

(No. 105.)



1883.

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T A S M A N I A.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

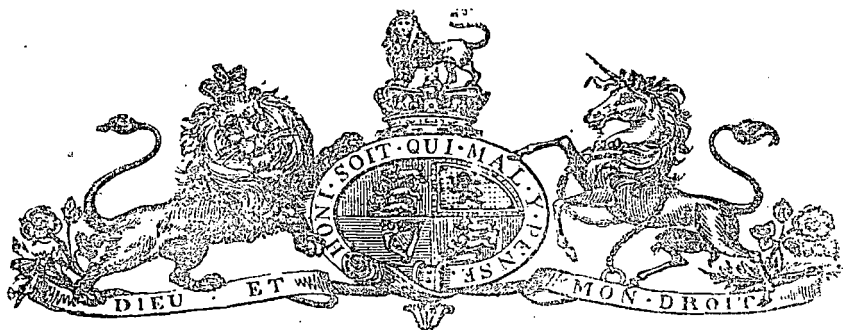
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INTERCOLONIAL POLICE:

CORRESPONDENCE.

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Laid upon the Table by the Premier; and ordered by the House to be printed,  
August 29, 1883.



*Office of Inspector of Police, 24th January, 1877.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to draw your attention to a question in which the discipline of the Police Department is involved.

Mr. Secretan, of the Victorian Detective Police, is in the habit of communicating directly with the Superintendents of Hobart Town and Launceston instead of with my office. Last month Mr. Secretan sent information to the Superintendent at Launceston to the effect that some suspected thieves were on board the s.s. *Argyle*, supposed to have certain stolen property in their possession. Mr. Superintendent Coulter then communicated with my subordinate officer at the port where the vessel was bound, without any reference to me; indeed, no information on the subject reached this office until the reports from out-stations were received at the end of the month.

The regulations bearing upon the point are contained in page 11 of the Manual, which sets forth that "his (*i.e.*, the Inspector's) office is the channel for the whole correspondence connected with the general Police Force of the Colony, and the diffusion of information and communication generally as regards crime and all matters of Police. To him all reports of crime committed in any part of the Colony, and all information connected with offences and those concerned in them, are sent; and by him communications to other colonies are made with a view to the detection of criminals."

The Colonial Secretary of the late Government had promised to communicate with the Chief Secretary of Victoria for the purpose of correcting the practice, but the matter was overlooked.

I have the honor therefore to request that you will be good enough to take such steps as you may deem sufficient to check a proceeding so inconvenient and subversive of Police discipline.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

*Tasmania.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 29th January, 1877.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to request that you will cause the officers of the Police Department in your Colony to be instructed to address all communications on matters connected with Police business to the Inspector of Police, Hobart Town, instead of addressing the Superintendents of Police in Hobart Town or Launceston direct.

On a recent occasion information was sent to the Superintendent at Launceston to the effect that some suspected thieves were on board the steamship *Argyle*, supposed to have certain stolen property in their possession. This information was acted upon by the Superintendent, but he failed to acquaint the Inspector of the circumstances, and it was not till the end of the month that the Inspector became aware of the presence of these suspected thieves in the Colony.

It is in order to prevent the continuance of a course which interferes with the necessary discipline of the Department that I am induced to make the present request.

I have, &c.

THOS. REIBEY.

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Victoria.*

*Victoria.*  
*Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 28th February, 1877.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th January (No. 1007) requesting that officers of the Police Department in this Colony may be instructed to address all communications on matters connected with Police business to the Inspector of Police, Hobart Town, instead of addressing the Superintendents of Police in Hobart Town or Launceston direct, and to inform you that instructions have been given accordingly.

I have, &c.

JOHN S. MACPHERSON.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.*

FORWARDED for the information of the Inspector of Police. To be returned.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.  
 6th March, 1877.

NOTED and returned.

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*  
 8th March, 1877.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 8th March, 1878.*

MEMO.

The Colonial Secretary has the honor to request that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to communicate with Commodore Hoskins, asking him to instruct the Officers in command of Her Majesty's vessels to communicate directly with the Inspector of Police in the event of any desertions taking place in Tasmanian waters, as that officer, and not the Superintendent of the Municipal Police, is the authorised channel of communication in matters of this nature.

WM. MOORE.

*His Excellency the Governor.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 15th January, 1880.*

MEMO.

THE Colonial Secretary has the honor to request that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to communicate with Commodore Wilson, asking him to instruct the Officers in command of Her Majesty's vessels to communicate directly with the Inspector of Police in the event of any desertions taking place in Tasmanian waters, as that officer, and not the Superintendent of the Municipal Police, is the authorised channel of communication in matters of this nature.

WM. MOORE.

*His Excellency the Governor.*

*Wolverene, at Hobart Town, 20th January, 1880.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of 17th instant, requesting that communications respecting deserters from Her Majesty's ships may be made directly with the Inspector of Police and not with the Superintendent of Municipal Police, and beg to acquaint you that the Commanding Officers of Her Majesty's ships have been instructed accordingly.

I have, &c.

J. C. WILSON, *Commodore.*

*His Excellency* FRED. A. WELD, *Esq., C.M.G., &c.*  
*Governor of Tasmania.*

FORWARDED for the information of the Inspector of Police. To be returned.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.  
 28th January, 1880.

NOTED and returned.

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*  
 30th January, 1880.

*Office of Inspector of Police, 17th January, 1880.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to call your attention to my letter of 24th January, 1877, and the reply thereto.

I also forward copy of a letter addressed by me to the Chief Commissioner of Police, Victoria.

I regret to say that it is still the practice to forward reports from the Melbourne Detective Office direct to Municipal Superintendents, instead of to this office.

The enclosed report was sent to Mr. Superintendent Pedder and not to me, its existence being discovered in the course of conversation between Mr. Pedder and Mr. Quodling.

Great inconvenience may some day arise if this irregular procedure is persevered in.

I have, &c.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*

*Office of Inspector of Police, Hobart Town, 22nd February, 1878.*

SIR,

A COMMUNICATION relating to the offender named in the margin was forwarded to this Office by A. F. G. the Superintendent of the Hobart Town Municipal Police.

The letter was addressed to that officer instead of the Inspector of Police.

I beg to point out that these mistakes may cause some loss of time, and are not in accordance with the arrangements indicated in a letter from the Chief Secretary, Victoria, to the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania, dated 28th February, 1877. Inquiries for the offender will be instituted.

I have, &c.

*To the Chief Commissioner of Police, Melbourne.*

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*

*Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 4th February, 1880.*

SIR,

THE Inspector of Police has brought under my notice that it is still the practice to forward reports from the Melbourne Detective Office direct to Municipal Superintendents of Police instead of to his office.

The enclosed copy of report was sent to Mr. Superintendent Pedder, of the Hobart Town Municipal Police, and its existence was only discovered accidentally by the Inspector through a conversation between that Officer and Mr. Chief District Constable Quodling.

I would desire to call your attention to previous correspondence on this subject (copy enclosed), and I shall esteem it a favour if you will issue the necessary instructions to ensure all police communications being addressed to the Inspector of Police.

I have, &c.

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Victoria.*

WM. MOORE.

*Office of Inspector of Police, 18th December, 1880.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward *Crime Report* of 23rd May, 1879, containing, on first page, the announcement of a robbery committed in Launceston, with a description of property; also, telegraph message received at this Office from Melbourne, dated 14th December, 1880, with copy of a message from this Office to the Superintendent of Police, Launceston, also dated 14th December, 1880. To this message no reply was sent. On the 16th instant message of that date, copy enclosed, was sent, to enable me to reply to the Acting Chief Commissioner, Victoria. The message of the 16th December, signed "Jas. Coulter," was the answer.

I beg to refer to my letter of the 24th January, 1877, addressed to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, and to the action taken by the Executive at that time.

If the assertion of the complete independence of Government control in conducting Police business outside the Colony can be maintained by Launceston, then it can be claimed on equally good grounds by every other Municipality.

I have the honor to request instruction as to the manner in which I am to treat the pretension to which I have drawn attention, and to say that, if unchecked, it must lead to the paralysis of concerted police action.

Through the discourtesy of the Launceston Superintendent, to use no stronger term, I am prevented from replying to the message of the Acting Chief Commissioner of Victoria, as well as from carrying out the Police Regulations sanctioned by the Governor in Council in accordance with the law.

I have, &c. JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*  
*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

TELEGRAM.

*Melbourne, 14th December, 1880.*

URGENT—*Re* Golding's robbery, Launceston. J—N——— arrested here, and gold hunting lever compensation balance watch, S. and F. L. Bearer, London, 2477, and three others; also lockets, rings recovered. Send complainant with warrant and certified copy of depositions here immediately. Offender remanded until sixteenth.

FRED. SECRETAN, *Inspector in charge.*  
*Inspector SWAN, Hobart.*

TELEGRAM.

