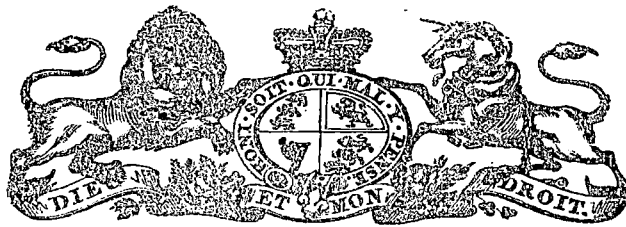


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1883.

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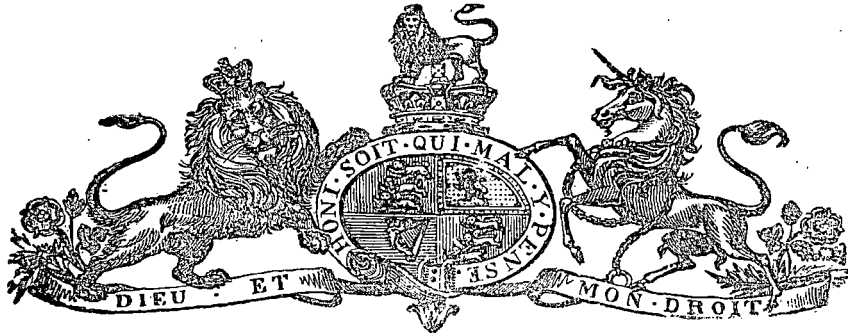
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**RURAL MUNICIPALITIES ACT—ALTERATION  
OF TIME OF ANNUAL ELECTION:**

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

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Laid upon the Table by the Attorney-General, and ordered by the House to be printed, August 14, 1883.



*Council Chambers, Bothwell, 9th January, 1883.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that, at a meeting of the Council held here on the 6th instant, I drew attention to the enclosed, which I clipped from the *Mercury* newspaper of 19th December last. The propriety of alteration in date of holding elections, &c. was unanimously approved of, and I was requested to bring the desirability of an alteration in our present Rural Municipalities Act being effected before you. The idea of the alteration suggested is by no means a new one. Many years since, when I formerly acted as Warden, I endeavoured to obtain from other Municipal Councils something like co-operation, but at that time failed, if I correctly remember, from an unwillingness on the part of many of the other Districts to undergo any unnecessary trouble, rather preferring to submit to what was an admitted hardship than exert themselves to provide a remedy. With the exception of the Warden, the Councillors give their services gratuitously; and, in the month of December, at great inconvenience, at a Council meeting held here on the 23rd December last, at which important business had to be transacted, a bare quorum was all we could command. In the event of the suggestion being carried into effect, I can see that provision must be made for carrying on all appointments, &c. from December next until the dates fixed for the new style coming into force, whether that date be April or June.

Hoping that this matter may meet with your concurrence,

I am, Sir,  
Your most obedient Servant,

A. M'DOWALL.

*The Hon. W. R. GIBLIN, Esq., Attorney-General.*

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*EXTRACT referred to by Mr. M'Dowall.*

HAMILTON.—Our correspondent writes on Saturday:—At a meeting of the Municipal Council held here to-day, Mr. King was unanimously re-elected Warden. The time of the year in which the Municipal Elections are held is, indeed, the busiest time of the year throughout the Colony of Tasmania, being the shearing time, every effort being made in the shearing sheds to get finished for the Xmas; consequently much interest is not taken in Municipal Elections. Could not our present Attorney-General remedy the inconvenience this is both to the Councillors and electors? It would be easy when the next Parliament meets to have the Municipalities Act amended, so as to have the Municipal Elections held in the month of April in every year, or, as the case may be, instead of December. Certainly to have them in April would, in every way, be more convenient than the time specified in the present Municipal Act. If the Attorney-General would only have this matter remedied, I believe that he would get the unanimous concurrence of the entire community throughout the Colony. In fact, it only wants some few persons from one or two of the Municipalities to move that gentleman in the matter, and I have no doubt that he would be only too glad to have the inconvenience remedied by amending the Act.

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*Attorney-General's Office, Hobart, 15th January, 1883.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, submitting the propriety of an alteration in the time for the election of Councillors of Rural Municipalities.

I will take an early opportunity of ascertaining the views of the Rural Municipal Councils upon this subject, and shall then be prepared to consider the desirability of submitting to Parliament the necessary legislation for effecting any changes which may appear generally desired.

I have, &c.

W. R. GIBLIN.

A. M'DOWALL, *Esq.*

Attorney-General's Office, Hobart, 18th January, 1883.

SIR,

My attention has been called to the desirability of altering the time for holding the Annual Election of Councillors of Rural Municipalities. It is represented to me that December is a very inconvenient month for holding such Elections, and that April or June would be more desirable.

I have the honor therefore to ask that you will inform me whether you deem it expedient to alter the time of holding the Annual Election, and if so, to what period of the year?

I have, &c.

W. R. GIBLIN.

The Worshipful the Warden,

Brighton.	Hamilton.
Campbell Town.	Longford.
Fingal.	New Norfolk.
Clarence.	Oatlands.
Deloraine.	Richmond.
Evandale.	Ross.
Glamorgan.	Sorell.
Glenorchy.	Spring Bay.
Green Ponds.	Westbury.

*EXTRACTS from Replies to foregoing Circular.*

*New Norfolk.*—So far as this District is concerned, I believe the present time for the Election to be as convenient as any other.

*Green Ponds.*—Inexpedient to alter the existing time of holding the Annual Elections, the month of December being a much more convenient season than either April or June.

*Campbell Town.*—This Municipal Council is of opinion that the time as now fixed by the Rural Municipalities Act is the most convenient time of the year.

*Fingal.*—I laid it before the Council at their meeting on the 7th instant, and they saw no sufficient cause for altering the time.

*Deloraine.*—The Council see no necessity for altering the law, the present time fixed for the Annual Election of Councillors being deemed most convenient for the ratepayers.

*Longford.*—The Longford Municipal Council see no necessity for any alteration.

*Hamilton.*—The month of April or May would be more suitable.

*Ross.*—The Council are unanimously of opinion that December is the most inconvenient month in the year, and think April, May, or June much to be preferred.

*Spring Bay.*—This Council are in favour of an alteration to an early period of the year,—such as March or April.

*Glamorgan.*—Think the month of April would be very suitable.

*Westbury.*—This Council considers April would be the most convenient month for holding such Annual Election.

*Glenorchy.*—The majority of the Council were in favour of holding such Election on the 20th January.

*Sorell.*—September would be the most convenient period of the year for the Annual Election to be held.

*Richmond.*—The month of September should be fixed upon as the most suitable month in the year.

*Oatlands.*—The month of October would be the most convenient month in this Municipality.