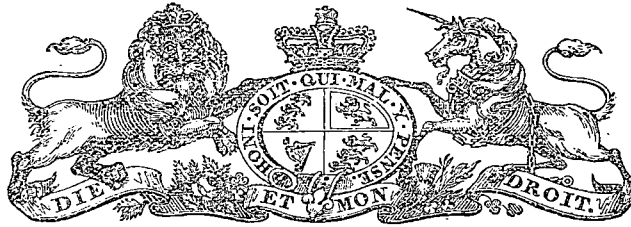


(No. 48.)



1896.

SESSION II.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

RAILWAY STORES:

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF STORES UPON THE
MANAGEMENT AND SYSTEM OF PURCHASE.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.

Cost of printing—£2 2s.



*Minister's Office, Lands and Works Department,
Hobart, 14th July, 1896.*

HON. TREASURER,

WILL you please allow the Auditor-General to enquire into and report on the management of the Railway Stores; the system of purchase, whether by fair competition or otherwise; as to economy in purchase; and any other information as may lead me to decide whether the Stores Branch is properly administered?

ALFRED PILLINGER.

Hon. Chief Secretary.

Sent here in error.

P. O. FYSH.
14. 7. 96.

WILL the Auditor-General be good enough to comply with the Minister of Lands' request.

WM. MOORE.
15. 7. 96.

MR. HULL will please visit the Railway Stores Department and obtain a copy of a Return of comparative purchases during the past six months in Hobart and Launceston—which Return I myself inspected this morning; to obtain a similar Return for the year 1895; to examine a number of the quotation lists, some of which I have already inspected; and then generally report to me on the points required by the Hon. the Minister of Lands.

J. W. ISRAEL, *Auditor-General.*
15th July, 1896.

THIS Report of the Inspector of Stores is forwarded to the Hon. the Chief Secretary in reply to Memo. of the 15th instant. I personally paid a visit to the Railway Stores Department prior to receiving the Hon. the Chief Secretary's Memo., and, at random, selected several schedules with firms' quotations attached for years 1895 and 1893, and found that prices of goods were obtained indiscriminately from Launceston and Hobart where such goods were available from both places, and the lowest or best prices to Railway appeared to be invariably accepted. The competition is evidently fair. The Railway method has no doubt resulted in great economies, as the late Stores Board, of which I was a member, had ample experience of; and in my recent Report to Parliament I took occasion to commend the system of obtaining quotations for ordinary supplies, as this has been adopted by the Tender Board in connection with Supplies required for the Public Service with most satisfactory results.

J. W. ISRAEL, *Auditor-General.*
17th July, 1896.

Audit Department, 17th July, 1896.

SIR,

As instructed by you, I proceeded to the Railway Stores to deal with the matter referred to by you in attached letter.

I made a thorough examination of a number of Quotation Lists for the years 1894-5-6, specially selecting those which represented comparatively large quantities and values, and satisfied myself that in every case not only were the cheapest and most suitable articles selected, but that tradespeople in the North were afforded equal opportunity of tendering with those in the South. I also noted that in a large proportion of cases the prices quoted in the North were higher than those of the South; and this was specially so in the case of articles of general ironmongery.

In 1894 the value of Stores purchased in Hobart represented £2790, as against £3178 in Launceston.

In 1895 the cost of purchases in Hobart amounted to £2678, and in Launceston £1553,—the excess in favour of Hobart being due to the cheaper rates quoted.

In the six months ending 30th June, 1896, the value of Stores purchased in Hobart and Launceston was very close,—being £1753 in Hobart, and £1715 in Launceston.

I also received a Comparative Statement showing cost of Stores purchased by Main Line Company for the years 1887-8-9, as against purchases by Tasmanian Government Railways in 1891-2-3, as under:—

Tasmanian Main Line—	£	Tasmanian Government Railways—	£
Hobart purchases	9656	Hobart purchases	20,153
Launceston purchases	3488	Launceston purchases.....	28,266

I also saw a Comparative Statement, compiled in 1893, showing prices in detail of articles purchased by Tasmanian Main Line Railway and Tasmanian Government Railways. All through there was a marked reduction in the prices of the latter.

Attached are the Returns asked for.

In so far as obtaining Supplies for the Public Service is concerned, I can, as Secretary to Tender Board, and with twelve months' experience, speak with every confidence. Traders, assured that their prices are not made known, quote a lower price, and make greater concessions, than under the old system of invitation by public tender and subsequent publishing of results in Government *Gazette* and daily Press.

In conclusion, I can confidently report that the system of purchase of general Stores for Railway purposes is secured by fair competition, resulting in unmistakable economy.

I am, &c.

The Auditor-General.

HUGH HULL, *Inspector of Stores.*

Stores Department, 14th July, 1896.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER.

STATEMENT of Stores purchased in Hobart and Launceston, herewith. Period, January—June 30, 1896.

S. R. FISHER, *per S.H.*

This Return does not include the following:—Gas, water, fuel, insurance, cartage, freight.

