65	65	..	..	..	..	..
Cobar.....	3	..	2	182	184	..	..	..	3	3	
Cooma.....	43	43	..	..	..	..	..
Coonabarabran.....	1	..	1	36	37	..	..	1	..	1	
Coonamble.....	2	2	71	73	..	..	..	2	2	
Cootamundra.....	3	..	3	175	178	..	..	..	3	3	
Cowra.....	150	150	..	..	..	..	..
Glen Innes.....	2	..	1	51	52	..	..	..	2	2	
Grenfell.....	53	53	..	..	..	..	..
Gundagai.....	51	51	..	..	..	..	..
Gunnedah.....	2	6	4	136	140	..	..	4	4	8	
Hillston.....	40	40	..	..	..	..	..
Inverell.....	30	30	..	..	..	..	..
West Kempsey.....	46	46	..	..	..	..	..
Moree.....	9	9	7	282	289	..	..	..	9	9	
Murrumbidgee.....	31	31	..	..	..	..	..
Narrabri.....	1	..	2	261	263	..	..	..	2	2	
Newcastle.....	478	478	..	..	..	..	..
Orange.....	4	..	9	11	11	221	232	2	..	..	26	28
Port Macquarie.....	19	19	..	..	..	..	..
Queanbeyan.....	25	25	..	..	..	..	..
Singleton.....	27	27	..	..	..	..	..
Taree.....	19	19	..	..	..	..	..
Tenterfield.....	24	24	..	..	..	..	..
Walgett.....	2	..	3	80	83	..	..	..	4	4	
Wellington.....	2	75	77	..	..	..	2	2	
Wentworth.....	2	..	2	..	2	63	65	..	2	1	3	6	
Windsor.....	65	65	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Total.....	7	2	957	112	823	20,475	21,298	12	*3	87	1,276	1,378	

* In addition ten prisoners escaped from other gaols and were recaptured—nine of this number were committed to the higher courts, and received various terms of imprisonment. The other, a boy, was not proceeded against.

Notes.—The number of offences committed and the number of punishments awarded do not, of course, agree, it being the practice in most cases to award one form of punishment for several offences, while in others the offence is met by admonition without punishment. In consequence of transfers the same prisoner may be punished in more than one prison during the year, so that the totals do not exactly agree with the total prison population of Form No. 1.

STATEMENT of Accommodation for Prisoners in the Prisons of New South Wales during the year ended 31st December, 1896, and of the Daily Average and the Greatest Number of Prisoners.

Name of Prison.	Number of Cells			Daily Average Number of Prisoners.			Greatest Number of Prisoners Confined.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Darlinghurst	226	120	346	465	84	549	524	88	612
Parramatta	302	2	304	328	.....	328	334	.....	334
Bathurst	273	46	319	252	16	268	277	18	295
Berrima	82	.....	82	74	.....	74	84	.....	84
Biloela	6	8	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do A.—Dormitories.	5	5	10	114	76	190	138	104	242
Goalburn	319	9	328	275	9	284	300	7	307
Maitland	112	11	123	127	11	138	161	9	170
Trial Bay	69	.....	69	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do B.—Huts	18	.....	18	103	.....	103	122	.....	122
Albury	26	3	29	30	1	31	41	3	44
Armidale	22	4	26	23	2	25	28	3	31
Broken Hill	16	2	18	34	3	37	44	4	48
Deniliquin	15	3	18	20	3	23	29	4	33
Dubbo	15	2	17	36	4	40	55	8	63
Forbes	6	1	7	12	1	13	21	3	24
Grafton	41	7	48	30	1	31	41	.....	41
Hay	11	2	13	16	1	17	26	1	27
Mudgee	22	4	26	17	2	19	27	4	31
Tamworth	12	2	14	32	2	34	42	2	44
Wagga Wagga	10	2	12	13	1	14	29	3	32
Wilcannia	7	1	8	16	.....	16	22	.....	22
Wollongong	11	2	13	18	1	19	36	3	39
Yass	13	3	16	7	1	8	18	.....	18
Young	16	3	19	31	2	33	41	2	43
Balranald	4	.....	4	1.5	.5	2	8	1	9
Begu	5	.....	5	2.3	.1	2.4	5	.....	5
Bingera	4	.....	4	3	.....	3	9	1	10
Bombala	3	1	4	2	.1	2.1	6	.....	6
Bourke	11	2	13	12	2.2	14.2	22	5	27
Braidwood	11	1	12	1.5	.....	1.5	4	.....	4
Burrowa	3	.....	3	2	.....	2	5	.....	5
Campbelltown	3	1	4	8	.....	8	4	.....	4
Casino	5	1	6	4.3	.2	4.5	10	.....	10
Cobar	3	.....	3	7	.2	7.2	16	.....	16
Cooma	4	1	5	2	.1	2.1	6	.....	6
Coonabarabran	5	.....	5	2.1	.2	2.3	7	.....	7
Coonamble	4	1	5	3	.1	3.1	11	.....	11
Cootamundra	4	2	6	9.1	1.4	10.5	23	5	28
Cowra	3	1	4	5.2	.4	5.6	11	.....	11
Glen Innes	4	.....	4	2.6	.4	3	6	1	7
Grenfell	4	.....	4	1.6	.....	1.6	4	.....	4
Gundagai	5	1	6	3.1	.....	3.1	9	.....	9
Gunnedah	4	1	5	7	1	8	13	2	15
Hillston	5	.....	5	3.8	.....	3.8	9	.....	9
Inverell	4	2	6	2.2	1	3.2	7	2	9
West Kempsey	3	1	4	2.7	.....	2.7	7	.....	7
Moree	6	.....	6	11.4	.1	11.5	21	.....	21
Murrurundi	2	2	4	.5	.1	.6	4	.....	4
Narrabri	5	2	7	14.9	.1	15	26	1	27
Newcastle	7	3	10	3	.2	3.2	10	3	13
Orange	7	1	8	11	1	12	16	7	23
Port Macquarie	8	1	9	.5	.....	.5	3	.....	3
Queanbeyan	5	1	6	.8	.1	.9	7	.....	7
Singleton	3	1	4	.2	.....	.2	6	.....	6
Tarce	4	.....	4	.5	.....	.5	4	.....	4
Tenterfield	4	2	6	.3	.....	.3	3	.....	3
Walgett	4	2	6	5	.1	5.1	13	2	15
Wellington	4	1	5	5	.....	5	12	.....	12
Wentworth	10	2	12	4.8	.....	4.8	9	.....	9
Windsor	12	1	13	2.27	.03	2.3	6	.....	6
Total	1,814	272	2,086	2,212.37	230.43	2,442.8	.....	.....	.....

A.—Are capable of accommodating 152 males and 113 females.

B.—Are capable of accommodating six prisoners in each hut.

RETURN of Prisoners within each of the following Period of Age remaining in each of the Prisons of New South Wales on the 31st December, 1896.

Name of Prison.	Under 12 Years.	12 Years and under 16.	16 and under 25.	25 and under 30.	30 and under 40.	40 and under 50.	50 and under 60.	60 and above.	Age not ascertained.	Total.
Darlinghurst	100	155	156	72	33	29	3	548
Farramatta	63	85	88	35	21	12	...	304
Bathurst	37	71	80	35	22	11	...	256
Berrima	8	20	25	14	2	...	...	69
Biloela	4	42	60	44	16	9	...	184
Goulburn	...	2	53	65	85	36	20	12	...	273
Maitland	...	1	13	29	35	20	11	10	...	119
Trial Bay	4	26	52	18	4	1	...	105
Albury	1	8	13	5	2	3	...	32
Armidale	3	7	9	7	1	1	...	28
Broken Hill	1	...	2	6	11	14	2	1	...	37
Deniliquin	2	4	11	4	1	1	...	23
Dubbo	5	9	9	3	4	2	...	32
Forbes	2	2	4	3	1	...	...	12
Grafton	2	10	5	4	1	1	...	23
Hay	3	4	3	1	1	...	12
Mudgee	2	6	4	1	1	3	...	17
Tamworth	3	10	9	10	5	6	...	43
Wagga Wagga	2	2	3	5	1	3	...	16
Wilcannia	5	2	2	5	1	...	15
Wollongong	2	5	1	2	1	...	11
Yass	2	...	1	...	2	...	5
Young	3	7	9	9	...	4	...	32
Balranald	1	...	...	...	1
Bega	1	...	...	...	1
Bingera	1	2	1	2	1	...	7
Bombala	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bourke	1	2	5	1	1	...	10
Braidwood	3	...	...	...	...	3
Burrowa
Campbelltown	1	...	...	...	...	1
Casino	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	4
Cobar	3	3	2	...	2	...	10
Cooma	2	...	...	...	...	2
Coonabarabran	1	1	...	...	...	...	2
Coonamble	4	3	...	...	...	...	7
Cootamundra	4	4	2	1	2	...	13
Cowra	3	3	1	1	...	...	8
Glen Innes	1	1	2	...	...	...	4
Grenfell
Gundagai	2	2	...	...	1	...	5
Gunnedah	1	4	1	...	...	...	6
Hillston	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	5
Inverell	...	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	5
Kempsey	3	...	...	...	...	3
Moree	3	2	4	1	...	...	...	10
Murrumbidgee	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Narrabri	4	3	3	2	1	...	13
Newcastle	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Orange	3	5	3	4	2	...	17
Port Macquarie
Queanbeyan	1	...	...	...	1
Singleton
Taree
Tenterfield	1	...	...	...	...	1
Walgett	1	2	1	...	...	...	4
Wellington	2	3	2	1	...	...	...	8
Wentworth	1	2	...	...	...	...	3
Windsor	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Totals	1	6	319	616	746	374	167	125	3	2,357

PART B.

Returns relating to Staff and Expenditure.

8. Comparative statement, showing daily average number of prisoners, and the cost of salaries and contingencies at established gaols, during the years 1895 and 1896. Police gaols omitted.
9. Return showing cost of maintenance of established gaols, number of prisoners to each officer, &c., &c. Police gaols omitted.
10. Staff Board No. 1, showing the distribution of the principal officers on the 31st December, 1896, and the gaols where stationed.
11. Staff Board No. 2, showing the number of warders, overseers, female warders, acting gaolers, and acting matrons employed on 31st December, 1896, at the different gaols in the Colony.
12. Officers. Particulars as to retirements, resignations, &c.

No. 8.

COMPARATIVE Statement showing Daily Average Number of Prisoners, and the Cost of Salaries and Contingencies at Established Gaols, during the years 1895 and 1896. Police Gaols omitted.

Gaol.	Daily Average Number of Prisoners.		Salaries.				Contingencies.			
	1895.	1896.	1895.		1896.		1895.		1896.	
			£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Darlinghurst	542	549	15,295	4 10	12,923	15 10	8,270	8 3	7,558	14 8
Bathurst	295	268	8,440	5 5	7,850	13 11	3,945	3 3	4,241	9 10
Berrima	72	74	3,847	17 1	3,605	15 8	1,022	6 8	950	3 8
Biloela	195	190	3,971	16 0	3,058	3 9	2,224	15 8	2,188	0 2
Goulburn.....	306	284	7,805	18 2	7,264	3 10	3,681	3 3	3,751	3 2
Maitland.....	150	138	4,676	14 5	4,519	5 9	2,004	10 5	2,059	7 9
Parramatta.....	324	328	9,539	8 0	8,912	3 1	4,969	14 0	5,093	17 2
Trial Bay.....	91	103	3,724	14 0	*4,115	15 1	3,951	0 9	2,740	13 6
Albury.....	32	31	1,470	19 6	1,318	6 8	631	4 11	501	16 1
Armidale.....	27	25	1,419	14 7	1,309	7 0	418	7 8	381	9 2
Broken Hill.....	34	37	1,277	12 9	1,194	5 5	600	2 6	612	4 7
Deniliquin	16	23	1,072	10 0	989	9 4	321	3 6	446	5 3
Dubbo	51	40	1,632	6 9	1,524	13 2	805	10 6	745	9 5
Forbes	21	13	914	8 6	784	7 6	285	11 11	271	1 8
Grafton	20	31	1,399	1 1	1,297	15 4	411	13 4	569	13 8
Hay	25	17	1,262	10 6	1,146	7 1	339	0 9	362	19 8
Mudgee	23	19	1,213	12 7	1,130	16 0	393	13 2	388	17 1
Tumworth	35	34	1,393	5 2	1,292	8 0	489	15 10	454	15 3
Wagga Wagga	18	14	944	3 3	809	13 9	275	7 6	240	18 5
Wilcannia	19	16	1,190	12 1	1,073	13 7	600	5 3	444	9 6
Wollongong	19	19	1,085	12 3	813	17 0	246	3 6	237	12 1
Yass.....	13	8	909	12 8	697	11 6	243	18 5	171	14 8
Young	31	33	1,404	18 4	1,338	4 8	590	8 4	599	10 5
Totals	2,359	2,294	75,892	17 11	68,970	12 11	36,811	9 4	35,012	6 10

* Four overseers from Harbours and Rivers Department transferred to staff, and one warder added. Position of clerk and storekeeper amalgamated at Trial Bay Prison.

	Salaries.		Contingencies.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Expenditure per average number of prisoners, 1895 ...	32	3 5	15	12 6	47	15 11
„ „ „ „ 1896 ...	30	1 3	15	5 3	45	6 6
Saving effected per head in 1896 as compared with 1895					£2	9 5

No. 9.

RETURN showing Cost of Maintenance of Established Gaols, number of Prisoners to each Officer, &c., &c. Police Gaols omitted.

Gaol.		Daily Average Number of Prisoners.	Number of Regular and Visiting Officers.	Number of Prisoners to each Officer.	Expenditure.			Expenditure per Average Number of Prisoners.	
					Salaries.	Contingencies.	Total.	Salaries.	Contingencies.
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£
Darlinghurst	1895	542	97	5.5	15,295 4 10	8,270 8 3	23,563 13 1	28.2	15.2
	1896	540	85	6.4	12,923 15 10	7,558 14 8	20,482 10 6	23.5	13.7
Parramatta	1895	324	62	5.2	9,539 8 0	4,969 14 0	14,509 2 0	29.4	15.2
	1896	328	58	5.6	8,912 3 1	5,093 17 2	14,006 0 3	27.1	15.5
Bathurst	1895	295	57	5.1	8,440 5 5	3,945 3 3	12,385 8 8	28.6	13.3
	1896	268	54	4.9	7,850 13 11	4,241 9 10	12,092 3 9	29.2	15.8
Goulburn	1895	306	54	5.6	7,805 18 2	3,681 3 3	11,487 1 5	25.5	12.02
	1896	284	50	5.6	7,264 3 10	3,751 3 2	11,015 7 0	25.5	13.2
Maitland	1895	150	33	4.5	4,676 14 5	2,004 10 5	6,681 4 10	31.1	13.3
	1896	138	33	4.1	4,519 5 9	2,059 7 9	6,578 13 6	32.7	14.9
Trial Bay	1895	91	26	3.5	3,724 14 0	3,951 0 9	7,675 14 9	40.9	43.4
	1896	103	30	3.4	4,115 15 1	2,740 13 6	6,856 8 7	39.9	26.6
Biloela	1895	195	31	6.29	3,971 16 0	2,224 15 8	6,196 11 8	20.3	11.4
	1896	190	27	7.05	3,058 3 9	2,188 0 2	5,246 3 11	16.09	11.5
Berrima	1895	72	25	2.8	3,847 17 1	1,022 6 8	4,870 3 9	53.4	14.2
	1896	74	24	3.08	3,605 15 8	950 3 8	4,555 19 4	48.7	12.8
Albury	1895	32	13	2.4	1,470 19 6	631 4 11	2,102 4 5	45.9	19.7
	1896	31	9	3.4	1,318 6 8	501 16 1	1,820 2 9	42.5	16.1
Armidale	1895	27	12	2.2	1,419 14 7	418 7 8	1,838 2 3	52.5	15.4
	1896	25	10	2.5	1,309 7 0	381 9 2	1,690 16 2	52.3	15.2
Broken Hill	1895	34	11	3.09	1,277 12 9	690 2 6	1,967 15 3	37.5	20.2
	1896	37	11	3.3	1,194 5 5	612 4 7	1,806 10 0	32.2	16.5
Deniliquin	1895	16	10	1.6	1,072 10 0	321 3 6	1,393 13 6	67.0	20.06
	1896	23	8	2.8	989 9 4	446 5 3	1,435 14 7	43.0	19.4
Dubbo	1895	51	14	3.6	1,632 6 9	805 10 6	2,437 17 3	32.0	15.7
	1896	40	13	3.07	1,524 13 2	745 9 5	2,270 2 7	38.1	18.6
Forbes	1895	21	9	2.3	914 8 6	285 11 11	1,200 0 5	43.5	13.5
	1896	13	5	2.6	784 7 6	271 1 8	1,055 9 2	60.3	20.8
Grafton	1895	20	12	1.6	1,399 1 1	411 13 4	1,810 14 5	69.9	20.5
	1896	31	12	2.5	1,297 15 4	569 13 8	1,867 9 0	41.8	18.3
Hay	1895	25	11	2.2	1,262 10 6	339 0 9	1,601 11 3	50.5	13.5
	1896	17	9	1.8	1,146 7 1	362 19 8	1,509 6 9	67.4	21.3
Mudgee	1895	23	11	2.09	1,213 12 7	393 13 2	1,607 5 9	52.7	17.08
	1896	19	9	2.1	1,130 16 0	388 17 1	1,519 13 1	59.5	20.4
Tamworth	1895	35	12	2.9	1,393 5 2	489 15 10	1,883 1 0	39.8	13.9
	1896	34	10	3.4	1,292 8 0	454 15 3	1,747 3 3	38.0	13.3
Wagga Wagga	1895	18	9	2.0	944 3 3	275 7 6	1,219 10 9	52.4	15.2
	1896	14	5	2.8	809 13 9	240 18 5	1,050 12 2	57.8	17.2
Wilcannia	1895	19	10	1.9	1,190 12 1	600 5 3	1,790 17 4	62.6	31.5
	1896	16	10	1.6	1,073 13 7	444 9 6	1,518 3 1	67.1	27.7
Wollongong	1895	19	10	1.9	1,085 12 3	246 3 6	1,331 15 9	57.1	12.9
	1896	19	5	3.8	813 17 0	237 12 1	1,051 9 1	42.8	12.5
Yass	1895	13	9	1.4	909 12 8	243 18 5	1,153 11 1	69.9	18.6
	1896	8	4	2.0	697 11 6	171 14 8	869 6 2	87.1	21.4
Young	1895	31	12	2.5	1,404 18 4	590 8 4	1,995 6 8	45.3	19.03
	1896	33	10	3.3	1,338 4 8	599 10 5	1,937 15 1	40.5	18.1

* Four overseers from Harbours and Rivers Department transferred to staff, and one warder added. Position of clerk and storekeeper amalgamated at Trial Bay Prison.

NOTE.—In the column "Number of Regular and Visiting Officers," Visiting Justices at all Gaols, Visiting Surgeons at Darlinghurst and Parramatta, and Honorary Chaplains at Bathurst, Albury, Armidale, Deniliquin, Forbes, Hay, Mudgee, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong, Yass, and Young are omitted. For the year 1895 the Visiting Justice at Darlinghurst Gaol was included, he being a salaried officer.

No. 10.

STAFF BOARD No. 1, showing the Distribution of the Principal Officers on the 31st December, 1896, and the Gaols where stationed.

Gaol.	Governors.				Gaolers.		Deputy Governors			Sup. Female Division.	Matron	Clerks and Schoolmasters.				Storekeepers		Schoonmaster and Librarian at £150.	Messengers.		Carters.		Chnplains.												
	At £125, less £125 for quarters, fuel, light, and servant, £000.	At £400, less £125 for quarters, fuel, light, and servant, £275.	At £480, less £125 for quarters, fuel, light, and servant, £355.	At £400, less £90 for quarters, fuel, light, and servant, £310.	At £400, less £110 for quarters, fuel, light, and servant, £290.	At £300, less £75 for quarters, fuel, light, and servant, £225.	At £285, less £75 for quarters, fuel, light, and servant, £210.	At £275, less £75 for quarters, fuel, light, and servant, £200.	At £250, less £70 for quarters, fuel, light, and servant, £180.	At £250, less £90 for quarters, fuel, light, and servant, £160.	At £300, less £75 for quarters, fuel, light, and servant, £225.	At £48.	At £200.	At £250, less £80 for ration, quarters, fuel, light, and servant, £170.	At £218.	At £170.	At £100.		At £75.	At £225.	At £90.	At £125.	At £120.	At £120.	At £110.	At £120.	At £100.	At £80.	At £60.	At £50.	At £40.	At £30.	At £25.	At £20.	
Sydney . . .	1							1					Vacant		1	1	1		1	1			1												
Parramatta . .		1																																	
Bathurst . . .			1																																
Goulburn . . .			1																																
Trial Bay * . .			1												1																				
Biloela					1																														
Berrima				1																															
Maitland . . .					1																														
Albury						1																													
Armidale . . .						1																													
Broken Hill . .						Vacant								1																					
Dubbo						1								1																					
Grafton						1								1																					
Hay						1								1																					
Mudgee						1								1																					
Tamworth . . .						1								1																					
Young						1								1																					
Deniliquin . .							1							1																					
Wilcannia . . .							1							1																					
Employed	1	1	3	1	2	8	1	1	1	3	1	1	10		1	1	4	1	1	1	1		2	1	2	2	2	6	2	6	4	1	6		

* The Superintendent, the Deputy-Superintendent, and the Clerk at Trial Bay, are allowed rations.

STAFF BOARD No. 2, showing the Number of Warders, Overseers, Female Warders, Acting Gaolers, and Acting Matrons employed on 31 December, 1896, at the different Gaols in the Colony.

Gaol.	Chief Warders	Senior Warders		1st Class Warders.		2nd Class Warders.		3rd Class Warders.		Principal Female Warders at £150, less £48 for quarters, fuel, and light, £102.	Forewoman at £110, less £42 for quarters, fuel, and light, £68.	Female Warders at £10, less £10 for quarters, fuel, and light, £04		Chief Overseers.		Overseers.		Foreman of Works.		Acting Gaolers.		Acting Matrons.		Special Warders	
	At £102, less £10 for quarters, fuel, and light, £112.	At £174, less £48 for quarters, fuel, and light, £126.	At £184.	At £104.	At £156, less £30 for quarters, fuel, and light, £126.	At £176.	At £138, less £24 for quarters, fuel, and light, £114.	At £158.	At £120, less £31 for quarters, fuel, and light, £89.			At £130.	At £140.	At £150.	At £170.	At £150.	At £170.	At £20.	At £15.	At £10.	At £5.	At 6s. per diem.			
Sydney	1	8				10		6		5	1	6													
Parramatta	1	4				7		2		20		1													
Bathurst	1	1				6		6		20		1													
Goulburn	1	1				6		6		22		1													
Trial Bay											14														
Biloela										9		6													1
Berrina										12															
Maitland										18		1													
Albury										5															
Amidale										1															
Broken Hill										6															1
Dubbo										6															
Grafton										6															
Hay										5															
Mudgee										5															
Tamworth										5															
Young										6															
Deniliquin										4															
Wilcannia										1															
Yass										1															
Wagga Wagga										2															
Forbes										2															
Wollongong										2															
Balmoral																									
Rega										1															
Riverina																									
Bombala																									
Bourke										3															
Braidwood																									
Burra																									
Campbelltown										1															
Casino										1															
Colar										1															
Cooma																									
Coonabarabran																									
Coonamble										1															
Coatambundra										1															
Cowra																									
Glen Innes										1															
Grenfell																									
Gundagai										1															
Gunnedah										1															
Hillston																									
Inverell										1															
West Kempsey										1															
Moree																									
Murrumbidgee										1															
Narrabri										1															
Newcastle																									
Orange										2															
Port Macquarie																									
Queanbeyan																									
Singleton																									
Taree																									
Tenterfield										1															
Walgett										1															
Wellington																									
Wentworth										1															
Windsor																									
Total employed	4	26	1	1	40	2	20	8	210	5	18	4	1	21	4	1	9	13	3	9	27	28	12	2	

By a re-organisation of the Staff since the 1st July last, a reduction of 32 officers has been made, representing an annual saving in salaries at the rate of £4,034 per annum.
 Expenditure for year 1896—Salaries, £75,075 8s. 8d., Contingencies, £33,815 16s. 1d. £108,890 18s. 4d.
 Less value of earnings of prisoners employed in prison manufactures and at work for other Government Departments 9,881 7 11

Net Expenditure 290,009 10 5

* In consequence of the Police Department not taking over the Gaols at Forbes, Wagga, Wollongong, and Yass, provision had to be made for four Senior Warders to take charge of these prisons. Their salaries were not provided for on the Estimates.

Officers.—Particulars as to Retirements, Resignations, &c.

Year.	Retired.	Resigned.	Dismissed.	Fined.	Reduced in rank.	Repri- manded.	Promoted.	Trans- ferred.	Ex- changed.
1895	7	11	7	22	3	50	21	41	9
1896	67	21	11	25	1	49	42	102	5

APPENDIX IV.

Crime and its Treatment in New South Wales: Some suggestions as to future procedure.

1. Sentences as affecting the diminution of crime.
2. The classification of prisoners.
3. Separation and separate treatment.
4. The identification of criminals.
5. The employment of prisoners.
6. Education and moral instruction.
7. Habitual drunkards.
8. Separate prison for females.
9. Habitual misdemeanants.
10. Lunatics in prisons.
11. Prison officers.
12. Aid to discharged prisoners.
13. Reformatories and the prevention of crime.
14. The causes and prevention of Parrikinism.
15. Conclusion.

1. *Sentences as affecting the Diminution of Crime.*

The administration of prisons has always been a fruitful subject for criticism, not always of a wise or just nature. Sweeping condemnations have occasionally been made of a character evincing little discretion, or knowledge of the subject, and, as a consequence, an unreasonable prejudice has improperly attached to gaol methods generally. Difficulties have been under-estimated, and crude impossibilities lightly suggested of a character more likely to hinder than to assist the efficiency of prison management. Still it must be recognised that, upon the whole, the penal administration has benefited by the constant and warm criticism which has attended it; and which has in no small degree contributed to the improved methods pursued to-day, as compared with those of a few years ago.

The efficiency of gaol management is largely hampered by causes outside its own control. Improper work is thrust upon it, much to the detriment of its more legitimate occupation, and it is compelled to deal with a number of persons who ought to be in lunatic or other asylums.

It is a common thing for persons suspected of mental derangement to be sent to prison for observation. Feeble old vagrants, diseased and friendless incapables, and dipsomaniacs are also committed. All such people are clearly out of place in a penal institution. Boys and girls under 16 occasionally find their way to gaol, an experience which cannot possibly do them any good whatever.

Power to sentence any of the foregoing classes to prison should be disallowed, excepting in abnormal circumstances, when the sentencing authority should be required to declare in open Court the special specific surroundings inducing him to take an extraordinary course.

Then again, reformation of the offender is expected to be accomplished under altogether impossible conditions, as regards the time allowed for such work. Offenders are brought up for the fourth, fifth, or twentieth time; and are sent off to prison for periods of detention which have proved too short to do any good on previous occasions. At the present time there is a prisoner in Darlinghurst serving a sentence of three months for stealing, who has fifty-four previous convictions recorded against him. Another one serving three months has seventy-three former appearances to answer for. Another person serving six months has ninety-six previous convictions. And many similar instances could be quoted. Indeed, some individuals have over 100 convictions recorded against them. One poor woman, now in gaol, has more than 100 convictions, all for periods not exceeding six months.

It has been sometimes the custom to look upon a prison as a hospital for the treatment of moral diseases; but the particulars just given would seem to show that it has not been a successful one. But then what other kind of hospital is so hampered in its work. Criminal therapeutics have special difficulties to encounter. Insane patients are not discharged from mental hospitals until they are cured; and where this is not effected, they are not discharged at all. And in hospitals for physical diseases no fixed period is assigned for cure. The moral hospital, however, receives each patient duly labelled with the exact time for which he or she is to remain under treatment, and there is no alternative but to turn the patient out at the end of the period, cured or uncured.

On the other hand—to pursue the analogy—many patients have to remain in the moral hospital for long after the period of their cure, because of the necessity for deterring others, who may be in danger of acquiring the criminal taint. Thus is brought about a prolonged treatment of such patients, useless so far as their individual requirements are concerned, and ever dangerous, as their confinement exposes them to the risk of further contagion.

The indeterminate punishment has been recommended by very many penologists, and such a system has been put into operation in various parts of the world. In America it is the basis of the Elmira methods. A maximum sentence is passed, but when reform has been accomplished, the patient is restored to freedom after passing through successive stages calculated to prepare him for resuming contact with the outer world. The hospital analogy here prevails. The individual is principally considered, but large discretionary powers have to be entrusted to the administration. Care is taken that only trusty men are put at the head of the department; but, very properly, they are trusted.

A somewhat similar system has operated for many years with success in connection with the "Sobraon" training ship, where the Superintendent possesses large discretionary powers. It might not, however, be thought desirable to entrust the same authority to the administrator of prisons; and yet he, aided by his officers' advice, is naturally the only person in a position to judge of the condition of reform achieved. Added to this, is the very serious objection to the Elmira system that prisoners, convicted of the most heinous of crimes, are liberated after a brief detention and the mildest of treatment. However good this plan may be for them individually, it can have no deterrent influence upon the more numerous class not in prison, who are contemplating a move in a criminal direction. The indeterminate or indefinite sentence could not therefore be introduced into this country in its entirety, although some modification of it is possible.

The system now followed is, however, greatly open to improvement. That many prisoners come out of prison unreformed is indisputable; but that the Prison Department should bear all the blame is most unfair. The sentencing authorities must accept their share of the responsibilities, and it may be confidently asserted that their share is a very large one. An element of vagueness now surrounds the general system of sentencing which leaves too much doubt in the minds of the criminal population as to the punishment following on wrong-doing.

The offence is more regarded than the offender, and while it may be possible to adequately weigh out the exact measure of punishment proper to the crime, such punishment may be altogether inadequate to the character of the offender. The treatment partakes too much of the *lex talionis*. Diminution of crime is not likely to be brought about to any extent by purely retaliatory measures; and, in these days, such principles have been practically discarded. Punishment, as simply revenge for an offence, is of no use to anybody; but punishment in its deterrent effects may be regarded as the principal object to be attained in dealing with wrong-doers. Next to this comes reform of the individual, but this is not of such far-reaching importance as the deterrence of possible offenders.

Sentences should therefore be of such a nature as to be deterrent and reformatory, rather than merely punitive. As all prisoners are not criminals, any more than all criminals are not prisoners, sharp distinction should be drawn between the accidental or impulsive offender, and the deliberate wrong-doer. Exceptional cases would have to be dealt with in exceptional ways, both as regards misdemeanours and felonies; but, as a general principle, first offenders should be dealt with leniently; second offenders more strictly, and so on; the measurement of punishment being determined by the degree of criminality attained.

Every effort should be made to keep first offenders out of prison. Wherever other remedies offered—as possible efficient substitutes for imprisonment—they should be tried. Fines; reparation, monetary or in kind, by labour even; suspended sentences; and any other mild repressive means of dealing with beginners in misconduct should precede penal confinement. The prison should be held *in terrorem*, for the more sparingly it is used the greater will be its influence for good.

Outside special cases, for all first offenders of the misdemeanant class, and perhaps for some of the more promising of those committed for graver offences, it might be possible to largely substitute fines for some of the imprisonments now inflicted; and, where money was not immediately recoverable, to allow payment by instalments, collected as is now done in maintenance cases. The suspension of sentences during good conduct might be extended to first offenders more liberally. Adequate compensation by the offender to the person offended against might, in certain cases, supersede gaol detentions; and the public reprimands, accompanied by fixed terms of police surveillance, with possibly confinement to home between sunset and sunrise, might be tried.

Where imprisonment was imposed, it should be sharp and short in its treatment and duration. A few days' incarceration, with perfect seclusion from other prisoners, would be quite sufficient to prevent the majority of first-time misdemeanants from offending again. But, for all succeeding offences, a system of gradually cumulative punishments should be instituted, based on simple but certain principles, which would be intelligible to any ex-prisoner who might be contemplating a further crime.

At present, the amount of punishment likely to be awarded is too much in the air to have deterrent influence. It is more or less a lottery arrangement by which the prisoner hopes, if not to get off altogether, at all events to get a very small sentence only; and he is encouraged in this idea by his personal observation of the treatment of many cases similar to his own. But let it be made clear to him that a second appearance would undoubtedly receive a punishment progressive on the first, and that further advancement would follow on a third, with a still more severe punishment on a fourth, and it is likely that he would seriously consider whether he ought longer to follow a course attended with such obvious disabilities.

This certainty of cumulating punishment would provide an effectual deterrent for that weak class of infirm honesty or conduct who now hover on the verge of gaol, while a more reasonable time would be allowed for the application of reformatory methods to those imprisoned. The ratio should be fixed by law, and the successive stages should be very moderately graduated, so as not to be unduly severe or oppressive.

I believe such a system would be productive of good results, both as regards the reformation of the individual in gaol, and the deterrence of those outside prison who might be contemplating mischief. It is possible, too, that these results would be accomplished with less suffering to the culprit, and with less expense to the country, by reason of the aggregate periods of imprisonment being lessened under the new system. There are twelve persons in Darlinghurst Gaol whose united previous convictions amount to 588. In Biloba Gaol there are twelve persons with 551. These twenty-four persons have therefore between them received 1,139 sentences without being reformed. And it is most certain that in the aggregate these 1,139 sentences have caused a very considerable amount of imprisonment, entailing much cost to the taxpayer and certainly doing no good to the individuals treated, while the deterrent effects on others of passing several hundred short periods of imprisonment cannot have been of much value. Probably, if a gradually progressive punishment had been applied to the earlier appearances before the Courts entailing a longer sentence for every successive offence, a fair percentage of the persons referred to would have dropped out of the petty offender ranks years ago, and thus a large amount of punishment, with its attendant misery and expense, would have been saved.

The same principle of scientific sentencing might also be applied to those who come before the higher Courts. There would naturally be exceptions to the rule, and they could be dealt with exceptionally. But possibly the system could be applied to nine out of every ten cases. A first offence should be dealt with as mercifully as possible, and, where the sentence of penal servitude had to be actually served, it should not exceed three years. Then would follow five, seven, nine years, and so on, always an advance of two years on the preceding sentence. The increase, being comparatively small but certain, would be a great deterrent to the criminal who might not also be a prisoner. The sentences would carry power to earn remission on a more liberal scale for the earlier than for the later periods; but liberation on remission should entail police supervision for the remitted terms in the cases of third offenders. A third penal-servitude man, immediately prior to the completion of his sentence, might be taken before a Judge privately and solemnly warned that on a fourth conviction he would be deemed an habitual criminal, and that when out of gaol he would always be under police supervision.

I know that much has been said against placing supervisory powers in the hands of the police. Possibly some abuse has taken place; but it has been very little indeed, and gross exaggerations have taken place in connection therewith. The criminal does not like to be under any supervision at all, and his voice is loudly raised against such surveillance. But a man, after two penal servitude sentences, ought not to be trusted too much, and he has no cause for complaint if his being at large causes society to take some precaution for prudential reasons. There is a great deal of spurious sympathy manifested for discharged prisoners of the habitual criminal type—a class above all most specious and cunning in its representations.

A system such as this would be very paternal and mild to the man *temporarily* slipping into crime. It could not be called harsh or unmerciful to the criminal by profession. He would have the certainty of long imprisonment before him if he persisted in his evil courses; and, if he deliberately persevered in his war against society, he would find his opportunities for doing wrong more and more restricted. After three sentences of penal servitude there does not seem much hope for reform, and the criminal condition may then be considered chronic. Prolonged incarceration, followed by police supervision when again at liberty, is the only alternative, in the interests of the public, to perpetual imprisonment.

The eminent criminologist, Professor Lombroso, writing to me last November, said:—"But when a previous offender comes again and again into prison, and is above 30 years of age, and has the criminal type, there is nothing else to do but to prevent his ever leaving again." This is the effectual remedy. There are men now in our prisons whose liberation will assuredly bring injury and distress to the community. Next to their death, their continual confinement can alone protect unoffending people from being harmed by them. But such an extreme step is not likely to be taken, and a middle course has therefore been proposed. The crux of the new proposal is the absolute certainty of cumulative punishment for relapses into crime. There should be no alternative. If injury were likely to be done in individual cases the Government could set the matter right, after consultation with the Judges, prison authorities, and others concerned. But it should be absolutely fixed in the would-be criminal's mind that every sentence would surpass its predecessor in severity. As before pointed out, the increase need not be large—in fact, it should not be—but it should be certain.

And in this connection it would be well to intercolonialise the criminal. If a prisoner were brought up in New South Wales for the first time, who had previously served a sentence in Victoria, his conviction in this Colony should count as the second, and so on. Such a system, aided by a more effectual plan for identification, coupled with a well-graded series of juvenile reformatories to intercept the budding criminal at the earliest possible period, would go far to crush out Recidivism.

2. *The Classification of Prisoners.*

In connection with prison matters no subject has been talked about so much as classification. It stands foremost amongst all the schemes propounded for the proper treatment of prisoners. The late Herbert Gladstone Committee, on the English Prisons, strongly insisted on the necessity for a sound system of classification. But no one yet has been able to define what a sound system of classification really is. Like some other branches of gaol management the idea is theoretically perfect but practically impossible. Considered in the light of workable possibilities, it is to be feared that a perfect plan of classification is unattainable at the present day and can only be numbered amongst the millennial expectations. A great authority on prison matters, the Rev. J. Clay, said "I believe it to be beyond human power safely to classify prisoners." And Livingstone, one of the soundest of writers upon Criminal Jurisprudence, observes upon classification "that moral guilt cannot always be discovered, and that it would be found that no two would be contaminated in the same degree. Even if these difficulties could be surmounted, and a class could be found of individuals who had advanced exactly to the same point, not only of offence but of moral depravity, still their association would produce a further progress in both."

Yet a few general applications of the principle should be the basis of all prison management. The difficulty is to hit upon the right things to apply. Conceded that our present system needs alteration it is not so easy to suggest an effectual remedy. Alterations are not necessarily improvements, and change may not lead to the right kind of reform. As Sir Edmund Du Cane, late Chief Director of English Prisons, very rightly says, "nothing is more common than to find persons whose attention has been attracted only to some disadvantage in the system finally decided on, discuss it without being aware that any alternative would introduce still greater evils." And the late Departmental Prison Committee say "it is easy to find fault, to form ideal views, and to enunciate lofty speculations as if they were principles arrived at by experience. It is extremely difficult to organise and carry out a perfect system with a reasonable regard to economy, which should provide equal advantages and similar methods of treatment not in one great centre, which would be comparatively easy, but in greater or lesser degree in all the considerable centres of a great population distributed throughout the country, and which should apply uniformly to all the ever-varying classes of offenders undergoing sentences from a day's imprisonment to penal servitude for life."

If this is true of a settled country like England how much more it applies to a vast territory such as this, thinly populated, and having small clusters of people widely separated and difficult of access. If such an expression is allowable, the criminal wants of these isolated communities have to be catered for on the spot. Especially is this so in the cases of short-sentenced prisoners, who, were it not for the local gaol, would have to be conveyed under escort long journeys involving in many instances prolonged and expensive coach travelling in order to reach a prison situated in the more settled centres of the Colony. This would mean considerable outlay, the employment of a large force of escorts, and the continual floating about all over the country of gangs of prisoners in transit, for, of course, they would have to be returned to the places from which they were convicted after the termination of their sentences. These difficulties of transit will, for many years to come, render a perfect system of *classification by prisons* impossible of realisation. It will not, therefore, be practicable to thoroughly carry out a very fascinating theory, *viz.*, the setting apart of particular prisons for particular classes of prisoners—even if we could fix the number of classes or the qualifying standard for each. For a very long time to come the small country gaols, especially in the more isolated districts, will have to deal with diverse kinds of prisoners, in a more or less imperfect way, occasional relief being afforded by the transfer of those of their inmates whose sentences are long enough to warrant the costly and inconvenient journey to one of the larger labour establishments.

Another mode of classification, which is generally in part operation, is the classification of prisoners in prisons. Not much can be done in this way in the small or country gaols. Position, want of space, structural defects, cost, and other difficulties offer obstacles to success. Such places have unavoidable drawbacks, and they must always be regarded as something apart from the ordinary prison methods of the country. In the larger gaols better opportunities are afforded, and, so far as is possible under existing conditions, the divisions of prisoners as graded are kept more or less apart. Excepting special bodies, such as seventh-class men, those under separate treatment, and others, the great bulk of the prison population are graded principally according to length and number of sentences. But sentences do not afford very firm grounds for classification, because while the length of a sentence may fit the particular offence it would not fix the character of the offender, who may have been the subject of several previous convictions for worse offences. Again, a first convicted man may not by any means be a first offender, although his power of contaminating others may be fully equal to those who have been convicted before. And there are many other obstacles in the way of proper grading.