*Re* Golding's robbery. J—N——— arrested in Melbourne, and gold hunting lever compensation balance watch, S. F. L. Bearer, London, No. 2477, and three others; also lockets, rings recovered. Please obtain warrant, depositions, and certified copy of charge, and arrange with complainant to proceed to Melbourne with warrant, &c., if possible, on Thursday next, and communicate to this office.

F. J. P. NORMAN, *for Inspector of Police.*  
*The Superintendent of Police, Launceston.* *14th December, 1880.*

TELEGRAM.

WHEN can Mr. Golding proceed to Melbourne? Are depositions and warrant prepared?

JOHN SWAN.  
*Superintendent of Police, Launceston.* *16th December, 1880.*

TELEGRAM.

*Launceston, 16th December.*

*Re* Golding's robbery. All that is necessary has been done: reported to and approved by the head of my Department.

JAS. COULTER.  
*Inspector of Police.*

*Town Hall, Launceston, Tasmania, 20th December, 1880.*

SIR,  
 HEREWITH I have the honor to forward copies of a letter addressed to me by the Superintendent of the Launceston Municipal Police and telegrams that have passed between that office and the office of Inspector of Police. On reference to the records in the Mayor's Office it appears that the late Colonial Secretary (Mr. Reibey) for some cause interfered in the mode previously adopted by which communications from the police in other Colonies came direct to the police here. As the subject is again mooted, will you be pleased to inquire the grounds of such alteration, and inform me by what legal authority Mr. Swan becomes the medium of communication, as it is shown time is lost by the roundabout way of doing business, and injury may arise from want of due dispatch in matters of arrest and otherwise.

I have, &c. ADYE DOUGLAS, *Mayor.*  
*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart.*

(Copy.)

*Office of Superintendent of Police, Launceston, 17th December, 1880.*

SIR,  
 HEREWITH I have the honor to forward copies of telegrams from the office of Inspector of Police to me, and one from me in return. It will be seen from the date of the first it was not forwarded until some hours after Melbourne newspapers arrived here with account of remand of accused. Private intelligence of the arrest and recovery of the stolen property reached here three days before this telegram to me came to hand. The official communication from Melbourne, or a copy of it, has not been sent me. In communication from me to Mayor, dated 8th October, 1877, is described the mode in which Mr. Swan succeeded in intercepting the official communications from Victoria police which should come to me.

I have, &c. JAMES COULTER, *Superintendent of Police.*  
*To the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Launceston.*

## COPY OF TELEGRAMS.

*From Hobart Town, 4.10 P.M., 14th December, 1880.*

Re Golding's robbery. J—N ——— arrested in Melbourne, and gold hunting lever compensation balance watch, S. F. L. Bearer, London, No. 2477, and three others; also lockets, rings recovered. Please obtain warrant, depositions, and certified copy of charge, and arrange with complainant to proceed to Melbourne with warrant, &c. if possible on Thursday next, and communicate with this office.

F. J. P. NORMAN, *for Inspector.*

*To the Superintendent of Police, Launceston.*

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*From Hobart Town, 16th December, 1880.*

WHEN can Mr. Golding proceed to Melbourne? Are depositions and warrant prepared?

JOHN SWAN.

*To Superintendent of Police, Launceston.*

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*From Launceston, 16th December, 1880.*

ALL that is necessary has been done: reported to and approved of by the head of my Department.

JAMES COULTER, *Superintendent of Police.*

*To Inspector of Police, Hobart Town.*

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 24th December, 1880.*

## MEMO.

By Section 6 of the Act 29 Victoria, No. 9, it is enacted that rules for the government, &c. "of all constables throughout the Colony shall be from time to time made by the Inspector of Police," and it is declared that "all such rules shall be binding on all persons whom they may concern."

By the Regulations duly made under the Act 29 Victoria, No. 9, it is provided, at page 11, that the office of Inspector of Police "is the channel for the whole correspondence connected with the General Police Force of the Colony, and the diffusion of information and communication generally as regards crime and all matters of police. To him all reports of crime committed in any part of the Colony, and all information connected with offences and those concerned in them, are sent; and by him communications to other Colonies are made with a view to the detection of criminals."

The Superintendent of Police at Launceston having declined to furnish the Inspector of Police with such information and documents as he required for the purpose of communication with another Colony in respect of the arrest and extradition of an offender who had escaped thither, the joint opinion of the Law Officers is requested as to whether the Superintendent was justified in the course taken by him in this matter, as disclosed in the correspondence forwarded herewith, and generally as to the powers vested in the Inspector of Police, and in the Mayors of Corporations and Wardens of Municipalities, in respect of the conduct of police business in Municipalities.

J. W. AGNEW, *for Colonial Secretary, absent.*

*The Law Officers of the Crown.*

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THE Regulations seem to have been made in accordance with the provisions of Sect. 6 of 29 Vict. No. 9, and are consequently binding, and the passage quoted indicates the practice to be adopted in such a case as the present; but the Superintendent of the Launceston Municipal Police Force does not appear to have followed such practice.

J. S. DODDS.  
ROB. P. ADAMS.  
20th January, 1881.

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*Town Hall, Launceston, Tasmania, 5th January, 1881.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to remind you that my letter of the 20th ultimo, referring to the action of the "Inspector of Police" in connection with the "Launceston Municipal Police" still remains unanswered.

I have, &c.

ADYE DOUGLAS, *Mayor.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart.*

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*Town Hall, Launceston, Tasmania, 12th January, 1881.*

SIR,

*Re Golding's Burglary.*

It has been reported in the newspapers that more of Golding's stolen property has been discovered in Melbourne, and I have been informed that the fact of the discovery was known to the Inspector of Police.

The Superintendent of the Launceston Municipal Police asserts that he has received no official communication from the Inspector on this subject.

I have the honor to ask you to ascertain from Mr. Swan whether I have been rightly informed as to his knowledge of the discovery of the stolen property, and also if he has communicated thereon to the Superintendent of the Launceston Municipal Police, and, if not, his reasons for so acting?

I have, &c.

ADYE DOUGLAS, *Mayor.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart.*

REFERRED to the Inspector of Police for his observations.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.

*13th January, 1881.*

THE report of the discovery of more of Golding's property in Melbourne is true. It was known to me, and the property is now in my possession. I await reply to my communication of date 18th December last, to know how I am to deal with the pretensions of Launceston police.

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*  
*15th January, 1881.*

THE correspondence on this subject was forwarded to the Solicitor-General on the 24th ultimo for the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown, which is urgently required.

J. W. AGNEW, *for the Colonial Secretary, absent.*

*17th January, 1881.*

*The Solicitor-General.*

TELEGRAM.

*Launceston, 17th January, 1881.*

I AM surprised that my letters of the 20th ultimo, and the 5th and 12th instant, should still remain unanswered.

A. DOUGLAS, *Mayor.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

*Town Hall, Launceston, Tasmania, 20th January, 1881.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to draw your attention to the fact that my communications to you of the 20th ultimo, and 5th, 12th, and 17th instant have not been acknowledged.

I have, &c.

ADYE DOUGLAS, *Mayor.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart, 21st January, 1881.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communications of the 20th ultimo, and 5th, 12th, and 17th instant, and now forward for your information copy of the Opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown with respect to the Regulations made by the Inspector of Police under the provisions of the 6th Section of the Act, 29 Victoria, No. 9.

I regret that it has not been in my power to reply at an earlier date, but the Opinion now forwarded is clear upon the main point in question, and I trust that the Regulations, which have the force of law, will be taken as a guide for the action of the Superintendent of the Launceston Police without further question.

I have, &c.

J. W. AGNEW, for Colonial Secretary, absent.

*The Worshipful the Mayor, Launceston.*

(Copy.)

THE Regulations seem to have been made in accordance with the provisions of Section 6 of 29 Victoria, No. 9, and are consequently binding, and the passage quoted indicates the practice to be adopted in such a case as the present; but the Superintendent of the Launceston Municipal Police Force does not appear to have followed such practice.

J. S. DODDS.  
ROB. P. ADAMS.  
20th January, 1881.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart, 25th January, 1881.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th December last, forwarding the *Crime Report* of 23rd May, 1879, giving publicity to the commission of a robbery in Launceston, together with certain telegrams having reference to the crime, including one from Mr. Coulter, the Superintendent of the Launceston Municipal Police, which practically asserts entire independence on his part in the conduct of police business outside the Colony.

You request instructions as to the manner in which you are to treat the pretensions on the part of Mr. Superintendent Coulter to which you call attention.

In reply I have to inform you that the Law Officers of the Crown state, as their opinion, that the Regulations for the Government of the Force appear to have been made in accordance with Section 6 of 29 Victoria, No. 9, and are consequently binding, and at page 11 of the Regulations the following passage occurs:—"The Inspector of Police is the channel for the whole correspondence connected with the general Police Force of the Colony, and the diffusion of information and communication generally as regards crime and all matters of Police. To him all reports of crime committed in any part of the Colony, and all information connected with offences and those concerned in them, are sent; and by him communications to other Colonies are made with a view to the detection of criminals."