STORES purchased in Hobart, January–June 30th, 1896.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
<i>Tasmanian News</i>	36	9	0	C. J. Jordan	25	6	5
J. Walch and Sons.....	61	7	5	L. N. Murdoch	15	3	9
Propsting & Robey.....	2	16	3	A. P. Miller	2	1	9
T. L. Hood	0	6	6	R. Miller & Co.	2	16	0
J. Pill	1	3	6	Bridges Bros.	9	12	0
C. E. Davies, <i>Mercury</i>	56	2	10	Kennedy & Sons.....	87	14	7
H. K. Fysh & Co.	126	9	3	H. Chesterman	67	16	3
Burgess Bros.	238	16	10	R. Lewis & Sons.....	4	12	6
A. G. Webster & Son.....	59	17	2	H. Clark & Co.	8	0	0
T. J. Cane & Co.	16	12	7		13	4	2
C. Davis	243	2	4	G. S. Crouch	0	5	9
J. and R. Duff	29	4	3		10	1	10
Risby Bros.	24	0	11	H. M. Gaol.....	34	3	4
G. and R. Dudley	8	8	0	B. Wignall	13	12	0
	13	14	0	L. Susman	0	4	0
	15	11	0	W. Walker	0	8	0
Crisp Bros.	62	2	8	T. A. Reynolds	32	6	6
Whitesides & Son	3	7	0	W. King	0	17	6
W. Henry & Co.....	0	2	0	W. G. Gibson	1	1	0
	1	9	3	A. J. Lumsden	1	1	0
S. H. Burrows.....	1	5	10	G. P. Fitzgerald & Co.	6	18	0
W. Golding.....	1	8	0	S. Beckett	1	17	0
	1	13	0	R. C. Patterson	3	16	6
G. Boyle	1	1	8	Ford & Harris.....	1	7	10
	1	3	4	Davidson & Brown.....	5	17	0
W. Hyatt.....	0	9	6	J. Warren	0	12	0
Jno. Baily & Co.....	81	9	2	D. & M. Ingles	0	11	0
M'Gregor Bros.	10	5	0	C. Quist	0	3	0
H. J. Marsh & Co.....	13	19	3	Forsyth & Sons	195	0	0
J. S. Scarr	15	14	0				
F. H. Crisp	25	5	1				
W. H. Cheverton	51	3	9				
				TOTAL.....	£1752	11	0

STORES purchased in Launceston, 1895.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
H. Button	20	7	10	Hatton & Laws	2	5	6
Salisbury's Foundry	2	9	0	A. J. Goodwin	9	9	1
Hinman & Wright	156	5	5	A. E. Evershed	27	7	8
C. Adams & Sons	164	5	2	E. L. Sampson	0	10	0
A. Evans	3	15	0	Dunning & Brown	42	9	9
J. C. Ferguson	10	11	10	Jas. Barclay	31	14	6
M. Allon	6	3	0	Jory & Campbell	13	18	8
F. Jackson	14	4	6	H. Stephenson			
— Haslam	1	17	10	Hopwood & Co.	4	9	8
F. & W. Stewart	1	7	0	J. T. Farmilo	6	2	8
J. & T. Gunn	67	16	5	W. Foster	5	13	3
T. J. Rattray	3	8	4	G. J. French	8	3	9
C. Nevey	1	0	6	Launceston Corporation	16	4	0
M. Hugh & Jackson	4	16	5	— Dempster	3	16	6
Launceston Gas Company	4	16	2	F. Hart	3	11	7
P. O. Fysh & Co.	5	12	4	J. C. Ferguson	7	3	1
W. H. Knight	6	17	6	P. Bulman	2	9	10
Peters & Son	182	9	1	F. Wilson	6	13	4
W. Genders	7	10	8	Marine Board	9	18	0
L. Tulloch & Co.	583	9	3				
— Arnold	17	8	6				
Jno. Campbell	46	19	8				
— Birchall	12	12	0				
				TOTAL	£1552	15	9

STORES purchased in Hobart, Year 1895.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
S. I. Gill	65	15	10	L. Susman	0	6	0
Propsting and Robey	21	17	5	T. J. Cane and Co.	292	16	8
J. Walch and Sons	88	5	4	R. Kennedy and Sons	2	0	0
C. E. Davies, <i>Mercury</i>	43	15	6	R. W. Stewart	0	19	0
Burgess Bros.	168	14	5	Hobart Gas Company	39	7	11
C. Davis	353	12	2	R. Miller and Co.	3	0	8
H. J. Marsh and Co.	13	2	11	F. Rowntree	0	10	0
W. H. Cheverton	41	9	10	Brownell Bros.	2	8	2
Crisp Bros.	102	12	5	A. G. Webster and Sons	41	11	3
G. Boyle	5	11	8	J. Forsyth	306	1	6
A. P. Miller	1	9	9	W. Ferguson	5	5	0
W. Hyatt	1	13	9	Bridges Bros.	10	8	0
S. H. Burrows	4	0	5	W. M. Williams	0	18	6
Davidson and Brown	98	10	3	A. J. Lumsden	0	9	0
W. Golding	1	17	6	W. G. Hadrill	0	14	6
J. Robb	0	14	0	W. G. Gibson	1	1	6
H. K. Fysh and Co.	206	1	1	J. Whitesides	3	12	10
T. L. Hood	0	16	6	J. and R. Duff	238	4	3
J. Baily	252	16	3	F. Bond	1	10	0
Risby Bros.	13	10	4	R. Lewis and Sons	3	14	0
C. J. Jordan	5	17	9	M. Gregor Bros.	1	17	6
S. Armstrong	1	14	0	H. Chesterman	19	15	3
A. Entwisle	0	16	6	G. S. Crouch	0	11	8
W. Walker	0	12	0	R. R. Rex	52	8	0
S. Beckett	1	12	9	J. S. Scarr	3	14	0
G. and R. Dudley	12	10	3	E. Ayton	0	7	0
H. Clark and Co.	29	7	0	Beattie Bros.	1	4	0
B. Wignall	28	0	0	Vout, Chisholm, and Co.	7	12	0
W. Henry and Co.	3	6	3	A. P. C. Ross	21	5	0
L. Murdoch	17	13	6	F. Pitman	0	10	0
J. Pill	5	1	4				
G. P. Fitzgerald and Co.	21	5	0	TOTAL	£2678	6	10