The whole subject increases in difficulty the more it is looked into. If alteration is decided upon in the present system, it would be well not to aim at the unattainable, and above all to proceed cautiously. Our gaol methods are certainly not perfect. Yet they represent a great advance upon the methods in force not so many years ago. In classification, much progress has been made, and it is possible to progress further still; but classification, as a remedy for contamination by association, cannot proceed beyond certain limits; and, of itself, it cannot provide what the English Commissioners termed a thorough sound system, inasmuch as all prisoners, certainly in a country such as this, could not be uniformly brought within the scope of its operations.

But

But some general application of its principles could be used to improve management:—

Firstly.—Habitual criminals, comprising those with over three sentences of penal servitude, should be weeded out of the various gaols and placed apart from others in a separate prison, from which they should only, under most exceptional circumstances, be transferred. An isolated place such as Trial Bay would offer considerable advantages. Plenty of good sound occupation should be available, such as constructing breakwaters, artificial harbours, docks, and other public works, under firm and complete supervision, with confinement in a properly constructed prison out of working hours. All future offenders of the dangerous class referred to should be sent to this establishment, with sufficiently long sentences calculated to keep such desperate people from opportunities to injure society. Such men are no more fit to be at large than mad dogs or other noxious animals. Reform is not for them, and they make no secret of their future intentions when their time of discharge approaches. Some day the law will not permit the release of such hopeless dangers to life and property any more than it will now sanction the release of hopeless lunatics. There is not so much difference between the two classes, excepting that the first-mentioned are the more to be dreaded on account of their superior cunning. The ridding of the gaols generally of this class would remove a great source of contamination. Such men, after doing their nine months' period of separation, serve the rest of their sentences in association. The presence of determined ruffians of their nature, in a yard containing fifty or sixty less advanced in crime, makes for evil. Their removal would considerably purify the moral atmosphere. At the International Prison Congress, held at Paris, it was resolved that, in the interest of general discipline and of amendment, it is better to make a selection of the worst than of the best prisoners for classification. Here, then, is an admitted starting-point for separating the almost hopelessly bad from the various orders of possible reclaimables.

Secondly.—The sexually insane, such as offenders against nature, assaillers of little children, and other lust-degenerates, should be incarcerated in a separate prison. It is not quite certain if many such persons could not be more hopefully treated in what might be termed a Mental Asylum under the Lunacy Department, although monstrous acts have been committed by persons of normally high intelligence. At all events, it is a safe precaution to keep all such offenders apart from other classes of detenus. They are prolific sources of moral contagion, and instead of being scattered about the various prisons, it would be desirable to concentrate them in one special establishment where their abnormalities could be treated in a more effective way than where associated with other prisoners requiring somewhat different management.

Thirdly.—A prison might be built specially for vagrants.

Fourthly.—Drunkards should not be sent to an ordinary prison, but to institutions properly fitted to deal with them.

Fifthly.—Females should be treated in separate establishments.

Sixthly.—Imbeciles and prisoners suspected of insanity should be removed from ordinary prison treatment. If the Lunacy authorities would not accept their care, then a special establishment should be built for them.

Seventhly.—Magistrates should not be allowed to commit lunatics, persons dangerously ill, or otherwise needing protection, to prison. This is done now to relieve themselves of a difficulty, and it increases the drawbacks to efficient prison administration.

Eighthly.—Boys and girls under 16 should not under any circumstances be sent to prison. It is now done, and must be productive of harm. Actual familiarity with the interior of a gaol robs imprisonment of much of its imagined terrors, to say nothing of the dangers arising from contact more or less with ordinary prisoners. A scientific system of dealing with wayward, neglected, and vicious youths is badly needed, especially in a country like this, where, for some reason or other, fathers and mothers take their parental responsibilities so easy. I have dealt with this subject in a separate paper.

The foregoing being carried into effect would clear the gaols of a very embarrassing charge, and at the same time lessen the source of demoralisation. The remaining prisoners could be classified in prisons according to their records as known, rather than with regard to the particular offences leading to present incarceration, although these in certain cases would have weight. First offenders and special cases could be treated in certain gaols reserved for their use, and could be further classified therein according to conduct, disposition, and observation of their characters. With respect to the definition of the First Offender class, the regulations governing the classification should not be made too rigid, and much should be left to the discretion of the Comptroller-General, who would be helped in selection by the advice of the governors, clergymen, surgeons, and other officers.

The weak point in this scheme would be its inapplicability to all cases. In some of the remoter districts, amongst the difficulties, those of transit would be almost insuperable in the case of short sentences. But because all prisoners could not be so dealt with would be no reason why the vast majority should not be. The proposed partial classification could not hope to be perfect, and there would always be a certain proportion of prisoners evading their proper grade; but it would greatly assist prison work in the deterrent and reformative direction, and in the absence of any other definite proposal, it might be given a fair trial.

3.—Separation and Separate Treatment.

Separation is classification reduced to its logical conclusion. The accomplished American jurist, Edward Livingstone, says: "Every association of convicts that can be formed will, in a greater or less degree, pervert, but it will never reform, those of which it is composed, and we are brought to the irresistible conclusion that classification, once admitted to be useful, is so in an inverse proportion to the numbers of which each class is composed, and is not perfect until we come to the point at which it loses its name and nature in the complete separation of individuals." Prisoners may be graded into classes according to age, or crime, or length of sentences, or number of sentences, or in whatever way classification may be considered desirable; but amongst any such bodies of prisoners further classification would still be necessary to separate the various degrees. Two prisoners together might lead to one contaminating the other. It would appear, then, that separation should be held to be the true basis of effective prison management.

Prisoners under such treatment are more amenable to the softening influences of religion and friendly admonition. They are not subjected to the formation of bad habits by imitation. Individual needs, from a reformative point of view, can be better provided for. Isolation from others removes a great reason for misconduct and destroys the danger of corruption. The Howard Association say: "To reform prisoners while in association is comparable to the attempt to wash dirty linen in a sewer." As prisoners are so liable to contaminate each other, the only remedy is to keep them apart. M. Suringar, one of the most eminent of prison reformers, wrote: "I have spent half a century in discharge of duties connected with the repression of crime. I have become firmly convinced that whatever experiment may be made in the classification of prisoners, the separate system, although decidedly not perfect, is the best. . . . I have arrived at the most decided conclusion that the principle of the continued separation of offenders from each other is the only one effectual for its object." There are very few latter-day penological authorities who do not put separation in the front rank of prison requirements.

It

It would seem, therefore, that the whole matter is solved by confining each prisoner to a separate cell, so that he will have no chance whatever of coming into contact with any other prisoner. Opportunities would thus be afforded for reflection to pave the way to repentance, while frequent visitations from clergymen, teachers, governors, and various gaol officials would keep the confinement from being solitary. Provision would be made for work and exercise, and books would be available for spare hours.

But this system, although so sound theoretically, depends for success on so many things and on so many people. The Honorable Sir Frederick Darley, the Chief Justice, says: "In my opinion, the separate treatment of prisoners, if properly carried out, is at the same time the most merciful and the most beneficial system of imprisonment yet devised." His Honor is careful to say "if properly carried out." Separate treatment, improperly carried out, may dangerously trench on solitary confinement. One of the essentials of a proper system of separate treatment is a frequent and judicious visitation, but frequent visitations to every one of a large body of separately confined prisoners is not practicable under existing conditions. Unfortunately, the number of chaplains' visits and their duration are, for various reasons, by no means so numerous as is generally supposed. The same may be said of other classes of visitors. It therefore follows that separate treatment may leave a prisoner too much to himself if continued for too long a time. If association possesses great dangers, solitude has its own attendant evils. It is easy to understand the moral and physical degeneration arising from prolonged isolation. Characteristics of the erotic kind become developed, and mental alienation ensues. It is an undoubted fact that derangement of mind has followed upon separate treatment being applied to certain subjects who have not been able to endure a long seclusion, although modified by the visitation and other alleviations before mentioned which distinguish the separate from the solitary and silent systems. In addition to the dangers from self-contamination, there are other drawbacks. Cellular confinement restricts the selection of useful employments. Difficult as it is at all times to find beneficial occupation for convicts, which shall also be remunerative, the difficulty becomes accentuated when choice is restricted to the few employments which can be engaged in within the limited space afforded by a small cell. In a hot climate, such as this, with the thermometer occasionally registering 90 degrees of heat, occupations causing dust or fluff are unadvisable as impairing ventilation, a matter now attended by much disability through structural disadvantages.

Probably the most practical advance upon existing conditions would be to take the *via media*, for the present at all events, and to recognize the principle of separation for meals and rest, with limited association under all possible supervision for work and exercise. This would by no means be a perfect plan. It is quite easy to conjure up all sorts of difficulties. But no progress will be attained if this is to deter us from moving in a new direction. Against every plan there must be some objections; the thing is to choose that which apparently has the fewest.

Here it may be as well to briefly describe the methods pursued in our prisons. The great bulk of the inmates comprise a chaotic gathering of vagrants, drunkards, petty offenders, and others who are continually in and out of gaol. The sentences they receive are not progressive, and they neither deter nor offer sufficient time to effect reform. Many persons so treated are not fit subjects for criminal treatment at all, and their presence in prison is about as congruous as it would be in a palace. Then there are various classes of prisoners serving longer sentences of various durations under three years. Excepting special cases, and young prisoners whose term of imprisonment do not exceed twelve months, no separate treatment is applied to any of the foregoing. In the larger gaols, classification by yards does something towards keeping various grades of such prisoners in separate congregations; but, with the exceptions referred to, individual separation is not practised. It is when the sentences are for three years and upwards that separate treatment is experienced. Each convict, unless for medical or special reasons, passes the first six months in cellular confinement, relieved by one hour's exercise daily, and the visitations already alluded to. The next three months he is allowed two hours' exercise daily. Then he passes to association at labour, meals, and exercise until discharged. All prisoners are kept in single cells at night so far as is possible: but, despite the unwearying efforts of my predecessor to add to the number of cells, sufficient accommodation is not yet provided to allow of this most desirable practice being thoroughly carried out. Unfortunately, therefore, there are always more or less groups of three prisoners sleeping in one compartment. The removal of drunkards and others mentioned in the foregoing to establishments more proper for their cure would largely extend the means for separating the more legitimate prisoners at night.

In order to effect reform, it will be necessary for the Government to legislate for the proper housing elsewhere of those foreign bodies of unfortunates who now take up so much room in gaols. The prison administration is helpless in its endeavours to separate prisoners at night unless the country will provide the accommodation. When this is done, it will be possible to carry out the principle of association for work and exercise only, which in itself will be a great step forward. In the meantime, some alteration can be carried out in dealing with long-sentenced prisoners. Whatever good is effected by the nine months' period of seclusion must be largely nullified by the subsequent association in yards containing criminal communities comparatively strong in numbers. In such gatherings there generally are some predominant spirits capable of influencing the others, and here is a power for badness which cannot be ignored. The most earnest attempts have been made to classify each yard so that only prisoners of similar grades should be together; but classification of this kind, even if it could be made perfect, which it most certainly cannot, fails to prevent contamination. As in many other prison matters, the evils of association have been possibly exaggerated. A firm well-minded man can keep aloof from dangerous companionship. Many do; but the greater number are weak vessels, and these have to be protected. It is almost certain that an attempt to do away with the congregation in yards would be met by some temporary disorder. But the greater number of the prisoners, and certainly all the most promising, would prefer separation out of working hours. The hardened criminal would, no doubt, object and cause trouble, as was the case in Pentridge some years ago, when a similar system was introduced there; but little troubles of this kind might well be borne for the sake of the advantage accruing to morality and reform. A man then would only be associated with other inmates at work and at exercise under supervision, which would limit his liability to contagion. At all other times he would be in his cell where, as much as possible, visits from the various classes of officials would be supplemented by visits from approved lay readers or other accredited persons. A liberal supply of books, educational and entertaining, would be allowed, with lights up to 8 p.m. nightly, and certain progress in the upward stage might be marked by increased facilities for writing and receiving letters, more frequent visits from relatives, permission to hang photographs of wife, children, or parents, on his cell walls (a practice attended by good results in Norwegian prisons), the privilege of sending a portion of his earnings to his family if they were deserving; possibly, after a certain time, permission to care for a bird if sent from home, and what other inducements to clean living, not inconsistent with prison principles, might from time to time offer themselves. I do not think that these things would in any way shake the deterrent effects of imprisonment, but they might elevate the individual to a higher conception of life and its responsibilities.

But it seems a well-established rule in the prison administration of most countries (America is a notable exception) that a period of stricter seclusion than the foregoing should attend the criminal on his entrance to gaol. Nine months' separation is the period observed here and in the United Kingdom. On the European Continent the practice varies. In Belgium, there is almost constant separation. In France, prisoners serving a year are kept apart from others. In Norway, the inmates labour in association, but sleep in separate compartments. At the commencement and close of their terms of sentence the prisoners pass a short time in solitary confinement. A somewhat similar plan is followed in Victoria, where the isolation term depends on length of sentence, and ten days' seclusion is reserved for the concluding portion of the imprisonment. In Queensland, the period of separation is varied by length of sentence and by number of convictions.

The

The principle seems sound. The first entrance to gaol is to be followed by a period of separation from all but wholesome influences. No doubt the prisoner is in his degree of reflection more amenable to feelings of remorse and repentance than at any other period. The punitive part of prison life is here uppermost, and it is quite right that it should be. Objection may be made to calling this seclusion punishment, but it certainly is so regarded by the prisoners generally. Afterwards, a series of progressive stages ameliorating confinement and preparing for a resumption of personal liberty. But I do not think the period of seclusion should be so long as at present, and I do not think the same period should be indiscriminately applied to first-convicted men as to more hardened graduates in crime. And Mr. Michael Davitt's suggestions appear to have much in them that is commendable. He thinks a few months at the beginning of the sentences, with a month or two at the end, would be beneficial, so that "at the end of the sentence the prisoner would be amenable to the attentions and services of the chaplain and the schoolmaster, and every such reformatory influence as could be brought to bear upon him just before he comes out into the world again." This is the method followed in Norway and in the neighbouring Colony of Victoria, where much success has attended its operations.

It is therefore suggested that some similar plan might be followed here experimentally. For prisoners serving under three years imprisonment of any kind, the Comptroller-General might be entrusted with discretionary powers to provide such periods of seclusion at the two ends of the sentence as might be considered fitting, the maximum duration being defined. Prisoners with sentences of three years and upwards might be the subjects of separate treatment for periods at both ends of the sentences, calculated on a sliding scale according to length of sentence and previous records, second offenders being dealt with more stringently than first, and third offenders more stringently than second. I attach great importance to a period of seclusion from ordinary gaol routine being passed immediately anterior to discharge. Visits from clergymen and others of the staff would probably exercise a beneficial influence for good at a critical time, while visits from relatives, excepting where such persons were known to be unsuitable people, should be liberally allowed. Home ties, relaxed unavoidable by the requirements of punishment, might thus be renewed and strengthened. And it must be strongly insisted upon that if it were possible to hit upon the most perfect system of gaol treatment, that system would be completely nullified if the care of the patient is relinquished on the gates opening to freedom. At present society is strangely indifferent upon the subject. If a quarter of the attention and sympathy given to the man in gaol were afforded to him when he goes out again, a very great gain to the community would ensue. Unfortunately, as a free man, there are few found to help him along in the right path, while inducements to revert to wrong are numerous. That he goes to gaol again is not so much owing to his former gaol experiences, but rather for the want of a helping hand in his interval of freedom.

4. *The Identification of Criminals.*

A sure means of recognising criminals would go a long way towards the diminution of crime. If the criminal were only certain that identification would follow upon apprehension he would probably be inclined to more practically consider the advantages of reforming. The growth of recidivism in France led to much attention being given to this matter, the consequence being the invention of the anthropometric method of measurement by M. Alphonse Bertillon. Briefly described, this system rests upon two facts: firstly, that the osseous portions of the human structure do not alter in size between adolescence and old age; and secondly, that these parts do not measure the same in their totality in the cases of any two persons. A plan of taking and systematically recording these measurements has been devised that enables a criminal to be recognised with as great accuracy and with as little trouble as picking out a word in a dictionary. In France the results attendant upon the introduction of this method of identification have been wonderfully successful. In 1883 the recidivists recognised were 49; in 1892 they numbered 680. In ten years the identifications amounted to 4,564, and that number of dangerous criminals, persons of the most crafty and vicious kind, was deprived of opportunity for injuring society. It must be understood that these persons had all given wrong names, and had denied having had previous prison experience, and that the ordinary methods had failed to identify them. Year by year the system has been perfected, until it may fairly be classed as an exact science. The benefits it has conferred have been generally recognised, and the older countries of the world have largely adopted it as part of their prison and police systems. In time it will no doubt be made more generally applicable so as to prevent wrongful impersonation, and check fraud in connection with life assurance companies, benevolent organisations, &c., while its possible advantages to large business firms and banks may easily be guessed. It is, however, in its present application to the identification of criminals that I desire to invite attention.

On several occasions the advisableness of introducing the system into New South Wales has been under consideration.

The Inspector-General of Police (Mr. Fosbery), on returning from Paris in 1888, specially advocated its introduction. He wrote to the Colonial Secretary (then the late Sir Henry Parkes), under date of the 26th December, 1888, as follows:—

"In submitting the enclosed pamphlet and appendix for the information of the Colonial Secretary, I have the honour to report that, having in view the extreme difficulty which is invariably experienced in the Australian Colonies in identifying offenders by their photographs and ordinary personal descriptions, I inquired, in the course of my investigation in Paris, into the means employed by the authorities there of determining the identity of their offenders, whose recorded number now amounts to about 70,000.

"Their system, as shown in the pamphlet and appendix, was fully explained to me by its author, and tested practically on an offender received into gaol at that moment, who asseverated that he had never been previously in the custody of the police. His measurements and descriptions were taken on the spot, and in a few moments I was enabled to select without difficulty the corresponding description (with photograph) from a large range of tabulated pigeon-holes.

"The system is so simple that I suggest it should be adopted by the prison authorities here, to whom I request that this report may be submitted through the ordinary official channel."

Since the date of that communication the question has occasionally been discussed in a more or less spasmodic way; but very little favour so far seems to have been accorded the proposal to introduce Bertillonage.

The objections have been that there were no experts at hand cognizant of the details; that it was impracticable to entrust delicate measurements to ordinary prison officers; and that the increase of work and the increase of expense would be very great. It was also considered that no system of anthropometry would be of use unless uniformly adopted by the whole of the Australasian colonies. To meet this last difficulty, a circular letter was sent, at the instance of the Minister of Justice, to the Prime Ministers of the various colonies, advocating concerted action being taken with a view to the adoption of an improved and uniform system for the registration and identification of habitual criminals. Attached to this letter was a most able minute from the Under Secretary (the late Mr. Fraser), strongly urging the carrying into operation of the Bertillon system. The replies were not encouraging. Queensland was prepared to join with the mother Colony, and New Zealand was favourable to the adoption of an improved method of identifying criminals; but Tasmania, South Australia, and Victoria declined to have anything to do with the new plan, although the last-named colony expressed

expressed willingness to join in a conference of the Chiefs of the various Prison and Police Departments to consider the whole matter. The minute issued by the Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, so forcibly puts the various objections that it is here reproduced:—"Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 19th July, 1895.—The question of adopting the Bertillon system of identifying prisoners was brought under the consideration of the Inspector-General of Penal Establishments and of the Chief Commissioner of Police last year, and they considered that the system at present practised in Victoria of taking the photographs (full and side face), and measures of height, &c., with descriptions of appearance and particular marks, was sufficient to meet present requirements, and that there was not justification for incurring the expenditure necessary to carry out the Bertillon and Galton methods with efficiency. The question has again been referred to these gentlemen for consideration, and they are still of the same opinion; their views, indeed, seem to be similar to those held by the Comptroller-General of Prisons, New South Wales, as stated in the minute of the Under Secretary of Justice."

The Chief Commissioner points out that so far as the search for and arrest of criminals is concerned, the Bertillon system is of no advantage, as, of course, the tests for identification cannot be applied until after an offender is in custody. He also observes that "the introduction of and carrying out of this system would cause much trouble and some expense, and that if the measurements, &c., were not taken by experts, and most accurately, they would often be used to prove that the prisoner was not the man wanted." This seems a very important consideration.

Mr. Chomley admits that there are, however, occasions when the photos and descriptions leave the identification doubtful, and then, no doubt, the system would be found useful, and he concludes his minute: "Shortly, my opinion is that if the system was perfectly carried out it would occasionally be useful, but if imperfectly carried out it would not only be useless but dangerous."

The Inspector-General of Penal Establishments reports:—"Whilst I have little doubt as to the greater facilities and reliability afforded under the Bertillon and Galton systems, still, I think the methods now in vogue here of relying on photographs, personal descriptions, marks on body, &c., are for all practical purposes sufficient."

He also calls attention to the following passages in the report of the Commission appointed by the Secretary of State:—"It is essential to the complete success of the registry to secure the services of an expert practised in the methods of scientific anthropometry"; again "Unless perfect accuracy be observed, the system would be only a snare, and lack of care or intelligence is an ever-present danger—if the task be committed, as it sometimes must be, to warders and police of perhaps doubtful zeal, or who have no experience. Then a prolonged search, and with dubious results, would be rendered necessary when measurements were on or near the margin or primary divisions."

Captain Evans proceeds: "To carry out the system would involve additional expense—certainly the pay of one officer. Again, to work it effectively, persons specially instructed, and records would have to be available at the several prisons throughout the Colony. I do not think the time has yet come for justifying such expenditure, nor has the necessity for it manifested itself."

He further states that experiments are now being made with mirrors to obtain photographs of the face of various definite angles.

In view of the opinions expressed by the officers having the largest experience in connection with this subject, and most deeply interested in adopting all necessary means for securing the identification of offenders, the Government does not consider it necessary at present to adopt the system of measurement of criminals introduced by M. Bertillon."

The matter thereupon dropped for the time, but the Minister of Justice (the Hon. A. J. Gould) directed that as details of the working of the system in other countries became available, they should be communicated to him with a view to possible future action. A very great improvement upon existing methods was about this time introduced into the New South Wales system by my predecessor, Mr. Miller, which can best be described in his own words. Under date of 12th June, 1894, that gentleman wrote:—"The new method which has recently been introduced for facilitating the identification of criminals consists of a classification and subdivision of photos., with descriptions attached, as shown hereunder.

The photos. are classified in four series, viz. :—

- 1st. English speaking races.
- 2nd. Known foreigners.
- 3rd. Females.
- 4th. Coloured races.

"The first series, which comprises by far the largest number of criminals convicted in the Colony, is also subdivided into four sets according to height of prisoners, as under :—

- 1st. 5 ft. 5 in. and under.
- 2nd. 5 ft. 5 in. to 5 ft. 7 in.
- 3rd. 5 ft. 7 in. to 5 ft. 9 in.
- 4th. All over 5 ft. 9 in.

"Under the old method there was no classification of photos. with descriptions, and the full face only was taken. Under the new method, both the full face and profile are taken. I attach sample copies of two photos. This improved system will, of course, greatly increase the work of the photographer, who had but one assistant (a warder), and in order that the duties of printing, classifying, registering, and indexing the photographs may be properly and effectively performed in future, I have appointed another man, who is an experienced photographer, to Darlinghurst Gaol, with the status of a warder and subject as such to the Regulations, but his duties will be confined to assisting the acting-photographer (Mr. Howden), who ranks as a senior warder."

Up to the present time, therefore, the plan for identifying criminals in the Australasian Colonies depends largely upon photography aided by personal description.

I have thought it desirable to briefly recount the foregoing history of what has been done in the past, as the opinions of so many experienced gentlemen must possess considerable value. The difficulties of initiating such a system are very great, especially when it is considered that we have no one practically conversant with it, and that all the knowledge possessed of an intricate subject with its many details have been gained from books and reports. Yet the latter are so numerous, so up to date, and so full and clear in their description as to cause the difficulties to appear not unsurmountable. This opinion is shared by the Hon. A. J. Gould, who has on several occasions expressed to me his strong desire that a system of Bertillonage, modified to suit the requirements of the country, should be brought into operation. By Mr. Gould's direction a complete set of measuring instruments has been obtained through the Agent-General and are now in this office.

It would no doubt be most desirable that a similar system should be brought into operation in all the colonies at the same time. Much mutual benefit would be derived if the growing class of "intercolonial criminals" could be identified. Facilities for travelling about are now so numerous that it is easy for them to wander from one province to another, exploiting each in turn, until they get locally recognised. Then proximity to New Caledonia offers opportunity for escapees from the French settlement to settle unrecognised in Australia. The matter should be properly regarded as an intercolonial or even an international one. It is beyond dispute that the professional wrong-doer is alive to the disadvantages he is under in countries where his identification is assured, and that he is migrating elsewhere. It would be well that the deterrent method of anthropometric measurement be introduced into the whole of the colonies.

I consider that the system might be started in New South Wales. It is as much a matter of police as of prison concern, and should therefore, as in England, be a joint matter controlled by both Departments. There should be a chief director, who should control the central office, where all measurements would be sent for recording and identification. Much would depend upon this officer, who would have to generally organise, instruct a staff, and be responsible for efficiency. It might be considered well to obtain the services of an expert to nurse the matter at its inception, or better still, to despatch a prison officer—a medical man for preference—to observe the procedure elsewhere. In Bengal and in Ceylon a combination of the Bertillon and Galton methods has been, for some time, operating with pronounced success. A visit for instruction to both of these places would not occupy much time or cost much money. But it would be possible to commence without further assistance than is obtainable from the very complete and explicit directions contained in the various books to which reference has already been made. Mistakes would of course occur, and there would be much discouragement for a time, but experience would soon bring about success.

NEW SOUTH WALES CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT.
Cabinet.—Short Heads.

			Long L. Middle Finger.			Medium L. Middle Finger.			Short L. Middle Finger.		
			Long L. foot.	Medium L. foot.	Short L. foot.	Long L. foot.	Medium L. foot.	Short L. foot.	Long L. foot.	Medium L. foot.	Short L. foot.
Short Width of Head.	Short L. forearm.	S.H.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		M.H.	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		L.H.	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Medium L. forearm.	S.H.	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
		M.H.	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
		L.H.	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
	Long L. forearm.	S.H.	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
		M.H.	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
		L.H.	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81
Medium Width of Head.	Short L. forearm.	S.H.	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
		M.H.	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
		L.H.	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108
	Medium L. forearm.	S.H.	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117
		M.H.	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126
		L.H.	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135
	Long L. forearm.	S.H.	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144
		M.H.	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153
		L.H.	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162
Long Width of Head.	Short L. forearm.	S.H.	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171
		M.H.	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180
		L.H.	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189
	Medium L. forearm.	S.H.	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198
		M.H.	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207
		L.H.	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216
	Long L. forearm.	S.H.	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225
		M.H.	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234
		L.H.	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243

1 Millimetre = 0.03937 Inches.
10 Millimetres = 1 Centimeter.

10 Centimetres = 1 Decimetre.
10 Decimetres (100 Cts.) = 1 Metre.

It would be well to begin cautiously, and to not attempt too much. The Bertillon system in its entirety, as now observed, might be too complex, and I think a modification of the Bengal plan would be the most suitable to undertake. The measurements to be taken should be six, viz.:-

1. Length of head.
2. Width of head.
3. Length of left middle finger.
4. Length of left forearm.
5. Length of left foot.
6. Height.

And, in addition an imprint of the ball of the left thumb, obtained by brushing the thumb with Indian ink and impressing it on a card. All these particulars would supplement the information now given by photographs, personal description, marks, history and age.

As

As prisoners become nearly due for discharge, the measurements of such of them as might be deemed fit subjects for registration would be taken and recorded on cards which would be stored away classified for future identification purposes at the Central Office, Sydney. Each of the six measurements would be subdivided into three, viz. :—"long," "medium," and "short," according to a certain anthropological standard, which I think should be fixed by medical experts. These standards being fixed, three cabinets would be constructed, designated A for "long" heads (according to standard measurement aforesaid); B for "medium" heads; and C for "short" heads. Each of these cabinets would be divided into three parts vertically for "long," "medium," and "short" middle fingers, and horizontally into three for "long," "medium," and "short" widths of head. Subdivisions into further threes would follow vertically for left foot, and again horizontally for left forearm, and a last subdivision for height. It will be seen, therefore, that there would be three cabinets, each containing 243 subdivisions or drawers.

On the arrest of a person in any part of the country locally unknown, the particulars already enumerated would be set forth on a properly prepared card and sent to Sydney. The operator there in endeavouring to place the card in its proper place amongst the 729 drawers contained in the three cabinets, would at once be able to discard two-thirds of the number by the suspect's head being of long, medium, or short length. Further examination as to width of head would reduce this number to 81. Length of left middle finger would bring the division to 27, still further reduced to 9 by measurements of left forearm. This would be brought to 3 by length of left foot, and the drawer which should place the card would be then arrived at by height measurement. There would, of course, be several cards in this last drawer, the right one of which would be fixed by the thumb impression. A telegram would be sent notifying the inquiring officer as to identification having taken place or not, and a letter would follow in due course, giving full particulars, including former convictions. It will be seen that the Bertillon system is followed more as an easy and rapid way of classification of old measurements so as to enable a record to be found readily and with certainty. But the best stage of arriving at convincing evidence of identification is afforded by the thumb impression, for no two persons' thumbs present the same appearance as regards skin markings when viewed under a microscope.

I consider the foregoing modification of existing plans would meet all our requirements for some considerable time, until the register cards became numerous enough to warrant a further subdivision, when the measurement of the bi-zygomatic diameter might be added. Indeed the latter even now might perhaps be substituted for the height measurement which is more liable to error on the part of the operator than any other part of the anatomy. I have only suggested the retention of the height because of its forming a part of the existing systems in other countries, and its consequent international value. Perhaps too it would be desirable to have a special series of cabinets for persons over 50 so as to prevent too great an accumulation of obsolete cards referring to persons who from age, death, or other causes might unrecognised drop out of the ranks of those forming the recidivist class. A still further reduction of cards would be arrived at by those referring to criminals under sentence being withdrawn until liberation, when they would again revert to the cabinets.

I do not think lads under 21 should be measured. In France such persons are so dealt with and a special cabinet allotted to their cards, but on account of their bones not having obtained full growth, their measurements at an immature age can have little practical value, while complicating the general classification. They might be treated as at present by photography and by record of distinctive marks, together with the thumb imprint which latter would not alter through life.

Measurements should be recorded on the metrical system, so far as the first five are concerned, and height should be in feet and inches. It would be advisable to adopt the instruments used in India by the controller of the Bengal system. They are distinct improvements on the articles used in England, and much better adapted for the measurements by non-experts. Difficulty would be experienced at first in training prison or police officers in various centres to make accurate measurements. But examination and time would produce a body of fairly-skilled measurers who could be relied upon, with the aid of the improved instruments now obtainable, to give particulars with but a slight margin of error. Four or six measurements might in each case be taken and the mean adopted. Inspectors would occasionally visit each district, examine the capabilities of the various officers, and test the measurements, and such a plan would bring about successful working. Too much would not be imposed upon the outlying officers. All that would be required would be to take the measurements and the thumb impression of any suspect, together with a description of any marks or peculiarities, and forward such particulars to Sydney where the central authorities would be able to pronounce the suspect an ex-convict or not in a very short time.

I strongly commend the matter for favourable attention as going some way towards solving the "habitual criminal" difficulty, which might be further advanced by legislation on the lines of the Victorian Influx of Criminals Act. Discharged prisoners from other countries should not be allowed to enter New South Wales within three years from the termination of their sentences under pain of imprisonment followed by deportation.

5. *The Employment of Prisoners.*

This is a matter surrounded by difficulties. Theoretically every prisoner, not mentally or physically disabled, should be made to work. Practically it is very hard to find work for them to do. It is a common thing to hear opinions expressed that those in gaol should be kept to hard work and made to earn enough to keep them. But people offering such opinions rarely suggest what hard labour should be done, or, if they do, it is something wholly impracticable. In this as in many other matters connected with prisons, it is quite easy to criticise but very difficult to prescribe a remedy.

Purely penal employment such as the crank, the tread-mill, shot drill, and other unproductive occupations formed an easy way of keeping the prisoners at work, and at work of a heavy kind. But public opinion rightly does not favour this system which finds no place in the New South Wales prisons. It is therefore difficult to provide occupation which shall be at once laborious, useful, and educational.

The number of skilled tradesmen coming into gaol is few, and the vast majority of prisoners are unskilled in trades, dull of learning, and averse to exertion. Then, as physical disability generally accompanies moral infirmity, many of them are of stunted growth or of broken down constitution, with a liberal sprinkling of feeble minded, or diseased, or crippled persons. This without reckoning the large majority who comprise drunkards and vagrants sentenced to prison to get rid of them for the time for such short periods as to render it perfectly hopeless to teach anything useful to such an everchanging population. It is obvious therefore that such material cannot do the work of skilled artisans.

Then there are drawbacks to gaols, as regards industries, which are not present in the outer world. The necessity for constant supervision, the ordinary disciplinary routine, and the structural disadvantages of buildings all offer serious opposition to steady and profitable occupation, which is further hampered by the complaints of free labour.

It will be perceived from this that obstacles to the constant and profitable employment of those in our gaols are by no means few or easy to overcome. It would be most desirable from every point of view to see all the prisoners perform day by day a good day's work, but at present this is impracticable for the reasons before stated; and I fear we must for the time accept the fact that there will be a certain proportion for whom little useful employment can be found. In the larger gaols where there are workshops and trades instructors, this fault is capable of being minimised, but the minor establishments situated in the outlying districts can be regarded as places of detention only. There is no

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local work beyond wood-chopping or performing the necessary prison duties, while the cost of transit prevents material being sent from elsewhere to be made up, even if it were practicable to provide competent instructors.

With a full comprehension of all these hindrances to success, a more vigorous policy has recently been entered upon in order to import more liveliness into the industrial side of prison management. It has seemed to me that, with all the disabilities we labour under, there is not much occasion to seek custom in the open market. The various Government Departments are proper customers for our products, and it should be recognised that where anything for the Public Service can be produced by gaol labour, then outside sellers should not be dealt with. In the past this idea has not been so completely entertained as could be wished, and such trade gradually became reduced to small proportions. Various causes, too, also alienated the departmental trade. Our unskilled labourers occasionally turned out bad work. Goods were not produced to time. Heads of Departments were inclined to be hypercritical when comparing prison manufactured goods with articles offered in the open market. And, not least of all, there existed much apathy and lack of interest on the part of those charged with the execution of orders. The business was not taken seriously.

Measures have now been taken to brighten things up generally. The Governor of each gaol has been distinctly informed that he will be personally held responsible that as little idleness as possible takes place; that the various orders placed with him are carefully and promptly carried out; and that no article made in his prison passes out in an improper condition. The trades overseers have been warned that inattention on their part will be productive of serious consequences to themselves, and that they will be held responsible that every prisoner entrusted to their care is kept at work. Some changes in the trades' staff have already been made. Then, a new office has been created called Director of Labour. His duties involve a general supervision of the whole of the industries. He has to solicit orders from the various Departments, and to distribute them to the gaols most capable of executing them. He has to keep in touch with the trades instructors in all the prisons, so as to be well posted with the capacities of the inmates and the amount of work available for them, and he has generally to see that matters are conducted in a business-like style. I anticipate much good will result from the creation of this office. Already a number of orders have been placed with us for clothing, boots, bedding, tinware, matting, &c. It would be a good thing if the Railway Commissioners would obtain their mats from us. Such work would afford useful occupation for many of the unskilled men now in prison, and the mats could be made quite equal to those now imported.

Besides this, there is building, quarrying, &c., going on at Trial Bay and elsewhere, and also the work of many kinds incidental to gaol requirements, such as tailoring and shoemaking for the inmates; laundry work, cooking, cleaning, and so forth. And recently an attempt has been made to introduce farming and gardening. So far a fair amount of success has been attained in these latter directions, but there was not much forethought displayed in selecting the sites for prisons, most of which are of such small extent as not to offer opportunities for much outdoor work. Where there is any available ground, however, it is being used, and already vegetables and forage have been grown in some localities more than sufficient for the local gaol requirements. The Governors, as a body, report most favourably of the plan, and there can be no doubt it is a wholesome and healthy occupation for the prisoners who appear to be all the better behaved for the new departure which has only been established a few months. For the future, in addition to the existing occupations, I look forward with much hopefulness to the establishment of a new prison for females, a reformatory for drunkards, a large industrial prison on modern lines, and possibly a penitentiary for vagrants. Much of the cost could be defrayed by the sale of Darlinghurst Gaol, which is out of date and unsuitably placed. There is no reason why these places should not be built by the prisoners themselves. It is already in contemplation to add a new wing to Parramatta Gaol for the reception of those suspected of insanity, and the work could be done by prison labour after the erection of the walls on the outside grounds. Here would be good work provided of a hard, healthy, and useful kind. And I sincerely hope that the experiment may be tried.

I have only so far considered the subject from an economic and business, and, perhaps, a social point of view; but there is a moral aspect also, for most undoubtedly wholesome labour is a great reformatory agent. The industrious and willing worker in prison is well advanced on the road to reform. For many, work is distasteful, unfamiliar, and troublesome. Some consideration at first is needed for these; but with a proper system of rewards for industry, the necessary stimulus is provided for even the most unpromising cases. Some revision of the labour schedules has taken place, and a new scale came into operation on the first of the present year. This provides for every trade a task, defined by a certain amount of work.

In the case of a tailor, the weekly task is the making of so many pairs of trousers according to experience. For this, first-convicted men are credited with a small sum payable on discharge. Second and third men receive less, and fourth-convicted men nothing; but after completion of the task all classes are paid for every pair of trousers made over and above the task, and so with other occupations. A prisoner is, therefore, encouraged to be industrious, and at the same time he is made to feel that he is contributing something towards the cost of his maintenance. I would propose that prisoners should be allowed to contribute half their earnings towards the support of their families. This would be an incentive to industry, and would have an elevating effect, especially on new offenders, and by preventing absolute severance of home ties might pave the way to family efforts being made to provide employment on release, and so cause the discharge to be a final one.

6. *Education and Moral Instruction.*

Education is not expected to wholly eradicate crime, and, as a matter of fact, it does not do so. In particular cases it may even have assisted the professional criminal in his war with society; but as a general rule it may be taken that the spread of education has marched hand in hand with the cause of reform.

The public school system of this country has done much to assist the repression of wrongdoing, and, as in England, the prison population is largely recruited from a class who in some way or other have managed to evade the provisions of the Education Act. I have always thought that a drastic campaign directed against truancy would go a long way towards diminishing crime, and in another paper this matter has been more fully dealt with. In every prison, owing to the general spread of education, there are not so many totally uneducated persons to be found as was the case a few years back, but still there is a percentage received quite unable to read or write. There are considerable drawbacks in the way of repairing these deficiencies, as the primary objects for which gaol life is prescribed hardly make towards opportunities for any considerable educational advancement. Still it has been recognised as an obligation that a degree of tuition should be attainable, and, to some extent, school-teaching forms part of the prison routine.

At present, the female prisoners receive no educational attention. The male prisoners in six gaols have fair opportunities for schooling. Not much is practicable in this direction, nor is much done. The teachers combine scholastic duties with those of storeroom, clerk, or some other office, and possibly attach most importance to the latter work, of which the results are more readily shown. Then again they are not trained men, and consequently labour under serious disadvantages. The standard of gaol education needs better defining, and the absence of any definite rule as to age and length of sentence of those eligible for instruction is hampering to usefulness. I believe, however, good work has been done, and that prisoners have benefited by the efforts of the schoolmasters, who, for the most part, have been painstaking and earnest. Precisely the practical value of their work cannot

be arrived at in the absence of any record of results. An educational return certainly appears in the annual prison report purporting to show the progress made, but this is compiled from examinations made by the teachers into their own work and has little real value. An independent examination by a professional Inspector of the Public Instruction Department would afford a truer criterion of the success met with. The remarks made only apply to the male prisoners, for, as before stated, girls and women get no instruction at all.*

The improvements suggested would be to appoint trained teachers to the positions of schoolmasters, so that the opportunities for instruction, limited as they must be in gaol, may be made the most of. The changes should be gradually carried out and without hardship to the existing staff. In the larger establishments it might be advisable to separate the duties where another office is combined with that of schoolmaster, and so enable more time to be given to the latter functions. An earnest educated man in that position could be a great power for good in moving about sympathetically amongst the prisoners, teaching the less advanced, distributing and collecting library books, supervising the despatch and receipt of letters, and in helping illiterate prisoners to prepare their letters and petitions which latter assistance is now generally rendered by other prisoners.