The course adopted by the Superintendent of the Launceston Municipal Police is contrary to the foregoing Regulation, and in a letter to the Worshipful the Mayor of Launceston upon the same subject, I have communicated the Opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown, and expressed a hope that "the Regulations, which have the force of law, will be taken as a guide for the action of the Superintendent of the Launceston Police without further question."

I have, &c.

J. W. AGNEW, for Colonial Secretary, absent.

JOHN SWAN, Esquire, Inspector of Police.

*Town Hall, Launceston, Tasmania, 27th January, 1881.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, enclosing a copy of the Opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown with respect to the Regulations made by the Inspector of Police under the provisions of the 6th Section of the Act 29 Victoria, No. 9, and, in reply thereto, have to state that I differ from the opinion arrived at by those gentlemen, and think they could not have had before them the views of the Municipal Council of Launceston on the subject as expressed in the correspondence that has passed between the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, the Inspector of Police, and this Corporation, or else they would have arrived at a different conclusion.

I may remark that the question at issue is not one merely affecting the Superintendent of the Launceston Police and Mr. Inspector Swan—it affects the lawful authority of the Municipal Council in relation to their Police.

Rules and regulations have the force of law when in conformity with the law under which they are framed, but when not in conformity they are null and void.

If the Regulation quoted applied to the Launceston Police, it would not be in accordance with the law, for, by 29 Victoria, No. 9, Section 2, the Municipal Council has the "charge and control" of the Police Force of the Municipality, and this cannot be transferred by any regulation.

The Council has the absolute right to appoint—see Sections 17 to 24. The Inspector of Police is not by the Act given any "charge or control," but is given, by Section 16, power in non-municipal districts to appoint subject to the approval of the Governor. His authority in relation to the Police is of a subordinate character to the Council's. He is appointed to make rules under certain restrictions, but these rules are to be administered by the governing bodies lawfully appointed. If you will read page 10 of the Manual you will find the position of the Inspector clearly defined.

In conclusion, I have to say that the Municipal Council will not submit to the interference of the Inspector of Police, unless ordered to do so by the Supreme Court.

I have, &c.

ADYE DOUGLAS, *Mayor*.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart.*

FORWARDED to the Law Officers of the Crown with previous papers, and with the request that they will inform the Colonial Secretary whether after perusing the letter of the Mayor of Launceston of the 27th instant, they see any reason to qualify the Opinion given by them on the 20th instant.

J. W. AGNEW, *for the Colonial Secretary, absent.*  
31st January, 1881.

*The Solicitor-General.*

WE see no reason to alter our former opinion.

ROB. P. ADAMS.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

J. S. DODDS.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart, 31st March, 1881.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th instant, enclosing copies of the correspondence, and the Report of the Police Committee, in reference to the existing official relations between the Inspector of Police and the Municipal Council of Launceston in connection with the conduct of Police business, and to assure you that the important subjects referred to in your communication will receive the early and careful consideration of the Government.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

*The Worshipful the Mayor of Launceston.*

*Town Hall, Launceston, Tasmania, 23rd May, 1881.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to draw your attention to the annexed extract from the *Crime Report* of the 20th instant, and to inform you the Superintendent of Police here has up to this time received no communication upon the subject. As through you the Inspector of Police should act, will you please inform me if his action in this case has been by your instructions, and is it to be understood for the future the Police in Launceston is to be ignored in these matters?

I have, &c.

ADYE DOUGLAS, *Mayor*.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart.*

FORWARDED to the Inspector of Police for his remarks.

WM. MOORE.  
25th May, 1881.

THE matter here referred to was reported to me from Melbourne on Friday, 20th instant, just in time for insertion in the *Crime Report*. The Launceston Police received it the next morning. I took other steps immediately to endeavour to discover the whereabouts of the woman, but did not correspond with the Launceston Municipal Police excepting through the medium of the *Crime Report*.

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*  
28th May, 1881.

*Town Hall, Launceston, Tasmania, 12th May, 1882.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to draw your attention to the correspondence of which I enclose a copy. The Municipal Council desires me to ask you to be so good as to rescind (so far as this Municipality is concerned) the request made by the late Colonial Secretary (Mr. Reibey) to the Governments of the neighbouring Colonies that in matters connected with the Police all communications be addressed to the Inspector at Hobart, and not to any of the Superintendents.

The needless delay and injury to the Public Service arising from the present system are very great, and I venture to express the opinion that it should be at once discontinued.

I have, &c.

ALFRED HARRAP, *Acting Mayor.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart.*

*"Launceston, 8th May.*

*"To the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Launceston.*

SIR,

"I HAVE the honour to forward annexed correspondence this day received through the Inspector of Police seven days too late. It was entered into with a view to obtain necessary information to place before the Justices at the licensing meeting held on the 1st instant. Had the correspondence been forwarded me direct it would have been received before the meeting, and the Chairman would not have had to express surprise at the extraordinary want of promptness or want of courtesy on the part of the Victorian police. I beg specially to draw attention to the Inspector's communication hereon, and in connection therewith to refer to the Police Committee's report of 7th March, 1881.

"I have, &c.

"JAMES COULTER, *Superintendent of Police.*"

*Office of Superintendent of Police, Launceston, 14th April.*

"SIR,—A man named J— C— is an applicant for a public-house licence in this town. He is a stranger here, but states he is known to Sergeant O'Heare and various gentlemen in Geelong. I request you will have the goodness to inform me if he bore a good character, and in the opinion of the police is a fit person to receive a public-house licence.—I have the honour, &c., JAMES COULTER.—To the Chief Officer of the Police District of Geelong."

Report of Sergeant O'Heare.—"April 22, 1882.—I beg to report that I have known the applicant for many years. I know nothing detrimental to his character. I have pleasure in stating that he is a sober, steady, and respectable man, and in my opinion is well adapted to manage a public-house.—M. O'HEARE, Sergeant.—The Superintendent of Police, Geelong."

The report bore the following Memo. :—"The attached letter being received from the police of the neighbouring Colony is forwarded to the Chief Commissioner of Police, who will kindly reply thereto. The report contains information to enable him to do so.—Superintendent of Police. 24 | 4 | 82."

"April 27.—Forwarded for the information of Inspector of Police, Hobart.—H. M. CHOMLEY, Chief Commissioner of Police."

"Hobart, 6th May.—Forwarded to Mr. Superintendent Coulter, who should have sought for the information required through this office.—JOHN SWAN, Inspector of Police."

*Town Hall, Launceston, Tasmania, 7th August, 1883.*

SIR,

I ENCLOSE a copy of a letter from the Superintendent of the Launceston Police, received yesterday, and considered by the Municipal Council, and I have the honor to ask you under what authority Mr. Superintendent Propsting acted as therein stated?

I also desire to know if the Government approve of such proceedings, and, if not, why steps have not been taken to prevent them, as similar complaints have before been made?

I have, &c.

*The Hon. Chief Secretary, Hobart.*

ALFRED HARRAP, *Mayor.*

REFERRED to the Inspector of Police for his remarks.

WM. MOORE.

8th August, 1883.

*Office of Superintendent of Police, Launceston, 6th August, 1883.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report for your information that Mr. James Propsting, Superintendent of the District of Selby, obtained on the 4th instant a warrant for an offender from Victoria, and proceeded to the wharf, Launceston, with two of his constables; there arrested offender, entered his name on Selby charge sheet, and obtained a remand for him, without communicating with me or any of my constables, two of whom were on duty on the wharf at the time.

Mr. Propsting has had often enough pointed out to him that the Municipal Council of Launceston is the head of the Police in this Town, and that he (Propsting) has no authority here beyond that which every petty constable possesses, and in the discharge of duty within the Town is subject to the officers appointed by the Council.

There have been several interferences of this kind since 1876, which I have from time to time brought under the notice of the Municipal Council. I beg to refer to my letter of 30th December, 1876, and the correspondence consequent thereon; also to letters of 17th September, 1877, 8th October, 1877, and 17th December, 1880. It will be seen from these that those interferences are matters affecting the lawful authority of the Municipal Council; that Mr. Swan has been the authority under which Mr. Propsting has obtruded himself into the duties of this District; that he (Mr. Swan) assumes to possess a controlling power over the Council; and that the Council's complaints of his interference and encroachments have been neglected.

In the present case I request the Council may authorise me to take legal action against all the constables concerned. The case may have to go the Supreme Court, and the scandal arising from such proceedings will be likely to prevent occasion for them again occurring.

I have also to bring under notice that the Superintendent of Selby has his office in Launceston instead of at the head quarters of his own District; that one of his stations is established within the Town of Launceston, and one or more of his constables, as waiting orderlies, are daily about the Launceston Police Station. I request, therefore, the Council will insist on removal of office and station to the District to which they belong.

I have, &c.

JAMES COULTER, *Superintendent.*

ALFRED HARRAP, *Esq., Mayor of Launceston.*

TELEGRAM.