Then, not too much should be attempted. Reading, writing, and the simple rules of arithmetic should alone form the curriculum. Prisoners of advanced attainments should, however, be afforded facilities for improvement by their own efforts with the aid of suitable books. But the gaol standard should be of an elementary character, and nothing beyond the ability to read a book, write a letter, and work a few simple sums should be attempted. The number of those to be instructed should not be too great, and success should not be endangered by the inclusion of those, who from age or extreme dullness, would require too much time to be spent on them to the disadvantage of other more likely material. Those over 35 should be excluded, as should all with sentences of three months and under. It would only be waste of time attempting anything with such cases. For convenience, it is the practice now to hold classes in association, but I question very much if better results could not be obtained from separate tuition in the cells. Each individual would have a shorter period of instruction, but it would impress him more, and his attention would not be distracted by company. Inducements might be held out to backward prisoners by requiring them to write their own letters after a certain period spent under the schoolmaster. At half-yearly intervals the measure of success attained should be gauged by examinations conducted by the inspectors of the Education Office in an independent way, whereby the necessary spur would be given to energetic and efficient methods being pursued. For women prisoners female teachers should be provided, but under present conditions this would entail much expense, as the women are comparatively few in number, and are so scattered as to render it difficult to get hold of them for teaching purposes. I have dealt with their case in a separate article.

The great majority of prisoners are, however, able to read, and for them gaol libraries offer great opportunities for moral advancement. Mr. Michael Davitt says: "No more efficacious reforming medium—apart, of course, from industrial occupation and habits—could be employed for the reclamation of all that is reclaimable in criminal lives than a judiciously-stocked prison library, in which the moral teaching and wrong punishing description of novel should be largely represented. It is only what prisoners read, between labour hours in prison, that can come between their thoughts of crimes past and reveries of criminal deeds to come." These are sound truths. A good book is a great teacher. Prisoners necessarily spend much time by themselves. Something must occupy their thoughts, and the more wholesome that something is the better for all concerned. The Chief Justice, speaking to me about the restrictions as to issues from prison libraries, said: "Why debar such men from reading? Books are amongst men's best friends." There can be no doubt but that much more can be made of this aid to reform than has been made.

The rules now governing the gaol libraries provide that no ordinary prisoner is allowed a book unless he has over three months to serve. It will thus be seen that a great portion of the gaol population is debarred from reading. Several reasons for this restriction have been advanced. Amongst them is the damage likely to be done by the hopeless class of short sentenced drunkards and vagrants. Much force attaches to this. Another reason is that the punitive effect of imprisonment may be destroyed, if prisoners are able to get books too readily, and so pass the time away in reading. I do not quite see the force of this. There are many people serving sentences of under three months whose minds could better be employed in absorbing the healthful teachings of a standard work than in pondering over and conjuring up evils and libidinous ideas. To refine such minds would not tend to lessen the punitive effect of imprisonment, but would probably increase it by raising the moral perception to a higher level.

I have consulted many of our most experienced officials on this subject of restricting books to prisoners serving over three months, and their unanimous opinion is that all prisoners, excepting the short-term vagrant class, should be allowed library privileges. In South Australia, the Comptroller has discretionary power to allow any prisoner a book. In Victoria all ordinary prisoners serving over seven days may have one. It would appear desirable that some relaxation of our present rule should take place.

Another way in which reading is restricted is the rule that prohibits artificial lights in the cells. Exceptions are made as regards the cells occupied by certain classes, such as separate-treatment men, seventh-class prisoners, and a few others, which are lighted until 8 p.m. by gas, but these form only a very small proportion. The vast majority of the prisoners, including those who have passed the "separate" stage, have no lights at night, and this in winter means twelve or more hours spent in darkness without occupation.

In several of the remote minor gaols gas or electricity is not available, and this has formed one of the principal reasons against lighting Darlinghurst, Parramatta, and the other large prisons. Because a few men incarcerated at, say, Wilcannia cannot have lights, therefore the many hundreds elsewhere should not have them. In this, as in other prison matters, it is to be feared that the desire to enforce uniformity of treatment has stood in the way of desirable reforms. I have recently submitted a recommendation to the Minister of Justice on this subject, and Mr. Gould has approved of the principle that all cells, where practicable, should be lighted, and the matter has now been placed in the hands of the Government Architect. I anticipate good results from the introduction of this great reform. When all the cells are lighted their inhabitants will be able to pass the hours prior to sleeping in reading. No doubt some will take up various studies by the aid of the educational works provided, while others will occupy themselves with fiction or travels. But good must in any case result from the new departure, which will enable that dangerous period of solitude—between the close of labour and the beginning of the night's sleep—to be safely employed in morally clean and instructive occupation.

Another advantage to be gained by the introduction of the lighting of cells will be the addition of a mild prison punishment to the present corrective code. For certain offences a prisoner would forfeit, for one or two nights, a light in his cell, and it is anticipated that this penalty would supersede some of the heavier punishments now inflicted, and would be more deterrent although less severe.

Libraries are maintained in all gaols ranging from some dozen works in small establishments to some two thousand at Darlinghurst, the schoolmaster of which prison acts as general librarian, and arranges for the selection (subject to the approval of the head of the Department) and exchange of works for the service throughout. That officer recently reported: "Works of fiction of the ordinary

* At Darlinghurst all seventh-class prisoners, excepting those serving sentences of fourteen days and under, are taught in a class in Evening on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 2 to 3 p.m., each prisoner attending every alternate week. They do not attend when on low diet. Prisoners of other classes are admitted to the school (in the library) on their application being approved by the Governor, and are taught from 10 to 12 on the days mentioned. Twelve is the usual number that attend.

ordinary novel class (standard novels, even those of Sir Walter Scott, being classed in the same category) have been for a long time forbidden, so that under the heading of 'Fables' the only works permissible are stories of travel and adventure, or homely tales of a colourless and, in many instances, childish description. The choice of magazines has also been greatly curtailed. . . . There is no doubt that the libraries contain a great many books absolutely useless for the purpose for which they were intended, and I hope that in time they may be replaced by more interesting and instructive works." I quite concur with the principal librarian. A very large proportion of the books is neither instructive nor interesting. On my entrance into this office I was much surprised to learn that authors such as Thackeray, Sir Walter Scott, Dickens, and others were rigorously excluded from the shelves, and that modern novels generally were tabooed, no matter what their degree of excellence. It seemed, however, to be overlooked that these forbidden articles gained admission when running serial-shaped in the pages of a magazine. There were many admirable works of travel, biography, and so forth, and many valuable science books, but there was also, as the librarian implies, a great collection of ancient literature of an uninteresting and uninteresting kind. When these latter are weeded out, and worn-out dilapidated volumes withdrawn, the various libraries will need some extra money spent upon them to fill up the vacant places. The Minister of Justice, Mr. Gould, expressed to me his opinion that standard authors, such as Dickens, might be represented on the shelves, and accordingly the next selection of books will contain a carefully assorted collection of the better works of fiction and monthly magazines, while more solid matter will be provided by scientific and technical handbooks, travels, biographies, and so forth. The annual grant for books is £100, but this is insufficient. In English prisons 1s. 3d. per head is allowed, and this is supplemented at periodical intervals of extra stocktaking by additional grants. It needs about £300 to put our libraries in good condition, and a yearly grant of 1s. 6d. or 2s. per head, calculated on the daily average, to keep them in order. It would be money well spent in the interests of reform and morality.

In connection with the subject dealt with here must not be omitted the duties of the chaplains. Their opportunities for assisting and hastening reform are many. I do not so much refer to the softening and elevating influences of religion, as exerted by the various services of the different Churches, although their value is fully recognised, but to the private communication between clergymen and prisoners. Great good undoubtedly results from cellular visitation, and many an erring person has been brought to repentance by the friendly and sincere admonitions, not untinged by sympathy, of the chaplains. In the mother country there is in each prison a resident chaplain who, having no other duties, is enabled to devote the whole of his time to prison work, which includes the superintendence of the school, the library, daily religious services, besides useful help in connection with the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies. In this country the chaplains are non-resident, and have parish duties occupying their attention outside the gaol. It is obvious, therefore, that they have not the time at their disposal to accomplish all that could be desired. As it is, a large measure of usefulness is effected by these gentlemen.

I should like to see out here a plan which is working well elsewhere—that is, the introduction by the chaplains or clergymen from outside to occasionally conduct service and to give short addresses. More might be done, too, with the assistance of lay readers duly accredited, especially by women visitors to the women inmates. It might be found practicable to utilise some of the corridors for the purpose of "straight talks" or lectures on such subjects as Thrift, Temperance, &c., under the chaplain's auspices. Select bodies of well-behaved prisoners could attend there in turn, in parties small enough to be easily supervised and kept from communication by a few of the disciplined staff.

And in other directions changes might be cautiously and judiciously introduced which would help along the training in education and moral instruction, by awakening or quickening the receptive faculties in a healthily attractive way.

7. *Habitual Drunkards.*

The manner in which drunkards are dealt with is generally admitted to be unsatisfactory. Men and women afflicted with the disease of habitual drunkenness are ignorantly dealt with as criminals, and the abortive treatment to which they are in consequence subjected is neither deterrent nor reformative. Scores of these poor creatures spend years of their unhappy lives in moving backwards and forwards between the public-house and the prison.

It is no uncommon thing to find over fifty convictions recorded against one of these unfortunates. Could anything show more plainly the utter uselessness of the present system? Indeed, that is generally admitted; but, although reform is much talked about, it has been found impossible to get beyond the talking stage.

There is another aspect of this question which deserves attention. The constant stream of drunkards flowing into the gaols is at once most inconvenient and expensive. Their presence is embarrassing, and interferes considerably with the arrangements for properly accommodating the more legitimate prisoners. In Darlinghurst alone, a huge army of drunkards and vagrants, owing to drink, march into the prison, many of them in a filthy, diseased, and verminous condition, forming at once a danger to the cleanliness, order, and usefulness of the gaol. No possible good is done by their incarceration. Their sentence of two, or seven, or fourteen days, or whatever it may be, simply patches them up in preparation for another bout of drink, and so the miserable game proceeds, costing much money and doing no good.

From a prison point of view, the removal of this class would offer great advantages. The accommodation now occupied by these persons could be applied to the separate housing by night of prisoners who now, from want of room, have to be associated, while the sanitary condition of the gaol, together with its reformatory and industrial opportunities, would indubitably benefit.

It is not easy to hit upon remedial measures which are free from objections of some kind. It is no doubt due to this difficulty that the present system owes its continuance. To deal effectually with this matter, new ground will have to be broken, and some purely experimental steps undertaken. Objections will no doubt be raised, but they should not be allowed to obstruct reform. The first thing should be to take habitual drunkenness out of the category of crime, and class it as a disease requiring medical rather than prison treatment. This being recognised, a course of treatment might be instituted, involving detention, more or less prolonged, in an inebriate reformatory situated some distance from any large centre of population.

The establishment should not present a prison appearance, nor should it cost much money to build. Properly-classified dormitories, subdivided into cubicles so that each inmate would have a room to himself; a large refectory, which would also serve as a lecture and recreation hall; a well-stocked library, together with work-rooms, hospital, officers' quarters, and the necessary offices, would comprise the internal arrangements. Outside should be a large area of ground, suitable for floral, fruit, and vegetable gardening, dairy work, agriculture, poultry and pig farming, and any practicable outdoor work. A playing-field and swimming-bath would be attached. Opportunity would be offered for good wholesome work, as much in the open air as possible, and there would be ample time given for recreation, education, and moral and religious instruction. A special staff of officers would have to be selected, fitted by education and temperament for the work, and the general superintendence should, I think, be placed in the hands of a resident medical officer. An independent Board of Visitors would visit at uncertain times and report to the Minister having administrative control. The inmates, or more properly speaking, patients, would be habitual drunkards. Here would crop up a difficulty in definition. It would perhaps be well not to proceed too diastically at the beginning. Probably after a certain number of appearances before the Courts, a person might be deemed an habitual drunkard

drunkard liable to detention in the Reformatory. Such detention should not be for less than one year. No possible good could be effected in less time with such cases. After twelve months any patient would be eligible for discharge, either on probation or absolutely, and in no case should the time of curative detention exceed three years.

These conditions are no doubt of a stringent character; but the disease requires heroic treatment. Probably well-meaning people would cry out that the liberty of the subject is being unduly interfered with. Precisely the same objection would apply to the incarceration of the insane, who are detained in special establishments away from their relatives until cured. Again, it will probably be urged that much misery would be caused to families by the removal of their bread-winner. But, seriously considered, an habitual drunkard possesses little value as the support of a home, and his temporary absence would not diminish the family earnings or the family comfort. Besides, the patient could freely communicate by letter with his near relations, enjoy visits from them, and even in special cases be allowed occasional holidays under their care and responsibility, while from the proceeds of his labour he would be able to contribute towards their support.

The remarks made are equally applicable to female prisoners. It seems to me that such a system is capable of effecting great moral reformation and of conferring the necessary stimulus to enable this terrible mental disease to be overcome. I trust that whatever else may be effected in connection with prison reform this subject may be speedily dealt with. To continue the present useless and costly system would be indefensible.

8. *Separate Prison for Females.*

A portion of every gaol, more or less secluded, is set apart for the reception of female prisoners, who are controlled by women officers, under the general superintendence of the male head of the establishment. At the close of 1896 there were 217 female prisoners, with 78 officers of their own sex to manage them. The majority of the women were confined in Darlinghurst, Biloela, Maitland, and Bathurst, and numbered 181, with 23 officers—a proportion of 7·8 prisoners per officer; while scattered about all over the country were 36 more, with 55 officers—a proportion of 1·5 officers to 1 prisoner. Little useful employment can be found for these women, especially in the country prisons, where their services are principally utilised in washing and general domestic work for the gaoler and his household. This latter purpose is the principal reason for the appearance of women prisoners at some of the gaols, they having been specially transferred from the metropolis to perform general servants' duties. I cannot approve of the system which obtains of allowing gaolers to use prisoners as servants. It cannot assist discipline, it is liable to abuse, and it is objectionable for several easily understood reasons; and it would be far better to give the officers an allowance to provide free servants.

There is not much in the existing method to commend it. Better results should be obtained by the concentration of the female prisoners in one or two institutions specially adapted for their treatment. From an economic point of view the gain would be considerable. Probably half of the present number of officers would not be required; and the prisoners would benefit by the bringing into operation of more improved methods of dealing with them. Amongst these would be a better classification, which is much needed. Brothel-keepers and prostitutes should be kept wholly apart in a separate wing of the prison.

In Victoria they have concentrated the women, serving sentences of three months and upwards, in the central Female Prison, Coburg. When a woman is committed to one of the up-country gaols for a short sentence a special female attendant is engaged on the responsible recommendation of the gaoler to attend her, unless on inquiry it is found cheaper to transfer her to Coburg—a matter which is left entirely to the discretion of the Inspector-General. I inspected this prison, and was much interested in the arrangements for supervising and classing the inmates, and for keeping them usefully employed. Some similar plan should be carried out here. But no old building should be used. One of the greatest drawbacks to efficient prison management in this Colony is the bad construction of many of the gaols, and the necessity for making shift with ancient, ill-adapted structures. A new establishment should be built, specially fitted for the required purpose, so that health, reform, labour, and supervision could all be successfully and economically provided for. The removal of females from the present gaols would set free a large number of cells for the use of the males, many of whom have now to be associated together at night because of insufficient accommodation.

Women do not enter prison in such large numbers as do men. In New South Wales at the close of 1896 the general population showed the proportion of the sexes as 100 males to 86·6 females, while the proportion in prison was 100 to 10·1. But although the numbers are so low they require much greater supervision and are less amenable to disciplinary methods than the male prisoners.

They are subject to emotional instability and to periods of great nervous depression, rendering them liable to break out in fits of ungovernable hysteria for no apparent cause, and they necessarily require much consideration and even medical attention.

There can be no doubt about the treatment of women in prison requiring special attention. They need different regulations to those for men as regards food, discipline, and work. For prison offences another code of penalties would be desirable, and the remissions of sentences, the privileges and other incentives to good conduct should be on a more liberal scale. Visits from relatives might be permitted to a greater extent than is now the case, and every encouragement should be afforded to approved lady visitors, who might be able to exercise a beneficial moral influence over the prisoners, with whom they should be allowed to confer with as little restriction as might be found possible, having of course due regard to the necessary prison discipline. An influence thus gained within the walls would in many cases continue to exist outside, to the great benefit of the individual and also of the community generally. No doubt it would be found that ladies of influence performing this visitation would be able to provide the most deserving women with situations on discharge, and so help the work of reformation on to complete success. Perhaps even it might be possible, in exceptional cases, to discharge prisoners on probation where lady visitors accepted the responsibility of guardianship to keep them in the right path. Subsequent misconduct would lead to reversion to prison.

I attach great importance to this matter of visits from outside in the cases of female prisoners, and am quite in accord with Mr. Ruggles-Brise (Chairman of the Prisons Board, England), who, at the Paris Prisons' Congress, said: "I should like to see an aid society, consisting of ladies, in connection with every prison exclusively occupied by women. We have already, in many of our prisons, such lady visitors, whose zeal and kindness cannot be too highly praised."

Great care should be exercised in selecting the staff. Education, tact, and sympathy should be looked upon as essentially requisite in the cases of the higher officers whatever other qualifications they might be expected to possess; and the general control should be vested in a resident medical officer with a lady superintendent as his principal executive.

9. *Penitentiary for Habitual Misdemeanors.*

Another cause of inconvenience and obstruction to prison management is the habitual vagrant and misdemeanant. This person, like the habitual drunkard, is continually entering and leaving the gaol. As a rule, his sentences do not exceed three months, and little can be done to improve him, or to get any useful work out of him in such short periods. His case is, under present conditions, well nigh hopeless, and his presence in an ordinary gaol amongst long-sentenced men is detrimental to discipline in many ways,

At Darlinghurst and Biloela this class of prisoner is usually present in large numbers. The room taken up in the former prison is badly wanted for the longer sentenced men, and it would be beneficial in every way—sanitary, deterrent, punitive, and reformatory—if some sort of penitentiary could be established for the reception of these troublesome vagrants and petty offenders. So long back as 1886 one of my predecessors, the late Mr. Harold McLean, strongly advocated such a course being taken, and its necessity has only become more apparent as time has gone on.

The island prison at Biloela has, for some considerable time past, formed a sort of penitentiary, and has materially relieved Darlinghurst of a great burthen. Under the superintendence of its present able and energetic governor, almost everything that can be done is done; but Biloela at the best can only be regarded as a makeshift, and the Prisons Department has nothing to be proud of in the retention of such a place. Vagrants, drunkards, and petty offenders with all numbers of previous convictions are grouped *en masse* in large dormitories at night. Separation is unpracticable, and is not attempted. But had as Biloela undoubtedly is, it cannot be relieved of its present functions until other accommodation is provided.

The penitentiary proposed by Mr. McLean is what is wanted. It would not need to be a specially strong place, as prisoners of the class to be dealt with would not require it, consequently it should not be unduly costly. A large number of cells, back to back, built in parallel rows north and south, with open spaces between so that they might get the sun's light every day, would serve for sleeping and for meal purposes. The place should be surrounded by walls, and outside provision would be made for digging, gardening, and farm work. In the open spaces inside plenty of drill and any practicable hard labour available. Prisoners loafing and disinclined to work would suffer in diet and in loss of privileges, while a vigorous attempt would be made to render prison life distasteful to a troublesome class of offenders for whom the present system offers no terrors. Legislation in the direction of progressive sentences for habitual misdemeanants would greatly assist the proper dealing with such people. A first sentence of seven days might be followed by a second sentence of fourteen days, and so on. A gradual but certain progressive system of sentences, added to a busy life of hard work (or drill, if work were not available), would go a long way to lessen the number of these pests to society.

Amongst the vagrant class in gaol are often found very aged destitute persons. Asylum life would appear to be more adapted to these cases. In some instances they have already been inmates of institutions, and for various reasons have declined to remain in them. Being destitute they are locked up for vagrancy and sent to prison. It would be desirable that legislation should provide for such persons being committed to asylums, and for them being legally detained there. Another awkward section of the vagrant class is found in those unfortunates who, being discovered in a bad condition of health, are sent to prison by reason apparently of the committing magistrate not knowing what else to do with them. These cases occur in isolated country districts, and the absence of local benevolent institutions renders it very difficult to properly deal with them. They cannot be left to die in the open, and are consequently sent to gaol for the purpose of receiving medical attention. It is obvious, however, that a prison should not be regarded as an asylum or hospital. The experiment might well be tried of establishing branches of the Charitable Institutions Department in a couple of the country districts, to which unfortunates, such as have been here described, could be sent. This would be a more suitable and humane treatment, and would also relieve the penal establishments of much work which they are not adapted to perform, and which entails considerable unnecessary expense and inconvenience.

10. Lunatics in Prisons.

The Prisons Department is saddled with much work which it cannot properly perform, and which it should not be asked to do. Duties entirely foreign to a penal establishment have to be discharged more or less inefficiently, and the attempts at carrying out these extra prison functions seriously hinder the administration in its more legitimate tasks.

The least satisfactory of these foreign occupations is exhibited in dealing with persons of unsound mind. Prison officials ought not to be expected to treat cases of insanity or suspected insanity. It is unfair both to the officials and to the unfortunate persons so dealt with. There are reception-houses and hospitals for the mentally afflicted (with staffs of trained assistants) specially fitted for the purpose, and yet the gaols are used for housing and observing lunatics. During 1896 upwards of 350 persons were apprehended on the charge of being of unsound mind and committed to gaol. In addition to these, a further number—over 150 strong—arrested on other charges, were found to be mentally afflicted on entering prison or shortly afterwards. It is obvious that ordinary penal methods could not be applied to such people with advantage. The Department did what it could under the guidance of the medical officers, but prison surroundings are not calculated to improve the insane. No doubt many of the cases were due to alcoholism bringing on aberration of intellect, and forced abstinence from the predisposing cause for periods of greater or shorter duration led to temporary recovery. But even such cases are out of place in a prison, whatever may be said against committing them to lunatic asylums. They are not offenders excepting as against themselves, and they are for the time irresponsible for their actions. The proper location of this class has not yet been clearly defined; but, if it is possibly out of place in a lunatic asylum, it is certainly out of place in a prison.

Making due allowance for the dipsomaniacs, it is an undoubted fact that many persons of unsound mind are improperly sent to gaol in place of to an asylum. This is not only embarrassing to this Department and unfair to those so treated, but it is an expensive arrangement, largely adding to the cost of prison management. I can quite understand that in remote parts of the interior magistrates are confronted with a dilemma when insane or doubtfully sane persons are brought before them. In the absence of a near asylum, commitment to prison is the easiest way out of the difficulty. But there is little excuse in large centres of population, with railway access to the metropolis, for such action. Why those apprehended in Sydney or its vicinity should be sent to Darlinghurst Gaol instead of to the Reception-house is difficult to understand, yet sixty-three were so dealt with last year, notwithstanding that one place is especially adapted for their reception and the other is not.

But it is not only the undesirable commitment which is complained of, but the detention which takes place after prison is reached. For purposes of State economy and convenience temporary confinement might be permissible, it being understood that transfer to the lunacy authorities should be as speedy as possible. For various reasons, however, this is not so, and the consequence is that much inconvenience and unnecessary work are inflicted on this branch of the Public Service. The observation wards at Darlinghurst and Parramatta Gaols are simply portions of the ordinary prison establishment as regards construction, and the cellular accommodation and other adjuncts originally intended for convicts are now used for lunatics or suspected lunatics. The inmates are under the supervision of the visiting surgeons, and are examined at intervals by the Inspector-General of the Insane; but their principal care is entrusted to gaol warders, who, however kind and humane they may be, are not taken into the prison service in consequence of any qualifications they may possess as lunatic attendants. At night-time the unfortunates under observation cannot be left alone, and each one is confined in a cell in the custody of two keepers, who are prisoners. It is not implied that bad treatment or misconduct takes place under these conditions; but, naturally enough, disturbances are occasioned by these demented beings, and occasionally the noise is so great and so continuous as to cause unnecessary annoyance to other prisoners in other parts of the prisons, whose irritation is not to be wondered at. At Darlinghurst, not only the inmates are disturbed, but persons living outside the gaol have complained to the authorities of these nocturnal outbreaks.

I cannot think that the present system will be continued, but if observation wards have to form necessary parts of a prison establishment, then they should be built and fitted for the purpose. Again, their use should be restricted as much as possible to ascertaining whether a prisoner is sane or not. If the former, he or she ought to be shifted to the prison proper, or otherwise dealt with. If the latter, then immediate transfer to an asylum should follow. But it would be well to fix, as far as practicable, a maximum period for observational detention, and this should be as short as possible. At present some of the inmates of the existing places have been there for a very long time—in one case over six years.

It is understood that the Lunacy Department is somewhat hampered for want of room. Also, that some objection exists as to taking over the complete charge of prison lunatics. It is argued that a wide distinction should be drawn between those who commit crime by reason of their insanity and those who are criminals first and who become insane afterwards. From a non-professional point of view, I should imagine it exceedingly difficult to accurately and justly draw a line in all such cases. Persons of latent insanity may only have their condition recognised after incarceration. Instances have occurred where probably prison conditions have hastened the development of insanity, but it is exceedingly questionable if they have produced it. Possibly moral deterioration is always accompanied by impairment of brain, and insanity is related to certain phases of crime. Viewing the matter in a practical light, it is hard to know how to draw that sharp line of demarcation between the two classes which is desired by the lunacy authorities. With great diffidence, I would suggest that a criminal, when proved to be a lunatic, should cease to be considered a criminal. The prison atmosphere cannot conduce towards his recovery, and the loss of his mental faculties renders punishment by prison confinement out of place, as he is not in a condition to understand it. It has been stated that as prisoners suffering from bodily ailments are treated in hospitals within the prison, there would appear no valid reasons why arrangements should not be made for treating those suffering from mental diseases also. To this, I can only reply that the cases are not of a similar character. Physical ailments are not incompatible with a keen sense of right and wrong, and with an intelligent capacity for committing crime. But a lunatic is without moral responsibility, and is mentally non-existent.

Coming to practicalities, it will no doubt be generally admitted that a change in existing methods is needed. The lunatics are with us, and have to be provided for. A recommendation has been made by me to the Minister that a properly adapted observation ward be specially constructed at Parramatta Gaol, so that all persons requiring watching might be concentrated there instead of being divided amongst several places. The Inspector-General of the Insane is favourable to this scheme, but wishes to add to it provision for the accommodation of the criminal insane, who would thus remain permanently under the care of the Prisons Department. I do not like this idea at all, and do not consider so grave a responsibility should be placed upon us. Certainly the English Prison Directors had such a system in operation at the Woking establishment, where a wing was set apart for the treatment of lunatics of the convict class, and it has been stated that the results were satisfactory. Whether more satisfactory results could not have been obtained under the Lunacy Commission is to be considered. At all events, the system was abandoned some years ago, and the English prison management has no longer the permanent custody of pronounced lunatics.

The new observation wing at Parramatta need not be a large place, neither need it be costly. Its name aptly describes its functions, and they should not be stretched so as to include the charge of established lunatics. So soon as possible after observation has determined the mental condition to be unsound, the patients should at once be transferred to the Lunacy Department, which might establish a special institution for their use or not, as seemed fit; but it should not be within the walls of Parramatta Gaol, nor should it in any way have connection with this Department.

It is to be hoped that prompt steps will be taken to bring about an alteration in the present system, which is objectionable from every point of view.

11. *Prison Officers.*

The rules and regulations governing gaols may be the best in the world, but if they are ignored or unintelligently administered they might just as well be the worst in the world.

Only competent men should be employed to carry them out, and the greatest care should be taken in selecting such persons. This would appear to be so self-evident as to need no argument.

The matter is not, however, so simple as it looks, and possibly the greatest difficulty of all in connection with prison management is to properly fill the various positions on the staff. For one thing—especially in the lower ranks—the Service is not particularly attractive, and the right sort of men have not always been forthcoming. For another—on the assumption that anybody would do for some of the more subordinate positions—it has happened that other considerations than personal fitness have prevailed in gaining employment. There has been no qualifying examination as to education, and persons have gained an entrance in the Service possessing the most rudimentary idea of the three R's, and qualified neither by temperament nor training for their situations. It is easy to allow such people to join the ranks, but it is exceedingly difficult to get rid of them. They perform as little duty as possible in the most perfunctory of ways, and, keeping just within the limits which might subject them to dismissal, they remain a dead-weight of incompetency and discontent.

This, of course, does not refer to the great majority, which contains many smart intelligent men, who are a credit to the Service, but applies to the minority, few in number perhaps, but capable of influencing the general body in a wrong direction, and so impeding the proper treatment and supervision of prisoners.

Unfitness is also discovered in the upper ranks. Superior officers have been found who were quite unable to write an ordinary report without much misspelling. This is a very serious drawback, and causes much waste of time and labour. Frequently returns of an important character are sent to the head office improperly made out, through the inability of officers to understand plain directions when conveyed in writing. Accounts often come in wrongly computed. All this necessitates much extra correspondence passing to and fro of papers and constant friction.

The operations of seniority have pushed these persons into situations for which they were manifestly incapable. Seniority may be a good thing in its place, but should not be allowed to injure the public interests. It is obvious that officers in charge of gaols, labouring under educational deficiencies, cannot bring to bear the necessary moral and refining influence on either their subordinates or the prisoners. The position of governor is one carrying great responsibilities. There are few situations which offer such opportunities for practical reform work. An earnest man, seized with all the possibilities of his station, could take up his task in such an earnest spirit as to effect incalculable good. His subordinates would be inspired by his example, and society as well as the prisoners would undoubtedly benefit in consequence. To obtain the right kind of men for the leading positions we should not hesitate to look for them outside as well as inside the Public Service. It is impossible to deal in an ordinary way with situations of this nature, requiring such special qualifications, and it is an undoubted fact that there is a scarcity of suitable persons available already in the Government employ.

In time it may be found practicable to establish certain prisons as training schools for officers, and much is possible in that direction. The curriculum would comprise both the practical and theoretical management of a prison, and those under instruction should be scientifically and systematically trained in discipline, sanitation, temperance, anthropology, thrift, and general criminological affairs. The governor of such a penological prison-college would have to be a man of exceptional attainments, and his staff would necessarily possess special qualifications each in his degree. At present it is not practicable to initiate such an establishment, whatever may be done in the future; but it should not be.

be impossible even now for the governors, chaplains, surgeons, schoolmasters, and other officers competent to do so, to occasionally meet the other members of their staff in conference, and to address them on various subjects incidental to their occupation. Officers of all grades might be encouraged to prepare papers on various questions concerning gaol management, and rewards and prizes of various kinds given for the best productions; and, as a necessary part of the foregoing, a system of qualifying examinations should be established, which might indeed be at once carried into operation.

Some months ago proposals were made by me that applicants for warder's posts should be required to pass a qualifying examination of a simple character before obtaining employment. This, of course, in addition to producing testimonials as to character, physical fitness, and so forth. Then, it was further provided that each step of promotion should be preceded by periods of service free from misconduct, and by the gaining of certificates showing progressive knowledge in theoretical as well as practical prison treatment. The various stages were not made too difficult in the earlier steps upwards, but it was demanded that no person should fill the higher stations unless they were qualified by ability, study, and fitness. Concurrent with this scheme for raising the moral of the prison officers, a proposal was made that libraries should be established in all the large gaols for the use of the officials, containing standard penological works, latest reports relating to prison matters, and other books of cognate nature, so that every opportunity might be offered to gaol officials to improve their knowledge of the theory of prison work and of what is being done elsewhere, and to qualify themselves for advancement. I do not think that we shall get assistants of the calibre required until some such system as has been here foreshadowed is brought into operation. Quite recently several improvements have been carried into effect with regard to the various prison staffs, and further changes are in contemplation; many superfluous employees have been dispensed with; some shady and badly conducted men weeded out; some aged and infirm officials have received pensions or gratuities, and eight governors have for various reasons retired; a more effective system of night-watch has been instituted, and drill, discipline, and responsibility have been more rigorously insisted upon; transfers have taken place between town warders and others who have had a long share of duty in the back blocks; promotions have been frequent, and have been conferred on the most deserving and capable men, irrespective of seniority; annual leave on full pay has been allowed to all classes of warders, whether stationed in town or country; hours of duty have been made more reasonable, and a system abolished whereby officers had to perform twenty-four hours continuous duty; and Sunday leave has been introduced into the large gaols, where each warder now enjoys sixty-five days annually off duty, notwithstanding he is paid for all Sundays and holidays. With improvement in class and attainments it may be found practicable, when the staff is reduced to the limits of necessary requirements, to rearrange the emoluments, and to introduce special pay for long and faithful service in the cases of well-conducted subordinates not fitted for promotion.

12. Aid to Discharged Prisoners.

The reformatory side of prison treatment, to be successful, must be supplemented and assisted by a judicious moral control after discharge from gaol. There are great difficulties in the way, no doubt, but they are not insurmountable in all cases. My connection with reformatory work for boys convinced me that institutional training was of very little use if care and attention were not given to the boys when running alone after the institution was quitted. Something of the same sort of thing is wanted in dealing with adult offenders.

The Salvation Army and the Rescue Society accomplish a certain amount of good now, but there is room for a greater and more systematic extension of this work. The majority of prisoners have little hope of encouragement and assistance when they leave gaol, and what wonder is there if they revert to old evil habits. Men who have been for a long time subjected to rigid control, to the plainest of diet, and to the strictest supervision, all at once are restored to unrestricted liberty, with possibly a few pounds in their pockets, earned by prison labour. They occupy pretty well an analagous position to what was once described as "Jack ashore," and, after a short bout of dissipation, find little alternative but to start on a fresh voyage of crime as a qualification for further imprisonment. It is much to be feared that incarceration in gaol is looked upon by many of our criminals as simply the normal condition of their existence, relieved from time to time by brief outbreaks of licentiousness and crime when at large.

Many of those persons could be saved, and much expense to the country avoided, by the adoption of a suitable and comprehensive scheme for aiding discharged prisoners. Such a scheme is the indispensable complement of any reformatory system. Many years ago Lord Derby laid it down as an axiom that it was the duty of the State to afford to every man the chance of obtaining honest employment on leaving the prison. Personally, I should not be in favour of handing this matter over to Government control until I was shown that voluntary efforts had altogether failed. Up to the present not much encouragement has been given to voluntary workers in this large field of usefulness, which is comparatively, in this Colony, new ground; but there are not many avenues for philanthropic labours where the opportunities for doing good to the individual and to society generally are so pronounced.

I believe that a very large percentage of our prisoners sincerely mean to lead a new and better life on emerging from gaol. A helping hand extended to them in a broad and liberal spirit is what is wanted to give them strength to resist temptation. As a rule they are a weak, unstable lot, ashamed of showing themselves amenable to the finer emotions, and intensely suspicious. They need a moral support continuously applied, of a quiet, sympathetic kind.

I would propose that the Government and the public work hand and hand in this matter, as is now done in the case of some of the hospitals and benevolent institutions. Voluntary subscriptions should be supplemented by equal amounts from the State. There should be one large central committee, who would assume the general control and responsibility, and subordinate sub-committees should be established in every town where there is a gaol of any importance. A town committee should be elected from among the local or neighbouring residents, and should also include, *ex officio*, some of the gaol officials, such as the governor, chaplain, visiting magistrate, and medical officer. In other parts of the country, where there are no gaols, local committees or agents might be appointed for the purpose of finding work and assistance for deserving cases. But all these should be bound up in one system of uniform organisation mutually assisting each other. A prisoner discharged at A might, for various reasons, find it difficult to get on there. The committee at A might ascertain from some other committee the very place for such a man to settle in. A certain amount of publicity is inseparable from any system aiming at assisting discharged prisoners. It is the case wherever tried, and cannot be altogether avoided. But no doubt experience would bring quietness and privacy in its train, and would conduce to the general machinery working smoothly.

Existing organisations might be affiliated to the proposed General Society, and so come within its authority, so as to avoid any unseemly competing or touting for prisoners as now, unfortunately, obtains in some parts of the world, or they might be left free to receive such persons as might prefer their aid. But I would feel averse to the multiplication of societies, each working separately. A general controlling body is absolutely necessary, if for no other reason than to prevent people preying upon a number of societies in turn.

Amongst matters of detail would be the question of appointing paid agents to assist in finding situations, obtaining subscriptions, and in visiting where such was directed. I think it would be well not to seek the aid of the police in these things. The official members of the committee would be able to advise the members generally as to the conduct of the prisoners as the result of their personal

personal observation, and to particularise the more or less deserving and reliable. Opportunities might be afforded for occasional visits to prisoners, beginning at a period not later than a month prior to discharge, for preliminary visitation is essential to success. Wholesome communication might thus be opened up, under the auspices of the various committees, between the prisoners and their families, or their former employers, or any friends likely to assist them. Intermediation might very likely remove difficulties and prepare the return to former employment. Gratuities earned in gaol should not be paid as now by the authorities direct to the discharged prisoners, but should be payable through the society. An inducement to receive this money in instalments, rather than in a lump sum, would be afforded by the society undertaking to supplement such sums from their funds. The accumulated sum would then only be applied for the best interests of the individual, and would not be squandered or lost, as is now only too usually the case. It might also be possible for the committees, on the recommendation of the official members, to arrange for prisoners, prior to their discharge, to apply some portion of their earnings towards the support of their families, where the committees found such latter were deserving. This is allowed in the Swedish prisons, and is found to greatly influence reformation and moral progress afterwards. I can readily understand the refining and elevating tendency of such a system.

A debatable point in connection with obtaining employment is whether the employer should be informed or not that the applicant for work has been in prison. The attempt at secrecy now observed opens the door to much blackmailing, and many would-be converts must experience constant mental anxiety as to their secret becoming known. Probably no hard and fast rule should be laid down, and a well-organised Discharged Prisoners' Association might be left to deal with each case as seemed best. I am inclined to think that many employers would have their sympathies enlisted by being taken into confidence in such a matter, and that they would feel interested in helping to pull an unfortunate out of the mire. From a moral point of view, such a course seems preferable to employing deceit in obtaining employment for a man released from prison who would always be in dread that his situation would be lost directly his past became known. It is a very vexed problem. An association such as is here contemplated should, of course, amongst its functions, have the power to guarantee the fidelity of any of its *protégés*, and this would certainly be an aid to their permanent reformation.

The possibilities from a reformatory point of view opened up by the establishment of a comprehensive organisation, such as is suggested, are manifold. It would increase the wholesome visitation of gaols, and add to the usefulness of the officers, who would be encouraged to take more interest in their work. Certainly no harm, and probably very much good, would follow from a systematic development of the principle of affording aid to prisoners, not only *after* but for some little time *prior* to discharge.

13. Reformatories and the Prevention of Crime.

The Reformatory and Industrial Schools are in no way under the control of the penal administration, and it is generally considered proper that they should not be; but the nature of their work has a direct tendency to lessen the criminal population, and the diminution of crime is likely to receive more aid from their operations than from those of the Prisons Department.

It has been asked, where are the head springs of recidivism? It is probable that they will be largely found in our defective social conditions, which allow many children to grow up without proper care. Neglected youngsters, living amongst undesirable surroundings, at an imitative age acquire with fatal facility the vagrant habit which, by a natural evolution, ultimately becomes the criminal condition. Heredity may be a predisposing cause to some small extent, but it is not worth taking into consideration beside the evil producing effects of a vicious environment.

To do real good you cannot catch your criminal too young. The difficulties of reforming him become almost insurmountable if you wait until he is safely landed in prison. To check and stant the growth of the criminal population need much earlier treatment both remedial and preventive. In connection with the repression of crime, a more vigorous application of the principle that prevention is better than cure would bring about beneficial results.

For such reasons, it has been thought justifiable in these papers on prison matters to include some reference to reformatory organisations for the prevention and cure of incipient criminality. It is a matter fraught with the most tremendous interests to society, and it far outshadows in importance anything that can be considered in connection with purely penal matters. The business of the prison is to deter by punitive methods. To reform is only incidental; but the business of a reformatory is primarily to reform, and, to do this, it concerns itself principally with the individual, some amount of deterrence being also accomplished. That this is not at all an easy task is plainly shown by the constant state of unrest which everywhere besets child-saving organisations. Changes and experiments are continuous. No sooner has any particular plan reached maturity than demands, based on alleged defects more or less well founded, are advanced to alter or abolish it. And this uncertainty is the normal condition of all institutions. One of the best reputed and oldest established institutions is the Mettray Agricultural Colony founded by the late M. de Metz. Yet, a few years ago, when I visited it, it was in anything but good odour locally, in consequence of its then experiencing one of those periodical public attacks which assail all institutions in turn. The English Red Hill Reformatory, founded on somewhat similar lines to Mettray, I found slowly recovering from a like savage onslaught which undoubtedly caused the death of one of the principal officers, through sheer mental distress at cruelly unfounded accusations levelled against the establishment. The charges were proved to be utterly untrue. That the difficulty of hitting upon some scheme acceptable to all is not yet overcome, is plainly evidenced by the Report just issued of the Departmental Committee on Reformatory and Industrial Schools (England). The Committee were hopelessly divided on the main points referred to them, and their deliberations culminated in the issue of a number of separate reports differing from each other. I do not think the experiences of the Home Committees or of the Home schools, valuable as they may be in the direction of pointing out the avoidable and undesirable, are calculated to help us in establishing a system in New South Wales, where conditions of life are not altogether the same as in the mother country.

In England the local conditions favour independent institutions, each working distinct from the other. Out here the conditions are favourable to exactly the opposite plan. With great advantage to all concerned the various institutions could be built up in homogeneous association affording mutual help, one being able to do work which the other was not capable of performing, and so on. To construct such a system would necessarily lead to a greater outlay than is now permitted, but the saving in the long run would more than recoup the present expenditure. A few pounds spent in preventing the creation of a criminal is much cheaper than the cost of maintaining him after he has attained maturity.

The various corrective and benevolent institutions for juvenile offenders and neglected children in this Colony have unquestionably done good work; and the making of many a criminal has been prevented by their agency; but they do not accomplish enough, simply because their opportunities are so restricted, and also because it is not yet realised what immensely valuable work to the community they are capable of performing. For the last twenty years I have almost unceasingly been pointing out, as the result of practical experience, the necessity for making some alteration in existing procedure, and for extending the field of work. We have now several establishments under different Acts not connected with each other, although all doing the same kind of work.

This want of method entails loss of power, imperfect classification, and really hinders discipline and reform. Instead of working together as parts of a whole system, each one is independent of the other, and all sorts of inmates, as regards age, conviction, and character, are contained in each of the several establishments.

Under

Under a comprehensive scheme, scientifically adjusted, each institution would have its particular place in the general organisation, and thus would be brought about a more effective grading—in itself a very important factor in the work of reformation. My greatest difficulty on the "Sobraon" was the impossibility of dealing properly with returned apprentices and other incorrigibles. They only formed a small class, very few in number, but their presence constituted a disturbing element and set up a centre of badness to which all troubles were generally traced. Boys leaving the vessel apprenticed were perhaps returned, after two or three years' absence, with bad characters. While at situations they encountered contaminating influences which developed any latent badness they possessed, and going from bad to worse they had ultimately to be sent back to the ship, sturdy, defiant youths of 17 or so, who could not legally be discharged until the age of 18, and for whom there could be no hope of finding other situations, chiefly in view of the short unexpired term of detention. These overgrown vicious fellows should never have come back to the institution. Their presence was unfair to the other boys, and they set a bad example in more ways than one. What was wanted was another institution of a more penal nature in which such lads, and other inmates of pronounced evil instincts, could be segregated—in other words, to make a selection of the worst behaved, and to treat the habitual juvenile offender as a class apart.

It is quite true that theoretically the reformatory is presumed to be the place for the criminal juvenile, and the industrial school for the neglected and vagrant; but no effectual line of demarcation is carried out here or elsewhere, and there is little difference between the character of the inmates. Age largely guides the committal to an industrial school or to a reformatory in the mother country, the elder being marked out for the latter place; but in New South Wales children of tender years are sent to both places, and this is very undesirable. In connection with the "Sobraon" a rule exists that boys under 11 are, as soon as possible after arrival, transferred to the Boarding Out Department unless there are special reasons against that course. At the Carpenterian Reformatory, intended for the criminal class of boys, I could not help observing the other day several small fellows, apparently under 10 years of age, who might very well have been similarly dealt with.

What is wanted is a third establishment for the reception of the worst conducted, and for the three institutions to be worked under one control. To do this the present Acts need repealing in favour of a fresh enactment dealing with the various classes of juvenile offenders and vagrants in a comprehensive way. The present Reformatory Act is a most defective measure. It contains no provision for licensing or apprenticing; the procedure laid down for exacting contributions from neglectful parents is clumsy, and in other directions it is more or less inefficient. The Industrial Schools Act is also wanting in various ways, but its elasticity has enabled it to be successfully administered by regulation, so that its work of late years has been of a progressive nature, and of an extent never contemplated by its author.

The new Act, which would of course apply to girls as well as to boys, should not go too much into detail, but should only define broad workable provisions. Powers of discharge should be vested in the Minister, who should be enabled to transfer inmates from one establishment to another. This would enable a readjustment of the present institutional population to take place with great advantage to its discipline and well being. To guard against young children being detained in any of the gaols, power should be given to transfer any such to the schools. Provision should also be made for discharging to the Boarding Out Department (immediately after reception in the schools or at any future time), any inmates who might be deemed, after observation, fit subjects for the mild treatment of the boarding-out system. Certain cases might be advantageously dealt with by fining the neglectful or misconducting parent, and by suspending the sentence on the child. It is conceivable that such a course might awaken a proper feeling, and that the necessity for enforcing the suspended sentence might never arise. It is quite just too to institute a system of fining parents, as in most cases they are more to blame than are their children. Contributions at fair monthly rates towards the cost of maintenance should be fixed at time of commitment. This would be the best safeguard against abuse of the Act, and would generally awaken the parental responsibility. No fixed term should be prescribed but detention should be up to a certain age. Any youth under 17 should be liable to be dealt with, and legal control might be exercised if necessary up to 20. It would always be competent for the Minister to discharge on probation or absolutely, so that no possible hardship or injustice could arise.

Then, committals should simply be to the schools, leaving the Minister to determine which one. This would ensure a better system of classification than is possible by the present rough and ready methods. Committing magistrates are certainly not now in a position to perform the difficult and delicate task of defining the exact classification of the juvenile offenders who pass so hurriedly before them. The time allowed is not sufficient to admit of a correct estimate being arrived at, and the position is further complicated by the insufficient means at hand for identifying the youthful offender. It has happened that several prior appearances at various Courts have not been known when a particular case has been tried, and this has contributed to a wrong diagnosis. In any case, classification before committal must be often liable to error. It can only be properly arrived at after observation, assisted by whatever particulars can be gleaned of home life, antecedents, and companions.

To enable full enquiry to be made, there should be a general receiving depot in or near Sydney, to which place all young offenders—vagrants, beggars, and other kinds of neglected children—should be taken on apprehension. The first hearing should invariably be followed by a remand, for the purpose of ensuring the attendance of the parents or guardians, and of collecting full information. Upon committal, a preliminary period would be passed in the depot, until observation enabled the Minister, on the advice of his officer, to determine the ultimate destination, or to discharge on probation.

It would be desirable, also, that a special Court and a special magistrate should be appointed to deal with all juvenile delinquents or unfortunates in a somewhat more private way than now obtains. At present, the boys and girls are not edified or improved by contact with the persons with whom they unavoidably associate to a greater or lesser extent while awaiting trial in the Police Courts. The special magisterial system works well in South Australia, and also in some of the United States.

Then, after a certain period of reform had been obtained, provision should be made for licensing and apprenticing to various trades or useful occupations. In cases, the employers might even be the parents. Under the vast and admirable machinery of the Education Department, inspection of the apprentices and licenses could be carried out by the scholastic staff. One or two probation officers should certainly be appointed in the larger centres of population to specially clear the streets and lanes of children found wandering about under suspicious circumstances; to rescue children from brothels and other undesirable surroundings; to inquire into the home life of children charged; to collect contributions from parents, and so forth. It might also be found practicable to establish a Curfew hour, as is the case in some cities on the American Continent, a practice which greatly deters youngsters from being on the streets late at night unless under proper guardianship. And, certainly some power should be given to control the numerous body of juvenile hawkers who now infest the streets. Some of these, under pretence of selling newspapers or flowers, carry on a systematic career of wrong doing.

An Act such as is here suggested would accomplish much good, but it would need supplementing by a further measure aimed at the repression of truancy. Truants form a pretty numerous class, and very many of them ultimately join the ranks of juvenile offenders, thieves, and vagrants. My experience in connection with the "Vernon" and "Sobraon" was that most of the boys coming to those vessels had commenced a wayward career by first truancy; and, it must be remembered, that not a tithe of the whole number so offending were sent to the ships. In my last Annual Report it was stated: "After nearly a quarter of a century's experience, and after dealing with some thousands of boys, I am impressed with the fact that truancy is the most prolific cause of juvenile crime. Stamp this out and you will ultimately largely reduce crime and empty the gaols and reformatories."

Further

Further experience has only confirmed me in this opinion. The Chairman of the Industrial Schools Committee of the London School Board remarks in this connection: "After nearly thirty years of close acquaintance with the juvenile population of this great metropolis, I have no hesitation in saying that *truancy is to be credited with nearly the whole of our juvenile criminality*. The problem of the day, therefore, is to get all idle children out of the streets!" Lord Jersey, who has great knowledge of reformatory, truant, and industrial schools, in a recent letter to me, says: "I thoroughly agree with your view that truancy is the most prolific cause of juvenile crime. The truant is the idle boy; and never was there a truer saying than that about 'idle hands.' This truancy difficulty meets us constantly and it is very hard to meet it!"

Milder measures than the ordinary industrial school are needed for such cases, and the absence of something between the ordinary school and the semi-penal training ship is one of the faults of our present system. In England there is an excellent class of institution called the Day Industrial School, which deals in a kindly but unmistakably firm way, with boys (girls do not truant to any extent) who for any reason stop away from school. Under the Education Act of 1876, on proof being given that any child was an irregular attendant at school an order was issued compelling his parents to cause him to attend a day industrial school for a term of three years, which, however, was not to run after the age of 14. These schools are open from a very early hour for reception in order to enable parents going to their work to leave their children if convenient to do so; but obligatory attendance is not insisted on until 8 a.m. Then all must be present. The day is spent in school work, some domestic or industrial occupation, drill, and play. Meals of a simple nature are provided, and there is plenty of hot water and soap for those who need it. The plan is non-punitory, and every effort is made to brighten the surroundings. At 6 p.m. the children are free to go home. In describing the system for the information of the Minister of Public Instruction, I wrote: "By this means the boy is taught orderly, cleanly, and regular habits which he should carry into his home life, and he has experienced a large measure of wholesome restraint without having lost the freedom and advantages natural to companionship with his relations."

The parents, whose fault it generally is where children irregularly attend the ordinary school, are bound by law to ensure the attendance at the Day Industrial School under penalty, and they also have to contribute towards the cost of the maintenance. After a time the child is discharged on license, provided an undertaking is entered into by the parents that he attends a named ordinary school. Failure to do this leads to a resumption of the former compulsory conditions.

Some children, either through their own faults, but more generally through those of their parents, remain incorrigible. For them a severer form of treatment is called into requisition—the Truant School. Here, on a first appearance, they must undergo at least one month's treatment (it is usually two months). They remain wholly in the institution for that time, wear a distinctive dress, and are subjected to pretty rigorous discipline. Release on license to attend the ordinary school follows, but any neglect to do so leads to a second and more prolonged detention in the Truant School, a third appearance involving still longer confinement, and so on.

This system has produced good results, and nothing impressed me more when inspecting the Home establishments than these two species of schools dealing with truants. Some similar plan might with great advantage be adopted here. It would provide a middle course between letting a truant—very often a petty offender in other directions also—go unpunished, and taking him away from his parents for a long term of years. It is in not providing this medium that the existing Acts are so defective. There are, unfortunately, too many cases where it is the most merciful and the wisest thing for all concerned to remove children completely from their parents for a long time; but there are also many cases where absolute severance from home at what is the most interesting period of the children's lives is harsh and unnecessary. It is undoubtedly wrong to weaken the family tie excepting as a very last resource.

It might also be considered whether some other designation could not be found for the institutions. The reasons for change are perhaps more sentimental than practical, but people have come to look upon "Reformatory," and "Industrial School" as terms smacking strongly of the prison flavour. A change of name would do no harm. A selection might be made from "Training Schools," "Correctional Asylums," "Homes for Reform," "Training Homes," "Schools of Discipline," or other suitable appellations.

I would strongly urge legislation in the direction of establishing a scientific and comprehensive system such as is here suggested. There are no practical difficulties in the way of initiating or administering such a plan but what could readily be overcome by the sympathetic, skilled, and experienced ladies and gentlemen composing the Public Instruction Department, and the extra expense would be more than compensated by the ultimate saving to the penal establishments. The best way to empty the gaols and to diminish crime is to see that the children grow up trained to religious, moral, and industrious habits. It is because I am so much impressed with this that I have ventured to deal with matters which, strictly speaking, lay outside the bounds of the prison administration.

14. *The Causes and Prevention of Larrikinism.*

There would seem to be a periodicity in certain phases of crime which is amongst the most remarkable of criminal phenomena. Every now and again certain kinds of wrongdoing leap into prominence, and, after running a certain course, gradually die out or remain dormant for a time; but they invariably spring into prominence again just as everybody has ceased to trouble about them. Crimes of violence would seem to be particularly subject to this regular alternation; and nowhere does this appear more apparent than in the recurrence, at intervals, of that form of disorder which we have come to know by the name of "larrikinism."

Gangs of "hobbledehays" and young men form themselves into "pushes" under the leadership of such of their numbers as possess the stronger personality. Beginning with mild horse-play, they get emboldened by the toleration extended to their proceedings, and so at last receive an exaggerated impression of their power and immunity from punishment, which leads them to more objectionable actions. Then they proceed to "deal it out" to such persons who may have offended them, or, in their absence, to "likely marks" who may be found unprotectedly travelling within the bounds of their jurisdiction; for each "push" has its own territory, and it rarely interferes—excepting on state occasions—with another's province.

But this sort of annoyance is not by any means confined to Sydney. Many other large centres of population are troubled in the same way, although the nuisance is not called by the same name. The midland cities of England, Glasgow, and London all have their roughs, although of late years the operations of County Councils, and of an enlightened and progressive system of municipal government, have done much to ameliorate the evil by preventing overcrowding in dwellings, by providing wholesome forms of recreation, by the better lighting of streets, by furnishing increased police supervision, and by moving in other admirable and sensible directions.

Even now, however, it is safer to be in Sydney streets at night than in some parts of Glasgow and other big cities of the United Kingdom. In London it was quite a common thing for bands of roughs to periodically terrorise the poorer and most densely crowded parts of the metropolis. On such occasions shopkeepers put up their shutters and stopped business until the trouble was over. In the East End, Rosemary-lane, the Highway, and the scething courts and alleys (generally called "Rents") adjoining, were scenes of continual disorder and fighting during Saturdays and Sundays. On the latter day, bands of these East End larrikins, armed with sticks, would visit the central slums situated

situated about Drury Lane and Seven Dials, where pitched battles would take place with the "pushes" of that unsavoury neighbourhood. In the north, Hackney Marshes were unapproachable by respectable citizens on Sundays and holidays; and, if anything, the south part of the city had the most dangerous class of all, in the denizens of the slums bounding on the New Cut and the purlieus of Southwark.

A very great improvement has set in of late years, however, and the demolition of rookeries, and the recognition of the rights of the lower classes to be considered and treated more as human beings capable of moral and social advancement, have done much in the way of reform. The police arrangements, too, are of such a nature, and of such dimensions, as to be able to put a stop to the formation of bodies of ruffianly disposed persons. The metropolitan and city police alone, within a radius of 16 miles of St. Paul's Cathedral, number over 16,000 men. When it is considered that the whole of this vast country of New South Wales is dependant for law and order upon the exertions of less than 2,000 men, appreciation of the excellence of the Colony's police cannot be withheld.

One reason why larrikinism appears more rampant here than elsewhere is, probably, because it is given more publicity by the Press in this Colony. This has both a good effect and a bad effect. On the one hand, it causes vigorous action to be taken in attempting to bring about the suppression of a very great nuisance; while on the other, the circumstantial accounts of the doings of various "pushes," set forth in a readable way, rouses an emulative spirit amongst other bodies of the same nature.

No doubt, too, some exaggeration occurs when the assailed tell of their woes. Quarrels occur, and the defeated parties magnify the number of their assailants, while every street disturbance is put down to larrikinism.

Be this as it may, it is an undoubted fact that there is a great deal of undisciplined animalism on the part of certain of our young men. Between three and four years ago a wave of outrage of the kind before described broke over the city, and stern measures were brought into operation in the goal to make the punishment, of those committed for larrikin offences, of such a nature as to become reformatory to themselves and deterrent to others. The treatment was called seventh class, and it was applied to all young offenders under 25. Exercise and diet were both restricted, and gaol life was made very uncomfortable. Undoubtedly this treatment proved punitive and, to some extent, deterrent. Disturbances ceased to be so frequent, or, at all events, were not reported. But, notwithstanding that the prison treatment remains the same, of late there has been a recrudescence of larrikinism which plainly shows that the proper remedial measures have not yet been arrived at.

Recently, with the approval of the Minister for Justice, an experiment has been brought into operation at Darlinghurst Gaol, to try the effect of improving the physique of these youths, on the principle of "the sound body the sound mind" theory. The trial is only being carried out on a small scale, and it would be premature to express any decided opinion as to its effectiveness at the present and experimental stage. Those subjected to the new departure have two intervals of physical drill daily, one hour in the morning, and one hour in the afternoon. The exercises are the same as those which have been applied with so much success, from a reformatory point of view, to the lads and youths on the training ship "Sobraon." The movements are of a vigorous character, and they are at once work of a hard nature, when required, and exercise; in the latter respect superseding the old circumambulatory walk. This physical drill is followed by baths, and the bread and water diet is suspended. In addition, school, visitations from various officials, including the clergymen, the use of library books, and work of a useful nature are provided.

There is much reason for hoping that the new departure will be a success. Dr. Paton, the medical officer of the gaol, who supervises the whole thing, is a firm believer in its efficacy. He recently reported:—"The seventh-class prisoners who have been drilled have increased in height, in muscular development, and in chest measurement, with a corresponding decrease in their abdominal measurement. From a medical point of view, the men have undoubtedly improved. Whilst formerly they were listless and apathetic, with cold extremities and extremely irregular action of their bowels—they are now bright and alert. Their general health is improved; they contrast very favourably with the undrilled men, and can readily be picked out from them. Men discharged from prison in such condition have a good chance of obtaining employment, and of escaping from their former environments." (Signed) R. T. Paton, Government Medical Officer. Governor Herbert reports, too, favourably of the conduct of these prisoners. He says: "The physical effects of the drill are most markedly beneficial. With the physical improvement which is taking place it is hoped that an almost corresponding advance will take place morally." When the system has been a little longer on trial, the Minister will be in a position to decide as to the extent to which the new departure shall be applied.

Under the old existing plan of seventh-class treatment at Darlinghurst Gaol, the year 1896 saw 338 prisoners under 25 dealt with; of which number over 45 per cent. had been previously convicted. On one day in Darlinghurst there were found twenty of these young men, averaging 22 years of age, who had 180 convictions between them. The new system may, of course, not even accomplish as good results as these. It must surely be better, however, to turn these youngsters out to freedom, vigorous in health physically and, probably as a consequence, also morally well set up, than to discharge them in a more or less debilitated condition as the result of restricted food and insufficient exercise. As a rule, they have grown up amidst unwholesome surroundings, and are bodily, as well as morally, deficient. As the Rev. Dr. Morrison, a man of a life time's experience in prison work, says: "I am confirmed in the opinion that among the many causes which produce a criminal life the physical inferiority of the offender is one of the most important." There is undoubtedly much connection between the conditions of the mind and of the body, and the recognition of this was the reason for the experiment now being carried out at Darlinghurst.

But it is unfair to blame prison treatment if this class of discharged prisoner reverts to his old evil ways. The larrikin is very much the creature of environment. It is not of much use shutting him up in prison and applying curative treatment of a moral and physical nature, if he is exposed, on leaving gaol, to precisely the same conditions which led to his original fault. In such a case prison management cannot fairly be the subject of animadversion. The Penal Department can assist in repressing larrikinism by various deterrent and reformatory methods, but it cannot altogether prevent a recurrence, and it most certainly cannot stamp the thing out absolutely. Other things besides prisons are needed to work a cure.

Larrikinism is the product of defective social conditions. It is chiefly brought about by the neglect of parents to rear their children properly. Home life, in its proper sense, is not favourable to its growth; but when parental obligations are neglected, and boys are allowed to ripen into manhood, with no idea of self restraint, what wonder is there if the promptings of their undisciplined natures cause them to give way to excesses? The State has a right to demand from fathers and mothers that they should bring their children up properly and train them for the duties of citizenship. If they neglect this duty, then, in the interest of everybody, the State should use its best endeavours to act in *loco parentis* for its own protection.

In a previous paper an extension of the Reformatory and Industrial Schools Act has been urged in the interest of neglected children. Such an extension, carried out in a thorough comprehensive way, would most certainly dwarf and cripple the growth of larrikinism.

Amongst our other social obligations to the youth of the Colony, is the necessity for providing him with wholesome and manly recreation. In the daytime work, and occasionally cricket, football, and other athletic games occupy his attention, but during the long evening hours there is little for him

to do. Climatic conditions too are not favourable to his staying at home of nights, and the surroundings of his home life may not be attractive. He, therefore, has to go to the streets for such enjoyment as they may afford him; and, as no one—outside his own rank—takes any interest in him until he becomes a nuisance, he is cast upon his own resources. He loafs about in an aimless way with others similarly circumstanced, and it is in this way that "pushes" are formed.

The conversation indulged in by these uncared for youths is precisely of that nature which might be expected. They are at that dangerous age when character is being fixed, and when the primal passions are very strong. In such congregations there are always one or two leading spirits who can only maintain their following by an excess of daring. This generally takes the shape of brutality and obscenity of sometimes an incredible kind. A bad ideal is thus established, and the imitativeness of the younger members leads them to acquire depraved habits, which exert an influence—more or less pronounced—all their lives. These vicious attributes are further fostered and strengthened by a pernicious kind of literature, whose object would seem to be the glorification of the baser passions. It is a great pity that there is no way of checking the influx of these wretched books and papers, which, it is satisfactory to say, are not printed in this country. They are a great power for evil. Dancing halls, and the facilities for gaming, are also serious blots on our social system; and all such things make for badness in our young people.

It will readily be understood that a few months prison life is not likely to effect a cure for moral diseases of such a nature; especially when release from gaol means a resumption of the old conditions of life. And the punishment of one of their number is not likely to deter other members of the various gangs from misconduct to any extent, or for any length of time, for they never think that they personally will be caught. It is evident that the solution of this social problem is only to a very small degree a prison question.

To effect a cure—besides the remedial measures already proposed—bands of youths and young men should be prohibited gathering together in public places after nightfall. But wholesome alternatives should be provided in the shape of recreation halls, such as the Peoples' Palace in the Mile End Road, London, where are provided instruction and enjoyment in the shape of music, popular lectures, choral singing, gymnastics, debating classes, and so forth. Then, the parks might be utilised, after the style so prevalent on the European Continent, by brilliantly illuminating them at night (light is a great foe to wrong-doing), and providing music by competent bands. Small tables and refreshment kiosks might be allowed on the side walks, so that family parties might be able to enjoy tea, coffee, and other light refreshments at a very moderate charge. In German cities it is particularly gratifying to see family parties of the middle and artisan classes spending their evenings together amidst pleasant surroundings in the public gardens. Everybody feels it a duty to be cleanly and respectably attired; music of a high class is provided and appreciated; and the moral effect is decidedly good for the general community. Home ties are strengthened, the bread winner is kept out of the public-house, and larrikinism is unknown. There is no reason why, in our splendid night climate, more rational outdoor amusement should not be tried.

Then, a great effort should be made to establish volunteer corps after the English model. Each corps should possess its own drill hall, in which every opportunity would present itself for manly and healthful exercises, in the shape of assaults of arms, boxing, fencing, wrestling, and the more scientific "Kriegspiel," and other war and mental studies. There is certainly nothing like drill to inculcate habits of order, discipline, and self-respect; and it would not be a bad thing, either for the country or for our youth, if military service were made compulsory on all young men between certain ages. For self-restraint, self-discipline, and decent respect for authority are all very good things for growing lads to acquire.

In a recent lecture delivered at the Philosophical Institution, Edinburgh, Lord Wolseley said:—"I should very much like to see some compulsory system of universal physical training established by law for all the young men and women of the kingdom. We insist now upon a system of compulsory education for the mind. Why should it be more difficult or more despotic to insist upon a training of the body? The sound mind and the sound body go together." With these opinions I heartily concur. Such a system out here would greatly benefit our young people.

I believe a scheme such as is here suggested would go a long way towards stamping out larrikinism. But should such outbreaks occur, then the offenders might for first offences be fined. If the money were not immediately available, it might be paid by instalments deducted from future earnings, and the fines should go to the injured parties. Then, in addition, it should be obligatory for them to present themselves during a fixed period at some suitable place for evening drill. This would occupy a couple or more hours nightly, and would not only keep them out of mischief, but would benefit them physically and morally. After all these various stages of treatment there should only be a small residuum, and it might very well be left to be dealt with by penal methods.

In the suppression of larrikinism, too much has been left to the police and to the prisons; but other measures should be taken before the disease is allowed to attain full development. It is just precisely one of those things where prevention is better than cure. In most cases there is no real vice or harm about the majority of these lads. They have the spirits and virility natural to their age. Society should consider that it has some obligation to them, and should not neglect its duty. The only alternative to the prison that has yet been suggested is the lash. Neither one nor the other commends itself much to me, excepting as forming really last resorts. A sound thrashing—by which I do not mean the use of the cat-o'-nine-tails—judiciously applied might, for certain vicious acts, be beneficial. Certainly in such extreme cases it would not be harmful; but a general application of flogging would do more harm than good.

In the absence of any proposals to cope with larrikinism other than by penal remedies of a severe nature, I have ventured to make the foregoing suggestions with the desire to aid in the suppression of a very great social evil.

15. Conclusion.

There are several other matters in connection with prison subjects, which can only be briefly touched upon; and foremost amongst these is the "Mark System".

The New South Wales Mark System continues in operation unchanged from former years. It is not applied to females, and only to males having sentences exceeding twelve months. It consists in awarding "Orderly" or "Disorderly" marks; and "Industrious" or "Idle" marks. But the good marks do not convey much to the understanding of the prisoners, as the absence of a good mark would not lead to any consequences unless accompanied by a bad mark. It is the "Disorderly" or "Idle" mark that leads to results.

Possibly a change to the English convict system might be considered an improvement. That plan causes each convict's sentence to be represented by a certain number of marks calculated for each day of sentence. Industry is recorded by marks, and when by industry with good conduct, the number of marks which represent the sentence has been gained the convict is discharged on license. For steady hard labour and the full performance of the allotted task eight marks per day are awarded; seven for a lesser degree of industry, and six for a fair but moderate days work. A convict who by industry has earned eight marks every day, and has not forfeited any for misconduct, has obtained in every three days as many marks as represent four days of his sentence, and has gained the maximum remission of one-fourth thereof.

Some

Some such system might be introduced here, with modifications, so as to deal with old offenders who should experience more disabilities than first-convicted prisoners. Besides earning remission, a certain number of marks might confer various privileges such as letter writing or visits from friends, promotion to a higher class, and such other inducements to reformation and good conduct as might not be found incompatible with prison discipline and the deterrence of crime. This plan could be applied to females as well as to males; and perhaps might include all prisoners with sentences exceeding six months, so as to afford hope and encouragement to a class of comparatively short-sentenced prisoners who now have no chance, by industry or otherwise, of earning any remission.

Amongst other matters which need consideration when opportunity offers are:—the definition of the terms of confinement for life sentences; the treatment of debtors and unconvicted prisoners; and the more frequent inspection of prisons. The latter subject is a very important one. Under present conditions it is not possible to carry it out so effectually as is desirable. My visit to Wilcannia Gaol last year was the first ever paid by the Comptroller-General, and it involved altogether over 3,000 miles of travel. Other prisons require many hundreds of miles to be gone over in order to visit them.

With the ever increasing office work to attend to, it is not practicable to inspect all of these establishments excepting at long intervals. It is none the less undesirable to leave these places so much to themselves, and it would be well if arrangements could be made to admit of the Comptroller-General being less tied to his Sydney office than is the case at present.

In conclusion, I would beg leave to say that these papers were only written with a desire to present to the Minister of Justice the views of the present occupant of the Comptroller-Generalship. It is not anticipated that they will solve the large questions attached to successful penal administration. They are simply expressions of opinion, submitted with very great diffidence, in the earnest hope that perhaps in some slight way some of the suggestions offered may prove of public service.

FREDK. W. NEITENSTEIN,
Comptroller-General of Prisons.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

MINUTES OF THE LATE UNDER SECRETARY OF JUSTICE, AND PRESENT UNDER SECRETARY OF JUSTICE, RESPECTING THE PRISON'S DEPARTMENT.)

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SCHEDULE.

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1. The late Under Secretary of Justice (Mr. Arch. C. Fraser, J.P.) to the Honorable the Minister of Justice, respecting the administration of the Prisons Department of New South Wales, and the report of the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the administration of English Prisons (with minutes thereon). 5 June, 1896	1
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No. 1.

The late Under Secretary of Justice to The Minister of Justice.

I AM not aware whether the Minister has read the report, dated 10th April, 1895, of a Departmental Committee appointed by the late Home Secretary to inquire into the administration of English prisons and the treatment of prisoners, a copy of which was recently received in this Department. I have carefully perused it, also the observations of the Prison Commissioners (forming the Board in charge of English prisons), upon the recommendation of the Committee, and a statement of the steps taken, up to the 27th February last, to carry out those recommendations, and I venture to bring them under the Minister's notice as being most interesting and instructive documents.

The names of the Committee speak for themselves. The inquiry occupied no less than eighty-five sittings, extending over a period of nearly nine months, during which time fifty-seven witnesses were examined, including Sir E. P. Du Cane, and his colleagues on the Prisons Board, also their Secretary, and many gaol officials and medical experts, and representatives of Government Departments, Prisoners' Aid Societies, Visiting Committees, Reformatory Schools, Trades Unions, and ex-prisoners. Amongst the witnesses examined many can be noticed whose positions naturally invest their evidence with great weight. In addition, a number of the principal Prisons, Refuges, and Homes were specially visited by members of the Committee; the Dutch and Belgian Prisons were personally inspected by Sir Algernon West, a member of the Committee; and numerous reports were obtained upon the working of the prison system in foreign countries (New York State, France, Prussia, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, and Italy).

As a result of their investigations the Committee have made many suggestions, which, if carried out, would tend to meet complaints made against the prison system of England, through the public Press of that country, apparently similar to some of those which have, during the past two or three years been ventilated in the Press of this Colony.

The general tendency of the suggestions made by the Committee—of which many have been adopted and others are under consideration—is in the direction of ameliorating the conditions surrounding the treatment of prisoners; and whilst the Committee fully recognise the necessity of strict discipline being maintained, they forcibly indicate that such discipline should only be considered as a means to an end—the deterrence of crime and the reformation of the criminals—and I venture to submit that it is well worthy of consideration whether the somewhat mechanical system of administration which obtains in this Colony should not be improved by devoting more attention to the carrying out of the ultimate objects of imprisonment than the mere maintenance of discipline. It cannot be denied that such system naturally has a tendency to gather into its own hands control of every kind, and to shut out from the cognizance of the public and the Minister responsible to the country for proper prison administration much light which would otherwise be thrown upon the working of prisons by persons whose interest in prisoners is not mainly that involved in their disciplinary control. It may be appropriate here to mention that the General Orders, numbering about 300 (many of which directly refer to the treatment of prisoners, and are nearly as important as the Regulations), are issued solely on the authority of the Comptroller-General of Prisons, and they are not laid on the Table of the House, or in any way made public.

It must be realised that the Committee have enjoyed exceptional opportunities of making a thorough investigation into the whole question of prison administration, and that their conclusions have been arrived at only after a most exhaustive inquiry, and have received the most earnest consideration in England, and deserve the same in this Colony as far as they are applicable.

Before proceeding to specify in detail those recommendations of the Committee which appear to merit such consideration, it may not be out of place to point out that the Act under which the gaols of this Colony are administered was passed in 1840 (fifty-six years ago), just at the time when the transportation of convicts ceased, and no material alteration of the law has since been made, except that under the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1883 provision was made for releasing prisoners on conditional licenses, or tickets-of-leave, and for the remission of sentences as an incentive to or reward for good conduct. It may also be brought to mind, as showing the trend of public thought upon the subject of the treatment of prisoners, that in the year 1894 the "First Offenders' Probation Act" was passed, under the provisions of which the Court may, on certain conditions, suspend the execution of a sentence, and the convicted person, if he complies with those conditions, can escape from the degrading and demoralising effects of prison treatment, and is afforded what is fairly considered to be a better chance of reforming than if he were confined in gaol. The Acts 11 Vic. No. 34, 16 Vic. No. 26, 16 Vic. No. 31, 17 Vic. No. 1, 37 Vic. No. 14, 48 Vic. No. 4, and 50 Vic. No. 9, which specifically refer to prison matters, only deal with details of a more or less important kind. It will be within the memory of the Minister that in 1878 a Royal Commission reported upon the general management and discipline of Berrima Gaol, but the investigations then made were mainly in reference to cases of alleged ill-treatment of prisoners by gaol officials.

If a retrospective glance is taken at the history of prison administration in England it will be noticed that during the past forty years there have been many inquiries into the system by Royal Commissions and Select and Departmental Committees, and several important changes have been made in regard to the treatment of prisoners.

The enactments passed during that time include the Prisons Act of 1865 and 1877, the Penal Servitude Acts of 1853, 1857, and 1864, the Prevention of Crimes Act of 1871, and the First Offenders' Probation Act of 1887.

Referring now to the Committee's report, it will be observed that when alluding to the change effected in England by the Prisons Act of 1877, under which the administration of the local prisons was transferred from the local authorities (the Justices assembled in Quarter Sessions) to a Board of Commissioners, the Committee express their views upon the results of such centralisation of authority in the following terms:—"The centralisation of authority has been a complete success in the direction of uniformity, discipline, and economy. On the other hand, it carried with it some inevitable disadvantages. The great, and, as we consider, the proved danger of this highly centralised system has been and is that while much attention has been given to organisation, finance, order, health of prisoners, and prison statistics, the prisoners have been treated too much as a hopeless or worthless element of the community, and the moral as well as the legal responsibility of the prison authorities has been held to cease when they pass outside the prison gates. The satisfactory sanitary conditions, the unbroken orderliness of prison life, economy, and high organisation, are held, and justly held, to prove good administration; but the moral condition in which a large number of prisoners leave the prison, and the serious number of recommissions have led us to think that there is ample cause for a searching inquiry into the main features of prison life."

The Committee also state that the absolute system of uniformity, carrying with it rigid discipline and perfect orderliness which was established by the Prison Commissioners, has with other causes led to the duties of the Visiting Justice being performed, as a general rule, in a perfunctory manner, although in some instances, owing to individual energy and capacity, the Visiting Committees have exercised a considerable and beneficial influence; and further, that *the best prisons under the former regime, while comparing satisfactorily in point of order and discipline with the prisons of to-day, were managed on lines in all probability more likely to produce a healthy moral effect of a permanent kind on the prisoners, but that in other cases the management was unsatisfactory.*

It appears to me that these views of the Commissioners might apply strongly to the somewhat analogous state of affairs existing in the prisons of this Colony, and that while under the prevailing system no effort is spared to secure strict compliance in every little detail with the prison regulations, sufficient consideration is not given to the more important question of reformation; further, that the enforcement of an iron-handed system of disciplinary control upon those who are not irreclaimable criminals must have a deteriorating effect unless softening influences are available.

The following remarks of the Committee upon the administration of English prisons, indicating certain changes that appear to be desirable, are worthy of special attention:—"We think that the system should be made more elastic—more capable of being adapted to the special cases of individual prisoners; that prison discipline and treatment should be more effectually designed to maintain, stimulate, or awaken the higher susceptibilities of prisoners, to develop their moral instincts, to train them in orderly and industrial habits, and whenever possible to turn them out of prison better men and women, both physically and morally, than when they came in"; and after referring to the fact that crime, its causes and treatment, has been the subject of much profound and scientific inquiry, and that many of the problems it presents are practically at the present time insoluble, the Committee add that "it would be a loss of time to search for a perfect system in learned but conflicting theories, when so much can be done by the recognition of the plain fact that the great majority of prisoners are ordinary men and women, amenable, more or less, to all those influences which affect persons outside."

To bring about such a change as is described in the foregoing remarks the Committee rely upon the administrative authority and the individual efforts of prison officials and others who might be called in to assist them, and they also consider it essential that there should be a proper classification of prisoners.

Referring to the administrative authority the Committee point out that while, for purposes of prison discipline, it is comparatively easy to mass prisoners together, to call each of them by a number, and by a cast-iron system to make them all go through the same tasks, observe the same hours, and lead the same lives, yet under this apparently orderly equality there exists the most striking inequalities, inasmuch as the hardened criminal bears the discipline without much trouble, whilst some are brutalised by it and others

others suffer acutely, and perhaps are permanently weakened by it in mind and body; and although it is impossible to administer to each prisoner a relatively exact amount of punishment, yet it is these very inequalities which often must produce that bitterness and recklessness which lead on to habitual crime.

The Committee, while recognising that inequalities must exist even under the best available system, consider that "the responsible authorities of a prison should have time at their command to observe prisoners individually, and sufficient discretionary power to give or obtain for an individual prisoner that guidance, advice, or help, which at such a crisis in his life may make a priceless change in his intentions or disposition, and that it should be the duty of the central executive to co-operate with the local officials in carrying out satisfactorily this most important part of their functions."

Upon the subject of individual effort by prison officials and others, the Committee make the following remarks:—"Without an excessive and impossible increase in the number of higher prison officials, adequate individual attention to prisoners could not be given; but the warders could be trained to do some of this work"

The assistance that would be afforded to the work of reformation, by a proper system of classifying prisoners, is described by the Committee in the following terms:—"The probabilities of success would be largely increased by a careful classification of prisoners. At present a large prison contains almost every type of offender. They are mixed up in hopeless confusion. . . . Old and young, good and bad, men convicted of atrocious crimes and those convicted of non-criminal civil offences, are all to be found in the same prison. The chaplain and the governor have to attune their minds as best they can to each individual case as they pass from cell to cell. Under these circumstances their best efforts can only reach a portion of the prisoners. A sound and wise system of classification would make it more possible to deal with prisoners collectively by reason of their circumstances being at any rate to some extent of a like nature. Efforts could then be concentrated on the individuals who were contumacious, and with better chances of ultimate success."

The attention of the Minister is specially invited to the investigations of the Committee into the question of Recidivism and the treatment of juvenile criminals, as showing how essential it is, if a decrease in the number of our criminals is aimed at, that in all gaols the question of reforming the prisoners should be paramount.

It will be noticed that the Committee obtained statistics showing the commitments of prisoners, and taking the years 1892-1893 they found that out of 100 who go to prison a first time thirty return again; of those convicted a second time, 48 per cent. return again; of those convicted a third time, 64 per cent.; of those convicted a fourth time, 71 per cent.; of those convicted a fifth time, 79 per cent.; and the old offender is constantly returning again. From the information placed before them the Committee found it difficult to avoid the belief that the proportion of reconversions during the last twenty years has increased.

In referring to the sources from which habitual criminals come, an allusion is made by the Committee to the conditions prevailing amongst the most wretched and criminal classes of society, where so many human waifs are born and educated in crime without a chance of their ever receiving any moral training; and it is stated that while numbers of lads and girls reared under those conditions have been permanently rescued by the Industrial and Reformatory Schools, still a large number of them find their way to prison, and are no doubt in most cases ultimately drawn into the class of habitual criminals. The Committee express their views upon this subject, in the following terms:—"It is certain that the age when the majority of habitual criminals are made lies between 16 and 21; and from the interesting figures supplied by Mr. Merrick, the Chaplain of Holloway Prison, the most fatal years are 17, 18, and 19. The proportion of juvenile criminals relatively to the population of the same age is shown by the return on page 29, of which the significance is apparent. This is corroborated by other experienced witnesses. It appears to us that the most determined effort should be made to lay hold of these incipient criminals, and to prevent them, by strong restraint and rational treatment, from recruiting the habitual class. It is remarkable that previous inquiries have almost altogether overlooked this all-important matter. The habitual criminals can only be effectually put down in one way, and that is by cutting off the supply. The improvement of general social conditions is the work of the community. But that some of its worst and most dangerous products, and that many of those who would lead honest lives under different surroundings, can be reclaimed by special and skilful prison treatment, is emphatically maintained by many of the most capable and experienced witnesses."