*Launceston, 21st September, 1883.*

A MONTH has elapsed since telegraphed you, asking when might expect answer my letter *re* interference by Selby with Launceston Police, and I have not yet been favoured.

*Chief Secretary.*

ALFRED HARRAP, *Mayor.*

TELEGRAM in question forwarded to Premier 23rd August.

WITH reference to the arrest of an offender on the Launceston Wharf on the 4th August, I have the honor to state that Superintendent Propsting acted under my instruction. I received notice that a warrant was issued for a man in Victoria. I ascertained that he was in Launceston, likely to leave any moment. Telegraphed to Victoria enquiring should I cause arrest. I received affirmative reply, and ordered Mr. Propsting to arrest. I had no warrant. Did not know where the man might be when arrested, but supposed and expected him to be in Launceston.

I beg to state that my right to use the Territorial Police whenever I believe the ends of justice will be more promptly and efficiently carried out by my doing so, has always been recognised by the Executive Government, and I have been instructed so to employ them.

There is a letter addressed by the Superintendent of Police, Launceston, to the Mayor of Launceston, attached to the letter from the Mayor to the Hon. the Chief Secretary. I do not know whether I was required to remark on the statements therein, or not.

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*  
*21st September, 1883.*

*Office of Inspector of Police, 24th October, 1883.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to bring under your notice an act of grossly improper conduct on the part of the Superintendent of the Hobart Municipal Police.

I enclose an official letter written by the Superintendent, Hobart, to the Superintendent, Ringarooma, relating to an alleged offence committed at Ringarooma, with which the Superintendent of Hobart could have no official concern.

The Superintendent must be aware that the Regulations prescribe that my office is "the channel for the whole correspondence connected with the general Police Force of the Colony, and the diffusion of information and communication generally as regards crime, and all matters of police"—*vide* Regulations, page 11. Any request the Superintendent has to make to any of my subordinate officers should be made through me.

I call attention to this as an act of assumption and insubordination.

There is, however, another and still more serious aspect to the communication of the Superintendent of Hobart. It appears that he considered a criminal offence had been committed, the obtaining of money by false pretences, and then sought through the instrumentality of the Superintendent of Ringarooma to compel restitution by threat of criminal procedure.

Fortunately the Superintendent of Ringarooma had a more accurate sense of official propriety than the Superintendent of Hobart, and was not betrayed into making an unwarrantable use of his position.

I trust that the Government may see fit to take some measures to prevent the recurrence of such serious irregularity.

I have, &c.

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*

*Gladstone, 13th October, 1883.*

SIR, I BEG leave to forward to you a letter I received from Mr. Superintendent Pedder, and to state that I have not taken any action in the matter, nor do I feel inclined to take the action requested by Superintendent Pedder, unless instructed by you to do so.

I have, &c.

D. NORMOYLE, *Superintendent of Police.*

*Office of Superintendent Police, Hobart, 9th October, 1883.*

MY DEAR SIR,

MR. D— W—, of this City, informs me that on the 26th day of September last he purchased from a Mr. J— K—, at Branhholm, 300 shares in the Mount Victoria Gold Company, for £30. It now appears that Mr. K— had no shares to dispose of, and signed and handed to Mr. W— the transfer of shares he never possessed, thereby obtaining money by false pretences. Will you kindly see K— and inform him that Mr. W— will prosecute him unless he gives him some satisfaction immediately.

*The Superintendent of Police, Ringarooma.*

Yours truly,

F. PEDDER.

*Office of Inspector of Police, 29th October, 1883.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to draw attention to a case in which the law has been broken and the Police Regulations wilfully set aside by the Hobart Municipal Police.

On the 20th October the enclosed warrant, marked 1, was received at my office. Telegram was immediately sent to Melbourne, and on that warrant the offender was arrested. Notice of arrest, with request for warrant and depositions, was received by me on the 22nd. Memo., marked 4, was sent to Superintendent, Hobart Police, with officer to get depositions. A verbal answer was returned that the Superintendent would see about it. Receiving no further communication, I sent the enclosure, marked 5, on the 25th. At 3.40 on the 26th I received the improperly addressed memo., marked 6, by which it would appear that the Mayor of Hobart had directed the proceedings.

There can be no misunderstanding on the point as to the Mayor having any authority to despatch the Police Magistrate's warrant out of the Colony, or to interfere in any way with questions of escort, which must necessarily go outside the bounds of his limited authority, which is confined to the city.

29 Victoria, No. 9, Sect. 32, empowers the Inspector of Police to make rules for the escort and transmission of prisoners by the police of any municipality. The Hobart Municipal Police have nothing to do with any escort duty at a greater distance than New Town or Kangaroo Point.

The pretension to usurp the function of the Executive Government in dealing with extra-colonial police questions has been advanced on former occasions, and in 1877 the Governments of the other Australian Colonies were addressed upon the subject by the Tasmanian Government.

In the present case there is not the colour of a pretence that the course of justice could be beneficially effected by the wanton interference with the legally constituted channel of Police communication.

In asking that the Executive may be pleased to take such steps as may enable me to carry out effectively those duties which the law imposes upon me, I beg most respectfully to refer to my letter of 24th January, 1877, and the Memo. of the Hon. the Chief Secretary of 29th January, 1877, and the Chief Secretary, Victoria, of 28th February, 1877.

I have, &c.  
*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.* JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*

(1.)  
 POLICE OFFICE, HOBART.

TASMANIA }  
 TO WIT. }

*To the Superintendent of Police, and to all Constables in the Colony of Tasmania.*

WHEREAS C—— B—— has this day been charged upon oath before me, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for this Colony, for that he, on the third day of September, 1883, at Hobart aforesaid, did obtain, by means of a valueless cheque, the sum of two pounds from J—— B——, with intent then and there to defraud.

These are therefore to command you, in Her Majesty's name, forthwith to apprehend the said C—— B——, and to bring him before me, or some other of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for this Colony, to answer to the said charge, and to be further dealt with according to law.

Given under my hand this twentieth day of October, 1883, at Hobart, in the Colony aforesaid.

G. A. KEMP, *J.P.*

TELEGRAM.

*Hobart, 20th October, 1883.*

WARRANT issued this day by Hobart Bench. Arrest C—— B——. Obtaining two pounds by valueless cheque, intent to defraud J—— B——.

F. J. P. NORMAN, *for Inspector of Police.*

*The Chief Commissioner of Police, Melbourne.*

TELEGRAM.

*Melbourne, 22nd October, 1883.*

C—— B—— arrested, and remanded to-day for week. Please send warrant, &c.

H. R. CHOMLEY, *C. C. Police.*

*Inspector of Police, Hobart.*

(4.)

*Office of Inspector of Police, Hobart, 23rd October, 1883.*

MEMO. for Mr. Superintendent PEDDER.

C—— B——, for whose arrest a warrant was issued on the 20th instant, has been arrested in Victoria.

Will Mr. Superintendent Pedder be good enough to furnish Sub-Inspector Hopkins with certified copies of the charge, warrant, and depositions, in order that he may proceed to Melbourne to-morrow?

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*

(5.)

*Office of Inspector of Police, 25th October, 1884.*

MEMO.

THE Inspector of Police has to draw Mr. Superintendent Pedder's attention to his Memo. of the 23rd instant re C—— B——, and to request an immediate reply.

JOHN SWAN.

*Mr. Superintendent PEDDER, Hobart.*

(6.)

*Office of Superintendent of Police, Hobart, 26th October, 1883.*

MEMO. for Mr. Inspector SWAN.—*In re* C—— B——.

THE Memo. of the Inspector of Police, herein dated 23rd instant, was referred to His Worship the Mayor, and by his instructions Sub-Inspector Kemp was sent to Melbourne to bring C—— B—— back to Tasmania.

F. PEDDER, *Superintendent of Police.*

TELEGRAM.

*Melbourne, 27th October, 1883.*

Your letter of 25th received. Sub-Inspector Kemp has arrived with a warrant, &c. for B——. Am I to understand that you object to that warrant being acted upon? Please reply by telegraph fully and at once. Remand expires on Monday next. B—— was arrested on a telegram of 20th instant, signed by Mr. Norman for Inspector of Police, Hobart.

*Inspector SWAN, Hobart.*

H. M. CHOMLEY, *C. C. Police.*

*Town Hall, 19th April, 1881.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor of forwarding herewith copy of a letter from the Superintendent of the City Police to the Municipal Council of this City, with an appendix thereto attached, directing attention to the existence of an Order from the Government of this Colony to the Chief Secretary of Victoria, whereby all communications on Police business must be made exclusively through the Inspector of Police, Hobart. Attention is also directed to the occasions on which the Superintendent of Police has experienced inconvenience in consequence of the existing Order.

The Superintendent's letter was considered by the City Council at its last meeting, when it was unanimously agreed that I should communicate with you, urgently requesting that the existing Order be immediately cancelled, the Council being of opinion that, as the City Police are responsible for the prosecution of all offences committed within the limits of their jurisdiction, no obstacle should be allowed to exist to obstruct the speedy and effectual discharge of their duties.

Trusting that you will at the earliest opportunity take this matter into your earnest consideration, and that the Order referred to will be cancelled forthwith,

I have, &c.

JAMES HARCOURT, *Mayor.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

(Copy.)

*Office of Superintendent Police, Hobart, 25th March, 1881.*

SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honor to bring under your notice the existence of an Order from the Government of this Colony to the Chief Secretary of Victoria, whereby all communications on matters connected with Police business should be addressed to the Inspector of Police, Hobart, and not to any of the Superintendents of Tasmania.

It is obvious, that when the Municipal Police require to forward telegrams, and enter into such correspondence with the Victorian Police as may be deemed necessary, the power and authority to do so should be vested in the Mayor of the City, who is the responsible and legally constituted head of the Force.

It not unfrequently happens that circumstances arise where information is required from and to be forwarded to the Police authorities of the adjoining Colonies of an urgent, important, and confidential character, and to delegate and entrust to any other person or body the power and responsibility of forwarding correspondence and obtaining information is undesirable, has a tendency to cause delay, and probably defeat the end sought to be attained.

I most respectfully request that you will be pleased to take such action as may be considered necessary to have the Order referred to modified.

I have, &c.

F. PEDDER, *Superintendent Police.*

*The Right Worshipful the Mayor and  
Aldermen of the City of Hobart.*

*APPENDIX setting forth the occasions upon which I have experienced inconvenience in consequence of the existing Order.*

DURING the month of June last past I forwarded through the Inspector of Police a telegram to the Police of Victoria, intimating that a warrant had been issued here for the arrest of one K—, on a charge of embezzlement. K— was arrested in Victoria by the police there, and information thereof forwarded to the Inspector of Police in Tasmania. No intimation of this was made to me from the Inspector's Office. I was left to make enquiry myself.

In the month of December last telegrams were also forwarded through the same channel for the arrest of one M— who had gone to Victoria, and who was subsequently arrested there. I was kept in ignorance of M—'s escort back to Tasmania until the day of his arrival in Hobart.

In the month of March of the present year it was necessary that I should forward a telegram to the Victorian Police for information in reference to E. H. B—. I accordingly forwarded a copy telegram to Mr. Quodling, at the Inspector's Office, on the afternoon of Sunday, the 13th day of March, to be forwarded on to Victoria the same afternoon when the Telegraph Office opened at eight o'clock, Mr. Quodling promising the bearer of the telegram that it should be sent. I was under the impression that the telegram had been sent as promised, but it was not sent until the

following day, I was informed, and believed the cause of the delay was the absence from Hobart of the Inspector of Police; I would mention that in this instance it was suggested by those on whose behalf I was acting to forward the telegram and the expenses would be paid out of private funds, for the purpose of expedition, but it was known that the Victorian Police would not recognise private telegrams.

No difficulty or delay is experienced in forwarding telegrams and conducting correspondence with the Police Authorities of Sydney, Adelaide, or any of the Colonies, with the exception of Victoria.

FORWARDED to the Inspector of Police for his remarks.

WM. MOORE.  
22nd April, 1881.

*Office of Inspector of Police, 3rd May, 1881.*

SIR,

I HAVE read the letter of His Worship the Mayor of Hobart, addressed to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, dated 19th April, 1881, and referred to me for my remarks.

I have also perused copy of a letter from the Superintendent of the Hobart Police to the Mayor, calling attention to the existence of an order to the effect that communications from the Victorian Police should be addressed to the Inspector, with an appendix purporting to show that inconvenience has arisen to the Municipal Police by the existence of such order.

On the subject matter of these letters and appendix I beg to remark that the order was made by the Tasmanian Government so that the Police Regulations, having the force of law, should be carried out.

The Regulations say, in pages 10 and 11—"That all communications which the officers in charge of Districts or Municipalities may wish to be made known to the Government, or to the head of any other Department, should be forwarded through him (the Inspector), and to him must they look for advice in any case of difficulty that may occur."

Also—"To him all reports of crime committed in any part of the Colony, and all information connected with offences and those concerned in them, are sent, and by him communications with other Colonies are made with a view to the detection of criminals."

These Regulations are binding upon me—I therefore endeavour to carry them out; and great inconvenience would arise if every Municipality were permitted to make separate arrangements for following or detecting criminals outside their boundaries.

The cases of inconvenience alleged to have been suffered by the Superintendent are very trivial, when they are not imaginary; they do not in any case appear to have had any remote effect upon the course of justice, and resolved themselves into complaints that in two cases the Superintendent was not informed as soon as he might have been as to what had been done. A little enquiry would have shown that no information had been kept from him, and any anxiety to learn the progress of proceedings in Melbourne would have been allayed by a visit to my office, that is, if any information received there had not been already communicated.

I think the following explanation in detail of the facts in the cases cited by the Superintendent will be sufficient to show that no hardship or inconvenience has been really experienced. The question of policy I respectfully submit must rest with the Government. I am an executive officer and carry out as strictly as I may the regulations and instructions laid down for my guidance. If any new Regulations are required by me I must obtain the sanction of the Governor in Council before putting them into operation. It must be borne in mind that every submarine message has to be paid for by the Government, and to guard against unnecessary resort to the cable the Government have ordered that Ministerial approval should be obtained for the transmission of every message.

#### *Explanations.*

*Re K*—On the 7th June last, on the representations of Mr. Superintendent Pedder, and during my absence from Hobart, a telegram was forwarded to Melbourne stating that a warrant had been issued for K— arrest.

On the 22nd June I received a telegram from the Chief Commissioner of Police, Melbourne, stating that K— had been arrested, and on the following morning a telegram appeared in the *Mercury* notifying the arrest. Mr. Pedder was informed the same morning, and he in consequence had the depositions taken before the Stipendiary Magistrate, and they were forwarded to Melbourne during the afternoon from this office. On the 28th an officer was despatched to Melbourne to escort K— to Hobart.

*Re S—— M——.* Mr. Quodling was informed on the 15th December by Mr. Superintendent Pedder that a warrant had been issued for the arrest of M——, who was supposed to have gone to Melbourne.

A telegram was immediately sent to Melbourne stating that he was supposed to have left in the *Arawata*, and that a warrant had been issued for his arrest.

The following day I received an answer from the Acting Chief Commissioner of Police, stating that M—— had been arrested, and requesting warrant, depositions, &c. might be forwarded. Mr. Superintendent Pedder was informed, and he caused depositions to be taken on the 17th before the Stipendiary Magistrate, and they were forwarded to Melbourne, together with the warrants, in the custody of Constable Gadd, the same evening.

No further communication was received by me relative to M——'s escort to Tasmania until the constable arrived at Launceston from Melbourne, when Mr. C. D. C. Propsting intimated that he had arrived that afternoon, and would be in time to start for Hobart by the express train. On the arrival of the train the two Hobart detectives, together with two Territorial constables, were waiting for the escort.

*Re B——.* See accompanying explanation of Mr. C. D. C. Quodling.

Mr. Pedder states: "No difficulty or delay is experienced in forwarding telegrams and conducting correspondence with the police authorities of Sydney, Adelaide, or any of the Colonies, with the exception of Victoria." If by this Mr. Superintendent Pedder means that he is able to send telegrams to any of the other Colonies, except Victoria, at the Government expense, he is under a fallacious impression. Neither Mr. Superintendent Pedder or any other Superintendent of Police or Chief District Constable has authority to frank letters or telegrams to any person except police officers or heads of Departments, and even then only in Tasmania.

I beg to draw attention to Superintendent Pedder's assertion that he was informed, and believed, that the cause of delay in transmitting a message *re B——* was my absence from Hobart. Superintendent Pedder was not so informed by Mr. Quodling, and as he did not enquire at my office he could not have obtained such information from anyone authorised to give it. The assertion, therefore, rests on no solid foundation.

I have, &c.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*

*Office of Inspector of Police, 28th April, 1881.*

MEMO.

WILL Mr. C. D. C. Quodling be good enough to furnish me as soon as possible with his remarks on that part of Mr. Superintendent Pedder's statement relative to the telegram being forwarded to Melbourne *in re* the offender B——?

Did Mr. Quodling inform Mr. Pedder that the cause of the delay (as stated by Mr. Pedder) in forwarding the telegram was the absence from Hobart of the Inspector?