Some further remarks of the Committee may also be quoted here upon the general question of reforming prisoners, namely:—"There are few prisoners other than those who are in a hopeless state through physical or mental deficiencies who are irreclaimable. . . . Governors, chaplains, matrons, male and female warders, by personal influence have reclaimed individual prisoners. Given more time and opportunity for the work of reclamation, it is certain that in proportion there would be an increased measure of success. Beyond question, some prison officials with higher aptitude for the work succeed when others fail. It should be the object of the prison authorities through the prison staff and any suitable auxiliary effort that can be employed to humanise the prisoners, to prevent them from feeling that the State merely chains them for a certain period, and cares nothing about them beyond keeping them in safe custody and under iron discipline. The evidence in connection with reformatories bears directly on this matter. It is no doubt true that lads and girls are more amenable to influence to grown men and women. But it is only a question of degree. Mr. Trevarthen's evidence in connection with the Redhill Reformatory is to the effect that 91.7 per cent. of the inmates live satisfactory lives after leaving the reformatory. Observation of the individual cases is maintained for four years; and even allowing a considerable percentage for erroneous reports and for subsequent failure, the result is most satisfactory. The Salvation Army has organised Discharged Prisoners' Homes for men and women, and although it is too soon to express a decided opinion upon their working, yet it is quite certain that through these agencies a considerable number of apparently hopeless cases have been satisfactorily dealt with. The same can be said with regard to the Homes known as the Elizabeth Fry, the East Finchley Roman Catholic, and other institutions for discharged women prisoners. All those most praiseworthy efforts are attended by a certain measure of success. Experience at any rate shows, whether we look at the work done after prisoners have served their time, or at the individual efforts of prison officials while the prisoners are serving their time, that the present system, while admirable for coercion and repression, is excessively deficient on the reformatory side."

The

The foregoing remarks of the Committee might be considered advantageously in relation to the conditions surrounding our own prison administration. It seems only necessary to glance at the result achieved by the Elmira Reformatory, New York State, to be satisfied that much *might* be done to reclaim our criminals if a radical change were made in the manner of their treatment.

From the report of that Institution for the year 1893 these facts are gleaned. The Reformatory was established in 1876 for the reception of youthful male felons, to be committed there for the statutory term for their particular offence for the purpose of undergoing a process of training and reformation in place of the ordinary imprisonment. During the period 1876-1893, 6,551 inmates were received whose ages varied from 16 to 30 years, the average age being 21 years. The average number in confinement during 1893 was 1,470, and at the end of the year there were 1,378 inmates with an average period of detention of seventeen months.

The prisoners committed to the Reformatory are felons; 45 per cent. of them had previously been in contact with the restraining agencies of the law, 68 per cent. were illiterate, 75 per cent. were without regular occupation, and 92 per cent. were without the benefits of good home surroundings.

The moral inducement to reformation under the Elmira Reformatory system consist of (1) division into grades, with differing degrees of comfort and social standing; (2) a wage-earning mark system; (3) the personal influence of the Reformatory staff. Between 70 and 80 per cent. respond to the efforts made for their good, while for the remainder compulsion is found necessary, either by means of forfeiture of marks, degradation of rank, or personal chastisement.

During 1893 thirty-four different trades were taught, and it is claimed that 78 per cent. of the inmates discharged went straight to the trade learned in the Reformatory.

Prisoners can, at the discretion of the managers, be released on parole, to be brought back again if found to be drifting into crime, but the release is made absolute after six months satisfactory trial. The total number "paroled" during the period 1876-1893 was 3,723, of whom 259 were brought back, 110 were "paroled" a second time, and ten a third time. It is claimed that about probably 80 per cent. of the prisoners are reformed.

Although the prisoners seem to be treated generally in this Reformatory in a very humane manner, and are allowed many indulgences never experienced in prison life, it is specially worthy of note that the management appears to be conducted with sufficient rigour to produce a deterring effect upon the inmates. The report for 1893 shows that during that year, as there were about 400 prisoners associated in their rooms, in pairs, in order to avoid further overcrowding, it was found necessary to transfer 150 of the least promising to the State prisons, but that course was found to act as an incentive to troublesome conduct on the part of the inmates, in order to secure their transfer to the prison where they could earn an abatement of their sentence with less exertion on their part.

As to the expediency of introducing reformatory measures into gaols, the weight of evidence given before the Committee (excluding that of prison officials) is in favour of such being done, although notably Sir Godfrey Lushington, late Under Secretary of State, Home Department, considers it impracticable to do so, and it is to be borne in mind that the harm which results from pursuing an opposite course and using prisons for punitive and deterrent purposes only is incalculable, for such a system tends to embitter the minds of prisoners, and to harden them in crime.

In considering now the question of reforms, and the manner in which they might be introduced, it is necessary in the first instance to point out that the success of any improved system which might be adopted would depend to an almost vital extent upon the administrative authority and the prison staff.

The necessity for having a specially qualified staff to deal with prisoners is indicated by Sir Godfrey Lushington in his evidence, which was to the following effect:—"In working the prison machinery, too great importance, I think, cannot be attached to the personnel. It is not enough that a thing requiring to be done in the prison should be done. It must be done in a proper spirit. The duties of prison officers are often painful; often have to be performed under provocation; always on a helpless subject, and more or less without immediate control from a superior officer. Everything depends on the spirit, judgment, and behaviour of the officer. Any want in this respect must inevitably aggravate the lot of prisoners, and also lead to a multiplication of prison offences. Now, I believe this spirit must come primarily from above and spread downwards; I mean that everything should be done to secure the utmost influence of the Commissioners on the governors and the superior officers of the prison, and of the governors on the officers of the prison and all the warders As to the warders, I think that, before being definitely appointed, they should pass through a period of probation, during which they should be regularly trained at certain prisons set apart for this purpose. During this period they not only could obtain methodical instruction as to their duties, but would be tested to see whether they possessed the manner and temper requisite for the proper discharge of their duties."

The Committee were strongly impressed with the necessity of obtaining high-class warders, and of improving the general conditions governing their employment, and they recommended that certain prisons should be selected as training-schools for all ranks of the prison staff, and should be placed under the charge of the most experienced officers in the service.

The Prison Commissioners, in their observations on the Committee's report, fully concur in this recommendation, and the Secretary of State is in communication with the Treasury on the subject. The Committee, in dealing with the matter, make special reference to the systems of other countries in the following terms:—"The practice in other countries of training prison officials should be followed. For example, in France, nominations for the superior staff are given after examination. For the inferior staff there is a school in Paris and elementary schools in various establishments. In Germany warders have to pass through a probationary service of six months. In Austria the higher officials, after three months' service, have to appear before the Procurator-General for the oral examination, presenting at the same time a full report of their probationary work from the governor or manager of the prison in which they served. Warders have to undergo at least one year's probation, at the end of which they have to undergo an oral examination. In Belgium, prison governors, as a general rule, are selected from the administrative staff after a minimum service of ten years. They are examined in the theory of prison treatment, and in all subjects the knowledge of which is necessary to prison management. They have then to undergo at least a year's probation, either as assistant director in a central prison or as director in a prison of less importance, before their nomination is finally confirmed. The discipline officers serve six months as probationers. If they show the necessary qualifications they are subsequently appointed as third-class warders, but the appointment

appointment is not confirmed until after a further period of six months. In Sweden the warders are selected with great care, and preference is given to those who have learned a trade or show skill likely to be of use in directing the prison industries. The maximum age is 30 years. It has not been deemed necessary, or even advisable, to establish any special training school for warders. Experience has proved that efficiency in the management of prisoners is best acquired in the prisons themselves; but in order to raise the moral and intellectual standard of the men who are already in the Service, lectures and classes have been instituted in the central prisons. These are held by the Chaplain and schoolmasters, and the subjects taught or treated in lectures are such as may be of an educational or practical value to the warders in the discharge of their important duties. The central penal establishments have special libraries for the warders, and every year a great number of suitable and valuable books on religious subjects, temperance, history, biography, &c., are sent out to those libraries, as well as those intended for the use of prisoners."

It seems, therefore, essential, if a successful result is desired, to follow the introduction of reformatory measures, that the principal gaol authorities should display the combined qualities of humanity and firmness, and be in touch with, and exercise influence upon, the subordinate officers. None but specially-qualified warders should be employed, and arrangements might be made for their training, included in which should be a long probationary service in a specially-selected gaol.

This appears to have been the view of Parliament in passing section 39 of the Public Service Act of 1895, which provides that "no person shall be permanently appointed to any office in any penal establishment or gaol or reformatory school, probationary school, or receiving depôt, whether he be already an officer in the Public Service or not, unless and until he has served for twelve months on probation as an officer of some penal establishment or gaol or reformatory school, probationary school, or receiving depôt."

In regard to classifying prisoners the Committee have made the following recommendations:—

- (1.) That habitual criminals should be kept as a class apart from other prisoners, and the prison authorities should have discretionary power to distinguish between first offenders and habitual criminals caught for the first time.
- (2.) That juveniles, 17 years and under, should be specially treated in prisons, and should not be subjected to ordinary prison discipline and regulations.
- (3.) That the age of admission to reformatories should be raised from 16 to 18, and of detention to 21, and that by way of experiment a penal reformatory should be established to which offenders above 16 and under 23 could be committed by the Court or transferred from prisons by the Secretary of State, if satisfied that the treatment there would be more suitable.
- (4.) That prisoners sentenced primarily for drunkenness should be specially treated in prisons or parts of prisons set apart for them.
- (5.) That weak-minded prisoners should be concentrated, so far as is possible, in special prisons, and should be under special medical supervision.

With regard to "habitual criminals," the Committee have expressed their views in the following terms:—

"We recommend that this class of prisoners should be kept as a class apart from others. We think that they are a most undesirable element in a mixed prison population, and that they require and deserve special treatment. It is clear from the evidence that while the habitual prisoner is orderly and easily managed, the prison regime has little or no deterrent effect upon him unless he is subjected to long periods of imprisonment and penal servitude, which, however, frequently make him desperate and determined, when again at large, not to be taken alive. But there is evidently a large class of habitual criminals not of the desperate order, who live by robbery and thieving and petty larceny, who run the risk of comparatively short sentences with comparative indifference. . . . Upon the evidence given to us, we are strongly of the opinion that further corrective measures are desirable for these persons. When under sentence they complicate prison management; when at large they are responsible for the commission of the greater part of undetected crime; they are a nuisance to the community.

"To punish them for the particular offence in which they are detected is almost useless. Witnesses were almost unanimous in approving of some kind of cumulative sentence. The real offence is the wilful persistence in the deliberately acquired habit of crime. We venture to offer the opinion formed during this inquiry that a new form of sentence should be placed at the disposal of the Judges, by which these offenders might be segregated for long periods of detention, during which they would not be treated with the severity of first-class hard labour or penal servitude, but would be forced to work under less onerous conditions.

"We have not attempted a definition of 'habitual criminal.' This is a question which necessarily must be taken in conjunction with our suggestion that a new form of sentence should be set up. To lay it down that a prisoner should be regarded as an habitual criminal does not meet the case. Coiners, receivers, and other criminals by profession, frequently escape detection for long periods, and it would be necessary to bring this class into the category of habitual criminals. For this purpose it probably would be necessary to give a certain amount of discretion to the Court."

The Prison Commissioners concur with the recommendation of the Committee that habitual criminals should as a class be kept apart from other prisoners, and that the prison authorities should have discretionary power to distinguish between first offenders and habitual criminals who are caught for the first time, and they could see no difficulty in extending the Star Class system, which obtains in the convict prisons, to the local prisons, if applied only to prisoners serving a sentence of not less than three months.

If reference be made to the evidence of Dr. Brayn, Governor and Medical Officer of Woking Female Convict Prison, it will be found that the Star Class are kept separate from other prisoners. They are all first offenders; but before putting a prisoner into that class, exhaustive inquiries are made by the prison authorities through the police and private persons into his antecedents, and the result is sent up to the Director who decides, having regard to the general character of the prisoner, whether he is to be put into the Star Class or not. This system, which has hitherto been limited to penal servitude prisoners, has now been extended by the Commissioners, experimentally, under careful regulations, to local prisoners in the metropolis, and will, if successful, be adopted generally.

A definition of the Star Class is outlined in the memorandum of instructions issued by the Prison Commissioners respecting the separation of penal servitude prisoners not previously convicted. (*See Appendix "A"*).

Respecting "juveniles," the Committee report as follows:—"Several witnesses were in favour of the total discontinuance of committing this class of offenders to prison. We do not think this is practicable or desirable; for inquiry, or on arrest, children have to be detained. We strongly hold that it is most undesirable to commit them either to police cells or to workhouses. In many cases prisons are the only available places of detention. Further, we think that in the case of grave offences, for which reformatories are not available, that imprisonment is necessary. At the same time, children should be subjected to special treatment, and in every way be kept absolutely apart from other prisoners. . . . We think that the ordinary prison discipline and regulations should not be applied to juveniles, but that Governors and the Visiting Committees should be made responsible for their treatment, subject to general instructions which should be issued by the Secretary of State. The principle of these instructions should be that each child should be treated according to its own peculiarities of temperament; that the fact of imprisonment should be the main deterrent; and that treatment should be altogether of a reformatory character."

The Prison Commissioners, in their remarks respecting the treatment of juvenile prisoners, after referring to the practice hitherto prevailing in English prisons, give expression to the following opinion:—"We think, however, by way of emphasising still further what is now the rule and practice, it would be well that the special treatment of juvenile offenders should be made the subject of a rule of the Secretary of State. If still further segregation were considered desirable we see no difficulty in setting apart a portion of a prison in each district for the special use and treatment of juveniles, care being taken that they are not separated by too long a distance from their families and friends."

As a result of the recommendation made by the Committee on this subject, draft rules have been made and are under the consideration of the Secretary of State, to provide that "juveniles" shall be specially treated in prisons, and shall not be subjected to ordinary prison discipline and regulations.

Concerning "young prisoners," who as a class are most suitable for reformatory treatment, the Committee make the following statement:—"After 30 a very distinct decrease in the number of prisoners proportionately to the population of the same age sets in. Doubtless this decrease is due to various causes; but the fact that it occurs suggests that this tendency towards the abandonment of criminal practices may be strengthened by developing the reformatory side of prison life."

"Mr. Merrick and others hold that the younger prisoners are quite as difficult to deal with as the older; but assuming that this is so, the importance of saving them from a life of crime is not diminished, and it is all the more necessary to make the most strenuous efforts to reclaim them. As we have already said, the years 17, 18, and 19, appears to be the most fatal in the formation of lasting criminal habits. This fact itself denotes a degree of plasticity which might be made use of in the right direction. Even a moderate percentage of success would justify much effort and expense devoted to an improvement of the system."

After recommending the establishment of a penal reformatory, the Committee continue thus:—"We look upon this plan, in conjunction with the raising of the age of admission to reformatories, as the best proposal that is open to us for the rescue of young offenders. Under the present system, numbers of them come out of prison in a condition as bad, or worse, than that in which they came. They go out with a prison taint on them. The available prison staff and the rigid system of prison discipline, without any fault on the part of the officials, preclude the possibility of bringing to bear on the prison population the moral suasion and the healthy practical advice which we think could be exercised by a trained and selected staff in the penal reformatory. The inmates upon discharge would be provided for and looked after as much as in the case of the lads and girls who leave reformatories; and if they relapse into crime it would be of their own deliberate choice, in spite of every effort to save them, and they would subsequently be exposed to the far sterner penalties of prison life."

In regard to this matter the Prison Commissioners make the following remarks:—"We should be in hearty accordance with any feasible plan, the object of which was, by a distinctive method of treatment, to make an impression on that army of offenders—very numerous, as the report shows—who, by reason of their age, are excluded from reformatory treatment, and, therefore, in the absence of any intermediate classification, fall of necessity in the ranks of adult criminality. The proposal to extend the age of admission to a reformatory school to 18, and of discharge to 21, as well as the proposal to establish a penal reformatory up to the age of 23, are questions which will naturally engage the attention of the Committee recently appointed to investigate the reformatory system of this country. It would be premature to anticipate any conclusion at which they may arrive. . . . The attempt to apply reformatory treatment to adult criminals is being tried to a very large extent in the American State Reformatories, and with success, if we may judge by the enthusiasm with which its results were described at the recent Paris Congress; but it is applied to first offenders only (?), and it does not appear from the report under consideration whether it is intended that first offenders only shall go to the penal reformatory, or whether it is meant that all criminals under a certain age shall, in virtue of the 'plasticity' of their nature, be made the subject of experiment. We infer that the latter is meant, as the possibility of closing one or two prisons is mentioned."

With reference to the recommendation of the Committee respecting the separate treatment of "prisoners sentenced primarily for drunkenness," the Prison Commissioners state that until the policy of the Government is known on the general question of the treatment of habitual drunkards it would be premature to make definite arrangements for the segregation of this class of offenders.

With regard to the recommendation respecting the treatment of "weak-minded prisoners," the Prison Commissioners obtained a report from Dr. Gover, Medical Inspector of Prisons, in which he points out the difficulty of defining what is meant by the term "weak-minded," and expresses the opinion that the mentally defective are generally well cared for, and are the subjects of special attention on the part of the medical officers, who have unlimited powers of issuing orders as to the treatment of any prisoner who appears by reason of any defect, whether mental or physical, to be unfit for ordinary labour or discipline. Dr. Gover does not apparently consider the change suggested by the Committee either necessary or desirable, and he states that what appears to him of much greater importance than either concentration or distribution is that medical officers should deal with such cases individually, and make such

such recommendations or give such orders as may be indicated by the necessities of each case before them. He suggests that every good and useful purpose would be served by issuing a circular to medical officers, desiring them to pay special attention to any prisoners who may appear to be in any degree mentally defective, with the object of preventing them from undergoing any unnecessary or avoidable hardships, and, if possible, of effecting some improvement in their mental condition. With Dr. Gover's report the Commissioners agree.

In the prisons of this Colony, convicted prisoners are classified as follows :—

- (1.) Prisoners under sentence to penal servitude or to imprisonment with hard labour for five years and upwards.
- (2.) Prisoners convicted of felony or misdemeanour and sentenced for lesser periods than five years, either to penal servitude or to imprisonment with hard labour.
- (3.) Prisoners under sentence of imprisonment only, and persons detained during Her Majesty's pleasure.
- (4.) Prisoners under 25 years of age, undergoing sentences not exceeding twelve months' imprisonment, with or without hard labour.

A glance at the foregoing will show that the method of classifying prisoners, more especially in relation to the question of reformatory influences, is crude and imperfect.

It is admittedly difficult, if not impossible, to classify prisoners by any rule of thumb which would be perfectly satisfactory, as it seems essential, if the reforming influences are to be worked with the most beneficial effect, that in classifying them great attention should be given to (1) the nature of the offence, (2) the character, training, and history of the prisoner, and the practical probability of his reforming.

It seems to me that, viewing the recommendations of the Committee, and the evidence given before them, the following classification might broadly indicate the lines upon which a better system than the present could be fairly based :—

- (1.) Habitual criminals convicted of the more serious offences.
- (2.) Habitual criminals convicted of less serious offences.
- (3.) Prisoners (other than habitual criminals) convicted of the more serious offences.
- (4.) Prisoners (other than habitual criminals) convicted of less serious offences.
- (5.) Prisoners (16 years and up to 25 years of age) serving sentences of three years and under.
- (6.) Prisoners under 16 years of age.
- (7.) Prisoners convicted of drunkenness or offences under the Vagrancy Act, &c.
- (8.) Prisoners of weak intellect, and prisoners under sentence of imprisonment only, or detained during Her Majesty's pleasure.

It would be necessary, in carrying out a system of classification on the lines suggested, that a large discretionary power should be given to the prison authorities, and perhaps to the sentencing Judge (although experience as to the want of uniformity in Judges' views respecting sentences might suggest an objection to such a course being adopted), in determining a class in which a prisoner should serve, so as to ensure, as far as possible, that no hard and fast line should be drawn. The case of each prisoner ought to be dealt with on its merits, and classifications should follow accordingly, always keeping in view the future well-being of the prisoner and the class of treatment most likely to produce a beneficial effect upon him.

The opinion of the Committee would appear, on the face of it, to be entitled to great weight, that "habitual criminals" should be kept as a class entirely apart from all other prisoners, and it might be practicable in this Colony to confine such prisoners in a gaol specially set apart for them. So also, as far as consistent with the opportunities available, should "young offenders" (16 to 25) be confined in a separate gaol, where they could be specially treated upon reformatory principles.

As for "juveniles" (under 16), they ought to be kept apart from all prisoners, and their punishment should consist only of detention and enforced learning and obedience.

I propose now to point out where other important changes might be made in what is technically called by the Committee the "treatment of prisoners."

- (1.) *Separate treatment.*—All prisoners of the first-class and those prisoners of the second class who are serving sentences of not less than three years, are placed in "separate treatment" during the first nine months of their sentences.

It is interesting at this stage to note the origin of the system of placing convicts in separate treatment. According to the Committee, the object of that treatment has been long lost sight of; but this is not admitted by the Prison Commissioners. The Committee report so fully upon this matter that I cannot do better than quote the following extracts :—"It was originated in 1842 by Sir James Graham, then Home Secretary, and we have printed in *Appendix IX* a letter written to the Commissioners of Pentonville Prison, in which he fully explains the purpose of the experiment he was initiating. We shall show how complete a change in the apparent object of the practice has since occurred. Pentonville Prison was designed on new and approved ideas for the reception of convicts sentenced to transportation, and was to be restricted generally to those who were convicted of their first offence, and whose age was between 18 and 35. What Parkhurst was for juvenile offenders, Pentonville was to be for adults—a prison of instruction and probation rather than a gaol of oppressive punishment. It was the portal to the penal Colony. The convict was to undergo eighteen months solitary imprisonment, but he was to be freely visited by chaplain and prison officials; he was to be trained in a productive industry; he was to be subjected to a progressive system of education on the class system; lectures were to be given to him in the prison chapel; he was to be kept in a state of cheerfulness; hope, energy, resolution, and virtue were to be imparted to him; and he was to be trained to be fully competent to earn his own way and become a respectable member in the penal settlements. If, during the eighteen months, he behaved well, he would at once receive a ticket-of-leave on arriving in Van Dieman's Land. The whole letter is well worth reading, and it shows that, whatever may be said of the faults of the prison system from time to time, the then Home Secretary was as keenly anxious to devise the best methods of treatment in the interests of prisoners themselves as the most ardent prison reformer of the present day. Sir James Graham's plan was worked apparently

apparently with great success, so far as home treatment was concerned. We cannot follow out its permanent effect on the convicts in the penal settlements. In the report of the Commissioners for Pentonville, in 1844, the arrangements are thus described:—"The size, arrangements, and ventilation of the cell in which the prisoner is placed are favourable to the instruction of useful branches of labour, and such as greatly contribute to the maintenance of the prisoners health and cheerfulness. He is at all times supplied with the means of employment, and when not required to be at work he has sources of improvement in the books, slate, and materials for writing with which the cell is furnished. He is allowed daily exercise in the open air; he attends chapel daily and the school classes in chapel on alternate days; and he can, at any hour of the day or night, by means of a bell, obtain in a few minutes the attendance of an officer. The effects produced on the minds and conduct of the prisoners by this system of separate confinement has been highly satisfactory. The prisoner, on entering his cell, has been strongly impressed with a due sense of his penal condition, especially during the first few months of his imprisonment; but the deterring effects are controlled and alleviated by the other parts of the system which we have already described, and more especially by constant labour, the frequent visits of the prison officers and trade instructors, the consciousness that he can at any time insure the attendance of an officer, daily exercise in the open air, attendance at chapel and school, and the means of instruction and relaxation placed within his reach."

"Three classes were organised, according to good, indifferent, or bad behaviour:—"A strong desire is evinced by the prisoners to be placed in the first class, and it has been deemed desirable that the best-conducted of them should, at stated periods, receive some assurance that they are likely to attain this class. For this purpose, at the end of six months of good conduct, a red stripe is placed on the sleeve of the prisoner's jacket, and a second stripe is added at the end of twelve months if his conduct has continued to be satisfactory. It is a gratifying proof of their improvement that of 425 prisoners who have been six months or upwards in confinement there are but seven who have not received this creditable distinction."

"The general results were thus described:—"Most satisfactory proofs of these beneficial impressions have been manifested in the great improvement which has taken place in the moral condition and conduct of the prisoners within a short period of their reception. In the course of our visits to the cells we have had the gratification of witnessing, to a great extent, their just appreciation of, and the deep interest which they take in, the moral and religious instruction which is imparted to them; the removal of the debasing effects produced on their minds by their former criminal pursuits; their progress in self-improvement; their cheerful obedience to the prison rules; their acquirements in the trades which have been allotted to them; and their gratitude for the treatment they have received, under a discipline which combines instruction and reform."

"In 1848 it was determined that, eighteen months being too long a period for isolated confinement, a system should be introduced based on a period of separate confinement, followed by a term of associated labour, with a maximum of twelve months. This was reduced by Lord Palmerston in 1853 to nine months. The original intention of Sir J. Graham, which was that this period should be primarily of a reformatory character, appears, fifteen years later, to have been lost sight of. . . . It would appear from Sir J. Jebbs' evidence (before the Penal Servitude Acts Commission of 1863) that the main object of separate confinement had come to be deterrence. 'An educated prisoner,' he said, 'would much prefer separate confinement instead of being driven to associate with people of bad character and difference in social position. With burglars and reckless bad characters, I think that separate confinement is dreaded more than any other kind of discipline.'"

"It was given in evidence that owing to the demand for labour on public works, the nine months had fallen to an average of little more than seven. The Commissioners insisted on the necessity for enforcing the full nine months, and they proceed to say:—"We think, too, that though separate confinement, even under the present system, is, as has been said, extremely distasteful to convicts, this wholesome effect on their minds might be increased. It has been already mentioned that in Ireland the diet is lower during the first four months, and that no work is given to the prisoners for the first three months, except such as is of a simple and monotonous character, in which they require little or no instruction. This practice has been adopted because it has been found that by far the greater number of convicts have no knowledge of any trade, and when first taught one must necessarily be constantly visited by their instructor, whose visits tend to mitigate the irksomeness of separate confinement. There appears to us to be much force in the reasons which induced the directors of the Irish convict prisons to adopt these means for rendering separate imprisonment more formidable, and we therefore recommend that attempts should be made, with due caution, to give a more deterrent character to separate imprisonment in the English prisons."

"This passage from their report shows that Sir J. Graham's intention and scheme has perished, and that the period of imprisonment originally designed to train and improve prisoners for a good and useful life was now looked upon and intended to be the most formidable and coercive part of the punishment of penal servitude. In effect this is the purpose which it must be regarded as now designed to serve. . . . We think that it cannot be denied that cases occur in which a nervous condition, agitated by remorse and by a long continuance of the separate system, may be injuriously affected by it."

"From the evidence before us we have no reason to believe that such cases are of other than exceptional occurrence. We think it is worth considering whether the severity of the system might not be mitigated by a substantial reduction in the period of separation and by the wise and carefully-guarded introduction of such reformatory influences as were brought to bear on convicts at Pentonville, when first established, and of such philanthropic agencies as appear to be engaged in behalf of separate convicts in the Belgian prisons."

Under "separate treatment" as carried out in this Colony each prisoner is confined in a separate cell; he is not allowed to hold any communication, except with prison officers, and conversation with them (except in so far as may be absolutely necessary) is not permitted. Until recently he was not allowed to receive or send letters, but is now permitted to write and receive a letter at periods of two months and six months after conviction. He is bound to observe strict silence, and must not read aloud, sing, whistle, dance, or make any noise in his cell or in the exercise yard, corridor, or chapel. He is given such suitable work as may be found for him, and is allowed during the first six months, one hour each day for exercise, and thereafter two hours daily. If coming within the regulations as to eligibility for school he is allowed one hour daily for performing tasks set by the schoolmaster, and one hour for reading

reading such instructive and reforming books as may be selected for him by the Chaplain, and he is at all times provided with a Bible. It is the opinion of many (and the conclusion is one that may be arrived at with reason) that such treatment, which is so different to that outlined by Sir. J. Graham, does in some instances have an injurious effect upon the prisoner's mind. If the reformation of a prisoner is desired it would appear advisable (especially in the case of one predisposed to crime) that strong efforts should be made to divert his mind from his former life and associations, and to open up for him fresh channels of thought.

Harsh treatment and long-continued punishments will generally be found to produce in a prisoner a sense of injustice and a feeling of bitter resentment, which seriously impair the chances of his reformation.

It will be seen that the Prison Commissioners do not agree to any reduction of the time to be served in separate confinement (nine months), except in the case of recommitted license holders whose period of such treatment is now limited to three months.

The question is one, however, which appears to demand some further inquiry and consideration, and in the goals of this Colony it might, perhaps, be found desirable either to make a considerable reduction in the term of such treatment, or to improve in a rational manner the conditions surrounding it, so as to produce a more healthy moral effect upon the prisoners.

(2.) *Labour.*

With regard to the work upon which prisoners are employed, the Committee recommended that productive prison industries should be increased as much as possible, especially as regards gardening, farming, and land reclamation, and that unproductive labour should be abolished wherever possible; also that association for productive work and technical instruction should be extended gradually and with due caution throughout the prisons. They fully realise the importance of industrial labour as a reforming agency, and were duly impressed with the undesirableness of giving prisoners unproductive labour.

The Committee thus express their views upon oakum-picking:—"Because we attach so much value to training we think that oakum-picking should be discontinued as much as possible, except for penal purposes. It is disliked by most prisoners, and is of a mechanical nature which involves no thought or mental activity, and it cannot be said to discipline prisoners into orderly and systematic habits of labour. An old offender will get through his oakum task rapidly, and then do nothing. A new hand finds it difficult, and probably looks upon it as degrading and irritating as well," and in suggesting the employment of prisoners on associated labour of a productive kind they make the following remarks:—"We do not agree with the view that separate confinement is desirable on the ground that it enables the prisoner to meditate on his misdeeds. We are, however, disposed to agree that the separate system, as a general principle, is the right policy. The separate system rests on two considerations only: It is a deterrent, and it is a necessary safeguard against contamination. But we are not of the opinion that association for industrial labour under proper conditions is productive of harm. On the contrary, we believe that the advantages largely outweigh the disadvantages. We agree, however, that careful supervision is essential to all forms of prison association. Subject to this condition, and to a proper system of classification, Colonel Garsia, a prison official of great experience, stated in his evidence that there was no danger whatever in associated work. Dangerous, disorderly, and depraved prisoners should be kept at all times, so far as is possible, apart from others. The fears expressed by some witnesses that freer association might lead to combinations and risings, would, under such precautions, be groundless."

"The association we suggest is all in the direction of making it the prisoners' interest to maintain order; and we have before us the fact that association for work on a large scale has always been the practice at the convict prisons. Without being productive of dangerous outbreaks by prisoners, as a class, more desperate than those in local prisons, we do not consider the suggested danger to be of practical importance. We think that this limited form of association is desirable for several reasons:—(1.) It is a welcome relief to most prisoners from the dull and weary monotony of the constant isolation which forces men back on themselves, and in many cases leads to moral and physical deterioration. (2.) It can be made in the nature of a privilege liable to suspension, and would be therefore a satisfactory addition to the best kind of available punishment. (3.) It materially lessens the difficulty of providing and organising industrial labour in prisons. Prisoners can be taught trades in classes, and they can then work in association under proper and economical supervision in regular workshops or halls provided for the purpose. (4.) It is more healthy. It is desirable that cells should be untenanted for some hours in the day, and in any case it is better that work which produces dust should not be carried on in the cells. In recommending a wider adoption of associated work, we must admit that several competent witnesses expressed disapproval of the principle. Sir E. F. Du Cane laid great stress on the argument that the experience of every country has led to the cellular treatment as the best form of punishment and imprisonment. But upon cross-examination it did not appear that they could sustain their objection to associated labour properly supervised, and they seemed to us to have formed their opinions rather because separation has been the accepted rule of the prison system than on any experience of failure of the associated system. For these reasons we have no hesitation in recommending that the practice of association for industrial work should, with due caution, be extended gradually throughout the prisons. Satisfactory results must largely depend on the discretion of the prison authorities in making selections of prisoners for associated work; and in any case they would be materially assisted by a careful classification."

The Committee, in considering the different kinds of labour upon which the prisoners might be suitably employed, make special reference to the mat-making industry (which is of particular significance in view of the agitation some short time ago against the competition of prison labour) in the following terms:—"According to the evidence, difficulty of a greater or less extent, is experienced almost in every prison in getting a sufficiency of suitable work for the male prisoners. . . . This difficulty has been largely added to by outside agitation against competition of prisoners with free labour. In consequence of the agitation, and of proceedings in the House of Commons, some suitable industries, and in particular, mat-making, have been to a large extent given up. From the prison point of view, every witness, without exception, who was questioned on the subject, agreed that this is a great misfortune. We communicated with Mr. S. Woods, the General Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union

Union Congress, and by his suggestion we examined Mr. J. J. Rudge and Mr. J. H. Walker as representing the views of the majority of trades unions. Those gentlemen gave very fair and impartial evidence. They admitted that industrial labour was morally and physically beneficial to the prisoners, and agreed that it ought to be found. They urged that direct competition with outside labour should not be allowed at cutting prices. Taking their evidence as a whole, we gather that they approve of industrial training of prisoners: and bearing in mind that the products of prison labour go to reduce the cost of prisons, they have no objection to the sale of prison goods, provided that—(a) they are not sold below the market price for the district, or the standard price elsewhere; (b) every consideration is shown to the special circumstances of particular industries outside to avoid all undue interference with the wages and employment of free labour. With these general views we agree. . . . We recognise that appreciable competition may arise with respect to certain industries, as, for instance, mat-making, which appears usually to have produced the agitation against prison labour. The extent of competition in a particular trade depends obviously upon its relative proportion within the prisons and outside. Mat-making cannot be called one of the large industries of the country; but at the same time up to 1890 it was one of the chief employments in the prisons. In 1877-78 the number of prison mat-makers actually exceeded those outside by 23·87 per cent. In a case like this we think that the industry, on account of its special value as a prison occupation, ought not to be given up, but at the same time great care should be taken to avoid as far as possible any direct or material interference with the local markets of the home manufacture. Every witness bore emphatic testimony to the advantages of mat-making labour in prisons, and expressed the strongest regret at its withdrawal. It can be learnt in a few days, even by unskilled men. It is specially adapted for cellular work, and for the weak-minded and epileptic class of prisoners."

In regard to the extension and further development of prison industries, the Committee expressed themselves in the following terms:—"We regret very much that there is not more opportunity for work in gardens or on the land. It is agreed by all medical experts and prison officials that no kind of employment is more useful. It is healthy, productive, varied, and of a more or less interesting character. Plain hard digging may under suitable conditions be found a valuable and wholesome substitute for hard labour, while the lighter forms of field and garden work would be adapted for other cases. . . ."

With regard to the Committee's recommendation that productive prison industries should be increased as much as possible, especially gardening, farming, and land reclamation, it will be seen from the observation of the Prison Commissioners that in the local prisons of England, of the 70 acres which could possibly be used for cultivation, 59 acres are actually cultivated; and in the convict prisons, of the 1,018 acres capable of cultivation, 973 are cultivated, nearly the whole of the remaining 45 acres being at Parkhurst prison, where it is stated the great majority of prisoners are physically incapable of doing labourers' work. At Dartmoor, 959 acres are under reclamation, and are to be brought into cultivation in due course.

The Prison Commissioners have, however, since instructed the Governors of the gaols to take all available land into cultivation, which is being done, and Major Griffiths, a Prison Inspector, who has made a special study of the subject, has visited all the prisons with the special object of ascertaining whether what is known as the Cottonian system could not be advantageously introduced, *i.e.*, the digging and redigging of land at considerable depth with a view to the higher productivity of the soil.

The Committee continue thus:—"If prison labour is to be developed it will be necessary to make better provision for the supply of skilled warders as teachers, and for the direct superintendence of industries in each prison. There are but a handful of artizan warders now in the service who draw pay as such, and warders who supervise or teach a trade have to pick it up themselves as best they can, and no extra pay is allowed them. To secure skilled teachers we think that a higher inducement should be offered than the ordinary pay of a warder, and we also think that warders who acquire sufficient knowledge to supervise anything in the nature of skilled work should receive an extra allowance. We think that the better training of prisoners in industrial work would go far to recoup the increased charge."

The Prison Commissioners appear to fully realise the importance of extending productive prison industries, but state that they are not yet in a position to submit a detailed report on the steps which they propose to take to carry out the recommendations of the Committee. They express the belief, however, that there is a large field for useful reform in the organisation of prison industry.

The recommendation of the Committee that oakum-picking should as far as possible be given up is one which could apparently be carried out to some extent in the gaols of this Colony, and greater ingenuity might be shown in discovering the means of giving suitable employment to prisoners. In England a new form of machine for grinding corn by hand is now being devised.

It is to be regretted that many of the gaols will hardly permit of the prisoners being employed to an appreciable extent on outside labour such as farming or gardening, but the matter is one which might be kept in view, and where practicable, prisoners should be given this kind of work to do. As opportunity offers, vacant land adjoining gaol premises might be acquired, in the improvement and cultivation of which most suitable employment could be found for prisoners.

Upon the subject of paying gratuities to prisoners, the Committee express the opinion that a prisoner should be able to earn something continuously during his imprisonment, and the Prison Commissioners are also in favour of allowing all prisoners, both local and convict, to earn gratuities throughout their sentences. A scheme for carrying out the recommendation of the Committee, and allowing prisoners to earn a sum of money as a reward for special industry, in addition to the gratuity provided for under the progressive stage system, is now under the consideration of the Prison Commissioners.

The gaol regulations of this Colony do not clearly describe the method under which gratuities to prisoners are distributed, although I am aware that gratuities are paid. It seems to me that the time and manner of payment of any money so paid should be a matter in the discretion of the prison authorities. If deemed expedient, a proportion of the amount might be paid during the term of imprisonment (with proper safeguards) to those dependent on the prisoner for support, and the payment of the balance to the prisoner himself, could be made in such a manner, and at such time or times as appeared most suitable in each individual case. Under an improved system of classifying prisoners the arrangement of prison labour would, no doubt, be considerably facilitated. The whole question of the management and direction of work in the gaols of this Colony is one that might with advantage be thoroughly inquired into.

3. *Diet.*

In considering the question of diet, it seems a reasonable and sound conclusion to arrive at that anything which tends to seriously lower the system of prisoners, and to take from them their strength of mind or body, must directly tend to unfit them for any effort to raise themselves above their previous surroundings, or to struggle against those influences which work against their reformation, and in favour of old association of an evil nature.

In the gaols of this Colony the dietary treatment of 7th-class prisoners, amongst whom are included all persons under 25 years of age undergoing a sentence of imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a period not exceeding twelve months, is as follows:—

Prisoners under a sentence not exceeding fourteen days, receive during the whole term of their imprisonment a daily ration of 16 oz. of bread; if under a sentence exceeding fourteen days, but not exceeding six months, or if under a sentence exceeding six months—then for the first six months of that sentence they receive a daily ration of 16 oz. of bread for the first week and thereafter every alternate week; and in cases where the sentence exceeds six months they also receive that ration during the last fourteen days of their imprisonment.

The only class dietary in the English prisons which is adversely commented on by the Committee is a diet (the lowest one given) known as No. 1, consisting of a daily ration of 16 oz. of bread and a pint-and-a-half of stir-about, containing 3 oz. of Indian meal and 3 oz. of oatmeal, which is given to prisoners sentenced to seven days and under, and also, during the first week of their imprisonment, to prisoners under a sentence exceeding seven days, but not exceeding one month.

The remarks of the Committee upon this matter are as follows:—“A short period of low diet, followed after a few days by a long continuance of one that was more substantial, would not be likely to be prejudicial; but as a considerable number of prisoners are sentenced for a week or less, and after discharge are readmitted repeatedly at short intervals, this very low and distasteful dietary becomes in their case practically continuous. And as it is among such prisoners that cases of mental instability and unsoundness are most commonly found, we feel inclined to endorse the view expressed by the Medical Officer of Holloway Prison that this part of the dietary should be reconsidered.”

It may here be stated that the Prison Commissioners have not given way in this matter of diet, and so far no steps have been taken to introduce any alteration.

It will be seen at a glance how much more severe is the treatment of the 7th-class prisoners in the gaols of this Colony than that of the prisoners placed on No. 1 diet in the English prisons, and the greater the reason therefore why that particular class of dietary should be reconsidered.

The matter has to some extent been anticipated in this Colony, inasmuch as an investigation is now being made into the effects of this low dietary upon the weight, health, &c., of the prisoners, and the information thus obtained has been submitted to the Government Medical Adviser for his views upon the subject.

The whole question of the treatment of 7th-class prisoners is one which seems to urgently call for reconsideration. With many the treatment does not have a deterring effect (which was specially the object of its introduction), as is evidenced by the fact that a large proportion of the 7th-class prisoners return to gaol. If, again, it be considered that all prisoners under the age of 25 years, whether sentenced to hard labour or to imprisonment only, receive this special treatment, it must be realised that some are included in this class who are less criminal than many others, but receive more severe treatment because they have not reached a certain age. They are, in fact, punished for being young, when on the other hand their youth might reasonably be urged in many instances in palliation of the offences they have committed.