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*

ON Sunday, 13th March ultimo, Detective Delaney, of the City Police, brought me an open telegram addressed to the "Inspector-General of Police, Melbourne," requesting certain information *re* one E. H. B——. It was not signed. Delaney stated that Mr. Pedder wished it sent to Melbourne that evening. Desirous of obtaining some particulars as to the object of the enquiry, I asked the detective who B—— was, as I had not previously heard of him, but as he seemed inclined to be reticent on the subject, I promised, without further remark, to send the telegram that evening when the office opened. Having subsequently ascertained that B—— was in custody charged with obtaining goods by false pretences, and should necessarily be remanded on Monday for examination on a future day, and knowing that it would be impossible to receive a reply from Melbourne in time to be available at the Police Court on Monday morning, as a portion of the information required could not be obtained before the Banks opened in Melbourne, I failed to see the necessity of sending a telegram on Sunday, and deferred doing so until it could be sent in the usual way when approved by a member of the Ministry. It was sent on Monday, and a reply received the same evening. As soon after as possible I sent a copy to Mr. Superintendent Pedder. There was no unnecessary delay, and the information sought was received quite as soon as if the telegram had been despatched on Sunday.

In reply to your latter question, I did not inform Mr. Pedder that the cause of delay in forwarding the telegram was caused by your absence from town. I told him in the Police Court on Monday that I could not obtain the approval of a Minister on Sunday night, and the reply would be received quite as soon as if the message had been sent then. Your absence from town does not interfere in any way with the transmission of telegrams, when necessary, to other Colonies.

H. G. QUODLING, *C.D.C.*  
29th April, 1881.

*The Inspector of Police.*

*Town Clerk's Office, 27th May, 1881.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that the Municipal Council, being anxious to know the result of the application of the 19th April last connected with the subject of Police telegrams, I am instructed to request that you will favour me with a reply to the letter referred to.

I have, &c.

HENRY WILKINSON, *Town Clerk.*

*The Hon. WILLIAM MOORE, Colonial Secretary.*

FORWARDED to the Inspector of Police, to whom the application referred to was forwarded on the 22nd ultimo for his remarks.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.  
1st June, 1881.

*The Inspector of Police.*

VERY fully remarked upon 3rd May, 1881, in letter to the Hon. Colonial Secretary.

JOHN SWAN.  
2nd June, 1881.

*Office of Inspector of Police, 22nd March, 1883.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to remind you that on the 3rd May, 1881, I addressed you at some length upon the subject of a letter from the Mayor of Hobart, of 19th April, 1881, enclosing another from the Superintendent of Hobart Police.

The Superintendent complained of an Order to the effect that communications from the Victorian Police should be addressed to the Inspector.

Personally I have been assured that my views upon this subject meet your approval, but I fear that this has not been made clear to the Municipal authorities, for they neglect to supply me with information such as might lead to the detection of offences committed in Hobart by offenders supposed to be from Victoria.

I forward two daily reports of occurrences within the City, sent to my office by the Superintendent, with my Memo. asking for explanation. Receiving no reply I wrote to the Mayor on the 10th instant and received a reply from the Town Clerk.

I enclose the correspondence, which speaks for itself.

In the robbery referred to, no further information has been received from the City Police, and the aid to be derived from the Victorian Police has not been made use of. The suspected men have returned to Victoria. The question requiring immediate settlement is, whether Municipal Superintendents are bound by the Manual of Regulations, and are subordinate to me in the general Police arrangements?

I have, &c.

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

*Town Hall, 5th June, 1882.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to bring under the consideration of the Government the circumstances connected with the accompanying correspondence between the Inspector of Police and the Superintendent.

From the tenor of the Inspector's letter, and the view he takes of his powers in relation to the duties of the Superintendent, it would appear the former would ignore the power of the Chief Magistrate of the City, and by obstructing the Council's Officer by withholding information applied for by him, retard the ends of justice, and create delay, inconvenience, and consequent dissatisfaction.

This is a system the Municipal Council are not prepared to submit to, and therefore protest against its continuance, as prejudicial to the public service; and I therefore have the honor to request the interference of the Government to remedy it.

I have, &c.

JAMES HARCOURT, *Mayor.*

*The Honorable WILLIAM MOORE, Colonial Secretary.*

*Office of Superintendent of Police, Hobart, 6th June, 1882.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to bring under your notice the accompanying Memo. received from the Inspector of Police in reply to my letter to that gentleman of the 26th ultimo requesting that he would be pleased to supply me with a copy of a letter he had received from the Commissioner of Police, Victoria, regarding W. B. R— and C. R. G—.

I may inform you that Messrs. R— and G— visited Tasmania during the months of February and March last, and while in the City of Hobart gave in payment of the purchase of goods and for cash advanced several cheques which when presented for payment at the banks in Queensland, were found to be valueless; some of these cheques were then handed to me by the holders, with a view of proceedings being taken. I accordingly wrote to the Police of Victoria and Queensland seeking information, and have received certain particulars from Queensland. As to Victoria it will be seen from the letter (forwarded herewith) of the Commissioner of Police, Victoria, that all the information the Police of that Colony could obtain had been furnished to the Inspector of Police on the 15th ultimo.

Being desirous of reporting to those citizens who had been swindled by R— and G— what steps I had taken, I wrote to the Inspector of Police for a copy of the letter he had received from the Commissioner of Police, Victoria, which letter he thus withholds from me, and states I have no right to ask for it.

I respectfully submit that I am entitled to be furnished with the information sought for without delay.

I may mention that in regard to New South Wales, the Commissioner of Police of that Colony affords me the most prompt and valuable assistance: as an instance, I beg to enclose letter and particulars received from the Commissioner of Police regarding a man named G—, against whom proceedings were taken by your Police for passing valueless cheques in this City, and is now in the Hobart Gaol.

I have, &c.

F. PEDDER, *Superintendent of Police.*

*The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Hobart.*

*Office of Inspector of Police, 29th May, 1882.*

MEMO.

WILL the Superintendent of Police, Hobart, be good enough to furnish me with copy of his letter to the Chief Commissioner of Police, Victoria, that I may know what information he seeks concerning G— and R—?

The Superintendent is surely aware that he had no authority directly to apply to the Chief Commissioner of Police, Victoria, upon any question relating to the detection of criminals,—*vide* Regulations, p. 11. The Superintendent might also know that he has no right to request copy of a letter addressed to me on a matter in which I did not move through his intervention.

*The Superintendent of Police, Hobart.*

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*

*Police Department, Chief Commissioner's Office, Melbourne, 19th May, 1882.*

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 8th instant regarding W. B. R— and C. R. G—, I have the honor to inform you that, in reply to a telegram from Inspector Swan, I furnished him on the 15th instant with all the information the Police could obtain in the matter. I beg, therefore, to refer you to my letter to Mr. Swan.

I have, &c.

H. M. CHOMLEY, *Chief Commissioner of Police.*

*The Superintendent of Police, Hobart.*

*Police Department, Inspector General's Office, Sydney, 23rd December, 1881.*

MEMO.

As G—, referred to in attached newspaper clipping, is probably identical with a New South Wales criminal named A— G—, *alias* G—, a photo. and criminal history of this offender is forwarded herewith for the information of the Tasmanian Police.

EDMUND FOSBERY, *Inspector-General of Police.*

*The Superintendent of Police, Hobart Town, Tasmania.*

Office of Inspector of Police, 12th June, 1882.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward letter and messages *re* F—— V——, and to call attention to the fact that information received by Superintendent Pedder on Friday morning was not communicated to me until 9-10 P.M. on Friday night.

On Friday night I heard that a passenger by Thursday's express had just come from Flinders. I surmised that this person had probably given the information to Detective Kemp. I caused enquiries to be made and ascertained that it was so.

I found that Detective Kemp had been informed that V—— was at Flinders; that the informant had told Mr. S——, at whose place V—— was showing him the account of Hospital proceedings in the *Mercury*.

Superintendent Pedder knew this on Friday morning. He saw Superintendent Quodling at the Police Office, but never reported the circumstance, while he wasted time in telegraphing to Launceston on a matter which was not in his hands.

I should have sent a Constable who knew V—— well to arrest him if I had received the intelligence on Saturday, in the morning or at any time before the Mail train left; as it was, there was no time, and it was a mere accident that there was a Constable at George Town who knew V——.

In Superintendent Pedder's letter he says it would appear by Superintendent Coulter's telegram that V—— is at Flinders Island: Superintendent Pedder suppressed the fact that the information received by Kemp was positive; S—— only knew the man at Flinders was V—— because Kemp's informant had told him.

I can conceive no legitimate reason for Superintendent Pedder's neglect of duty in not giving me his information immediately on its receipt.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

JOHN SWAN, Inspector of Police.

TELEGRAM.

Melbourne, 8th June, 1882.

No trace yet of F—— V——. Please send photo.

H. M. CHOMLEY, Chief Commissioner.

Office of Superintendent Police, Hobart, 9th June, 1882.

SIR,

*Re* V——.

ACTING upon information obtained by Detective Kemp this morning, I sent a telegram to Mr. Coulter, Superintendent Police, Launceston, and from the telegram herewith enclosed it would appear that V—— is at Flinders Island under the name of "W——."

Yours, &c.

JOHN SWAN, Esq., Inspector of Police.

F. PEDDER, Superintendent Police.

TELEGRAM.

Launceston, 9th June, 1882.