4. *Punishment.*

In regard to the punishing of prisoners, the Committee are favourable to the idea that the best form of punishment, except for the more serious offences, would be, as a general rule, to deprive the offenders of certain privileges, and that severe punishment should not be commonly resorted to. Their reference to this matter is in the following terms:—

“During recent years there has been a distinct move forward in the direction of mitigating the severity of prison punishments. The use of the entirely dark cell has been discontinued since the publication of the report of the Royal Commission on Irish Prisons in 1884; and the following figures show that corporal punishment has decreased in a striking degree in local prisons. In convict prisons the total number of instances also shows a marked decrease, but the percentage remains about stationary. It must, however, be noted that the convict population has been much reduced, but that there remains much the same number of hardened criminals of a low type.

“From time to time changes were made towards leniency by standing orders, which, according to Standing Order No. 94, produced no disadvantage. The same order stated that, as the result of experience, ‘discipline is not better maintained by resorting commonly to severe punishment, which should be reserved for use when milder means have been tried unsuccessfully, and when it is necessary to apply them on particular occasions.’

“This opinion of the Commissioners carries great weight, and it strengthens our belief that the main fault of our prison system is, that it treats prisoners too much as irreclaimable criminals, instead of as reclaimable men and women. . . . We think that No. 1 diet punishment should be inflicted with great care, especially in the case of women.

In this Colony women are not subjected to the bread and water diet which forms part of the treatment of 7th-class prisoners. The quotation continues as follows:—“Undoubtedly it tends to lower the system, and this in itself is most undesirable. Mr. Walker, the Governor of the Liverpool Prison, objected to dietary punishment altogether for women. We should be glad, at any rate, to recommend its partial abolition if we could see our way clearly to any definite substitute for it. We are disposed to think, and more particularly if our recommendations are accepted, that the best solution would be a more frequent infliction of loss of privileges. . . . Under the present rules, whilst a Governor cannot inflict more than three days’ bread and water diet in succession, after which must come an interval of twenty-four hours, the Visiting Committee can for a single offence sentence a prisoner to fourteen days in a punishment cell with No. 1 bread and water diet, alternating every three days with Nos. 2 or 3 diets. We think that, according to the intention of the Act of 1877, a prisoner should only be committed to a punishment

punishment cell on penal diet for fourteen days; and an interval of at least three days should elapse before any additional period is imposed in respect of a fresh offence, or an offence distinct from that for which the punishment was inflicted, and this second period should only be inflicted with the sanction of the medical officer. We further think, that in the case of a prisoner committed by the Visiting Committee to a punishment cell who expresses contrition, and whose contumacy the Governor considers to be ended, means should be adopted, in concert with the Visiting Committee, to cancel or suspend the remainder of the sentence without unnecessary delay."

Orders have been given by the Prison Commissioners that all such cases should be brought before the Visiting Committee, who alone have power to revise their own sentences.

In the prisons of this Colony the gaoler is empowered, in the case of any breach of the regulations, or disorderly conduct, to keep the offender in close confinement and upon half rations for any time not exceeding seven days, or until the arrival of the Visiting Justice. He can also place a refractory prisoner in irons, but must not continue the use of irons for more than forty-eight hours without the permission of the Comptroller-General of Prisons or of the Visiting Justice, and he must report the circumstances of each case to the Comptroller-General of Prisons and to the Visiting Justice.

The Visiting Justice is empowered by statute "to hear and determine all complaints touching any of the following offences—that is to say, disobedience of the rules of the prison; assaults by one person confined in such gaol upon another where no dangerous wound or bruise is given; profane cursing and swearing; any indecent behaviour and any irreverent behaviour at or during Divine service or prayer. . . ." and also "to hear and determine all complaints of idleness or negligence in work, or wilful mismanagement of work," and to sentence the offender "to be confined in a solitary cell on bread and water for any term not exceeding seven days."

In the case of a prisoner under sentence for a crime being guilty of repeated offences against the rules of the prison or of any greater offence than those already mentioned, any two Justices can order the offender to be punished by close confinement for any term not exceeding one calendar month, or by personal correction in the case of a prisoner convicted of felony or sentenced to hard labour.

While recognising the necessity that exists to have power to inflict severe punishment in gross cases which clearly require it, the conclusion cannot be avoided that in punishing prisoners for the many less serious offences it would be better, if reforming influences are to be established, to err on the side of leniency than on the side of harshness, and the suggestion of the Committee that deprivation of privileges should be substituted as a punishment in many cases, commends itself as being worthy of adoption.

It may be mentioned that although the use of dark cells was abolished in England more than ten years ago, this form of punishment is still used in some of the gaols of this Colony.

5. Privileges.

The evidence given before the Committee went to show that the privileges of writing and receiving letters and of receiving visits are greatly appreciated by prisoners, and it seems to follow, therefore, that the allowance of these privileges could be used with much beneficial effect. The Committee, in recommending the Visiting Committee should be entrusted with more latitude and a larger discretion in applying the regulations relating thereto, make reference to the subject in the following terms:—"Mr. Manning, a governor of the widest experience, thinks that it would not be wise to give the governors a discretionary power to relax the regulations in favour of the prisoner, on the ground that it would lead to favouritism; but he thought more indulgence might be granted to prisoners in respect to visits after three months. We think that while there should be uniformity in practice, and the greatest care taken against any weakening of the penal machinery, it is not advisable in the matter to lay down rigid rules from which there can be no departure. Many witnesses were in favour of extending existing privileges. Those who were most strongly in favour of the existing practice all admitted that, subject to the proper maintenance of regulations for the purpose of order and deterrence, they would approve of any regulation clearly calculated to produce a good moral effect on the prisoners. In other words, if, without endangering discipline and impairing necessary severity in prison regulations, it appeared that extra visits to prisoners, or privileges to send or receive communications from friends and relations, would be beneficial to a prisoner and likely to assist in making him a better man, such relaxations would be desirable. We consider that it would not be wise to place so much extra responsibility upon the governors with regard to all prisoners; but the Visiting Committee should have power to consider each individual case on its merits, either at the direct request of the prisoner or upon the representations of the governor or chaplain, and within certain limits (*infra*) to relax or maintain the regulations at their discretion. It should, however, be distinctly understood that any relaxation should not be in the nature of mitigation of punishment, but should only be when, after careful consideration, it appeared clear that the ends of justice would be served by bringing good and healthy influence to bear on the particular prisoners. Sir E. Du Cane, who thought it might be advisable to allow more frequent visits and letters after three months, put in the condition that the increase of privileges should be in accordance with the mark or stage system. With this we concur. To allow indiscriminate visits either by undesirable persons or even by persons not likely to influence a prisoner in the right direction would be most harmful; but no hard and fast rules at any period should be allowed to keep from a prisoner any good influence which might help to reclaim him or save him from becoming a permanent member of the criminal classes. These recommendations equally apply to female prisoners."

The Prison Commissioners are not averse to the Visiting Committee having larger discretionary power in this matter, so that, in cases of special importance or urgency, they might be in a position, without reference to the Commissioners, to accord the privilege; but when those two conditions are wanting, the Commissioners think the power of relaxing the rules should vest, as now, with them.

The Commissioners, on the 8th February, 1895, extended the powers of governors in regard to communications by authorising them—(1) to allow certain prisoners entitled to a visit to write a letter and receive a reply in lieu of such visit, should their friends be unable to visit them; (2) to allow (if in their judgment it is desirable) any prisoner to write a special letter and to receive a reply under any of the following circumstances—(a) the death of a near relative; (b) to give instructions as to his business or family affairs of an urgent nature; (c) to make arrangements for obtaining employment or assistance from friends on release.

So far as the goals of this Colony are concerned, it does not appear that, with the exception of first and second class prisoners, any material alteration is called for in respect of the concessions allowed them in the matter of visits and communications, unless a change were made to provide for the enjoyment of the privilege being regulated under a well arranged mark system. With regard to first and second class prisoners, however, the regulations might well be modified so as to make the privilege more accessible in deserving cases.

Recently a change has been made in regard to these prisoners, under which they receive slightly better treatment.

Another privilege, namely, reading, might be used advantageously as an incentive to good conduct, and could be more liberally allowed.

The Minister will remember that the question of allowing books to prisoners serving sentences of less than three months was recently brought under his notice by the Honorable the Chief Justice, who suggested that a discretionary power might be given to gaolers in such cases.

I might also point out that in winter months especially, owing to the darkness of the cells, prisoners (exclusive of first and second class prisoners, under separate treatment, who have lights in their cells for a limited time) have very little opportunity of reading, except on Sundays and holidays. The question of placing lights (where practicable) in the cells of all prisoners is one that might be inquired into and considered, particularly in the case of unconvicted prisoners, concerning whom the Committee recommended that if they desired to read or write, they should be allowed lights until the final locking up of the prison.

Upon the subject of allowing prisoners books, the Committee expressed their views in these terms:—"We think that there should be a larger supply of books, and that reading should not be restricted to one book a week if the prisoner cares to read more. All the witnesses agreed that it is desirable, so far as is practicable, to allow the prisoners to improve their minds by reading, and the only difficulty raised was one of distribution. This, however, is comparatively a trifling one, and can be readily overcome. The principle which we laid down as governing visits and communications also applies to the general occupation of prisoners other than that devoted to labour, meals, chapel, and other necessary prison duties. Everything should be encouraged which tends to elevate the mind, so far as it is consistent with regulations necessary for the general order and discipline. So much depends upon the kind of population in a prison and the individuals who compose the prison staff that it is not possible to go into the matter in detail. These are really questions which should always be before the responsible authority in every prison, and no rules or regulations should be of that hard, unbending character which prevents the changes being made according to special circumstances, which careful consideration shows to be beneficial to the prisoners."

The Committee also suggested that selected preachers should be brought in from outside, as the monotony of chaplains' work in prison is apt to produce a mechanical performance of duty.

The Prison Commissioners state that there is no rule limiting the supply of books to one per week, as chaplains have every discretion in the matter, and prisoners are allowed at some prisons to have their books exchanged whenever they ask; but if every prisoner is to have the right to have his book exchanged *as often as he likes*, the libraries would have to be increased, and also the school-warder staff. They recognise, however, the reasonableness of the recommendation that there should be a more frequent exchange of books, and propose to devise a scheme to give effect to it, if possible, without any material increase of staff.

The Prison Commissioners also agree with the Committee that the monotony of chaplains' work in prisons is apt to produce a mechanical performance of duty, and are of opinion that this can be largely obviated by a very considerable extension of the system prevailing at some of the smaller prisons, where the parish clergyman, who is assisted by one or more curates, acts as chaplain, and in this way the prison services are often taken by different clergymen—notably at Portsmouth, where the chaplain, Canon Jacob, is assisted by no less than eight curates, and his interest in prisoners is so great that he has been instrumental in establishing homes for male and female prisoners on discharge.

The Prison Commissioners state that the practice of bringing in from the outside selected preachers is now carried out to some extent, and will be encouraged as much as possible in the future.

In the meantime, the Secretary of State, in order to obtain full information to enable him to deal with the Committee's recommendations, has appointed a Committee, which is now sitting, to inquire and report on the whole question of the secular and moral instruction of prisoners.

The question of adopting the foregoing suggestions of the Committee, with respect to the goals of this Colony, appears worthy of consideration.

In regard to the question of allowing prisoners to converse with each other under certain restrictions, the Committee make the following remarks:—"We inquired carefully into the rules which regulate talking in convict prisons. Except for the purposes of labour, male prisoners are not allowed to speak to each other throughout the whole term they have to serve. Female convicts are allowed to talk for at least an hour a day, under proper supervision, and so far as we can learn no harm has resulted from it. We think that the privilege of talking might be given after a certain period as a reward for good conduct on certain days for a limited time, and under reasonable supervision, to all long-sentence prisoners, local as well as convict, who have conducted themselves well, and who are not deemed unsuitable for the privilege. The present practice of imposing silence, except for the purpose of labour, and during the visits of officials and authorised persons, for a period, it may be of fifteen or twenty years, seems to us unnatural. We recognise that careful supervision would be necessary if this privilege is allowed, but we do not think that the disadvantages which might, perhaps, from time to time occur, would be at all equal to the good likely to result from a partial and judicious removal of this very unnatural restriction."

The Prison Commissioners see grave objection to giving facilities for unchecked conversation on the ground of good conduct, as the worst criminals are very often the best conducted in gaol. They have, however, gone so far as to instruct the governors of convict prisons not to "push" the so-called silent system to an extravagant degree, with the result that the reports and punishments for talking have sensibly decreased.

Another most important phase of prison treatment to which I have not before referred, is the manner and conditions under which prisoners are discharged from gaol. If upon their release prisoners were afforded the opportunity of escaping from their former evil associations, and instead of being turned out and left to their own resources, were assisted in some slight degree, there is reason to believe that

many

many who are not hardened criminals would be saved from again falling into criminal's ways. In this respect it is a matter for regret that the labours of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society (which was established in 1874) have, after being carried on for a period of nearly twenty years, ceased some few years ago for the reason mainly, I understand, that the contributions were not sufficient to justify the work of the Society being continued. Some few copies of the Annual Reports of the Society have been obtained by me from the late hon. secretary, and, from a perusal of them, an estimate can be obtained of the good work done by the Society during the many years of its existence. The suggestion made in the Fourth Annual Report of the Society that the Government should take steps to provide that the money earned by prisoners in gaol, should, in the case of those applying for the assistance of the Society before they are discharged, be entrusted to the Society for the payment to and on behalf of the prisoner, is worthy of consideration in any scheme of reorganising our present system of prison administration. The English Committee, in considering the question of gratuities to prisoners, expressed the opinion that a prisoner should be enabled to earn something continuously during the sentence, provided that the money were not all given to him on discharge, but subsequently through a Prisoners' Aid Society, or in such way as the Prisoners' Aid Society or the Visiting Justices might determine. The Committee were satisfied that much admirable work was done by such societies, and in referring to the evidence given by Colonel Buchanan, secretary of the Royal Society for the assistance of discharged prisoners, Mr. Wheatley, superintendent of St. Giles' Christian Mission, Colonel Barker, of the Salvation Army, and Miss Elizabeth Fry, hon. secretary of the Elizabeth Fry Refuge, express the opinion that fuller scope should be given to their able efforts and philanthropic enterprise, and that other societies should be encouraged to work in the same spirit. They also consider that the Government grant (at present £1,500 per annum) might, with advantage, be increased, and should be made applicable in the case of societies which conduct establishments for the reception and training of discharged prisoners on principles approved by the Government, and which can show that their efforts are practically successful.

The Prison Commissioners attach "enormous importance" to an effective system of aiding prisoners on discharge, and are of the opinion that the system now in use in England is capable of much improvement and extension in convict and local prisons. They endorse the recommendation of the Committee that the Government grant to the Aid Societies should be increased.

Practical steps have been taken in the direction of improving the present system by specially appointing the Rev. G. P. Merrick, Chaplain of Holloway Prison, who is said to be a recognised authority on this question, to make a searching inquiry into the matter (which is now being done), and upon the receipt of his report and recommendations further action will be taken by the Prison Commissioners.

It is reasonable to believe that a sufficient number of philanthropic persons would be found in this Colony willing to undertake the re-formation of a Prisoners' Aid Society if it were understood that some slight assistance would be granted by the Government, and the whole question is one which might well be considered in conjunction with the matter of prisoners' gratuities and the mode and time of their payment.

I would now refer to the mark system which is in force in English prisons, and which is fully described in the evidence of Captain W. J. Stopford, one of the Prisons' Commissioners. (*See Appendix "B."*)

I may be permitted to express the opinion that the principle of that system is capable of elaborate extension in the prisons of this Colony. From the evidence of Captain Stopford it is clear that prisoners under that system have constantly before them some incentive to industry and good conduct, and as they pass from stage to stage (and such promotion can only be acquired by earning the requisite number of marks) they obtain better treatment and an extension of their privileges, and ultimately they can secure for themselves a remission of their sentence proportionate to the time occupied by them in obtaining the number of marks allotted to the period of the sentence.

It seems to me that with an improved classification of prisoners in the gaols of this Colony a more comprehensive and effective mark system than that now in use here could, with advantage, be adopted. Two or three divisions might perhaps be made in each class, and those divisions could be fixed according to a scale of marks. Every prisoner would then understand that before he could be promoted to a higher division he would have to earn the number of marks specified for that division. If, then, those divisions were made progressive, the prisoners receiving better diet, a higher class of work, more visits, and other indulgences, there would always be, in addition to the question of remission of sentence, a strong incentive towards industry and good conduct. The loss or forfeiture of marks or degradation to a lower division would probably, under such a system, be found a sufficient punishment for offences against prison regulations, except in serious cases.

The evidence of Colonel Plummer, Governor of Borstall Prison, who has charge of 275 convicts, nearly all of whom are engaged in making fortifications at Chatham, is very significant. He expressed himself as being very much satisfied with the mark system, and stated that whereas in the old days if a man was stopped a mark or many marks by the Governor he took not the slightest notice of it, but now a man counts every mark he gets, and if an officer stops a mark the prisoner is down to see the Governor the next day. His evidence continues:—"There is not a single mark stopped that is not brought before me. There is quite a change brought about in their spirits in that way. Every man is trying to see how soon he can get out of prison, and that he earns everything that he possibly can." And in reply to the question, "What proportion of them lose marks?" he replied, "We had 220 last year without a single punishment during the year."

Coming now to the consideration of the general question of prison administration in its relations to the Ministerial head of the Department and to the public, I have already indicated what appears to me to be a defect in our system, as administered, namely—a tendency to secure itself from outside criticism. It may be fairly admitted that the prison service should of all be open to public observation, affecting as it does the lives and liberty of so many persons.

Many of the remarks and suggestions of the English Committee bear directly upon this point and can be applied to the conditions existing in this Colony. For instance, the Committee express the opinion that standing orders issued by the Prisons' Board, and circular letters embodying general regulations, should be printed in the Annual Report of the Commissioners, and laid before Parliament. Similarly, it would be advisable that the General Orders (which have practically the force of regulations), or at any rate those orders which affect or refer to the treatment of prisoners should be publicly known, and a copy of all orders should, it seems to me, be forwarded at the time of their issue to the Ministerial Department.

I might also urge the importance to the Ministerial Department of being thoroughly conversant with the system of prison administration, and of obtaining information in regard thereto through channels other than those which are guarded by the disciplinary staff, and I would suggest that the Visiting Justices, the Visiting Surgeons, and the Chaplains, should not be discouraged from bringing directly under the notice of the Minister any matters connected with the prison system which appear to call for attention, or offering any suggestions that may occur to them respecting the general treatment of prisoners.

Under the Prisons Acts and Regulations, Visiting Justices are required to furnish a report to the Minister every month, specifying the general state of the gaol, and the manner in which the regulations have been attended to and the business of the gaol conducted, with a return of all punishments inflicted in the gaol, and unusual instances of coercion resorted to by the gaoler. They are also required to report to the Minister any occurrence of an extraordinary nature at the time of its happening, or anything it would seem proper to bring under the immediate notice of the Government, and must visit the gaols at least once in every week, unless prevented by illness or other sufficient cause, and also whenever applied to by the gaoler, to hear and determine cases awaiting adjudication, and under section 8, of 4 Vic. No. 29, any Justice of the Peace can, as often as he may think fit, enter and examine any gaol.

From my observation of the reports furnished by Visiting Justices, I can say that those reports have been practically of very little assistance to the Department in considering the question of improving our present prison system.

It will be noticed that much importance is attached by the English Committee to the work of the Visiting Justices, and a very large extension of and addition to their powers and functions is recommended.

Although many of their suggestions in this respect would not be adaptable to the gaols of this Colony, they are worthy of careful perusal, as showing the general tendency of opinion on the part of the Committee, that it is desirable to associate more closely Visiting Committees with the control, management, and discipline of prisons than has hitherto been the case.

The Committee considered it "most important that local interest in prisons should be revived, and that through this fuller interest the central authority should obtain the co-operation of a large number of persons not only qualified to take a practical part in the supervision of prisons, but who might be willing, as they certainly would be able, to give valuable advice and assistance to discharged prisoners, acting through, or with the various aid societies."

It is also stated by the Committee that "experience shows that in almost every society or organisation, the most effective changes come from outside influences. Those who have to administer a system year after year are inclined to stereotype practices which they know have produced good results, and to assume for that reason that they must permanently form the basis of management."

It might be instructive to quote here some of the additional duties and responsibilities which the Prison Commissioners propose should be imposed on the Visiting Committees:—

- (a) In cases of special importance or urgency, to allow prisoners additional visits or letters, or prolong the period of visits.
- (b) To assist the Commissioners with advice and suggestions as to the industrial employment and occupation of prisoners.
- (c) To organise, subject to the approval of the Commissioners, lectures and addresses in the prison, provided that this shall not interfere with the necessary deterrence of prison discipline, and shall be directed to the physical and mental improvement of the prisoners.
- (d) To exercise supervision in carrying out the rules for the treatment of juveniles and unconvicted prisoners.
- (e) To co-operate with the Governor as to the classifying of first offenders.
- (f) To inquire, from time to time, into the operation of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies connected with the prison, or any other agencies having for their object the welfare of prisoners.
- (g) To inquire into the state of prison buildings whether any repairs or additions are necessary.
- (h) To inquire into the condition of prison labour, whether the industrial employments provided are sufficient, and of the kind most suitable for preparing prisoners for earning their livelihood on release in their own localities.
- (i) To report, through the Commissioners, for the information of the Secretary of State, once in every six months on the following points:—
 - (1.) The state of the prison buildings, and whether any necessary repairs have not been carried out.
 - (2.) Or any modification of prison arrangements which they may consider desirable.
 - (3.) Whether the industrial employments are sufficient, and of the kind most suitable for preparing prisoners for earning their own livelihood on release in their own localities.
 - (4.) Any observations they may wish to offer on the prison staff.
 - (5.) Whether the rules for the separation of first offenders from habitual criminals, and juveniles from adults, have been properly carried out.
 - (6.) On the general discipline of the prison.
 - (7.) On the operation of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies connected with the prison.

Draft rules are now under the consideration of the Secretary of State, entrusting to Visiting Committees a larger discretion in applying the regulations dealing with visits to, and communications with prisoners, and confirming and extending their duties and responsibilities.

By seeking the views of medical officers connected with the gaols of this Colony, it may be anticipated that from time to time many valuable suggestions and much useful information will be brought before the Minister, which it is desirable he should have, directly referring to the conditions of prison life, and their effect mentally and physically upon the prisoners.

In the same way it is not unreasonable to conclude that viewing their position, and the nature of their duties, Chaplains will be eminently fitted to advise upon measures likely to assist in bringing prisoners to a realisation of their position, and to produce those softening influences which are essential to the work of reformation.

The supervision of Chaplains appears to be so far a matter of very great moment to the Prison Commissioners, that they have recommended to the Secretary of State the appointment of a Chaplain Inspector to assist them—(a) in the selection of suitable candidates for the office of chaplain; (b) in the selection

selection of local clergymen for the office of acting chaplain at small prisons; (e) to visit the prisons and see that the religious services are conducted with zeal, and that the duties of chaplains, Scripture readers, and schoolmasters are properly carried out, also that the moral instruction of the prisoners is well attended to; (d) to see that the prison libraries are suitably kept; (e) to see to the working of the Aid Societies; (f) to preach occasionally in prison chapels, and to arrange with the prison chaplain for securing suitable outside clergy to preach and lecture occasionally to the prisoners; and the Secretary of State is in communication with the Treasury respecting the matter.

In conclusion, I may perhaps be permitted to express the opinion that a change in the system of prison administration in this Colony cannot be much longer delayed, and I have indicated generally the most prominent faults of that system in the hope that the Minister may perhaps see his way to bring about or initiate a large measure of reform.

In preparing this paper, I have received valuable assistance from Mr. Whitfeld of this Department.

ARTHUR C. FRASER,
Under Secretary of Justice.

5 June, 1896.

Comptroller-General, for favour of his views.—A.J.G., 8/6/96. B.C., T.E.McN., for U.S. I have dealt with this paper in a separate memo. of even date herewith.—G.M., 31/8/96. The Honorable the Minister of Justice.

APPENDIX "A."

SEPARATION OF PENAL SERVITUDE PRISONERS NOT PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED.—"STAR CLASS."

1. With a view to the absolute separation, while in prison, of prisoners who have never been previously convicted, and are not habitually criminal, from those who are versed in crime, full inquiries will be made into the character and antecedents of prisoners sentenced to penal servitude on first conviction, for the purposes of obtaining such information as will furnish the grounds for deciding whether they shall be thus kept apart.

2. The necessity for these inquiries arises from the consideration that the object of the separation of these prisoners would be defeated if prisoners of corrupt habits were placed among them, solely because by succeeding in evading detection they had never before been convicted.

3. The forms of inquiry will be sent out whenever a prisoner, who has not previously been convicted, receives a sentence of penal servitude, with the following exception, viz.:—Any prisoner who has been convicted as a receiver of stolen goods, or of an unnatural offence, or of rape where more than one person was concerned in the crime, or of rape attended with special brutality.

4. They will be sent out from the prison in which the prisoner is confined at the time of his conviction, and will be addressed to the Chief of Police of the place (1) of committal; or (2) of conviction, or both; or (3) in the case of a prisoner who is unknown, or has been known only for a short period, at the place of his committal or conviction, to the Chief of Police of the place of his previous residence, if it can be ascertained. If the information obtained be not full and conclusive, similar inquiries will be sent to persons whose names and addresses are given in reply to question 11, or to other respectable persons whom the prisoner may name as being able to testify to his past history.

5. The forms will be addressed on page 1 to the persons to whom they are sent, and the replies should invariably be signed by the persons making them.

6. Inquiries may also be made in the case of a prisoner under sentence of penal servitude, against whom there may be a previous conviction for a trivial offence, or a conviction of a date several years before, but such a case should be submitted for instructions before the inquiries are made.

7. The replies to the inquiries in each case, together with the prisoner's penal record, will be forwarded to the Commissioners for their decision, as soon as the inquiry is completed.

8. Convicts ordered by the Commissioners to be kept apart from those previously convicted will be designated the "Star Class." They will be located in cells where they cannot come in contact with other prisoners. They will also sit in chapel and exercise apart from all other prisoners.

9. Convicts in the "Star Class" will wear a star of scarlet cloth on the front of the cap, and on both sleeves of the jacket, above the badge on the right sleeve, and in a corresponding position on the left sleeve.

10. A scarlet adhesive star will be placed at the left hand top corner of the first page of the penal record.

11. The inquiry forms above referred to, and the Commissioners' decision thereon will, in every case, accompany the convict on his removal to a convict prison.

APPENDIX "B."

Extracts from evidence of Captain Stopford.

STANDING ORDER 203 (LOCAL PRISONS), 13TH JULY, 1892.—SYSTEM OF PROGRESSIVE STAGES.

1. The following instructions will be observed with a view to give effect to rule 24, for the general government of prisons, made by the Secretary of State, 19th February, 1878, as to the employment of male prisoners above 16 years of age, sentenced to hard labour.

2. A prisoner shall be able to earn each week-day eight, seven, or six marks, according to the degree of his industry. On Sundays he shall be awarded marks according to the degree of his industry during the previous week.

3. A prisoner who is not at work, whether by reason of his being under punishment or in the infirmary, is not entitled to receive marks; but every prisoner actually at work may receive marks. A prisoner who has earned no marks during the week is not to receive marks on Sunday.

4. A prisoner who is idle will be reported, and be liable to punishment.

5. There shall be four stages, and every prisoner shall pass through them, or through so much of them as the term of his imprisonment admits.

6. He shall commence in the first stage, and shall remain in that stage until he has earned 28 x 8, or 224 marks; in the second stage until he has earned 224 more marks, or 448 in the whole; in the third stage until he has earned 224 more marks, or 672 in the whole; in the fourth stage during the remainder of his sentence.

7. A prisoner whose term of imprisonment is twenty-eight days or less shall serve the whole of it in the first stage.

8. A prisoner who is idle or who misconducts himself, or is inattentive to instruction, shall, in addition to, or in place of any punishment which may be inflicted on him in accordance with the rules, be liable—

(a) To forfeit gratuity earned or to be earned.

(b) To forfeit any other stage privileges until he has earned a specified number of marks.

(c) To detention in the stage in which he is until he shall have earned in that stage an additional number of marks.

(d) To degradation to any lower stage (whether such stage is next below the one in which he is, or otherwise) until he has earned in such lower stage a stated number of marks.

As soon as the prisoner has earned the stated number of marks he shall, unless he has in the meantime incurred further similar degradation, be restored to the grade from which he was degraded, and be credited with the number of marks he had previously earned therein.

9. A prisoner in the first stage will—

(a) Be employed ten hours daily in strict separation. If sentenced to hard labour, of which six to eight hours will be on crank, treadwheel, or work of a similar nature.

(b) Sleep on a plank bed without a mattress.

(c) Earn no gratuity.

(d) Have approved books of instruction in his cell.

10. A prisoner in the second stage will—

- (a) Be employed as in the first stage until he has completed one month of imprisonment, and afterwards, if sentenced to hard labour, be employed on hard labour of the second class.
- (b) Sleep on a plank bed without a mattress two nights weekly, and have a mattress on other nights.
- (c) Be able to earn a gratuity not exceeding 1s.
- (d) Have approved books of instruction in his cell.
- (e) Receive school instruction, if eligible under the rules made from time to time for the education of prisoners.

11. The gratuity to a prisoner in this stage whose term is not long enough for him to earn 224 marks in it, may be calculated at 1d. for every twenty marks earned.

12. A prisoner in the third stage will—

- (a) If sentenced to hard labour, be employed on hard labour of the second-class.
- (b) Sleep on a plank bed without a mattress one night weekly, and have a mattress on the other nights.
- (c) Be able to earn a gratuity not exceeding 1s. 6d.
- (d) Have library books as well as books of instruction in his cell.
- (e) Receive school instruction, if eligible, under the rules made from time to time for the education of prisoners.

13. The gratuity to a prisoner in this stage, whose sentence is not long enough for him to earn 224 marks in it, may be calculated at 1d. for every twelve marks earned.

14. A prisoner in the fourth stage will—

- (a) If sentenced to hard labour, be employed on hard labour of the second-class.
- (b) Sleep on a mattress every night.
- (c) Be able to earn a gratuity not exceeding 2s. in twenty-eight days.
- (d) Have library books as well as books of instruction in his cell.
- (e) Receive school instruction, if eligible under the rules made from time to time for the education of prisoners.
- (f) Be eligible for any special employment for which his services may be required.
- (g) Be allowed to receive and write a letter, and receive a visit of twenty minutes, and for each 672 marks earned in this class afterwards to receive and write a letter, and to receive a visit of half-an-hour.

15. The gratuity to a prisoner in this stage whose sentence is not long enough for him to earn 224 marks may be calculated at 1d. for every ten marks earned.

16. A prisoner shall be allowed to earn a gratuity at same rate so long as he is in this stage, provided that his gratuity on the whole shall not in any case exceed 10s.

17. The foregoing instructions will apply to female prisoners and males under the age of 16 who are sentenced to hard labour, except that such prisoners will not be employed on first-class hard labour.

18. They will apply to convicted prisoners, in order that such prisoners may have the advantage of the incentives to industry and good conduct which these regulations afford.

19. The provisions as to the use of a plank bed, with or without a mattress, will not be applied to women, children under 13 years of age, and men over 60 years of age.

20. A copy of the "System of Progressive Stages for convicted Criminal Prisoners" (L.P.-D. 76, revised 4th July, 1872), also a copy of the "Abstract of Regulations relating to the Treatment and Conduct of Convicted Criminal Prisoners (L.P.-D. 20), and of the "Dictary for Convicted Prisoners" (L.P.-D. 27), are to be posted in the cell of every such prisoner.

MARKS, REMISSION, AND CLASSIFICATION OF MALE CONVICTS.

1. The following system of marks, remission, and classification for male convicts will in future be observed :—

Marks and Remission.

2. The term of penal servitude to which each convict is sentenced will be represented by a certain number of marks, calculated at the rate of six marks for each day of his sentence.

3. His industry will be recorded by marks, and when by his industry, with good conduct, he has gained the number of marks which represents his sentence he may be discharged on license.

4. Marks may be assigned to him at the rate of eight marks per day for steady hard labour, and the full performance of his allotted task; seven marks per day for a less degree of industry; six marks per day for a fair but moderate day's work.

5. A convict whose conduct is either indifferent or bad, may be fined a certain number of marks, according to the nature and degree of the offence, and will thus forfeit by misconduct some of the remission he may have earned by industry.

6. A convict who by his industry earns eight marks every day, and forfeits none for misconduct, obtains therefore, in every three days, as many marks as represent four days of his sentence, and has gained the maximum remission of one-fourth thereof.

7. If a convict while on license is again sentenced to penal servitude, the term for which he was licensed will be added to the new sentence, and marks will be calculated as for a term equal to the combined periods.

8. If a convict has to serve a term of penal servitude by reason of forfeiture or revocation of license, whether accompanied or not by a sentence of imprisonment, such term will be represented by marks in like manner to a new sentence.

9. A convict sentenced to penal servitude for life must not, unless special instructions are given to the contrary, entertain any expectation of release until he has completed twenty years. No specific number of marks can be stated as giving a claim to release in accordance with paragraph 3, but the number assigned daily to each convict for his industry will be recorded, as well as his forfeiture for misconduct. Each case will be considered in due course by the Secretary of State on its own merits.

10. On Sunday a convict will be awarded marks according to the degree of his industry during the previous week.

11. A convict who by his misconduct forfeits the whole of his remission will be liable to be kept in separate confinement during the last six months of his sentence.

12. A convict in the light-labour class will be credited only with six or seven marks per day, according to his industry.

13. A list of all convicts who would be due for license in the ensuing month if they had not lost marks through being on light labour, is to be submitted monthly to the Director, who will decide whether the convicts are to be credited with any additional marks.

"The Director's special attention is to be drawn to the case of any convict who, in the opinion of the Governor and of the Medical Officer, formed from personal observation, has lost marks from absolute inability, and not from unwillingness to perform hard labour."

14. Any convict who is unable to perform hard labour on account of his having lost a limb, or who is suffering under some other grave bodily infirmity which, in the opinion of the Medical Officer, permanently unfits him for heavy labour, may be considered eligible for full marks without reference to the Director.

15. If the Medical Officer should give a special direction that any convict is not, for a specified period, to be employed on any but light labour, such convict will be eligible for full marks if his conduct and industry justify it.

16. A convict in hospital will be credited only with six marks per day on week-days, and seven on Sundays.

"No such convict is to be credited with more than seven marks per day unless laid up from an accident on the works, when, under the authority of the Director, he is eligible for eight marks per day."

17. The case of any convict who suffers a long-continued loss of marks by reason of his being in hospital, should be brought before the Director from time to time, with a report of the circumstances and of the total loss of marks involved.

Classification.

Classification.

A convict during the term of his sentence will be required to pass through the following classes, or so much of them as his sentence will allow, viz. :—

Probation class, one year, or until he has earned 2,920 marks.

Third class, one year, or until he has earned 2,920 marks.

Second class, one year, or until he has earned 2,920 marks; after which he will be eligible for promotion to the first-class

19. A convict who commits any offence will be liable to reduction from a higher class to a lower class, or to detention in the class he is in, or to forfeiture of the privileges of any class, until he has earned a stated number of marks, which number of marks is not to be added to the number of marks he has to earn for remission, unless directions are given to the contrary. As soon as he has earned the stated number of marks, he shall, unless he has in the meantime incurred further similar punishment, be restored to the class from which he was disgraced.

20. A convict in the probation class will—

(a) Be kept in separate confinement until he has earned 2,100 marks.

(b) Until he has earned 224 marks, be employed ten hours daily in strict separation on first-class labour, and sleep on a plank bed without a mattress.

(c) After he has earned 224 marks and until he has 448 marks, be employed on hard labour of second class, sleep on a plank without a mattress two nights weekly, and have a mattress on the other nights.

(d) After he has earned 448 marks, and until he has earned 672 marks, sleep on a plank bed without a mattress one night a week, and have a mattress on the other nights.

(e) After he has earned 672 marks, sleep on a mattress every night.

(f) Be allowed to write one letter during the first week of his sentence and receive a reply, and also to receive one visit during that period, and after he has earned 1,440 marks may receive and write a letter and receive a visit of twenty minutes' duration.

(g) After he has earned 2,100 marks be eligible for employment on public works.

(h) On reception at a public works prison, be allowed to write and receive one letter, but no other while in this class.

21. A convict, after completing a period of second probation in separate confinement, will pass through the classes in the same way as on completing his first probation in separate confinement.

22. A convict, whilst wearing cross-irons, or the parti-coloured or distinctive dress, will be in the probation class, after which he will return to his original class, unless directions are given to the contrary.

23. A convict in the third class will be allowed—

(a) To receive one visit of twenty minutes' duration, and both to receive and write a letter, and after earning 1,440 marks, to receive another visit of twenty minutes' duration, and to receive and write another letter.

(b) To receive a gratuity at the rate of 1s. for each 240 marks earned in this class, but not to exceed in the whole 12s. in this class.

24. A convict in the second-class will be allowed—

(a) To receive a visit of twenty minutes' duration, and both to receive and write a letter, and afterwards at the expiration of intervals, during each of which he must have earned 960 marks, he may again be accorded the same privileges.

(b) The choice of tea, and 2 oz. of additional bread instead of gruel.

(c) To receive a gratuity at the rate of 1s. 6d. for each 240 marks earned in this class, but not to exceed in the whole 18s. in this class.

25. No convict will be promoted to the first-class until he can read and write, except in special cases, which must be approved by a Director.

26. Convict in the first-class will be allowed—

(a) To receive a visit of half an hour, and both to receive and write a letter, and afterwards, at the expiration of intervals, during each of which he must have earned 720 marks, he may again obtain the same privileges;

(b) The choice of tea, and 2 oz. of additional bread instead of gruel, and baked instead of boiled meat;

(c) To receive a gratuity, at the rate of 2s. 6d. for each 240 marks earned in this class, but not to exceed in the whole 30s. in this class, nor £3 altogether.

27. A convict who has earned 2,920 marks in the first-class, and passed through that class with exemplary conduct, may be admitted into the special class when he is within twelve months of his release.

28. A convict in the special class will be eligible—

(a) To receive a visit of half an hour, and to receive and write a letter, and afterwards, at the expiration of interval during each of which he must have earned 480 marks, he may again obtain the same privileges;

(b) For any special employment for which his services may be required;

(c) To receive an extra gratuity of £3 on discharge, provided he goes to a Prisoners' Aid Society;

(d) To be recommended for an extra remission, not exceeding one week.

29. A convict in the special class may be accorded the extra remission and gratuity whether he passes the full twelve months in that class or not.

30. A convict whose sentence does not admit of his attaining the special class may be recommended for an extra gratuity, provided he has not forfeited more than 720 marks for remission, and has passed nine months preceding his release with exemplary conduct, and avails himself of a Prisoners' Aid Society on discharge. This extra gratuity will not exceed 10s. for a convict under a sentence of three years, £1 for a convict under sentence of four years, and £2 for one under sentence of five years.

31. A convict whose license is forfeited or revoked will not be admitted into the special class, nor be eligible for an extra gratuity, as provided in paragraph 30.

32. A convict whose license is forfeited or revoked without receiving a fresh sentence of penal servitude will not again be permitted to receive the gratuities referred to in the foregoing paragraphs; but he may, after he has earned 224 marks, be credited with a gratuity not exceeding 1s., or at the rate of 1d. for every twenty marks earned; after he has earned 448 marks he may be credited with a gratuity not exceeding 1s. 6d. or 1d. for every twelve marks earned; and after he has earned 672 marks he may be credited with a gratuity at the rate of 1d. for every ten marks earned, provided that the whole of his gratuity, including what he may have earned under a preceding sentence of imprisonment, shall not in any case exceed 10s.

STANDING ORDER No. 495 (CONVICT PRISONS), 15TH NOVEMBER, 1892.—MARKS, REMISSION, AND CLASSIFICATION OF FEMALE CONVICTS.

1. The following system of marks, remission, and classification for female convicts will in future be observed :—

Marks and Remission.

2. The term of penal servitude to which each convict is sentenced will be represented by a certain number of marks, calculated at the rate of four marks for each day of her sentence.

3. Her industry will be recorded by marks, and when by industry with good conduct she has gained the number of marks which represents her sentence, she may be discharged on license.

4. Marks may be assigned to her at the rate of—Six marks per day for steady hard labour and the full performance of her allotted task; five marks per day for a less degree of industry; four marks per day for a fair but moderate day's work.

5. A convict whose conduct is either indifferent or bad may be fined a certain number of marks, according to the nature and degree of the offence, and will thus forfeit by misconduct some of the remission she may have earned by industry.

6. A convict who by her industry earns six marks every day and forfeits none for misconduct obtains, therefore, in every two days as many marks as represent three days of her sentence, and has gained the maximum remission of one-third thereof.

7. If a convict while on license is again sentenced to penal servitude, the term for which she was licensed will be added to the new sentence, and marks will be calculated as for a term equal to the combined periods.

8. If a convict has to serve a term of penal servitude by reason of forfeiture or revocation of license, whether accompanied or not by a sentence of imprisonment, such term will be represented by marks in like manner to a new sentence.

9. A convict sentenced to penal servitude for life must not, unless special instructions are given to the contrary, entertain any expectation of release until she has completed twenty years. No specific number of marks can be stated as giving a claim to release in accordance with paragraph 3, but the number assigned daily to a convict for her industry will be recorded as well as her forfeitures for misconduct. Each case will be considered in due course by the Secretary of State on its own merits.

10. On Sunday a convict will be awarded marks according to the degree of her industry during the previous week.

11. A convict who by her misconduct forfeits the whole of her remission will be liable to be kept in separate confinement during the last six months of her sentence.

12. A convict in the light-labour class will be credited only with four or five marks per day, according to her industry.

13. A list of all convicts who would be due for license in the ensuing month if they had not lost marks through being on light labour, is to be submitted monthly to the Director, who will decide whether they are to be credited with any additional marks. The Director's special attention is to be drawn to the case of any convict who, in the opinion of the Governor and the Medical Officer, formed from personal observation, has lost marks from absolute inability and not from unwillingness to perform hard labour.

14. Any convict who is unable to perform hard labour on account of her having lost a limb, or who is suffering under some other grave bodily infirmity, which, in the opinion of the Medical Officer, permanently unfits her for heavy labour, may be considered eligible for full marks without reference to the Director.

15. If the Medical Officer should give a special direction that any convict is not, for a specified period, to be employed on any but light labour, such convict will be eligible for full marks if her conduct and industry justify it.

16. A convict in hospital will be credited only with four marks per day on week days and five on Sundays. No such convict is to be credited with more than five marks per day either on week days or Sundays, unless laid up from an accident, when, under the authority of the Director, she is eligible for six marks per day.

17. The case of any convict who suffers a long continual loss of marks by reason of her being in hospital, should be brought before the Director from time to time with a report of the circumstances, and of the total loss of marks involved.

Classification.

18. A convict, during the term of her sentence, will be required to pass through the following classes, or so much of them as her sentence will allow, viz. :—

Probation class, nine months, or until she has earned 1,620 marks.

Third class, nine months, or until she has earned 1,620 marks.

Second class, nine months, or until she has earned 1,620 marks.

After which she will be eligible for promotion to the first class.

19. A convict who commits any offence will be liable to reduction from a higher class to a lower class, or to detention to the class she is in, or to forfeiture of the privilege of any class, until she has earned a stated number of marks, which number of marks is not to be added to the number of marks she has to earn for remission, unless directions are given to the contrary. As soon as she has earned the stated number of marks she shall, unless she has in the meantime incurred further similar punishment, be restored to the class from which she was degraded.

20. A convict in probation class will be kept in separate confinement until she has earned 1,620 marks. She will be allowed to write one letter during the first week of her sentence and receive a reply, and also to receive one visit during that period, and after she has earned 1,080 marks, she may receive and write a letter, and receive a visit of twenty minutes' duration. If transferred to a convict prison while in this class she will be allowed to write and receive one letter, in addition to those above, but no other, while in this class.

21. A convict, after completing a period of second probation in separate confinement will pass through the classes in the same way as on completing her first probation in separate confinement.

22. A convict, whilst wearing a distinctive dress will be in the probation class, after which she will return to her original class, unless directions are given to the contrary.

23. A convict in the third class will be allowed—

(a) To receive one visit of twenty minutes' duration, and both to receive and write a letter, and after earning 1,080 marks to receive another visit of twenty minutes' duration, and to receive and write another letter.

(b) To receive a gratuity at the rate of 2s. for each 180 marks earned in this class, but not to exceed in the whole 18s. in this class.

24. A convict in the second class will be allowed—

(a) To receive a visit of twenty minutes' duration, and both to receive and write a letter, and afterwards, at the expiration of intervals, during each of which she must have earned 720 marks, she may again be accorded the same privileges.

(b) The choice of tea and 2½ oz. of additional bread instead of gruel.

(c) To receive a gratuity at the rate of 2s. for each 180 marks earned in this class, but not to exceed in the whole 18s. in this class.

25. No convict will be promoted to the first class until she can read and write, except in special cases, which must be approved by a Director.

26. A convict in the first class will be allowed—

(a) To receive a visit of half an hour, and both to receive and write a letter, and afterwards, at the expiration of intervals, during each of which she must have earned 540 marks, she may again obtain the same privileges.

(b) The choice of tea and 2½ oz. of additional bread instead of gruel, and baked instead of boiled meat.

(c) To receive a gratuity at the rate of 4s. for each 180 marks earned in this class, but not to exceed in the whole £2 4s. in the first class, nor £4 altogether.

27. A convict who has earned 1,620 marks in the first class, and passed through that class with exemplary conduct, may be admitted into the special class when she is within nine months of her release, if from any cause, without fault of her own, she is unable to go to a refuge, as referred to in paragraph 33.

28. A convict in the special class will be eligible—

(a) To receive a visit of half an hour, and to receive and write a letter, and afterwards, at the expiration of intervals, during each of which she must have earned 360 marks, she may again obtain the same privileges.

(b) For any special employment for which her services may be required.

(c) To receive an extra gratuity of £2 on discharge, provided she goes to a Prisoners' Aid Society.

(d) To be recommended for an extra remission not exceeding one week.

29. A convict in the special class may be accorded the extra remission and gratuity whether she passes the full nine months in that class or not.

30. A convict whose sentence does not permit of her attaining the special class may be recommended for an extra gratuity, provided she has not forfeited more than 540 marks for remission, and has passed six months preceding her release with exemplary conduct, and avails herself of a Prisoners' Aid Society on discharge. This extra gratuity will not exceed 7s. 6d. for a convict under sentence of three years, 15s. for a convict under sentence of four years, and £1 10s. for one under sentence of five years.

31. A convict whose license is forfeited or revoked will not be admitted into the special class, nor be eligible for an extra gratuity, as provided in paragraph 30.

32. A convict whose license is forfeited or revoked without receiving a fresh sentence of penal servitude, will not again earn the gratuities referred to in the foregoing paragraphs; but she may, after she has earned 168 marks, be credited with a gratuity not exceeding 9d., or at the rate of 1d. for every twenty marks earned; after she has earned 336 marks she may be credited with a gratuity not exceeding 1s. 2d., or 1d. for every twelve marks earned; and after she has earned 504 marks she may be credited with a gratuity at the rate of 1d. for every ten marks earned; provided that the whole of her gratuity, including what she may have earned under a preceding sentence of imprisonment, shall not in any case exceed 7s. 6d.

The Under Secretary of Justice to The Minister of Justice.

As requested by you, I now beg to submit my views regarding the very lengthy paper, dated 5th June, 1896, prepared by the late Under Secretary (Mr. Fraser), with the assistance of Mr. Whitfeld, embodying many of the suggestions and recommendations of an English Committee on Prisons (1895), whose report, with minutes of evidence, was obtained through the Agent-General in London in response to my request, made in my letter to the Department of Justice, dated 27th September, 1895. My object in asking for that report, and also for other reports from England, which I had obtained at different times on previous applications, was to make myself acquainted with the improvements which were being effected in other countries in prison management, in order to adopt them in the prison system of this Colony, *as far as practicable under the existing laws, and with the gaol accommodation at my disposal.*

In general terms, and chiefly by implication, Mr. Fraser's paper contains a formidable indictment against, not only the prison system of this Colony, but also the manner in which it has been administered; and, although he has not named me personally, yet it is impossible for me to treat his remarks, reflecting on the "administration" as applying to anyone but me, as the officer responsible by statute for the "care, direction, and control" of the prisons of New South Wales, which position I held at the time he sought the assistance of another gentleman in preparing his lengthy paper, and just when the Public Service Board were engaged in inquiring into the working of the various departments under your ministerial control.

The English Prison Committee has based its report and recommendations upon the evidence, &c., obtained by them after a very exhaustive and careful inquiry into the management of the prisons of England; but the Committee did not pass any unfavourable remarks, or make any recommendations and suggestions until they had fully and carefully examined experts and others as to the merits and demerits of the system of prison management in their own country, and the means which existed for carrying it out.

Mr. Fraser, on the other hand, without any reliable evidence before him taken on the spot (unless it be that of many years ago, when a different state of things existed in our gaols), and without any practical experience himself of the many very great difficulties surrounding the direct management of prisons and prisoners, has thought fit to condemn in general terms both our present prison system, and the manner in which it is administered. But he has carefully abstained from making any specific and definite statements upon which I could answer him; nor has he concluded his representations with definite recommendations for remedying the alleged defects which he has indicated only in such a very general way. He has, in effect, passed a very severe judgment condemning a system and its administration without showing the evidence upon which such judgment is based. This is both unfair and unjust to those upon whom such judgment reflects.

It is easy to collect from the products of the brains of other men ideal suggestions for the treatment and reformation of criminals of all classes, but it is a very different matter to invent the means of giving practical effect thereto, and Mr. Fraser has not committed himself to any specific and practical suggestions for your guidance, although he has couched the concluding portion of his paper in very strong language as to the necessity for some changes.

The question of dealing with criminals of the different classes which are to be found in all communities is perhaps the most perplexing and formidable of social problems which can be discussed in any civilised country. It is well known to everyone who has studied such matters that in every country possessing a prison system fault is constantly being found by certain sections of people with that system. No ideal system has yet been invented to please everybody, nor is it likely that one ever will be.

I therefore do not feel called upon to follow him through the whole of his paper, which, as I have before stated, is mostly made up of extracts from the English report. With the views expressed in some of those extracts I heartily agree, and much regret that they could not be successfully carried out under the existing exceptionally difficult circumstances of this Colony, arising out of its vast area, the scattered position of its Criminal Courts, and the incomplete means of communication over its service compared with such a country as England.

From Mr. Fraser's very unfavourable references to our prison system, it is clear to me that he has failed to grasp what it really is. The existing regulations and the standing orders under which it is administered are sufficient to prove that his general indictment against it on the ground of its severity is not justified by the facts. The existing Acts, regulations, standing orders, and bonus and gratuity schedules must be studied together before the system which they govern can be properly understood. And it must be borne in mind that they provide for a strictly disciplinary, deterrent, and reformatory system—not one established for the management of benevolent institutions or mere moral hospitals.

In order that what I have here said may be comprehended, I will now give an outline of what the present prison system of this Colony really is, and also indicate therein the defective means which exist for carrying it out. (To give an elaborate enumeration of its details would take up too much space and make this memorandum too lengthy.)

Prison System of New South Wales.

Our prison system is based chiefly upon what is known as Sir Walter Crofton's Irish System, which is one of progressive stages of amelioration of treatment, according to length of sentence and conduct.

The official prison staffs consist of regular and visiting officers. The latter comprise visiting Justices, surgeons, and chaplains; and the former contain governors, matrons, clerks, chief and senior warders, first and second class warders, and ordinary or third-class warders. In the large prisons, overseers and foremen are also employed for the supervision and instruction of the prisoners in the workshops, and while engaged on other skilled labour.

All the prisons and the regular prison staffs are under the direct control of the Comptroller-General.

There are fifty-nine gaols in operation, of varied dimensions, ranging from the metropolitan gaol, Darlinghurst (Sydney), to the small police gaols which are situated among the sparsely-inhabited country districts. The number of established gaols is twenty-three, and of police gaols thirty-six. The demand for the maintenance of the latter arises from the wide extension of Criminal Courts for the convenience of the local residents, and the consequent necessity for having a place of detention for prisoners committed

for

for trial. Prisoners locally sentenced for short periods are also detained in them. The buildings for these small gaols should therefore be constructed with due consideration for security and the health of the inmates, but most of them are of very defective construction and old-fashioned design, with wholly inadequate accommodation for prisoners according to modern ideas. They are occupied by the Prisons Department in conjunction with the police, in order to secure economy as far as practicable.

The seven principal establishments are Darlinghurst, Parramatta, Bathurst, Goulburn, Maitland, Berrima, and Biloela. Of these gaols, the two most modern in design, and which afford the best accommodation for prisoners, are Bathurst and Goulburn. The Biloela Gaol, which is situated upon Cockatoo Island, is used only for the detention of worn-out habitual petty offenders and other short-sentenced prisoners, both male and female, for town offences. No penitentiary for the treatment of such offenders has yet been established, but one is much required, sufficiently commodious to relieve Darlinghurst Gaol, which should be used only for prisoners awaiting trial or under remand, debtors, and the longer-sentenced prisoners who are capable of performing useful and remunerative work. The remaining established gaols are situated at the following places:—Albury, Armidale, Deniliquin, Dubbo, Forbes, Grafton, Hay, Mudgee, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, Wilcannia, Wollongong, Yass, Young, and Broken Hill. The design of most of these gaols, especially those at Deniliquin, Forbes, Wagga Wagga, Wilcannia, and Yass, is very defective, and the accommodation very inferior, classification of any kind being impossible.

In addition to these established gaols, there is the Public Works Intermediate Prison at Trial Bay, where a large breakwater is being constructed by prison labour, for the purpose of forming a harbour of refuge. Only prisoners sentenced for three years and upwards to penal servitude, or hard labour, are eligible for the modified conditions of servitude which exist at this prison. They are eligible for such modified servitude at certain periods, varying according to length of sentence, before they become due for discharge to freedom under the ordinary remission regulations. The scale is as under:—

Sentence of 3 to 5 years,	to Trial Bay for 12 months.
Do 5 to 10 years,	do 2 years.
Do 10 years and upwards,	do 2½ years.

To be eligible, a prisoner must be passed by the surgeon as physically fit for quarrying or other similar kind of labour, and his conduct in prison must have been such as to warrant the belief that he will not abuse the privilege. If a prisoner is not physically fit he gets an extra remission in lieu of going to Trial Bay, varying according to sentence. The prisoners are liable to the usual prison punishment for any offence or disorder in like manner as if they were serving their sentences in an ordinary gaol; and any man who, through misconduct, is sent back to an ordinary gaol gets no alternative remission. The object of this system is to offer inducements to good conduct among prisoners undergoing long sentences in the ordinary prisons, and to afford them better opportunities of preparing themselves for work as free men on their discharge, and of earning a sum of money. The rations are on a very liberal scale, and include tea, coffee, and tobacco. While at Trial Bay they are in a condition of semi-freedom, and do not wear the usual prison clothing. They are allowed a daily payment, according to a scale, for work performed, on the recommendation of the officers directing their work. The scale of reward is as under, viz. :—

First six months,	6d. per diem.
Second six months,	9d. per diem.
Third six months,	1s. per diem.
Fourth six months,	1s. 3d. per diem.
Fifth six months,	1s. 6d. per diem.

The sums thus earned are credited to them until their discharge, and the funds are provided by the Harbours and Rivers Department; but the Prisons Department clothes and feeds the men, and bears the cost of supervision and of escorts, and is responsible for the order, discipline, and security of the establishment.

The total amount of cells provided by all the gaols, including the police gaols, is 1,992. It is to be regretted that the number of cells is not sufficient to enable the Department to carry out the plan of placing each man in a separate cell at night, which is contemplated by the regulations. As far as practicable, however, this important principle of separation is carried out in the larger gaols, such as Goulburn, Bathurst, and Parramatta.

The system is administered under regulations prescribing uniformity according to classification in the treatment of prisoners, so far as the dimensions of the gaols in which they are confined will admit. All prisoners under sentences of penal servitude, or hard labour, of three years and upwards serve a probationary term of nine months in separate treatment, before being worked in association according to classification.

Separate treatment is also resorted to for coercion in cases of persistent misconduct or disregard of prison rules. It is found to be the most effective means of maintaining order and discipline in the gaols. As this treatment is often confounded with "solitary confinement," the following explanation (which I gave in a recent report to you) of the difference between what is known as "solitary confinement" and "separate treatment" may here be repeated, as follows:—

"Solitary confinement," as termed in our gaols, means cell punishment for a prison offence, on bread and water, under section 12 or 13 of 4 Vic. No. 29, or half rations under regulation 69, and carries with it loss of remission, according to the time passed in such seclusion, which, of course, is for varying short periods, according to the nature of the offences. Such punishment is never imposed by the Comptroller-General, as the Minister is aware. (See powers of Visiting Justice, sections 12 and 13 of 4 Vic. No. 29, and regulation 13).

Cellular separation, or "separate treatment," is a part of the prison system, and is the means whereby good discipline is maintained throughout the gaols of the Colony. It is the only effectual means whereby dangerous or refractory prisoners can be repressed and brought to a sense of their wrong-doing, when "solitary confinement" has failed to check or deter them from a persistent disregard of the disciplinary rules of the department, attempts to lead mutinies, continued quarrelling with their fellow prisoners, and such like offences. It is not recognised as punishment in the gaols. It carries no loss of remission, and, while undergoing it, the prisoners have a wholesome and sustaining diet, which was fixed by a Board of medical experts, including Dr. Manning, Dr. MacLaurin, and Dr. Maurice O'Connor. They

They work in their cells. When not working they have books to read, and are allowed exercise from an hour to two hours daily in the open air, and even for a longer time, if the surgeon thinks it advisable. They are visited daily either by prison officers, chaplains, or the surgeon, who is required by the regulations to carefully watch them, and, in the event of his perceiving any injurious effects, either physical or mental, he is empowered to at once place them in association, which is duly reported to the Comptroller-General. Their treatment is surrounded by ample safeguards, full power, as I have said, being given to the surgeons as to exemption, extra diet, and exercise. The surgeons are now very careful in the exercise of these functions.

By the regulations in force, prisoners are classified as under:—

1. Prisoners under sentences of penal servitude, or of imprisonment with hard labour, of five years and upwards.
2. Prisoners convicted of felony or misdemeanour, and sentenced for lesser periods, either to penal servitude, or to imprisonment with hard labour.
3. Prisoners under sentence of imprisonment only, and persons detained during Her Majesty's pleasure.
4. Prisoners awaiting trial, or under examination.
5. Lunatics, comprising persons supposed to be of unsound mind.
6. Debtors, comprising persons confined for contempt upon civil process.
7. Prisoners who are youths not exceeding 25 years of age serving sentences not exceeding twelve months, with or without hard labour.

It is, however, competent for the prison authorities, under the regulations, to associate any convicted prisoner with a class other than his own. The prescribed classification is therefore not adhered to in cases where it is deemed desirable or necessary to alter it. So far as the accommodation in the different gaols will permit, the prisoners are classified according to these regulations, and also with due regard to nature of offence, age, and previous history, as far as they are known to the gaol officials. Nothing is more difficult than to effectively and judiciously classify prisoners, and a wide discretion is therefore given to the officer in charge of each gaol. Unfortunately, as before stated, the necessary accommodation is absent from most of the gaols, and it is therefore impossible to fully carry out a proper system of classification. These defects are, however, being gradually remedied by additions and improvements to the country gaols. All prisoners of the 7th class (boys and youths) are dealt with under strict conditions of separate treatment, in order to prevent contamination.

The discipline is both deterrent and reformatory in character. Deterrence is aimed at by strict conditions, especially in the earlier periods of sentences; and reformation by the employment of chaplains to teach the principles of morality and religion, by libraries, and by strict rules of regular hours, cleanliness, sobriety, and industry. Prisoners who have previous to conviction been idlers and loafers are taught useful work of some kind, to assist them to make a living on their discharge, and they are also, under certain rules, enabled to earn money, gratuities, and bonuses up to the end of their sentences, to aid them in making a fresh start in life.

They are also allowed certain indulgences, including allowances of tea, sugar, and tobacco, in all gaols, according to length of sentence and servitude, and also subject to good conduct. By means such as these, and by a liberal remission scale, which ranges from one-sixth to one-fourth of sentence, according to its length, hope is encouraged and kept alive among the prisoners. Schooling is provided in the larger prisons for prisoners who come under the rules in force. The education imparted is elementary only in character. No rule of silence, such as is in force in England, exists in the gaols of New South Wales.

The punishments usually resorted to are the solitary cell, the dark cell, loss of remission, or deprivation of indulgences for certain periods. Corporal punishment is inflicted in extreme cases, such as offences accompanied by violence, and efforts to raise a mutiny.

The prison system of the Colony does not include afflictive labour, such as the tread-wheel, shot-drill, and crank, as is the case under the English system; nor is contract labour in any form allowed as in America, where it has led to such abuses and destruction of all proper discipline. All the work performed by the prisoners in New South Wales is useful or industrial in kind. A diversity of industries is preferred to confining the labour to a few trades, but prisoners are employed in keeping land reserves in order and in the digging, trenching, &c., of gaol grounds, where such work is procurable, and *the necessary guards can be provided*. The labour is managed solely by the administration, and includes stone-cutting, stone-breaking, tinsmithing, blacksmithing, carpentering, painting, mat-making, brush-making, book-binding, bootmaking, tailoring, cabbage-tree hat making, &c. Most of the work connected with additions and improvements to the prison premises is performed by prisoners. The articles produced in the workshops are used principally for the Public Service, and in supplying the requirements of the different gaols and their inmates, and also of the Lunatic and other Asylums. The officers' uniforms, boots, &c., are all made in the gaols, the material being supplied by the Government Stores Department. Much difficulty is, however, experienced here as elsewhere in obtaining suitable work for prisoners confined in the lesser country gaols. There is great jealousy of any sort of competition with free labour, and it is of course impossible to find any description of productive work for prisoners, which will not, more or less, compete with that performed by free labourers. The labour returns from the different gaols, however, give in the aggregate, very good results. The net value of all kinds of work done by prisoners, including labour performed for the internal requirements of the gaols, during 1894 and 1895, was respectively £51,827 and £51,797, exclusive of work done in the construction of the breakwater at Trial Bay.

In consequence of the vast extent of the Colony, and the necessity for the convenience of the public, as before explained, of maintaining small prison establishments in townships scattered over its surface at considerable distances apart, the administration has to contend with very great difficulties, and the cost of the Prisons Department is very much greater than would be the case if prison staffs and prisoners were concentrated in a few large fully organised prisons to hold, say, 400 prisoners each. Such a system presents many advantages over the present one as regards economy, classification, discipline, and labour. I am not in favour of prisons with more than 400 single cells, as no Governor could, in my opinion, properly and effectively supervise a greater number of prisoners than 400 with the staff of officers necessary for complete control, who should also be carefully overlooked and instructed, in order to see that they are not too harsh or exacting in their management of the prisoners committed to their care. Upon the officers of a gaol everything depends in the carrying out of a good system. With careless, indifferent,

indifferent, or indiscreet officers, no system, however near to perfection, can succeed. No Comptroller-General or Inspector-General (whatever his designation might be) can hope to succeed unless he receives from his subordinates of all grades a loyal, intelligent, and vigilant support in the carrying out and observance of the Regulations and General Orders of his Department. This is where his greatest difficulties lie. The head of the Prisons Department has frequently to bear the blame for the neglect, indiscretion, or careless actions of some officer or officers of a gaol at a distance from his head office, and almost every trouble that occurs in a gaol, and which is made public, is by some people (who are prompted, no doubt, in many cases by relations of prisoners or by ex-prisoners), made the ground of an attack upon the whole prison system and its administration, as if it were an easy and simple matter to secure the faultless administration by the whole of the officers of a perfect system of prison discipline and management, under which no trouble would ever arise. This is my experience, at any rate.

In my Annual Report to you for 1894 I made the following remarks regarding country gaols:—

“The accommodation of some of the distant country gaols was for a time severely taxed owing to the increase of prisoners whose committals to gaol arose out of the shearing troubles, notably, the gaols at Broken Hill, Forbes, Wilcannia, and Walgett, where the staffs were hardly sufficient to properly guard and supervise the number of prisoners in confinement. To Walgett it was found necessary to despatch from Sydney three experienced warders to assist in the management of the gaol, pending the trial of the prisoners at the Quarter Sessions Court. The necessity for gaols in the outlying districts of the Colony (which has sometimes been questioned) has been strongly proved during the last two or three years. They add considerably to the expenses of the Department; but if law and order are to be properly enforced throughout the country districts, it is absolutely necessary that secure and efficiently-staffed places of detention for prisoners awaiting trial on the spot, or under short sentences, should be maintained at the public expense.

“Since most of the gaols were constructed, the population of the Colony has greatly increased, and with it there has also taken place a considerable advance in the number of prisoners for whom proper accommodation is required, thus leading to much over-crowding, which is remedied, as far as practicable, by transfers from one gaol to another, at, of course, considerable expense and inconvenience. This Colony has no protective law against the admission of criminals from other countries and colonies, as is the case in Victoria, where there is in force an ‘Influx of Criminals Prevention Act’; consequently, numbers of habitual criminals come to New South Wales from Victoria, while discharged prisoners from this Colony are debarred from entering Victoria, unless they choose to run the risk of being arrested and committed to gaol, if identified, simply for being within that Colony.”

Having given this explanation of what our prison system is, and having briefly indicated some of the great difficulties surrounding its administration, I will now proceed to deal with a few of Mr. Fraser's remarks.

I will pass over his reflections upon what he terms the “somewhat mechanical system of administration” which (he alleges) “has a tendency to gather into its own hands control of every kind,” “and to shut out from the cognizance of the public and the Minister responsible to the country for proper prison administration, much light which would otherwise be thrown upon the working of prisons,” &c., &c., as being absurdly incorrect, and unworthy of further notice. But as regards his suggestion that all the general orders issued by the Comptroller-General should be laid before Parliament, or in some other way made public, I may say that I cannot conceive what benefit would arise by inflicting upon Parliament or the public (who would be ignorant of the reasons which necessitated such orders), all the petty details of the management of the gaols that are contained in the general orders issued from the head office, under regulation No. 3, and which are liable at any time to be withdrawn, or altered, by the Comptroller-General, as the circumstances of the day may require. If such details of the management of the Prisons' Department should be laid before Parliament, so ought the general orders of the Military, the Police, and the Lunacy Departments, all of which are, like the Prisons' Department, disciplinary services under the control of officers with certain statutory powers and responsibilities. But Parliament is not the place for recording such general orders, which are at all times open for the information of the Ministerial Chief, if he wishes to see them.

As a matter of fact, in July, 1892, the whole of the general orders of the Prisons Department, which had been issued at different times between August, 1867, and July, 1892, were carefully revised by me, and so amended or struck out altogether as the altered circumstances of the day required. They were then arranged under proper headings, printed at the Government Printing Office in cloth bound volumes, fully indexed, and distributed to all the gaols in the Colony for the information of the officers, and several of the volumes were, at the same time, sent to the Ministerial office for the information of the Minister of Justice. What more could reasonably be required? The new general orders and the alterations to the existing ones, which, in the course of my administration I found it necessary, for various reasons, to issue after the publication of the volume referred to, are always ready for the Minister's perusal at any time he may wish to see them. Under the necessities of authority and discipline, and in view of the statutory responsibilities imposed upon him by the Prisons Act of 1874 (37 Vic. No. 14, sec. 4), the Comptroller-General cannot be expected to submit every general order to the Under Secretary before he issues it. The case might be one of urgency. Moreover, the Comptroller-General's position is above that of a head of a branch in the Ministerial office of the Justice Department under the Under Secretary.

Mr. Fraser thinks that the Visiting Justices, and all the paid surgeons and the gaol chaplains of the various denominations should be allowed to communicate direct to the Minister of Justice their views on gaol matters, and any suggestions that may occur to them as to the treatment of prisoners, without sending their reports through the Comptroller-General, who is the officer responsible by statute to the Minister for the care, control, and direction of the gaols. So far as the Visiting Justices are concerned, this right is secured to them as *unpaid officials* charged with duties of a ministerial, as well as a judicial character under regulation 13 (see paragraph 9 of that regulation). To give such a right to the paid chaplains and surgeons who are, under the regulations, bound to observe the disciplinary rules of the gaols, and to be subject to the Comptroller-General for the regular performance of their duties, would be a most unwise and unheard of proceeding, and one which would not only be productive of much confusion and misunderstanding between the Minister and the prison authorities, but would also be destructive of proper discipline. It would also discredit the authority, and weaken the position of the Comptroller-General. In their report, the English Prison Inquiry Committee suggested that the Prison Inspectors should

should report direct to the Secretary of State, and, in replying to this suggestion, the permanent Prison Commissioners say that "to appoint an intermediate authority between the Secretary of State and the Commissioners who aid him under the Act, would be to introduce a startling and novel principle, would degrade the Commissioners, and seriously impair their dignity and prestige, and weaken their administration." It is always open to the surgeons and chaplains of our gaols to make any recommendations or suggestions to the Minister that they may desire him to consider; but they are very properly required by the regulations to send their communications through the Comptroller-General, who forwards them to the Under Secretary for the information of the Minister. I could cite cases in which much trouble and friction have arisen through a disregard of that regulation.

On page 3 of his paper, he speaks of the age of the present Principal Prisons Act, but quite overlooks the fact that, under the regulations and general orders which have been issued from time to time, great improvements in the system of management of the gaols have been introduced. Compare our gaols now with what they were, according to the evidence then obtained, when the Commission of which Mr. (afterwards Sir Henry) Parkes was Chairman made its inquiries in 1861, and also the Berrima Gaol Commission, with Sir George Innes as Chairman, in 1878. Could anyone truthfully deny that great improvements have not been carried out since those Commissions held their inquiries? The Prisons Acts may not have been materially altered since the present Principal Act was passed, but most certainly the system of management of the prisons and prisoners has undergone very great improvements and modifications.

By implication, Mr. Fraser makes it appear as if "the remission of sentences" as an "incentive to reward for good conduct" was first provided for under the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1883. Surely he must have entirely forgotten that under the regulations which became law in February, 1867, full provision was made for remission of sentences exceeding twelve months, such remission (as already herein pointed out by me) ranging from one-sixth to one-fourth of the sentence, according to its length. Provision was also then (1867) made for the granting of special remission in exceptional cases, or when a prisoner's conduct in gaol has been strikingly meritorious. As regards the general treatment of prisoners, could anything more liberal than our present intermediate prison at Trial Bay be wisely adopted?

Treatment of Prisoners.—Reformation.

At the foot of page 5, he says: "It appears to me that these views of the Commissioners might apply strongly to the somewhat analogous state of affairs existing in the prisons of this Colony, and that, while under the prevailing system no effort is spared to secure strict compliance in every little detail with the prison regulations, sufficient consideration is not given to the more important question of reformation, *further than the enforcement of an iron-handed system of disciplinary control,*" &c. This must mean that, according to Mr. Fraser's notions, our prisons are governed by a system of "iron-handed discipline," a phrase which, I think, he must have borrowed from the representations of some ex-prisoner, who doubtless did not relish the strict and exact discipline to which he was properly and necessarily subjected during his incarceration. Anyhow, it is a gross misrepresentation of the treatment to which prisoners in our gaols are really subjected. Every prisoner has a right to complain of his treatment by the subordinate officers to the gaoler, and from the gaoler he can complain to the Visiting Justice, the Comptroller-General of Prisons, or the Minister of Justice, if he so desire. You, Sir, know well that the term "iron-handed disciplinary control" cannot truthfully be applied to the system under which our gaols are managed. You have visited with me at different times the following gaols, viz.:—Darlinghurst (twice), Bathurst (twice), Parramatta, Goulburn, Maitland, Biloela, and Dubbo, and satisfied yourself by personal inquiry on the spot that the prisoners of the different classes were properly treated according to the regulations. By persons ignorant of the principles of prison management according to modern ideas, no doubt the "separate treatment" of prisoners is looked upon as a severe system; but as I have fully dealt with this subject in my report of 11th June last, I will not here say any more about it than that the principal civilised countries in the world have either adopted it, or are advocating its adoption, as the only means of preventing the ruinous and contaminating effects of the association of prisoners either in yards or cells.

It must be borne in mind that reformation of the offender is not the principal object of his incarceration. It can never be expected that the punishment of incarceration, however near to perfection the system may be, will transform a criminal into a law-abiding, honest man, *because it can only touch him after he has become criminal and anti-social in character as a free man from causes entirely beyond the control of any prison system.* In order to prevent crime, it is necessary to punish the offenders. In all sentences preventive justice comes first in consideration and reformatory justice second. The protection of society and the repression of crime demand first consideration. The views of hyper-Christian philanthropists must not be allowed to displace common-sense measures of precaution and repression in the treatment of criminals. In my Annual Report for 1891, I dealt with this subject in the following terms:—

"It has also been stated that our gaols hopelessly fail in reforming criminals, and it has therefore been assumed that the system is a bad one. Our prison system under the regulations in force is based upon what is acknowledged to be the best model that is known, viz., Sir Walter Crofton's Irish system; but owing to the want of adequate accommodation and other difficulties to which I have referred, it has been hitherto found impossible to fully carry it out. So far as the means at disposal will admit, every stimulus to reformation is offered to prisoners, without dispensing with the necessary deterrent portion of their treatment. It is obvious that nothing should be done to destroy the deterrent effect of imprisonment by making the gaol attractive to its inmates. A strict and close discipline of a humane kind must always be maintained over them. In a great number of cases, the benefits that a prisoner may have derived from his disciplinary and industrial training in a well organised gaol are soon destroyed by the many evil influences and temptations which beset him on his discharge. These are too well known to require enumeration here. The difficulty of finding employment is also a great cause of relapse into crime."

"In connection with the subject of the reformation of prisoners in gaols, I may here give an extract from a report of the 'State Board of Prison Directors,' of California. After summing up the many causes of crime, the Directors write as follows:—

"'Nevertheless, in the face of this, not a few persons stand up to denounce the State prisons of California as 'nurseries of crime,' for which the prison officers are solely responsible, because they have not accomplished what all the moral and christianising forces of civilised society and the denunciations and penalties of the criminal law have failed to accomplish, viz., the prevention of crime and the complete reformation of criminals.'"

"When

"When any State prison can be found, or any system of prison discipline devised, by which to effect a general reformation, or regeneration of the convict—when all the moral forces of society and the terrors of the penal law cannot prevent crime—we may reasonably expect the millennium to be near at hand."

"These remarks apply also to what has been said of the prisons of this Colony.

"A large number of cases, either of forgery, embezzlement, or conspiracy to defraud, in connection with various monetary institutions, have been dealt with by the Courts of this Colony during the last two years, and, in the great majority of these cases, the persons who were found guilty had not been previously convicted. They were not 'gaol-manufactured criminals.' It is almost unnecessary to repeat that there is also a large class of persons upon whom no system of disciplinary and reformatory treatment can produce permanently good results, owing to their naturally weak and dishonest natures."

The Rev. W. D. Morrison, a well-known English prison chaplain, thus speaks of reformation as an object of punishment:—

"Punishment is only a means, say some; its real end is the reformation of the offender. The practical application of such a principle would lead to very astonishing results. It is perfectly well known that there is no more incorrigible set of offenders than habitual vagrants and drunkards. And, on the other hand, the most easily reformed of all offenders is often some person who has committed a serious crime under circumstances which could not possibly recur.

"According to the theory that reformation is the only end of punishment, petty offenders would be shut up all their lives, while the perpetrator of a grave crime would soon be set free. An absurd result of this kind is fatal to the pretension that punishment is merely a means, and not also an end."

Individualisation of Prisoners.

On page 6, Mr. Fraser quotes from the English Committee's report in favour of the reformatory influence of the "individualisation of prisoners" and "classification,"—the system should be made more elastic, more capable "of being adapted to the special cases of individual prisoners." In order to secure this, it is suggested that warders and outside helpers could be trained to it. This suggestion has been dealt with by Sir Edmund du Cane, K.C.B. (late Director-General of Convict Prisons and Chief Commissioner of Local Prisons in England) in the following terms, which I will here quote in full, as they appear to me to be an excellent answer, and one which discloses the insurmountable difficulties of successfully carrying out such a suggestion:—

"If the prison treatment of each prisoner is to vary according to the opinion of each of the higher officials, and of the warders and outside helpers in each case, it certainly would be free from the reproach of uniformity which it has always been considered desirable to aim at, but would fall into the opposite extreme of anarchy. The principal object of the Prison Act, 1865 and 1877, would be defeated, and no Court of Justice could know the effect of the sentences it might pass. The most plausible prisoners would be the best treated. The man with outside influence and money at his command would find means to soften the heart of some warder or outside helper, and rules would be useless, because they could be set aside at the judgment of the various minor authorities. No more potent source of discontent and insubordination could be devised than these proposals. The Committee have adopted from some writer the prejudicial phrase 'cast-iron uniformity.' Sufficient inquiry would have shown them that there is no such thing, though it is certainly made difficult to get a rule set aside, and it is very proper that it should be."

"Nothing sounds wiser than to propose a 'sound, wise system of classification' similar to that by which hospital patients are classified and kept separate according to their ailments and requirements; but moral ailments and the causes of crime have not yet been definitely agreed upon and classified, as in the case of physical maladies, and it certainly would need almost superhuman insight in order to diagnose each prisoner's moral ailments (with no assistance from him, and probably every disposition to deceive), especially in the time available, and to classify him accordingly, and to bring the cure to operate when he has been classified. The most sanguine person would hardly hope to do this in six months, so that this proposed system would only apply to under 2 per cent. of the persons sentenced."

Elmira Adult Reformatory System.

Mr. Fraser seems much in favour of introducing the Elmira Adult Reformatory (New York) system into the treatment of our criminals—a system which I have seen described as combining "the material comforts of a Temperance Hotel with the intellectual luxuries of a Mechanics Institute." Under such a system as this of "Elmira," the term of the sentence to be served is determined, not by the judge who tries the prisoner in Court, but by the Board of Prison Managers under whom the prisoner is placed; in other words, the functions of a judge are transferred to a Prison Board of Managers or philanthropical authorities, who decide among themselves when the murderer, burglar, or garrotter who has given them an assurance that he is reformed is to be set free. However good it may seem in theory, this system does not appear to have been productive of satisfactory results in America, and it may not be out of place for me to here give some extracts from the reports of the Howard Association (England), which is a powerful association, having for its objects the promotion of the best methods for the treatment and prevention of crime.

Extract from Annual Report of Howard Commission for October, 1892.

"In the United States, unhappily, nearly all the prisons of every class are conducted on the association plan, and, consequently, there is a great development of crime in that country. Ex-President R. B. Hayes, speaking at a Prison Congress at Pittsburg last year, said: 'The gaols in our country are in most cases compulsory schools of crime.' 'Prisons, if so constructed and managed as to keep their inmates separate, would afford an adequate remedy for the evil.' But this extreme of mischievous association in gaols, and even in the so-called adult 'reformatories' in America, is not the only evil prevalent in that country. There is too generally a most mischievous pampering of criminals, both in common gaols and also in the 'collegiate and hotel prisons' or 'reformatories'; indulgences in the way of food, amusements, recreation, and general comfort are granted, such as millions of poor honest workers can never hope to obtain for themselves. Thus crime is made attractive. The Howard Association has endeavoured, especially through the American newspaper press, and by other means, to direct much attention to this evil; and many influential persons have expressed their appreciation of these efforts."

"Dr. Dana, of Lowell, writing the same month (May, 1892) on the labours of the Howard Association, observes:—'If we inquire for some of the causes of our increasing crime, we find that it is owing to the mutual corruption of prisoners by association, and the unwarranted leniency with which criminals and vagrants are treated.'

"Captain Joseph Nicholson, the veteran Governor of the self-supporting prison of Detroit, United States, reports, in 1892, of the collegiate class of prisons:—'The so-called reformatory 'isms' that are now so popular as being high philanthropic measures, only teach criminals that crime is not infamous, and can easily be atoned for by an exhibition of contriteness, or scientific acquirements.'

"Mr. Richard Vaux, the President, for many years, of the Board of Inspectors of the Pennsylvania Eastern State Prison, writes to the Howard Association, 9th June, 1892:—'Let me thank you for your paper on the collegiate and hotel prisons of the United States. It will do great service. I have read it, as I do all your reports, with great interest. The criticisms you make on the theories of sentimentalists in prison management are wise and just. It is almost impossible in many of the United States to punish for crime. The first impressions, in what is called 'the public mind' are against punitive laws courageously administered. The prisons are bad, and those who deserve to be prisoners are allowed to escape their deserts.'

"Perhaps no one in America can speak with more authority on these matters than Mr. Vaux. The prison of which he is chief director has long maintained an exceptionally good record.'

"A single native testimony speaks volumes. On 15th August, 1892, the Honorable Andrew D. White, United States Ambassador to Belgium, delivered a lecture at Chautauqua, New York, on murder in the United States. The *Times* reports that 'he said that the number of deaths by murder in the United States of America is more than double the average of the most criminal country in Europe. Year after year that number increases. Even Italy and Corsica, where crimes of violence are frequent, are below the United States in the proportion of murders to the population. Four thousand murders occurred in the United States during 1890, and in 1891 the number increased to nearly six thousand. The greater number of men who committed these crimes are still at large.'

"Perhaps many Americans will admit the weight of this authoritative testimony. Yet, for their murderers and violators of women, they continue to provide first-class hotel fare in so-called 'reformatory prisons,' with bands of music, military drill and titles, the teaching of fancy trades; in a word, pampering by all manner of ways, and finally, under the plea of 'indeterminate' sentences, reducing the maximum imprisonment nominally to five years, but practically, and in most cases, to half that term. For opposing this mischievous system, the Howard Association has been angrily abused by so-called 'philanthropists' in America. Far different was the genuine philanthropy of the hard-headed, but warm-hearted, John Howard.