SEEN S——. He says W——'s description agrees with that given of V——. Knows him only as W——. Left him in charge of place until he returns. Leaves here in steamer to-morrow for George Town, and there goes aboard the *Julia* for the island. If V—— is to be sent for, a constable ought go by same vessel.

Mr. Superintendent PEDDER, Hobart.

JAMES COULTER.

TELEGRAM.

Hobart, 9th June, 1882.

*Re* F—— V——, supposed at Flinders Island in name of W——, at S——'s. Obtain warrant and send Constable Priest, per *Julia*, to arrest him. V—— known to Priest.

Superintendent of Police, George Town.

H. G. QUODLING, pro Inspector of Police.

TELEGRAM.

Hobart, 10th June, 1882.

IMMEDIATE.—Proceed to George Town immediately and receive instructions. Be prepared to go to Flinders Island.

Constable CALLAGHAN, George Town.

JOHN SWAN, Inspector of Police.

TELEGRAM.

Hobart, 10th June, 1882.

CALLAGHAN has been ordered to George Town to receive instructions from you. He is to proceed to Flinders, *re* V——, either with Priest or a constable from here, as time may allow. Report immediately when the *Julia* is to leave George Town; also whether V—— is known to Priest. Ascertain from S—— when W—— arrived at Flinders, and, generally, whether he is likely to be V——.

Mr. Superintendent HARRIS, George Town.

JOHN SWAN, Inspector of Police.

## TELEGRAM.

George Town, 11th June, 1882.

THE *Julia* cleared Tamar Heads at 11.30 A.M. for Flinders Island, with Constables Callaghan and Matier on board; also Mr. S——.

Inspector of Police, Hobart.

SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE.

## CITY OF HOBART MUNICIPAL POLICE FORCE.

Superintendent's Office, 26th February, 1883.

## MORNING REPORT.

Sub-Inspector on duty, Mr. Edward Kemp.

RICHARD Howard, of the *General Washington*, Murray-street, reports stolen from a chest of drawers in his bedroom, on Friday evening last, 23rd instant, the sum of Two hundred and twenty pounds (£220), in notes, gold, and silver.

Number of prisoners for trial—free, 1.

The Inspector of Police.

F. PEDDER, Superintendent.

## CITY OF HOBART MUNICIPAL POLICE FORCE.

Superintendent's Office, 24th February, 1883.

## MORNING REPORT.

Sub-Inspector on duty, Mr. Edward Kemp.

Nil.

Number of prisoners for trial—free, 3.

The Inspector of Police.

F. PEDDER, Superintendent.

## CITY OF HOBART MUNICIPAL POLICE FORCE.

MORNING STATE, 24TH FEBRUARY, 1883.

DISPOSAL.	Superintendent.	Sub-Inspectors.	Sergeants.	Constables.
Superintendent .....	1	..	..	..
Sub-Inspectors.....	..	2	..	..
Detective Force .....	..	..	2	..
Station Sergeants.....	..	..	2	..
Acting Sergeants.....	..	..	..	3
Summoning Sergeant .....	..	..	1	..
Capturing Dogs .....	..	..	..	..
Escort Duty .....	..	..	..	..
Suspended .....	..	..	..	..
On leave .....	..	..	..	..
Exempt by Surgeon .....	..	..	..	..
Reserve in charge of Prisoners.....	..	..	..	1
Special .....	..	..	..	1
On Town duty .....	..	..	1	30
Serving .....	1	2	6	35
Establishment .....	1	2	6	35
Wanting to complete .....	..	..	..	..

To the Inspector of Police.

F. PEDDER, Superintendent.

Office of Inspector of Police, 1st March, 1883.

## MEMO.

WILL Mr. Superintendent Pedder be good enough to inform me why no report of the robbery of money from the *General Washington Hotel*, which occurred on the 23rd ultimo, was forwarded to me until the 26th ultimo?

JOHN SWAN, Inspector of Police.

Mr. Superintendent PEDDER, Hobart.

*Office of Inspector of Police, 10th March, 1883.*

SIR,

THE usual daily report of offences committed within the City, which reached me on Monday, the 26th ultimo, contains information of a robbery committed on Friday evening the 23rd ultimo. I sent a Memorandum to the Superintendent of the City Police on the 1st instant, asking the reason of the delay. I have received no reply.

I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to cause me to be furnished with the information sought.

It is the duty of all Superintendents of Police to forward reports of all crimes committed in any part of the Colony to me, and I need scarcely point out the necessity for the exercise of promptitude on their part in making their reports.

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*

*The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Hobart.*

*Town Clerk's Office, 17th March, 1883.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, by direction of His Worship the Mayor, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, wherein you state that you had sent a Memorandum to the Superintendent of City Police on the 1st instant, asking the reason of the delay in transmitting to you the Report of a robbery committed on the 23rd ultimo, to which you had received no reply, and requesting that His Worship would cause you to be furnished with the information sought.

In reply, I am directed to inform you that your letter having been referred to the Superintendent of Police for his explanation, he has forwarded the following; viz.—

“As soon as some authentic information was received by me of the alleged robbery, a report was furnished to the Office of Inspector of Police for publication in the *Police Gazette*.”

F. PEDDER, *Superintendent of Police.*”

I have, &c.

W. H. SMITH, *Town Clerk.*

JOHN SWAN, *Esquire, Inspector of Police.*

*Town Hall, 6th June, 1883.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to call your attention to a letter, dated 19th April, 1881, addressed to you by the late Mayor, and to which no reply has been received.

May I request that you will favour me with a reply at your earliest convenience.

I have, &c.

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

WM. BELBIN, *Mayor.*

*Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 6th June, 1883.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that your letter of this day's date, calling attention to a communication dated the 19th April, 1881, from the late Mayor, will be laid before the Chief Secretary on his return to Hobart.

I have, &c.

*The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Hobart.*

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.

*Town Hall, 3rd February, 1883.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor of forwarding herewith copy of a letter addressed to me by the Superintendent of Police, Hobart, and must emphatically protest against a continuance of the practice referred to therein.

I am of opinion that the New Town and Queenborough Police, before executing any process within the City Boundary, should make known to, and ask the assistance of, the Superintendent of the City Police; and am surprised to learn that their acting in the manner complained of is at the instance of the Inspector of Police, who, I maintain, should, by virtue of his office, endeavour to promote harmony between Members of the Police Force throughout the Colony, instead of the discord which his present action is calculated to produce.

I trust that you will take immediate steps to remedy this infringement, as, should such a practice be permitted to continue, I shall feel it incumbent upon me as a Member of the Legislature to bring under the notice of Parliament the fact that though liberal sums are voted for the maintenance of the Police in the Districts named, they are encouraged to neglect their legitimate duties to the prejudice of the inhabitants, whose properties are thus left entirely unprotected, and also to the annoyance of myself, as head of the City Police, and the members thereof.

*The Hon. W. MOORE, Chief Secretary.*

I have, &c.

*WM. BELBIN, Mayor.*

FORWARDED for the perusal and observations of the Inspector of Police.

*B. TRAVERS SOLLY, for the Chief Secretary, absent.  
5th February, 1883.*

THE accompanying papers, marked A, B, and C, will place the Hon. the Chief Secretary in possession of the facts in connection with the letter of His Worship the Mayor of Hobart.

The letter of the Superintendent of Police to the Mayor, asserting that the New Town and Queenborough Police are in the practice of executing warrants for the arrest of seamen belonging to the men-of-war now in port, without making known to the Chief Police Station in this City the existence of such warrants, is a false or inaccurate description of the procedure. Ignoring the existence of the Wharf Constables, appointed specially for the purpose of attending to such duty as arresting absent seamen, the Superintendent's letter has led the Mayor into a false position, and induced him to threaten the use of his Parliamentary influence needlessly. All these warrants are sent to my office, and steps are immediately taken to have them executed in the most certain and speedy manner. Mr. Quodling would get them, and forward notice, with description of the absentees, to the Municipal Office without delay. The inhabitants of Sandy Bay and New Town are not unprotected, and have not complained. The zeal of their self-constituted protector is therefore in excess of present requirements; and the statement that I encourage the police to neglect their legitimate duties cannot be justified by any knowledge in the possession of His Worship the Mayor of Hobart.

The Mayor expresses the opinion that it is the duty of the Inspector to promote harmony. This has never been questioned. The insinuation that it has ever been lost sight of by me should rest upon some surer foundation than the letter of the Superintendent.

Commonest courtesy would suggest the propriety of seeking explanation before resorting to condemnatory expressions. I have never had any official business or correspondence with the present Mayor, as far as I remember, so that I can scarcely have provoked him to write a letter in such a belligerent spirit as that which is submitted for my remarks.

It must be within the recollection of the Hon. the Chief Secretary that I urged my objections to the offer of high rewards for the apprehension of deserters with sufficient force to induce a reply to them from a Secretary of State, and my opinion upon the general inexpediency of rewards to the police for ordinary service is also well known.