"As to the luxurious dietary in many American gaols, the excuse is made that 'our people are accustomed to better food than Europeans.' Well, this may be very proper for those of their people who are honest and self-supporting; but to give atrocious criminals better food and more comforts than the toiling honest man is a mischievous unwisdom.

"Whenever the hand of justice becomes slack, or the 'power ordained of God' ceases to inflict adequate punishment on evil-doers, private revenge and lawless retribution take its place. Hence, the murders and lynchings so frequent in America, which is only beginning to reap the first recompense of morbid sympathy with law-breakers, and indifference to the sufferings of their victims.

"When the Americans retort that many of their murderers come from Europe, they may be reminded that, even if so, these criminals were far more effectively restrained, until they left the Old World for the New.

"The sheet-anchor of the advocates of the 'collegiate and hotel system' in their statement—'We reform 80 per cent. of our men.' It may be that by an immense expenditure in money and organisation, situations are found for nearly all the discharged men from Elmira; and for a year or two many may retain them. The statistics prove little more. But even if 80 per cent. are thus provided with situations, any system under which either religious influences are admittedly regarded as of minor efficacy, or where the elements of fear and contrition are largely or wholly ignored, can hardly be said to be even 'reformatory' in any true sense. Prosperous liberated rogues are not really 'reformed' by any system which produces no repentance, or no fear of evil-doing. For every ten prisoners thus 'reformed,' one hundred of the morally weak will probably be encouraged to commit crime.

"An American jurist, Mr. William P. Andrews, of Massachusetts, is hence fully warranted in writing to the Howard Association (4th December, 1891), 'Keep your people out of our abyss of folly.'"

Extract from the Annual Report of the Howard Association for October, 1893.

"There are very few prisons in the United States where separation is enforced. Consequently, the numerous revolts, escapes, and fatalities. Consequently, also, and much worse for the community, there is a terrible prevalence and increase of crime in general. The murders in the United States of late years have been as follows:—1,808 in 1885, 1,499 in 1886, 2,335 in 1887, 2,184 in 1888, 3,567 in 1889, 4,290 in 1890, 5,906 in 1891, and 6,791 in 1892. This indicates a terrible state of social disorganisation over wide areas; one far too serious to be checked by the new American style of 'collegiate and hotel prisons,' which is nevertheless so unwisely praised by too many persons on both sides of the Atlantic, who appear ignorant of the ultimate tendency of thus indulging criminals."

Mr. Brush, warden, of Sing Sing Prison, read a paper at the Prison Congress, at Cincinnati, in 1890, as to the wisdom of the indeterminate sentence, and, *inter alia*, said:—"Prison discipline, to be of any use, should not only make the prisoner subordinate, but should improve him physically and mentally, and also be of such a nature as to give him a character to control himself when released from prison; for it is a curious fact that many, if not most, of our worst criminals are our best-behaved prisoners. This shows conclusively that it is nearly, if not quite, impossible for prison officers to judge from the conduct of a man in prison what his conduct will be when he is released from prison. This is the strongest argument, to my mind, against the indeterminate sentence, for if a man is to be released upon his good behaviour in the prison, and his apparent reformation while there, we may, and very likely will, release many of our worst criminals, while men of lesser tact, who transgress the rules from want of firmness and decision, would remain in prison for a long time, if not for life."

These extracts appear to me to furnish strong grounds for the belief that such an indulgent and very expensive system as the Elmira Adult Reformatory is not a desirable one to introduce into this Colony.

Seventh-class Regulations.

I now come to the treatment of seventh-class prisoners (boys and youths) in our gaols, which is so adversely criticised by Mr. Fraser, who must be well aware of the circumstances that led the then Minister of Justice (Mr. R. E. O'Connor) to cause the regulations governing that class of prisoners to be framed and gazetted in April, 1893. During 1892 and part of 1893, in consequence of the outrages and impudent thefts which were being perpetrated by boys and youths of the larrikin class, the whole of the Press repeatedly and earnestly advocated the introduction of sharp and stern measures for checking the prevalence of those crimes. Mr. O'Connor introduced into, and carried through, the Legislative Council his "Disorderly Conduct Suppression Bill," in 1892; but it did not get further than this. He then conferred with me as to whether the then seventh-class regulations, which had been introduced by my predecessor (the late Mr. Harold Maclean), in 1888, could not be made more deterrent. Although they provided for strictly separate treatment, they were in other respects so mild as not to have proved effectual in checking the influx of youthful criminals to our gaols. The result was that, after very careful consideration and several consultations with the Visiting Surgeon of Darlinghurst Gaol and myself, Mr. O'Connor caused the then seventh-class regulations to be so amended as to make them more stringent, and submitted such amended regulations to the Executive Council, by which they were passed, and they subsequently became law on the 17th April, 1893. These are the regulations which Mr. Fraser has now attacked.

On the 10th July, 1893, a large public meeting was held at the Town Hall (Sydney), when the necessity for urging the Government to take proper steps to cope with, and put a stop to, the pest of juvenile crime and larrikinism, which had become an intolerable nuisance both in this city and elsewhere, was discussed, and a deputation, consisting of the Mayor (Sir W. P. Manning), the Hon. A. J. Riley, M.L.C., Mr. J. H. Carruthers, M.P., Rev. G. Bennett Anderson, Alderman Playfair, Mr. W. Rigg (Mayor of Newtown), and Mr. Charles Bull, was appointed to wait upon Sir George Dibbs (then Premier), which they accordingly did on Saturday morning, the 15th July following. They met with very full sympathy and support from Sir George Dibbs, who spoke strongly against the past leniency and sympathy which had been shown to criminals, and, *inter alia*, was reported to have said that "with regard to the treatment of prisoners in gaols, there was no doubt that the foolish sympathies of some led the gaol authorities in the past to make the internal discipline far too easy and pleasant for offenders, and the inmates had left the doors invigorated and refreshed by their sojourn inside the walls, rather than sorrowful and downcast. But the regulations had now been altered in such a manner that anyone who went inside a gaol would find it anything but a nice 'boarding-house,' as the larrikin class delighted to term it." He also said that "until the people strengthened the hands of the Government through Parliament to make gaols places of punishment, so long would crime exist."

Some discussion has since taken place on the subject of those regulations, but no proof has yet been furnished that they have had any other than very good effects in the repression and disciplinary training of the youthful criminals who have been subjected to the treatment which they prescribe. All the officers in charge of gaols have spoken very highly of the effects of that treatment. In speaking of those regulations in my report for 1893, after describing them, I concluded as follows:—"It is hoped that by the stringent nature of this treatment, juvenile crime and 'larrikinism' in their first stages will be effectively checked. Short sentences carrying such treatment should be much more effectual than long ones under the old conditions of servitude. To be deterrent, the punishment must be made a really genuine one.

"In its application to youths under 16, this treatment is intended more for the incidental offenders than for the vicious and incorrigible youths. It is recognised that a chance offender, whose crime was committed through recklessness, passion, or the force of bad example, requires penitential discipline only; while the youth who has shown by his depraved and vicious habits that he is incorrigible, should be subjected to lengthened detention and treatment of a disciplinary and instructive character in a reformatory, with plenty of hard work, chiefly in the open air. To place youthful first offenders in a reformatory for a long period would, as a general rule, be an unwise and an expensive proceeding, entailing heavy expense on the State, and relieving the parents of responsibilities which they should be made to bear. The discretion in such cases must, of course, be left with the Courts which deal with the young law-breakers."

I am not in any way influenced by Mr. Fraser's remarks to recommend that those regulations be either repealed or altered. Some day, perhaps, when the necessary funds are available, and under new legislation, a complete system of truant schools, industrial schools, and reformatories will be established in this Colony for the treatment of youthful offenders in various stages of criminal development. Until such a comprehensive system of treatment is introduced, it is probable that stern and sharp measures will constantly be necessary to keep larrikinism in check. So long as the Courts continue to sentence boys to gaol, the treatment must be made so uncomfortable for them as to act as a deterrent upon them, and thus prevent a repetition of their offences. Of course there are many cases of incorrigibles upon whom no system yet invented would have any good effect of a lasting character.

It will be remembered that an attempt was made early in 1895 to bring Mr. O'Connor's "Disorderly Conduct Suppression Bill" into force, but was unsuccessful; and, if Mr. Fraser's views were adopted, the active measures which Mr. O'Connor took in 1893 to suppress larrikinism and juvenile crime in the form of the present seventh-class regulations (for which on all sides he met with commendation) would be defeated; and gaol life would again be made comfortable and attractive, instead of disagreeable and deterrent. A prisoner is disgraced by the crime which he has committed, not by the punishment which he suffers for it. Until a penal reformatory has been established in this Colony, there is no other place than a gaol to which boys and youths under short sentences could be sent.

Books for Prisoners.

Mr. Fraser, on page 50, says that reading might be more "liberally allowed" in our gaols, and alludes to the fact that the Chief Justice had recently brought under the Minister's notice the question of allowing books to prisoners serving sentences of less than three months. As regards this matter, I may mention that, among the general orders issued by me some years ago, was one which reads as follows, and which is still in force:—

"(G.O. 136).—Limitation of Books to be kept in yards.

"In order to limit the number of books to be kept in the yards by prisoners, and thus prevent accumulation and facilitate the searching after musters, the Comptroller-General directs that the number of

of books shall be limited to four, as under:—One private book (prisoner's property), one library book, one prayer-book, one Bible."

"This rule is, however, not to interfere with the issue of such religious and instructive books as may be used by the respective chaplains in connection with their work."

"When a prisoner wishes to exchange a private book, the one he no longer requires shall be returned to the storekeeper, in whose charge it shall be kept."

It would never do to allow prisoners to keep all their private books in their yards. They must be kept with their other property in the gaol store. Two reading-books is surely enough to allow a prisoner at one time.

As regards the question of allowing books to prisoners serving sentences of *only three months and under*, I think, in justice to myself, I may here be allowed to insert my report to you, dated 7th May, 1896, in reply to the suggestion of His Honor the Chief Justice, that such short-sentenced prisoners should be allowed to enjoy the privileges of the gaol libraries. This is what I then wrote:—

"In consequence of reports made to him, my predecessor (the late Mr. Maclean) circulated a general order on 19th August, 1868, directing that books from the gaol libraries should not be issued to prisoners awaiting trial, and to those serving sentences not exceeding three months.

"When revising the whole of the general orders in June, 1892, I omitted the words 'prisoners awaiting trial' from the general order above mentioned, as I do not see any particular reason why committed prisoners, some of whom may be innocent, should not be allowed library books.

"The total number of prisoners serving the sentences of three months and under is always great (on 31st March last it was 732). It comprises a large proportion of incorrigible drunkards, vagrants, petty thieves, and such like offenders, to whom gaol life should be made as unattractive and monotonous as possible. The concessions should be very limited. These offenders are received into gaol generally under repeated short sentences, which appear to be quite useless, either as to deterrent or reformatory effects. Many of them enter the gaol in a broken-down or diseased condition from drink or other form of dissipation. The gaol is, in fact, a sort of clean and wholesome retreat for them to recover from the effects of their irregular lives when at liberty. (I venture to suggest that, in such cases, the sentences should be gradually accumulative, according to previous convictions; but, of course, this touches the judicial side of the question.)

"For prisoners under short sentences, penitential discipline chiefly should, I think, be resorted to. I do not think the issue of books from the library would have much effect, if any at all, in the way of reformation. The disciplinary effects of enforced regular hours and meals, enforced cleanliness, sobriety, orderly conduct, subordination, and employment on such work as can be found for them and for which they are fit, are all that we can trust to for reformation, outside the work of the chaplains.

To grant the use of the library books to such short-sentenced prisoners would greatly increase the wear and tear of the books, and would necessitate an augmentation of the annual vote. Many of them would probably ask for books, not from any desire to improve themselves, but simply because other prisoners were allowed to have them.

"For these reasons, I feel myself unable to recommend any alteration in the existing general order.

"Of course, all boys and youths under 25 (7th class) are allowed books by the special regulations governing their treatment, no matter what the term of sentence may be."

Special Gaol for Habitual Criminals.

Mr. Fraser thinks "it might be practicable" in this Colony to confine "all habitual criminals" in a gaol specially set apart for them. I have no hesitation in saying that it would certainly not be practicable to do this while such prisoners are dealt with in the Courts as they now are. Had it been practicable, I should long ago have taken steps to bring about such a very desirable change. A system of graded prisons, in which prisoners of the different classes could be distributed, is very easy to write about, but it would be impossible to bring it into actual existence in this Colony. The removal and transfer of the particular classes of prisoners from the Courts in all parts of the Colony to the special prison set apart for each class could not be carried out. Only those with long sentences could be removed, and it must be remembered that the greater proportion of sentences are short. Therefore, a great number of prisoners would have still to be detained in the nearest gaol to the Court at which they were tried. As I have said before, our Criminal Courts are scattered considerable distances apart all over the surface of this Colony.

In reference to the question of removing trial prisoners from one gaol to another, I reported on this matter on the 8th June last, in the following terms:—"When superior Courts are established, in practice it is found to be necessary that prisoners under remand or awaiting trial at such Courts should be kept on the spot, and, in practice, so must short-sentenced local prisoners. To remove trial prisoners to another district gaol (where they could not see their relatives and friends interested in their defence) pending their trial, and then to again transfer them back to the place of trial when the Court was about to sit, would, I consider, be an unwise proceeding, causing inconvenience and necessitating a great amount of travelling under escort. Further, to transfer all *short-sentenced* prisoners from the gaol at the place where they were convicted to another district would also be unwise. Many of them are boys and youths; some are females. Short-sentenced prisoners form a large proportion of the prison population."

Incorrigibles.

As regards the treatment of incorrigibles and "habitual criminals," who are either criminal by instinct or who have acquired their criminality by the evil surroundings of their homes and associations when very young, I think that the repeated short sentences which are so frequently given to this class of prisoners are a great deal worse than useless. It sounds very humane and kind to say, "Poor things, they are not responsible for their actions"; but if that be so, it must be remembered that their irresponsibility is just what makes them dangerous to society, and is the reason why they should be kept for long periods under restraint. The supreme duty of society is self-preservation, and this is what must be considered in dealing with habitual and incorrigible criminals who, when at large, have been properly described as the captains, the leaders, and the organisers of crime. They are the bane of all communities, and

and exercise a corrupting influence over others wherever they may be in free life. They earn their living by crime, and, in the interests of society, such criminals should be deprived of freedom and placed under restraint for long periods just as much as if they were lunatics, but, of course, under a different system of treatment.

In the second Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labour (Washington, U.S.), 1896, which deals with convict labour, the following recommendation appears on the subject of dealing with incorrigibles:—

“Incorrigibles should be sentenced to the State Prison for life. Community has no use for such. The chronic burglar, thief, embezzler, robber, or murderer should be given to understand that a limit has been set upon the privilege of pursuing his occupation. What is an incorrigible? The Commission favours drawing the line at a third conviction for felony. Less than that might possibly be unjust. More than that positively is not required to demonstrate a desperate and dangerous character. No more efficacious restraint could by any possibility be put upon the pursuit of grave crimes. Upon this point the Commission has spent earnest and exhaustive inquiry to ascertain the judgment of experienced prison managers, and with not one single exception have we found the man of experience to doubt the justness or desirableness of giving to incorrigibles a life sentence. Fortunately for all interested in this most important feature of prison reform, not only is precedent found, but the judgment of able writers is at hand in testimony of the propriety and benefits to be derived from such a law and practice.”

Mark Systems.

I am not in favour of an elaborate or complex system of marks for good conduct. I think that any mark system introduced into a gaol should be simple and easily recorded. An elaborate mark system is liable to be so administered as to become in the highest degree oppressive and exasperating to prisoners. It places too much power in the hands of subordinate officers who must be left to supervise the prisoners. Severe and exacting supervisors might use it as a powerful means of oppression and injustice, without regard to the constitutional differences or acquired capacities of the prisoners. Through ignorance, inadvertence, or incapacity on the part of the supervising officers, the grossest injustice and unfairness might be perpetrated, and a spirit of discontent and disaffection thus aroused in the minds of the prisoners to whom such an elaborate system was applied. Therefore, in my opinion, the simpler the system of marks under which prisoners' conduct-sheets are regulated, the better for successful management.

Prison Dietary Scale.

For information as to the dietary scales that are in force in our gaols, I would refer to the return which was laid before Parliament on 3rd July, 1895, and ordered to be printed, and is now attached to this memorandum as *Appendix A*. From that return, it will be seen that very careful consideration has been given to the subject by a Board of thoroughly competent gentlemen, of whom three were medical men.

Prisoners' Aid Societies.

As regards Prisoners' Aid Societies, they would be of very great benefit, if they could be successfully established and maintained in this Colony; but I fear that, for some time to come, there is no likelihood of their being brought into permanent existence. *To be of use they must be local* and largely aided by voluntary efforts; but in this Colony we have not yet got the men of wealth and leisure, such as are to be found in the counties of England, who would give their influence and pecuniary assistance in the formation and maintenance of such societies. Nearly the whole cost of maintaining those societies would therefore be thrown upon the Government in this Colony. In view of the numbers of unemployed men who have not been criminals, the question of the establishment of societies for aiding discharged prisoners is one surrounded by great difficulties.

Other suggestions which Mr. Fraser has adopted from the English Prison Committee's Report are equally difficult or impracticable, but I will not stop to deal with them in this paper.

One of the witnesses examined by the English Prison Committee of Inquiry was Mr. Michael Davitt who, as his evidence shows, had a personal experience of nearly nine years of penal servitude in England. During that period, he was at different times in the following gaols:—Clerkenwell, Newgate, Millbank, Dartmoor, Portsca, and Portland. When he was in New South Wales last year, he visited some of our gaols, and inquired into the existing system of prison management. When leaving the Colony, he expressed himself in writing to me, through Mr. F. B. Freehill, as being “very much pleased with what he saw of the prisons of this Colony.” Mr. Freehill also wrote to the late Under Secretary (Mr. Fraser), on the 14th October, 1895, stating that Mr. Davitt was desirous of obtaining a copy of the gaol regulations of this Colony “of the management of which he entertained a very high opinion from what he saw in the gaols visited by him.” When at Bathurst Gaol in September, 1895, Mr. Davitt questioned the Governor, Mr. Stace, very fully as to our system, and said that the English gaol system “had proved a failure owing to its severity,” and he observed, on going through the hospital at Bathurst Gaol, “There is something like humanity here; no luxuries, but comfortable.” He said that “in England, in a workshop like the tailors and shoemakers, there would be three or four warders constantly stationed with staves, and that all the warders were similarly armed on duty.” Finally, he remarked that our system “was far ahead of the English.” I mention this because Mr. Davitt was a man who understood what he was talking about from personal experience; and if our system had been one governed by “iron-handed discipline,” he would certainly not have spoken of it as he did to Mr. Stace.

Conclusion.

I do not claim that our prison system is a perfect one; but, after constantly administering the affairs of the Prisons' Department for six and a half years, during which period I have at different times visited and inspected the gaols, and interviewed many prisoners on various subjects, I can positively assert that it does not deserve the unfavourable comments which Mr. Fraser has passed upon it. There certainly is no need for alterations in the direction of pampering the prisoners, and making the gaols comfortable and attractive places for criminals, who include burglars, garroters, forgers, embezzlers, conspirators to defraud, swindlers, and other kinds of thieves for whom, I regret to say, too much sympathy is shown by many people. Their victims, whom they have robbed, or ruined altogether, get little or no sympathy.

There

There is great necessity for improving the means of properly carrying out the prescribed system, and this I repeatedly endeavoured to do during the period of my administration, as my many reports to the Ministers under whom I have served will show, and I have the satisfaction of knowing that, in many very important instances, my efforts to have the necessary improvements effected were successful. Other suggested improvements have been delayed owing to the inadequacy of the funds at disposal. There is still a great deal to be done in the direction of adding to the accommodation of our gaols, so as to admit of the single-cell system being carried out, and of increasing the number of yards for the proper separation of the different classes of prisoners. *The best system, in my opinion, would, however, be one under which prisoners would never be associated, excepting while at labour in the open air, or in the workshops, under proper supervision. They should take their three meals in their cells, and, on Sundays be allowed to take exercise for two or three hours under very strict supervision. When in their cells, they should, of course, be allowed books to read, as is the case with prisoners undergoing "separate treatment."* It would not be possible, however, to successfully carry out such a system as this in the absence of the necessary single-cell accommodation in the different gaols. A large expenditure would have to be incurred in additions and alterations to existing gaol premises before that system could be brought into operation. The following are the principal improvements which, as opportunity permits, should be effected. For some of them, we must look for assistance to the judicial side of the subject as well as the executive:—

- 1st. The association of prisoners in cells at night must be done away with as quickly as possible by increasing the cell accommodation in the different gaols wherever practicable.
- 2nd. Trial and remand prisoners should never be associated at any time with convicted prisoners. A trial yard should be provided at every small gaol where there is room for one.
- 3rd. Every opportunity should be afforded for disposing of the goods manufactured in the gaols, at prices to be regulated by the market rates of the day. The restrictions now placed upon the sale of the products of prison labour to the public should be removed, especially in the country districts, where it is impossible, under present conditions, to find suitable and useful work for the prisoners under sentence in the lesser country gaols. Nothing is more reformatory in its effects upon prisoners than regular and skilled labour.
- 4th. The Government Departments should give as much suitable work as possible to prisoners.
- 5th. Sentences of imprisonment only should be abolished, and all convicted prisoners should be compelled to work to a reasonable extent. Debtors should be included in this rule. This is one of the recommendations of the English Prison Inquiry Committee, and it meets the views of the Permanent Prison Commissioners. No man should be allowed to pass his time in gaol in idleness, excepting men who are awaiting their trial. Idleness breeds mischief and trouble, especially in large gaols.
- 6th. In the case of first-convicted men, the sentences should be shorter, and should be served in strict separation from other prisoners. A sentence of nine or twelve months passed in separate treatment would be far better than one of three years, the greater part of which would be passed in association with other criminals. In these cases, of course, due regard would have to be paid to the character of the offence, for, after all, the punishment of an offender must be measured to a great extent by the gravity of his offence.
- 7th. The present system of giving repeated short sentences to incorrigible and habitual offenders should be abolished, and the law should be so administered as to give sentences gradually cumulative upon previous convictions. This is especially necessary in the case of petty offenders, such as incorrigible drunkards and petty thieves. The trouble and expense of frequent prosecutions, as well as the damage to, or loss of, property of the victims, ought to be taken into consideration. The repeated short sentences are perfectly useless for either deterrent or reformatory treatment. It is hopeless to try to effect any good unless these unfortunate people are subjected to long periods of restraint. When the accommodation will permit, *men convicted of drunkenness only should be carefully separated from criminal prisoners.*
- 8th. The present conditions under which licenses to be at large are issued under the 409th section of the Criminal Law Amendment Act are unsatisfactory, inasmuch as there are no gazetted regulations governing the issue of such licenses. The consequence is, that there is no uniformity of treatment of prisoners in the granting of such concessions. I drafted and submitted, through the Under Secretary, regulations which appeared to me to be suitable, on the 18th January, 1892; but whether or not they were considered by the then Minister of Justice I cannot say. In dealing with this subject, it is necessary to bear in mind the effect that such licenses would have upon the intermediate prison system at Trial Bay, if the release of prisoners under license were to form a regular part of the prison system.

These are some of the most important alterations which I consider to be necessary in the improvement of our prison system in the direction of increasing its efficacy for the prevention of crime and social disorder. Legislation would, of course, be necessary before effect could be given to some of these suggestions.

In concluding this memorandum, I desire to explain that the delay in dealing with the paper of the late Under Secretary has been caused by my inability to give earlier attention to it, in consequence of the very heavy pressure of other and more urgent work which has devolved upon me since I received it from you.

GEORGE MILLER,
Under Secretary of Justice.

The Honorable the Minister of Justice.
31st August, 1896.

In view of the important character of the subject referred to in these papers, copies may be prepared to lay on the Table of the House for the information of Members and the public, and the papers resubmitted for the purpose of fully considering the several suggestions—many of which I fully concur with—made therein.—A. J. G., 22/9/96.

APPENDIX A.

1894-5.

Legislative Assembly.
New South Wales.

PRISON DIET.

(Return respecting.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 3 July, 1895.

RETURN to an Order of the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, dated 13th June, 1895, That there be laid upon the Table of this House,—

“Copies of all diet sheets and lists at present in use in the gaols of the Colony which regulate the dieting of the various classes and grades of prisoners, together with a statement from the Prison authorities showing on what dietetic principles the scale of dieting is based, and in what cases the ordinary diet is departed from.”

(Dr. Graham.)

MINUTE PAPER.

Subject:—Scale of dietary in Prisons—Order of Legislative Assembly, upon Dr. Graham's motion as to, dated 13th June, 1895.

Department of Prisons, Comptroller-General's Office, Sydney.

ATTACHED hereto are the following documents which contain the information sought for by Dr. Graham's motion:—

1. Copy of the scale of dietary now in force in the prisons of this Colony, regulating the ration allowance of the various classes and grades of prisoners.
2. Copy of the report of the Board, dated 28th November, 1888, which was appointed in May, 1888, to inquire into and consider the dietary scale then in operation.
3. Copy of letter of the Under Secretary of Justice, dated 7th December, 1888, approving of the adoption of the Board's report and recommendations, and conveying the thanks of the Government to the Members of the Board.
4. Copy of General Order 234 in further explanation of the ration scale.
5. Copies of General Orders 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, and 82, regulating the scale of indulgencies allowed to prisoners in excess of the ordinary rations.

It may be explained that the ration scale of Trial Bay Prison is an exceptionally liberal one, inasmuch as the prisoners are under modified conditions of servitude, and the work in the quarries and on the Breakwater is of a kind requiring a liberal diet.

GEORGE MILLER,
Comptroller-General.

The Under Secretary of Justice, B.C., 2/7/95.

[Enclosures.]

No. 1.

SCALE OF DIETARY IN PRISONS.

Schedule A.

Ration No. 1.—For prisoners serving sentences not exceeding six months:—

Bread (females, 8 oz.)	12 oz.	Salt	½ oz.
Maize meal	8 „	Soap	½ „
Meat	4 „	Rice (five times a week)	¼ „

*Vegetables (by substitution, chiefly in soup) . . . 8 „
* This applies to all rations.

† The Surgeon may order substitution apart from soap use.

Ration No. 2.—For prisoners after service of six months of sentence, and all prisoners in separate treatment:—

Bread (females, 10 oz.)	12 oz.	Salt	½ oz.
Maize meal	8 „	Soap	½ „
Meat	8 „	Rice	¼ „
Vegetables (females, 8 oz.)	12 „		

Ration No. 3.—Ordinary Labour.—Alternative ration on labour scale, as by Schedule B attached. For prisoners serving sentences not exceeding twelve months, exclusive of light labour:—

Bread (females, 12 oz.)	20 oz.	Salt	1 oz.
Maize meal	8 „	Sugar (ration)	1 „
Meat	8 „	Soap	½ „
Vegetables (females, 10 oz.)	12 „	Rice or barley	¼ „

Ration No. 4.—Harder Labour.—For prisoners employed on harder labour, as by Schedule B attached, and for prisoners on ordinary labour serving sentences exceeding twelve months:—

Bread (females, 16 oz.)	24 oz.	Salt	½ oz.
Maize meal	6 „	Sugar (ration)	1 „
Meat (females, 12 oz.)	16 „	Soap	½ „
Vegetables (females, 12 oz.)	16 „	Rice or barley	¼ „

Ration No. 5.—Solitary confinement:—

Bread	16 oz.
Soap	½ „

Ration No. 6.—For debtors, prisoners under civil process, awaiting trial, under remand, and detained as witnesses for want of bail:—

Bread	16 oz.	Salt	½ oz.
Maize meal	8 „	Soap	½ „
Meat	16 „	Rice	¼ „
Vegetables	12 „	Sugar	1 „

Ration No. 7.—For children of female prisoners above two and under eight years of age:—

Bread	8 oz.	Sugar (ration)	1 oz.
Meat	4 „	Soap	½ „
Milk	1 pt.		

Ration No. 8.—For children of female prisoners under two years of age:—

Bread	4 oz.	Sugar	1 oz.
Milk	1½ pt.	Soap	½ „

Ration No. 9.—Authorised to be issued to seventh-class prisoners according to regulations:—

Wheat bread	16 oz.	Sugar	1 oz.
Maize meal	8 „	Soap	½ „
Meat	8 „	Salt	½ „
Potatoes	8 „		

Daily scale of Rations for prisoners employed at the Public Works Prison, Trial Bay:—

1¼ lb. bread of fine wheaten and maize flour, in the proportion of ¼ of the latter; or			
1½ lb. bread of wheaten flour.			
Fresh meat	1½ lb.	Salt	½ oz.
Vegetables	1 „	Rice	1 „
Maize meal	6 oz.	Sugar	1½ „
Tobacco (weekly)	2 „	Soap	¼ „
Coffee	½ „	Tea	¼ „

Schedule B.—Labour Scale.

Male Prisoners.

(On completion of tasks or recommendation of overseer.)

Light Labour.—Oakum picking, hair picking, coir balling, and other like light work.

Ordinary Labour.—Boot-making, bookbinding, tailoring, brush-making, painting, sweepers and cleaners, cooks, yardsmen, servants, clerks.

Harder Labour.—Stone-cutting, blacksmithing, carpentering, mat-making, excavating, road-work, iron and tin work.

Female prisoners.

Light Labour.—Hair picking, oakum picking, and other like light work.

Ordinary Labour.—Needlework, knitting, sweeping and cleaning, servants.

Harder Labour.—Washing

NOTE.—The Officer in charge may, in relation to any particular work not above specified, place any prisoner on the ordinary or harder labour diet, and will report any such case to the Comptroller-General.

No. 2.

No. 2.
REPORT OF BOARD.

Sir,

Sydney, 28 November, 1888.

In accordance with the memorandum of instructions enclosed in your letter of the 14th May last (88/338), we have the honor to report the results of the inquiry with which we have been intrusted into the question of the prison dietary of the Colony.

The points to which we were desired specially to direct our attention were :—

1. The effects of the existing dietaries "upon the health of the prisoners, as well as their relation to discipline, to capacity for work, and to crime."
2. Whether "prisoners sentenced to short periods of imprisonment should be placed on a different diet from that of persons sentenced to longer periods."
3. Whether "in the event of the adoption of the principle of variation of diet with length of sentences, prisoners under long sentences should be placed at once upon the dietary belonging to such sentences, or should pass through these successive dietaries belonging to the shorter sentences."
4. Whether the diet now in force is sufficient, and not more than sufficient, to maintain health and strength; and to consider whether any rules can be laid down for establishing adequate checks upon the practice of ordering extra diets or for the guidance of Medical Officers on this point."
5. Whether, and how far, a reduction in diet can be made to secure the punishment for prison offences and under what system."

In pursuit of our inquiries, we have obtained reports from the officers in charge and surgeons of the principal gaols, and answers to communications addressed to the heads of the Penal Departments in the neighbouring colonies, with their dietary scales.

The whole correspondence forms an enclosure to this report. We attach hereto a revised scale which, in our judgment, would meet the penal requirements of the Colony in respect of preservation of health, effects in discipline, and capacity for work.

By the existing scale the dietary is entirely regulated on the principle of duration of sentence, and quite irrespectively of labour. This was found to be a great improvement on the formerly prevailing system of "no labour" and "hard labour."

After mature consideration, we have arrived at the conclusion that each system having its distinct advantages and fitness, it is desirable to weld them into the new scale in some modification of each, recognising both conditions.

There can be no question but that the conditions of treatment during limited periods can, with objects both deterrent and disciplinary, be made much more stringent, and that amelioration in some mode of necessity must form an element in dealing with sentences of longer duration.

We also think that, in a modified form, the allowance should advance with time—so the ration No. 1 gives the normal allowance, which is increased with servitude and the alternative labour scale.

From the information gathered, we are of opinion that the lowest time ration of the present scale, No. 1, is insufficient for sustaining constitutional strength, and for the performance of labour; and it would not appear that the very low ration (which provided $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of meat weekly) has had, judging from the continual reconviotions of the class of petty offenders to whom it was allotted, the deterrent effect that was contemplated.

In the proposed scale, rations Nos. 1 and 2 recast the allowance on the lines to which we have referred, governed only by the principle of time and irrespectively of labour.

The labour question is dealt with in Nos. 3 and 4, and the schedule attached, which define "ordinary" and "harder labour," and the scale proposed seems to us to be only what is commensurate with the additional constitutional demand on the prisoner.

In comparing the scale of provisions in these Australian Colonies with those in the United Kingdom and foreign countries, it has to be borne in mind that here we are dealing with a community of liberal dietary customs, especially in respect of meat, and that some relevancy should be maintained in prison to the consumption outside. Further, in regard to meat—the most important item—a difficulty in comparison, and also in estimating the ration, arises from the difference existing in computing the allowance, by reason of meat being, under various systems, allotted with or without bone, and cooked or uncooked—thus, 1 lb. of meat as issued in this Colony, when cooked and bone deducted, means 8 oz.

In preparing our plan, due consideration has been given to the dietaries of the neighbouring colonies, and it will be found that our recommendations are in substantial accord with the system of Victoria, the colony whose conditions approach most nearly to those of New South Wales.

The adoption of the proposed scale will obviate the occasion for extra diet being authorised by the Surgeons, excepting in very exceptional conditions.

We think that the practice of allowing prisoners awaiting trial, and prisoners sentenced to imprisonment only, to provide their own food, as permitted by the present regulations, should be discontinued, and all rations for such persons be supplied by the establishment according to our proposed scale.

If this suggestion be adopted an alteration in the regulations will become necessary.

We have, &c.,

HAROLD MACLEAN,
H. N. MacLAURIN,
F. NORTON MANNING,
MAURICE J. O'CONNOR.

The Honorable the Minister of Justice.

No. 3.

Department of Justice, Sydney, 7 December, 1888.

Gentlemen,
I have the honor, by direction of the Minister of Justice, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, reporting the results of your inquiries into the question of the prison dietary of this Colony, and submitting therewith a revised scale of such dietary.

I am at the same time to inform you that the Minister has approved of the adoption of your report, together with the recommendations contained therein.

The Minister desires me also to convey to you the thanks of the Government for the great service you have rendered them in your painstaking labour in connection with this subject, and for the valuable information and suggestions contained in the report you have been so good as to favour him with.

I have, &c.,

ARCH. C. FRASER,

Under Secretary.

Harold Maclean, Esq.; H. N. MacLaurin, Esq., M.D.; F. Norton Manning, Esq., M.D.; Maurice J. O'Connor, Esq., L.R.C.S. Incl., Sydney.

No. 4.

GENERAL ORDER 254.

Rations: Explanation of.

THE following explanation regarding the application of the dietary scale is forwarded for gaolers' guidance :—

- No. 1 ration is for "light or non-labour" prisoners serving sentences not exceeding six months, and for first six months of sentence if serving longer periods.
- No. 2 ration is for "light or non-labour" prisoners after service of six months of sentence to end of same, and all prisoners in separate treatment not otherwise provided for.
- No. 3 ration is for "ordinary labour" prisoners serving sentences not exceeding twelve months, who will be placed on this ration as soon as classified.
- No. 4 ration is for "ordinary labour" prisoners serving sentences exceeding twelve months, and for "hard labour" prisoners, irrespectively of length of sentence. Both classes of prisoners will be placed on this ration as soon as classified.
- Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 require no explanation.

NOTE.—Prisoners awaiting classification for labour will be regarded as "non-labour" prisoners *pro tem*, and placed on ration No. 1. No. 5.

No. 5.

GENERAL ORDERS 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, AND 82.

Indulgences.

G.O. 77.)

Labour Indulgences.

WELL-CONDUCTED male prisoners, after a service of twelve months, are authorised, on completion of their allotted task, to receive weekly the following:—

- Scale No. 1.—4 oz. tea, 1 lb. sugar, 2 oz. tobacco.
- Scale No. 2.—4 oz. tea, 1 lb. sugar, 1½ oz. tobacco.

The prisoners eligible for full indulgences of tobacco are those in occupations mentioned in Labour Schedule A. Others, such as sweepers, cleaners, &c., fully employed in the work assigned to them, will be eligible for the lesser scale.

In cases where the work cannot be measured by task, the maximum, or as the circumstances may seem to justify, lesser portions of the indulgence laid down as above, may be allowed upon the recommendations for industry and good conduct of the overseer or other officer under whom the work is performed.

In cases of prisoners not completing their tasks, but who are specially reported by the overseer or other officer directing the labour as working hard and doing their best, they may be allowed the indulgence on the lesser scale, or a portion thereof, by the Gaoler. A list of all such cases must be kept.

A careful consideration is looked for from the officers making recommendations for indulgences.

In cases where by delay in supply of material, or other cause, prisoners are thrown out of work and there is no other work available, or are put to other work at which they do not earn the indulgence, the indulgence will be continued on the basis of the allowance they obtained the previous week.

If the Gaoler think it desirable in a particular case, a special-treatment man who is behaving well may have indulgence, if earned, or if he has been taken from work at which he was earning it. This will not, however, apply to prisoners placed in separate or special treatment for coercion, in which case they will not be allowed any indulgence during the time of their punishment for coercion.

Smoking in working hours is strictly prohibited. Tobacco will not be allowed to any prisoner, of whatever class, under the age of 21 (twenty-one) years.

(G.O. 78.)

Indulgences on Holidays.

WELL-CONDUCTED prisoners who are earning indulgences will be permitted to receive from friends at Christmas, Easter, and Queen's Birthday—3 lb. cooked meat, poultry, or fish; 2 lb. bread; 2 lb. vegetables; 2 lb. pudding or cake; ¼ lb. tea; 1 lb. sugar; ¼ oz. cheese; 4 oz. butter; 1 oz. mustard; 1 oz. pepper; 1 oz. tobacco; 1 doz. fruit; ½ pint milk.

Where a prisoner does not receive anything from friends, he may purchase food from money in hand, within the foregoing description, to the value of 5s., but must not transfer money to another prisoner for the purpose of purchasing.

In case of prisoners who do not receive anything from friends, or who have no money, or who do not wish to spend their money in this way, the ordinary indulgences may on the above days be doubled. Prisoners who are within six months of their probable discharge will not be allowed to spend money in the purchase of indulgences, as they will need such money to help them on their liberation.

The indulgences being allowed for the respective holidays must not be saved up beyond the day following, and cannot be taken on transfer to another gaol.

(G.O. 79)

Allowance to Prisoners of 4th Class.

PRISONERS of the 4th class may be allowed to purchase or receive from their friends weekly, in addition to their ration—3 loaves bread, 2 lb. sugar, ¼ lb. tea, 2 oz. tobacco, pipe, and matches.

(G.O. 80.)

Allowance to Prisoners who support themselves.

PRISONERS of the 3rd and 4th classes who support themselves will be allowed to purchase or receive from their friends weekly:—7 loaves bread, 7 lb. meat, 7 lb. vegetables, ½ lb. tea, 1 lb. coffee (or portion of each), 3 lb. sugar, 1 lb. butter, 1 lb. cheese, 2 oz. tobacco, pipe, and matches, &c. This includes for prisoners of 4th class the allowances before mentioned.

(G.O. 81.)

Indulgences to Jewish Prisoners.

JEWISH prisoners will be allowed the special indulgences at their Passover and New Year instead of Christmas and Easter. At the Passover the indulgence may be provided by their friends. The indulgence on Queen's Birthday will apply to them as to other prisoners.

(G.O. 82.)

Indulgences for certain Occupations, irrespective of Sentence.

THE maximum indulgence will be allowed, irrespective of sentence or servitude, to male prisoners who are employed, as shown hereunder, but the number employed must not exceed those appearing on the following Schedule:—

Gaols.	Head Cook or Sole Cook.	Baker.	Hospital Cook.	Honorary Maker.	Hospital Attendant.	Epileptic Attendant.	Lunatics keeper.	Lamp-lighters.	Hospital Washermen.	Close-cleaners.	Night Attendants O. B. Ward.
Albury	1	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	2	..
Armidale	1	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	2	..
Biloela	1	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	4	..
Bathurst	1	..	1	1	2	..	1	1	1	3	..
Berrima	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	3	..
Darlinghurst	1	..	1	1	6	1	3	1	2	2	19
Deniliquin	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..
Dubbo	1	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	2	..
Goulburn	1	..	1	1	2	..	1	1	1	2	..
Grafton	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Hay	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Maitland	1	..	1	1	1	..	1	1	..	10	..
Mudgee	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Parramatta	1	..	1	1	3	..	2	1	1	3	8
Tamworth	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	3	..
Wagga Wagga	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Wollongong	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Yass	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Young	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2	..
Forbes	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Wilcannia	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	2	..

Half indulgence.