It is a curious supposition, therefore, that I should be anxious to secure those rewards for the branch of the police in which I am more directly interested. The demoralising tendency of such rewards is indicated by the Superintendent's letter.

The Mayor is surprised to learn that the matter complained of is at the instance of the Inspector. So am I.

*JOHN SWAN, Inspector of Police,  
9th February, 1883.*

A.

*Office of Superintendent of Police,  
New Town and Queenborough, 3rd February, 1883.*

SIR,

WITH reference to a local in this day's *Mercury* re "Warrants for Deserters" from Her Majesty's ships in harbour, stating that it is the practice of the Police of New Town and Queenborough Districts to execute these warrants without reference to the officer in charge at the Chief Police Station in the City, I consider it necessary to inform you that it is quite untrue that the Police of New Town assist in any way in the execution of these warrants in the City; but I find that one of the Queenborough Constables (Quintall) has occasionally, when off night duty at Sandy Bay, and without my knowledge, assisted the Wharf Constables in the performance of this duty. Constables Higgins and Williamson of the Domain also assist when several seamen are absent. Neither is it correct that the warrants are executed without giving information to the Superintendent of the City Police.

On the receipt of a report and warrant, a Constable is immediately sent to the City Station with the description of the absent seamen to be copied by the officer on duty.

About a fortnight since Mr. Superintendent Pedder told me this practice had been neglected, and I told him that I should see that it was strictly attended to in future; since then I have not heard any complaint until reading the local referred to.

I may add that the duty of arresting seamen has, to my knowledge, since 1857, been considered the special duty of the Sub-Inspector and two Constables appointed for the protection of the shipping interests, and to aid the Customs authorities, a fact well-known to the ship-owners of the port. I do not therefore consider that in executing warrants within the City boundary these officers infringe upon the duties of the City Force, even when calling other members of the Territorial Police to aid them in doing so.

I have, &c.

*The Inspector of Police.*

H. G. QUODLING, *Superintendent of Police.*

B.

*Office of Inspector of Police, Hobart, 7th February, 1883.*

MEMORANDUM.

Is Mr. Superintendent Quodling aware of any delay having occurred in the transmission of descriptions of absent seamen to the Municipal Police, Hobart?

Has Mr. Quodling given any instructions calculated to put obstacles in the way of the Municipal Police executing warrants?

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*

*Mr Superintendent QUODLING.*

In reply to the first question, I can only say if any delay has occurred it has been without my knowledge, and contrary to my instructions. The descriptions received by me were invariably sent to the City Station immediately after coming to my hands.

2nd Certainly not.

*The Inspector of Police.*

H. G. QUODLING, *Superintendent Police.*  
7. 2. 83.

C.

*8th February, 1883.*

A TERRITORIAL Detective has been employed in connection with the shipping and desertion of seamen for over 20 years.

In 1870, on the recommendation of the late Inspector (Mr. John Forster) and the Collector of Customs, two Territorial Constables were specially appointed for duty on the Wharves. In 1876 they were provided with quarters on the Wharf by the Government, in order that their services might be available at all hours in connection with the wharves and shipping.

*Office of Superintendent of Police, Hobart, 27th January, 1883.*

SIR,

I BEG most respectfully to bring under your notice the practice of the Police of the New Town and Queenborough Districts in executing warrants for the arrest of seamen belonging to the men of war vessels now in port, without reference to or making known to the Chief Police Station in this City the existence of such warrants. This conduct on the part of the New Town and Queenborough Police is regarded by the members of the City Police Force as discourteous and unjust, inasmuch as frequently rewards are offered for the arrest of these absent seamen.

I also respectfully submit that, as the City Police are continually patrolling the City, they are in a better position to trace the whereabouts of deserters and others for whom warrants are issued, and no unnecessary delay or obstacle should exist tending to prevent the speedy execution of such warrants.

I have, &c.

*The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Hobart.*

F. PEDDER, *Superintendent Police.*

*Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 13th February, 1883.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, forwarding copy of a communication addressed to you by the Superintendent of the City Police with reference to the alleged action of the Territorial Police in connection with the execution of warrants for the apprehension of deserters from Her Majesty's ships.

Your letter was referred to the Inspector of Police for his perusal and observations, and I now transmit copies of his remarks in reply and of the papers forwarded by him.

I have, &c.

*The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Hobart.*

WM. MOORE.

*Office of Superintendent of Police, Hobart, 22nd September, 1883*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report to you that yesterday evening two constables, members of the New Town and Queenborough Police Force, arrested a man named Menzies in this City, under a warrant issued in the year 1881, for false pretences.

The two constables referred to had not reported themselves to me, and were not on duty in this city.

I respectfully request that you will cause enquiry to be made under whose authority these constables acted? also whether the members of the Territorial Police walking about the streets of this City are on duty there, and if so, under whose authority?

I have, &c.

*The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Hobart.*

F. PEDDER, *Superintendent of Police.*

WILL the Chief Secretary be good enough to make enquiry into the matter referred to by the Superintendent of Police?

I would call the Chief Secretary's attention to this irregularity of some members of the Territorial Police in the proceedings mentioned, as I have the assurance of the Members of the Government in Parliament that the duties of the Territorial Police were solely confined to the protection of Her Majesty's Customs.

WM. BELBIN, *Mayor.*  
22nd September, 1883.

FORWARDED to the Inspector of Police for his remarks.

WM. MOORE.  
26th September, 1883.

MR. Superintendent Quodling will be good enough to inform me of the circumstances of the arrest herein referred to.

JOHN SWAN.  
27th September, 1883.

THE man Robert Menzies referred to herein was employed at the Slaughter-yards, in the District of New Town, where P.C. Higgins identified him as a person for whose arrest a warrant was issued in 1881; he applied to me for the warrant, and executed it as stated in his letter herewith.

H. G. QUODLING, *Superintendent of Police.*  
27th September, 1883.

*The Inspector of Police.*

*Superintendent's Office, New Town and Queenborough,*  
27th September, 1883.

SIR,

I RESPECTFULLY beg leave to state, for your information, with reference to the arrest of Robert Menzies by me on the 21st instant—

I saw this man going to the Slaughter-house, where he was at work for the Inspector of Stock. Knowing that there was a warrant for his arrest for obtaining goods by means of false pretences, I asked you to give me the warrant for the purpose of executing it. You did so, and on going to the Slaughter-house I found he had left. I went up to a butcher's shop in Liverpool-street where I heard he was, and arrested him there.

I am, &c.

*The Superintendent of Police, New Town and Queenborough.*

M. HIGGINS.

THE report of Mr. Quodling explains the facts of this case.

Constable Higgins very properly applied for the warrant, as the man was in his district; and he followed him with equal propriety.

Under the circumstances it would have been as ridiculous as unnecessary to report to Mr. Pedder.

The Mayor must be in error when he says that he had the assurance of the Government in Parliament that the duties of the Territorial Police were solely confined to the protection of Her Majesty's Customs.

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*  
2nd October, 1883.

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*Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 5th October, 1883.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter from the Superintendent of Police addressed to yourself, under date the 22nd ultimo, and, in accordance with the request endorsed thereon by you, I referred Mr. Pedder's communication to the Inspector of Police.

I now forward for your information copies of the Memoranda consequent upon that reference, together with copy of a letter from P.C. Higgins to Mr. Superintendent Quodling.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

*The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Hobart.*

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*Town Hall, Hobart, 15th October, 1883.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 5th instant in reply to mine of 22nd ultimo, and enclosing Memorandum consequent upon your reference thereof to the Inspector of Police.

I was perfectly aware of the facts connected with the arrest of the man Menzies. The authority for executing the warrant in the City by a Territorial policeman without referring to the Superintendent of the City Police still remains unanswered.

The Memo. of the Inspector of Police, that "the Mayor must be in error, &c.," I submit is slightly out of order, inasmuch as you, being one of the Administration, and the head of the Police Department, must be in a much better position than that official to form an opinion as to the correctness of my statement.

I have, &c.

WM. BELBIN, *Mayor.*

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

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FORWARDED for the perusal and observations of the Inspector of Police.

WM. MOORE.  
19th October, 1883.

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HAVING perused the letter of the Mayor, I see but little to add to my previous Memorandum. Constable Higgins had the authority of the law for executing the warrant anywhere. It would not have been an edifying police proceeding if Higgins had followed his man to the City boundary and then given up the chase, as though the offender had reached a city of refuge. Menzies had been residing for some time in Hobart without being arrested. The arrest was reported when the man was taken to the station: there was no delay, it was all very promptly done.

I do not recognise the propriety, or indeed the meaning of His Worship the Mayor's expression, that the Memo. of the Inspector of Police is slightly out of order. Out of what order His Worship does not say.

I repeat that the Mayor must be in error in stating that he had the assurance from the Government in Parliament which he alleges. The Mayor knows that the duties of the Wharf Constables are not confined to Customs' work.

JOHN SWAN, *Inspector of Police.*  
30th October, 1883.